

Supervisory Committee Connétables de Jersey

Minutes of the meeting held on
Monday 4th April 2022
at the Parish Hall, Trinity.

Present:

Connétable de St Laurent - Mrs D. W. Mezbourian, Chairman
Connétable de St Brélade - M. K. Jackson
Connétable de la Trinité - P. B. Le Sueur
Connétable de St Pierre - R. P. Vibert
Connétable de Ste Marie - J. M. Le Bailly
Connétable de St Martin - Mrs K. Shenton-Stone
Connétable de St Jean - A. N. Jehan
Connétable de St Clément - M. O'D. Troy

Apologies for absence were received from the Connétable de St Héliier - A. S. Crowcroft, Vice Chairman; the Connétable de St Sauveur - Mrs S. A. Le Sueur-Rennard; the Connétable de Grouville - J. E. Le Maistre and the Connétable de St Ouën - R. A. Buchanan.

In attendance (virtually):
Mrs S. R. de Gruchy, Secretary

Non-exempt (public) under Freedom of Information (Jersey) Law 2011

- Minutes 1. The minutes of the meeting held on 21st December 2021, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and were confirmed.
- Rate Appeal Board – reappointment P.16/2022 (re-issue) 2. The Supervisory Committee, with reference to its minute no. 2 of 21st December 2022, noted that the States Assembly had adopted the proposition of the Minister for Treasury and had reappointed one member and appointed four new members to the Rate Appeal Board from March 2022.
- ‘Vacant properties’ - SPPP request for information 3. The Supervisory Committee considered a request from the Senior Policy Officer, Strategic Housing and Regeneration, Strategic Policy, Planning and Performance (SPPP), Government of Jersey, for information about vacant properties in order to begin some research with a view to trying to bring these properties back into the housing market.
- The Committee noted that ‘occupier’ had a specific definition in the Rates (Jersey) Law 2005 and was the owner if there was no other person meeting the definition of ‘occupier’. Parishes did not collect data about whether or not properties were ‘vacant’ for rates purposes and no definition had been provided by SPPP of ‘vacant property’. The Committee was reminded that in some circumstances a property could identify an individual and so the property could be personal data. Further, data collected specifically for rating purposes should not be used for an unrelated purpose such as identifying vacant properties. The Committee recalled that similar information had been requested in 2016 and it noted the proposition of Deputy M Tadier (P.48/2022) in relation to vacant properties.
- The Committee requested the Secretary to reply accordingly to SPPP and agreed that, if it would assist, it could meet with SPPP officers to discuss the issue.

Residential and
foreign buy to
let data

4. The Supervisory Committee noted that the Senior Policy Officer, Strategic Housing and Regeneration, Strategic Policy, Planning and Performance (SPPP), Government of Jersey, had asked whether the Parishes were able to supply, from Parish Rates information, data on the number of residential and foreign buy to let property. The SPPP had been informed that the definition of ‘owner’ in the Rates (Jersey) Law 2005 was specific and would not provide the information sought for the following reasons –

- A contract leaseholder was deemed the owner/foncier for rates purposes, rather than the freehold owner.
- The owner/foncier of share transfer property was the overall company and not the ‘owner’ of the shares which related to a specific unit of accommodation such as a flat or apartment.
- Information was not collected about the residential status of the owner/foncier so there was no way of knowing the reason why a person/family/organisation was listed as the owner/foncier for rates purposes (e.g. they might have inherited property rather than purchased to let etc).

Chairman Date