

3.8 Deputy H.L. Jeune of St. John, St. Lawrence and Trinity of the Minister for Planning and Regulation regarding a prioritised inspection plan for agricultural staff accommodation over summer 2026 (OQ.84/2026).

Further to Oral Question 36/2026, in relation to establishing a prioritised inspection plan for agricultural staff accommodation over the summer of 2026, will the Minister advise whether the plan was implemented and how many dwellings have been inspected since March 2026 and, if not, why not?

Senator Sir M.J. Boleat (The Minister for Planning and Regulation):

I can confirm that a prioritised programme of inspections for agricultural accommodation has been implemented. Since 1st May officers have inspected 243 units of agricultural accommodation, with a further 69 inspections already scheduled to take place in the coming weeks. Officers continue to work closely with the agricultural sector to promote and improve accommodation standards, providing advice and guidance where necessary and taking appropriate action where standards fall short of the requirements expected. This proactive programme will continue as part of our ongoing commitment to ensuring that agricultural workers are provided with accommodation that is safe, suitable and of an acceptable standard.

3.8. Deputy H.L. Jeune:

I thank the Minister for his answer. How many improvement notices or enforcement actions have followed from these 243 inspections?

Senator Sir M.J. Boleat:

My officers continue to support compliance first, while using enforcement powers only where necessary. The approach is guided by the 4 Es; engage, explain, encourage and, as a last resort, enforce. I am pleased to report that to date no enforcement notices have been required. This reflects the positive and proactive response we have seen across the sector with landlords demonstrating a willingness to work with officers and ensure that minimum standards are being met within their rented accommodation.