



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2023-2024

Mr Mark Parton MLA (Chair), Ms Jo Clay MLA (Deputy Chair),
Mr Michael Pettersson MLA

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS

Asked by Mr Mark Parton MLA on 20 July 2023: Mr Naughton took on notice the following question(s):

[Ref: Uncorrected Proof Hansard Transcript 20 July 2023 p 72]

In relation to: Public housing properties vacant for more than three months

THE CHAIR: The Community Service Directorate budget statement G at page 49 sets out a number of accountability indicators including the number of social housing properties with a stock of 11,602 targeted for 23-24. Now, I am sure you would be aware that a number of people have approached me as they always are, but a number recently voicing their frustration over public housing properties that have been vacant for many months or even years including a public housing complex in Braddon. I can understand why properties might be vacant for say three months while they are being cleaned or fixed up, but when they are vacant for longer periods, I know it is perplexing to members of the public, minister, how many public housing properties do you think have been vacant for more than three months? Are you able to give me a rough figure?

Ms Berry: I will have to ask if one of my officials has a figure on the number of homes that have been vacant for longer than three months. However, there would be a number of reasons why homes might be vacant for longer than three months. That can include insurance claims. It can include significant maintenance that might be required to get the house or home back to a standard where people can live in them. Those are just a couple of reasons, but I will ask Mr Naughton to provide a bit more detail on the numbers that you are asking for if he has them with him.

Mr Naughton: Thank you, Minister Berry. Ben Naughton, Infrastructure and Contracts. We will have to take the question on notice with regards to three months or longer.

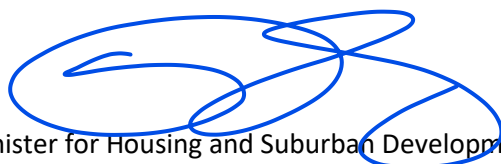
Minister Berry: The answer to the Member's question is as follows: –

As stated during the hearing, there are a number of reasons why a property may be vacant, and the data provided in this answer does not detail the complexities of each site that contributes to the time a property is vacant. At 25 July 2023 approximately 300 dwellings had been vacant for 3 months or longer. These properties comprise:

- **170** vacant for disposal as sale or demolition as part of the Growing and Renewing Public Housing Program
- **125** upgrades or major works including insurance.
- **5** vacant for allocation

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2023-2024

Signature:



Date: 08/08/23

By the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, Yvette Berry MLA