

**Written questions member's Island Council for the Executive Council/ Government Commissioners.**  
(art.159, lid 1 WolBES/ art. 46 RvO Island Council)

Issue : Application of Bonaire laws by the SHF 2  
Date question : Tuesday, 01 February 2022  
Sender : F. E. A. Spanner  
Date answer : **(within 15 days)**  
Responsible Com./Gov.Com. : Miss M.A.U. Francis  
Responsible editor :

**QUESTIONS:**

Thank you for the answers to my earlier questions as I now understand the main source of the misunderstanding. The explanation of the Dutch Caribbean Rental Housing Market Measures Act refers to the situation on Bonaire. However, as this information is printed on the stationary of the SHF and as no reference is made to the source of the article it was mistaken for information coming directly from the SHF. To avoid this misunderstanding going forward I would advise you to properly reference the sources of all quotes. [I have attached to this email the exact letter that was sent out to the tenants explaining the law changes. It also quotes what exact law we were referencing in case they wanted to conduct research themselves.](#)

1. You made some rather compelling statements in your answers. You surmised that in the past a lot of rules were not enforced and that has brought us to how the SHF is looked at today. Could you explain how is the current relationship between the SHF and the tenants?

[In my opinion the relationship between SHF and the tenants is good but there are always room for improvements. Once complaints are reported, they are dealt with as soon as possible.](#)

2. Is there a so called representative of the views of the tenants on the Board of the SHF?

[At this moment there is no direct representative of the views of the tenants on the board of SHF.](#)

3. Are there regular meetings between the Management of the foundation and the tenants? If the answer is yes what is the frequency of these meetings?

[Currently, there are no meetings with the tenants however, I am currently in the process of putting together a town-hall type meeting for the tenants. I am hoping to have this happen at least 3-4 per year.](#)

4. Has the change relating to the following of rules been explained to the tenants? Is this an issue that was explained by the director or the Board of the SHF?

[Yes, these changes are always sent to the tenants in letters and we always stress if there are any questions all tenants are free to pass by the office. A few tenants have come to the office and I have sat with them personally to explain why these changes occur. A lot of the changes are not actually changing as they have always been in the contracts. We have only made the contract more detailed so that both parties know what is expected of each other.](#)

5. Has the issue related to the new contracts been explained in such a general meeting with the tenants?

[Not in a general meeting with all tenants as we also have to take into consideration the procedures relating to Covid-19. However, on all letters we encourage tenants to get in contact with us so that we can explain all matters with them.](#)

6. Do the SHF have a form of newsletter that is distributed amongst the tenants that informs them of any new developments?

No, we do not have a newsletter that we distribute to the tenants. We have opted not to do this as we have noticed that majority of the tenants do not read the general letters that are sent to them. We are trying to collect the emails of the tenants so that we can supply them information more easily. This has not been successful with everyone as not everyone would like to give their emails for their own personal reasons.

7. Do you maintain a list of tenants that surpass a certain maximum household income that should not be eligible for social housing? To understand the size of the problem could you explain what percentage of the houses would you estimate fall in this category?

Currently at this very moment we have 88 homes occupied. If I look at my list, I would say approximately 8 households would be no longer eligible for a home. This could be more as the threshold when the new ordinances pass is \$30,000, however there are no laws that stipulate a tenant would have to leave the premises once they pass this household income level.

8. Is there something that the Island Council can do to insure that low income houses are inhabited by low income families? Please explain.

The only possibility that I see that would help insure this is if the 2 ordinances are passed. This will definitely protect the social housing market. With a rental committee in place, a lot of these matters would then be regulated. This will not only be a benefit to SHF but also to the tenants as they would have somewhere to file complaints that they feel are not being met. With the two ordinances in place, I feel that the laws that forbid persons to stay in homes after they surpassed the household income will come into play.