

**QUESTION TO BE ASKED OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC  
SERVICES COMMITTEE ON TUESDAY, 1st APRIL 2003,  
BY THE DEPUTY OF ST. JOHN**

**Question**

- (a) Will the President inform members whether the Committee intends to produce explanatory literature for use by the building industry and public in general relating to the many new building regulations and laws which have been introduced by the former Planning and Environment Committee over the last 3 to 5 years, and, if so, advise when this might be available?
- (b) Following the introduction of the Island Planning (Exempt Operations) (Jersey) Regulations 2002, by the former Planning and Environment Committee, will the President advise members whether requests for explanatory literature have been made by the building industry and the public, and, if so, when such information will be made available?

**Answer**

- (a) Firstly, the Committee already publishes technical guidance documents which advise members of the public and the industry how they can meet the requirements of the Building Bye-Laws. These were first introduced with the 1997 Building Bye-Laws, and have been updated or added to as the Bye-Laws have subsequently changed. These documents contain drawings and specifications to assist those making applications.

Secondly, there are also several planning guidance documents published and available from the Department's reception, although with the adoption of the new Island Plan in July 2002, many of these need reviewing, a process which should be completed in the next year or so.

Thirdly, it is not intended to produce guidance on the Planning and Building Law 2002, until it is in effect - hopefully in 2005. To publish prematurely, with the 1964 Law as amended still in operation, would only serve to confuse the public.

- (b) Yes, there have been some suggestions and requests for explanatory guidance, and a leaflet containing drawings is being prepared and should be available by the end of July 2003. Indeed, Deputy Rondel himself has made useful suggestions which are much appreciated and upon which we are acting. The Regulations themselves are not particularly complicated, but we recognise the need to provide clarification in certain instances, particularly in the residential sector.

In respect of both questions, officers of the Department are always willing to explain the various Laws, Regulations and Policies to members of the public. In addition, the Department is redesigning its Web-site, which will be launched in the next few weeks, and this will provide easy access to all the Department's Laws, Policies, advice notes and other explanatory documents. The Committee and the Department are committed to continuing to enhance the quality and timeliness of information and communications, subject always to resource restraints, complementing its primary service provisions.