

2016.05.24

3.11 Deputy R. Labey of St. Helier of the Minister for Home Affairs regarding accommodation for sex offenders:

Further to the Minister's answer to my oral question 9334 on 22nd March 2016, has she been able to establish whether sex offenders, including those convicted of crimes against children, have upon release been found accommodation in St. Helier guesthouses or hotels by the Prison Discharge and Chaplaincy teams and if so, how often and how recently has this occurred?

The Deputy of St. Peter (The Minister for Home Affairs):

I am grateful to Deputy Labey for his continued interest in this subject. Further to my response to the Deputy's previous question related to this topic, I am able to advise the Assembly that between 1st February of last year and 29th February this year 117 individuals were released from La Moye Prison and only 6 were released to 5 different guesthouses. One of those 6 was a convicted sex offender but this individual only remained in the guesthouse for a very short period of time - some days - while alternative arrangements were being finalised. I am sure that the Assembly will understand that I am unable to be more specific in regard to dates or placements as this could result in a breach of data protection. It is evident that there are no significant clusters of prisoners being released to any particular guesthouse, which I believe was one of Deputy Labey's concerns. I am also able to advise the Assembly that release plans for any sex offender or violent offender are discussed in the Jersey Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangement, known as J.M.A.P.P.A. At this forum the Honorary Police, the States of Jersey Police and the Probation Service are all represented. Public safety is the prime objective of that body.

3.11.1 Deputy R. Labey:

I am grateful to the Minister for her response and for not complaining about me asking the question in this appropriate forum. Does she agree with me that in the area that is of concern to me, that the billeting of sex offenders of guesthouses is quite inappropriate?

The Deputy of St. Peter:

As I hope I explained in the answer, this situation occurred for a very small number of days and it was simply because there were no alternatives while more fixed arrangements were being finalised.

[11.00]

The Deputy Bailiff:

Could allow a final supplementary if you ...

Deputy R. Labey:

No, thank you, sir.