

Question on Notice

No. 885

Asked on Tuesday, 30 August 2022

MR T MANDER ASKED THE MINISTER FOR COMMUNITIES AND HOUSING, MINISTER FOR DIGITAL ECONOMY AND MINISTER FOR THE ARTS (HON L ENOCH)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the review of applicants on the Social Housing register, which began in May 2021—

Will the Minister advise (reported separately by segment of need) (a) the number of applicants who were uncontactable, (b) the number of applicants who were no longer eligible and (c) the number of applicants who no longer required social housing?

ANSWER:

In May 2021, the Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy commenced a review of all applicants on the Social Housing Register and found that 21 per cent were uncontactable, or were no longer eligible, or no longer required social housing.

Due to privacy reasons and the risk of possible identification of individuals, the department is unable to release this data further broken down into segment of need, nor individual circumstances relating to housing requirements and eligibility.

The department takes its responsibilities as a landlord seriously, and before deciding whether to remove an applicant from the register, makes or attempts contact with the applicant to discuss their circumstances. Multiple contact methods such as phone calls, text messages, letters and emails may be adopted as necessary.

Taking into account new approved applications, the recently released Social Housing Register dataset shows promising signs that the register is stabilising with almost 500 fewer households and over 4000 fewer people on the register than last year.