

20.11.17

19 Deputy G.P. Southern of the Chief Minister regarding applications to the Affordable Housing Gateway (OQ.335/2020):

Will the Minister state what the waiting time is between the submission of an application to the Affordable Housing Gateway and acceptance on a priority band enabling the applicant to bid for suitable housing units; and is this processing time dependent on the type of property required?

Senator J.A.N. Le Fondré (The Chief Minister):

Obviously the newly appointed Minister for Children and Housing will have more detail and I am sure the Deputy will be seeking it. But what I am advised is that the Housing Gateway aims to process and place on the waiting list all applications within 3 working days of an application being submitted, provided obviously the applicant is eligible for social housing. Applications are activated subject to all necessary documents being submitted. So if further information is required an applicant will receive an email or letter within 3 days of applying advising what information is needed to proceed. That might, for example, include medical documents. So it will depend on the speed at which documentation comes back. What I can say is the length of time it takes to process an application does not depend on the type of property an applicant requires.

4.19.1 Deputy G.P. Southern:

So the likelihood of any applicant being told there is a 9-week waiting time is highly unlikely, not to say impossible?

Senator J.A.N. Le Fondré:

It depends what the definition of a waiting time is. The question said between the submission of an application and acceptance in a particular priority band. If the waiting time is to when accommodation is available that is a different timeframe and is a different question. But in terms of the submission time and acceptance on to a priority band, unless there are some very specific circumstances about information not being received on a timely basis, the information I have been given would suggest that a 9-week time to do that should not be the situation. That is different to accommodation becoming available.