



States of
Guernsey

Access to Public Information Request

Date of receipt: 18th August 2019

Date of response: 9th September 2019

UPvC windows in Guernsey listed buildings

Request:

Of the 1600 listed buildings in Guernsey, how many have received planning permission to replace some of their existing windows with windows with frames made from materials other than wood?

Response:

Specific planning controls in respect of Protected Buildings were first introduced in Guernsey in 1967. Since that time many thousands of applications have been made in relation to controlled work to Protected Buildings, including to alter or replace windows.

The Development & Planning Authority does not hold information concerning these applications in a form that would readily allow it to distinguish those applications relating to the replacement of windows within Protected Buildings in materials other than wood. To identify all such applications would require a manual search of paper and digital records which would potentially take hundreds of hours to complete.

Therefore, Exception 2.9 - Voluminous or vexatious requests has been applied to this request. For clarity, it is because the response required is voluminous.

Information on more recent planning decisions, including those relating to Protected Buildings, is publicly available online at www.gov.gg/built_natural_historic_environment.

Section 34 of the Land Planning and Development (Guernsey) Law, 2005 sets out the statutory duty which applies to any Committee of the States when exercising its functions under the Law to secure as far as possible that the special historic, architectural, traditional or other special characteristics of buildings listed as Protected Buildings are preserved and in particular to pay special attention to the desirability of preserving the Protected Building's

special characteristics and setting. Section 35 of the Law sets out a strong presumption against planning permission being granted for any development which involves the demolition or destruction of any part of a Protected Building or adversely affects its special character or features.

The replacement of traditional timber windows with PVCu windows within a Protected Building would be likely to have a negative effect on the special historic, architectural, traditional or other special characteristics of that Protected Building, contrary to the above statutory duties which apply to any Committee of the States when exercising functions under the 2005 Law. Similar duties applied under the 1967 Ancient Monuments Law, which preceded the 2005 Law.

Therefore the number of applications that have been approved to install PVCu replacement windows within a Protected Building since 1967 is likely to be negligible.