

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CABINET  
BY THE HON. MINISTER OF ECONOMIC PLANNING  
AND FINANCE

Disposal of New Government Buildings

The policy of mixed allocation of Government dwellings, which was fixed by the previous Administration, and which is still in force is as follows:-

(i) Tender:

Not more than 50%.

(ii) Points and Direct Allocation:

- |                                             |       |
|---------------------------------------------|-------|
| a) Badly housed families and Court evictees | - 20% |
| b) Engaged couples                          | - 15% |
| c) Cases requiring direct allocation        | - 15% |

2. In March last, the Hon. Minister of Works and Housing, after considering the hundreds of pitiful cases which had come to his attention and for his assistance since assuming office, came to the conclusion that the above procedure called for a drastic revision. The present system favours the allocation of half of all the available dwellings to the highest bidders, irrespective of whether the successful tenderer is badly housed or not, or whether he is married with a large family or single, or just contemplating marriage.

3. At a meeting held on the 16th June, 1962, by the Hon. Minister of Justice, at which the Hon. Minister of Works and Housing, the Commissioner of Land and the Housing Secretary were present, it was agreed that the status quo regarding the policy being followed, should be retained. The Hon. Minister of Justice considers that the present arrangements provide the greatest flexibility in allocating premises and cannot be improved upon.

4. Hon. Minister of Works and Housing, although averse to the allocation of 50% of new units by tender, on reconsideration, does not feel that the time is now opportune to introduce a full-scale revision of this policy, which revision should be held over for a year when the housing situation of the moment could be more profitably taken into account.

/The .....

5. The Hon. Minister of Works and Housing is recommending the allocation of 24 flats in Scheme 3, Paola, partly under the existing points system and partly, but to a much lesser extent, by direct allocation. These flats are situated in a pre-eminently 'workers' district and their advertisement for letting by tender would strike a jarring note.

6. Between November, 1959, and November, 1962, on 215 units leased by tender a global rental of £11,264.10s.0d was obtained, an increase of £2,461 per annum over the estimated annual rental of £8,803.10s.0d.

7. The Finance point of view is that all lettings on the tender system brings in a higher rent and recommend the retention of the current established policy.

8. Hon. Ministers are asked whether they agree that the 24 flats in Scheme 3, Paola, should be allocated on the points system and directly and that the present general policy regarding the letting of newly erected Government dwellings should be reviewed within twelve months.

3rd December, 1962.

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