WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES
BY DEPUTY J.H. PERCHARD OF ST. SAVIOUR
QUESTION SUBMITTED ON MONDAY 24th JANUARY 2022
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON MONDAY 31st JANUARY 2022

Question

"In relation to Islanders considered homeless (according to the Government's current definition: those who are roofless, houseless, insecure and inadequately housed), will the Minister advise the Assembly –

   (a) of the total number of those considered homeless as of the end of 2021 specifying the number in the age brackets 16-24, 25-39, 40-64 and 65 and above, and provide comparative figures for 2018;
   (b) what percentage of the total number of those considered homeless by the end of 2021 were male, female and other;
   (c) what were the most common factors leading to homelessness in the 16-24 age bracket;
   (d) what were the most common identified factors leading to homelessness overall; and
   (e) if the answer to paragraph (d) above is unknown, what work he will undertake to understand better the factors and experiences leading to homelessness?"

Answer

(a) We are not able to comment on the data request in (a) and (b). These figures are not understood / recorded and no comparative data is available.
(b) As above.
(c) Factors leading to homelessness are multifaceted and depend on individuals. We continue to develop tools to understand causation and commonality through the Housing Advice Service, which will help influence policy considerations, using best local evidence to inform service pathways and access in the future.
(d) Not identified. We need to understand that the issue of homelessness can affect many people across society for a multitude of factors. We are committed to understanding those issues, so we can take both a strategic and operational approach to supporting Islanders who are at risk of homelessness.
(e) Ongoing work with UK-based Homeless Link to develop the Housing Advice Service, as well as work within the Homeless Cluster and Strategic Housing Partnership Board, to collectively understand and address factors that lead to both homelessness and/or the risk of.