

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING  
BY THE DEPUTY OF GROUVILLE  
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 14TH JUNE 2016**

**Question**

Further to her comments on 10th May 2016 on estimating the number of empty houses on the Island, what priority is her department giving to work on this issue and what timetable has she set for completing the work necessary to make such an estimate?

**Answer**

The Housing Strategy identifies work on vacant properties to be completed by the first quarter of 2017, though this depends on the level of data on vacant properties we might need to capture and the practicalities of capturing such information.

I will be opening dialogue with the Parishes to see whether they might be able help with work to analyse the current level of long-term vacant properties and the reasons for their vacancy. The Parish Rates system is a potential mechanism through which information on the number of long-term vacant homes and the extent of any problem might be generated, and this will inform broader policy measures to bring long-term vacant homes back into the available housing stock.

I will inform the Assembly should there being any changes to this timetable and will ensure that members are kept up-to-date on this important area of work.