

1240/5(3433)

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING BY
DEPUTY G.P. SOUTHERN OF ST. HELIER**

ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON MONDAY 16th JULY 2007

Question

In his response to a written question on 3rd July, the Minister revealed that at least 66 households were in need for medical or overcrowding reasons of three-bedroom States accommodation and even if 23 such properties could be released by 'downsizing' to one or two-bed properties, that would still leave 43 families in need. How does the Minister justify the proposed sale of many three bed-roomed properties in view of this shortage?

Answer

There is no shortage. 16 of those tenants waiting to transfer to three-bedroom homes are already living in three-bedroom States rental properties and are merely moving for medical reasons. In addition there are 25 three-bedroom homes presently empty for refurbishment, which will become available for occupation in due course. There are also 29 existing States tenants who will be purchasing homes at Phase 1b Le Squez in August this year. 12 of those tenants are currently occupying three and four-bedroom homes elsewhere in the stock which will then become available. These figures already demonstrate that there is ample supply within the stock to meet this particular demand; what prevents this demand from being met is the shortage of one-bedroom life-long homes which unblocks the stock and provides for all those internal transfers.