

**Question on Notice
No. 866
Asked on Wednesday 6 June 2007**

Mr Stevens asked the Minister for Public Works, Housing and Information and Communication Technology (MR SCHWARTEN)—

QUESTION:

With reference to public housing unit blocks – will he detail for 2004–05, 2005–06 and 2006–07 (report separately) –

- (a) any unit blocks that have been managed by private real estate agents
- (b) the revenue paid to agents for managing them.

ANSWER:

(a) The Department of Housing is responsible for managing one of the largest property portfolios in the State worth in excess of \$11.3 billion. Included in this property portfolio are approximately 22,000 units and apartments across the State. The department manages its dwellings in order to minimise vacancies and continually reviews its portfolio in order to identify redevelopment opportunities.

Depending on the age and condition of units or the redevelopment potential of the underlying land, unit blocks are sometimes identified for refurbishment, redevelopment or other appropriate courses of action. These units are rented in the private rental market on a short term basis to allow the department to carry out assessments to determine the appropriate actions.

Over the past three financial years, real estate agents have managed three whole unit complexes and three part unit complexes comprising 41 units. Of the 41 units, three units have been sold, 11 units have been demolished to enable redevelopment, whilst the remaining 25 units have been returned to the social housing portfolio after completion of feasibility studies.

As at 30 June 2007, the department had a management agreement with one real estate agent throughout the State, for the management of two rental units.

(b) The management commission and fees paid to private real estate agents are based on industry rates. The commissions and fees paid for managing properties was:

- \$14,939.52 for 2004–05;
- \$14,409.98 for 2005–06; and
- \$10,566 (estimated) for 2006–07.