

STATES OF JERSEY



HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS FOR FIRST-TIME BUYERS: ALLOCATION CRITERIA (P.53/2019) – COMMENTS

Presented to the States on 1st July 2019
by the Chief Minister

STATES GREFFE

COMMENTS

The ability to obtain an affordable home for purchase should primarily be based upon housing need, in particular, a household's financial means and its composition, relative to their ability to meet their housing needs in the open market.

However, there is also merit in recognising that vibrant and sustainable communities are often bolstered by having a local, parish connection.

Indeed, including a parish connection as a criteria for getting a property in any scheme provides a greater incentive for parish communities to support local development.

In turn, this helps maintain the vitality of parish communities, including the provision of services such as local primary schools, community groups and amenities – while reducing demands on other more built-up areas.

Accordingly, there is merit in allocating affordable housing based on a parish connection, once the household's housing need had been established.

This should be a clear and firm connection, for example, employment in the parish, or length of residence in the parish, and/or family connections. These criteria could be considered in consultation with the Housing Policy Board, and developed alongside part of preparations for the 2021–2030 Island Plan, in discussion with the Parishes; and they could be included in published, clear and transparent eligibility criteria used by the Gateway.

Statement under Standing Order 37A [Presentation of comment relating to a proposition]

These comments were submitted to the States Greffe after the noon deadline as set out in Standing Order 37A in order that final review processes could be completed.