

**Public Housing Bill 2020 –
Second Reading approved**

Mr Baker to move:

That the Public Housing Bill 2020 be read a second time.

The Speaker: I call on Mr Baker to move Second Reading.

Mr Baker: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Thank you also to Hon. Members for agreeing to suspend Standing Orders in order to progress this legislation to Second Reading today.

This Bill has three clauses and has one purpose, which is to seek to revoke the Sale of Houses Regulations 1958 and the Sale of Housing (Amendment) Regulations 1981 so that they are treated for all purposes as having been revoked on 1st January 1982.

In carrying out a scoping exercise in relation to modernising housing legislation, officers in Her Majesty's Attorney General's Chambers have identified historical regulations made under section 60 of the Housing Act 1955, in Part VI of that Act – namely the Sale of Houses Regulations 1958 – which are outdated and do not appear to have either been revoked or replaced. The 1958 Regulations reflect the social and political context of the time and are not compatible with modern housing practices. As such, they have broader implications and application than was originally intended: for example, in relation to the first-time buyer buyback properties applied by the Department and invested in them from time to time for resale to new first-time buyers.

At this point I would like to clarify that this Bill is *not* a precursor to the general sale of public housing stock and in no way affects that process which is extremely limited, treated on a case-by-case basis and requires both the Department and Treasury approvals to proceed.

As the 1958 Regulations have never been revoked, they remain in effect and it is likely that over the years there have been sales of houses by both the Department and local authorities, which have not been made strictly in accordance with Part VI of the Housing Act and the 1958 Regulations as they currently stand.

Mr Speaker, I beg to move that the Public Housing Bill 2020 be read for a second time.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Ms Edge.

Ms Edge: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I beg to second.

The Speaker: Thank you.

If no Member wishes to speak, I will put the motion that the Public Housing Bill be read for a second time. I presume the motion will be carried unless any Member indicates dissent, which they should do now.

No dissent having been received, the motion therefore carries.