



GOVERNMENT OF BERMUDA
Ministry of Public Works and Environment

OFFICE OF THE MINISTER

Friday, December 12th, 2025

TO: The Hon. Linda C. Smith, MP, Shadow Minister of Public Works and Environment

FROM: The Hon. Jache A.K. Adams JP MP, Minister of Public Works and Environment

CC: Kirk Outerbridge, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Public Works and Environment

**SUBJECT: Written Responses to questions dated 3 December 2025 from the Hon. Linda C. Smith, MP,
Shadow Minister of Public Works and Environment**

Ms. Smith,

Please find below responses to your questions dated 3 December 2025 –

- 1. Given the recent Ministerial Statement by the Minister of Health with respect to protection against the potentially fatal Leptospirosis disease spread by rats, will the Honourable Minister please inform this Honourable House as to what measures (including trash collection and management of horticultural waste) his Ministry uses to compile quantitative or anecdotal information for estimating the rat population and its increase or decrease over periods of time?**

Rats are addressed by the Vermin Control Team who operate under the Environmental Health section of the Ministry of Health and not under the Ministry of Public Works and Environment. Those Ministry of Health personnel would be best placed to advise on estimated rat populations and alternative control mechanisms.

- 2. Given that the primary effort to control the rat population is the use of poison and bait boxes, will the Honourable Minister please inform this Honourable House as to whether the Ministry, perhaps through the Department of Environment and National Resources, has studied or considered other methods for better control of the rat and rodent pest problem, such as sterilization instead of poison and/or a controlled increase of the Barne Owl population, a natural predator of rodents?**

Rats are addressed by the Vermin Control Team who operate under the Environmental Health section of the Ministry of Health and not under the Ministry of Public Works and Environment. Those Ministry of Health personnel would be best placed to advise on estimated rat populations and alternative control mechanisms.

- 3. Will the Honourable Minister please advise this Honourable House as to whether Government would consider more holistic approaches to managing the rat/rodent pest problem, as well as the large feral chicken population, through stronger waste management and enhanced controls over those environments that foster the breeding of pest species?**

Rats are addressed by the Vermin Control Team who operate under the Environmental Health section of the Ministry of Health and not under the Ministry of Public Works and Environment.

Regarding the feral chicken population, the Ministry is evermore adapting to combat the rises. I kindly refer you to the intended plans as explained in the most recent Ministerial Statement on December 5th, 2025. I have attached the document for your convenience.

Furthermore, feral chickens (as well as rats) are opportunistic feeders and MPWE does encourage homeowners to place their garbage within sealed bins to help counteract this food source. Technical officers within the MPWE continue looking into and updating existing mechanisms to address the public mechanisms which encourage feral chickens to proliferate.