

DP 1015/03-07

Edwina Hart AM MBE

*Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration
Y Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio*

Our ref: MB/EH/0803/06
Your ref:

Alun Ffred Jones AM
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Cardiff Bay
Cardiff CF99 1NA
Switchboard: 029 2082 5111
Fax: 029 2089 8131
Email: ps.edwina.hart@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Bae Caerdydd
Caerdydd CF99 1NA
Switsfwrdd: 029 2082 5111
Ffacs: 029 2089 8131
Ebost: ps.edwina.hart@wales.gsi.gov.uk

15 November 2006

You will be aware that subordinate legislation covering the introduction of Empty Dwelling Management Orders (EDMO) came into force on 26 October. The orders allow local authorities to take over the management of problem empty properties in the private sector that have been unoccupied for more than six months without good reason. Local Authorities will have to apply to the Residential Property Tribunal (RPT) for permission to make an EDMO.

During Assembly questions on 8 October you asked me about targets for bringing empty properties back into use through the utilisation of EDMOs. At this stage we do not have specific targets for the use of EDMOs in mind. It will be for individual local authorities to identify particular local pressures and priorities with empty homes in their areas and consider how EDMOs could help alongside the other powers they have available. However, I have written to the WLGA to ask it to emphasise to Local Authorities that EDMOs are a useful additional tool for authorities to tackle problems of private sector empty properties in their areas.

We will be able to monitor how many EDMOs are made in Wales and indeed how many applications for the Orders are rejected via information from the RPT. I will also raise this issue again when I next meet the Leader of the WLGA.

