

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING
BY DEPUTY D.J. DE SOUSA OF ST. HELIER
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 28th APRIL 2009**

Question

How many families are on the social housing waiting list seeking 3 bed homes (both new applicants and existing tenants on the transfer list) and what is the average waiting time for such accommodation to become available?

Would the Minister confirm that approximately 10 families have recently been moved from at least 2 social housing estates, and if so, would he outline what the plans are for these vacant properties?

Answer

As at 31st March 2009, there are 94 applicants on the combined waiting lists for three bedroom accommodation.

The average waiting time for a three bedroom property during the first quarter of 2009 was 131 days (4 months). Overall comparison figures for the UK are not readily available, however, the Peabody Trust published average waiting time figures for its waiting lists in the Greater London area for the year ending 31st March 2008. These statistics show that the waiting time for a 3 bedroom social rented home across all London Borough's was 3 years and 8 months.

We have around 450 void properties every year and tenants are constantly moving around the stock as their needs change for a variety of reasons. However, it is understood that the Deputy is particularly interested in recent moves from Grasett Park and Oak Tree Gardens; 8 families have moved from those two estates recently. 4 of the vacated homes are to be purchased by States tenants and the other 4 have already been re-let.