

2.4 Deputy J.A. Martin of the Minister for Housing regarding applicants in rental sectors awaiting allocation of 3-bedroom accommodation:

Would the Minister inform Members of the precise number of applicants in both States and private rental sectors currently awaiting the allocation of a 3-bedroom States' rental or Housing Trust property?

Senator T.J. Le Main (The Minister for Housing):

As from June 2007 there were 25 families currently living in the private sector accepted on the States rental waiting list awaiting a 3-bedroom property of which 3 were in group one. As from 1st June 2007 there was a total of 80 families currently living in States' rental accommodation accepted on the department's transfer list for a 3-bedroom property, 19 of those applicants awaiting for 3-bedroom properties have already been made at least one offer. These figures need to be taken in context with other transfer list figures. For example, there are 23 families living in 3 and 4-bedroom homes that require only one or 2-bedroom properties. There are 89 individuals and couples occupying 2-bedroom properties who need to move to one-bedroom units. The stock, Sir, is being blocked completely as there are not sufficient one-bedroom units for us to cater for our aging population. Also, Sir, the issue is 3-bedroom homes are refused on a regular basis in places like Clos de Roncier because either they need refurbishment or they are unsuitable for families because of the lack of amenities such as lack of buses, lack of shops and issues like that. So really the whole issue is the largest problem we have got is releasing and being able to unblock some of these units.

2.4.1 Deputy G.P. Southern:

Is the Minister aware that in certain States' departments there is an appeal going out to current employees as to whether they know of any accommodation whatsoever below a rental of around £1,000 per month suitable for the accommodation of States' public employee "j" categories in the market because they cannot be found for love nor money?

Senator T.J. Le Main:

That has got nothing to do with the questions I have been asked, Sir. I just wonder where the Deputy is coming from.

The Bailiff:

It is, broadly speaking, related to housing issues, Minister, I think.

Senator T.J. Le Main:

The answer to the question is no, I am unaware of it.