

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING
BY DEPUTY S. PITMAN OF ST. HELIER**

ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 27th MARCH 2007

Question

1. Would the Minister inform members how many new units will replace Convent Court and Caesarea Court (high rise), once they are demolished? Furthermore, would he also confirm the number and type of these units i.e. 1, 2, 3 bedroom and sheltered housing accommodation?
2. Following the Minister's statement on 27th February 2007 that each individual resident of Convent and Caesarea Court would be visited 'this year' to assess their need and requirements with regard to the newly built units, would the Minister inform members how soon these visits will take place?
3. Would the Minister inform Members when the concrete degradation of Caesarea and Convent Courts was identified as a serious concern by his Department?
4. In an answer on 27th February 2007, regarding the elderly residents of Caesarea Court, the Minister informed members that he will be 'working very closely with the Planning Minister to try to identify land that we desperately need to produce more sheltered homes for the elderly'. Would the Minister clarify for Members whether he was only referring to the elderly residents currently living at Caesarea Court and, if not, would he explain to which 'elderly' people he was actually referring?

Answer

1. Convent Court and Caesarea Court will be demolished if the States Assembly approve the Social Housing Property Plan, to be debated on 19th June 2007. The Planning Minister will only allow the demolition to proceed when he has approved a replacement scheme of suitable Town Houses and sheltered type accommodation. It would be presumptuous to say how many at this stage, save that a new scheme will greatly enhance the area and will provide the type of homes our tenants have every right to expect. The future for States Tenants has never been brighter.
2. The Social Housing Property Plan details a number of refurbishment projects. Those residents affected in 2007 and 2008 will be visited this year. The Housing Department is a very small department with limited staff resources. These visits will therefore take time to arrange and for obvious reasons will not take place until the States have made a decision in June. However, I am confident residents of Caesarea Court and Convent Court will have been visited by the end of August 2007.
3. Concrete degradation was identified as a problem in 2001. In 2003 the building was scaffolded and remediation works undertaken. This is an on-going requirement.
4. I am delighted we are all living longer! However in order to cater for an ageing society, we need to ensure we have the right type and quantity of homes. Even today, the greatest demand for social housing is in the one bedroom category. By 2030 some 30% of Jersey's population will be over normal retirement age. I am working closely with the Planning Minister to ensure an adequate supply of sheltered housing is available soon and of course to meet the continuing demands into the future. The Social Housing Property Plan is very much about realigning the current States Rental stock to meet this very need.