**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, SPORT AND CULTURE
BY DEPUTY R.G. LE HÉRISSIER OF ST. SAVIOUR**

ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY, 30th JANUARY 2007

Question

Would the Minister advise members how many residences the Department owns, how many are allocated for rental to departmental staff, what percentage are currently occupied and how many residences the department rents from the private sector for the accommodation of departmental staff?

Answer

All properties are owned by the States of Jersey under the management of Property Holdings and not the Department for Education, Sport and Culture. However, the department is currently responsible for the administration and letting of 21 properties and four bedsits specifically available for off-Island supply teachers who come on short term contracts. This is a total of 25 units.

Twenty-two are occupied by departmental staff, either caretakers or teachers who meet the Departmental policy for allocation. Currently three properties are vacant, which is approximately 12%. Two properties at Le Squez are currently out of service and have now been identified for possible disposal as part of Property Holding's Property Plan. Another has proved difficult to let within ESC and Properties Holdings have been approached and are in the process of identifying a suitable tenant from within the States of Jersey. The Department will continue to work with Property Holdings when it has properties that it finds difficult to let or has no further use for.

The department does not rent any properties from the private sector for the accommodation of departmental staff. The department simply keeps a register of private sector vacant properties which employees occupy on the basis that they are responsible for all aspects of the lease, including rental payments and deposits.

I am aware that the Property Holdings Department is intending to develop a States-wide approach to the allocation and management of residential property provided for public sector staff in the future. This is something I would be very supportive of.