

Guernsey Quarterly Residential Property Prices Bulletin

Quarter 1 2012 - Issue date 8th May 2012



POLICY COUNCIL

THE STATES OF GUERNSEY

1.1 Introduction

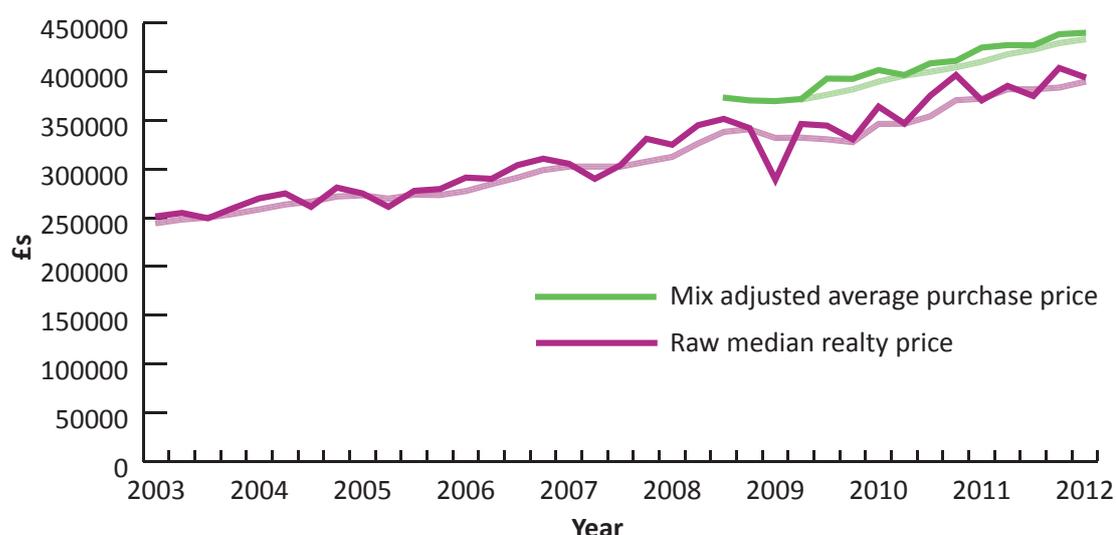
The Guernsey Residential Property Prices Bulletin measures average price changes in residential properties sold on the Island each quarter and provides a headline analysis of trends in average prices.

Data recently compiled on the Island's housing stock has enabled the development of new methods for calculating average purchase prices. The mix adjusted averages are much less susceptible to changes from one quarter to the next in the profile of properties sold.

1.2 Headlines

- The mix adjusted average purchase price* for local market properties was £439,837 in the first quarter of 2012, 3.6% higher than the same quarter of the previous year.
- There were 170 local market transactions during the first quarter of 2012, compared to 165 in the first quarter of 2011.
- The raw median price (realty only) of local market transactions was £394,250 in the first quarter.
- The raw median price (realty only) of the 6 open market transactions in the first quarter of 2012 was £966,775 compared to £896,800 in the first quarter of 2011, when there were 7 transactions.

Figure 1.2.1: Local market purchase prices



* See over and page 8 for more detail on the recently introduced headline measure, the methodology used and how it differs from the median, which was previously the headline measure.

2.1 Local market purchases - mix adjusted average

Table 2.1.1: Mix adjusted average purchase price

Date	Mix adjusted average purchase price	Quarterly percentage change	Annual percentage change
Q1 2010	£401,632	2.3%	8.6%
Q2 2010	£396,509	-1.3%	6.6%
Q3 2010	£408,503	3.0%	4.0%
Q4 2010	£411,074	0.6%	4.7%
Q1 2011	£424,714	3.3%	5.7%
Q2 2011	£427,226	0.6%	7.7%
Q3 2011	£427,025	0.0%	4.5%
Q4 2011	£438,432	2.7%	6.7%
Q1 2012	£439,837	0.3%	3.6%

Figure 2.1.1: Annual percentage change in mix adjusted average purchase price

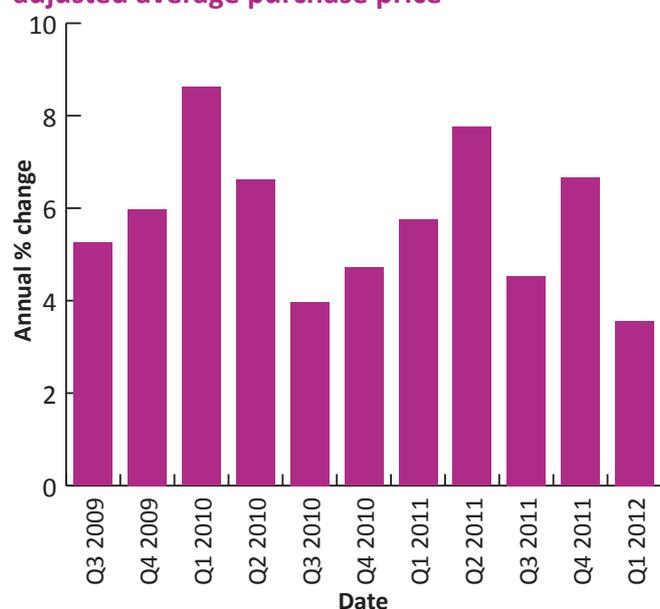


Table 2.1.2: Four quarter average mix adjusted average purchase price

Date	Four quarter average mix adjusted average purchase price	Quarterly percentage change	Annual percentage change
Q1 2010	£389,755	2.1%	-
Q2 2010	£395,908	1.6%	6.6%
Q3 2010	£399,812	1.0%	6.3%
Q4 2010	£404,430	1.2%	5.9%
Q1 2011	£410,200	1.4%	5.2%
Q2 2011	£417,879	1.9%	5.5%
Q3 2011	£422,510	1.1%	5.7%
Q4 2011	£429,349	1.6%	6.2%
Q1 2012	£433,130	0.9%	5.6%

The local market mix adjusted average purchase price is a measure of the average cost (including both realty and personalty) of purchasing a property in Guernsey.

Realty relates to fixed assets e.g. buildings and land and personalty is the term used for the moveable assets, such as carpets, fixtures and fittings. The historically published median prices (included on [page 6](#)) reflect the realty only, as recorded by the Greffe. The new mix adjusted average prices include a measure of personalty, which is included in most property purchases, better reflecting the actual prices paid for purchases.

Also, in the new method, transactions are weighted according to their type and number of bedrooms to reflect the profile (or “mix”) of all the Island’s owner occupied and buy to let property units. The resulting average, presented here and graphically in [Figure 1.2.1 on Page 1](#), is not affected by changes in the types of properties sold from one quarter to the next in the way that the median price (on [page 6](#)) can be.

This measure was published for the first time in the first quarter of 2011. Average prices calculated using this methodology are available from the fourth quarter of 2008 onwards.

It should be noted that the measure is still susceptible to fluctuations due to the size, quality and location of properties of any particular type and number of bedrooms varying from one quarter to the next. Due to the relatively small sample sizes it is not possible to eliminate these variations completely. However, the mix related variations in this measure are greatly reduced, compared to the raw median (see [Page 6](#)), giving a better picture of the trend.

As shown in [Table 2.1.1](#), in the first quarter of 2012, the mix adjusted average purchase price was £439,837, which was 3.6% higher than the same quarter of 2011.

2.2 Local market purchases - types and bonds

The “mix” of property transactions each quarter is shown in **Table 2.2.1**.

The proportion of transactions in each category varies from one quarter to the next. In the first quarter of 2012, the highest proportion (15%) of transactions were two bedroom bungalows.

Definitions of the types of properties which are included in the categories used (apartment, house and bungalow) are provided on the last page of this bulletin.

Properties in the “other” category are those which do not fall into the categories shown in the table above, either because they have a different (or unknown) number of bedrooms or are a different type of property. These are excluded from the mix adjusted calculations described on the page opposite.

The loan to value is calculated for each of the property transactions for which a bond is registered with the Greffe. The median value of those figures each quarter is shown in **Table 2.2.2**.

In the first quarter of 2012, the average loan to value was 75%, the same level as recorded in the first quarter of 2011.

This information provides an indication of general trends in the level of borrowing on house purchases.

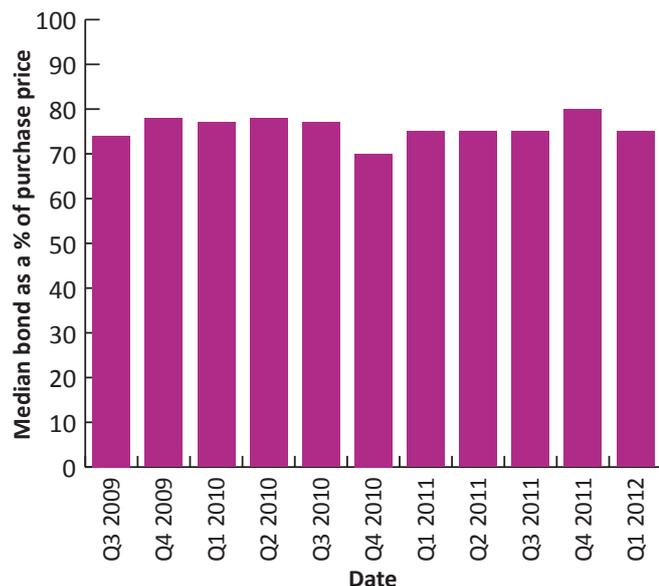
Table 2.2.1: Percentage of transactions by type and number of bedrooms

Date	Percentage of total transactions by type and number of bedrooms							
	Apartment		Bungalow		House		House / Bungalow	Other
	1	2	2	3	2	3	4	
Q1 2010	11%	9%	9%	17%	12%	13%	12%	16%
Q2 2010	7%	11%	15%	13%	12%	14%	13%	16%
Q3 2010	9%	8%	8%	17%	13%	15%	16%	14%
Q4 2010	8%	10%	6%	12%	6%	13%	16%	28%
Q1 2011	7%	6%	9%	14%	15%	14%	12%	22%
Q2 2011	10%	10%	12%	16%	11%	15%	11%	13%
Q3 2011	11%	15%	10%	16%	11%	13%	11%	15%
Q4 2011	15%	4%	11%	14%	10%	15%	10%	21%
Q1 2012	9%	11%	15%	12%	11%	12%	13%	18%

Table 2.2.2: Average loan to value

Median bond as a percentage of purchase price	
Q1 2010	77%
Q2 2010	78%
Q3 2010	77%
Q4 2010	70%
Q1 2011	75%
Q2 2011	75%
Q3 2011	75%
Q4 2011	80%
Q1 2012	75%

Figure 2.2.1: Average loan to value



3.1 Local market purchases - volumes by price

Table 3.1.1: Number of transactions by realty price (in £,000s)

Date	Less than 200	200 to 299	300 to 399	400 to 499	500 to 599	600 to 999	More than 999	Total
Q1 2010	10	43	43	24	19	22	3	164
Q2 2010	10	75	56	40	28	19	3	231
Q3 2010	16	40	76	47	23	30	3	235
Q4 2010	9	39	41	37	21	20	7	174
Q1 2011	11	43	38	38	11	20	4	165
Q2 2011	17	53	64	46	33	35	4	252
Q3 2011	6	55	65	33	32	25	3	219
Q4 2011	14	45	42	43	29	24	8	205
Q1 2012	7	34	46	36	16	30	1	170

Figure 3.1.1: Number of transactions by realty price (in £,000s)

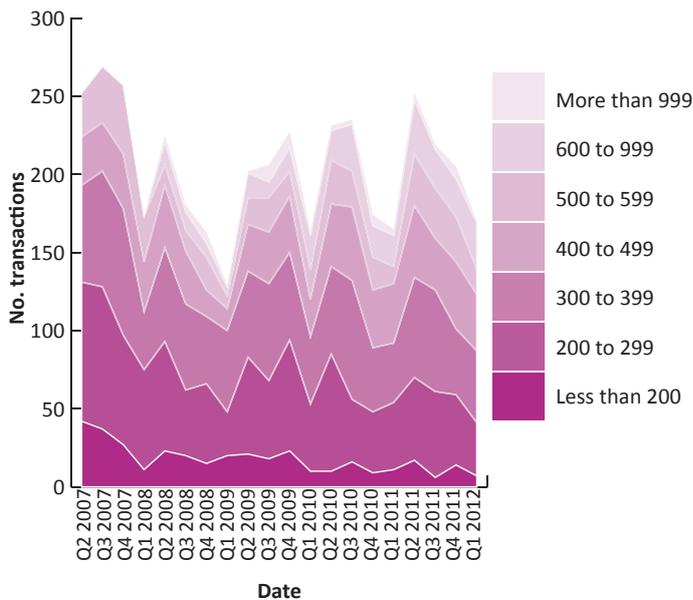


Table 3.1.1 provides information on the number of local market transactions recorded by the States of Guernsey Greffe each quarter. These transactions are all included in the calculation of the raw median, lower and upper quartile prices.

In the first quarter of 2012, the Greffe recorded 170 local market transactions, which was five more than in the same quarter of 2011.

Table 3.1.1 and **Figure 3.1.1** also show the number of local market property transactions each quarter by (realty only) price band, which can vary significantly from one quarter to the next.

During the first quarter of 2012, the largest number of transactions (46) was in the £300,000 to £399,999 value band. There was also one transaction of over £1 million.

3.1 Local market purchases - volumes by price

The number of transactions in each realty price band is also shown as a distribution graph in **Figure 3.1.2**. It provides a comparison between the distribution of transactions in the first quarters of 2010, 2011 and 2012.

The distribution of sales in the first quarter of 2012 shows a distinct peak in the £300,000 to £399,999 category. By contrast the first quarter of 2011 shows a peak in the £200,000 to £299,999 category. There were also more sales in the £600,000 to £999,999 category in the first quarter of 2012 than in the first quarter of either of the two preceding years.

The distribution of transactions by price band are also presented as percentages in **Table 3.1.2**.

Figure 3.1.2: Number of transactions by realty price (in £,000s)

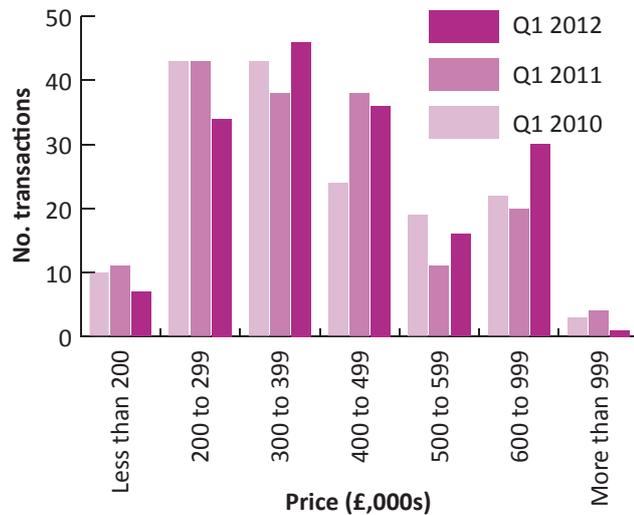


Table 3.1.2: Percentage of transactions by realty price (in £,000s)

Date	Less than 200	200 to 299	300 to 399	400 to 499	500 to 599	600 to 999	More than 999	Total
Q1 2010	6%	26%	26%	15%	12%	13%	2%	100%
Q2 2010	4%	32%	24%	17%	12%	8%	1%	100%
Q3 2010	7%	17%	32%	20%	10%	13%	1%	100%
Q4 2010	5%	22%	24%	21%	12%	11%	4%	100%
Q1 2011	7%	26%	23%	23%	7%	12%	2%	100%
Q2 2011	7%	21%	25%	18%	13%	14%	2%	100%
Q3 2011	3%	25%	30%	15%	15%	11%	1%	100%
Q4 2011	7%	22%	20%	21%	14%	12%	4%	100%
Q1 2012	4%	20%	27%	21%	9%	18%	1%	100%

4.1 Local market purchases - raw median, lower quartile and upper quartile

Table 4.1.1: Median realty price

Date	Median realty purchase price	Four quarter average	Annual percentage change in four quarter average	Five year percentage change in four quarter average
Q1 2010	£364,088	£346,369	4.3%	26.8%
Q2 2010	£346,750	£346,488	4.3%	28.5%
Q3 2010	£375,250	£354,147	7.1%	29.4%
Q4 2010	£396,500	£370,647	13.1%	35.6%
Q1 2011	£370,500	£372,250	7.5%	34.2%
Q2 2011	£385,375	£381,906	10.2%	34.2%
Q3 2011	£375,000	£381,844	7.8%	31.1%
Q4 2011	£403,750	£383,656	3.5%	28.3%
Q1 2012	£394,250	£389,594	4.7%	28.8%

Table 4.1.2: Lower quartile realty price

Date	Lower quartile realty purchase price	Four quarter average	Annual percentage change in four quarter average	Five year percentage change in four quarter average
Q1 2010	£255,313	£254,940	1.0%	20.3%
Q2 2010	£261,250	£256,971	2.3%	22.5%
Q3 2010	£308,750	£268,828	7.2%	28.1%
Q4 2010	£290,375	£278,922	12.9%	32.9%
Q1 2011	£279,300	£284,919	11.8%	32.3%
Q2 2011	£287,250	£291,419	13.4%	32.4%
Q3 2011	£289,750	£286,669	6.6%	28.4%
Q4 2011	£280,250	£284,138	1.9%	24.3%
Q1 2012	£308,750	£291,500	2.3%	27.3%

Table 4.1.3: Upper quartile realty price

Date	Upper quartile realty purchase price	Four quarter average	Annual percentage change in four quarter average	Five year percentage change in four quarter average
Q1 2010	£517,750	£465,875	6.2%	35.7%
Q2 2010	£467,500	£476,031	10.4%	39.0%
Q3 2010	£498,750	£483,219	10.9%	39.4%
Q4 2010	£512,288	£499,072	15.3%	40.0%
Q1 2011	£475,000	£488,384	4.8%	32.6%
Q2 2011	£522,500	£502,134	5.5%	32.5%
Q3 2011	£509,000	£504,697	4.4%	30.6%
Q4 2011	£522,500	£507,250	1.6%	26.9%
Q1 2012	£534,375	£522,094	6.9%	29.1%

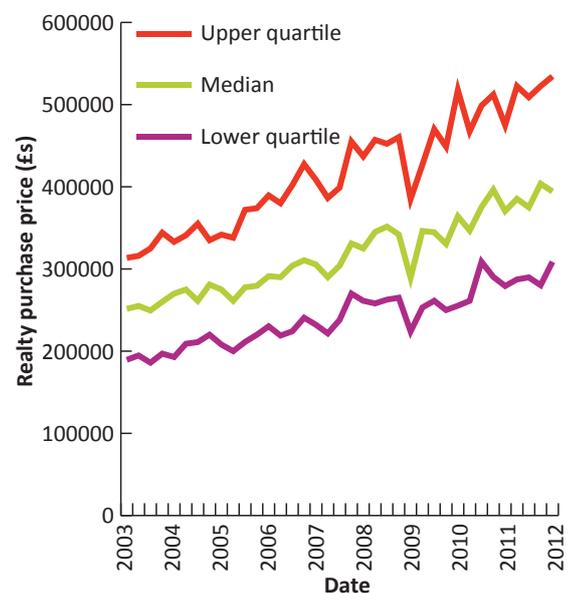
This page provides (for comparison with previously published figures) the raw median, lower quartile and upper quartile prices of the transactions during each quarter. They are based on the (realty only) transaction prices recorded by the Greffe and are not mix adjusted. As such and due to the small sample size, they are highly susceptible to changes in the profile of types of property transactions from one quarter to the next.

Tables 4.1.1, 4.1.2 and 4.1.3 show the price of a property (when they have been ranked in price order) at the middle (median), the first quarter mark (lower quartile) and the fourth quarter mark (upper quartile) of transactions respectively.

The four quarter average median realty purchase price of the property transactions during the first quarter of 2012 was £389,594, which was 4.7% higher than in the first quarter of 2011 and 28.8% higher than the same quarter of 2007.

The interquartile range (i.e. the difference between the upper and lower quartile values) was £225,625 in the first quarter of 2012, compared to £176,438 during the same quarter of 2007.

Figure 4.1.1: Lower quartile, median and upper quartile realty prices



5.1 Open market purchases - raw median

Average residential property prices on the open market tend to fluctuate more than local market prices due to the very wide ranging sale types and prices and the small number of transactions. Care must be taken when interpreting such volatile trends. Values of open market property sales are shown in **Table 5.1.1** and **Figure 5.1.1**.

The raw median open market price (calculated using the same method as the local market raw median i.e. representing realty only) was £966,775 in the first quarter of 2012.

The four quarter average (shown graphically in **Figure 5.1.1**), which reduces the effect of seasonal fluctuations, increased by 18.7% between the first quarter of 2011 and the first quarter of 2012.

The total increase in the open market four quarter average over the past 5 years has been 41.0%.

There were 6 open market transactions during the quarter, compared to 7 during the first quarter of the previous year (shown in **Table 5.1.2**).

The number of transactions as a percentage of all open market (part A) property units (i.e. turnover) is also presented in **Table 5.1.2**. The turnover of open market properties was 0.4% in the first quarter of 2012.

Table 5.1.1: Open market median realty price

Date	Median realty purchase price	Four quarter average	Annual percentage change in four quarter average	Five year percentage change in four quarter average
Q1 2010	£863,500	£902,125	-3.6%	24.4%
Q2 2010	£798,000	£891,750	-1.9%	22.1%
Q3 2010	£1,235,000	£977,250	9.2%	33.3%
Q4 2010	£940,000	£959,125	5.4%	28.4%
Q1 2011	£896,800	£967,450	7.2%	38.8%
Q2 2011	£1,414,375	£1,121,544	25.8%	57.5%
Q3 2011	£1,358,500	£1,152,419	17.9%	58.5%
Q4 2011	£855,000	£1,131,169	17.9%	50.5%
Q1 2012	£966,775	£1,148,663	18.7%	41.0%

Figure 5.1.1: Open market median realty price

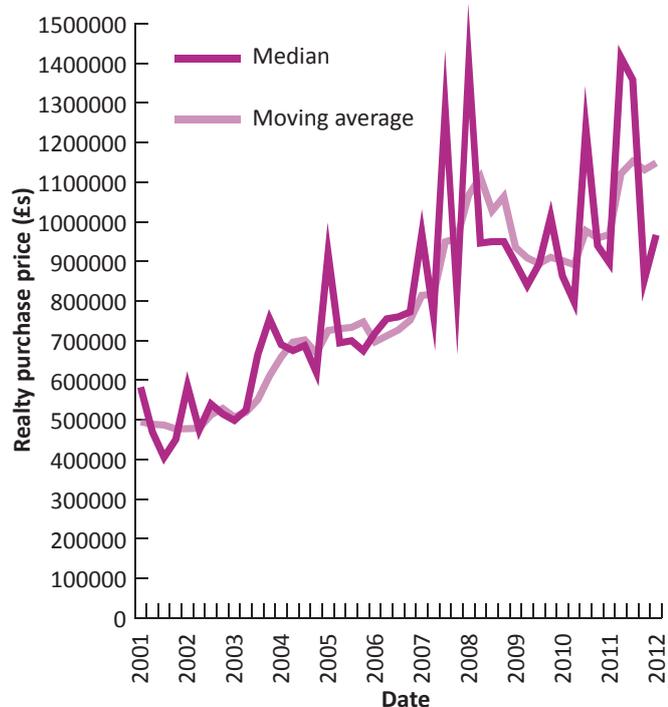


Table 5.1.2: Open market transaction volumes

Date	No. transactions	No. transactions as a percentage of total open market units
Q1 2010	16	1.0%
Q2 2010	17	1.1%
Q3 2010	15	0.9%
Q4 2010	18	1.1%
Q1 2011	7	0.4%
Q2 2011	6	0.4%
Q3 2011	11	0.7%
Q4 2011	9	0.6%
Q1 2012	6	0.4%

6.1 Methodology

There are two key differences between the old (median) and new (mix adjusted) price measures:

1. The mix adjusted measure reflects the price of both realty and personalty, whereas the median reflects realty only.
2. The mix adjusted measure uses weighting to reduce fluctuations due to changes in the profile of properties sold from one quarter to the next. There is no adjustment to account for the changing profile in the median.

In order to calculate an overall average, first the average purchase price (realty plus personalty) is calculated for each category separately. Each of these averages is then weighted by category to reflect the proportions of the whole Island's owner occupied and rented housing stock (see the *Guernsey Annual Housing Stock Bulletin* via www.gov.gg/property). The weighted prices are combined to give the mix adjusted average.

The weights are updated annually in line with changes to the Island's housing stock.

Seven categories of properties are used in the calculation of the mix adjusted measure: 1 and 2 bedroom apartments, 2 and 3 bedroom houses, 2 and 3 bedroom bungalows and (combined as one category) 4 bedroom houses and bungalows.

The building types (apartment, bungalow, house) are determined by the property's physical attributes and proximity to other buildings:

Apartment is the title used for a unit of accommodation that is attached to or contained within a larger building (the remainder of which may or may not be used for domestic purposes). This category covers flats, bedsits, wings, annexes, maisonettes, dower units and similar, where the apartment unit has a separate postal address to other units within the building. These units can span one or more stories.

Bungalow is the title used for a property unit (including chalet bungalows and cottages), which has one or one and a half storeys, is not contained within a larger building and can be detached, semi-detached or terraced. It can also have an apartment attached to or contained within it (e.g. a wing or a flat) - each unit is identified by having a separate postal address.

Units which have two or more storeys and (as per bungalows), are not contained within a larger building, can be detached, semi-detached or terraced and can have an apartment attached or contained within them, are referred to as houses.

7.1 Contact details and further information

All Policy and Research Unit publications are available via www.gov.gg/pru.

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