

GIBRALTAR

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

19TH & 21ST MAY, 1999

No. 260 to No. 416

Vol I

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QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

19th & 21st May 1999 (Vol. I)

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ORAL

NO. 260 of 1999

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA - ST BERNARD'S HOSPITAL - REHABILITATION CENTRE

Can Government now state when they expect the rehabilitation centre to be opened at St Bernard's Hospital?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

The patient area of phase 1 of the Rehabilitation Centre was ready and operational in early January 1999. There are some other minor areas within the unit that have to be completed and, it is hoped, that the formal opening can take place some time in June 1999.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 260 OF 1999

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

I ask this question because the last time that I asked the Minister he did not actually say that the Rehabilitation Centre had been partly opened. Could he confirm whether in order to be able to open the Rehabilitation Centre the staff running the Centre are contained within the complement?

HON K AZOPARDI

If the hon Member means are they already there, the answer is yes.

ORAL

NO. 261 OF 1999

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA - ST BERNARD'S HOSPITAL - PRIVATE WARD

Can Government now state where a Private ward will be made available at St Bernard's Hospital?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

Answered together with Question No. 262 of 1999.

ORAL

NO. 262 OF 1999

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA - NURSING REVIEW REPORT

Have Government now accepted the recommendations of the Nursing Review Team to provide the out-patients department with alternative facilities?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

There are no plans to re-site the Private Ward.

Facilities for the medical out-patients department are being improved substantially.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 261 AND 262 OF 1999

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

These are answers that are a bit ambiguous. Do I take it that there will be no Private Ward within St Bernard's Hospital?

HON K AZOPARDI

The answer is that there are no plans to re-site Private Ward. Private Ward was where Lewis Stagnetto Ward now is. There is another question on the order paper I think from the Leader of the Opposition in relation to Mount Alvernia generally. It is one of the Government's proposed ideas that it might be possible, and I think we will come to that later not to pre-empt the debate but it is one of the Government's ideas that we might be able to create space at St Bernard's Hospital and then re-instate Private corridor where it always used to be, where Lewis Stagnetto now is, by looking at establishing some sort of nursing home facility in the empty space at Mount Alvernia. I do not want to pre-empt the matter further if the Leader of the Opposition wants to discuss it at a later stage in this meeting.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

Then the Minister has changed his mind because I remember asking in the House of Assembly during a previous session whether the Government would be leaving Lewis Stagnetto where it presently is, that is the old Private Ward, and he said yes it will stay there. Has he changed his mind?

HON K AZOPARDI

Well in the first place I heard Jack Straw this morning on the radio saying that it was not a bad thing to change your mind but secondly, I would say that possibilities arise in the context of discussions and it is important to seize them and in that context it seems that the possibility now arises of private corridor being re-instated and I think it is a matter that should be explored and in principle the Government are happy to do that, if we can create space at St Bernard's.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

In the event that the Government go down the route of opening the Private Ward eventually, will they be increasing the fees for private beds?

HON K AZOPARDI

That is a matter that has not been discussed as yet. There may be a case to do that because the hospital fees annexed to the Ordinance the hon Member will know have not been reviewed for many many years, but that is not a matter that has been considered as yet.

ORAL

NO. 263 OF 1999

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA - NURSING REVIEW REPORT.

Can Government now state whether they have taken on the recommendations in the Nursing Review Report that the system of summer hours be urgently reviewed with a view of providing more adequate cover?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 265, 267 and 268 of 1999.

ORAL

NO. 264 OF 1999

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA - NURSING REVIEW REPORT.

Have Government now accepted the recommendation of the Nursing Review Team that there should be four Night Charge Nurses?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

Yes Sir.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 264 OF 1999

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

Can he confirm whether there are now four Night Charge Nurses or whether there is a time-scale?

HON K AZOPARDI

Yes there are four Night Charge Nurses and indeed my understanding is that there were four Night Charge Nurses when the Review was commissioned and submitted. I went back to the Review when I got that answer from my Department to see what exactly then was the point of the recommendation if there were four. I think the thrust must be the next line which talks about internal rotation of those four Night Sister Charge Nurses and the answer, I think really then is, internal rotation is being done by three out of the four of those Night Charge Nurses and we would hope that on retirement of the fourth and on recruitment of the next we will achieve full internal rotation as I think really is the recommendation of the Review Team rather than the issue of the numbers.

ORAL

NO. 265 OF 1999

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA - NURSING REVIEW REPORT.

Have Government now accepted the recommendation of the Nursing Review Team that a Senior House Officer should be based at the Accident and Emergency Department from 5pm to 9am the following day?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

Answered together with Questions 263 267 and 268 of 1999.

ORAL

NO. 266 OF 1999

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA - NURSING REVIEW REPORT.

Have Government now accepted the recommendation of the Nursing Review Team that there should be 24 hour cover by the Administration Clerks based in the Accident and Emergency Department?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

No Sir.

ORAL

NO. 267 OF 1999

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA - NURSING REVIEW REPORT.

Can Government state what policy decision they have taken on the recommendations in the Nursing Review Report that full-time labourer should be attached to the CSSD?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

Answered together with Questions 263, 265 and 268 of 1999.

NO. 268 OF 1999

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA - NURSING REVIEW REPORT.

Can Government now state whether an appropriate number of ward clerks will be allocated to the different specialties as recommended by the Nursing Review Team?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

In relation to summer hours discussions are under way to extend the number of hours during which facilities are available to the public during summer afternoons.

In relation to the Senior Health Officer after hours no decision has been made in this respect as yet.

In relation to the labourer at CSSD, the policy decision is that implementation of this recommendation is not a present priority.

In relation to ward clerks again there is no final decision on this matter as yet.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 263, 265, 267 AND 268 OF 1999

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

The Minister has said that on the question of a full-time labourer it is not a priority. As regards the other three will he confirm whether he accepts the recommendation?

HON K AZOPARDI

Well, on the question of summer hours, discussions are on-going. We accept the principle that the issue of summer hours needs to be discussed and that matter is on-going. In relation to the other two issues, the Senior Health Officer after-hours and the ward clerks, there is no decision so I cannot say whether we will accept it or not because no decision has been reached because it is pending other developments.

HON J J BOSSANO

Would the Minister not agree that given the very long time since the original review was set up and the times he has had to discuss it, it ought to be possible by now to decide either that it is worth proceeding or not proceeding with this case?

HON K AZOPARDI

Perhaps I can illustrate the reason why the matter has not been decided yet by an example. In relation to the Senior House Officer after-hours the review recommended that perhaps there should be a case on the merits that there should be a Senior House Officer after-hours and in principle it looks like a good thing. But the issue of the Senior House Officer after-hours is tied in with the Senior House Officer complement issue

and the Government have received representations from the BMA in relation to the SHO complement based on the so-called "new deal" in the UK that caps SHO hours at 56. So we were engaged in discussions and obviously we will reach a conclusion in due course, and that would have a knock-on effect probably on the issue of the SHO after-hours at A&E. But then I hear three weeks ago that there is a furore in the UK and the hon Member may be aware that while there was a new deal agreed by New Labour in relation to the capping of hours at 56, they have put in a "secret" proposal to the European Commission asking the German presidency I think it is, to extend SHO hours to 65 in relation to the Working Time Directive and the BMA in the United Kingdom considered that that has torpedoed their own agreements with so-called new deals. So we are awaiting developments before we can take the matter further because we are not sure where the new deal will lie in two or three months. All of that is having a knock-on effect on issues such as this. In principle it is a good idea to have an SHO after-hours but it really depends on the determination of the SHO complement and that, as the hon Member will appreciate, depends on other circumstances beyond my control.

HON J J BOSSANO

But would the Minister not agree that if in fact in principle it is a good idea it is because there is a need for such an officer on duty. Presumably, if there is an identified need dependent on other considerations it ought to be evaluated in terms of how important the need is so that the decision can be taken as to whether, if there is a need then there must be a gap in the coverage being provided now which needs to be catered for surely?

HON K AZOPARDI

The nature of the reviews is that all the things in the review in principle are good ideas. The issue is prioritisation of them. There may be some recommendations we do not accept but I think prioritisation is the most important exercise in considering the review I am not willing to take it further at the moment rather than to say that we are looking at the idea quite seriously but we have not made a final decision as yet because that is tied in with other circumstances and I cannot possibly take it further.

HON J J BOSSANO

On the point of the hours and the Working Time Directive there is nothing to stop in fact the Health Authority reaching its own agreement with the doctors it employs independent of what is done by the Health Service in the UK, is there?

HON K AZOPARDI

Well, the Working Time Directive at present excludes doctors in training so it does not affect SHO's at the moment. That is my understanding of it. I think the proposed idea of the UK is because the European Commission is looking at extending the Working Time Directive ambits to include doctors in training, that if that is the case in due course, please allow me to have SHO's work 65 hours and not the present 56, which is the so-called new deal, but the hon Member is right to the extent that I am aware, that the new deal is not legally binding and that there are health authorities in the UK that have reached their own local agreements and that again is another circumstance that has only recently been brought to our attention and we are looking at as well.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

On the question of employing ward clerks, Mr Speaker, will the Minister confirm whether he does in fact see merit in having ward clerks allocated to the different specialities?

HON K AZOPARDI

Yes I see merit in the idea but it is a question of how to achieve that. That is why it may not be that creature that delivers it but I see merit in the idea, yes.

ORAL

NO. 269 OF 1999

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA - PROPOSED NEW COMPLEMENT.

Can Government state what is the proposed new complement for manning levels to provide day and night cover broken up by all wards and Departments of the Gibraltar Health Authority and how this compares with the established complement?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

In answer to Question No. 33 of 1999 I gave the hon Member the figure of actual persons in post at that time together with numbers of the persons that we expect to be in post by the end of the implementation of the manning levels aspects of the nursing review announced in July 1998.

The latter figure is our established complement since then. Accordingly, it is impossible to compare the proposed new complement with the established complement because they are one and the same thing. what is possible is to compare the new complement (which will be filled by actual people in post by 2002) with the established complement adopted by the previous administration in 1989 and which was in place up until July 1998. I can pass the Hon Member a comparative table of these figures.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 269 OF 1999.

HON J J BOSSANO

Can I ask the Minister whether in fact the provision that is made in the Estimates for personal emoluments is based on a complement which is made up of different numbers of people in different grades who are not necessarily in post?

HON K AZOPARDI

No Sir, my understanding is that it is based on the actual numbers. It might cater for some vacancies that are going to be recruited in the course of the next financial year but not the complete complement which is going to be filled in respect of nursing by 2002. So the answer generally is no except for any vacancies that we intend to fill immediately.

HON J J BOSSANO

I have not asked about 2002, I have asked in respect of any given financial year either the one that has just ended or the one that we have just entered, is it in fact the case that there is implicit in the provision of funds a complement for that year, which may not be the same complement as there will be in the year 2001 or 2002 or any other in the

next millennium? Presumably there is a complement and I also asked at Budget time last year and was told there was and we have been trying to find out what figure this is.

HON K AZOPARDI

It depends what the hon Member means by complement. If what he means is established complement like, for example, we are just talking about nursing, I have just told him in my answer the established complement will not be actually filled by people in post till 2002 so if he asks me is that established complement funded today, the answer is no, it is not.

HON J J BOSSANO

What is the complement that is established today in the Health Authority which appear to use different rules from the rest of the Government accounting systems then?

HON K AZOPARDI

If the hon Member is asking, do I envisage the number of staff this year and have I funded it, the answer is yes.

HON J J BOSSANO

Presumably the system is no different in the Health Authority now from what it is in the rest of the Government service, in all the Public Service. For a couple of years now we have been trying to establish whether it is or it is not and I am not sure we are getting an answer that makes it any clearer. Is it the case or is it not the case that if there are x number of clerks which it is intended to employ, provision is made for the employment of those clerks even though the clerks may not be in post on 1st April and that is the complement for the year which is established and which is funded. Is that the case or is it not the case in the Health Authority?

HON CHIEF MINISTER

I understand the position to be that there are a number of recruits that will be made during the year which are not yet in place and for which provision therefore exists in the budgeting provision for the year. I think that is the point that the hon Member is getting at.

HON J J BOSSANO

Is that in fact the answer we are getting when what we have asked for is the complement of the Health Authority? If the answer we get to the question, is there a complement which in every other case other than the Health Authority would in fact mean that if there were a number of recruits intended during the year, the published estimates which have been circulated would show those posts as the complement, since there is no comparable breakdown of complement in the Health Authority, we are asking the question in the expectation that the answer that will be given will be comparable to the information already provided in the Estimates for the rest of the Government Service.

HON CHIEF MINISTER

The fact that in the rest of the Government Service what is published on the front of each of the Departmental Votes, is normally not the agreed complement because these are not the subject matter of formal agreements with staff associations or anything but it is the permanent complement. The Health Authority as my hon Colleague has been explaining, is in the process of transition, change and restructure and therefore whilst it depends what use we make of the word complement if the hon Member means is there an overall number of staff that we expect will be employed during the following year, the answer is yes. Thus designed, of course there is a complement if all that he means by complement is the total number of people that it is envisaged will be engaged in the Gibraltar Health Authority during the forthcoming financial year. My hon Colleague has been using the words "established complement" meaning the target, in other words, what he expects to reach and when he does so that is the intended permanent establishment of the Health Authority, he is building up to that, he will not get to that position until the year 2002. But of course there is a body of people that we expect will be employed during this year and if that is what he means by the complement, yes there is that.

HON J J BOSSANO

And that is not in fact in the answer that has been given I take it?

HON K AZOPARDI

No, what the question asked was, the proposed complement as compared to the old complement. That is the answer I have given, it is not in the answer I have given.

HON J J BOSSANO

I believe that we had cleared what it was we were trying to get an answer to in the last House but we seem to have got the same answer as the last time not a different one. Yes, Mr Speaker, he asked the same question and then when we had an opportunity of explaining to the Minister why the answer given did not answer the question, then we were expecting that we would get a different answer now that the matter was understood but it does not appear to have materialised.

HON K AZOPARDI

With respect I think the recollection of the hon Member is not correct. When we did have a discussion in the ante-room to try to clarify the matter, it was clear to me that what he wanted was a comparison between the established complement (the new complement) and the complement that was in place before the Review was announced (the old complement). That is not the answer I gave before but that is the answer the hon Member is getting now so it is a different answer. What I gave the hon Member last time was a comparison of actual numbers to the complement.

HON J J BOSSANO

What was described before in the answer as the approved establishment seems to be the same as the 1989 establishment. Presumably, it is possible when we come to the Estimates, to tell us in the figure that is in the Estimates, what number of posts there are because that is how the figure must have been arrived at. That presumably is possible?

HON K AZOPARDI

Yes.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

Can the Minister confirm whether the new proposed establishment falls in line with the recommendations of the Nursing Review Report?

HON K AZOPARDI

They are slightly different.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

Slightly different? Can the Minister then confirm whether there are less bodies or more bodies in comparison to the Nursing Review?

HON K AZOPARDI

The hon Member has a copy of the Review and can carry out the exercise herself but if the hon Member wants me to send her a breakdown I will be happy to do that.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

Can the Minister confirm now whether there will be under his proposed establishment less posts than those recommended by the Nursing Review? Can he confirm that?

HON K AZOPARDI

There are less in some areas and more in others. In the sense of total I have not counted them up myself but that exercise can be carried out and I will send it to her.

ORAL

NO. 270 OF 1999

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA - MIDWIFERY DEPARTMENT.

Can Government confirm what was the complement of the midwifery department before it was established at a total of 14 on 15th March 1999?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

The midwifery complement was increased by five from nine to 14.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 270 OF 1999.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

I take it that nine was the established complement?

HON K AZOPARDI

Nine was both the established complement and the people in post.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

Can the Minister confirm as we are talking in overall terms about the complement of the midwifery department, can he confirm that the increase is solely in relation to midwives?

HON K AZOPARDI

I cannot recall the actual numbers in post in the rest of the department. I think the answer is yes to that but I would have to check.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

What the Minister is saying is that there has been an increase from nine to 14 midwives, can he confirm that?

HON K AZOPARDI

Yes.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

According to the Nursing Review it appears, I cannot find the page but if my memory serves me right it would appear that there were already 14 midwives.

HON K AZOPARDI

I do not have the Nursing Review in front of me. If it did say that I am afraid that it was as guilty of misleading this House as it might have been when it said that there should be four Night Charge Nurses when there were already four Night Charge Nurses. I was advised by Nursing Management and they were quite clear on that, that there were nine people in post and nine was the established complement, both things, and it is now 14 in both cases.

ORAL

NO. 271 OF 1999

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA - HEALTH CENTRE - HOUSECALLS.

Can Government state how many housecalls were attended to by Health Centre doctors in the last financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

Answered together with Question No. 272 of 1999.

ORAL

NO. 272 OF 1999

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA - HEALTH CENTRE - OUT-PATIENT ATTENDANCES.

Can Government state what was the total number of out-patient attendances at the Health Centre from January 1999 to the end of March 1999?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

Doctors attended 5,738 housecalls during the financial year 1998/1999.

There were 29,669 out-patient attendances at the Health Centre during the period beginning January to end of March 1999.

ORAL

NO. 273 OF 1999

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA - IN-PATIENT ADMISSIONS.

Can Government state what was the total number of in-patient admissions and the average number of patients per day at St Bernard's Hospital from January 1999 to the end of March 1999?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

Answered together with Question No. 274 of 1999.

NO. 274 OF 1999THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**GHA - OUT-PATIENT ATTENDANCES.**

Can Government state what was the total number of out-patient attendances at St Bernard's Hospital from January 1999 to the end of March 1999?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

Admission figures are as follows:-

January	475
February	387
March	<u>451</u>
Total	1313

Average number of in-patients per day was 132.

Out-patient attendances were:-

January	1050
February	1073
March	<u>1195</u>
Total	3318

Casualty attendances were:-

January	1579
February	1464
March	<u>1615</u>
Total	4658

ORAL

NO. 275 OF 1999

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA - LONG-STAY ELDERLY CARE PATIENTS.

Can Government state how many long-stay elderly care patients there were at St Bernard's Hospital at the end of March this year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

There were 56 long-stay elderly patients at St Bernard's Hospital at the end of March this year.

ORAL

NO. 276 OF 1999

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA - UK SOCIAL SECURITY PENSIONERS.

Can Government state how many UK social security pensioners who were not also in receipt of a Gibraltar Social Security Pension, were resident at 31st December 1997 and registered with the GPMS?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

Thirty-three.

ORAL

NO. 277 OF 1999

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA - ANNUAL COST OF TREATING A PENSIONER IN THE UK.

Can Government state what is the latest average annual cost of treating a pensioner in the UK and in respect of what year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

Answered together with Question No. 278 of 1999.

NO. 278 OF 1999

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA - TREATMENT TO TEMPORARY VISITORS.

Can Government state what is the latest average cost to the UK of treating temporary visitors from Gibraltar and in respect of what year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

The latest official published data relates to the UK's 1995 average costs. The published sum was £1,759. However, the UK's 1996 average costs were accepted on 11th May 1999 (about a week ago) by the Audit Board of the Administrative Commission. These are not formally useable until published in the Official Journal. This is likely to be in July. The average costs for 1996 amounted to £1,832.

The costs notified in respect of treating temporary visitors from Gibraltar amounted in 1998/1999 to £42,759 in respect of 20 people, giving an average of £2,138.

ORAL

NO. 279 OF 1999

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA - PATIENT REFERRALS TO THE UK.

Can Government state the number of patient referrals to the UK in the financial year 1996/1997?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 280 to 283 of 1999.

ORAL

NO. 280 OF 1999

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA - PATIENT REFERRALS TO THE UK.

Can Government state what was the cost of the 537 patient referrals to the UK in the period 1st April 1997 to 30th November 1997?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 279 and 281 to 283 of 1999.

ORAL

NO. 281 OF 1999

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA - PATIENT REFERRALS TO THE UK.

Can Government state for the financial year 1998/1999, what was the total number of patient referrals to the UK and the cost of these referrals?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 279, 280, 282 and 283 of 1999.

ORAL

NO. 282 OF 1999

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA - PATIENT REFERRALS TO THE UK.

Since 20th February 1999 to the end of the financial year, what was the total number of patient referrals?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 279 to 281 and 283 of 1999.

NO. 283 OF 1999

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA - PATIENT REFERRALS TO THE UK.

Can Government state for the month of April 1999, what was the total number of patient referrals to the UK and the cost of these referrals?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

The number of patient referrals for the requested periods was as follows:-

1996/1997 - When the hon Member gets her answer she might see that it says 553, its 653.

1998/1999 - 827

From 20th February 1999 to 31st March 1999 - 66

April 1999-79

The medical cost of patient referrals for the requested periods was as follows:-

1st April 1997 to 30th November 1997 - £798,081

1998/1999 - £1 081,638 and I should make the point here that this figure is subject to change as not all invoices in respect of those patient referrals have been received.

April 1999 - no cost.

ORAL

NO. 284 OF 1999

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA - PATIENT REFERRALS TO THE UK.

Can Government state what was the figure of the latest available average cost to the UK of each Gibraltar referral, used to calculate the number of sponsored patients treated, with the cost being met by the UK in the financial year 1998/1999?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 285 to 288 of 1999.

ORAL

NO. 285 OF 1999

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA - SPONSORED PATIENTS.

Can Government state how many sponsored patients have been treated in the UK in the period 1st April 1998 to 31st March 1999, with the costs being met by the UK Government and what was this cost?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 284 and 286 to 288 of 1999.

ORAL

NO. 286 OF 1999

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA - SPONSORED PATIENTS.

Can Government state the number of non-quota sponsored patients treated in the UK for the financial year 1998~1999 with the fees being met by the Gibraltar Health Authority?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 284, 285, 287 and 288 of 1999.

ORAL

NO. 287 OF 1999

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA - SPONSORED PATIENTS.

Can Government state the number of non-quota sponsored patients treated in the UK for the month of April 1999 with the fees being met by the Gibraltar Health Authority?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 284 to 286 and 288 of 1999.

ORAL

NO. 288 OF 1999

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA - UK RECIPROCAL HEALTH AGREEMENT.

Can Government say what is the method of calculation of the adjustment factor in the formula of the UK reciprocal health agreement?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

One hundred and twenty Gibraltar sponsored patients were treated in the United Kingdom in 1998/1999 with the costs being met by the UK. The average cost of treatment based on claims that have been submitted by UK hospitals to the DoH is £4,218. Again, this figure is subject to variation since not all claims have been received.

The figures for the requested periods in relation to non-quota sponsored patients treated in 1989 and in relation to non-quota sponsored patients treated in the United Kingdom with the fees met by the GHA are as follows:-

425 non-quota sponsored patients treated in 1998/1999 and in respect of April 1999 the number of non-quota sponsored patients treated in the UK with the fees met by the GHA, the answer is none.

The adjustment factor is included in the formula to allow for actual data to substitute for the estimated data on which the on-going accounts are based.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 285 TO 288 OF 1999.

HON J J BOSSANO

I am not sure if the final answer from the hon Member is that he does not understand the adjustment factor and he wants to make sure we do not. Can he say in the reply that he gave in the House as to the adjustment factor, is it in fact that there is a mistake in the explanation given in that the factor is described in the appendix (in the answer that he gave at the time), as equating to the cost 'in Gibraltar minus the cost to the UK, where the cost to the UK are "d" plus "e", and in the earlier part of the answer e is given as the value of the adjustment factor in total?

HON K AZOPARDI

I am not sure I follow the hon Member's question but he is right in saying the method of calculation on the adjustment factor is set out in appendix 2 of the agreement which is set out in Hansard as Question No. 161 of 1997, if he is suggesting that there might be some sort of typographical error or a substantive error, I would be happy to have a look at that but I would not be able to confirm that to him because I do not have my files on the detail of the negotiation with me but I would be happy to explore that further.

HON J J BOSSANO

The question as to how he calculates the adjustment factor was intended to provide an answer which would enable us to see whether this was right or wrong. Can the Minister say from the answer he has given us, as to how he calculates the adjustment factor, what is the value attached to "e" in the adjustment factor?

HON K AZOPARDI

The adjustment factor is calculated in accordance with appendix 2. If there is a mistake, which is what I think the hon Member is suggesting in some shape or form, I am not sure if that is what he is suggesting but if he is suggesting that, it might be that no one has noticed it because the adjustment factor has, as yet, not been used, because for the first two years the hon Member will be aware in the agreement, the adjustment factor did not kick in. It will only be in the forthcoming discussions between my Department and DoH that the adjustment factor will be used for the first time. I think, perhaps, that gives him some information.

HON J J BOSSANO

The information that I am trying to get is, in the answer that we were given, are the references to "d" and "e" in the answer and d and "e" in the appendix 2 the same or not, because they are defined in different ways. That is the point, and when we have tried to calculate it, it does not seem to work out.

HON K AZOPARDI

Well, "d" and "e" are defined in different ways in the same way as "a" and "b" are defined in different ways. In the sense that appendix 1 defines "a, b, c, d and f" and appendix 2 defines "a, b, c, d and e". Appendix 1, my understanding is, is a formula and perhaps it is unfortunate that they should use the same lettering but it is a formula that is meant to determine the number of patient referrals, and appendix 2 is a different formula aimed at arriving at the adjustment factor, a sort of overall net adjustment. Now, it may be unfortunate they use the same lettering but yes they are defined differently because they are different things.

HON J J BOSSANO

I see. So in fact when in appendix 1 it talks about "d" being the latest available cost to the UK of treating Gibraltar temporary visitors and in appendix 2 it says the actual cost to the UK of treating patients referred to the UK by Gibraltar for treatment, they are different values, even though they are the same letter they seem to be talking about the same thing. Is that correct?

HON K AZOPARDI

I have given him the figure which is published which is the 1995 figure, and I am using the 1996 figure, and in due course they will use 1997 and 1998. The point about the adjustment factor is that because we are calculating things today, we are probably using the 1996 factor and my understanding is that the adjustment is so that in due

course an adjustment can be made using the real values of today and so, there will be in due course, some sort of payment in one direction or another. If the hon Member follows what I am saying.

HON J J BOSSANO

So in fact what the adjustment factor is intended to do then is to correct any over or under payment, is that the answer?

HON K AZOPARDI

Yes.

ORAL

NO. 289 OF 1999

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA - GPMS PRESCRIPTIONS.

Can Government state the number of items covered by GPMS prescriptions in the month of February 1999 in respect of which £2.50 was paid by patients to dispensing pharmacists and the total value of the medicines so dispensed and the comparable figure for 1998?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 290 to 295 of 1999.

ORAL

NO. 290 OF 1999

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA - GPMS PRESCRIPTIONS.

Can Government state the number of items covered by GPMS prescriptions in the month of March 1999 in respect of which £2.50 was paid by patients to dispensing pharmacists and the total value of the medicines so dispensed, and the comparable figure for 1998?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 289 and 291 to 295 of 1999.

ORAL

NO. 291 OF 1999

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA - GPMS PRESCRIPTIONS.

Can Government state the number of items covered by GPMS prescriptions in the month of April 1999 in respect of which £2.50 was paid by patients to dispensing pharmacists and the total value of the medicines so dispensed, and the comparable figure for 1998?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 289 to 290 and 292 to 295 of 1999.

ORAL

NO. 292 OF 1999

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA - GPMS PRESCRIPTIONS.

Will Government state how much revenue the GHA has raised up to 31st March 1999 as a result of Government's policy to increase prescription charges by 100%?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 289 to 291 and 293 of 1999.

ORAL

NO. 293 OF 1999

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA -GPMS PRESCRIPTIONS.

Can Government give a breakdown of the prescriptions issued and the number of items covered by such prescriptions under the GPMS in the month of February this and last year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 289 to 292 and 294 to 295 of 1999.

ORAL

NO. 294 OF 1999

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA - GPMS PRESCRIPTIONS.

Can Government give a breakdown of the prescriptions issued and the number of items covered by such prescriptions under the GPMS in the month of March this year and last year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 289 to 293 and 295 of 1999.

NO. 295 OF 1999

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA - GPMS PRESCRIPTIONS.

Can Government give a breakdown of the prescriptions issued and the number of items covered by such prescriptions under the GPMS in the month of April this year and last year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

The claims submitted for the months of February and March 1999 are in the process of being checked and I am only able to provide the hon Member with provisional figures at this stage. The number of items covered by GPMS prescriptions in respect of which £2.50 was paid by patients and the total of medicines dispensed and the comparison in relation to £1.20 last year, is as follows:-

February 1999

No. of items - 9,660
Cost of medicines - £87,707.60
No. of prescriptions - 10,384
No. of items - 30,355

February 1998

No of items - 13,701

I cannot give a cost of medicines because as I pointed out to the hon Member we are only calculating costs of medicines since August 1998 when we set up the Unit looking at that.

No. of prescriptions - 14,943
No. of items - 34,280

March 1999

No. of items - 8,080
Cost of medicines - £97,676.63
No. of prescriptions - 12,124
No. of items - 25,777

March 1998

No. of items - 16,495
No. of prescriptions - 15,070
No. of items - 43,946

April 1998

No. of items - 14, 753

No. of prescriptions - 13,294

No. of items - 38,161

The figures for the month of April are not available yet because not all accounts have been submitted. In this connection I would remind the hon Member of the answer I gave him in reply to Question Nos. 40 to 50 of 1999. With effect from April 1999, figures are kept on a weekly or period basis (13 periods of 14 weeks in every year) to avoid misleading figures appearing because of the fact that some months are made up of four weeks and the others of five weeks. When I have given statistics to the hon Member in the past there has been a marked difference between months and that is sometimes because of the five week issue.

It is estimated that the increased revenue as a result of the change in prescription fee amounts to approximately £70,000 for the period that was requested.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 295 OF 1999

HON J J BOSSANO

The £70,000, is what, revenue of the Health Authority?

HON K AZOPARDI

I suppose the answer to that would be yes.

HON J J BOSSANO

The Minister should know if it is, or if it is not?

HON K AZOPARDI

Yes, the answer is yes.

NO. 296 OF 1999

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA - CHIEF EXECUTIVE POST.

Can Government state whether they have now reached a decision on the new salary for the post of Chief Executive of the Gibraltar Health Authority?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

No Sir, the matter is under consideration.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 296 OF 1999

HON J C PEREZ

Can the Minister clarify whether when the late Mr Jackson was in post the present incumbent when acting for him used to get paid the acting allowance for the salary of the late Mr Jackson?

HON K AZOPARDI

I believe that was the case for the latter half of the acting. I think initially the answer was no but then the matter was corrected.

HON J C PEREZ

So, in fact, we have a situation where the person that has now taken the post has already been receiving remuneration to the level of the post as it was before in an acting capacity.

HON K AZOPARDI

Yes.

NO. 297 OF 1999

THE HON J J GABAY

HERITAGE - NUN'S WELL.

Will the Minister for Heritage outline the agreement entered into with the Heritage Trust in respect of Nun's Well?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

The Government agreed to lease the property known as Nun's Well to the Trustees of the Friends of Parson's Lodge Charitable Trust. In turn, the Trustees entered into a management agreement on 7th September 1998 with Mr Alex Durnall.

The purpose of the agreement is to provide for the management, refurbishment and sensitive development of Nun's Well as an attractive visitor attraction.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 297 OF 1999

HON J J GABAY

Will the Government then be subsidising or funding the refurbishment of the site as part of the arrangements?

HON K AZOPARDI

I understand that the matter is under active consideration. My hon Colleague the Minister for Tourism is in discussion with the Trustees of Parson's Lodge on the matter.

HON J J GABAY

And furthermore, given the fact that it is in a prime tourist area and that the situation has been an eyesore for a long period of time, in the arrangements made, has a timescale been established?

HON K AZOPARDI

Obviously the lease and the agreement is subject to time and the management agreement, for example, has a five year term to it. Is that what the hon Member means? That is the term.

HON J J GABAY

The question is when are we going to see an improvement in the place and control of it so that we do not have simply to rely, on answering, that this is the result of vandalism. It also raises the question of what can be done positively to control that degree of vandalism?

HON K AZOPARDI

The hon Member will have seen by the sequence of agreements that I have outlined that this is not a Government project. This is now an agreement entered into by the Friends of Parson's Lodge Charitable Trust, which essentially are the same people as are in the Heritage Trust. They have now a lease, they hold a lease over the property and they can enforce those terms in the lease and enforce the terms of the management agreement as they see fit. We will see action there as soon as, no doubt, those gentlemen can possibly act in the matter. We share the hon Member's concern that there is vandalism on the site but he will appreciate that the Government do not hold the lease over the site and it is not a Government project. All we can do is consider actively, as we have done, to assist in funding but we are not in control of the matter.

HON J J GABAY

Am I right in assuming that no time scale has been established and furthermore, will the Government retain the right to end the arrangement if there is a long delay?

HON K AZOPARDI

I do not know, a lot of time has gone by. The agreement was entered into in October last year, the hon Member may be in a better place than I am to be able to judge how quickly the Heritage Trust can act in these matters. Obviously there are time clauses in the agreement themselves I think people need time to put matters in place. I am sure we will be vigilant and make sure that the purpose of the agreement is fulfilled to the maximum extent possible.

HON J L BALDACHINO

Does the agreement also cover the surrounding wasteland of Nun's Well?

HON K AZOPARDI

Yes. It covers the site itself plus an area around it demarcated in the lease itself.

NO. 298 OF 1999

THE HON J J GABAY

HERITAGE - WORLD WAR II TUNNELS.

In view of the possibilities of World Heritage Status, will Government devise plans for the promotion of World War II Tunnels, pursue the uncluttering of the City Walls and act on moving H.M. Prison from the Moorish Castle in its overall scheme?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

All those projects are desirable heritage and touristic projects that should be done whether or not Gibraltar pursues a bid for World Heritage Status. It is true though, that because the Government is eager to seek this status, the maximisation of as many of our heritage assets as possible becomes more important. It is also true, in the balance, that there are practical and financial obstacles that may hinder achievement of those desirable goals.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 298 OF 1999

HON J J GABAY

In preparation for what is a landmark on the past world status and for which I genuinely feel that the Minister's work has been conducive to the success of the initiative, then might it not be possible in fact to plan for these major items, apart from the individual items which usually become fragmented? In every part of the world the city walls are virtually sacrosanct and we have remarkable city walls, they are in need of repair so that, for example as I have raised in the past, would it be possible for the Minister to start a project of using the stone blocks that are it seems abandoned in the slipway of what was Her Majesty's Dockyard and start the process of repairing. And in respect of the World War II Tunnels I think an initiative for a start might well be, does the Minister not agree, in re-creating the Eisenhower Command Post that existed during the war which has enormous tourist potential. Indeed, where the Prison is concerned, since the Dutch Magazine has been identified again might we not move in some positive way in this direction?

HON K AZOPARDI

The hon Member always puts a lot of points into his questions. I will try to answer some but forgive me if I do not answer all of them. In relation to the stones that lie at Gun Wharf I think the hon Member will be happy to note that we have now entered into an arrangement with the Heritage Trust that those stones are going to be moved from that site into their custody for them to assess for what heritage purpose they should be used and they will effectively administer and manage that stone and give them out for sensitive heritage developments So I think that is a positive point in relation to one of the issues the hon Member raises.

The hon Member is aware, because I spoke to him about it, that I envisage to follow, in relation to the World Heritage Bid, to have a supervisory commission plus a working group aimed at making a bid. I am working quite closely with that group to make sure that we have a strategy over the next six years. I already spoke to the Heritage Trust

about it and it will contain an overall view of what needs to be done in relation to heritage sites generally, but particularly, the hon Member should be aware that the working group set up that is helping me on that matter is indeed actively considering the possibilities of the World War II Tunnels and there is a meeting in the next couple of days scheduled with me to discuss that further. Obviously I join in his sentiment in relation to the uniqueness of our City Walls. The Government are keen to expose them, to make sure that they are beautified and that is why we enter into these continuing programmes. I think more work can be done in key areas and again, that will form part of a strategy we intend to develop in the next few months to tackle these important sites. It is clear that if we are to have a good chance to achieve World Heritage Status, we need to move in the next six years to be able to tackle these issues generally.

ORAL

NO. 299 OF 1999

THE HON J J GABAY

WORLD HERITAGE STATUS.

Will the Minister for Heritage convey in this House the appreciation of all Members to the various societies and individuals, past and present who have contributed in so many ways to that consciousness of our heritage that has made it possible to have Gibraltar placed on the UK list for submission to UNESCO as a step towards World Heritage Status?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

I am aware that several people have harboured a desire for some time that Gibraltar seek and obtain World Heritage Status. There are also many who have worked through the years to raise the level of awareness in matters of heritage. I would not wish to exclude anyone inadvertently so I will refrain from mentioning them by name. I would though pay tribute to those people connected with this effort and to the Heritage Trust in particular. I suppose as the hon Member is a former Chairman of the Trust I suppose he would like to be included in that praise also.

May I ask him now that I have this opportunity, to reciprocate by congratulating the Government for its sterling efforts that have ensured that Gibraltar has been placed on the British UNESCO list without which it would be impossible to contemplate an application for World Heritage Status.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 299 OF 1999

HON J J GABAY

I currently share those sentiments and indeed I was going to make this. I am not so sure that I could globalise the compliment to the Government but I am really quite prepared to agree with them in respect of the excellent work done by the Minister for Heritage in moving in that direction.

ORAL

NO. 300 OF 1999

THE HON J C PEREZ

IRISH TOWN - BEAUTIFICATION.

Can Government state whether the pedestrianisation works at Irish Town are on schedule?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

The current phase of beautification works at Irish Town are on schedule. Parliament Lane though is behind schedule.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 300 OF 1999

HON J C PEREZ

Can the Minister state when the works at Irish Town are scheduled to be completed and could he say whether Parliament Lane is a separate contract and whether there is a penalty clause in the contract which has now been effected as a result of it not being on schedule?

HON K AZOPARDI

I think that Irish Town was due for completion in general terms by about April/May so they are on target there. The only issue in Irish Town is I think, the issue of furniture which is awaited but that is a minor matter.

The contract in relation to Irish Town/Parliament Lane I believe to be part and parcel of the same contract. There are of course penalty clauses in relation to delay but I am not sure whether we will be able to enforce them because the delay itself is due to the renovation of infrastructural services and not really a cause of the contractor. It has been due to the delay in including salt and fresh water, sewage, telephone and electrical infrastructural services and the Project Managers themselves believe that it has not always been possible to determine beforehand the extent of services' replacement when discussing the programme of works with the contractor, so it may not be possible to enforce some sort of delay but that is a matter that will be looked at.

HON J C PEREZ

Would it be fair to say then that the Minister expects the works at Irish Town to be completed this month and could he give a date when he thinks Parliament Lane will be completed?

HON K AZOPARDI

If the hon Member means complete in the sense of having the furniture, I cannot give him that information because I am not sure when the furniture will come. This phase of Irish Town is more or less complete subject to that issue but the hon Member may be aware that the intention is to now extend the Irish Town works to do the north end

of Irish Town which has not been done. So, Irish Town itself in its entirety obviously is not complete but this phase is.

In relation to the Parliament Lane works, the project should have been completed in late April but we estimate that it will be completed in about three and a half weeks which really means that it will be about 8 to 9 weeks beyond completion date.

HON J C PEREZ

Could the Minister say whether the extension is going to be an extension to the existing contract or whether he intends to come out to tender again for the other part of Irish Town?

HON K AZOPARDI

I think that the Government really see this as part and parcel of a rolling beautification project which was always intended to take that side of Irish Town into account. It would really not make sense to go out to tender and we would see this as an extension to the current contract.

HON J C PEREZ

One can presume that when the Minister speaks of furniture we are talking about lamp-posts and pots?

HON K AZOPARDI

That is right.

HON J GARCIA

I start by declaring an interest as a daily user of Irish Town when is the north end of Irish Town due to be commenced?

HON K AZOPARDI

I think the stone work has been ordered and the position is we would like it to start as soon as possible. I think it was originally envisaged that we would run a back-to-back situation and so we will complete this in June and carry on immediately, but I cannot say to the hon Member whether that indeed will be the case because it has implications on the Casemates works. So, subject to Casemates, we intend to start as soon as possible once the stones are here in Gibraltar but that is the subject of a discussion at a meeting of the City Centre Beautification Committee that will meet quite shortly to finalise the date on which the works can happen.

HON J C PEREZ

Given the imminent vacation of Orange Bastion, would it not be more appropriate to look at the whole area together with whatever is going to happen in the site of Orange Bastion rather than just pedestrianise the road up to the end of Irish Town?

HON K AZOPARDI

I think the hon Member may be aware that when we exhibited the project it included the possibilities in relation to Orange Bastion, some sort of sunken playground area or garden area at Orange Bastion where the depot is now and also an entry through what is now the dead-end at the end of Parliament Lane right through to Queensway. That really is just a question of removing some stonework and one

would create a tunnel right through. Those ideas were already exhibited back in July last year, no adverse comments were received. That is Government's general intention but it is also true to say that those works are not programmed to take place immediately and I am not sure whether they will take place this year at all.

HON JC PEREZ

One would presume that that would be the subject of a separate contract and not an extension to the present pedestrianisation works, the part of Orange Bastion I mean.

HON K AZOPARDI

The Government have not taken a particular view in that because the designers who came up with those ideas at the request of the Government were more or less the same people who came up with the Irish Town re-paving project. So, that matter has not been decided as yet. I think we first need to decide whether we actually want to press the green button on those ideas and it involves discussions with other people like the Heritage Trust and so on.

ORAL

NO. 301 OF 1999

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

ETB - WAGE SUBSIDY.

Can Government state how much has been spent since 28th February 1999 to 30th April 1999 out of the £600,000 provided for wage subsidy in each month giving the number of employees receiving a wage subsidy and in respect of how many employers?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND BUILDINGS AND WORKS

The £600,000 referred to in the question relates to the financial year 1998/1999, in which there would not be a provision for April 1999.

However, the information is as follows:

February 1999	£28,599.68 spent in Wage Subsidy involving 43 employers and 59 employees.
March 1999	£18,647.86 spent in Wage Subsidy involving 31 employers and 42 employees.
April 1999	£17,666.77 spent in Wage Subsidy involving 30 employers and 46 employees.

ORAL

NO. 302 OF 1999

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

ETB - VOCATIONAL CADETS.

Can Government state how much has been spent by the E.T.B. since 28th February 1999 up to 30th April 1999 out of £1.1 million provided for payments to Vocational Cadets, broken down between those employed by the E.T.B. and those with the Ministry of Education?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND BUILDINGS AND WORKS

As with Question No. 301 of 1999 the estimates relate to the financial year 1998/1999. However, the costs are as follows:-

February 1999	Employment - £25,529.75;	Education -£28,481.78.
March 1999	Employment - £24,695.79;	Education -£26,649.19.
April 1999	Employment - £18,963.23;	Education -£25,201.54.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 302 OF 1999

HON J L BALDACHINO

Can the Minister confirm that on the question of education these are moneys paid to people who are doing some of the courses under that umbrella, is it?

HON J J NETTO

Yes.

HON J L BALDACHINO

And the one that is being paid by Employment are those classified as a Cadet which are on the work basis.

HON J J NETTO

Yes.

HON J L BALDACHINO

Therefore, immaterial of whether education or employment, everybody who is on a training place, is being paid out of that fund, is that correct?

HON J J NETTO

Yes.

NO. 303 OF 1999

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

ETB - WORK CONTRACTS.

Can Government state how many of the workers who have a work contract registered with the E.T.B. have a non-Gibraltarian address?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND BUILDINGS AND WORKS

Although our records hold the addresses of persons for whom the work contract is issued, I regret to say that we do not have a reporting facility which will analyse the data and return numbers of different categories. As with other requests, we will try to provide this information as soon as we are able to design such a report, if our systems allow these to be created.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 303 OF 1999

HON J L BALDACHINO

Can the Minister then clarify when he gave me a figure in the last House of 1,471 Spanish workers when I asked for frontier workers, he has given me the nationality of the person immaterial of whether they were living across the border or here, it was just Spanish workers. Is that correct?

HON J J NETTO

I cannot recall now the previous question and the answer which I gave him so I could not refer to that right now.

HON J L BALDACHINO

Maybe I can refresh his memory, when I asked how many frontier workers were working in Gibraltar his answer was that he could not do that because even we did not carry out this survey when we were in government, but he could give me a figure of Spanish workers. The figure they gave me at the time was 1,471 which I presumed at the time, as I was asking for frontier workers, that those were Spanish workers who were living on the other side and working here. He has just said that he cannot give me figures because there is no provision of bringing out the address of the person, am I correct in assuming then that out of the 1,471 some of the Spanish nationals might be living here?

HON J J NETTO

The vast majority of Spanish workers do not reside in Gibraltar. The staff at the Ministry advise me that at the moment they cannot have a programme available to be able to extract this, given that we are talking about all work contracts registered with us ever since notice of the terms of engagement came into existence way back in 1991. This is the information I have available.

However, if it can be provided we will make it available to the hon Member.

NO 304 OF 1999THE HON J L BALDACHINO**ETB - HOTEL INDUSTRY.**

Can Government state in respect of each month since January 1999 how many vacancies were filled in the Hotel Industry giving nationalities and job titles?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND BUILDINGS AND WORKS

The total number of vacancies filled from 1st January to 31st March 1999 is 18, of which 7 were Gibraltarians, 6 British 4 Spanish and 1 Moroccan. With regard to the job titles it is as follows:

Gibraltarians	Chambermaid	4
	Secretary	1
	Night Porter	2
British	Waiter	1
	Sales Manager	1
	Hotel Supervisor	1
	Receptionist	1
	Kitchen Hand	1
	Pool Attendant	1
Spanish	Chambermaid	1
	General Operative	2
	Waiter	1
Moroccan	Carpenter	1

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 304 OF 1999

HON J L BALDACHINO

Can the Minister state if any of the seven Gibraltarians employed in the Hotel Industry came from the Scheme or the courses that they were doing for the Hotels?

HON J J NETTO

I have not got that information available.

HON DR B LINARES

I have knowledge that three of the trainees have now found full permanent employment in the Hotel Industry but I am not too sure exactly whether in a Hotel or a Restaurant, but certainly in the Tourism Industry.

ORAL

NO. 305 OF 1999

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

ETB - CAMMELL LAIRD.

Can Government state how many of the 150 full time employees at Cammell Laird as at 11th February 1999 were Gibraltarians?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND BUILDINGS AND WORKS

Ninety-three.

NO. 306 OF 1999THE HON J L BALDACHINO**ETB - UNEMPLOYED GIBRALTARIANS.**

Can Government give a breakdown of male and female unemployed Gibraltarians aged 18 years and over, from the end of January 1999 to 31st March 1999 receiving:

- (a) Unemployment Benefit
- (b) Social Assistance;
- (c) No Payments.

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND BUILDINGS AND WORKS

The unemployment figures for persons over 18 receiving Unemployment Benefit, Social Assistance or receiving no payments during the period January to March 1999 is as follows

		<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
January 1999	Unemployment Benefit	32	15
	Social Assistance	95	41
	No Payments	106	70
February 1999	Unemployment Benefit	14	9
	Social Assistance	79	38
	No Payments	95	84
March 1999	Unemployment Benefit	30	21
	Social Assistance	77	39
	No Payments	96	77

ORAL

NO. 307 OF 1999

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

ETB - TERMINATIONS OF EMPLOYMENT.

Can Government state how many terminations of employment on the grounds of redundancy there have been, broken down by month nationality and trade from 31st January 1998 to the end of December 1998?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND BUILDINGS AND WORKS

Answered together with Question Nos. 308 and 309 of 1999.

ORAL

NO. 308 OF 1999

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

ETB - TERMINATIONS OF EMPLOYMENT.

Can Government state how many terminations of employment on the ground of redundancy were there during the first quarter of this year, broken down for each month, nationality and trade?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND BUILDINGS AND WORKS

Answered together with Question Nos. 307 and 309 of 1999.

ORAL

NO. 309 OF 1999

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

ETB - TERMINATIONS OF EMPLOYMENT.

Can Government state how many terminations of employment were received by the E.T.B. for each month from 31st January 1999 to 30th April 1999?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND BUILDINGS AND WORKS

Firstly, in relation to providing information of breakdown on nationality and trade, I have to say this is yet not available. We intend to create a computer programme once our technical man on computers returns from the UK where he is currently undergoing a course.

Lastly, the terminations received during the first quarter that is 1st January 1999 to 31st March 1999 is 779. Once again once the technical person arrives we will break down the information on a monthly basis.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 307 TO 309 OF 1999

HON J L BALDACHINO

Can I ask the Minister how reliable is the answer that he gave me in Question No. 100 of 1999? He gave me the Termination of Employment and it was broken down by months.

HON J J NETTO

On numbers yes, but the question as posed asks far more than what was previously asked.

HON J L BALDACHINO

Yes, in one of the questions and I think in all of them, I asked by month, nationality and trade.

HON J J NETTO

Oh yes I see, right But obviously as I said in the latter pan of my answer to the question, I did say that our technical man on computers has actually devised a programme to get information on a monthly basis. At the moment, given that he is not in Gibraltar, we have managed to get it on a quarterly basis but obviously you are asking the question to be provided as well on a monthly basis. That will be provided to the hon Member as soon as our technician arrives back in Gibraltar.

HON J J BOSSANO

If we are talking about how many terminations there have been, do they not have to count the number of weeks to get to 13 weeks? I do not see how it is possible to get

the information for three months without going each one of the three months to get there.

HON J J NETTO

The system as devised by our computer technician, the only person in the Ministry who understands all the various programmes, is not available at the moment. We have tried to get the information through a programme which they know only gives them on a quarterly basis, which I have given here. But the question requires the figures broken down by month. That will be done. But it will be done as soon as our technician is back.

HON J L BALDACHINO

Can he confirm then, if I have understood him correctly, that the information is within the system in the computer the only thing is that it cannot be brought out because they do not know which key to press. They need somebody who knows how to fiddle with the computer to bring it out.

HON J J NETTO

Yes, I have already stated that.

NO. 310 OF 1999THE HON J L BALDACHINO**ETB - WORK PERMITS.**

Can Government state the number of work permits issued from January 1999 to 30th April 1999 giving a breakdown for each month as follows:

- (a) New entrants;
- (b) Renewal;
- (C) Nationalities; and
- (d) Trader

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND BUILDINGS AND WORKS

The nationality and trades of work permits issued from January to March is as follows:-

January 1999 - 18 work permits issued.

New - 4	Hong Kong	2	Professional
	Isle of Man	1	Managerial
	Swiss	1	Professional
Renewal - 14	Moroccan	2	Semi-skilled
	Moroccan	7	Craft
	Swiss	2	Managerial
	Indian	2	Managerial
	Pakistani	1	Self-employed

February 1999 - 17 work permits issued.

New - 2	Hong Kong	1	Professional
	USA	1	Professional
Renewal - 15	Moroccan	9	Craft
	Moroccan	1	Catering
	Moroccan	2	Labourer
	Moroccan	1	Cleaner
	Indian	2	Managerial

March 1999 - 29 work permits issued.

New - 12	Swiss	2	Managerial
	Pakistani	2	Medical
	Cypriot	2	Managerial
	Thai	3	Professional
	Chinese	1	Professional
	Canadian	1	Professional
	South African	1	Managerial

Renewal - 17 Moroccan	6	Craft
Moroccan	1	Managerial
Moroccan	5	Semi-skilled
Moroccan	5	Unskilled

The information requested for April 1999 will be provided at the end of the second quarter of 1999.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 310 OF 1999

HON J L BALDACHINO

The two Pakistani nationals - medical - were they employed by the Gibraltar Health Authority or were they in private?

HON J J NETTO

I would not like to give a categorical answer but I would dare say yes because the Health Authority do provide the information to the Ministry. I can look into the matter if the hon Member so wishes and I can confirm whether it is for the Health Authority. Does he want that?

HON J L BALDACHINO

Yes.

HON K AZOPARDI

I think that would have to be confirmed but I think the answer to that is yes because it is about the time we get the SHO's and I think the answer is yes.

NO. 311 OF 1999

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

ETB - VACANCIES FILLED.

Can Government state how many of the 4,021 vacancies filled in 1998 registered with the E.T.B. were newly created jobs, giving a breakdown by month and showing the nationality and trade of the employee, and those taken up by Gibraltarians. How many were at the time registered as unemployed?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND BUILDINGS AND WORKS

The extensive nature of the information requested by this question cannot be provided in the time available. The Ministry will endeavour to analyse the format of the question and identify whether our computer system provides the relevant variables to enable us to produce a reply with the delimiters requested.

I will write to the hon Member as soon as possible once we have an opportunity to look into this further.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 311 OF 1999

HON J L BALDACHINO

Can the Minister then tell me, when he made a public statement saying that x amount of jobs had been created, new jobs had been created, where did he get the information from?

HON J J NETTO

I think the hon Member seems to be distorting the statements made by me. If I had said "newly jobs created" perhaps I would have suggested that they have been created because of a new firm. But he would have to be more specific as to when and where I made such a statement.

HON J J BOSSANO

Does the Minister still believe that there was a 22 per cent expansion in the employment market in 1998 which is one of the things he said in relation to the 421 vacancies. And if 22 per cent expansion does not mean more new jobs, what does it mean?

HON J J NETTO

It means as I said before, a number of things It means that every single year, for 1998 for 1997 for 1996 and even prior to that, there is a number of jobs which are generated in the labour market. Many of those jobs do not necessarily mean new jobs. Some jobs are as a result of short-term employment, seasonal employment, employment due to people retiring and other people move into that. The fact of the matter is that my statement meant that in comparison with the previous year, under all

the factors which I have just stated, meant that there were far more jobs filled than there had been the previous year. That is what was meant.

HON J J BOSSANO

I see. So in fact, the Minister thinks that if lots of people get sacked in a year and lots of new people get employed in the jobs of the people who get sacked, that is a 22 per cent improvement in the labour market?

HON J J NETTO

I have not said that. I think the hon Member is twisting my words.

HON J J BOSSANO

The statement of the 22 per cent improvement in the labour market in terms of jobs filled surely is only something that one can be happy about if it means not that 4,021 have been sacked and 4,021 have been employed but that there are more people employed at the end of the year than there were at the beginning. Is that not the implication?

HON J J NETTO

No, the hon Member is focusing on a very narrow point here. It is not a that people are sacked and then people are replaced for the jobs they have been sacked. What my point was meant to be and is, that in relation to vacancies filled in that year there has been an expansion of vacancies filled from the previous years under all the categories which I have said and not the one that the hon Member chooses to identify.

HON J J BOSSANO

But, Mr Speaker, will the Minister accept that in fact, given the answer that was given previously of the number of jobs that terminated in that year the difference is that there was a figure of 4,021 which is only 365 jobs more than the jobs that were terminated. So would he not agree that that is hardly consistent with talking about a 22 per cent expansion of the labour market. Twenty-two per cent in relation to what?

HON J J NETTO

I do not agree with the statement of the Leader of the Opposition.

HON J J BOSSANO

Does the Minister not agree that that is the information he has provided in answer to the question. That of 4,021 jobs that were filled in 1998, were 365 jobs more than the number of jobs that he has told us were terminated that year. So the market did not expand by 22 per cent if anything it expanded by 365 jobs?

HON J J NETTO

He is trying to confuse the issue Mr Speaker. He brings now on the question of vacancies filled, the question of terminations. My statement for clarity meant that there were 22 per cent more vacancies filled in 1998 than the previous year. That is the issue.

HON J J BOSSANO

The question seeks to obtain information on newly created jobs because in fact if there is a 22 per cent in the jobs market, I would put it to the Minister that for any reasonable person that listens to the statement, there would be a natural assumption that the jobs market was bigger, not that there was a higher level of turnover of people becoming employed and unemployed.

HON J J NETTO

The hon Member knows from his time in government that the computer systems available and the systems available in the Ministry of Employment has never determined breakdowns for newly created jobs. I have, however, endeavoured in my original answer to look into the matter. But neither during our period of time nor his period of time has there been a process that from so many vacancies filled, so many have been newly created jobs. We have at different times said, well there has been a new firm that has come to Gibraltar, whether it is Cammell Laird or Victor Chandler and they have created new extra jobs. He is trying to find out the whole of a given year and by month, which are newly created jobs. That has never been the case. We shall endeavour to do it, we cannot do more than that.

HON J J BOSSANO

We know that it has never been the case but nobody has ever either claimed in the past, to my knowledge, that there was a 22 per cent expansion in the labour market. If one says it in a Government statement, "we are very happy that the labour market has grown by 22 per cent last year", then we are trying to find out where the 22 per cent growth is.

HON J J NETTO

Again, I do not recall saying that there had been an expansion of 22 per cent in the labour market. What I have said is that there was a 22 per cent increase of vacancies in relation to the previous year.

HON J J BOSSANO

Does the Minister recognise that in the light of the answer that he gave to Question No. 199, in fact there were 3,656 terminations of employment in that year, according to the information he gave us and that consequently the difference between the number of vacancies filled and the number of jobs lost was 365. So, in fact, the number of new jobs could not possibly be more than 365, or extra jobs anyway.

ORAL

NO. 312 OF 1999

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

ETB - GIBRALTARIANS EMPLOYED.

Can Government state how many of the 148 Gibraltarians employed during the month of January 1999 were already registered as unemployed with the ETB?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND BUILDINGS AND works

Answered together with Question Nos. 313 and 314 of 1999.

ORAL

NO. 313 OF 1999

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

ETB - GIBRALTARIANS EMPLOYED.

Can Government state how many of the 148 Gibraltarians employed during the month of February 1999 were already registered as unemployed with the ETB?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND BUILDINGS AND WORKS

Answered together with Question Nos. 312 and 314 of 1999.

NO. 314 OF 1999

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

ETB - GIBRALTARIANS EMPLOYED.

Can Government state how many of the 173 Gibraltarians employed during the month of March 1999 were already registered as unemployed with the ETB?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND BUILDINGS AND WORKS

During the first quarter of 1999 the relationship of persons finding employment to those already registered as unemployed is as follows:-

January 1999	148 employed	63 previously registered unemployed
February 1999	148 employed	56 previously registered unemployed
March 1999	173 employed	62 previously registered unemployed

ORAL

NO. 315 OF 1999

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

ETB - BRITISH NATIONALS EMPLOYED.

Can Government state how many of the 48 British nationals employed during the month of January 1999 were new entrants to the local labour market?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND BUILDINGS AND WORKS

Answered together with Question Nos. 316 to 320 of 1999.

ORAL

NO. 316 OF 1999

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

ETB - BRITISH NATIONALS EMPLOYED.

Can Government state how many of the 51 British nationals employed during the month of February 1999 were new entrants to the local labour market?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND BUILDINGS AND WORKS

Answered together with Question Nos. 315 and 317 to 320 of 1999.

ORAL

NO. 317 OF 1999

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

ETB - BRITISH NATIONALS EMPLOYED.

Can Government state how many of the 50 British nationals employed during the month of March 1999 were new entrants to the local labour market?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND BUILDINGS AND WORKS

Answered together with Question Nos. 315, 316 and 318 to 320 of 1999.

ORAL

NO. 318 OF 1999

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

ETB - SPANISH NATIONALS EMPLOYED.

Can Government state how many of the 50 Spanish nationals employed during the month of January 1999 were new entrants to the local labour market?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND BUILDINGS AND WORKS

Answered together with Question Nos. 315 to 317, 319 and 320 of 1999.

ORAL

NO. 319 OF 1999

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

ETB - SPANISH NATIONALS EMPLOYED.

Can Government state how many of the 66 Spanish nationals employed during the month of February 1999 were new entrants to the local labour market?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND BUILDINGS AND WORKS

Answered together with Question Nos. 315 to 318 and 320 of 1999.

NO. 320 OF 1999

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

ETB - SPANISH NATIONALS EMPLOYED.

Can Government state how many of the 73 Spanish nationals employed during the month of March 1999 were new entrants to the local labour market?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND BUILDINGS AND WORKS

The information is as follows:-

January 1999	Total Spanish employed - 50, of which 40 were newly employed Total British employed - 48, of which 27 were newly employed
February 1999	Total Spanish employed - 66, of which 47 were newly employed Total British employed - 51, of which 31 were newly employed
March 1999	Total Spanish employed - 73, of which 50 were newly employed Total British employed - 50, of which 29 were newly employed

ORAL

NO. 321 OF 1999

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

KING'S BASTION - REMEDIAL WORKS.

Can Government state if the remedial works at King's Bastion have been completed and at what cost?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND BUILDINGS AND WORKS

The remedial works at King's Bastion have not been completed. Further structural remedial works are still outstanding. The cost to date of the works carried out by Gibraltar Community Projects is £10,000.

However, the above figure does not include labour costs given that this is not reflected in Gibraltar Community Projects Limited costings.

Perhaps I should add to the answer that the actual remedial works are continuing today. As I was driving to the House I saw employees of Community Projects actually continuing some of these works.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 321 OF 1999.

HON J L BALDACHINO

So is it the intention to carry out the works because it has been stopped for about a month? The scaffolding was removed.

HON J J NETTO

Yes it is. In fact, that is precisely one of the things, the scaffolding is going up to provide immediate cover from a health and safety point of view, given that there were various pieces of masonry from the access walkways which was falling down and immediate cover would be to prop the whole thing up.

HON J L BALDACHINO

The £10,000 that has been spent to date, is it on materials that is being provided by Buildings and Works? Materials only?

HON J J NETTO

It is only materials yes. It does not cover labour.

HON J L BALDACHINO

And the scaffolding is it carried out by Gibraltar Community Projects or is it hired out? If so, who is paying for that Buildings and Works?

HON J J NETTO

I could not answer that supplementary question Mr Speaker. I have not got that information whether the scaffolding is being provided directly by Community Projects or whether they in turn hired it out. I can look into the matter and inform the hon Member.

HON J L BALDACHINO

How much would it cost to complete the works that need to be carried out there?

HON J J NETTO

I have not got that information with me into how much it will cost to complete the works. We have to bear in mind that when we talk about the works we are talking about work as a result of investigation of structural engineers from Support Services, who reviewed the matter and, therefore, they have said that certain works have to be carried out to ensure the safety of the people there.

HON J L BALDACHINO

So, there has been no costing whatsoever done for the job that needs to be done in King's Bastion, there has not been any costing whatsoever from anyone? Is that correct?

HON J J NETTO

This is, as I said before, work in relation of an emergency nature as opposed to any kind of maintenance work, as I understand it.

HON J L BALDACHINO

But if he refurbished something obviously there must be a costing or how much it is going to cost. Or that has not been done in this case?

HON J J NETTO

Yes, of course. At the end of the day every single penny spent will be accounted for.

HON J L BALDACHINO

All I am asking is, has there been a costing on King's Bastion works?

HON J J NETTO

The priority has been to secure the building and that has been determined, as I said before by the structural engineer in Support Services and once that has been deemed by him to be safe, the cost will be reflected.

HON J L BALDACHINO

I understand that that might have been an additional problem after the remedial work started. Obviously there was remedial work that began at some time, especially the top floor where it was painted and obviously when they came down I think what might have happened is what the hon Member is saying now, that due to security something else had to be done. But that was not what I am asking. What I am asking is, has there been a budget for this type of job apart from the findings afterwards when carrying out remedial works?

HON J J NETTO

No. The answer is no. There is no specific budget as such.

ORAL

NO. 322 OF 1999

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

HIRE OF SCAFFOLDING.

Can Government state how much has been spent on the hire of scaffolding, giving a breakdown of companies involved and the cost per month since 31st January 1998, and to which Head it has been charged?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND BUILDINGS AND WORKS

The cost incurred has been charged to Head 2B, Subhead 6, Housing Maintenance Materials and the total is £36,918.79. The breakdown by year, month and company is contained in the table which I have just passed over to the hon Member.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 322 OF 1999

HON J L BALDACHINO

Is it the intention of Government to carry on hiring scaffolding, or to provide their own scaffolding at a future date?

HON J J NETTO

It is a two prong policy within Buildings and Works. On the one side yes, it is the intention of the Department to provide certain amount of scaffolding but it is also, and I think it is perhaps in another question in the order paper, that there will be a term contract on scaffolding given that many of the scaffolds that we need, every time that it is over a certain amount of money, it has to go to tender. That creates a lot of obstacles in the fluidity of getting jobs done, so want to have, and the tenders have been allocated and published in the papers in the last few days, we will have on the one hand scaffolding which we provide and erected by employees of Buildings and Works and there will also be additional to that a term contract.

HON J C PEREZ

Can the Minister state whether the costs that have been mentioned in his reply include labour in some instances or whether the scaffolding has been erected in all cases by Buildings and Works Department and taken down by the Buildings and Works or whether the labour cost is shown second.

HON J J NETTO

My understanding is that this includes labour from the contractor.

MR SPEAKER

I have got to intervene. The thing is that when you supply information, written information, that will not go into the Hansard unless you provide a copy to the Clerk.

HON J J NETTO

Here is a copy for Hansard.

		Hire-U-Shop	Chiara Ltd	Eurotec Scaffolding Works	TOTAL
1998	February	£ 382.14			£ 382.14
	March	£463.00			£463.00
	April				-----
	May			£2,450.00	£2,450.00
	June	£617.28		£1,380.00	£1,997.28
	July	£3,475.88			£3,475.88
	August	£873.57			£873.57
	September	£374.28			£374.28
	October	£2,730.85		£1,800.00	£4,530.85
	November			£4,134.00	£4,134.00
	December	£2,396.25	£375.00		£2,771.25
1999	January	£3,977.16		£3,375.00	£7,352.16
	February	£2,593.83	£2,950.00		£5,543.83
	March				-----
	April	£2,570.55			£2,570.55
TOTAL		£20,454.79	£3,325.00	£13,139.00	£36,918.79

NO. 323 OF 1999

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

IMPROVEMENT & DEVELOPMENT FUND - HEAD 101 HOUSING.

Can Government state if all private companies that have been awarded a Government Tender under the Improvement and Development Fund Head 101 Housing, are keeping to the work schedule and price as per the tender submitted?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND BUILDINGS AND WORKS

The contract for the construction of the Homes for the Elderly, situated within the Edinburgh House complex, is running on programme with completions scheduled for July 1999. There has been a slight increase to the tender figure as a result of certain modifications requested subsequent to the award.

The works on the replacement of the balconies at MacFarlane and Willis's House are both 15 weeks behind programme. There has been an increase in the price of this contract due to the decision to replace the windows of these buildings, having been taken after the award.

The works on the external refurbishment of the buildings within the Edinburgh House complex are on programme with a completion date scheduled for July 1999. There has been an increase to the cost of this project from the inclusion into the contract of two additional blocks released by the MoD to the Government, after the award of the contract. In addition, certain additional and unforeseen works have also been undertaken.

The works on the refurbishment of 10 pre-war houses by Chiara are four months behind schedule due to substantial additional works that have arisen after the contract was awarded. The contract sum has been adjusted in accordance with the conditions of the contract.

With the works of the refurbishment of 62 Flat Bastion Road by Chiara Limited are four weeks behind schedule. There have been no adjustments to the tender price.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 323 OF 1999

HON J L BALDACHINO

And all these contracts, I suppose they have penalty clauses, is that correct?

HON J J NETTO

Yes. All Government contracts have a completion date. If the contractor fails to complete the works by that date, he will be liable to liquidate and ascertain damages.

HON J L BALDACHINO

Am I correct that up by Calpe I think it is MacMillan or MacFarlane, the person who had the contract could not complete it and it was given to somebody else. Is that correct?

HON CHIEF MINISTER

No. The tender for the two blocks up at Calpe, Willis's and MacFarlane houses, are still being done by the company that won the tender. It is true that the Government have grown concerned about the length of the delays creeping into the contract and some aspects of the quality of the work that is being done under that contract and that the performance of the contractor is being very closely monitored by the Government officers responsible for that function and that indeed the Government have commissioned an independent report by professionals, surveyors and architects and engineers, as to whether the contract is being discharged in accordance with the right standards of specification. But the contract is still in the hands of the party that won it.

NO. 324 OF 1999THE HON J C PEREZ**PAYMENT TO BUILDING CONTRACTORS.**

Can Government state how much has been paid to building contractors in the last financial year giving a breakdown showing the amount paid to each contractor and in respect of which project?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND BUILDINGS AND WORKS

The payments effected in the financial year 1998/1999 to building contractors for works carried out in specific projects are as follows:

101(1)	Chiara Ltd	Refurbishment of Prewar Flats	£ 155,000
101(1)	Chiara Ltd	Scaffolding at Alameda House	£ 20,250
101(1)	CIAP Const. Ltd	No.2 Convent Ramp	£ 15,202
101(1)	Chiara Ltd	Godley Mansions	£ 30,728
101(1)	Chiara Ltd	MacFarlane House	£ 27,288
101(1)	Balfour Beatty	302 Main Street	£ 54,823
101(1)	Chiara Ltd	Willis's House	£ 39,485
101(2)	Mackley Tricon & Cubiertas General Const.	Edinburgh House Refurbishment	£ 849,166
	Other direct suppliers		£ 8,621
101(4)	Profield Ltd	New housing for Senior Citizens	£1,463,925
	Other direct suppliers		£ 12
101(5)	Amey Construction	Varyl Begg Estate Garages	£ 65,790
	Other direct suppliers		
	C Gaggero Ltd	£64,000	
	Western Isles Ltd	£ 984	
	CIAP	£1,020	£ 66,004
106(1)	H L Wilkie	Waterport Ferry Terminal	£ 229,813
106(4)	Whatley & Fosdike	Waterport Coach Park	£ 63,953
	Fitzpatrick Ltd	Health Centre Relocation	£ 359,065
		TOTAL	£3,449,125

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 324 OF 1999

HON J C PEREZ

Can the Minister say why the controlled contractors are not included in the list? My question was not contractors in Buildings and Works, my question was contractors generally. I have the reply given to the same question last year which included the contractors other than those in Buildings and Works.

HON J J NETTO

It could be that the question as posed has been interpreted as building contractors which is different to civil engineering projects.

HON J C PEREZ

There was no difficulty last year in answering exactly the same question. I put the same question last year and I got a list of all contractors. This year I put exactly the same wording to a question and I only get the contractors in Buildings and Works. Would the Government undertake to give me those that are missing from the list?

HON J J NETTO

There is no problem whatsoever if he wants the additional works quoted.

HON J C PEREZ

Last year I put exactly the same question and I had a reply from the Government that listed all the contractors, not the ones solely related to Buildings and Works. For example, the Irish Town Pedestrianisation is not there, the Parliament Lane Pedestrianisation is not there. What I am asking is if whether over and above the information that has been made available will the Government endeavour to please supply the figures for all other contracts other than those mentioned in the reply?

HON CHIEF MINISTER

The hon Member is assuming that there are things missing from the list.

HON J C PEREZ

No I am not assuming, because if one looks at last year's Budget without referring to this year's, one looks at the works in progress and there are a number of contracts which have not been completed and we should have had a reply to this list already.

HON CHIEF MINISTER

Well the question says can Government state how much has been paid to building contractors and it may be that whoever has cobbled the answer together has limited the answer to building contracts as opposed to road contracts. Casting my eye down the list it is only the road beautification projects that are missing.

HON J C PEREZ

But I made the point of putting exactly the same wording as last year and last year there was no difficulty in interpreting the question.

HON J J NETTO

Can the hon Member recall what is the number of the question last year?

HON J C PEREZ

I do not recall the number and the date of each question that I have put over the last three years.

HON J L BALDACHINO

Under the refurbishment of Main Street (one of the flats I suppose it is) is that Balfour Beatty, the other company, not the one that made people redundant is that correct?

HON J J NETTO

Yes, I believe that to be the case.

ORAL

NO. 325 OF 1999

THE HON J C PEREZ

LAGUNA ESTATE.

Are Government aware that some blocks of flats at Laguna Estate have been without brackish water for long periods of time?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND BUILDINGS AND WORKS

There are no outstanding reports of any block of flats at Laguna Estate being without brackish water, either at the Buildings and Works reporting office or at Lyonnaise des Eaux.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 325 OF 1999

HON J C PEREZ

I am not suggesting that there are flats at Laguna Estate without brackish water, my question is "Is Government aware that there have been flats without brackish water for long periods of time?" I am already aware that after those long periods of time works were being effected but the point I want to emphasise is that generally the complaint of the general public is that the division between whether the work belongs to Buildings and Works or Lyonnaise, which was there before Lyonnaise ever started, whether it was the Water Section of the Buildings and Works Section, continues to be there and frankly the person that has not got brackish water wants his or her brackish water connected as soon as possible and does not care whose responsibility it is. People have been thrown between, one department and the other before the repairs have actually got going and that is the point I want to emphasise to the Minister.

HON J J NETTO

Fine, but in answering the question the Government are not aware. What perhaps is a case which has caused disruption to tenants in the Estate could be the works some time back by Lyonnaise des Eaux to replace the mains pipes in the Estate. That is the only source of possibility that any inconvenience might have been caused. As far as the other point that the hon Member says in relation to whether this function belongs to Buildings and Works or Lyonnaise des Eaux, I take note of that. I think there is some truth in that, in that generally speaking not just in relation to Buildings and Works with Lyonnaise des Eaux but even between different Government Departments many times tenants simply do not know where to go whether it is something to be reported at Buildings and Works or the Electricity Department or various other Departments which in one way or another have different functions in the Estate So I do take note of that.

HON J C PEREZ

But the Minister is not aware that for example, Somerset House was without brackish water for three weeks.

HON J J NETTO

No, I am not aware.

HON CHIEF MINISTER

The hon Member would be right no consolation to the fact that I was without brackish water for one week in my home last month.

HON J C PEREZ

I do not consider that a consolation but the people in Somerset House might.

ORAL

NO. 326 OF 1999

THE HON J J BOSSANO

ETB - SELF-EMPLOYED.

What was the number of self-employed persons registered with the E.T.B as at 1st January 1999 and how many of these had:

- (a) been so registered prior to 1st January 1998;
- (b) commenced registration after 1st January 1998; and
- (c) renewed registration after 1st April 1998.

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND BUILDINGS AND WORKS

Answered together with Question Nos. 327, 328 and 329 of 1999.

ORAL

NO. 327 OF 1999

THE HON J J BOSSANO

ETB - NUMBER OF EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS.

Can Government state what was the number of employment contracts registered with the E.T.B. as at 31st March this year and how many of these had:

- (a) been in existence prior to 1st April 1998
- (b) commenced since 1st April 1998 and
- (c) renewed since 1st April 1998.

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND BUILDINGS AND WORKS

Answered together with Question Nos. 326, 328 and 329 of 1999.

ORAL

NO. 328 OF 1999

THE HON J J BOSSANO

ETB - NUMBER OF EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS.

What was the number of employment contracts registered with the E.T.B. in respect of private employers excluding Government owned and joint venture companies as at 1st January 1998 and 1st January 1999 giving in each case a breakdown by nationality of employee and showing the number already in existence before 1st January 1998.

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND BUILDINGS AND WORKS

Answered together with Question Nos. 326, 327 and 329 of 1999.

NO. 329 OF 1999

THE HON J J BOSSANO

ETB - NUMBER OF EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS.

Can Government state what was the total number of employment contracts for Spanish nationals registered with the E.T.B. as at 31st March 1999 and of these how many had;

- (a) been in existence prior to 1st April 1998,
- (b) commenced after 1st April 1998, and
- (c) renewed after 1st April 1998.

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND BUILDINGS AND WORKS

Government can provide a reply for the information held in our system as at 31st March 1999. This is as follows;

All Nationalities	:	14,786
Spanish Nationals	:	1,388

With regard to self-employed, the figure will be provided once our computer technician returns from the UK.

The other components of these question, which involves tracking each of these persons back to a pre-described date, I am advised that our system is unable to do this and the manual effort required for this task is not justified.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 326 TO 329 OF 1999

HON J J BOSSANO

So, in relation to the recent legislation passed by the House imposing penalties for failure to inform the ETB when the contract was terminated, which is required by law within two weeks, in fact the Minister has no idea of how many such contracts there are, from what he has told me.

HON J J NETTO

I am not quite sure I understand the question. Yes, we do know how many contracts and the number of contracts is 14,786. In relation to the Bill, the extrapolation that the Leader of the Opposition seeks to get is simply a question where, I assume, that when the inspection is carried out by an Inspector, he will double-check that that particular person is registered in the Employment Service. That is a function that can easily be traced.

HON J J BOSSANO

What I am asking is, am I right in thinking from the reply that I have had to the original question, that in fact the Department has no idea how many of the 14,700 contracts are contracts in respect of which the people concerned are no longer working and the employer has failed to inform the ETB, which is one of the things that we legislated to penalise because they are required to go back and say to the ETB that the person has left.

HON J J NETTO

The reality and the hon Member will have realised that when I had a similar question some time back in terms to how many open contracts we have in the Ministry of Employment, from the top of my head I remember it was something like 17,000. The hon Member will realise that we have now gone down to 14,700. Partly it is because of the new procedures that came into operation on 1st April in relation to the £26 towards Insolvency Fund after every single entry in every given business. As a result of that major exercise, which is still going on, we have situation now that many of the employers who have not notified us in terms of terminations are now informing us or else they would have to pay the £26 in relation to that person. That is actually now bringing all the records of the Ministry of Employment and moving all that deadwood of terminations that should have been informed to us. However, for the avoidance of any confusion let me add that while the exercise is not complete and therefore I should imagine that the total number will drop, bearing in mind that not all Government Department employees are within the data base. That is another exercise that we intend doing, so that at the end of the complete exercise, which hopefully should be in the next couple of months, we should have as nearly possible accurate figures for all posts as opposed to persons within the data base.

HON J J BOSSANO

Is the Minister saying that 3,000 contracts have been removed because of the introduction of the payment of the Insolvency Fund levy at the beginning of the year?

HON J J NETTO

Not all. The hon Member will recall a similar question on terminations for 1998 but there was one particular month of 1998 which was far greater and that was because an exercise was being conducted in the registration section of the Ministry where there had been a number of businesses which had ceased and nobody was employed. So, in answer to the question, the main bulk would be as a result of the exercise which is being conducted in the Insolvency Fund but not necessarily totally as a result of this.

HON J J BOSSANO

Is that something that has happened after 1st April, because the answer he has given for the first three months of this year is that there were 793 terminations. So that does not suggest that there was any removal of an above average number - 793 in three months?

HON J J NETTO

As I said before it is not something necessarily that started just before 1st April. The number of terminations of 799 I think I gave for the first three months, is more or less in line on an average of the quarterly of the previous year. Perhaps, if one breaks it down it works out the same as for the month. There have been a lot of exercises by my staff in the registration sections to start pursuing many of the people who have

not been in employment. In fact, just to volunteer some additional information to the hon Member, another further element of adding to the verification of the total numbers of people in employment which we intend to do, is in relation to Income Tax, in relation to the terminations which we discussed here with the passage the of the Bill in the House, simply the basic elements of knowing the person and the company, we are working a system so that that basic information is communicated so that there is more interdepartmental information. Not just between Income tax and ourselves but including Social Services eventually, and we can all share information and have far more accurate figures in this respect.

HON J J BOSSANO

The point is that for a very long time the figures from different sources have not matched. But the information that is being provided in answer to this question today does not seem to tally. As I understood it the 14,700 is on 31st March. If that is on 31st March and in the first quarter there has been a reduction of 793, which is the normal for the first three months of the year, then it does not suggest, I have not seen any other figure that is indicative of the drop from 17,000 to 14,000. Now, if the clearing up of dead contracts as it were happened after 31st March then surely the figure for 31st March cannot be right, no?

HON J J NETTO

Not necessarily after the 1st April. As I understand it, and I can have it checked out and inform the hon Member later on this is an exercise that has been going on before as well. There has been a lot of sharing of the deadwood even before 1st April.

HON J J BOSSANO

The 14,700 the Minister would expect, in the light of that answer, would already be fairly close to the figure that we would expect of contracts which are open because there are people still working or people that have not left a long time is that the case?

HON J J NETTO

Bearing in mind the kind of movement there can be in any particular given year, but yes the answer would be that once this exercise is finished, hopefully in the next few months, we will have very accurate figures of contracts, hopefully in existing contracts, subject to certain variation of termination which the employer might notify us at the end of the year.

HON J J BOSSANO

Is there a system in that of the 14,700 contracts that they have got recorded, if the contracts are annually renewable, does the ETB identify the ones that ought to be renewed and have gone past the 12 months?

HON J J NETTO

Well, this will be happening now as a result of the new procedures, because we are talking about in relation to all employees in one period as opposed to the previous system which was on anniversary of the employment of the person. So if a company had 10 employees and the start date of the 10 were all different periods, it will mean that the contribution of the Insolvency Fund was at different times during the year. The new system will be all of the employees in relation to one date. So at the end of that particular year, there will be a reconciliation effect in relation to the contribution the employer has to pay and obviously it is an incentive for the employer to pass the information to us in the new system.

HON J J BOSSANO

I do not see how the new system is going to improve the situation. Is it the case that in the new system the employer pays at the beginning of the year and there is no way of knowing whether the people are still there until the same date the following year, that is to say, people have paid at the beginning of January 1998, is it the case that from the answer that has been provided that it will be on 1st January 2000 when the ETB will know whether those employees are still there or not?

HON J J NETTO

It is in the interests of the employer to provide information so that if a person leaves halfway through the year he would get a credit as opposed to not getting the credit for the following year.

HON J J BOSSANO

That is not a new element, that was there all the time. What I am asking is, in the new system, in the old system if he cares to go back and check he will be able to confirm to the House that it is correct. The law has always provided that if a person starts working in February the employer was required to pay for 12 months in advance and from the moment they came back and notified that the person was no longer working then they got a credit. But if they fail to come back and notify they did not get a credit so the incentive was that they stood to lose money by not coming back and informing the ETB. Presumably, what we are being told is that that will apply.

HON J J NETTO

That might well be the case but I can say that very few employers ever inform the department and the Department get the credits.

HON J J BOSSANO

Presumably the Department got the credits in the past and presumably they may well continue to keep the credits if the employer does not think it's worth the 50p or whatever to take the trouble of notifying it. Independent of that, what I am trying to establish, is the quality of the information provided. I have put four questions and I have been given one figure in answer to the four questions. The point I am trying to establish is, are we being told that the 14,700 open contracts at the moment at the end of March are, as I understand from the answer we have been given are, therefore 14,700 contracts in respect of which a contribution has been made to the Insolvency Fund by employers at the beginning of the year, is that correct?

HON J J NETTO

Yes.

HON J C PEREZ

The Minister asked whether I had any idea of the number of the question that was being discussed here on the list of contractors. From our papers it was No. 264 of 1998 if he wants to check it, and he will see that the wording of the question was exactly the same as it was this year except that last year it was answered by the Chief Minister. I have a copy for the Minister here.

NO. 330 OF 1999

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

SOCIAL SECURITY - INSURANCE CARDS.

Can Government state what was the number of social insurance cards in issue to males and females not previously in employment from 28th February 1999 to 30th April 1999 broken down for each month and giving the nationality?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

The last figures given in answer to Question No. 102 of 1999 were for the period ending 31st January 1999. Therefore, for the period 1st February 1999 to 30th April 1999 the number of social insurance cards in issue to males and females not previously in employment from 1st February 1999 to 30th April 1999 giving nationality is as follows:-

		<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Feb '99	British/Gibraltarians	48	30
	Spanish	38	11
	Belgian	1	-
	Pakistani	3	-
	Irish	-	2
	Moroccan	1	-
	Egyptian	1	-
	Total		135
		<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
March '99	British/Gibraltarians	50	27
	Spanish	30	21
	German	1	-
	Moroccan	1	-
	Pakistani	2	-
	Cypriot	2	-
	Dutch	1	-
	Danish	1	-
	Indian	2	-
	Russian	1	-
	Total		139
		<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
April '99	British/Gibraltarians	28	31
	Spanish	19	21
	Malaysian	1	-
	Pakistani	1	-
Total			101

ORAL

NO. 331 OF 1999

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

SOCIAL SECURITY - PENSIONERS.

Can Government state what was the number of pensioners being paid or with entitlement to payment since 30th September 1998, broken down for each month from the Closed Long-Term Benefits Fund giving a breakdown of pre-1969 Spanish pensions and locally funded pensions showing the number of Gibraltarians/UK nationals, Moroccans and other nationalities?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

The following pensioners were in receipt of payments from the Closed Long-Term Benefits Fund from September 1998 to April 1999:-

	<u>Sept'98</u>	<u>Oct'98</u>	<u>Nov'98</u>	<u>Dec'98</u>	<u>Jan'99</u>	<u>Feb'99</u>	<u>Mar'99</u>	<u>Apr'99</u>
Pre-1969 Spanish Pensioners	8881	8958	8978	8980	8981	8982	8984	8988
British pensioners (Gib/UK nat)	4713	4706	4765	4760	4759	4756	4758	4759
Moroccan Pensioners	919	920	927	937	970	995	1023	1034
Other nationalities	256	258	274	271	276	282	281	284
Total	14769	14842	14944	14948	14986	15015	15046	15065

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 331 OF 1999

HON J L BALDACHINO

On the pre-1969 Spanish pensioners pensions being paid when will we expect the numbers to be falling. What year is it expected that we will have less people?

HON CHIEF MINISTER

The hon Member cannot possibly expect Government to know that without conducting an actuarial survey. I understand this is conducted from time to time but I cannot tell him off the cuff what the position is at the moment but we can certainly look at the latest one to see if it throws up the information that he seeks.

NO. 332 OF 1999

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

SOCIAL SECURITY - OPEN/CLOSED LONG-TERM BENEFITS FUND.

Can Government state what transfers have been made from the Open Long-Term Benefits Fund to the Closed Long-Term Benefits Fund giving the amounts and the month of each transfer since 30th September 1998?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

The transfers made from the Open Long-Term Benefits Fund to the Closed Long-Term Benefits Fund by month since 30th September 1998 are as follows:

September 1998	£850,000
October 1998	£950,000
November 1998	£750,000
December 1998	£1,100,000
January 1999	£250,000
February 1999	£950,000
March 1999	£800,000
	<u>£5,650,000</u>

NO. 333 OF 1999THE HON J L BALDACHINO**SOCIAL SECURITY - CLOSED LONG-TERM BENEFITS FUND.**

Can Government state what was the balance of the Closed Long-Term Benefits Fund since the 30th September 1998 for each month showing the amount from UK and local funds and the expenditure to former Spanish workers and to pensioners from local funds?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

The information requested amounts to a long and complex table of dates and figures. It is too long and laborious to read out. I shall therefore hand a copy of it to the hon Member.

	<u>30-Sep-98</u>	<u>31-Oct-98</u>	<u>30-Nov-98</u>	<u>31-Dec-98</u>	<u>31-Jan-99</u>	<u>28-Feb-99</u>	<u>31-Mar-99</u>	<u>Total</u>
Opening Balance	£497,299	£522,891	£631,333	£546,458	£782,198	£241,491	£357,833	
Receipts from O.D.A.	£1,150,000	£500,000	£300,000	£1,520,000	£300,000	£410,000	£1,070,000	£5,250,000
Other Receipts	£3,693	£9,161	£6,124	£6,981	£4,083	£3,309	£2,704	£36,055
Spanish Pensions	(£1,109,058)	(£495,718)	(£308,258)	(£1,436,399)	(£329,758)	(£432,457)	(£1,060,113)	(£5,171,761)
Local Pensions	(£869,043)	(£855,001)	(£832,741)	(£954,842)	(£765,032)	(£814,510)	(£968,950)	(£6,060,119)
Transfers from the Open Long-Term Benefits Fund	£850,000	£950,000	£750,000	£1,100,000	£250,000	£950,000	£800,000	£5,650,000
Closing Balance	<u>£522,891</u>	<u>£631,333</u>	<u>£546,458</u>	<u>£782,198</u>	<u>£241,491</u>	<u>£357,833</u>	<u>£201,474</u>	

ORAL

NO. 334 OF 1999

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

HOUSING - HOSPITAL HILL.

Can Government state if the Housing Unit recently refurbished at Hospital Hill which rear faces the Old Police Barracks patio has been allocated?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

The unit in question has not yet been allocated.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 334 OF 1999

HON J L BALDACHINO

Will it be allocated?

HON H CORBY

I asked for a report on the property concerned from Buildings and Works. My stand is to allocate and not to refurbish and I have been told by them that there is an initiative scheme that has been prepared to rectify the defects. I will be consulting with the Buildings and Works Department in order to assess if that is possible. If that is possible yes if it is not, then no.

HON J L BALDACHINO

But at one time the flat in question or the house in question because it is an independent house, was on offer to somebody was it not?

HON H CORBY

It was on offer to somebody and we are still waiting for that flat to be allocated. If that is not the case, we will issue a flat which is compatible to the family composition.

HON J L BALDACHINO

The person that the flat was offered to, did he refuse it for any particular reason?

HON H CORBY

No, he did not refuse. It was just that information came through of the dampness concerned and I did not want to allocate it to anybody in that state.

HON J L BALDACHINO

So the refurbishment that was carried out, what was it, it was not sufficient and therefore additional things have to be done to the flat? But once those are carried out it will be ready for allocation, is that correct? Is that analysis correct?

HON H CORBY

This is what I have to ascertain from the people in Buildings and Works who are the experts on it.

HON J J NETTO

My understanding from the information available in the Department is that the main problem in that particular house is that it is attached to a retaining wall and as a result of that there is a lot of humidity which has occurred in the house. There is an estimate already prepared with all the things that would need to be done hopefully to rectify that situation, and once that is done it will hopefully revert back to Housing and be allocated. That is the intention although we will have to wait and see whether the treatment in order to rectify that humidity will mean that the house will be habitable once the works have been completed.

HON J L BALDACHINO

But these problems came up after the Buildings and Works had passed the house to the Housing Department, is that correct?

HON H CORBY

That is correct, yes.

HON J L BALDACHINO

Therefore, am I also correct in assuming then that the cost initially that was allocated for refurbishment was spent on the house but after it went back then somebody came back and said it was not up to the standards required, is that correct?

HON J J NETTO

Yes, that is correct.

HON J L BALDACHINO

I do not know if the Minister has got the information there, but what was the initial cost that has been spent?

HON J J NETTO

I will have to find out and provide it to the hon Member. I have not got that with me here.

HON J L BALDACHINO

Seeing that he is so kind to provide me with the cost could he also provide me with what will be the cost of carrying out the repairs to the retaining wall?

HON J J NETTO

There is not such a thing Mr Speaker.

ORAL

NO. 335 OF 1999

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

HOUSING - PRE-WAR FLATS.

Can Government state how many pre-war flats have been allocated since 20th February 1999 broken down for each month to date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Since February 1999 to date a total of 11 pre-war flats have been allocated.

These can be broken down by month as follows;

February	-	2
March	-	5
April	-	4

ORAL

NO. 336 OF 1999

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

HOUSING - POST-WAR FLATS.

Can Government state how many of 47 vacant post-war flats stated in Question No. 111 of 1999 have been allocated giving room composition, area and method of allocation, e.g. waiting list, medical etc?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Of the 47 vacant post-war flats stated in Question No. 111 of 1999, a total of 5 have been allocated.

The breakdown requested is as follows:

Area	Room Composition	Method of Allocation
North	3RKB	Approved Exchange
North	5RKB	Waiting List
West	2RKB	Medical 'A'
Town	3/4RKB	Decanting
South	3RKB	Waiting List

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 336 OF 1999

HON J L BALDACHINO

The remaining flats, have they been offered? The remaining from the 47 that have already been allocated, the Minister said 5, the 42 are they being offered? Are they with the Housing Agencies?

HON H CORBY

I have not got that with me but I will find out and give it to the hon Member for his information.

ORAL

NO. 337 OF 1999

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

Can Government state how many post-war housing units have been allocated since 20th February 1999 to date, broken down for each month and room composition?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

For the period 20th February 1999 to date a total of 17 post-war flats have been allocated.

These allocations can be broken down as follows:

February - 1 1 X 2RKB

March - 12 3 X 1RKB
 2 X 2 RKB
 5 X 3RKB
 1 X 3/4RKB
 1 X 5RKB

April - 4 2 X 3RKB
 1 X 3/4RKB
 1 X 4RKB

ORAL

NO. 338 OF 1999

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

HOUSING - APPLICATIONS.

Can Government state how many housing applicants are medically recommended giving a breakdown of their room requirements and their medical category recommendation?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

There are 10 housing applicants that are also medically categorised. Of these 1 is medically categorised 'A', 2 are, medically categorised 'B' and 7 are medically categorised 'C'.

Their housing requirements are:

Medical 'A'	-	1 x 4RKB
Medical 'B'	-	1 x 3RKB 1 x 4RKB
Medical 'C'	-	2 x 2RKB 2 x 3RKB 2 x 4RKB 1 x 6RKB

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 338 OF 1999

HON J L BALDACHINO

Of the medical case 'A', none of the remaining of the 47 answered previously in Question No. 336 is suitable for this medical case?

HON H CORBY

I have not understood the question.

HON J L BALDACHINO

Seeing that we have got flats which are still vacant, especially in the Town area and the West, not the Town but the West and the North, none of them are suitable for the one medical categorised 'A'?

HON H CORBY

No. I am afraid not.

HON J L BALDACHINO

And none are suitable for those people who are at least medically recommended 'B'?

HON H CORBY

As the hon Member well knows, only people in category 'A' are given priority to housing. 'B's and 'C's are not.

HON J L BALDACHINO

I was not aware of that. I thought that the Housing Allocation Committee, because that is what the Scheme says and what the Housing Special Powers Ordinance says, that they are able to allocate in any of the categories according to their criteria.

HON H CORBY

They have not on the 'B's and 'C's.

NO. 339 OF 1999

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

HOUSING - APPLICATIONS.

Can Government state how many applicants are in the Housing Pensioner Exchange List?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

There are 375 persons on the Pensioner Exchange List.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 339 OF 1999

HON J L BALDACHINO

Obviously, the flats that are being newly-built for the health list will not be able to cater for all of them.

HON H CORBY

No. What we do is if they are pensioners, we try to deal with it through the Housing Section as well but some of them will come into the category level, they will be given houses in the Bishop Canilla House when that is ready. But we sympathise with these people and we try our utmost to accommodate them when there are flats available.

HON J L BALDACHINO

These are not only persons who are on the waiting list but these are the people that because of their age, there might be some who are not on the waiting list but living in private accommodation. In other words there are some people who might not release anything to the Government.

HON H CORBY

No that has been taken into account and in our press release we said that we would take into account people of that calibre which would go to Bishop Canilla if the case merits sending them to Bishop Canilla even if they are in private accommodation.

ORAL

NO. 340 OF 1999

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

HOUSING - EDINBURGH HOUSE.

Can Government state the total and living areas in sq ft or m² for each of the categories of the flats at Edinburgh House?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

There are 111 x 3RKB flats with average living area of 552 sq ft, 93 x 4RKB flats with an average living area of 654 sq ft and 4 x 5RKB flats with an average living area of 891 sq ft.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 340 OF 1999

HON J L BALDACHINO

Are the figures the Minister has given the total of the areas?

HON H CORBY

The total of the areas.

HON J L BALDACHINO

Because my question asked for the total on living area. The living area excludes the corridors, kitchen and the bathroom and the balcony.

HON H CORBY

Well, the living area is the living area where the people live. Those are living areas as far as I am concerned.

HON J L BALDACHINO

The living area is the only one that counts for rents and rates, has the Minister got the information and can he get it if he has not got it and pass it on to me?

HON H CORBY

I thought the living area is where one lives in the house.

HON J L BALDACHINO

I will explain. A flat of 3RKB, for example, the total area is what the Minister thinks should be the living area, in other words the whole of the house and the living areas are those that exclude corridors, bathroom, kitchen and the balcony. This is what the

rent is based on. All I want is the living area which the Housing Agency will base its rent on.

HON H CORBY

I will give that information to the hon Member.

NO. 341 OF 1999

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

HOUSING - EDINBURGH HOUSE.

Can Government state when the allocation of Edinburgh House will start?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

The contract that was signed by the Government and the successful tenderer envisaged that the external works to 176 flats will be completed by July 1999. Subsequent to this, the MOD released two blocks of a further 32 flats and these works are scheduled to be completed by September 1999.

It is the policy of the Government to allocate the 176 flats as soon as the works are completed and the same applies to the other 32 flats. Although I will not commit myself to a date because there are other issues in as far as parking, lighting, wastage and all the rest.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 341 OF 1999

HON J L BALDACHINO

The date of July, which is the date that the Minister gives, did he say that the flats would be allocated not all in one go? In a press release, I think it was, or in an interview, he said that they would be allocated as the blocks were finished. That is no longer the case is it?

HON H CORBY

No, we are doing it in one phase and then the second phase which is the other two blocks that were given.

HON J L BALDACHINO

Is this because of the inconvenience of having people being allocated a flat there whilst works are carried out or is it because of another reason?

HON H CORBY

There are reasons for it. The reasons are first of all the security in as far as giving two blocks and the men still working in the area which can cause an accident. The other is that we had to put in all the infrastructure in as far as lighting, parkings, green areas and all the rest and that also has slowed down the process of allocation.

HON J L BALDACHINO

Is there any block which has been completed at this stage or they are still all being worked on?

HON H CORBY

There is one block which was the one holding the show flats which has been completed but there are still works being carried on in the blocks and outside the blocks, the water piping and all that electricity, meters and all the rest.

ORAL

NO. 342 OF 1999

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

PRISON - NUMBER OF INMATES.

Can Government state what was the number of Gibraltarians and other different nationalities held in Prison since 30th September 1998, broken down for each month?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

The information requested amounts to a long and complex table of dates and figures. It is too long and laborious to read out. I shall therefore now hand a copy of it to the hon Member.

NATIONALITY	Sep-98	Oct-98	Nov-98	Dec-98	Jan-99	Feb-99	Mar-99	Apr-99	May-99
British (Local)	10	10	11	7	7	7	6	2	1
British (U.K.)	5	5	3	1	1	3	5	3	4
Spanish	11	11	11	9	9	11	9	11	12
French	1	1	1	1	1				
Moroccan	6	3	1	3	2	1	1	1	1
Belgian								1	
German		1					1		
Portuguese						1			
Austrian							1		1
Italian	2	2							
U.S.A.							1	1	1
Algerian					1	1			
Sierra Leone								1	1
TOTALS	35	33	27	21	21	24	24	20	21

ORAL

NO. 343 OF 1999

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM - ALGECIRAS PORT AUTHORITY.

Has any approach been made to Government or are Government aware of any approach being made to the tourist trade in Gibraltar by the President of the Algeciras Port Authority to work together to attract cruise business?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

The Government have not been approached nor is it aware of any approach being made to the tourist trade by the President of the Algeciras Port Authority to work together to attract cruise business.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 343 OF 1999

HON DR J J GARCIA

The question was tabled because of the general feeling that any development of Algeciras in this field would be to the detriment of Gibraltar. Do the Government agree with that?

HON CHIEF MINISTER

Well, to the extent that there is a finite amount of cruise business about. The more ports there are competing to attract those cruise ships the more competition to which each port is subjected. On the other hand, I do not think that Algeciras as a touristically attractive port of call is going to represent a tremendous challenge or competition to Gibraltar. Clearly it could be used as a port of call from which passengers then bus to elsewhere, that sort of call. Gibraltar I think still holds its own, I do not see Algeciras taking business away just as today the business that Algeciras could do of that sort is today being done by Cadiz and Malaga where cruise ships put in. Tourists do not stay in the city of Malaga, they get bussed from there and other places far away.

HON DR J J GARCIA

I thank the Chief Minister for his reply. Do Government think what the President of the Port Authority had in mind was actually the opposite, that is to say, to bring people to Gibraltar and then bus them to Algeciras which for me was a ridiculous concept because if people come here one wants them to stay here and that was really the purpose of the question just to see whether any approach had been made.

HON CHIEF MINISTER

Yes, that would be a different factor altogether. I think that ships that are now presently calling in at Gibraltar to allow their passengers to visit Gibraltar suddenly started putting in at the port of Algeciras and that passengers were then bussed into Gibraltar, that would be a matter of concern. The Government have no reason to suppose that that is on the cards and ways will have to found to frustrate it if it became a serious threat but my understanding is that the service that is offered in the Port of Gibraltar, with the exception of the transport issue which remains outstanding, other than that, the service that is offered in the Port of Gibraltar compares very favourably with the service offered in Algeciras.

ORAL

NO. 344 OF 1999

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM - SCHEDULED FLIGHTS.

What was the number of seats used by arrivals on scheduled flights from UK in each month of 1998?

ANSWER

THE HON MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question No. 347 of 1999.

ORAL

NO. 345 OF 1999

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM - SCHEDULED FLIGHTS.

What was the number of seats used by arrivals on scheduled flights from UK in February, March and April 1999?

ANSWER

THE HON MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question No. 346 of 1999.

NO. 346 OF 1999

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM - SCHEDULED FLIGHTS.

What was the number of seats used by departures on scheduled flights from UK in February, March and April 1999?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

The number of seats used in respect of arrivals and departures on scheduled flights from UK between February and April 1999 were as follows:

<u>000's</u>	<u>Arrivals</u>	<u>Departures</u>
February	6.3	5.6
March	8.1	7.0
April	7.8	8.7

ORAL

NO. 347 OF 1999

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM - SCHEDULED FLIGHTS.

What was the number of seats used in departures by scheduled flights from UK in each month of 1998.

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

The information requested is contained in the 1998 Air Traffic Survey which has just been laid in the House.

ORAL

NO. 348 OF 1999

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM - ARRIVALS BY AIR.

What was the number of tourist arrivals by air staying in Gibraltar for February, March and April 1999?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question No. 349 of 1999.

ORAL

NO. 349 OF 1999

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM - ARRIVALS BY AIR.

What was the number of tourist arrivals by air in transit for February, March and April 1999?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

The number of tourists who arrived by air and stayed in Gibraltar between February and April 1999 were as follows;

VISITOR ARRIVALS BY AIR

1999

February	2,715
March	3,167
April	3,042

The number of tourists arriving by air in transit between February and April 1999 were as follows:

IN TRANSIT PASSENGERS

1999

February	2,386
March	3,399
April	3,255

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 349 OF 1999

HON J J BOSSANO

In respect of the information in the report that has been tabled, can the Minister confirm whether there is any change in the numbers that are excluded because they are in transit from the way the table has been calculated for previous years or is it being done in exactly the same way, so as to be able to compare?

HON J J HOLLIDAY

As far as I am aware they have been calculated in exactly the same way.

ORAL

NO. 350 OF 1999

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM - HOTEL BED NIGHTS SOLD.

Can Government give the hotel bed nights sold in August 1998?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Answered together with Questions Nos. 351 to 354 of 1999.

ORAL

NO. 351 OF 1999

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM - HOTEL BED NIGHTS SOLD.

Can Government give the hotel bed nights sold by month in January, February, March and April 1999?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Answered together with Questions Nos. 350 and 352 to 354 of 1999.

ORAL

NO. 352 OF 1999

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM - NUMBER OF ARRIVALS IN HOTELS.

Can Government give the total number of guest arrivals in hotels for 1998 on a monthly basis and the total for the year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Answered together with Questions Nos. 350, 351, 353 and 354 of 1999.

ORAL

NO. 353 OF 1999

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM - AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY IN HOTELS.

Can Government state the average length of stay in hotels for each month of 1998 and the global average for the year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Answered together with Questions Nos. 350 to 352 and 354 of 1999.

NO. 354 OF 1999

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM - PERCENTAGE OCCUPANCY IN HOTELS.

Can Government give the percentage occupancy of hotels for each month of 1998 and the total average percentage occupancy for the year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

The guest nights sold at hotels for August 1998 stood at 15,571.

Hotel bed nights sold between January and April 1999 were as follows:

January 1999	8,447
February 1999	8,976
March 1999	13,250

The April 1999 figure is not yet available since all hotels have not made the relevant returns as yet.

The number of arrivals at hotels, their average length of stay and the percentage occupancy of each month of 1998 were as follows:

Arrivals

January	2,998
February	2,764
March	3,016
April	3,369
May	3,756
June	3,519
July	3,355
August	4,180
September	4,163
October	4,158
November	3,602
December	2,750
TOTAL	41,620

The average length of stay per night per person is as follows:-

January	2.48
February	3.20
March	3.65
April	3.21
May	3.30
June	3.65
July	3.74
August	3.73
September	4.05
October	3.49

November	3.46
December	3.34
Annual Average	3.47 (rounded up)

Length of Stay
The percentage occupancy:

January	24.8
February	35.4
March	38.8
April	42.4
May	45.6
June	45.9
July	43.9
August	54.4
September	59.6
October	50.2
November	43.8
December	32
Annual Average	43.1

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 350 TO 354 OF 1999

HON J J BOSSANO

Is the average number of days in the hotels based on the bed nights sold recorded by the hotels or on the response from questionnaires of people coming in?

HON J J HOLLIDAY

My understanding is that it is based on the report that has been sent by the hotels which is precisely why earlier on in the answer I did say that the figures for April were not available. Some hotels have actually not made relevant returns.

NO. 355 OF 1999

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM - HOTEL ASSISTANCE SCHEME.

How much money have Government paid to hotels to 31st March 1999 in loans and grants from the Hotel Assistance Scheme in chronological order with a breakdown giving the name of the hotels and the amounts paid?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

The total amount paid to hotels by Government up to 31st March 1999 in loans and grants under the Hotel Assistance Scheme is as follows:

Loans	£ 450,574
Grants	£2,619,722
TOTAL	£3,070,296

I do not consider it proper to give the detailed information requested by the hon Member. Different hotels have been assisted to a different degree. I can nevertheless write to the hon Member and provide him with the details he requests, on a confidential basis.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 355 OF 1999

HON DR J J GARCIA

I would be grateful if the Minister could write with the information.

HON A ISOLA

Am I right in saying that the Minister said £450,000 in loans and £2m in grants.

HON J J HOLLIDAY

The hon Member is correct. I am afraid that there has been a typing error when typing out the answers. The loans total should be £2,619,722.

ORAL

NO. 356 OF 1999

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM - INTERVIEWS.

Can Government state the number of persons who have been interviewed since February 1999 who said they had stayed in an hotel, how many were interviewed at the airport and how many were interviewed at the land frontier, and in each case what was the average length of stay in hotels?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question No. 357 of 1999.

NO. 357 OF 1999

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM - INTERVIEWS.

Can Government state how many interviews with persons staying at hotels have been carried out since February 1999, giving the number of persons interviewed and the date of such interviews?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

The number of persons who have been interviewed since February 1999, who said they had stayed in an hotel, interviewed at the airport and land frontier, together with their average length of stay in hotels was as follows:

At the Frontier, number of interviews and average length of stay:

February	2 persons	2.5 days
March	7 persons	2.6 days
April	1 person	2.0 days

At the Airport, number of interviews and average length of stay:

February	20 persons	5.5 days
March	20 persons	7.2 days
April	20 persons	6.5 days

The number of interviews with persons staying at hotels carried out since February 1999, giving the number of persons interviewed was as follows:

February 1999	22
March 1999	29
April 1999	23
TOTAL	74

Insofar as the date of the interviews were concerned It has not been the practice to give such detail in response to similar questions asked in the past on this matter. I do not believe the information is material. What I can assure the hon Member is that interviews are now being carried out at more regular intervals during each statistical period, as I am informed that this was the case prior to 1996.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 356 AND 357 OF 1999

HON J J BOSSANO

Given the controversy surrounding the reliability of the tourist expenditure figure on the basis of responses to interviews, would the Minister not agree that the numbers, particularly at the frontier, do not provide a basis upon which reliable estimates of hotel occupancy can be made?

HON J J HOLLIDAY

I think that possibly the number of people that are being interviewed is not as high as one would like but at least there is a spread of interviews being carried out over a period of time, whilst in the past I am led to believe that the number of interviews actually being carried out was possibly not as high as these, I would not be able to give a concrete statement on this, but at least they are not consolidated into one particular period like they were in the past. I understand that the practice before was to select two or three days and carry out a number of interviews over a period which basically does not give weighted averages over a period of time. So although I accept that possibly the number of interviews should be higher in order to give a more accurate representation of the statistics the actual spread is probably more adequate than it was in the past.

HON J J BOSSANO

Given that a very long time ago the Minister studied economics I do not see how he can talk about weighted averages when we are talking about one person in one month and two persons in another. The weighted average would presumably be one and a half person. The point I am making is that if we are talking about five million people crossing the frontier and asks one person out of, or even five or ten or twenty or even 100, would he not agree that the established statistical methods always indicate a very high level of potential error when the sample is very small in relation to the population. Therefore, on the basis of these samples, does the Minister not agree that if there is a discrepancy between this and the information provided by hoteliers, it is not unreasonable to assume that the information of the hotelier is more accurate than what one person said or two people said at the frontier.

HON J J HOLLIDAY

I think this is possibly correct but the reality of the situation is that I do not think that this is any better or worse than it has been in the past. Obviously the sample being as small as it is increases the chances of not having proper reliable statistics available but that is unfortunately what the numbers are in terms of interviews and it is something that is being addressed. I am not satisfied with the level of interviews that are being carried out in order to provide reliable statistics but obviously that will be improvements for the future. As we report today on this matter, it is no better and no worse than it has been in the past.

HON J J BOSSANO

Given that it has been done by the same people or by the same person I am not surprised that it is no better and no worse but the whole point is not whether it is better or worse, it is that if in fact the results of the interviews happen to be fairly close to the result of the response of the hoteliers then one would say that probably it is right but if there is a huge gap in the results, would the Minister not agree that on the basis of this information, it would indicate from people across the frontier a drop in hotel occupancy because I think the average last time was 4 days, in the last figures that we discussed in this House when the discrepancy was that there was supposedly 200,000 bed nights sold in hotels and can I also ask him whether the extrapolation of this to visitors from Morocco is still the practice? That is, that we ask one man at the frontier and not only do we assume that five million have done the same as he has but also all the people who arrived from Morocco by ferry did the same as that one person did when he crossed the frontier. Is that still the methodology?

HON CHIEF MINISTER

It is all very well for the hon Member to start by saying that is not the point, the point is that as he quite rightly says, these statistics are produced by the same person that used to produce them in his time using the same techniques and that we put them to the same use we publish them as automatically as he used to publish them, because the law requires them to be published and I suppose that he regards the figures, or he used to regard the figures when he used to use them publicly, with the same jaundiced eye as he is now inviting us to look at them. Therefore, the issue really is not who prepares the figures but whether it is fair. I can see that is always legitimate for an Opposition even if they have in the recent past been in government to say, "well look, the fact that we did not do something to improve a system is not a good reason why you should not do it", and of course I can accept that. But it is I think less than fair for the hon Member to implicitly aim criticism at a system over which he presided for eight years and for one reason or another did not get round to improving. We are now trying to improve it we accept we have not yet made any significant headway in the improvement of the statistics, there is a question later on in the order paper which will give us an opportunity to discuss further what the Government are doing by way of improving generally the economic reporting and the statistical reporting of Government but in the meantime we are all Government, Opposition and everybody in this House, stuck with a rather unsophisticated system of information collation and analysis that we have always had.

HON J J BOSSANO

I am not disputing that but what we have not always had have been statements assuming that there was almost a biblical truth in these figures accusing anybody that questions their legitimacy or accuracy as being all sorts of heinous crimes at misleading public opinion, distorting information and all the rest. In fact all I am saying is that because there is no difference in the reliability now to the eight years when the GSLP was there or the 20 years when the AACR were there before what nobody else did before but what was done in the last years by the Minister for Tourism, was to say the figures of this grossed up are a reflection of the wonderful success of our strategy. Well if they were a reflection of the wonderful success of their strategy then they would have had to have had a degree of accuracy that they have never had before in the history of Gibraltar. If in fact he were to attach this year, from the early indications which I am inviting him not to but if he were to attach the same reliability to the figures he would have to announce a disastrous regression from his height of achievement of last year because, as I said, even just talking about the difference between an average of 2.4 staying the night and 4 staying the night when the record is replied by hundreds of thousands, the figures would show that this year the results have been very poor. It would be a bigger mistake, I would put it to the Member to suggest that it is collapse of tourism this year as it was last year when we were quarrelling about it, that it was a huge success that is the point.

HON CHIEF MINISTER

There are two points. First of all the exchange that we are now having about the reliability or the degree of reliability of these statistics should not be confused. There are different figures of different degrees of reliability in these statistics. We are discussing specifically statistics which emerge from samples which are sought but there are other statistics in the Employment Surveys which are accurate. So, I just want to say that as a caveat lest anyone should report us subsequently, as Government and Opposition agreeing that all statistics are inaccurate, the Government do not conceive that all statistics are inaccurate. The Government consider that most statistics are accurate. Some statistics, this one for example, by virtue of the technique by which they are collated, are necessarily less reliable than others.

As I recall what he calls the quarrel last year, it stemmed from the fact that the hon Members were pretending that there had been no improvement or no significant improvement in the tourism performance and I think the political position of the Government at that time was that everybody else appeared to be recognising that there was and from then we found ourselves very quickly in a statistical debate about whether the progress could have been as large as the figures they used towards the statistics the report suggests. Well, that is a matter of degree, Government are satisfied that its tourism policies are yielding results. Most operators in the industry believe that that is so and frankly the statistical debate may be of great interest to the hon Member. What is important to the Government principally, is that the industry should recognise that there is momentum in the progress of the Government's tourism policy.

HON J J BOSSANO

Would the Chief Minister not agree that the reference which I made before was that the Minister for Tourism told the House last year, "of greater significance is the fact that tourism staying for the same period by persons staying in our hotels more than doubled from 8 million to 17 million". It is not simply a question of degree if it goes up from 8 to 9 or 8 to 17, it is 110 per cent increase which is being claimed, particularly if the claim is that such results are not the consequence of shaky statistical collections but the result of hard work, effort and commitment. Now, if he imports 17 million last year by his hard work, effort and commitment than I am going to put it to him that the implications of the figures he has given today is that it is now back at eight or nine million, it would presumably mean that he has worked half as hard this year as he did last year.

HON CHIEF MINISTER

The important thing to bear in mind is that these are not extrapolations that the Government make at a political level, the fact is that these are published statistics, published by the administrative machinery that collates them and they are in the public domain to be used and to be criticised in equal measure when they fall into one category or the other. We have covered this ground on many occasions before. I do not know whether the improvement that has been delivered by the Government's economic policy has resulted in the increase to 17 million or whether the figure is something lower. He knows jolly well that all figures that are quoted in terms of national accounting and measurement of economic indicators in Gibraltar are very unsophisticated and therefore need to be treated with a health warning but they may establish a trend but they do not indicate, they are not a scientific measure of what they purport to measure.

What we are saying is that we are trying to correct that and a lot of expert advice is being obtained in the UK in order to try and establish, in the Government of Gibraltar for the first time ever, a reliable system of economic data collation so that in future years, when the hon Members from the Opposition benches continue to ask for such information, I hope from this side of the House to be in a position to give them much more accurate information than governments in Gibraltar have ever been able to give Oppositions before. Now, we are not there yet and in the meantime we can quarrel about the reliability of the existing statistics. They are the statistics produced by the system that Gibraltar has now, had when he was in office, and I acknowledge had before he was in office when there was another government.

HON J J BOSSANO

Does the Chief Minister not agree that if the reliability is as shaky as it is then it is not wise to make the kind of claims based on those statistics because in fact that

statement will not be possible to repeat this year. The statistics this year will show the opposite picture.

HON CHIEF MINISTER

If hon Members remember, last year, my Colleague the Minister for Tourism was not making assumptions, this is what I tried to explain in my last intervention two minutes ago, this was not the Minister getting information and squeezing assumptions out of it. The figures that he quoted, whether they are right or wrong, regardless of their degree of accuracy or inaccuracy, the figures that he quoted in his Budget speech are the figures published in a survey in a public document. I say that because the hon Member said that the Minister drew conclusions, or words to that effect, he said as an aside. The Minister did not draw assumptions from figures, the Minister quoted figures which are published in statutory reports, collated and put into the public domain by the Government's Statistics Office. Now, we can by all means have a debate on whether again on the extent to which they are accurate but it is not fair, and the Government do not accept, that the Government were drawing conclusions from figures. The Government were putting into its own press statements figures and conclusions which are drawn in the statistics.

HON J J BOSSANO

Is it not the case that when those figures were quoted as the Chief Minister said, on the basis that they were in a published Government report, which of course does not make them any more accurate than if they were published in any other form, but when they were quoted it was pointed out to the Government, not by way of criticism but by way of unsolicited advice, no more than that initially, that there appeared to be something wrong with the figures and that would it not be a good thing to go back and re-examine them. There was nothing more than that said by Opposition Members.

HON CHIEF MINISTER

He did do that.

HON J J BOSSANO

No he came back saying we had it all wrong, they had it all right and that in fact it was just us trying to undermine the system, undermine the success and undermine his efforts and his hard work.

HON CHIEF MINISTER

Well, he was right in that as well.

HON J J BOSSANO

Would the Chief Minister not accept that it took six or seven months before we gave up giving unsolicited advice and suddenly becoming highly critical because the advice was falling on deaf ears. In fact it was only subsequent to that that there was a recognition that the apparent thousands of Moroccan tourists flooding around hotels, of which the hotels had no knowledge, which accounted for the discrepancy between the 141,000 bed nights the hotels claimed to have got paid for, and the 200,000 that the Statistics Office said had been sold, I do not know whether it was just that the Moroccan tourists were not only invisible but they ran away without, paying the bill. It was only then that apparently the exercise was done, the Minister will remember that I asked him in particular to go back and check whether the figures of all the people getting off the boat from Morocco, including all the workers and all the pensioners, were being counted as tourists and it turned out to be the case. Now, all

they were pointing out was that on this occasion we would think it wise not to go down the same route, having had that experience. I would have thought it was a wise thing not to repeat the exercise.

HON A ISOLA

The Minister has stated that there were 22, 23 and 29 in each extra month and that he could not give us a date. Does he know if those questionnaires were asked on the same day or different days. Forget the dates but was it as a result of one inspection or more than one, does he know that?

HON J J HOLLIDAY

I can not really confirm.

ORAL

NO. 358 OF 1999

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM - CRUISE CALLS.

Can Government give detailed figures of the actual number of cruise calls to Gibraltar in chronological order during 1998 listing the name of ships, the date of the call, the number of passengers on board each ship and the number of hours that each ship remained in port?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question No. 359 of 1999.

NO. 359 OF 1999

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM - CRUISE CALLS.

Can Government give detailed figures of the actual number of cruise calls to Gibraltar in chronological order so far during 1999, listing the name of ships, the date of the call, the number of passengers on board each ship and the number of hours that each ship remained in port?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

The actual number of cruise calls to Gibraltar in chronological order during 1998 and up to 15th May 1999, listing the name of each ship, the date of the call, the number of passengers aboard each vessel and the number of hours that each ship remained in port are contained in a 9-page list and a 2-page list respectively which I hereby request the Clerk to pass to you Mr Speaker, and also to the hon Member.

I would like to comment at this stage that it is unrealistic to ask such a question in an oral form. It would be much more helpful if the hon Members when they require such information, should write to me and I would supply them with that information without any problem.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 358 AND 359 OF 1999

HON DR J J GARCIA

If I can just clarify, if the information is requested in written form, how long will it take to receive a reply. Is there a time limit as there is here?

HON J J HOLLIDAY

Normally the majority of letters are answered within 2 or 3 days in my Ministry.

HON DR J J GARCIA

Perhaps the Minister could make them available on a monthly basis and then there would be no need to write.

HON CHIEF MINISTER

The Government are willing to share information with the Opposition Members on a regular and reasonable basis. We are not going to have the administrative machinery working to produce information at more regular intervals than the hon Member really needs. I mean at the moment the law provides for annual publication of statistics but if the Government have the information on a quarterly basis we have no difficulty in making it available and I think quarterly is a perfectly reasonable interval. In any case, monthly does not help the hon Member very much.

HON DR J J GARCIA

Having said that, if arrangements were made to supply them on a quarterly basis it would certainly be acceptable to the Opposition.

CRUISE SHIP MOVEMENT REPORT 1998

JANUARY 1998			
	DATE OF ARRIVAL	NAME OF VESSEL	PAX ON BOARD
1.	04/01/1998	THE AZUR 1530/1900 3.5 hrs	710
2.	14/01/1998	THE AZUR 0900/1300 4 hrs	721
3.	24/01/1998	SEAWING 0900/1700 8 hrs	850
4.	25/01/1998	THE AZUR 0900/1300 4 hrs	721
TOTAL		4 CALLS/19.5 hrs	3002

FEBRUARY 1998			
	DATE OF ARRIVAL	NAME OF VESSEL	PAX ON BOARD
5.	05/02/1998	THE AZUR 0900/1300 4 hrs	605
6.	16/02/1998	THE AZUR 0900/1300 4 hrs	760
7.	27/02/1998	THE AZUR 0900/1300 4 hrs	698
TOTAL		3 CALLS/12 hrs	2063

MARCH 1998			
	DATE OF ARRIVAL	NAME OF VESSEL	PAX ON BOARD
8.	09/03/1998	THE AZUR 0900/1300 4 hrs	722
9.	20/03/1998	PACIFIC PRINCESS 1200/1800 6 hrs	610
10.	21/03/1998	THE AZUR 0900/1300 4 hrs	700
11.	22/03/1998 (UP TO 23rd)	LILY MARLEEN 1730/1400 20.5 hrs	37
TOTAL		4 CALLS/34.5 hrs	2069

APRIL 1998			
	DATE OF ARRIVAL	NAME OF VESSEL	PAX ON BOARD
12.	01/04/1998	THE AZUR 0900/1300 4 hrs	700
13.	04/04/1998	ADRIANA 1000/1400 4 hrs	244
14.	05/04/1998	COSTA MARINA 0800/1300 5 hrs	765
15.	06/04/1998 (Up to 7th)	FUNCHAL 1400/0800 18 hrs	210
16.	07/04/1998	ROYAL PRINCESS 1100/2300 12 hrs	1260
17.	15/04/1998	WIND STAR 1000/1700 7 hrs	128
18.	17/04/1998	CLIPPER ADVENTURER * 1100/2200 11 hrs	122
19.	19/04/1998	ROYAL PRINCESS 0900/1700 8 hrs	1260
20.	20/04/1998	FUNCHAL 0800/1300 5 hrs	414
21.	21/04/1998 (Up to 21st)	CLIPPER ADVENTURER 1500/1300 22 hrs	120
22.	21/04/1198	ARCADIA 1200/1700 5 hrs	1380
23.	21/04/1998	WIND SPIRIT 0800/1700 9 hrs	140
24.	23/04/1998	ASUKA * 0800/1400 6 hrs	384
25.	22/04/1998	TOPAZ * 0700/2030 13.5 hrs	161
26.	26/04/1998	ADRIANA 0800/1200 4 hrs	196
27.	28/04/1998	RENAISSANCE VII 0900/1900 10 hrs	80
28.	28/04/1998	VISTAMAR 0700/1100 4 hrs	109
29.	29/04/1998	COLUMBUS *	360

		0700/1300 16 hrs	
TOTAL		18 CALLS/151.5 hrs	8033

MAY 1998			
	DATE OF ARRIVAL	NAME OF VESSEL	PAX ON BOARD
30.	02/05/1998	CALEDONIAN STAR 0600/1600 10 hrs	49
31.	02/05/1998	FUNCHAL 0800/1400 6 hrs	400
32.	98	ROTTERDAM * 1200/2000 8 hrs	1277
33.	06/05/1998	EDINBURGH CASTLE * 0800/1830 10.5 hrs	1000
34.	07/05/1998	CAROUSEL 1000/1700 7 hrs	1200
35.	07/05/1998	VISION OF THE SEAS * 1300/1800 5 hrs	1600
36.	08/05/1998	RENAISSANCE VII 0900/1900 10 hrs	114
37.	14/05/1998	ROYAL PRINCESS 0700/1300 6 hrs	1260
38.	15/05/1998	ARCADIA 1400/1800 4 hrs	1400
39.	17/05/1998	FLAMENCO 0830/1300 4.5 hrs	812
40.	19/05/1998	ORIANA 1400/2030 6.5 hrs	1789
41.	19/05/1998	OCEAN MAJESTY 1300/1830 5.5 hrs	500
42.	21/05/1998	DELPHIN 0800/1300 5 hrs	430
43.	21/05/1998 (Up to 22nd)	ALBATROS 1200/0400 16 hrs	890
44.	22/05/1998	PACIFIC PRINCESS 0600/2359 17.59 hrs	645
45.	23/05/1998	SILVER CLOUD 1300/1900 6 hrs	260

46.	25/05/1998	BLACK WATCH 1300/1800 5 hrs	564
47.	27/05/1998	COSTA MARINA 0630/1200 5.5 hrs	774
48.	27/05/1998	EUROPA 0700/1300 6 hrs	600
49.	29/05/1998	ORIANA 0800/1400 6 hrs	1800
50.	31/05/1998	RHAPSODY * 0800/1200 4 hrs	772
TOTAL		21 CALLS/154.09 hrs	17577

JUNE 1998			
	DATE OF ARRIVAL	NAME OF VESSEL	PAX ON BOARD
51.	02/06/1998	EDINBURGH CASTLE 1110/2359 12.49 hrs	700
52.	04/06/1998	ROTTERDAM 0800/1300 5 hrs	1343
53.	04/06/1998	COSTA RIVIERA 0900/1400 5 hrs	936
54.	08/06/1998	MONTEREY * 1400/1800 4 hrs	549
55.	14/06/1998	VICTORIA 0930/0600 6.5 hrs	710
56.	14/06/1998	MONTEREY 1400/1800 4 hrs	469
57.	25/06/1998	COSTA RIVIERA 0900/1400 5 hrs	877
58.	30/06/1998	WORLD RENAISSANCE 0800/1600 8 hrs	457
TOTAL		8 CALLS/49.9 hrs	6041

JULY 1998			
	DATE OF ARRIVAL	NAME OF VESSEL	PAX ON BOARD
59.	07/07/1998	ORIANA 0700/1700 10 hrs	1825
60.	16/07/1998	EDINBURGH CASTLE 1030/1700 6.5 hrs	896

61.	23/07/1998	VICTORIA 1200/1600 4 hrs	705
62.	30/07/1998	EDINBURGH CASTLE 1000/1800 8 hrs	700
TOTAL		4 CALLS/28.5 hrs	4126

AUGUST 1998			
	DATE OF ARRIVAL	NAME OF VESSEL	PAX ON BOARD
63.	07/08/1998	RHAPSODY 0700/1200 5 hrs	813
64.	11/08/1998 (Up to 12th)	CLELIA II 1945/0330 7.45 hrs	54
65.	12/08/1998	ALBATROS 0800/1500 7 hrs	1071
66.	13/08/1998 (Up to 14th)	EDINBURGH CASTLE 1400/0100 11 hrs	1100
67.	14/08/1998	APOLLO 1200/2000 8 hrs	772
68.	21/08/1998	RENAISSANCE EIGHT 0900/1900 10 hrs	116
69.	25/08/1998	BLACK WATCH 1200/1800 6 hrs	775
70.	25/08/1998	WORLD RENAISSANCE 1400/1900 5 hrs	468
71.	28/08/1998	VICTORIA 1200/1700 5 hrs	727
72.	31/08/1998	IASON 0800/2200 14 hrs	199
73.	31/08/1998	VISION OF THE SEAS 0700/1400 7 hrs	2098
TOTAL		11 CALLS/85.45 hrs	8193

SEPTEMBER 1998			
	DATE OF ARRIVAL	NAME OF VESSEL	PAX ON BOARD
74.	02/09/1998	RENAISSANCE SEVEN 0700/2359 16.59 hrs	114
75.	02/09/1998	APOLLO 1100/1500 4 hrs	700
76.	04/09/1998	DELPHIN 1330/1700 3.5 hrs	232
77.	06/09/1998	NORWEGIAN DREAM 1600/2000 4 hrs	638
78.	06/09/1998	RENAISSANCE EIGHT 0700/2359 16.59 hrs	114
79.	07/09/1998	SILVERWIND 0900/1500 6 hrs	290
80.	09/09/1998	ARCADIA 1200/1700 5 hrs	1420
81.	09/09/1998	CALEDONIAN STAR 0730/1400 6.5 hrs	96
82.	10/09/1998	PACIFIC PRINCESS 0900/1800 9 hrs	629
83.	10/09/1998	EDINBURGH CASTLE 1200/1600 4 hrs	600
84.	11/09/1998	FUNCHAL 0800/1230 4.5 hrs	489
85.	12/09/1998	ROTTERDAM VI 1200/1730 5.5 hrs	1292
86.	13/09/1998	BLACK PRINCE 1400/2359 9.59 hrs	416
87.	13/09/1998	FUNCHAL 1400/1900 5 hrs	423
88.	14/09/1998	MONTEREY 0700/1300 6 hrs	420
89.	14/09/1998 to 15/09/98	RENAISSANCE SEVEN 0700/2359 16.59 hrs	114
90.	15/109/1998 (Up to 16th)	APOLLO 1700/1200 19 hrs	900
91.	16/09/1998	ORIANA 1200/1830	1800

		6.5 hrs	
92.	16/09/1998	PRINCESS DANAE 1400/2359 9.59 hrs	568
93.	ARR 19/09/98 DEP 20/09/98	RENAISSANCE EIGHT 0700/2359 16.59 hrs	108
94.	20/09/1998	SPLENDOUR OF THE SEAS 1200/1800 6 hrs	1763
95.	22/09/1998	QUEEN ELIZABETH II 0630/1700 10.5 hrs	1603
96.	25/09/1998 (Up to 26th)	OCEAN MAJESTY 1400/0100 11 hrs	500
97.	28/09/1998	FUNCHAL 1300/2359 10.59 hrs	361
TOTAL		24 calls/212.13 hrs	15590

OCTOBER 1998			
	DATE OF ARRIVAL	NAME OF VESSEL	PAX ON BOARD
98.	05/10/1998	ORIANA 0900/1800 9 hrs	1800
99.	08/10/1998	ARCADIA 1200/1700 5 hrs	1390
100.	10/10/1998	SAGA ROSE 0800/1800 10 hrs	527
101.	10/10/1998	DELPHIN 1600/1900 3 hrs	600
102.	12/10/1998	FUNCHAL 0800/1400 6 hrs	419
103.	13/10/1998	BLACK PRINCE 1400/2000 6 hrs	424
104.	21/10/1998	REMBRANDT 0700/1300 6 hrs	948
105.	26/10/1998	MELODY 1500/200 5 hrs	1181
106.	29/10/1998	ORIANA (142 PAX EMBARKED (39 PAX DISEMBARKED) 0800/1300 5 hrs	1581
107.	29/10/1998	ALBATROS 1700/2359 6.59 hrs	462
108.	30/10/1998	SPLENDOR OF THE SEAS 0800/1500 7 hrs	1717
109.	31/10/1998	ISLAND BREEZE 0700/2359 16.59 hrs	982
TOTAL		12 CALLS/85.18 hrs	12031

NOVEMBER 1998			
	DATE OF ARRIVAL	NAME OF VESSEL	PAX ON BOARD
110.	03/11/1998	BREMEN 0700/1200 5 hrs	145
111.	03/11/1998	ARCADIA 1200/1800 6 hrs	1259
112.	04/11/1998	CAROUSEL 0900/1700 8 hrs	1035
113.	04/11/1998	LILI MARLEEN 1200/1800 6 hrs	28
114.	06/11/1998	BLACK PRINCE 0800/1400 6 hrs	374
115.	06/11/1998	WMND SPIRIT 0800/1600 8 hrs	137
116.	ARR 06/11/1998 DEP 07/11/1998	SEA CLOUD 0800/1300 5 hrs	140
117.	07/11/1998	THE EMERALD 0600/1200 6 hrs	892
118.	08/11/1998	COSTA VICTORIA 1145/1900 7.15 hrs	1672
119.	09/11/1998	MERMOZ 0800/1700 9 hrs	334
120.	25/11/1998	COSTA RIVIERA (5 CREW JOINED) 1300/1900 6 hrs	952
121.	26/11/1998	THE AZUR 0900/1300 4 hrs	671
122.	27/11/1998	BLACK PRINCE 1200/1800 6 hrs	429
123.	29/11/1998	ARCADIA 1200/1700 5 hrs	1155
124.	30/11/1998	VICTORIA TURNAROUND CALL 0800/2359 15.59 hrs	640
TOTAL		15 CALLS/102.74 hrs	9863

DECEMBER 1998			
	DATE OF ARRIVAL	NAME OF VESSEL	PAX ON BOARD
125.	03/12/1998	ASTOR 1330/1730 4 hrs	535
126.	04/12/1998	VISTAMAR 0730/1200 4.5 hrs	250
127.	04/12/1998	WINDSTAR 0900/1600 7 hrs	81
128.	07/12/1998	THE AZUR 0730/1300 5.5 hrs	306
129.	09/12/1998	STELLA SOLARIS 0700/1200 5 hrs	551
130.	09/12/1998	R TWO 0800/2000 12 hrs	539
131.	11/12/1998	BLACK PRINCE 1600/2359 7.59 hrs	433
132.	18/12/1998	R TWO 0800/2000 12 hrs	625
133.	23/12/1998	BLACK PRINCE 0800/1800 10 hrs	348
134.	27/12/1998	ASTRA II 0800/1300 5 hrs	299
135.	28/12/1998	R TWO 0800/2000 12 hrs	659
TOTAL		11 CALLS/84.59 hrs	4626

<u>CRUISE SHIP ARRIVALS REPORT - JANUARY 1999</u>					
	<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME OF VESSEL</u>	<u>HOURS IN PORT</u>	<u>TOTAL HOURS</u>	<u>PAX ON BOARD</u>
1.	4	THE AZUR	1530/1900	3.5	580
2.	7	R TWO	0800/200	12	640
3.	8	COSTA RIVIERA	1300/1900	6	926
4.	17	R TWO	0800/2000	12	667
5.	27	R TWO	0800/2000	12	676
TOTAL		5		45.5	3489

<u>CRUISE SHIP ARRIVALS REPORT - FEBRUARY 1999</u>					
	<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME OF VESSEL</u>	<u>HOURS IN PORT</u>	<u>TOTAL HOURS</u>	<u>PAX ON BOARD</u>
6.	6	R TWO	0800/2000	12	669
7.	16	R TWO	0800/2000	12	673
8.	26	R TWO	0800/2000	12	668
TOTAL		3		36	2010

<u>CRUISE SHIP ARRIVALS REPORT - MARCH 1999</u>					
	<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME OF VESSEL</u>	<u>HOURS IN PORT</u>	<u>TOTAL HOURS</u>	<u>PAX ON BOARD</u>
9.	8	R TWO	0800/2000	12	671
10.	18	R TWO	0800/2000	12	673
11.	27	SWITZERLAND	1100/1900	8	358
12.	28	R TWO	0800/2000	12	674
TOTAL		4		44	2376

CRUISE SHIP ARRIVALS REPORT - APRIL 1999					
	<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME OF VESSEL</u>	<u>HOURS IN PORT</u>	<u>TOTAL HOURS</u>	<u>PAX ON BOARD</u>
13.	2	PACIFIC PRINCESS	1000/1800	8	517
14.	4	BLACK PRINCE	0800/1500	7	389
15.	6	LILY MARLEEN	1530/1830	3	44
16.	7	R TWO	0800/2000	12	678
17.	10	MAASDAM	0900/1530	4.5	1206
18.	13	DELPHIN	0800/1400	6	382
19.	13	ROYAL PRINCESS	1135/2300	11.65	1021
20.	16	ROTTERDAM	0700/1700	10	794
21.	17	R TWO	0800/2000	12	659
22.	17	SEAWING	0830/1700	8.5	728
23.	18	SEA CLOUD	0800/1600	8	54
24.	18	COSTA MARINA	1630/2300	6.5	710
25.	18	WIND SPIRIT	0700/1300	5	141
26.	23	ASUKA	0700/1400	7	379
27.	25	ROYAL PRINCESS	0930/1800	8.5	1161
28.	26	CRYSTAL	0700/1300	6	720
		SYMPHONY			
29.	27	R TWO	0800/2000	12	674
30.	28	COSTA MARINA	1230/1900	4.5	683
31.	29	VISTAMAR	0645/1230	5.75	106
TOTAL		19		145.9	11046

CRUISE SHIP ARRIVAL REPORT - MAY 1999					
	<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME OF VESSEL</u>	<u>HOURS IN PORT</u>	<u>TOTAL HOURS</u>	<u>PAX ON BOARD</u>
32.	3	APOLLO	0845/1850	10.05	768
33.	4	THE TOPAZ	0800/1300	5	979
34.	4	ARCADIA	1410/1910	5	1426
35.	7	R TWO	0800/2000	12	673
36.	8	SAPPHIRE*	0715/2359	16.44	527
37.	8	ROTTERDAM	1100/1900	8	1284
38.	8	OCEAN MAJESTY	1200/1830	6.5	471
39.	10	DON JUAN	1400/2000	6	291
40.	13	DON JUAN	0800/1400	6	312
41.	13	CAROUSEL	1325/1700	3.35	845
62.	13	SAGA ROSE	1600/2300	7	554
63.	15	SAPPHIRE	0700/2359	16.59	528
TOTAL		11		101.93	8658

PLEASE NOTE THAT MAY 1999 IS STILL NOT FINALISED. THERE ARE MORE CRUISE CALLS WHICH WILL BE INCLUDED ACCORDINGLY.

NO. 360 OF 1999

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM - CRUISE LINER VISITOR ARRIVALS.

what was the number of cruise liner visitor arrivals for each month for February, March and April 1999?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

I am unclear as to what the hon Member requires in reply to this question. It is possible he wishes to know the number of cruise calls or the number of visitors aboard cruise calls arriving at Gibraltar. Therefore, I am supplying him with both.

	Cruise Calls	No. of Passengers
February	3	2,010
March	4	2,346
April	19	11,046

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 360 OF 1999

HON DR J J GARCIA

Do we have a way of determining the number of people that actually get off the ship?

HON J J HOLLIDAY

No, we do not keep records of the passengers that actually come off the ship. We do accept the report that is given to us by the cruise liner itself with the number of passengers in that particular vessel, which they report to each port as they call. That is what we base our passenger facts for example on.

HON J J BOSSANO

Is it correct that the payment they are passing you is based on the numbers on the ship irrespective of whether they come ashore or not?

HON J J HOLLIDAY

That is correct.

ORAL

NO. 361 OF 1999

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM - YACHT ARRIVALS.

What was the number of yachts calling at Gibraltar in February, March and April 1999?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question No. 390 of 1999.

ORAL

NO. 362 OF 1999

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM - YACHT VISITORS.

What was the number of yacht visitors to Gibraltar each month in February, March and April 1999?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

The number of yachts and yacht visitors calling at Gibraltar were as follows:

	<u>No. of Yachts</u>	<u>No. of Yacht Visitors</u>
February	75	339
March	177	652
April	289	1239
TOTAL	541	2230

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 362 OF 1999

HON DR J J GARCIA

Are these figures actual or are they from the survey?

HON J J HOLLIDAY

These figures are actual figures which have been recorded and these will now be used for the Tourist Survey. Obviously these figures will not be tabled in the House until the early part of the year 2000.

ORAL

NO. 363 OF 1999

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM - ARRIVALS BY SEA.

What was the number of other visitors by sea in February, March and April 1999?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question Nos. 364 to 367 and 370 of 1999.

ORAL

NO. 364 OF 1999

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM - ARRIVALS BY COACH.

What was the number of visitors arriving by coach in Gibraltar by month in February, March and April 1999?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question Nos. 363, 365 to 367 and 370 of 1999.

ORAL

NO. 365 OF 1999

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM - NUMBER OF PRIVATE MOTOR VEHICLES ENTERING GIBRALTAR.

What was the number of private motor vehicles entering Gibraltar in February, March and April 1999?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question Nos. 363, 364, 366, 367 and 370 of 1999.

ORAL

NO. 366 OF 1999

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM - NUMBER OF PRIVATE MOTOR VEHICLES ENTERING GIBRALTAR.

What was the number of private motor vehicles and the number of persons in such vehicles entering Gibraltar in February, March and April 1999, and the comparable figure for 1998?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question Nos. 363 to 365, 367 and 370 of 1999.

ORAL

NO. 367 OF 1999

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM - NUMBER OF COACHES.

What was the number of coaches entering Gibraltar by month in February, March and April 1999?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question Nos. 363 to 366 and 370 of 1999.

ORAL

NO. 368 OF 1999

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TRANSPORT - NUMBER OF MOTOR VEHICLES IMPORTED.

What was the value and the number of motor vehicles imported by licensed dealers in the period October 1998 to March 1999?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question No. 369 of 1999.

ORAL

NO. 369 OF 1999

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TRANSPORT - NUMBER OF MOTOR VEHICLES IMPORTED.

What was the value and the number of motor vehicles imported by individuals in the period October 1998 to March 1999?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

The value and number of motor vehicles imported by licensed dealers between October 1998 and March 1999 were £30,437,380 in respect of 2,535 vehicles.

The value of motor vehicles imported by individuals over this period was £250,824.22. This was in respect of 51 motor vehicles.

ORAL

NO. 370 OF 1999

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM - NUMBER OF PEDESTRIAN VISITORS.

What were the number of pedestrian visitors to Gibraltar in February, March and April 1999?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

The number of visitors by sea is as follows:

	<u>1999</u>
February	116
March	135
April	141
TOTAL	392

*The figure for April is provisional, as it does not include arrivals for the period 28 April to 30 April. Therefore these figures will shortly be available.

The number of visitors arriving by coach in each month was as follows:

	<u>1999</u>
February	19,082
March	34,972
April	43,015
TOTAL	97,069

The number of private motor vehicles entering Gibraltar in February, March and April 1999 was as follows:

	<u>1999</u>
February	58,864
March	80,796
April	109,243
TOTAL	246,903

The number of private motor vehicles and the number of persons in each vehicle entering Gibraltar in February, March and April 1999 and the comparable figures for 1998 are as follows:

	<u>1998</u>		<u>1999</u>	
	<u>Motor Vehicles</u>	<u>Persons</u>	<u>Motor Vehicles</u>	<u>Persons</u>
February	142,887	396,933	56,864	119,444
March	166,764	467,147	80,796	193,124
April	165,930	492,617	109,243	269,617

The number of coaches entering Gibraltar was as follows:

	<u>1999</u>
February	495
March	947
April	1,139
TOTAL	2,581

The number of pedestrian visitors to Gibraltar was as follows:

	<u>1999</u>
February	182,023
March	236,812
April	178,993
TOTAL	597,828

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 363 TO 367 AND 370 OF 1999

HON J J BOSSANO

Can the Minister say whether in fact there was in these months a higher level of pedestrians as a consequence of less private vehicles crossing? Is that a trend that has been noticed, I think that was mentioned at one stage in the House as something that was happening, I think it was mentioned in January. Has that continued?

HON J J HOLLIDAY

Yes, the trend was that because there was a substantial decrease of motor vehicles entering Gibraltar, the number of pedestrians increased over that particular period, but as time goes by that is less of a trend.

ORAL

NO. 371 OF 1999

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PORT - CRUISE LINER TERMINAL.

What are the new security measures being put in place around the cruise liner terminal?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

The security round the Cruise Terminal should not be viewed in isolation, but as part of the security measures being introduced in the Port. There are two types of security areas: the controlled area and the restricted zone.

A security guard post and fencing will control entry into the Port Area. This post will be situated close to the office of the Port Department.

However, the size of the cruise ship and its berth will determine the level of security which needs to be put in place and implemented. Additional security, when required, will be provided by closing off the access to the Western Arm on either side of the Cruise Terminal by using gates.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 371 OF 1999

HON DR J J GARCIA

Is that similar to what happens at present, where a temporary fence is erected near the Port Office?

HON J J HOLLIDAY

Well, I presume the principle is similar but obviously the security provisions that are going to be made in terms of actual restricted zoning is obviously going to be slightly more sophisticated and having proper fencing and security posts in place.

HON DR J J GARCIA

Will these measures only be put in place when there is a cruise liner in Port or will they be permanent?

HON J J HOLLIDAY

The Port will become a controlled zone 24 hours a day, every day whether there is a cruise liner in Port or not. The restricted zone is only applicable when the cruise liner is in Port. These restrictions are led by the general Port Security standards that are implemented in all ports where cruise liners operate. We have been in contact with the

Department of the Environment Transport and the Regions in the UK who have been advising on the level of examination and our recommendations on what needs to be implemented here in order to meet these international standards.

HON CHIEF MINISTER

Let me just add to that, the point being made is that there is a difference between a restricted zone regime and a controlled zone regime. One applies permanently, the other which is much stricter applies only when there is a cruise ship alongside the Port. So the whole Port Area will become a controlled zone all the time but the restricted zone regime applies to a smaller area and only whilst there is a cruise ship in Port.

HON DR J J GARCIA

Does that mean that if the whole Port becomes a controlled zone on a permanent basis that people will not have access to the Port as they do now?

HON CHIEF MINISTER

It means precisely that. The Port will cease to be general public highway where people can go on car rides which is a source of danger not just to themselves but also to people going about their work there. Special arrangements obviously will be made to allow fishermen to be able to continue to enter the Port to fish as they presently do for recreational purposes, that will remain unaffected - there will be some system of permits or licences that will enable them to come and go freely for purposes such as that.

HON J J BOSSANO

Is the reference to cars an indication that pedestrians will not have the same impediments?

HON CHIEF MINISTER

The hon Member is stretching my recollection of the detail now but my understanding is that the restricted zone is certainly restricted to everybody. In other words, unless one is connected with the presence of the ship, one will not be able to approach the wharf either on foot or by car where a ship is berthed around the terminal. As far as the controlled zone is concerned I believe that the system will be one of entry into the Port Area requiring identification, some connection with the Port or some permit to enter or a fishing permit. I would like to confirm that point to the hon Member but I think it is right in saying it applies to pedestrians as well.

HON J J BOSSANO

If it is intended to apply to pedestrians presumably the matter is still under consideration. Am I right in thinking that or has a decision been taken?

HON CHIEF MINISTER

The decision has been taken and legislation has been drafted, I think it may even have been published in green paper form as the Maritime Security Bill.

HON J J BOSSANO

There was a Maritime Security Bill which was brought to the House and not proceeded with, is it in there?

HON CHIEF MINISTER

That is basically the regime although it may require regulations made under it which raises the detail that the hon Member is saying. But yes, more or less the decisions have been made and it is at some stage of implementation.

HON J J BOSSANO

So if this is based on some international requirement or practices where are the parameters by which one can make a judgement on what it is intended to do?

HON CHIEF MINISTER

There are two aspects driving this. It is not just international. There is an international convention called I think the Chicago Convention which deals with provisions to protect ships from hijacking just as there is in relation to aeroplanes. Well, the hon Member might laugh but he should be aware that American cruise companies are hypersensitive about this since the incident surrounding the Achille Laura. The Americans draw no distinction between cruise liners and aeroplanes when it comes to anti-hijacking security measures. The purpose of introducing this regime into Gibraltar is to make out Gibraltar a more attractive port to American cruising companies who will not visit ports that refuse to implement these security standards. That part of it is, if one likes, the voluntary implementation of an international convention, but because it has an economic value to Gibraltar to attract American cruise ship companies to come to Gibraltar.

But there is another aspect of this which the hon Member can not compare against any international criteria which is the Government's desire to make the Port a safer place for people to work in for people to go in when they have got lawful business there and the Government have judged that the time has now come that the Port should stop being as much public highway as Main Street or Line Wall Road, which is really the position at the moment. There have been accidents and port users have complained that they are at risk of accidents with civilians or non-port users and half of it is driven by port safety and port management considerations, and the other half is driven by the anti-hijacking provisions mainly to comply with the requirements of the American cruise market.

HON J J BOSSANO

Can I then ask, the anti-hijacking element, which I think is what was reflected in the Maritime Security Bill that was brought to the House and not proceeded with, is that Bill still there?

HON CHIEF MINISTER

Part of the Bill as published deals with whatever this convention is called, let us call it the Chicago Convention but it may not be Chicago it may be something else, but the rest of the Bill also deals with the other aspects of the matter that I have been describing. That will be proceeded with at some stage. It is just a question of when and when we are ready to actually implement.

HON J J BOSSANO

And that Bill which was in fact making provision I think for the Minister to be responsible for protecting people against hijackers, that is still therefore the intention, to proceed with that?

HON CHIEF MINISTER

No, the part of the Bill that related to things that created criminal offences never had references to the Minister. That is why I say to the hon Gentleman that there is a part of the Bill that dealt with that and the creation of hijacking offences and things like that, that was never ministerial. There is an issue which is under discussion with London which is the extent to which it is necessary in giving legislation powers to a Minister in areas which are grey. In other words, when Port Management overlaps with security issues, the Foreign Office is concerned that it should be made perfectly clear that any powers that the Minister has under the Bill is without prejudice to the over-riding constitutional powers of His Excellency for matters of internal security. The Government have no difficulty in that and one of the things that is being looked at in the White Paper is the extent to which comfort can be given in respect of that matter. In any case is not the Government's intention to deal with matters of internal security of that sort.

HON J J BOSSANO

He lies very well, Mr Speaker.

HON CHIEF MINISTER

One of my hon Colleagues heard him use the word of four letters beginning with "L", which if he did, Mr Speaker should call the hon Member to order.

HON J J BOSSANO

I can assure him that the Rules of the House provide, that when I want to call hon 'Members' names standing on my feet, for the record, then you will make sure that I keep to the Rules. But if you are going to start correcting all the comments that are made from the benches this could be never ending.

MR SPEAKER

Let us get one thing clear I am perfectly entitled to call the attention of any Members of the House whether he is standing or sitting down or even walking out of the Chamber, so that is clear. But I have not heard anything so let us continue.

HON DR J J GARCIA

Just one more question. What local bodies and organisations which might be affected by this closure of the Port have the Government consulted in drafting the legislation?

HON CHIEF MINISTER

There has been a wide process of consultation with port users in relation to this issue.

ORAL

NO. 372 OF 1999

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

LONDON CRUISE AND FERRY EXHIBITION.

What was the cost of participating in the London Cruise and Ferry Exhibition "Cruise and Ferry 99"?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question Nos. 373 to 377 of 1999.

ORAL

NO. 373 OF 1999

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

LONDON BOAT SHOW.

Can Government give a detailed breakdown of the cost of participating in the London Boat Show?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question Nos. 372 and 374 to 377 of 1999.

ORAL

NO. 374 OF 1999

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

FITUR.

Can Government give a detailed breakdown of the cost of participating in FITUR?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question Nos. 372, 373 and 375 to 377 of 1999.

ORAL

NO. 375 OF 1999

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

WORLD TRAVEL MARKET.

Can Government give a detailed breakdown of the cost of participating in the World Travel Market?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question Nos. 372 to 374, 376 and 377 of 1999.

ORAL

NO. 376 OF 1999

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

SITC.

What was the cost of participating in the "Salo Internacional Del Turisme A Catalunya (SITC)" in Barcelona?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question Nos. 372 to 375 and 377 of 1999.

ORAL

NO. 377 OF 1999

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

CRUISE LINER "ASUKA".

What was the total cost of supplying roses and photographs to passengers from the Japanese cruise liner "Asuka" during its call to Gibraltar on Friday 23rd April?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

The Cruise and Ferry 1999 exhibition only took place last week and all the costs have not yet been billed. However, it is estimated that the cost will be approximately £3,300.

The cost of participating in the London Boat Show was £17,778.88.

This amount is made up as follows:

£

Stand Hire and set-up costs	12,213.03
Brochure delivery	261.50
Special uniforms for staff manning stand	255.00
Point of sale material	664.42
Sundry expenses	210.96
Flights for GTB staff	1,618.00
Subsistence of GTB staff	1,639.97
Hotel expenses (bed only)	916.00

The cost of participating in FITUR was £13,936.23.

This amount is made up as follows:

£

Stand Hire and set-up costs	6,235.00
Brochure delivery	570.00
Mail shot	793.17
Point of sale material	1,448.63
Advertising	462.00
Entertainment	234.16
Sundries	280.71
Travel for GTB staff manning stand	1,009.92
Subsistence for GTB staff	2,553.14
Hotel expenses (bed only)	350.42

The cost of participating in the World Travel Market was £41 982.12.

This amount was made up as follows:

£

Stand Hire and set-up	34,420.17
Advertising	871.56
Brochure delivery	245.60
Reception	1,867.55
Sundries	360.23
Flights for GTB staff manning stand	1,112.00
Subsistence/Hotel	3,105.01

The cost of participating in the Salo Internacional del Turisme was £4,468.57.

This amount is made up as follows:

£

Stand Hire and set-up	1,531.89
Point of sale material	179.74
Sundries	142.00
Flights for GTB staff	530.20
Subsistence for GTB staff	1,621.18
Hotel (bed only)	663.56

The "Asuka" is the only Japanese cruise ship calling at Gibraltar. It represents an interesting marketing opportunity, which we would like to maximise to the full.

The roses were paid for by the ship's agent Smith Imossi & Co Ltd. The total cost of supplying the photographs was borne by the GTB marketing vote in the sum of £900.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 373 TO 377 OF 1999

HON DR J J GARCIA

On this last question what exactly were the roses and photographs commemorating?

HON J J HOLLIDAY

The roses were paid for by Smith Imossi & Co so obviously although we did this in coordination with them they were meant to be as a gesture of welcome to Gibraltar it is something that a lot of other ports do and the Japanese are extremely attracted to roses as a form of welcome.

In terms of the photographs, they were meant to commemorate the landing of the Emperor of Japan I think in 1921 when Hirohito landed in Gibraltar and it was just a gesture to say that, "the Emperor had landed here in 1921 and you have landed in Gibraltar in 1999". We did this last year and the shipping company wrote congratulating us on something which had been very welcomed by the passengers and obviously it was repeated this year. If they are coming back next year, which we hope in larger numbers, we obviously will be doing more of these.

HON DR J J GARCIA

The media reported, and it sounded rather odd at the time, that the photographs were commemorating the War time visit of the Emperor and obviously it was very odd because we were actually at war with Japan. How could the Emperor have come here in the middle of the war? So that information emanates from the Tourist Department?

HON J J HOLLIDAY

Yes.

HON DR J J GARCIA

I am sorry, I was under the impression it was World War II.

MR SPEAKER

World War II was in 1939.

NO. 378 OF 1999

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

VALUE OF COMMERCIAL FREIGHT.

What was the value of commercial freight set down and picked up by air in 1998?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

I actually did answer this question at the last meeting of the House under Question No. 114 of 1999 but I will repeat it for the sake of the record. The value of commercial freight set down and picked up by air in 1998 was as follows:

Incoming freight (excluding banknotes)	£20,201,374
Incoming freight in transit	£4,976,423
Total value of incoming freight	£25,177,797
Outgoing freight	£1,955,546

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 378 OF 1999

HON DR J J GARCIA

We have actually looked at Question No. 114 here and the answer given at the time was that figures were not available by air.

HON J J HOLLIDAY

Correct at the time but then the Leader of the Opposition asked and said why we could not obtain these I believe from Customs and I undertook to get back the next day and on the next day it will probably be recorded hopefully in the minutes that I actually gave the information.

HON J J BOSSANO

The volumes which are given in the report tabled today shows that there was a recovery from the very low figure of 1997, is that an indication that air freight has now sort of stabilised?

HON J J HOLLIDAY

That is correct, the figure for 1998 shows an increase in the freight and we hope that that is the trend for the future.

HON J J BOSSANO

I know what the figure says, the point I am making is that it has been coming down, does the Minister have an indication that it has now sort of bottomed-out? He may not have looked into it.

HON J J HOLLIDAY

I cannot really scientifically reply to that, the only thing I am aware of is that there are now much more ship spares coming through by air freight for use in the Port than there were in the past. We have made provisions to have a slightly more efficient system of clearance through Customs of these spare parts and I believe that this has led to encourage a number of Port users to air freight some of the spare parts out to Gibraltar.

NO. 379 OF 1999

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM - HOTEL ARREARS.

What amounts are due and Owing to Government by hotels broken down by items and in respect of which periods these monies become due as at the end of April 1999?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

The arrears due by hotels at the end of April 1999 stood at £926,114.62. These arrears are in respect of amounts which fell due over a number of years dating back to 1991. The breakdown of this figure is as follows:

Electricity	£346,653.68
Rates	64,376.58
Social Insurance	312,495.38
PAYE Tax	202,588.98

I must make the point that agreements have been entered into during the last year for the payments of most of these arrears as well as for ensuring that the current bills are settled as and when due, in fact they do form part of the Hotel Assistance Scheme package and as conditioned in the Agreement.

However, Government will not be providing the information requested broken down by hotels as it is felt that this would be inappropriate.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 379 OF 1999

HON J J BOSSANO

Taking the figure which was £966,000 in answer to Question No. 135, there seems to have been very little change in the amounts owed since the House was first told that there was this Agreement. For example, if we take the electricity, the difference between the last figure given and this one is that it has gone down from £350,000 to £346,000. At what sort of rate are these arrears supposed to be eliminated? Is this an indication of how small the payments are?

HON J J HOLLIDAY

I believe and I am not 100 per cent sure, but I think that most of the agreements that have been entered to by the hotels stretch over a period of five years and therefore that has a reflection on the amounts that are due. So possibly that is why the slight change.

NO. 380 OF 1999

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM - NEW AIRLINE.

Can Government state whether there has been any progress in attracting a new airline to Gibraltar?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Government are in discussion with various airlines and talks are in progress. However, Government are unable to give details due to the commercial sensitivity of these negotiations. An announcement will be made once discussions are concluded satisfactorily.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 380 OF 1999

HON DR J J GARCIA

The Government have been in discussion with airlines since 1997 and nothing seems to materialise. After the Routes 97 Conference it was believed to be British Midland then after the Routes 98 we were told there were 17 airlines interested in coming to Gibraltar and yet nobody appears to have come. Does the Minister have an explanation for that?

HON J J HOLLIDAY

In 1997 British Midlands did have an interest in coming to Gibraltar, in fact I think it was the Hon Albert Isola who said in this House that he had learned that some of the British Midlands pilots were trying to sort of test learners licence landings in Gibraltar which was new to me. But those negotiations have not progressed what I said subsequent I think in 1998 as quoted is that we had been in discussions and in contact with 17 airlines. That does not mean that they were all interested in coming in. But we were in contact with them. In fact I have been in contact with every airline that I could find my hands on because obviously we believe as a Government that it is important to promote and open up new routes to Gibraltar be it from the UK, non-London airport, London airport or even European destination.

As I speak today I can say that we are in formal discussions with a handful of airlines but I think that making comments in the House and reporting to the media is not helpful in negotiations. Sometimes this can lead to the negotiations coming to an end because of the sensitivity of their other interests, there are wider implications so I feel for the sake of trying to materialise any of this that we keep this under wraps until negotiations have been concluded.

HON DR J J GARCIA

Without revealing the names of the airlines for the reasons which the Minister has just outlined can he perhaps say how many of the 17 airlines we remain under negotiation with, we are discussing with?

HON J J HOLLIDAY

We are in negotiations with five different airlines.

HON J C PEREZ

Is the Minister able to say which routes are being negotiated or is that aspect also sensitive? Is it the name of the airline that is sensitive or is it the route or is it both?

HON J J HOLLIDAY

I am afraid that both are actually sensitive. I would refrain to making any further comments on this particular issue.

HON DR J J GARCIA

Is there any prospects of any of these airlines re-opening their links to Heathrow?

HON J J HOLLIDAY

I am afraid that I do not think that this is a possibility in the short term.

HON CHIEF MINISTER

The hon Member is aware that whether airlines fly from Gatwick or Heathrow is not a matter for the Government. It is a matter for the slots that they use and that they own at one airport or the other and it is really not a subject which the Government ought to be questioned about. The hon Member could ask the Government whether the Government agree that it would be better for Gibraltar if the flight were from Heathrow and whether the Government have tried to persuade the commercial airline, that would be a legitimate question. But to keep on putting questions to see whether airlines are coming from Gatwick or Heathrow suggests that this is a matter of Government policy or Government intervention or Government action and it is not.

If I could just take him back to the other point just so that he bears it in mind, he talks about dialogue, negotiation, discussions with airlines, let us be clear, they do not need the permission of the Government of Gibraltar to fly to Gibraltar. When they engage the Gibraltar Government in dialogue, negotiation or discussion what they are after is some degree or other of financial assistance. The Government evaluate the various offers on the basis of the cost to opportunity ratios factor of the what the airline expects by way of publically funded support. That is the only element of discussion. For the rest of it these are private sector commercial operations which make their own decisions and it is not a matter for Government.

HON DR J J GARCIA

With respect to the first part of the Chief Minister's reply that was precisely the question which I asked - whether any of the five currently in discussion with the Government would open the link to Heathrow. It was precisely that question.

HON J J BOSSANO

In fact, any airline that wants to come to Gibraltar would need to apply to the CAA and in turn the CAA would consult the Government of Gibraltar. That is still the position is it not?

HON CHIEF MINISTER

That is the practice. In other words, an airline would be hard put to get an operation running if the Gibraltar Government were opposed but it is not that the Gibraltar Government does not licence it; it is done as the hon Member knows by the CAA. It is not a Gibraltar Government runway as he knows.

HON J J BOSSANO

Sometimes the impression is given when one talks about commercial arrangements for using the runway (which I do not do very frequently myself but other people do), it is as if the runway were ours to bargain with. The point I am making is that if an airline wanted to know that they would not be facing opposition maybe because of lobbying by competitors that the Government of Gibraltar would be supportive. Independent of financial support they still look for political support, do they not?

HON CHIEF MINISTER

Yes, that would not take 12 months to establish. The Government immediately indicates that The Government are in favour of competition on the route subject only to the caveat that we want competitors to demonstrate staying power because otherwise what happens is one gets people in just to ream off the lucrative part of the market, undermine the established operators with commitment and then go off and we get left holding the pieces.

HON A J ISOLA

Are Government aware of any applications being made to the CAA at the moment? Are they aware if any application has been made?

HON J J HOLLIDAY

I do not think that they have yet but I think that something will happen fairly soon.

HON DR J J GARCIA

If it is all subject to the general consideration of secrecy of the national interest or whatever it is, can the Government confirm whether one of these five would re-open the air link to Morocco, although I know it is out of the question?

HON CHIEF MINISTER

What the hon Members can not do by a process of elimination is get to the point of what routes are in question. They should just take us at our word, they can sit there patiently, when it happens they will no doubt need to congratulate the Government for achieving it. In the meantime there is nothing to be gained by unnecessary public discussion of this which can only prejudice the thing happening in the first place.

ORAL

NO. 381 OF 1999

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM - UK TRAVEL AGENTS.

How were the members selected for the group of UK travel agents who were brought out to Gibraltar around the weekend of 13-14 March this year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

The group was selected by the Gibraltar Tourist Board office in London.

It is one of the 13 groups of travel clerks already hosted under project 25 zero. The aim is to host 250 agents over one year on educationals.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 381 OF 1999

HON DR J J GARCIA

The actual selection of the delegates that come to Gibraltar as opposed to the companies which is probably what the Tourist Board would target, is that decided by individual firms?

HON J J HOLLIDAY

This initiative is a UK GTA initiative and basically the procedure is that we have selected a number of these travel educationals to Gibraltar and each one of them have been allocated to one particular tour operator. In the one in question of 13-14 March I believe was a Cosmos trip to Gibraltar and they basically selected, in this case I think it was 10 travel agents to come out to Gibraltar. Then the travel agents select their own employees, whoever they feel is suited to come out. The selection at that level I presume is done by the travel agent itself but initially the travel agents are selected by the particular tour operator and the tour operator in turn have been selected by the London Office of the Gibraltar Tourist Board.

HON DR J J GARCIA

So the Government then do not monitor or control the level within the organisation or within the travel agency that the delegate has actually reached. Because information we have is that many of the people who came on that particular trip were not actually managers or people in a decision-making position.

HON J J HOLLIDAY

I think the hon Member has been misinformed in this particular event. There was one particular trip on 26 February in which two of the people that came as members of travel agents were actually trainees and when we heard about them (obviously these people were in Gibraltar already) and we were not very happy because obviously their long term future within that particular firm was not good. We did nothing about it because it could only have a negative impact on us and possibly the travel trade but we have diplomatically put in now a proviso which stipulates that whoever comes representing a particular travel agent should have at least three years experience and be in actual employment and not as a trainee in that particular travel agent. But we have done that as a matter of course rather than referring to that particular incident.

NO. 382 OF 1999

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM - AIR/MARITIME LINKS WITH MOROCCO.

What steps have Government taken towards the re-establishment of air and maritime links between Gibraltar and Morocco?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

It is not for Government to make commercial arrangements to operate either an air service or sea service between Gibraltar and Morocco.

However, Government are particularly keen that there should be a regular service re-established for the benefit of Moroccan workers, pensions and obviously for tourists. To this end, the Government have been discussing with potential operators the re-establishment of air and maritime links on this route.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 382 OF 1999

HON DR J J GARCIA

Have Government investigated the possibility of EU funding for such an enterprise?

HON P C MONTEGRIFFO

We have no proposal that involves any reference to EU funding and I could not tell hon Members whether a proposal of this type would be eligible per se. My instinct is that it would probably not be because one of the overriding rules of eligibility is that expenditure has to be undertaken within the territory that is the recipient of the funds. So in the major schemes that apply to Gibraltar I do not think that they would extend to a ferry or air service quite apart from any other rule.

There is of course the Interreg programme and that is a different matter. The Interreg programme does exist for cross-frontier cooperation in this case with Morocco and indeed a large part of our Interreg has been dedicated for the conversion of the ferry terminal. So there has already been ferry related expenditure from the EU spent in the way I have suggested. There is certainly money for feasibility studies for example in support of such a link if that was to be desirable but we are not aware of any proposition being put to the Government to access further funding either in Interreg or otherwise in respect of the links that the hon Member is now enquiring about.

HON DR J J GARCIA

Given the Government's trade mission to Morocco last year, is it not a matter of urgency that these links do get under way as we probably have hundreds of businesses and investors waiting on the other side to cross the Straits.

HON P C MONTEGRIFFO

There was not a trade mission to Morocco last year. The trade mission that the hon Member describes is simply a visit of myself and the Commercial Director of the DTI going to Morocco for the first time in the tenure of this Government to investigate primarily how we could give impetus to our Interreg programme with Morocco. Because indeed the Moroccans generally, the Moroccan government, the Moroccan authorities, the Moroccan Chamber of Commerce, have been quite slow to take up the opportunities offered by the Interreg programme. Our visit was therefore very much one to push that initiative forward, also to reciprocate various visits the Moroccan businessmen had made to Gibraltar. It did persuade us indeed of the opportunities open to Gibraltar in Morocco in the medium term. I think that at short term they are difficult to exploit but in the medium term they are very real, and I think the Government do agree that the establishment of a permanent reliable transport link is a vital ingredient to them. Frankly, there are two vital ingredients, one is a transport link and the second is the vex and difficult issue of visas which currently prevents much greater exchange between Gibraltar and Morocco.

If unless those two issues are substantively resolved in the future, the full potential of that contact will never be realised.

HON DR J J GARCIA

Following on from the Minister's reply, perhaps he could advise what the latest situation is regarding the visas, precisely regarding that situation.

HON P C MONTEGRIFFO

I do not think that arises from this question and I think that frankly that is not a matter that is proper for me to comment on the question on the re-establishment of maritime communications.

NO. 383 OF 1999

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM - VISITORS FROM MOROCCO.

Can Government say what is the estimated negative impact on tourist expenditure of the non-arrival of visitors from Morocco during the period of the suspension of the ferry services?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

To date, it is estimated that the expenditure loss has not been particularly significant. The total number of visitors from Morocco over the period January to April 1999 was 590. It is expected that the suspension of the ferry service could have resulted in a drop in these numbers of some 70 to 80.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 383 OF 1999

HON DR J J GARCIA

The 70 or 80 refers to 70 or 80 visitors?

HON J J HOLLIDAY

That is correct, yes.

NO. 384 OF 1999

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM - MISS GIBRALTAR SHOW.

Can Government say who has been the successful tenderer for the Miss Gibraltar Show?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

The successful tenderer has been Film Exhibitors Limited.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 384 OF 1999

HON DR J J GARCIA

Can the Minister say how much they paid for staging this or what the procedure is?

HON J J HOLLIDAY

Film Exhibitors Limited have been awarded the tender in the sum of £17000.

HON DR J J GARCIA

Was there only one tenderer or were there more than one? If so who were the others and how much did they bid?

HON J J HOLLIDAY

I believe there were two tenders. The successful and one other.

HON DR J J GARCIA

Who was the other tenderer?

HON J J HOLLIDAY

GBC.

ORAL

NO. 385 OF 1999

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM - COACH PARK.

What toilet facilities are being planned for the new Coach Park?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

The following toilet facilities are being planned at the new Coach Park.

Within the Coach Terminus:

Ladies: 8 toilets and 3 washbasins and 1 toilet for the disabled

Gents: 5 toilets, 3 urinals; 3 washbasins and 1 toilet for the disabled.

At the building nearby, next to the Ferry Terminal:

Ladies: 7 toilets and 4 washbasins and 1 toilet for the disabled

Gents: 5 toilets, 6 urinals, 4 washbasins and 1 toilet for the disabled.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 385 OF 1999

HON J J GABAY

May I ask the Minister whether in fact there will be a ceremonial opening and inauguration of the toilet facilities?

HON CHIEF MINISTER

I will certainly be happy to invite the hon Member to do the ribbon cutting. He can do the ribbon cutting for that.

HON DR J J GARCIA

The question may seem trivial or light-hearted but I am sure to the many hundreds of tourists stuck in coaches and who want to avail themselves of the facility it is an important matter. Does the Minister think that those facilities are adequate given the volumes we get every day?

HON J J HOLLIDAY

Let me say that what I quoted as being what was going to be available at the building nearby was the facilities which were going to be put in place prior to 1996. What we have done is that we have obviously gone ahead with the building of a Coach Terminus which will have the required facilities which have been detailed here and the nearby building will be additional.

We are advised by the Quantity Surveyors who did the plan and layout of the buildings and work on this project that the facilities within the Coach Terminus will actually be sufficient considering the number and normal flow of passengers through the Terminus. It is something that I hold a lot of importance to and therefore I wanted to ensure that we did not have any problems.

NO. 386 OF 1999

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

GIBRALTAR DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION/SIGHTS MANAGEMENT.

Can Government state how many employees were transferred from Sights Management to the Gibraltar Development Corporation in February this year and can it confirm that these were included in the figure published of vacancies filled in that month?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

A total of 35 employees were transferred from Sights Management to the Gibraltar Development Corporation in February 1999.

Since the transfer arose as a result of a "Transfer of Undertakings" the vacancies were not published and were, therefore, not included in the figure for vacancies filled that month.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 386 OF 1999

HON J J BOSSANO

When the Minister says they were not published is he in fact saying that they were not registered as vacancies with the Employment and Training Board and therefore they do not appear as part of vacancies filled in the month by the Employment and Training Board. Is that what he means by published?

HON CHIEF MINISTER

Yes, they were not dealt with as vacancies at all. They were just a transfer of an activity with the staff in place.

HON J J BOSSANO

Is this in fact something that was done on this occasion or is this standard practice when there have been other transfers in other employments. Was this something that was done on the initiative of the employing department as it were rather than the ETB? That is the point that I am making.

HON CHIEF MINISTER

I think it just happens in that way I am not sure it is anybody's initiative. The hon Member speaks of previous examples, it probably also happened at the time of SOS and Calpe Cleaning Services. I do not think there have been any others.

No, there has been one other. There were two small companies (I do not remember their names) that used to provide sub-contract labour to JBS. Yes, one of them was called Western Isles or something. Their staff was incorporated directly into the staff of JBS.

HON J L BALDACHINO

But they do have now a term of engagement with the Gibraltar Development Corporation, is that correct?

HON CHIEF MINISTER

Yes.

HON J L BALDACHINO

And that has been registered with the ETB I suppose? Otherwise the Government would get fined.

HON CHIEF MINISTER

Yes, one would not expect the Inspectors to start with us.

ORAL

NO. 387 OF 1999

THE HON J J GABAY

EDUCATION - ST MARTIN'S SCHOOL.

Does the Minister of Education intend to take action with respect to the dangerous traffic situation in front of St Mary's School?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

The Minister for Education is not responsible for taking action with respect to traffic matters. These are my responsibility as Minister for Transport. The traffic situation in front of St Mary's School is no worse at present than it has been for many years. However, the Government do have plans to make the whole of Town Range, from its junction from George's Lane to the Department of Education safer for pedestrians by providing a pedestrian walkway on both sides of the road. This project should commence shortly.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 387 OF 1999

HON J J GABAY

Since it is now the responsibility of another Minister, could I ask the Minister for Transport whether he has received any representations from the Minister of Education as to the dangers posed to the children who really walk out onto a main road and the traffic jams that tend to occur there? Particularly during the lunch hour, which has attracted of course even press correspondence in fact.

HON CHIEF MINISTER

In the first place the question relates to the situation in front of St Mary's School. In front of St Mary's School children do not walk straight into a main road because there are railings there. The danger is not in front of St Mary's School the danger is when the children get to the end of the railings and they have to come out onto a road with no pavements and that is what the answer addresses.

The situation in front of St Mary's School is not one where children walk straight onto a road.

HON J J GABAY

I think that the Chief Minister is under-estimating the adventurous nature of some children who actually climb over it. This is really part of the danger.

HON CHIEF MINISTER

If the hon Member thinks that the danger lies in the fact that children jump over fences, that would then be a problem in front of every school in Gibraltar. In fact if that is the problem I can think of much more dangerous places than St Mary's. Notre Dame for example, where there is only one fence between the school gate and a two-lane carriageway, which is one of the major thoroughfares in Gibraltar.

HON J J GABAY

All I can say is that perhaps the situation there should also be investigated with the intention of taking perhaps steps to secure the children.

HON CHIEF MINISTER

No, the hon Member should not misunderstand the nature of our answers. The nature of our answers is not that we are satisfied with the safety of pedestrians in the area of St Mary's School, it is just that his question related to the position in front of St Mary's School and that is not where the problem lies. The problem does not lie in front of the school the problem lies in the access, both ends for that matter, to the school and that is being addressed. The Government do agree that there are difficulties, I mean the pavement really begin until one is within 15 yards of the front door of the school. How does one get to that pavement in the first place? Only by coming along a road with no pavement and that is being addressed for that very reason.

HON J J GABAY

If it is being addressed we look forward to seeing how it is going to be addressed.

ORAL

NO. 388 OF 1999

THE HON J J GABAY

REPAIR TO PUBLIC HIGHWAYS.

Do Government intend to repair the dilapidated and derelict condition of many of our ramps and alleyways of which Frazer's Ramp is but a glaring example?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

The dilapidated state of many of our public highways, including ramps and alleyways, is the result of many years of neglect and lack of investment. Government have already started to tackle this matter vigorously, introducing an on-going programme of refurbishment and embellishment of our highways. The great improvements in this area are self evident. Government will shortly announce details of a programme of similar embellishment for the Upper Town area as part of an urban renewal programme.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 388 OF 1999

HON J J GABAY

There are two dimensions in respect of this problem. One is the element of beautification which may well take a longer period of time and I am sure that the Minister is aware that English Heritage has described our ramps and alleyways in the upper part of the town as perhaps unique in Europe if properly repaired and beautified. That is one aspect of a long-term nature. But there are some really like Frazer's Ramp which are hazardous to people and it has been illustrated in photographs in the press as well and I was wondering whether there is a plan for immediate tackling of areas like Frazer's Ramp?

HON CHIEF MINISTER

It was once famously and I think most unfairly said of me that I would need a map to find the Laguna Estate. That was not true but it would certainly be true that I would need a map to know where Frazer's Ramp is and perhaps the hon Member could educate me on that.

HON J J GABAY

The answer is very simpler He should read all articles in the Gibraltar Chronicle not just those that compliment him.

HON CHIEF MINISTER

So is he going to educate me or not? Perhaps he does not know where it is. Does the hon Member know where it is?

HON J J GABAY

I thought that the Government were here to answer questions not to ask them.

What was said about the Chief Minister and his lack of knowledge of the topography of the place had connotations more serious than whether I know the exact location of a particular ramp. Since I am not here to answer the question I still will not.

HON CHIEF MINISTER

Does the hon Member know or does he not know that it is a dilapidated and derelict condition, and if he does not know where it is he can not have visited it and if he has not visited it how does he know it is in a dilapidated and derelict condition?

HON J J GABAY

It is up to the Chief Minister with his newly acquired knowledge of local topography and friendliness with the mass of the people that he should know about it or find out about it.

NO. 389 OF 1999

THE HON J J GABAY

CULLING OF APES.

Can Government confirm that 25 apes have been killed in order to reduce numbers?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

A pack of apes established itself in the Catalan Bay area towards the end of last year and was causing damage to property in the area.

After consultation with the Gibraltar Ornithological and Natural History Society it was decided that the only humane way to remove these animals was to have the pack put down.

This was done humanely by experts with the exercise cleared by the Zurich University team who have been working with GONHS on the apes. Minimum distress was caused to the animals from which samples were taken for genetic research on the origins of the Rock Apes.

Twenty four animals were culled. These could not be moved elsewhere as they would have returned and no institution which wanted them overseas was found.

Culling as a method may need to be used again but the requirement for this will reduce once the prepared management plan is implemented. The intention is to stabilise the population at about 180 animals in 6 groups of about 30.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 389 OF 1999

HON J J GABAY

I am aware of most of the facts that have been given in answer. I appreciate the fact that the particular pack that had gone down to settle around Catalan Bay was causing a problem to visitors and tourists and that something had to be done. Talking about public reaction, I think it was very welcome when it was known that a very humane approach had been taken on the previous occasion by exporting 25 or 26 apes. That was well advertised and I think rightly so.

The killing of the last lot did not receive equal attention and I think it has actually upset, particularly members of the younger generation who are animal lovers, this is actually a fact that I know at first instance. Nevertheless, coming back to the point I agree with the Minister that something has to be done when they pose a problem.

The question that I would like to ask in fact further to that introduction is since the GONHS seems to be the more appropriate for undertaking this task and I believe that they have written in to the Government with some project that would avoid these occasions when they have to be culled, by actually applying a scientific approach of management of the apes. I would like to know if the Minister feels this is possible and whether he might do something in that direction?

HON J J HOLLIDAY

I think that it goes a bit beyond what the hon Member has said. We have negotiated a programme to manage the apes and although an agreement has not yet been signed because it is now part of a legal document, we are actually in agreement with GONHS that they should take over the management of the apes with suitable veterinary care taken by Mark Pizarro who will take care of the medical aspects of the apes, in order to have a proper management programme in place. This is what I have referred to in my answer when I have said that once the prepared management plan is implemented it should avoid culling so long as we keep the numbers down to about 180 which I think is a manageable number to take care of.

HON J C PEREZ

In order to bring the numbers down to 180 is it the intention of the Government to carry out more culls in order to arrive at that number or have they already arrived at that number?

HON J J HOLLIDAY

My understanding is that the number is slightly higher than 180 but what they would like to do as part of this prepared management plan is to obviously medically assess each individual animal and then take a decision as to which are the ones we should try and preserve and which are the ones which may be subject to culling, export or we will have to go down the route of possible contraception in the future, but that is an expensive way of keeping numbers down. So the options are being considered for the future.

HON J C PEREZ

If I remember correctly when the Government issued the press release praising the Minister for the fact that instead of culling them we were exporting them to zoos, something which has not happened with the change of policy, it was stated then that contraception and other forms of methods by the same professor which the Minister has mentioned from Switzerland was a method which was to be implemented in order that the culling should only be as a last resort. Can the Minister state whether all these things happened before the decision to kill the apes was taken?

HON J J HOLLIDAY

At the time of the problem of Catalan Bay I can confirm that GONHS were in touch with a number of possible places where these animals could be exported and unfortunately, as I have said in my answer, we were not able to find anybody wanting them. At the same time, the time of the year was not right. At the last time we exported the animals and I think it was in October we were basically coming up to the period where in Germany, obviously the temperatures drop, and the animals needed a certain amount of transitional time at the right temperature and therefore exporting them beyond October was not an option. That is why we had to take very quick decisions in October to export the animals at that point in time, delaying the export of these animals by a few weeks would have meant that it would have been detrimental to the animals themselves so we would have had to take the decision of culling them then. This was not an option in December because of the temperature, it was impossible for the zoos where these animals would have gone to, but in any case, we asked around but nobody really wanted the animals at that point in time.

Let me say that there has not been a change of policy, our preference is to export rather than cull them but it is not always possible to export as was the case in December.

HON J C PEREZ

The way the Minister is speaking, the possibility of exporting apes has still not been exhausted it seems. There are still possibilities of exporting them instead of having to kill them. Fine. But if the opportunity arises in the winter not in the summer, it might be an opportune thing to leave them alive for the summer period and then export them in the winter. That is what I am saying. But I think that every step should be taken to try and not kill them if that is at all a possibility. The Minister might be joking about it but there are very many people that feel very strongly about killing apes.

HON CHIEF MINISTER

Let us be clear, if they feel very strongly about it as do we all, apes have always been culled in Gibraltar as the hon Member knows. That is why the problem has arisen and that is why we now have the problem that we have. It is all very well to avoid taking unpleasant decisions to manage a problem, the result is that the problem becomes unmanageable and the solution needs to be more extreme. Nobody enjoys issuing an instruction that animals be culled but seagulls are culled and sometimes it is necessary. The question is, I agree with the hon Member, that culling should be the last resort and that indeed is the Government's policy. All other avenues are exhausted before culling is resorted to and even when culling is resorted to, the question of humanity and humaneness arises from the way in which the culling is done. That is the principal aspect in humaneness.

HON LT COL E M BRITTO

I think what Opposition Members cannot shy away from is the direct responsibility that they had when they were in Government to have created the situation of the large increase in the ape population. I stood up in this House as a Member of the Opposition from those benches and I warned the then Government, and it was a subject I had had hands on practical experience about as Commanding Officer of the Gibraltar Regiment, I warned them that if they persisted in the policy that they had of allowing the ape population to increase uncontrolled, we would end up with the situation that we have now. Not just the large numbers but the packs splitting up and new sub-packs being created throughout Gibraltar. That is exactly what has happened because Mr Pilcher as the Minister for Tourism at the time, said from these benches that it was Government policy not to control the ape population. Not to control, never mind kill them, not to control them and therefore it was a declared policy to let the ape population increase. As a direct result of their policy, which I warned them about on those benches at the time, what has happened is a direct result of their policy. It is established scientific fact from the American Universities who reported to the Gibraltar Regiment and which I told them about and which I said the reports were available, that the ape maximum size (the maximum size recommended of an ape pack) is about 40. The moment the ape pack increases beyond the number of 40 there is an increasing risk of the pack splitting. And what happens the moment the pack splits is that one gets two leaders, two packs and obviously the size of the Rock is limited, the amount of vegetation for food is limited and one gets the packs coming down into town, into Moorish Castle and into Catalan Bay.

HON J J BOSSANO

Without going into competition for the leadership amongst competing leaders in a pack which is not a problem we experience very often in the Opposition but sometimes happens on that side, I am told without going into that aspect or indeed the fact that the military propensity for going round killing people like the Government Member who was not able to be satisfied when he was in Opposition and now feels that he has been able to satisfy them in government. I mean, have we not just heard from the

Minister for Tourism that they can stabilise a population of 180 and that he does not even know if it is above that number and the Minister is saying that they killed 25, not because they became a nuisance in Catalan Bay but because presumably, the numbers got too big. As far as he is concerned he would have killed them whether they were in Catalan Bay or not simply because there were too many of them. Culling is a way of hiding genocide.

NO. 390 OF 1999

THE HON A J ISOLA

TOURISM - YACHT ARRIVALS.

How many yacht arrivals have been registered in each of the months of January, February, March and April of 1999?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

There is a subtle distinction which the questionnaires are perhaps trying to draw between the yacht arrivals, as requested in Question No. 361, and the number of yacht arrivals "registered" at Gibraltar, requested in Question No. 390. The figures which are usually recorded as yacht arrivals, and which are published in the Tourist Survey Report, which is laid before the House, consists solely of visiting yacht arrivals.

However, the Port Department registers yacht arrivals and they record in their register not only visiting yacht arrivals but also arrivals of home-based yachts which have been away from Gibraltar.

Therefore, in order for clarity's sake, the two sets of figures are as follows:

January	87 visiting yacht arrivals plus 12 home-based yacht arrivals total 99 yacht arrivals registered
February	75 visiting yacht arrivals plus 18 home-based yacht arrivals total 93 yacht arrivals registered
March	177 visiting yacht arrivals plus 28 home-based yacht arrivals total 205 yacht arrivals registered
April	289 visiting yacht arrivals plus 18 home-based yacht arrivals total 307 yacht arrivals registered.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 361 AND 390 OF 1999

HON A J ISOLA

Did I hear the Minister correctly In saying that the figure that is used in the Government statistics 5 the yacht arrivals not registered, in other words exclusive home returns.

HON J J HOLLIDAY

That is correct. The home-based yachts are not included in the Tourist Survey.

NO. 391 OF 1999

THE HON A J ISOLA

GIBRALTAR PORT AUTHORITY.

Can Government state what is its target date for setting up the Gibraltar Port Authority?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

The target date for the setting up of the Gibraltar Port Authority is September 1999.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 391 OF 1999

HON A J ISOLA

Could the Minister tell this House what he intends the new Port Authority to do in the sense that we have a Port Department and it should be replaced by a Port Authority which from what I read of what I think is in an interview I am not sure if it is in the shipping supplement, it indicates that there will be structural changes and that this will be on a more commercial footing I understand. What exactly does that mean? What changes does the Minister propose?

HON J J HOLLIDAY

The recommendations that were made by MBS were transferrable and subsequently considered by the steering committee are in the process of now being put into a policy paper which should shortly be considered by Ministers.

The Gibraltar Port Authority obviously will involve a re-structure of the present format of the Port Department and in that new structure there will be a commercial division to the Port because Government does feel that we should have a far more pro-active role within the Gibraltar Port Authority in order to promote and sell the Port services internationally. That is basically the re-structure that we are following. We have had some discussions with the Unions in respect of the re-structure, no formal negotiations have commenced because obviously we will need to get clearance from Ministers in respect of the proposed structure before we can actually proceed with formal negotiations. I am hopeful that that will happen shortly and we hope the negotiations will allow us to be able to constitute the Gibraltar Port Authority.

HON A J ISOLA

Can I draw from that that in fact the Chief Executive of the Port Authority will be a new recruit whose primary role will be the marketing and development of the Port? Is that what his primary function will be?

HON J J HOLLIDAY

Yes, I feel that the idea of having a Chief Executive within the Gibraltar Port Authority to basically control the financial and sales side of the Port and have the existing structure or the existing personnel more related towards nautical and maritime related operational and navigational control and have the Chief Executive and a possible small team of people working in a more commercial framework of actually going out rather

than have myself trying to sell the Port at different areas, which I will continue to do, but actually have support of having a permanent active position in place to be able to undertake that role from a more professional way.

HON A J ISOLA

Would the Captain of the Port retain a position within the authority, obviously he would not be the senior officer, I imagine the Chief Executive would be, would the Captain of the Port still retain his statutory responsibilities and other responsibilities?

HON CHIEF MINISTER

In respect of the navigational safety of shipping and type functions these will not change.

HON J J BOSSANO

The Port Authority is envisaged as a statutory body like the Health Authority?

HON J J HOLLIDAY

That is correct.

HON J J BOSSANO

There would be an ordinance setting it up as was the case with the Health Authority?

HON J J HOLLIDAY

That is correct.

NO. 392 OF 1999

THE HON A J ISOLA

CONTAINER TRANSHIPMENT FACILITY.

Can Government confirm whether it has received firm proposals for a container transhipment facility?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Government can confirm that firm proposals for a container transhipment facility have not been received, even though there has been contact with possible developers and operators who are keen on this project.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 392 OF 1999

HON A J ISOLA

Are Government considering in any way the investment of the reported £180 million investment necessary to create this transhipment facility independently of any commercial operator?

HON J J HOLLIDAY

That is one of the options that Government have considered and is still open to us. The feeling is that we should go down the route of rebuild rather than developing the facilities ourselves. That is the way and the route that most of these container transhipment are developed. If it makes commercial sense to the developer and the operators who develop the container then it is much more feasible to get the project off to fruition.

HON A J ISOLA

So the position then is, in fact, if an operator who is satisfied of the commercial viability of the transhipment facility were to make a proposal to Government to do what the Minister has said that is to rebuild and operate, this sort of proposal the Government would be happy to receive but it has not yet received at this stage?

HON J J HOLLIDAY

Government would be very happy to receive any proposals that any commercial entity wished to put forward. I can tell the hon Gentleman that I have had discussions with such interested parties and Government have gone down the route that it must put the project out to tender. I believe that in the market we are in and the possibilities and potential that Gibraltar has, I do not think that we can come to an agreement with any particular operator without actually putting the project out to tender. However, in order to prepare suitable tender documents we have to identify a suitable financial institution which the Government need appointed to be able to coordinate such tender process. It is a complicated issue and we do not have the expertise readily available. There are not many institutions that have that capability and these tender documents must include both an engineering feasibility study in order for tenderers to actually consider what the cost of bringing the project to fruition is like. In addition to that we

have been advised that it is important that we should have a market potential feasibility study also done, especially as there are other locations in the vicinity of Gibraltar who are either actively pursuing this type of project or are actually going down the road of developing the actual container transshipment facility.

Therefore, we are at the stage at the moment when all this is now going to start to be put together in order to bring these into tender process. It is also a possibility that EU funds could be available for a project of this nature and therefore we would have to go down the route of meeting European legislation in terms of tendering publications and advertising of public tender procedures. So, that is at the stage that the Government are at the moment.

HON A J ISOLA

As a final question, do Government have any idea by when it will be in a position to invite tenders. When it would expect to be in a position to invite tenders?

HON J J HOLLIDAY

The reality of the situation is that it is a complex project and therefore it is not something that can be brought to fruition very quickly. There are lots of legal advice that needs to be sought in this matter, advice outside Gibraltar as well, therefore it is a matter that is progressing but not progressing at the rate that we would like to see it. But it is something that we are very much on top and we recognise the importance of this project to Gibraltar and therefore we wish to continue pursuing it, as I have said publically in the media, that if it is commercially viable then obviously the project would be coming to fruition quickly.

HON J J BOSSANO

In this indicative figure of £180 million investment, is a substantial part of that investment in new reclamation?

HON J J HOLLIDAY

Yes, that is the figure. I have spoken to more than one possible developer/operator and that is the figure that has been floated around. Obviously they judge this on the engineering requirements that would be needed to put in place additional land which would need to be available for this project to come to reality.

HON J J BOSSANO

In relation to the possibility of EU funding, would that be dependent on further new funding beyond 1999, that is presumably what is available from the 1995/1999 programme would not be something that could be used for this.

HON J J HOLLIDAY

That is correct. I mean it is nothing to do with the current 1995/1999 EU funding project it will be a completely different funding at source of EU funds.

ORAL

NO. 393 OF 1999

THE HON A J ISOLA

ELECTRONIC TRANSPORT.

What plans do Government have, if any, for the introduction of electronic transport in Gibraltar?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Government have no plans to introduce electronic transport in Gibraltar. Indeed Government do not know what electronic transport is.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 393 OF 1999

HON A J ISOLA

I am surprised that Government should not be aware what electronic transport is, bearing in mind it paid £7,652 for an eco-motion survey which they told in answer to Question, no, the answer says "to assess the potential benefits and cost of introducing electronic transport in Gibraltar" and that is an answer the Chief Minister gave me, so if he does not know what it is perhaps he can tell us what he paid £7,500 for. The answer says electronic transport. Do they have any proposals in respect of electric transport if they do not understand what the word electronic means?

HON CHIEF MINISTER

Only indirectly. One of the issues being considered under the provision of public transport, is whether some of the services should be operated by electric vehicles to minimise pollution in the centre of town.

HON A J ISOLA

Is that something that is then under consideration at present? Is that what the Chief Minister has said, I am not sure I caught it.

HON CHIEF MINISTER

It is an idea. It is subject to cost. Electric vehicles are much more expensive. It is one of the ideas, one of the concepts being considered for a new public transport system.

HON A J ISOLA

I assume the recommendations of the report by a Dutch or Danish company, did they provide recommendations which Government have considered? And did they provide a cost tag to that proposal?

HON CHIEF MINISTER

I am afraid I have no knowledge of that.

ORAL

NO. 394 OF 1999

THE HON J C PEREZ

PUBLIC BUS SERVICE.

Have the Government now considered the recommendations of the Review Team on the Public Bus Service in Gibraltar?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Government are still considering the recommendations and especially how they can be implemented.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 394 OF 1999

HON J C PEREZ

Can the Minister give us an Indication of when the Government are prepared to allow action on this given that the Chief Minister has been boasting for three minutes now that we are going to have a superb bus service that is going to be the envy of the world. Can the Minister state when it would be in a position perhaps to disclose, I asked the last time whether he would disclose at least on confidential basis what those recommendations were or whether when he would be in a position to state what action Government intend to take as a result of those recommendations?

HON CHIEF MINISTER

There is a difference between the review team's recommendation on the one hand and the Government's ideas for a new public transport system on the other. The review team dealt mainly with operational matters, routes, ticketing structures, fare structures, things of that sort. The Government's proposals, which we are trying to consider side by side with, is for a complete replacement of the infrastructure of the public transport system, in other words, a large investment in a new and different type of fleet of buses. That in turn raises the question of whether the existing licensees can afford the investment. If they can not it raises questions of how the Government restructures the licensing system, what happens to the existing licences. It really is not just a matter of financial resources involved but indeed also of the accrued commercial rights of established operators and how they can be married to a new investment on which they can not participate. I can not give the hon Member an indication but I suppose it will be some time before the next elections. It is a priority because the Government believe the public transport system with one or two exceptions, one or two of the services are quite well run, but most of it is pretty shocking and as part of what I referred to some time ago as an integrated transport policy, partly encouraging people to use their cars less, part of that jigsaw is a reliable, efficient easy-to-use public transport system and I do not believe that that is what we have got.

NO. 395 OF 1999

THE HON J C PEREZ

TRAFFIC FLOW - LOWER TOWN AREA.

Other than encouraging people to use their cars less have Government any plans to alleviate the traffic congestion in the lower town area?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Recent changes to rights of way at the Trafalgar Cemetery junction have greatly improved congestion of traffic travelling from the south district into the town area and Queensway.

Government will shortly introduce changes to traffic control and flow arrangements to accelerate traffic flows at the Winston Churchill Avenue/Glaciis Road/Corral Road/Smith Dorrien Avenue junction.

Government are also studying ways of improving traffic flows at peak times out of Europort Avenue into Queensway.

The opening of Lovers' Lane will also improve the southbound traffic through Line Wall Road and enable the reversal of traffic flow at Secretary's Lane.

These Plans are expected to alleviate the traffic flow in the lower town area.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 395 OF 1999

HON J C PEREZ

We would just have to wait and see to what extent it alleviates the present chaos if at all. I mean I am glad that the Chief Minister has at long last admitted that there is chaos.

HON CHIEF MINISTER

I was just congratulating myself on the fact that whereas a few months ago he used to use the word chaos" I am gratified that in the question he no longer uses the word "chaos" which suggests to me that he thinks the situation is vastly improved.

HON J C PEREZ

No I do not but I am glad that he recognises that there is chaos.

NO. 396 OF 1999

THE HON J C PEREZ

TRANSPORT - TINT OF REAR WINDSCREENS.

Have Government now taken a decision over the representations made by some car dealers about the tint of rear windscreens on vehicles manufactured to EU specifications?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

At the present time the Government are taking legal advice on this matter.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 396 OF 1999

HON J C PEREZ

Can the Minister expand on it, I know it is illegal because we passed the law but when we amended the law for the taxis to be exempt from the tint of the rear window the Minister said that he had received representations from certain car dealers and that this was being looked into as well. What is the legal problem other than our own legislation?

HON J J HOLLIDAY

As the hon Member has said, we received representations from more than one car dealer in respect of some vehicles that do not meet the local legal requirements and we have passed this on for legal advice because we wish to know whether the law as it stands today is in line with European Union specification or whether there is a need for us to reconsider the position in respect of it. Once I receive the legal advice obviously then a decision can be taken.

HON J C PEREZ

Does the Minister not realise that he does not need to take legal advice to find that out, he only has to read Hansard. When the Bill was introduced the Chief Minister said that we wanted to be better and more than Europe and that we were going to go one step further than Europe. That is what has brought about the problem that whereas the cars are manufactured to European Union standards our legislation has in fact gone further than what the European Union advised Member countries to do. It was a deliberate thing that was done and defended by the Chief Minister in his contribution to the Bill.

HON CHIEF MINISTER

That is only partially right. It is not that the Gibraltar law goes further than the European Union. Incidentally, that particular European Union directive does not apply to Gibraltar because it is adopted under Article 100 relating to the Single Market and the freedom in goods and directives adopted under that legal base do not apply in Gibraltar. We nevertheless used it as a model for tinted windows legislation because we wanted to introduce tinted windows legislation as a matter of domestic policy even though we were not obliged to implement that particular directive.

Our legislation did not go beyond the EU requirement insofar as the percentage of translucency is concerned. In other words, our legislation permits windows or rather our legislation prohibits windows of less translucency the same as the EU law does. The difference where we have gone further is that we have extended it to windows to which the European Union directive does not apply. In other words, whereas the European Union directive applies for windows from the middle of the car forward, because we were introducing this legislation for a completely different reason, we all know what that reason is, we extended it to all the windows of the car. That is the extent to which the Gibraltar law goes further than EU law. Ours applies to all the windows of the car, front, back whereas the European Union directive only applies to the front passenger side and the driver side window and the front windscreen and our applies to the two back passenger windows and the rear window. That is the position.

HON J C PEREZ

Nothing that the Chief Minister has said contradicts anything that I have said. What I am asking the Minister is what is it that has gone to legal advice? We know what the problem is. The problem is that we legislated over and above the requirements. Not in the density but in the windows that have been included. So we know what the problem is, what is it that is being looked at legally now?

HON CHIEF MINISTER

I would rather not answer that question in the public domain. I do not mind briefing the hon Member privately. There are other issues to do with whether people that had cars with those windows are entitled to be compensated for the cost of changing them. There are all sorts of ancillary issues. It is a subject of a global legal view of the whole thing and until the legal advice is made available to Ministers, which has not yet occurred, I would rather not comment publically on it.

HON J J BOSSANO

Were the Government aware at the time they introduced the legislation into the House that it did not have to introduce such legislation as a matter of community obligation because that was not said at the time we debated it. The impression that was given was the opposite.

HON CHIEF MINISTER

I can not recall whether we said it or whether we did not but I certainly do not remember giving the opposite impression. My recollection is that we actually said we were not bound by it. The Government were aware of it, indeed we considered it from the other point of view. If Gibraltar did not adopt an Article 100a directive, would this prejudice the argument that Article 100a directives did not apply to Gibraltar, which I also told the hon Members was now under challenge by the Commission itself. Therefore we considered if at the same time we are arguing that Article 100a directives do not apply to Gibraltar, if we go off and apply one, albeit because we want to do it for some other reason, does this somehow weaken our argument about the general applicability of Article 100a. So we were definitely aware of this. It was considered very carefully. Actually advice was taken on this very point that I am now putting to the hon Member as to whether it would prejudice.

HON J J BOSSANO

I believe speaking from memory that in fact the very point that was made was are we required to do this by Community law and the reply was no we are going beyond what we are required to do. This is why I am saying this is the first time we have heard that we are not to do anything at all.

HON CHIEF MINISTER

I am not prepared to contradict the hon Member's memory nor am I willing to concede to it. What he can not do is create an impression on the basis of the recollection of which he himself has little confidence in.

HON J J BOSSANO

Sufficient confidence to ask the question.

HON CHIEF MINISTER

No, but the hon Member is repeatedly saying that he does not recall it being said. I am sorry that the hon Member does not recall it being said I can not say with certainty whether it was said or not. My recollection is the opposite of the hon Member's that is, that it was said, but that is what Hansard is for, so that no one has to rely on the recollection of either of us.

ORAL

NO. 397 OF 1999

THE HON J C PEREZ

TRANSPORT - MOT TEST CENTRE

Can Government state whether the works for the extension of the MOT Test Centre at Eastern Beach Road have now commenced?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

These works have not commenced as yet.

Building contractors have recently been invited to tender for these works and the closing date for receipt of such tenders is Friday 11th June 1999.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 397 OF 1999

HON J C PEREZ

Yes I did notice that the tender notice came out after the question had been submitted.

HON J J BOSSANO

Like so many other things.

ORAL

NO. 398 OF 1999

THE HON J C PEREZ

TRANSPORT - MOT CERTIFICATES.

Will owners of vehicles liable to an MOT test be required, this year, to produce an MOT test certificate at the time of renewing their road tax disc?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Owners of motor vehicles liable to a roadworthiness test will be required to produce a Roadworthiness Certificate or documentary evidence that an appointment has been made to have the vehicle tested.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 398 OF 1999

HON J C PEREZ

So if for example the appointment for any reason is not met one could have a situation where there is a vehicle which has not undergone the MOT test but has already got the disc with him. That is a possibility, one has got an appointment with the MOT Test Centre, one cancels for any reason then one does not go again and the disc is already in the possession of the owner of that vehicle.

HON J J HOLLIDAY

Yes that can happen. However, when one goes to book a test one has to pay to get the appointment done, so we hope that that will be a deterrent for those who wish to not put their vehicles to a road worthy state.

HON J C PEREZ

Is it as we suggested last year, that at the time of the renewal of the disc there is a rush to get appointments and that is why the system has had to be done like this, because people by nature do not do it until the last minute when they have to, and there is now a rush and therefore the appointments have been spread out over a longer period. Is that the reason why the evidence of the appointment matter has been introduced?

HON J J HOLLIDAY

Well this was introduced to ensure that those that have not been able to have the roadworthiness certificate or their car examined prior to the MOT disc expiring or their road disc expiring, would have the opportunity to be able to renew their road disc so long as they do have the roadworthiness test booked and paid for. Obviously, once people have made appointments it will be a matter for the administration to ensure that these people are followed up so that the test is actually undertaken.

HON A J ISOLA

Without wanting to put ideas into anybody's head, this fee that the Minister mentioned for appointments, is that fee lost if one postpones the appointment?

HON J J HOLLIDAY

I believe that one does not lose everything. I think one can change it once and the second time is when one has to pay a small amount to have it changed.

NO. 399 OF 1999

THE HON J C PEREZ

TOURISM - LIFEGUARDS AND CLEANERS.

Can Government state what arrangements are being made this year for the provision of lifeguards and cleaners at our beaches?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

A total of 12 lifeguards will be provided with the same training and facilities as in previous years.

Full cleaning facilities will be provided by 2 ex-Sights cleaners as well as by 12 extra seasonal beach cleaners that will be employed for the bathing season only.

Responsibility for lifeguards and cleaners for the beaches will be assumed by the Gibraltar Tourist Board.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 399 OF 1999

HON J C PEREZ

Will these temporary employees be employed by the Tourism Board or by the Development Corporation?

HON J J HOLLIDAY

They will be employed by the Gibraltar Development Corporation.

HON J C PEREZ

So the figures that the Minister has mentioned of the seasonal ones, they are I presume the same amount of people that would have normally been taken on by Sights for this function.

HON J J HOLLIDAY

That is correct. On this occasion we are following the same procedure as Sights Management followed in previous years and obviously we will then assess what the needs are thereafter.

HON J C PEREZ

Obviously if Camp Bay is open to the public one might possibly need more people given that last year I think it was partially closed and that could have resulted in less seasonal people being employed.

HON J J HOLLIDAY

Obviously I leave that to the Product Manager who has responsibility for this to decide what the requirements are and if the need arises, obviously he will adjust the volume.

NO. 400 OF 1999

THE HON J C PEREZ

PHASE 1 OF PEDESTRIANISATION WORKS.

Has Phase 1 of the pedestrianisation works now been passed on to the Government by the contractor?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

I am unclear what the hon Member means by this question as he does not define the term "the pedestrianisation works".

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 400 OF 1999

HON J C PEREZ

I did ask a similar question some time ago and the Minister told me that the problem in passing on for example, Tuckey's Lane pedestrianisation to the Government, which is part of Phase 1, was that there were certain problems with the actual neighbours there that the contractor was negotiating with and that was why the Minister said the works had not been passed to the Government. I am asking whether those problems have now been resolved and whether the works have now been passed on by the contractor to the Government because they have finished them completely and the problems have been resolved.

HON J J HOLLIDAY

I was under the impression that the hon Member may have been asking the question in respect of Main Street. If he is referring to Phase 1 of Irish Town, that has not yet been formally handed over to the Government. No, there are still a number of issues that need to be addressed by the contractor.

HON J C PEREZ

Can the Minister say whether there is litigation between the Government and the contractor and some of the tenants in the area? Because the Minister told me I think it was between 6 and 9 months ago that that was the problem then and it does not seem to have been resolved. Has he got an update of the situation?

HON J J HOLLIDAY

There is a list of pending matters which have not been addressed as yet. Some of them are being addressed at present and some of them will have been addressed at the time of completing Irish Town, a section which now looks complete. I think we are now reaching the point where our own adviser on this will be examining the list of pending matters and will be advising us whether we are in a position to accept responsibility for the hand over of this particular phase. But as we speak today the project has not been handed over as yet. There are still pending matters on the list.

ORAL

NO. 401 OF 1999

THE HON J C PEREZ

LOVER'S LANE.

Can Government state whether the works at Lover's Lane are on schedule and when they expect the road to be open to vehicular traffic?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

The works along the stretch of Line Wall Road commonly known as Lover's Lane is six weeks behind programme. As a result of this delay the revised completion date for the contract is now the end of June 1999.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 401 OF 1999

HON J C PEREZ

Which is when they expect the road to be opened to the general public?

HON J J HOLLIDAY

That is correct.

HON J C PEREZ

I would advise the Minister not to do like the toilets and not to ask my hon Colleague to break the ribbon at Lover's Lane.

HON CHIEF MINISTER

I am determined that we should do that one ourselves but I am confident that even he will think when he has seen the finished product that it is a worthwhile improvement and embellishment to the area without having damaged any of the heritage. I am confident of our ability to persuade him even of that.

HON J J GABAY

I would not want to recall the heated and varied exchanges we had on the subject but I am afraid I do not agree.

NO. 402 OF 1999

THE HON J J GABAY

EDUCATION - QUALIFIED TEACHER STATUS.

Has the Minister for Education taken a decision in respect of the UK Government's policy whereby every newly qualified teacher employed on or after 1st September 1999 must satisfactorily complete an induction period in order to retain Qualified Teacher Status (QTS)?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND YOUTH

The question as stated does not quite reflect the new UK arrangements for newly qualified teachers (NQTs) though there is those who qualify after 7th May 1999.

The situation as described in Circular 5/99 of the DFE issued on the 12th of this month is as follows (and I quote) :-

"The new arrangements do not change the fact that Qualified Teacher Status is awarded at the successful completion of initial teacher training. However, Newly Qualified Teachers who do not satisfactorily complete a statutory induction period (of 3 school terms or equivalent) will not be eligible for employment in a maintained school ...".

This, Mr Speaker, is almost exactly the position which has always existed in Gibraltar, namely, that newly qualified teachers are required to undergo a one year probationary period before their permanent appointment is confirmed.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 402 OF 1999

HON J J GABAY

Since this has been described in education circles in the United Kingdom as a turning point in education and a radical change, are we to believe that the probationary year in Gibraltar lives up to the very exacting standards that have been included in the United Kingdom for this induction year?

HON DR B LINARES

Yes, the hon Member is right. The circular that I have quoted actually sets out in great detail the methods of assessment and monitoring. It is intended to be a positive approach not an inspectorial negative approach. It is a way of developing the skills in a practical way of newly qualified teachers, and I agree that the circular and the instructions there will be of great use to our head teachers and our advisers when assessing teachers locally during their probationary year.

I meant that in principle, whereas in Britain the probationary year was dropped a number of years ago, they are now reinstating it but we have kept it throughout. What we need now is actually to fine-tune the methods of assessment for our new teachers. The circular and the instructions in the UK will certainly be very useful.

HON J J GABAY

Does that mean to say that locally as happens under the induction year now, that the headmaster of a school will have the right to remove the teacher training status if dissatisfied at the end of the year. Because this is one of the major points as well in the induction year in England.

HON DR B LINARES

I do not quite agree. The qualified teacher status as such is not removed. The status is intrinsic and the circular makes it clear it is given at the end of the initial period of training. It is the employability aspect which can be jeopardised by a failure exceptionally.

The circular also makes it clear that normally it is very unlikely that qualified teachers, because as the hon Member knows, the qualifying period, the training period, includes an element of teaching practice which would have revealed whether an individual teacher is up to the job or not.

HON J J GABAY

So really the induction year as specified in the United Kingdom in all its various details, is not to be introduced into Gibraltar and the Minister feels the probationary year, which I assume is of a far more general and personal nature, will continue to prevail. If this is so, how will it affect for example a teacher or a student who gets PGCE then comes to teach in Gibraltar but for some reason or another may wish to change to the United Kingdom, will he be handicapped as a result of that. If so, can any steps be taken to see whether a linkage can be done with the United Kingdom system of education?

HON DR B LINARES

That is a very real issue, whether the induction period or the equivalent here locally will (I do not like to use the word qualify) but will enable the local teacher who wishes to practise in the UK, whether that will be accepted by the DFE in the UK as a valid period of induction for employability in the UK. We are certainly pursuing that one, there is some guidance in the circular, there is reference to how the instructions apply to teachers from outside England and more specifically to the European Economic Area. It states that they will be exempt after training for 3 years in a UK establishment, teachers from the European Economic Area may be exempt from induction in two circumstances. When they have successfully completed an adaptation period or an aptitude test and when they have been assessed as not needing to complete an adaptation period or aptitude test. This is a matter that the Department of Education is currently pursuing and investigating with the DFE. But it is an important issue.

HON J J GABAY

I am pleased with that information. One other further question that comes to mind. With regard to the induction year, special funds are to be provided to the schools so that the load being given to a newly qualified teacher is not such that will dis-allow or handicap the performance under the tutorship so to say of a more experienced head of department. Is this part of our probationary system? I would like to return to the point as well, does a headmaster during this probationary year have the right to withdraw the employability of a teacher who has already passed the PGCE?

HON DR B LINARES

The decision is not solely that of a head teacher. The head teacher will be an assessor but there will also be a personal tutor, mentor for the individual teacher, the advisers themselves in an inspectorial role will also have opportunity and have in fact in the probationary year a duty to assess the teachers in practice. There are quite a number of factors that go into the final assessment of the probationary teacher, not just the head teacher but the question that the hon Member mentions about the timetabling of that particular student teacher not student teacher but probationary teacher, actually it is specified in the circular as 90%. It has been the practice in Gibraltar during the probationary year to give the probationary teachers a lighter load precisely so that they have time to come to the department's offices and be inducted by the advisers in various aspects of teaching in practical terms. So it has been the practice but now it would become statutory as required in the instructions from the DFE if we apply them entirely as I think we will probably have to, to the situation in Gibraltar.

HON J J BOSSANO

What the Minister is calling an induction period, is this not in fact the probationary year that every Civil Servant has when they join the Civil Service? I mean, is it not true that every Civil Servant is on probation for one year before he is confirmed as permanent and that in fact any teacher whether in qualified status or irrespective of the grade, in what way is a teacher being treated differently from any other Civil Servant?

HON DR B LINARES

I was precisely saying that, that in Gibraltar teachers, I was focusing on teachers because that is what is under discussion, but I do agree that all Civil Servants have to go through a period of probation. In the case of teachers of course that induction and that probation and that assessment is of a more specific nature because of the nature of the profession. As I was admitting and accepting from the hon Member, the guidelines now given by the DFE are very specific are very useful actually for the assessors to be able to monitor and guide and support the probationary teachers. But in principle or structurally or whatever, I agree that that probationary period I believe, I am not an expert in that field, it applies to all Civil Servants.

HON J J BOSSANO

Yes but then it is not accurate to give the impression that in fact the United Kingdom is now introducing a system which we have been applying here because what we have been applying here has been that every new recruit into the Government Service is on probation for one year irrespective of whether he is a teacher or a typist. So if something is going to be done new it is not because we pioneered the system and the UK is following us but because in fact the Government may be considering now whether they should apply the system the UK is bringing in. Which would imply more onerous hurdles, more onerous criteria surely in the first year. As I understand it, the standard practice has been that as long as the employee proves to be a reliable, competent person then that is what is looked for in the first year, no, before they are confirmed.

I have, I do not know whether the Minister can correct me, but I have no recollection of anybody ever not being confirmed at the end of the first year.

HON DR B LINARES

I am sorry if I gave the opposite impression, I entirely agree with what the hon Member is saying but I do recollect some teachers having failed the probationary period.

HON J J GABAY

Would the Minister agree that the probationary year probably in the Civil Service as my hon Colleague has stated, and indeed the teaching profession, has been a rather general process, as I recall it even in England. This is an entirely new system that is being imposed with some very good points but probably some points which are a little questionable. And I come back to this point of the headmaster being able to decide, if that were to be right that he has assessors and helpers and so on but it does give the headmaster rather monolithic powers in those circulars to really decide that this teacher can not be allowed to teach. Which is almost like a contradiction in the sense of the PGCE is an extremely practical course when most of that time is spent monitors in a variety of schools. It also seems a little draconian that if the status is removed or curtailed employment-wise that there is only a ten day period in which to appeal. It seems a little much. But really my question was will the Government consider in fact incorporating the major structure of this induction year that may improve upon the more general probationary year and perhaps remove some of the draconian elements and also try to establish a linkage with England so that our teachers are not handicapped after qualifying at University in their degrees and in a College as well for a teacher's training certificate?

HON DR B LINARES

I thought I had agreed with that sentiment. The question of general probation, my impression is that for teachers it has been less general than for other Civil Servants but nevertheless I did say right from the beginning that the guidelines and the specific instructions established in the circular are very useful so that we can actually fine-tune the assessment process of our teachers now and not allow it to continue to be general. However, there are as the hon Member says, draconian aspects of it but we should have to be careful in tailoring our needs in Gibraltar. Nevertheless, we have to be careful as he rightly says we do not handicap the chances of employability of a local teacher who may wish to transfer to a school in the UK. So in that sense we would have to comply with whatever DFE, and as I said we are in discussion and in negotiation with the DFE on that respect.

NO. 403 OF 1999

THE HON J J GABAY

EDUCATION - SCHOOL LEAVERS.

Will Government state how many pupils left school at the statutory school-leaving age of 15 at the end of the last school year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND YOUTH

In July 1998, 30 pupils (18 boys and 12 girls) left school at the end of year 10, that is, once they had reached the statutory school-leaving age of 15. Five more pupils (all girls) left during that school year once they were 15. All these pupils had opted in year 9 for a special one-year non-GCSE course as opposed to the two-year course which leads to the GCSE at the end of year 11.

These statistics must be seen against the total initial intake for that year of 354 pupils (190 boys and 164 girls).

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 403 OF 1999

HON J J GABAY

My concern in asking this question was that there are times when a 15 year old will leave school and really one tends to wonder what it is that happens to them. If there are such amongst these 30 - 35 that have left school at the age of 15, is there any system of research or follow-up that will account for future progress or is it that at times they are removed from school through uneducated parents, and it does happen, or parents who lack understanding, or children who at times are not really quite aware of what it means for their future. I ask this question because in the UK they are really, and rightly so, very concerned at people who leave at the age of 16 and are considering at the moment paying an allowance of I believe £40 a week in order to try and keep them at school, where it is probably the means of the parents that makes them leave school in the hope that they are going to contribute to the family budget.

HON DR B LINARES

We do keep a watchful eye on the progress of these pupils who leave at 16 or at the end of the year 10 when they are 15 and we are satisfied that most of them are, to use the hon Member's expression, catered for in other schemes, training schemes and College of Further Education and other basic numeracy and literacy provisions. The deeper problem is the introduction of vocational courses in the schools parallel to the GCSEs which at the moment are, as I am sure the hon Member knows, heavily loaded on the academic side and therefore it is really counter-productive to expect from a non-academic pupil to be channelled into an academic course which will only lead to disaffection, disinterest and as things stand, what we are doing is actually enabling and giving the opportunity of training to these young pupils after the age of 15. We are satisfied that none of them are stranded and roaming around without any form of skills development.

HON J J GABAY

If in the analysis there are some that stray, is there any system of follow-up? I mean, does one actually look at the numbers and the names and say I wonder what has happened to this one since we are talking about the tender age of 15.

HON DR B LINARES

Yes, Mr Speaker, we have to remember in a realistic way that we are talking about very few pupils. I take this opportunity actually of establishing that the stay-on rate after 15 (which is about 90%) extraordinarily good and whilst congratulating the teachers and the support services, I hasten to pre-empt the customary accusation of complacency. The stay-on rate has been increasing every year and reaching a peak this year and that is not an indicator of complacency the House will agree. But anyway, more seriously, it is easy to manage and to actually identify any individual pupil who feels lost although sometimes it is not possible to actually motivate them to come back into a useful and educational system.

HON J L BALDACHINO

If a pupil then goes to the College of Further Education, would it be of the 190 boys or 164 girls or would it be from the 18 boys and 12 girls. Does the figure that the Minister said of 190 that have stayed behind of boys and 164 of girls, will they also be in the College of Further Education or some of the 18 boys or the 12 girls would be in the College of Further Education, which of the two?

HON DR B LINARES

The entry into the College of Further Education is after year 11 and that will be the 190 boys and 164 girls. It is after year 11 that they will then qualify for entry into the College of Further Education courses. These other children who leave at 15 will have to find ways of finding training schemes, and they are assisted as I said a moment ago by the Department.

ORAL

NO. 404 OF 1999

THE HON J J GABAY

EDUCATION - SIXTH FORM STUDIES.

Has the Minister of Education taken a decision as to whether the UK Government's reforms to broaden Sixth Form Studies will apply in Gibraltar?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND YOUTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 405 and 406 of 1999.

ORAL

NO. 405 OF 1999

THE HON J J GABAY

EDUCATION - SIXTH FORM REFORMS.

Have Government fully analysed the controversy over the new Sixth Form Reforms and investigated any possible alternatives?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND YOUTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 404 and 406 of 1999.

NO. 406 OF 1999

THE HON J J GABAY

EDUCATION - SIXTH FORM REFORMS.

In the event of proceeding with the Sixth Form Reforms do Government feel that the time-scale will allow for a satisfactory start by next September?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND YOUTH

The proposed reforms are not due to be introduced in the UK until September 2000 - (not next September as stated in the hon Member's question). So the time lapse is more generous.

The reforms are varied and wide-ranging. Essentially they involve among other things a new Advanced Subsidiary qualification (AS) in a wider range of subjects in the first year of the sixth form, changes to the A level syllabuses, introduction of Advanced GNVQs and of Key Skills qualifications to encourage basic skills in communication, application of number and information technology for all pupils among other things.

As the hon Member has suggested, these proposals are still in the UK the subject of debate and, indeed, of controversy. Our Department of Education is keeping a close watch on this debate and on these developments and conducting a process of consultation with the headteachers and the relevant teachers in the Comprehensive Schools. Decisions will be taken in due course and at the appropriate time.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 404, 405 AND 406 OF 1999

HON J J GABAY

To make the question in the way of some interest, would it not be possible for the Minister to state some aspects of his policy in this on-going controversy in which everybody is participating in the United Kingdom, headmasters, the Unions, the Government and so on, since there happens to be every intention of promoting this. Of course, even by September 2000 the NUT claims that there will be problems in respect of the time-scale. There are also financial aspects to be considered. This is why perhaps the Minister would be kind enough to expand a little on his views on this subject.

HON DR B LINARES

I would like to actually. I would enjoy a general discussion of all as the hon Member has suggested. There are many aspects involved in this, the financial aspects, the academic aspects I think I have to discipline myself and resist the temptation to indulge in a general debate of this nature in this particular forum at this particular moment of Question Time. Nevertheless, I have repeatedly invited the hon Member, he is always welcome to come to our offices and share his insights and ideas with myself and with my advisers. After all, we are dealing here with something which is above the cut and thrust of political debate and I am sure that it is a common concern that we do the best for our children within this reform that is taking place in the UK.

So I hope he will understand, that said Mr Speaker, that I have to out of deference to the House at this stage, resist the debate. It would actually take us, as he has admitted, into many aspects which I think is not proper at this particular moment.

HON J J GABAY

I was not inviting the Minister to a debate on this subject. I was simply asking whether he could give his viewpoint on the matter. Since there are some very positive merits and some very dangerous contras to establishing this. Particularly as is well known some distinguished schools and well-known people in the education field in the United Kingdom are actually seriously considering dropping the A levels and turning into international baccalaureate. Because of these constant changes that are taking place and the idea of making in fact the A levels modular, which may be very good for the NVQs but not necessarily to maintain academic standards, and the chief inspector in England has actually said that it will destroy the academic and intellectual calibre of the A levels that have been known as the golden standard. So this is not a debate but simply a response from the Minister on this on-going policy.

HON DR B LINARES

I try to be as generous as possible in responding to the appeals from the hon Member to discuss and debate it is just that I want to assure him that we are familiar with all these aspects. Not only are some of the ideas positive but they are going to be necessary for us, remember we are dealing with exams which actually are the passport entry to University. So therefore we will have to comply with many of the requirements once they become statutory in the UK precisely to open the door for our own students to be accepted by admissions tutors.

HON J J GABAY

I am pleased that I have drawn the Minister to make that comment because one of the things that is being questioned in the United Kingdom is that the new A levels will probably not be a good basis upon which to judge adequately university entrants. A statement was made recently by some of the heads of colleges at Oxford saying that the likelihood is that they will re-introduce their own entrance examinations. To that extent do they feel that there will be a dilution again of the academic standards even though on a general global statement it sounds the right thing to broaden the syllabus at A level. But as we have seen with GCSEs and elsewhere, broadening seems to be in the United Kingdom, lowering the standards. At least this is what it appears to be.

ORAL

NO. 407 OF 1999

THE HON J J GABAY

EDUCATION - SCHOOL OF TOURISM.

Will the Minister for Education state how many of the 20 trainees at the School of Tourism (Bleak House Training Institute) have now successfully completed their one-year course?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND YOUTH

Answered together with Question No. 408 of 1999.

NO. 408 OF 1999

THE HON J J GABAY

EDUCATION - SCHOOL OF TOURISM.

Will the Minister for Education state how many places were on offer for the next intake at the School of Tourism and how many applications were received by the closing date of 12 April 1999.

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND YOUTH

None of the trainees in the School of Tourism have as yet completed their one-year course, they started in September 1998. Nine trainees will complete the course by September this year and three others have succeeded in finding permanent full-time employment in the tourism industry.

By the closing date of 12 April 1999 there were 28 applications for places in the School of Tourism for this next intake and 12 of these applicants have been selected and offered places in the course due to start on 31st May.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 407 AND 408 OF 1999

HON J J GABAY

Perhaps I have missed the point but how many of the current intake are still following the course in the School of Tourism? We had 20 and then there were 10 and I am wondering how many there are now?

HON DR B LINARES

Nine trainees will complete the course by September this year and three have opted out because they found employment.

HON J J GABAY

Our feeling is that the School of Tourism is a failure. I remember the remarks of the hon Chief Minister who in some sort of anxious bravado said that the whole project would be worthwhile even if only one were left, obviously I was wondering if the Chief Minister's dream had come true and that there was only one. May I ask the Minister, does he actually feel that given the costly nature of instituting these courses, that the number of trainees that exist at this moment, I mean in relation to what was paid to Julia Sibley and the £70,000 for the training of monitors and so on, whether this could be justified on any grounds, whether educational, training or financially?

HON DR B LINARES

The failure of the School of Tourism may be the perception of Opposition Members opposite but certainly it is not the perception of the trainees, of their parents and of the industry. They find that the School of Tourism is very successful in an area which was largely unexplored within the local labour force. The fact that there is a number of withdrawals was to be expected. I do not think the number is inordinate in that there are many young people, finding their way after school into areas of training

and skills development, well this is one of them. Nevertheless the very exacting nature of this type of job very often prompts them that this is not for them but nevertheless the fact that some are taking on very seriously and developing their skills and finding employment as I have had occasion to state, is certainly not our perception or our impression that this is a failure. It is money well spent.

HON J J GABAY

May I insist that we do not consider it to be money well spent with a 50 per cent drop-out rate. And a point that I would really like to make, perhaps the Minister may agree with me, is really that there was a certain presumptuous approach in the whole presentation of this programme. To begin with to call a few courses in tourism a School of Tourism is in itself presumptuous. It may be of interest from the political impact it can make but certainly it can also lead to disappointment of those involved in it because their expectations have been raised so there is a lot really on the surface and very little under it, simply because when you establish programmes like this, I am sure that there is an education as the Minister would agree, one has the problem of motivation. To say, surely, that local youngsters are not accustomed to working the hotel trade as the Chief Minister said at the time that I raised this, look we consider the project laudable and we said so and we also said at the beginning that it may not succeed because I do not think that the necessary motivation or process has encouraged the trainees to feel that they are doing something special. Because if we knew from the beginning that they are not accustomed then why on earth institute this.

HON CHIEF MINISTER

The Government do not agree with a solitary word of what the hon Member has said. It really is quite tragic that for the simple expediency of levelling political criticism at the Government, the hon Member should be levelling this degree of criticism at professionals involved in the field, should be denigrating and minimising the achievements of the nine students that have kept on the course and I think that the message that this sends out to the community is that in the unlikely event that the hon Members should find themselves on this side of the House any time soon, that is the sort of attitude that the community can expect from the Opposition Members to matters of training. Everything has got a pound note sign next to it and if they do not think that enough pound notes can be generated from the one pound note that they invest well it is not done. Well that is not the approach of Government to this matter. We consider that the Tourism School has been a great success. If this community can train nine people a year in the hotel industry, it would be a great achievement.

Over three or four years we could have 30 or 40 people employed. The hon Member may think that that is completely meaningless and he may wish to put it in the balance of pound notes but the reality of it is that that is the stuff that meaningful targeted training opportunities consist of. Therefore we do not agree with the hon Member and it gives us great pleasure to disagree with the hon Member's mercenary approach to what is equipping youngsters to a better economic lifestyle than his approach would give them in 20 years.

HON J J GABAY

What the Chief Minister has said has absolutely nothing to do with education. We said that a project of that nature was laudable but they can be mishandled. This is what he is not making allowances for. It can be mishandled and badly-run and overpaid and I think it is our duty to question that.

HON CHIEF MINISTER

Of course it can be as most of the training facilities that they set up were badly run. But I suspect that this is like the Frazer's Ramp incident of an hour ago. I think the hon Member is pontificating without having been anywhere near the Tourism School. He is levelling hypothetical criticism at professional trainers and young trainees on the basis that it is possible, and he is converting the possible into the actual, without having been to see the thing for himself. I have to say the hon Member is as always immersed in his world of woolly theory and he constructs cases in his own mind.

I suggest that he takes the opportunity of the invitation extended to him by my hon Colleague to go to the School of Tourism to see the place at work, to see the motivation of the trainers and the youngsters and when he is in a position to talk from factual knowledge as opposed to pure pontification, he is then better qualified to come to this House to express a meaningful opinion. Until he has done this if he does not mind my saying so, he is criticising for criticism's sake.

HON J J GABAY

I went to the opening of the School of Tourism. But this is where the Government does most of its work, during cocktail parties.

HON DR B LINARES

I do not do my business at cocktail parties with regard to the School of Tourism. I have been repeatedly there talking to the people.

HON J J GABAY

How on earth can the Chief Minister talk about motivation and talking about going to the School and one thing and another when the figures speak for themselves. Twenty, ten, nine. There lies lack of motivation. I am not saying that the product is not worth it. As for my living in a world of visions, one day I live in a world of visions, now I am living in a mercenary world. The Chief Minister should decide which one of them it is. But I am certainly not living, as he might be, in the world of Macchiavelli. There I do not belong.

HON CHIEF MINISTER

I do not think it makes any difference to the hon Member because he is not interested in objective facts. What he is interested in is frankly listening to the sound of his own voice.

The pity for the rest of us is that he does not exercise his voice to make more constructive observations to the ones that he does. Because then we could enjoy the sound of his voice as well as opposed to just him enjoying it. He may also be interested, although I doubt it would make any difference in his mathematical assessment of the success of Bleak House, that there has not been a drop out of 11 there has been a drop out of seven. There are 12 people, eight people have dropped out, nine are left because three have already obtained jobs. So that is not a drop out from 20 to nine. That is premature success. People have been found suitable for employment in the hotel industry even before they had finished their course.

Now, the hon Member thinks that because 20 people enrol and at the end of the first year one has only got 12 left, that what we should do is close up and send the rest of the 12 home. Well, let me tell the hon Member, if only eight people had enrolled in the first place for the course, we would still have found it worth doing and indeed we would have done it.

HON J J BOSSANO

Mr Speaker, the three people who opted out to take jobs, we have just been told that they were found suitable for employment in the hotel industry. But in fact the Minister said that he did not know whether they had been employed in the hotel industry. Does he know where they have been employed?

HON CHIEF MINISTER

I assume that that is the case but I do not know for a fact that they are even in the hotel industry. We are told they are in the tourism industry but we do not know.

HON J J BOSSANO

Unless we are being told what the tourism industry consists of, which can consist of anything from being a tour guide to selling postcards, it is a very wide definition, we do not know whether in fact the fact that they have been in the School has anything to do with the employment that they have found. If we are being asked in this House by the Minister to look at these things dispassionately and objectively then, in order to do that, we have got to be sure that we are not being sold something that does not exist under some other guise.

Now, if the Minister does not know that the three people have not simply dropped out because they have been looking for work and they were simply as it were marking time until a job turned up, which is from the point of view better that they should be there and getting paid something than that they should not be there and get paid nothing. There is nothing wrong with in fact keeping people in a school even if they finish up getting a job in the Buildings and Works. Nobody is going to question that. But what we can not do is say their prospects of employment as a boy labourer in the Buildings and Works have been considerably enhanced because we have paid some professional tutor from England to teach them about tourism. So we need to know to what degree these three have been able to get work which they would not otherwise have got if they had not been there otherwise the figure of three means nothing. These three are then three more people who dropped out or three more people who are in employment as a result of the investment in their education that has been made.

The other question is if in fact the Government are so keen to provide opportunities to so many people even if the drop out rate is 99 per cent, why have they only accepted 12 out of 28 applicants. Why not accept more?

HON DR B LINARES

The reason why they have accepted 12, is because of a number of reasons. One is that in selection interviews, the aptitude, motivation, the real intention of the pupil has to be assessed as well. But also, I have to be absolutely objective about this, that the offers are also conditional to the number of placements that can be made by the training unit in places of work. So that is a condition also but in terms of figures there are now nine, 17 and on 31st May there will be another 12 young people in the School of Tourism, so that is 29 young people who might otherwise be roaming the streets, as the hon Member said, doing nothing and are now being given a structured programme of skills development. If my words do not convince the hon Member I suggest he goes and meet them and he will see the enthusiasm, the motivation, the sense of growth and of attainment that they have in developing some very beautiful and interesting new skills which they now assess really is of their vocation.

ORAL

NO. 409 OF 1999

THE HON J J GABAY

EDUCATION - INSTITUTE OF BANKERS.

Will the Minister for Education report on the Revision Courses for the CEFA3 examination papers organised jointly by the Department of Education and the Gibraltar Centre of the Institute of Bankers?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND YOUTH

The CEFA 1, 2 and 3 qualifications are intended for those aspiring to practise as Financial Advisers. Although these students generally aiming at these qualifications study through a distance learning process, correspondence, e-mails, personal advice from tutors at a distance, further assistance was given to them this year by organising a weekend of revision and tuition in preparation for their examinations which will take place at the College of Further Education from May to November this year. This intensive short course was led by Mr Peter Bentham of the Chartered Institute of Bankers. Fifteen students participated and they came from across a wide cross-section of the banking community together with some civil servants from Government departments.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 409 OF 1999

HON J J GABAY

Was it not advertised in a press release that 30 participants would take part, press release No. 57 of 1999 said that there would be 30 participants in these courses arranged by Peter Bentham, at the time it said in Bleak House.

HON DR B LINARES

I can not answer that. I have no knowledge of that initial announcement.

HON J J GABAY

A press release of 13 April 1999. Your press release of course.

HON DR B LINARES

Yes Mr Speaker, may be a press release from the Department of which I personally am not familiar with so I can not really answer that question.

HON J J GABAY

So there were 15 participants. To be mercenary again Mr Speaker, could I enquire as to the cost of bringing Mr Bentham over and the overall cost of these courses and to what extent it was paid by Government perhaps jointly funded with the private sector?

HON DR B LINARES

I need notice of that. I do not have the figures with me.

ORAL

NO. 410 OF 1999

THE HON J J GABAY

EDUCATION - TRAINING SCHEMES FOR THE UNEMPLOYED.

Will the Minister for Education state whether the "Training Schemes for the Unemployed" scheduled to start in April are now in progress?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND YOUTH

Answered together with Question No. 411 of 1999.

NO. 411 OF 1999

THE HON J J GABAY

EDUCATION - TRAINING SCHEMES FOR THE UNEMPLOYED.

Will the Minister for Education state how many trainees have registered and are currently attending the "Training Schemes for the Unemployed"?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND YOUTH

Twenty-six persons originally registered for these Training Schemes for the Unemployed and 21 are currently attending these courses.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 410 AND 411 OF 1999

HON J J GABAY

How have they divided or is it a joint programme of information technology and a literacy course. I mean do they opt for one or is it a complementary course including both subjects?

HON J J NETTO

My understanding is that they opt for one of the two.

HON J J GABAY

A further question comes to mind. To attract the unemployed in order to benefit from these courses I presume here again that certain initiatives are taken. For example, has a syllabus and an explanatory leaflet been devised and spread or delivered in order to attract them to these courses?

HON J J NETTO

Yes Mr Speaker. First of all we need to understand these are very much pilot schemes. I will have much to say about these later on when we have our Budget speeches. Obviously it is intended these be part and parcel of a much comprehensive package in dealing with the unemployed people. So at the moment these courses are very much pilot schemes on a first come first served basis and will be the start of a much more structured programme for the unemployed.

HON J L BALDACHINO

This is, if I understand by what has been said in an interview, this was for long-standing unemployed persons. Is that correct?

HON J J NETTO

It is correct and the definition for long-term unemployed as applied in Gibraltar or in the UK for that matter, is six months or over.

HON J L BALDACHINO

That definition, is it to people who have been registered with the ETB as unemployed or is it for people who are not registered with the ETB as employed but have been over six months without employment can go there and say I want to take advantage of this. Which of the two is it?

HON J J NETTO

Definitely those registered with the Employment Service.

HON J J BOSSANO

The unemployment benefit of course can only be collected within the six month period. Do these people get paid while they are in the training? I mean, if they have gone over the six months then they are not people who would be collecting unemployment benefit because they can not after six months. So is there a payment?

HON J J NETTO

There is not a payment and we have to understand that the whole philosophy of the course itself is to give, as my hon Colleague said before, employability to try and get them back into work. So it is not a question whether would it be unemployment benefit or whether it is from social assistance or whether it is no payment. Regardless of the category, so long as it is long term unemployed as defined, and so long in this pilot scheme initial ones which are under review, was on a first come first served basis then fine. Those people who manage to get within the places are the ones that actually are undertaking the course.

HON J J BOSSANO

What I am asking since in order to qualify they have to be over six months and over six months they cannot qualify for unemployment benefit, do they get any payment as an inducement to go into the scheme?

HON J J NETTO

One does not get any payment as an inducement. The inducement is to get employability to get back into work which is not a monetary term.

NO. 412 OF 1999

THE HON J J GABAY

EDUCATION - TRAINING FOR EMPLOYMENT SERVICE.

Will Government state, with reference to the "Training for Employment Service" instituted in March by the Department of Education in conjunction with the Ministry of Employment, the number of participants and the costs incurred?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND YOUTH

This intensive short training course was an initiative led by the Ministry of Employment for the employees in the Employment Service.

There were 21 participants, namely all the employees in the service.

The cost was £999 mainly to cover the cost of travel and subsistence of Miss Maggie Walsh from the Department of Education and Employment in UK who run the course.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 412 OF 1999

HON J J GABAY

Could the Minister tell us at what level this course was aimed. Was it from the Directors of the Department downwards or at a lower level?

HON J J NETTO

No it was not for the benefit of the directors or the managers. Very much the front line in the employment service, the employment officers, some of the people who work in that area and may I also add that whilst it was in the main for the benefit of the employment service staff, I do recall that some personnel from the Department of Social Services, a minority of them, also availed themselves to the opportunity of coming to the course and taking advantage of that as well. Because as we know, we have an overlap between employment and social services and very much the details of the course was for the benefit of those. But it was in the main for the employment service staff, the front liners as opposed to the managers and the directors.

HON J J GABAY

Would I be right in assuming that when one is dealing with the huge national departments of Government perhaps one needs the sort of expertise on a generalised basis. When one talks about our small departments, for example, 21 and that does not include the director, we feel that it is the director's responsibility and he should be knowledgeable in the basic factors of dealing with the public without having to import expertise from the outside. One would expect the directors to be able to handle this without a need for an expert from the outside. If so, if it is so important has the Minister noticed any noticeable change in the quality of service being given to the public?

HON J J NETTO

No Mr Speaker I do not agree with the hon Member. I think we were very fortunate to be able to bring to Gibraltar someone who for many years has been working in the employment service in the UK. She has worked in areas which are problematic areas within London herself, she comes from the DFE, she is very well specialised and the benefit that she brings along to our members is actually proving very successful in terms of the way the employment officers for instance are handling our clients, the unemployed, in terms of their relationship, in counselling, interviewing techniques and it is of a great benefit. I can say that we intend hopefully to bring her along more often to continue this process of departmental development within the department.

ORAL

NO. 413 OF 1999

THE HON J J GABAY

TRAINING - CAMMELL LAIRD.

Will Government state how much it has paid to Cammell Laird for training places as at 31st March?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND YOUTH

Answered together with Question No. 414 of 1999.

ORAL

NO. 414 OF 1999

THE HON J J GABAY

TRAINING - CAMMELL LAIRD.

Will Government state how many trainees there were in the apprenticeship scheme at Cammell Laird as at 31st March?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND YOUTH

As at 31st March 1999 a sum of £58,848.15 was paid to Cammell Laird to run the apprenticeship scheme on fabrication and welding. Eighteen apprentices are currently engaged in this training scheme.

I am grateful for this opportunity to inform the House that the Training Centre run by Cammell Laird and the Gibraltar Government has now acquired independent awarding status from EMTA (the Engineering and Marine Training Authority) and that we are indeed honoured by the fact that Lord Trefgarne, the Chairman of EMTA, will be personally visiting Gibraltar in autumn to present to the Centre a certificate of approval for NVQs (level 2). I am also pleased to inform the House that Cammell Laird will be taking on a second intake of 20 apprentices in October/November this year and these apprenticeships will include Electrical and Mechanical trades.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 413 AND 414 OF 1999

HON J J GABAY

Will the Minister confirm or otherwise that these 18 who are now doing their apprenticeship will be integrated into the work of the yard when they finish?

HON DR B LINARES

There is no guarantee of employment in the training scheme as I understand it.

HON J J GABAY

We raised this at the time that the School of Tourism was announced and we were told that one can not expect businesses to enter into contracts about employing trainees and I understand that. On the other hand, I do not think it would be unfair or unreasonable when these things are being worked out, to establish some degree of compromise on the matter, if only as an encouragement for an intake. That falls into the category of motivation does it not?

HON P C MONTEGRIFFO

There is no obligation for Cammell Laird to take on trainees and the biggest motivation is workload and commercial imperative. It makes sense for the company to invest and take on young recruits that have got skills and the culture of the company. This is their experience in Birkenhead and in the other yards that they run. So the Government see no reason why Cammell Laird would be anything but disposed positively disposed, to take on staff which they train themselves. From my contacts with Cammell Laird I can say that they are extremely happy with the intake of young people, they find them exceptionally well motivated. Various Ministers, including the Chief Minister, have been down to see the training facility, reports are very good. We do not think that the way to ensure integration into the workforce is by actually looking at quotas or making it a key condition of Cammell Laird's presence in Gibraltar but rather to seeking partnership with Cammell Laird the way we are doing, therefore making sure that they understand the skills they are looking for are obtainable in Gibraltar. So I think that the House can rest assured that Cammell Laird understands the Government's priority in this area and that we are confident that in partnership with Cammell Laird we are providing them with a good local skills base for the future.

HON J J BOSSANO

The £58,000 is the amount paid to Cammell Laird. Are the apprentices employed by Cammell Laird or are they employed by the ETB and paid by the ETB?

HON DR B LINARES

They are employed and paid by the ETB.

HON J J BOSSANO

So they get the same rate as vocational cadets in other forms of training.

HON DR B LINARES

When we discussed the ETB payments for trainees for vocational cadets from the Education Department it included these.

HON J J BOSSANO

Whereas in the other cases it is obviously short term training, presumably this goes on for two or three years.

HON DR B LINARES

Three or four years actually. It depends what level of NVQ. If it reaches level 3 of NVQ it will be three years and then it can go on to a higher level of level 4 NVQ, that is four years.

HON J J BOSSANO

In the light of the fact that there is no commitment on the part of the company to offer them employment, does that mean that in fact in this case the ETB will employ them for the 4 years?

HON DR B LINARES

Yes, I think that is the intention. So long as the progress is justified and there is a definite improvement and the situation of each particular trainee merits the investment made that is the commitment.

HON J J BOSSANO

Presuming they get passed successfully their first year and then they go on to their second year of the course, the agreement with Cammell Laird is what that the Government will continue to employ these individuals as Cammell Laird apprentices for four years. If they are successful in passing their exams so that they are capable to take on the whole course up to level 3 or 4. Is that correct?

HON DR B LINARES

That is correct.

HON J J BOSSANO

But in fact the vocational cadet training in other cases has always been for under one year. Presumably there will have to be a new system for people who carry on into the second year.

HON J J NETTO

In a way that is why in the question a little earlier on the hon Member was actually getting the breakdown between vocational cadets which were coming from the employment team as opposed to the education team. Even if during his term when the Construction Training Centre was launched I think it was in January 1996, it was beyond the one year ceiling which the Leader of the Opposition is now stating. So I think with that caveat we ought to separate the vocational cadet from the employment side as to proper well defined vocational training programmes. Under the NVQ for instance.

HON J J BOSSANO

In the costing of the payment to Cammell Laird for the training places, is the amount based on the number of apprentices in training or is there an agreement on a sum of money?

HON P C MONTEGRIFFO

I can not recall the exact detail. There was an agreement originally for a fixed amount to be made available to Cammell Laird in terms of their commitment to have to provide a number of training places. There was a formula worked on the number of training places and in the number per head. I think that formula was superseded by the fact that the training requirement was actually greater than envisaged originally and there has been some modification of it. I could not tell the hon Member without further notice how the final computation of the figure was arrived at.

HON J J BOSSANO

What I am trying to establish is whether the £58,800 is because there are 18 or whether in fact it is related to providing x number of places and then if they are filled or if they are not filled they still get the £58,000. Can he tell me which of the two it is? This is the first intake I take it and it is going to be followed by another one so has the Government then already got an agreement with Cammell Laird so that in the coming year they are going to be paying for the second year of the 18 and the first year of the 20? Has that already been agreed with Cammell Laird?

HON DR B LINARES

I will need to check up on that. I have not got the answer.

HON J J BOSSANO

There is an agreement to take 20. So presumably there is a sum of money agreed.

HON DR B LINARES

Yes.

HON P C MONTEGRIFFO

Without notice of questions of this type, it is not possible for us to be more explicit but the training commitment entered into with Cammell Laird is explicit and structured. Therefore it is indeed probable, likely, necessary that all the questions the hon Member is posing are in fact answerable in a positive and proper way. If the hon Member is interested in the detail I am sure I or my Colleagues would be quite happy to provide those. There is a long term agreement with Cammell Laird on training provision and the costings will have been worked out with the required detail to make sure that happens.

HON J L BALDACHINO

Obviously the instructors, who are instructing the 18 at the moment, obviously is that paid in wages by Cammell Laird and if that is the case, if there is an increase on instructors because they are taking on another 20. Would the payment on the second lot be higher than on the first lot?

MR SPEAKER

That is hardly a supplementary on the answer. If they can answer fine.

HON J L BALDACHINO

The answer is that they are going to take 20 so there must be more instructors.

NO. 415 OF 1999

THE HON J J GABAY

CONSTRUCTION TRAINING CENTRE.

Will Government state how many trainees are currently following the two-year course at the Construction Training Centre, giving a breakdown by trade?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND YOUTH

There are currently 29 trainees following a two-year course at the Construction Training Centre. Twelve of these are in their second year of training and 16 in their first year of training.

The breakdown by trades is as follows:-

1997 intake (now in their second year):

Tilers	3
Carpenters	4
Painting & Decorating	3
Plasterers	1
Plumbers	1
Bricklayers	1

1998 intake (now in their first year):

Tilers	0
Carpenters	4
Painting & Decorating	5
Plasterers	2
Plumbers	4
Bricklayers	1

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 415 OF 1999

HON J J GABAY

Could the Minister tell me how many of the 16 trainees who completed the two year course in March, have found employment?

HON DR B LINARES

I have no knowledge of that. I would need obviously notice of that.

HON J J GABAY

Also, of the 20 trainees that have enrolled in the course which started in November, 1998 have any dropped out?

HON DR B LINARES

I would need notice of that, I do not have the figures before me.

HON J J GABAY

Perhaps you would be kind enough to provide me with the figures.

HON DR B LINARES

Yes indeed.

HON J J BOSSANO

He probably needs notice of this as well. Can I ask the distribution of trades, is that based on any assessment of the needs for one particular trade as opposed to another or on the preference of the trainees?

HON DR B LINARES

Essentially on the preference of the trainees as they are interviewed for admission.

NO. 416 OF 1999

THE HON J J GABAY

TRAINING - ASSOCIATED QUALITY SERVICES.

Can Government state whether Associated Quality Services Ltd has submitted the "tailor-made programme of customer care training to fit Gibraltar's needs" as announced by Government in January?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND YOUTH

Associated Quality Services Ltd have so far trained eight Training Providers and the company will continue to externally verify the programme. This is part of the quality control element inherent in the "Welcome Host" scheme which underlies the training by Associated Quality Services Ltd.

This has covered people across the field of employment such as private companies, Gibraltar Tourist Board, Royal Gibraltar Police and the Ministry of Defence.

These training providers are now licensed under the Gibraltar Tourist Board to deliver relevant customer care programmes, again structured under the "Welcome Host" scheme. The next phase of 'secondary' training (for those actually dealing with customers) will begin in the summer.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 416 OF 1999

HON J J GABAY

Is this programme being jointly run by Government and the private sector or entirely by the Government?

HON DR B LINARES

It is jointly by the Government and the private sector.

HON J J GABAY

Could the Minister give us some idea, since there are so many of these courses and advisers coming and going, what the cost of bringing Mr Corry and Mr Smart as specialists have turned out to be when they visited for three days.

HON DR B LINARES

I need notice of that Mr Speaker.

HON J J BOSSANO

The people that have been trained are in turn going to train others, we have been told.

HON DR B LINARES

Yes.

HON J J BOSSANO

That includes people in the employment of the Government. The civil servants who are now going to be training other civil servants, is that correct?

HON DR B LINARES

Yes.

HON J J BOSSANO

And the civil servants that get trained later on this year by the newly qualified trainers are the ones that are going to go round wearing this badge saying "Welcome Host".

HON DR B LINARES

I do not quite understand the question, could you please repeat it.

HON J J BOSSANO

As I understand it from what we read, the final graduates of the scheme will in fact be permitted to wear a badge saying "Welcome Host" which I think the Government personally said was a much sought-after in other parts of the world. There are people in other parts of the world who long to be able to wear a badge saying "Welcome Host" but have not got the opportunity of doing it.

Now, in the civil service, who is going to go round Government offices saying "Welcome Host". Do we have an idea of that?

HON DR B LINARES

It will have to be played by ear. I think the badge is a signal which may be necessary in some areas of employment and in some industries not necessarily in the civil service. I mean the actual visual of wearing the badge is not the essence.

HON J J BOSSANO

So if we see a Minister turning up here with "Welcome Host" we know he has been through the course. But in fact, the training of the people in the Government service, presumably this has to do with dealing with the public. Is that going to be targeted to people who are in that type of job, on counter jobs and that kind of thing?

HON DR B LINARES

I did not actually say civil servants, I said private companies, the Gibraltar Tourist Board, the Royal Gibraltar Police and the Ministry of Defence also asked for them. But I did not say civil servants in my answer I said the Gibraltar Tourist Board.

HON J J BOSSANO

But in my supplementary I asked and the answer I got was yes.

HON DR B LINARES

Well, I was thinking of the Gibraltar Tourist Board as a Government entity rather than as a civil servant.

HON J J BOSSANO

In the Ministry of Defence, are we likely to see military personnel with guns saying "Welcome Host" as well.

HON DR B LINARES

That is up to them is it not. What I can tell the House is that the Ministry of Defence knowing how prestigious this course and how effective it is, which is being sponsored in the UK precisely by the Welsh Tourist Board and the Scottish Tourist Board, have actually without any invitation on our part requested for some of their employees to take part. Because again it is not the badge, it is not the status, it is not the qualification, it is the intrinsic development of skills in customer care. Which is really, as I am sure the hon Member agrees, is a very necessary ingredient of development in Gibraltar at all levels.