

GIBRALTAR

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

30th APRIL, 2001

No. 466 to No. 823

INDEX

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

30th April 2001

Questions 466 – 823

SUBJECT	NO(S)	PAGE(S)
'Barthon Queen'	627	257
'Which Register? Which Flag?' Conference	621	247
"Pride of Gibraltar"	592	208
17 Europa Road	572	173
1987 Airport Agreement	808	539
Admiral's Place Development	750	436
Advertising in Newspapers	800-802	529-532
Airline Assistance Scheme	591	206
Alameda House	540	129
Banking Licences	730	406
Beautification Works at the Land Frontier	612	237
Bishop Canilla House	524-525	108-109
Border Delays	814	549
British Nationals Employed	506	69
Building and Works Department	517	97
Bus Service	569	170
Cable Link – Gibraltar / Morocco	718	392
Cammell Laird	511-512	81-83
Cammell Laird Training Centre	762	457
Casemates Development	783-784	506-507
Change of School Hours	638-639	273-274
Change of School Hours	641-642	276-277
Closed Long-Term Benefits Fund	478	16
Closed Long-Term Benefits Fund	480	18
Coach Park – Charges	622	248
Coach Terminal	617	242
Coelho House	541	130
College of Further Education	629-630	259-260
Commercial Banks	759-760	453-454
Community Care Ltd	490	39
Container Transshipment Project	614	239
Co-Operation Agreement on Tourism	626	254
Cost of Treating Pensioners in UK	681-688	334-344
Course in Hotel, Catering and Hospitality Services	598	219
Cultural Exchanges	634	268
Development and Planning Commission	749	433
Dialysis Unit	680	332
Dispensing Fees	664	311
Dispensing Fees	669	319
DPC – New Office Space	758	451
ECOM Ltd	754	440
E-Commerce Offshore Conference	722	398
Edinburgh House	526	110
Edinburgh House	536-537	122-124
Education – Discretionary Grants	659	306
Education – Edinburgh House	661	308
Education – GIBPUBSAFE	763	459
Educational Exchanges	633	263
Educational Psychologist	657	302
EEC – Competent Authorities	769	482

SUBJECT	NO(S)	PAGE(S)
EEC – Single European Sky	815	551
EEC – Taxation of Savings Income	775	492
Elderly Care Agency	489	38
Elderly Care Patients	704	370
Electricity – Power Cuts	545	136
Electricity – Strategic Review	546	138
Electronic Commerce Ordinance	723-726	399-402
Employment – Detached Workers	509-510	73-80
Employment – Number of Gibraltarians	505	62
Employment – Number of Unemployed	501-504	58-61
Employment Contracts Terminated	500	57
Employment Survey Report	513-516	84-96
Enrolled Nurses	694	351
EU Funding	729	405
Europa Business Centre – Arrears	732-733	408-409
Europa Sports Ground	558	154
Facilities for Packed Lunches – Schools	645	280
Feasibility Study – Eastern Beach / Catalan Bay	613	238
Finance Centre – Employment	744	426
Finance Centre Survey	743	425
Flights – Gibraltar / Tangier	584	199
Foreign Affairs Committee	810	543
Foreign Affairs Committee	812-813	547-548
Frontier Fence	821	560
Garrison Library	712	384
GBC	543-544	132-135
GFA / UEFA	560	157
GHA – Alzheimer’s Disease	709	378
GHA – Average Waiting Time	699-702	359-367
GHA – Cost Per Bed	716-717	389-391
GHA – Number of Complaints	666	314
GHA – Post of Radiologist	695	353
GHA – Resignation of Medical Practitioner	698	358
Gibraltar / Morocco Forum	620	246
Gibraltar Business Development Survey	786-787	509-511
Gibraltar Business Expenditure Survey	785	508
Gibraltar Development Corporation	771	485
Gibraltar Government Funding	727-728	403-404
Gibraltar in Europa	746	430
Gibraltar in Europe Business Development Schemes	738-739	418-421
Gibraltar Issued Driving Licences	767-768	479-480
Gibraltar Port Authority	561	159
Gibraltar Tourist Board – Mini-Guide	602	224
Gibtel / Nynex	551-554	143-148
Gibtel Legal Case	773-774	489-491
Glacis Estate – Lifts	520-522	100-103
Goods Imported	798-799	527-528
Government Assistance to Conferences	625	253
Government Business in Spain 1998/2001	631	261
GPMS – UK Pensioners Registered	689-692	345-348
GTB – Grade 1 Officer	599	221
Gun Wharf	755	443
Head 6A, Sub-Head 8	623	250
Head 7 Subhead 10	741	423
Head 7 Subhead 14	742	424
Head 7 Subhead 6	740	422

SUBJECT	NO(S)	PAGE(S)
Health and Safety	636-637	271-272
HMS Tireless	816-819	553-557
Hotel Arrears	581	186
Hotel Assistance Scheme	579-580	183-185
Hotel Gradings	582-583	187-198
House Calls	707	374
Housing	534-535	120-121
Housing – Post-War Flats Allocated	532	118
Income Tax – Corporation Tax	803-805	533-536
Income Tax – PAYE	806	537
Incoming International Calls	547-548	139-140
Information Technology – Westside	649	289
In-Patient Admissions	705	371
International Telephone Charges	555	149
Key Skills Programme – Bayside	648	288
Labour Advisory Board	496	51
Lathbury Barracks Industrial Park	753	439
Macmillan House	542	131
Matutes' Proposals	809	541
Medical Advisory Board	533	119
Meeting with the Governments of Jersey / Guernsey	788	512
Meetings – Parents Association	640	275
Milbury Care Service	471-474	6-10
Milbury Care Service – Contract	470	5
Monarch Airlines	585	200
Moroccan Nationals Employed	491	40
MTI Visits to Germany / Italy	745	429
National Day	481	22
National Day – Payment to SDGG	482	27
Nautilus IV	593	212
New Airlines	586-587	201-202
New Airlines	590	205
New Harbours – Arrears	731	407
New Harbours – Arrears	734	410
New Sports Authority	557	153
Non-EEC Nationals Employed	492-493	41-47
Non-EEC Nationals Employed	508	71
Non-Recognition by Spain of 350 Code	764	465
Non-Recognition by Spain of 350 Code	766	467
North Mole Development	790	515
Number of Hotel Beds	577-578	180-182
Number of Nurses	693	349
Number of Port Operators	595	215
Number of Prescriptions	667-668	317-318
Number of Private Motor Vehicles	596-597	216-217
Number of Vehicles Registered	571	172
Number of Visitors to Parson's Lodge / 100 Ton Gun	616	241
Nurseries	660	307
Objective 2 Monitoring Committee	737	417
Objective 2 Programme Monitoring Committee	736	414
OECD	820	558
OECD Tax Initiatives	776-782	495-505
Offshore Betting	791-796	517-525
Ombudsman Report	538-539	125-128
Open/Closed Long-Term Benefits Fund	479	17
Operational Resources	822-823	561-562

SUBJECT	NO(S)	PAGE(S)
Out-Patient Attendances	706	373
Out-Patient Attendances	708	375
Patient Referrals to UK	671-679	322-331
Peripatetic Teacher	656	300
Persons Interviewed	573-576	174-179
Port – Security	562	160
Post of Chief Executive	703	368
Post of Commercial Projects Officer	747-748	431-432
Post of Housing Manager	518	99
Post of Matron	697	355
Post of Personnel Manager	770	483
Post Threshold Salaries	652-655	293-299
Pre-Paid Cards	549-550	141-142
Prescription Charges	670	320
Primary Care Centre	663	310
Primary Care Centre	665	312
Proposed Science Park	751-752	437-438
Psycho-Geriatric Patients	696	354
Purchase of Stationery	650	291
Questionnaire on School Hours	644	279
Rates	797	526
Regional Airlines	588-589	203-204
Relocation of St Bernard's School	628	258
Representations by the FCO to the Spanish Government	807	538
Risk Assessments	635	270
School Focus Visit Reports	646	285
School Hours – Survey	643	278
School of Maritime Studies	594	214
Secretarial and Business Administration	710-711	379-383
Sir William Jackson Grove	527-531	113-117
Social Assistance	476	13
Social Assistance	483-487	28-34
Social Assistance – Disability Allowance	475	11
Social Insurance	488	35
Social Insurance Ordinance	477	15
Social Security Pensioners	466-469	1-4
Spanish Nationals Employed	507	70
Speech and Occupational Therapists	658	304
St Michael's Cave – Sound / Light System	615	240
Stationery	651	292
Sullage Plant	757	448
Supreme Court of Gibraltar – Judgements	811	544
Telephone Numbering Problem	765	466
Tender – Main Street Beautification	609	231
Tender – Miss Gibraltar 2001 Beauty Contest	611	236
Tender – Rosia Bay	610	232
Tender – World War II Tunnels	607-608	229-230
Tender for "Give-Aways"	605	227
Tender for Passenger Seating	604	226
Tender for Plot at Catalan Bay	756	446
Tender5 for Warden Control Cabins	603	225
Terminals Assistant	600	222
Terms of Engagement	499	56
Theatre Royal	662	309
Theatre Royal	713-715	385-388
Tourism Advisory Council	619	245

SUBJECT	NO(S)	PAGE(S)
Traffic – Queensway	565	165
Traffic – Upper Town	568	169
Traffic – Waterport Road	566-567	166-168
Transfer of Boats at Western Beach to Coaling Island	772	487
Transport – EU Registration Plate	570	171
Transport – Parking Tickets	564	163
Transport Inspectors	563	161
Truant Children	647	287
Upper Rock – Fees	624	251
Vacancies Filled	498	54
Vacancies Registered with the Employment Agency	497	52
Varyl Begg Estate – Lifts	523	104
Victoria Stadium – Squash Court	559	155
Visas for Non-EU Nationals	789	513
Visit by Financial Journalists	719-720	393-395
Visit to Lisbon	735	413
Visitor Information Patrol Officers	601	223
Visits Abroad by the Minister	556	151
Visits Abroad by the Minister	618	243
Visits Abroad by the Minister	721	396
Wine Bottling Plant	761	455
Work Permits	495	48
Youth Exchanges	632	262

ORAL

NO. 466 OF 2001

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

SOCIAL SECURITY PENSIONERS

Can Government state how many Gibraltar social security pensioners who were not also in receipt of a UK social security pension were resident in UK as at 31st December 1997?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 467 to 469 of 2001.

NO. 467 OF 2001

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

SOCIAL SECURITY PENSIONERS

Can Government state how many Gibraltar social security pensioners who were not also in receipt of a UK social security pension were resident in UK as at 31st December 1998?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 466, 468 and 469.

NO. 468 OF 2001

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

SOCIAL SECURITY PENSIONERS

Can Government state how many Gibraltar social security pensioners who were not also in receipt of a UK social security pension were resident in UK as at 31st December 1999?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 466, 467 and 469 of 2001.

NO. 469 OF 2001

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

SOCIAL SECURITY PENSIONERS

Can Government state how many Gibraltar social security pensioners who were not also in receipt of a UK social security pension were resident in UK as at 31st December 2000?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

The number of pensioners referred to in the questions are:-

24 for 1997 and 33 for 1998

The final details for 1999 and 2000 are not yet available.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 466 TO 469 OF 2001

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Can the Minister confirm whether in Question Nos. 466 and 467 of 2001, when the Minister answered that there were 24 social security pensioners resident in the UK and 33 for the year 1998 whether the accounts pertaining to these two years have already been sent to the UK?

HON DR B A LINARES:

The way this works is that we know the number of Gibraltar social security pensioners who are resident in UK but inasmuch as we have to ascertain whether or not they are in receipt of a UK social security pension, we depend on information which comes to us from DSS Newcastle. That information for those two years 1999 and 2000 is not yet available but it is of course in a more direct reply to the hon Member's question, we have all the information in respect of 1997 and 1998.

ORAL

NO. 470 OF 2001

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

MILBURY CARE SERVICE - CONTRACT

Can Government state when does the Milbury Care Service Contract expire?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question No. 471 of 2001.

NO. 471 OF 2001

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

MILBURY CARE SERVICE

Can Government state how many of the Dr Giraldi's Home employees are persons that have been contracted by Milbury outside Gibraltar giving the title of post held and qualifications?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

The contract expires in November 2001. There are two Dr Giraldi Home employees provided by Milbury Care Services who have been contracted outside Gibraltar. These are as follows:

The Home Manager whose qualifications are RNMH, D32 and D33 NVQ Assessors Certificate, City & Guilds 730, Certificate for teaching Adults.

The Deputy Home Manager whose qualifications are RNMH, Degree in Art & Design, Certificate in Creative Design.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 470 AND 471 OF 2001

HON J L BALDACHINO:

Are these the two posts that were originally in post when the contract was signed with Milbury? There has been no change whatsoever?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

There might have been changes in the postholders, but the job description of the posts remain the same.

HON J C PEREZ:

Have the Government taken the view of whether they intend to review the contract with Milbury or not, or whether they intend to put other arrangements in place?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

The Government are not yet in a position to confirm whether the contract will be renewed or not.

ORAL

NO. 472 OF 2001

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

MILBURY CARE SERVICE

Can Government state how many individuals applied for respite facilities at Dr Giraldi's Home and how many were accommodated giving a breakdown for each of the months of February and March 2001?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 473 and 474 of 2001.

ORAL

NO. 473 OF 2001

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

MILBURY CARE SERVICE

Can Government state what level of supervision is provided by Milbury to users of the Sitter Service?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 472 and 474 of 2001.

NO. 474 OF 2001

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

MILBURY CARE SERVICE

Can Government state if the Sitter Service provided by Milbury the users are divided into age groups and category of disability?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

During the month of February 2001, six people applied for and used the respite facilities. During the month of March 2001, five people applied for and used the respite facilities. The level of staff supervision provided to users of the Sitting Service is as follows: Of the 15 current users, 11 have a one to one supervision all of the time. Three have joint support from the team on duty due to their needs and the small number of hours they use. One service user is supervised by the team of a specific resident. Users of the service are not divided into category of disability but are supported as individuals according to their needs. Within the respite/sitting apartment there are separate designated areas for children and adults.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 472 TO 474 OF 2001

HON J L BALDACHINO:

In the contract that was signed with Milbury, was it not stated that they had to provide separate areas for children and adults in the establishment and for people with different categories of disabilities?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I do not believe that the contract stated that.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

According to Question No. 414 of 1997, when her hon Colleague was then responsible, in answer to a question from my late hon Colleague, the Hon Robert Mor, under 7, that is what is stated. Why is that not happening?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I have just said that there are designated separate areas for children and for adults.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

I thought the Minister said that the users were not divided into age groups and category of disabilities.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I think the hon Member is confusing the residential service, which is being unitised and the sitter service. Question No.474 of 2001 relates to the sitter service. I think the answer in 1997 relates to the unitisation of the Home, whereas Question No. 474, relates to the sitter service.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

Which is also provided by Milbury?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

In any case, does the Minister not think that it would be appropriate seeing that there are different people with different types of disabilities and disorders, some might be violent, not to be separated?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

There are occasions when because of the diverse needs of the people requiring the respite service, there may be some people who are more active than others and this can sometimes be upsetting to those who prefer a quieter time. This programme is quite effectively addressed by having separate areas for children and for adults, but this sort of situation arises within any household within a large family, which is what the Dr Giraldi Home is trying emulate in any case.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

I am talking about the sitter services.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The hon Member has got to understand. Until quite recently the residential people were all mixed up. The Government have invested quite a lot of money in unitising what is a limited sized building. In effect what the hon Member is now asking the Government to do is unitise the facilities for the sitter services as well. The facilities are not big enough to be divided into ever smaller slices. It has been hard enough to divide it into the four units that the Dr Giraldi floor, which is only the top floor of the building, let us not forget. That has been divided into four floors in order to create segregation, for the permanent residents. There would be no premises left to segregate further if we had to segregate the sitter services as well.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

I suppose that when the Minister said that one to one is given, I suppose it is given to the person that most needs it because of their disability, is that correct?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

That is correct.

NO. 475 OF 2001

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE - DISABILITY ALLOWANCE

Can Government state what is the criteria in considering applications for disability allowance?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Under the social assistance arrangements, which have been in place over the last 20 years, a weekly allowance is payable to any person who is permanently and severely handicapped by a physical or mental disability from birth.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 475 OF 2001

HON J C PEREZ:

Why is this limited for disability from birth? I know of a particular case of a person who is lame and has an arm missing as a result of two accidents and he is still a permanently disabled person. Why should the allowance be limited to people whose disability is from birth?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I am quoting in relation to the question that the hon Member asked. "What are the social assistance arrangements in place?" I am quoting from the actual arrangements, but the Director in his discretion may approve the payment of such an allowance that does not fall into that category as the hon Member has referred to. The Director has discretion to allow payment to that sort of person.

HON J C PEREZ:

I find it strange that in this case the person concerned had been applying for this disability allowance, had not been able to get it and has now reached the age of 60 and the arrangement is that he is now a community officer who presumably is available for work, although everybody knows he is unable to go to work because of his permanent disability, so he is now getting an income as a community officer and everybody knows he is permanently disabled and cannot be available for work whereas for the last three years he has had the application for disability allowance rejected?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The first thing that we should establish is that there has been no change here. Whatever system has been operated now is the one that we inherited from the hon Members, which I do not state critically.

HON J C PEREZ:

Except that if we had been there we might have created a different view.....

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

That is what the Minister has said is the position. Social Assistance is discretionary anyway. What the Minister is saying is that the Minister has endowed the Director with discretion to exercise that even bigger discretion to make payments under the discretionary social assistance scheme. The position that the hon Member is lamenting the GSLP did not do and the Government is hoping to do, is precisely what my hon Colleague has done.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

Even though the social assistance for disability is only paid when somebody has a disability from birth, within the discretionary powers where people might get social assistance if they have a disability from birth, there is also a further discretionary power where the Director might if he feels that there is a need for any other person with disability to be paid under the social assistance fund. Is that correct?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

That is correct.

HON J C PEREZ:

In the discretion of the Director I presume that the Director takes into account any income the person might have, whether he is on rent relief or not, whether the person lives alone, all these things are taken into account by the Director, one presumes in using his discretion.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

One would presume so.

HON J C PEREZ:

Will the Minister commit herself to look at a particular case which has come to our attention to see whether the Director can use his discretion now in a particular way since he does not seem to have been using his discretion in that particular way for the last three years.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

If the hon Member gives me the details of the person in question I will have it checked.

ORAL

NO. 476 OF 2001

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

Can Government state the number of persons receiving Social Assistance each month from January 2001 to the end of March 2001 giving a breakdown by age and sex?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

The extensive factual and statistical information requested by the hon Member is set out in the written schedule that I now hand to him.

Answer to Question 476/2001

The following persons were in receipt of Social Assistance from January 2001 to the end of March 2001.

2001	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL	18/25	26/35	36/45	46/60
JANUARY	125	163	288	46	89	90	63
FEBRUARY	129	164	293	57	85	82	69
MARCH	121	171	292	51	89	86	66

ORAL

NO. 477 OF 2001

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

SOCIAL INSURANCE ORDINANCE

Will Government consider reviewing the provisions of the Social Insurance Ordinance in the current financial year to correct the loss of entitlement of spouses of contributors in cases of divorce in respect of contributions made during the period they have been married?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

The Government are not currently in a position to state what it may or may not be willing to do in respect of the subject matter of the question. However, the issue existed throughout the eight years that the hon Member was in Government. The Government note that he chose not to do anything about it.

NO. 478 OF 2001

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

CLOSED LONG-TERM BENEFITS FUND

Can Government state what was the balance of the Closed Long-Term Benefits Fund for each month of January, February and March 2001, showing the amount from UK and local funds and the expenditure to former Spanish workers and to pensioners from local funds?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 479 and 480 of 2001.

ORAL

NO. 479 OF 2001

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

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 January 2001?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 478 and 480 of 2001.

NO. 480 OF 2001

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

CLOSED LONG-TERM BENEFITS FUND

Can Government state what was the number of pensioners being paid or with entitlement to payment for each month of February and March 2001 from the Closed Long-Term Benefits Fund giving a breakdown of pre-1969 Spanish pensioners and locally funded pensioners showing the number of Gibraltarians/UK nationals, Moroccans and other nationalities?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

The extensive factual and statistical information requested by the hon Member is set out in the written schedules that I now hand to him.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 478/01

The balance of the Closed Long-Term Benefits Fund since January 2001 for each month showing the amount from UK and local funds and the expenditure to former Spanish workers and to pensioners from local funds is as follows:

	<u>31-Jan-01</u>	<u>28-Feb-01</u>	<u>31-Mar-01</u>
<u>Fund Account -</u>			
<u>Opening Balance</u>	<u>£686,148</u>	<u>£961,248</u>	<u>£635,889</u>
<u>"Local Account"</u>			
Opening Balance	£423,481	£429,070	£277,310
<u>Add</u>			
Tranfers from the Open Long-Term Benefits Fund	£800,000	£700,000	£650,000
Other Receipts	<u>£3,798</u>	<u>£2,539</u>	<u>£3,644</u>
	£1,227,279	£1,131,609	£930,954
<u>Less</u>			
Pension Payments	<u>(£798,209)</u>	<u>(£854,299)</u>	<u>(£718,254)</u>
Closing Balance	<u>£429,070</u>	<u>£277,310</u>	<u>£212,700</u>
<u>"Spanish Account"</u>			
Opening Balance	£262,667	£532,178	£358,579
<u>Add</u>			
Receipts from D.F.I.D	<u>£620,000</u>	<u>£160,000</u>	<u>£1,040,000</u>
	£882,667	£692,178	£1,398,579
<u>Less</u>			
Pension Payments	<u>(£350,489)</u>	<u>(£333,599)</u>	<u>(£1,020,841)</u>
Closing Balance	<u>£532,178</u>	<u>£358,579</u>	<u>£377,738</u>
<u>Fund Account -</u>			
<u>Closing Balance</u>	<u>£961,248</u>	<u>£635,889</u>	<u>£590,438</u>

Answer to question 479/2001

The transfers made from the Open Long-Term Benefits Fund to the Closed Long-Term Benefits Fund by month since January 2001 are as follows:

January 2001	£800,000
February 2001	£700,000
March 2001	£650,000
	<u>£2,150,000</u>

ANSWER TO QUESTION No. 480/2001

	<u>February 2001</u>	<u>March 2001</u>
Pre-1969 Spanish pensioners	7302	7297
British pensioners (Gib/UK Nat.)	4826	4835
Moroccan pensioners	1202	1238
Other nationalities	<u>310</u>	<u>315</u>
Total:	<u>13,640</u>	<u>13,685</u>

NO. 481 OF 2001THE HON DR J J GARCIA**NATIONAL DAY**

With respect to the £138,000 forecast outturn for National Day for 1999/2000 Head 8-A Sub-Head 23, and further to the answer to Question No.12 of 2001, can the Government provide a breakdown of the following, indicating which firms, companies or organisations the monies were paid to and when:

(a)	Publicity Material	£9,616.00
(b)	Events	£16,669.59
(c)	Works/Equipment	£71,706.79
(d)	Receptions	£3,444.60
(e)	Security	£1,309.00
(f)	Miscellaneous	£981.53 ?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

The extensive factual and statistical information requested by the hon Member is set out in the written schedule that I now hand to him.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 481 OF 2001

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is it possible for the Minister to say what procedure was used in the allocation of several of these items? I was asking the question in a general sense, I have not had time to look at them individually?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

The department writes to the different companies in their particular fields asking them to submit offers. A selection is then made at a departmental level taking into account the best value for money.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The system is not a tender system, it is just a question of writing to firms, collecting offers and then deciding which one to choose, is that the position?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Yes, that is correct.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Remember some of them are not procurement, some of them are, for example, the grant to the Philharmonic Society is £12,000. Some of it is procured by organisers of events, which are not Government organised.

25

2

HOA Question 481/2001

Misc		
£43.00	30-Sep-99	The Piazza{refreshment etc for team erecting bunting}
£7.00	30-Sep-99	F Azopardi{expenses refreshments for team erecting bunting}
£82.00	30-Sep-99	1st/4th Scout Troop{drinks for helpers-National Day}
£17.35	11-Oct-99	The Piazza{refreshment etc for team dismantling bunting}
£14.04	11-Oct-99	Saccone & Speed{drinks for National Day}
£150.00	11-Oct-99	P Ignacio & A Barbara{hire of jumping castle}
£65.00	11-Oct-99	F Trenado{food vouchers for helpers of National Day}
£175.00	14-Oct-99	Coq Dor{meals for Gibraltar Community Projects Ltd employees}
£20.00	14-Oct-99	F Azopardi{reimbursement of meal and drinks}
£106.00	14-Oct-99	O Valverde/Benatar{reimbursement of expenses ico Festival Week}
£8.84	18-Oct-99	Westex Gibraltar Ltd
£175.40	27-Oct-99	Coq Dor{refreshments & food}
£14.04	29-Nov-99	Saccone & Speed{drinks for Rock Concert}
£51.93	10-Aug-99	A Avellano-subsistence(Spain)('99)
£51.93	10-Aug-99	J Moreno-subsistence(Spain)('99)
£981.53		

NO. 482 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

NATIONAL DAY - PAYMENT TO SDGG

When and for what purpose was £8087.82 paid to the Self-Determination for Gibraltar Group (SDGG) further to the answer to Question No. 12 of 2001?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Two payments were made on the 3rd September and 8th September 1999 to the Self Determination for Gibraltar Group in respect of Government's contributin to the visiting Spanish delegation. The amount covered travel costs and accommodation.

NO. 483 OF 2001

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

Can Government state how many persons aged between 60 and 65 are receiving the old level of Social Assistance as at the end of March, and the maximum weekly payment?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 484 to 486 of 2001.

ORAL

NO. 484 OF 2001

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

Can Government state how many persons aged 65 and over, are receiving the old level of Social Assistance as at the end of March and the maximum weekly payment?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 483 and 485 to 486 of 2001.

NO. 485 OF 2001

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

Can Government state of the persons that have qualified for the £85 Social Assistance, for persons of pensionable age, how many are receiving the £85 and what is the number of persons receiving lesser amounts in bands of £5, from £80 to £5 per week?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 483, 484 and 486 of 2001.

NO. 486 OF 2001

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

Can Government state of the persons that have qualified for the £110 Social Assistance, for persons of pensionable age, how many are receiving the £110, and what is the number of persons receiving lesser amounts in bands of £5, from £105 to £5 per week?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

I can confirm that five persons aged between 60 and 65 are receiving the old level of Social Assistance as at the end of March. The maximum weekly payment is £29.10 for a single person and £50.20 for a married couple. Additional weekly allowances are payable depending on the circumstances of each case.

I can confirm that 11 persons aged 65 and over are receiving the old level of Social Assistance as at the end of March. The maximum weekly payment is £38.30 for a single person and £56.30 for a married couple. Additional weekly allowances are payable depending on the individual circumstances of each case.

The extensive factual and statistical information requested by the hon Member is set out in the written schedule that I now hand to him.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 483 TO 486 OF 2001

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is it the case that the five persons from 60 to 65 and the 11 over 65 are still on the old level of Social Assistance because they are not living alone? Is that what has prevented them on being in the new level?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

That is correct.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is any account taken of the nature of the income of the person they are living with? If one has two persons on Social Assistance for example, does that make any difference?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Since we last talked about this in the last meeting of the House, Government have decided to adopt the policy that the living alone rule shall not apply if the person applying for the minimum income guarantee is living with a person who:-

- (a) Is in receipt of a handicapped persons allowance and has no other source of personal income.
- (b) Is severely ill or permanently incapacitated and has been in receipt of Social Assistance for over one year immediately preceding the date of application.
- (c) Is unemployed and has been in receipt of Social Assistance for over two years, and, in the opinion of the Director, has no reasonable prospect of obtaining employment in Gibraltar.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In the light of that answer, are the figures that I have been given of five and 11 after the implementation of that policy or are these cases due to be reviewed in the line of that subsequent decision?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I am afraid I am not really sure. I will have to find out. But I suspect it is before.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The 16 are before the new policy?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I suspect so, but I will have to confirm this.

Minimum Income Guarantee

Allowed cases as at 24 April 2001

X £5

				ALL		COUPLES		SINGLES
				No.		No.		No.
	£110.00			2		2		nil
From	£105.00	To	£100.00	nil		nil		nil
From	£100.00	To	£95.00	nil		nil		nil
From	£95.00	To	£90.00	nil		nil		nil
From	£90.00	To	£85.00	nil		nil		nil
	£85.00			8		nil		8
From	£80.00	To	£75.00	nil		nil		nil
From	£75.00	To	£70.00	1		nil		1
From	£70.00	To	£65.00	nil		nil		nil
From	£65.00	To	£60.00	37		nil		37
From	£60.00	To	£55.00	1		nil		1
From	£55.00	To	£50.00	nil		nil		nil
From	£50.00	To	£45.00	8		1		7
From	£45.00	To	£40.00	8		nil		8
From	£40.00	To	£35.00	14		nil		14
From	£35.00	To	£30.00	12		2		10
From	£30.00	To	£25.00	16		1		15
From	£25.00	To	£20.00	32		nil		32
From	£20.00	To	£15.00	21		nil		21
From	£15.00	To	£10.00	165		3		162
From	£10.00	To	£5.00	20		2		18
Under	£5.00			36		15		21
				381		26		355

NO. 487 OF 2001

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

Can Government state how many Social Insurance contribution quarterly schedules have been issued to employers in respect of employees for the first and second quarter of the current year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question No. 488 of 2001.

NO. 488 OF 2001

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SOCIAL INSURANCE

Can Government state how many Social Insurance contribution quarterly schedules for self-employed persons have been issued in respect of the first quarter and the second quarter of the current year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

In the first quarter of 2001, 20, 765 contribution schedules were issued to employers in respect of employees. Contribution schedules in respect of the second quarter are still being processed. I can say that as at 24th April 2001, 12,102 have already been issued.

Contribution schedules issued for self-employed persons in respect of the first and second quarters of 2001 were 929 and 925 respectively.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 487 AND 488 OF 2001

HON J J BOSSANO:

The 929 issued in the first quarter, was that based on the position as at December under the old system?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I do not think I understand the hon Member's question.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Up to December 2000, both self-employed and employees had the insurance cards which they exchanged. I am asking, "Is the 929 of the first quarter the result of the exchange of cards that came in from December?"

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

No. The exchange of cards is not taken into account in this figure.

HON J J BOSSANO:

How has the department gone about identifying the people who should be issued with this under the new system?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Every ledger that has been entered into the new computer system, the active files, everybody within those active files have been issued with a schedule taking into consideration that we assume that they are still in employment.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Surely that is based on the insurance cards that were due to be exchanged in January under the system of the Social Insurance cards, which was my original question.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The system could include people that have not exchanged cards for longer. Basically this is now like the Income Tax system where the Commissioner just sends out returns to anyone that he thinks is liable to tax. The DSS is now doing the same thing with these schedules.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The 929 of the first quarter, which is how the system started, is not necessarily an indication that there were 929 people self-employed at the end of December 2000.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

No, it is not necessarily a precise indication of the number of people in employment. I can say that under the manual system insurance records were kept in the active ledgers for nearly two consecutive years, after an insured person terminated employment. Consequently a proportion of the schedules issued will be in respect of persons who terminated employment in 1999 or the year 2000. The same applies to schedules issued to self-employed people.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The numbers then issued in the first quarter reflect people who had an insurance record either in the year 2000 or in 1999, but people who do not appear in the old insurance cards after 1998 are the ones that are removed?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

That is correct.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In the case of the second quarter, is that simply a repetition of the ones that have been issued before? Are these schedules re-issued every quarter?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Based on what is returned to us, we will be able to judge whether some employees have changed employment and are no longer in employment with the employer we issued the schedule to as and when we receive the schedules back. In the third quarter we will be in a better position to identify those in actual employment with that particular employer or otherwise.

HON J J BOSSANO:

My question is of the figures that we have been given as to what was issued in the first quarter and what was issued in the second quarter, are the ones issued in the second quarter a repetition of the ones of the first quarter?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Yes. Unless in the interim we have received notification from the employer that that employee is no longer working with them, in which case we would not re-issue in the second quarter for that particular employee.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In the case of the self-employed the figure was 929 in the first quarter and then 925 in the second quarter, so the second quarter has four less. That could be that there could have been people coming into self-employment in the second quarter who were not in the first and an even bigger drop from the first? This is a net figure.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

It could be.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In the case of the employees, the position is that the employers are required to return the completed schedule at the quarter following the one in which they are issued or in the same quarter?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

At the end of each quarter.

HON J J BOSSANO:

At the moment it is too early to tell what kind of return the Minister is going to get from the first quarter?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Exactly. It is difficult to judge at this moment in time.

ORAL

NO. 489 OF 2001

THE HON J J BOSSANO

ELDERLY CARE AGENCY

What was the estimated cost per bed in the Elderly Care Agency in the last financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

The estimated weekly cost of running the Elderly Care Agency in the last financial year divided by the number of beds was £504.

NO. 490 OF 2001

THE HON J J BOSSANO

COMMUNITY CARE LTD

Can Government say how many community officers employed by Community Care Ltd have applied for the Social Assistance Minimum Income for pensioners, how many such applications have been successful and the level of supplementary income granted?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

I can confirm that 15 community officers employed by Community Care Ltd have applied for the Minimum Income Guarantee since this benefit was introduced. Only three applicants were eligible for this benefit at the rate of £20.00, £32.45 and £33.20 respectively. At present there is only one community officer receiving Minimum Income Guarantee as the other two, although still in receipt of this benefit, have attained the age of 65 and are no longer community officers.

ORAL

NO. 491 OF 2001

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

MOROCCAN NATIONALS EMPLOYED

Can Government state of the Moroccan nationals employed in the first quarter of 2001, how many were new entrants to the local labour market giving a breakdown for each month?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

None.

ORAL

NO. 492 OF 2001

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

NON-EEC NATIONALS EMPLOYED

Can Government state of the 33 other non-EEC persons employed in the fourth quarter of last year how many were new entrants to the local labour market giving a breakdown by nationality and job title?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question No. 493 of 2001.

NO. 493 OF 2001

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

NON-EEC NATIONALS EMPLOYED

Can Government state of the 29 other non-EEC persons employed in the third quarter of last year how many were new entrants to the local labour market giving a breakdown by nationality and job title?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

The extensive, factual and statistical information requested by the hon Member is set out in the written schedule that I now hand to him.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 492 AND 493 OF 2001

HON J L BALDACHINO:

I presume that all these nationals do require work permits?

HON H A CORBY:

Yes they do.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

When we have something like medical, are they recruited by the Gibraltar Health Authority?

HON H A CORBY:

Mostly they are recruited by the Health Authority.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

The Minister has put down as a professional trade 'skilled', is it that they are skilled in a particular trade or what does it mean?

HON H A CORBY:

I do not have that information with me but I will certainly look at what 'skilled' means and what the trade is.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is usually related to the Finance Centre type activities and REP status.

Answer to Question 493 of 2001

Non EEC Nationals, new entrants into the Labour Market

3 rd Quarter 2000	Nationality	Profession Trade
	Indian	Clerical
	Indian	Domestic
	Bangladeshi	Retail
	Indian (3)	Professional
	Jamaican	Professional
	Russian (2)	Managerial
	Indian	Semi Skilled
TOTAL		10

4 th Quarter 2000	Nationality	Profession Trade
	Argentine	Managerial
	Swiss	Managerial
	Columbian	Professional
	Sri Lankan	Medical
	Russian (2)	Managerial
	Swiss	Managerial
	U S A	Managerial
	Singaporean (2)	Skilled
	Hong Kong	Skilled
	Malaysian (4)	Skilled
	Czech	Skilled Trader
	Swiss	Managerial
	Hong Kong	Managerial
	Brazilian	Managerial
	Trinidad Tobago	Catering
TOTAL		20

NO. 494 OF 2001

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

EMPLOYMENT REGULATIONS (OFFENCES) ORDINANCE

Can Government state how many fixed penalties have been imposed on employers, in respect of how many employees in each month of February and March under the Employment Regulations (Offences) Ordinance, and under which section of the Ordinance. Furthermore, whether the penalties have been paid or the matter is being pursued through the courts?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

The extensive, factual and statistical information requested by the hon Member is set out in the written schedule which I now hand over to him.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 494 OF 2001

HON J L BALDACHINO:

In February the number of inspections carried out was 20 and there is only one fixed penalty notice issued. Does that mean that out of the 20 inspections only one actually failed?

HON H A CORBY:

That is correct. The hon Member will find that in March six penalty notices were paid. That was in respect of the February one because it was issued at the end of February.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

In March out of the 16 inspections, nobody was actually breaking the law?

HON H A CORBY:

That is correct.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Given that in the first three months of this year, what we have is that out of 18 inspections in January, 20 in February and 16 in March, only on one occasion was there an infringement. Are the Government then satisfied that there is no longer any illegal labour in Gibraltar.

HON H A CORBY:

No, the Government are not and is very vigilant. I think that the message is getting through to the employers out there.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So the answer is yes. You have stuffed it out?

HON H A CORBY:

No, I have not stuffed it out. The inspectors do go in and now people are aware that they are there and that the fines are there as well.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The inspectors do not seem to be catching anybody, that is the point.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

This has had the desired effect, it is a deterrent, whereas before out of this number of inspections would have yielded more infractions, now the same number of inspections offers much fewer infractions and the reason is because there is a much higher incidence to compliance now, which is not to say it has been eradicated. There is no doubt that there is now a much higher incidence of compliance than there used to be and to that extent this which was always supposed to be a deterrent rather than a revenue raising measure, appears to be showing signs of having succeeded.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

All these inspections are being carried out by the Employment Agency?

HON H A CORBY:

By the inspectors in the Employment Agency.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

If I understood correctly when the Bill was brought to the House, there would be other inspectors in other departments, is that correct or is that not happening?

HON H A CORBY:

No, there are no others.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

How many inspectors are employed by the Employment Agency?

HON H A CORBY:

Four.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The point that the hon Member may have been thinking about is that these inspectors also police other legislation as opposed to being other inspectors policing this legislation, the other way around.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Are these inspections as a result of somebody bringing to the notice possible infractions to the ETB or are these random?

HON H A CORBY:

Some are random and some are whistle blowing. If anybody sees a person who is illegally employed they come or they telephone the department.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

I suppose that the inspections that are carried out are carried out in all spectrums of business in Gibraltar, it is not just one area, it is a wider spectrum?

HON H A CORBY:

By sectors or by industry groups.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is the Minister in a position to say whether the one case that was found was actually one that had been reported or at random?

HON H A CORBY:

This one was at random.

Answer to Question 494 of 2001

January 2001

Number of inspections carried out was 18.

No Fixed Penalty Notices were issued.

No Fixed Penalty Notices were paid.

No Pending cases with the Attorney General.

February 2001

Number of inspections carried out was 20.

1 Fixed Penalty Notice was issued.

No Fixed Penalty Notices were paid.

No Pending cases with the Attorney General.

March 2001

Number of inspections carried out was 16.

No Fixed Penalty Notices were issued.

1 Fixed Penalty Notice was paid.

No Pending cases with the Attorney General.

The provisions are as follows:

- 1) Regulation 3 of the Employment Injuries (Contributions) Regulations (Duty to Register).
- 2) Regulation 3 of the Employment Injuries (Contributions) Regulations as applied by Regulation 4(1) of the Social Security (Contributions) Regulations (Duty to Register).
- 3) Regulation 3 of the Employment Injuries (Contributions) Regulations as applied by Regulation 3(1) of the Social Security (Open Long Term Benefits) (Contributions) Regulations 1997 (Duty to Register).

NO. 495 OF 2001

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

WORK PERMITS

Can Government state the number of work permits issued from 1st February 2001 to the end of March 2001 giving a breakdown for each month by occupation, sex and nationality?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

The extensive, factual and statistical information requested by the hon Member is set out in the written schedule that I now hand to him.

Answer to Question 495 of 2001

Work Permits issued in the 1st Quarter of 2001

Jan 01	American		Indian		Mor		Can		Chinese		Russian		Swiss		Jamaican		Pakistanese		Other		Totals
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Managerial	1																		1		2
Professional	1						1	1													3
Medical																					0
Clerical	1	1		1					1												4
Semi-Skilled					2																2
Domestic						3															3
Catering					2																2
Skilled					8														2		10
Director			2								1										3
Totals	3	1	2	1	12	3	1	1	1		1								2	1	29

Feb 01	American		Indian		Mor		Can		Chinese		Russian		Swiss		Jamaican		Pakistanese		Other		Totals
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Managerial											1		1								2
Professional																			1		1
Medical																			1		1
Clerical																					0
Semi-Skilled					3										1						4
Domestic					1															1	2
Catering					3														1		4
Skilled					25																25
Director					1															1	2
Totals					33						1		1		1				3	2	41

Contd.....

Contd Answer to Question 495 of 2001

March 01	American		Indian		Mor		Can		Chinese		Russian		Swiss		Jamaican		Pakistanese		Other		Totals
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Managerial																	1				1
Professional																					0
Medical																					0
Clerical											1										1
Semi-Skilled			1		1																2
Domestic						1															1
Catering					5																5
Skilled					4																4
Director																					0
Totals			1		10	1					1						1				14

NO. 496 OF 2001

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD

Can Government explain why the Labour Advisory Board did not meet from December 1999 to August 2000?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

As I already explained in relation to Question No. 64 of 2001 by the Hon Dr Joseph Garcia, the Labour Advisory Board did not meet from December 1999 to August 2000 owing to two main factors.

Firstly, after the November 1999 meeting the next bimonthly meeting would have been scheduled for January 2000, when the elections were close at hand.

Secondly, when I was appointed Minister for Employment in March 2000 it was only natural that I should familiarise myself with employment matters generally and with the workings of the department before I convened a meeting of the Labour Advisory Board.

Hence the next meeting of the Board having been held in September 2000.

NO. 497 OF 2001

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

VACANCIES REGISTERED WITH THE EMPLOYMENT AGENCY

Can Government give a breakdown by month of vacancies registered with the Employment Agency, showing how many of these were for part-time employment for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd quarter of last year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Government can only provide the requested information for the 3rd quarter of 2000, as it already did for the 4th quarter in answer to Question No. 35 of 2001. It is only with the introduction of the new Profile 2000 system last July that such information is readily available. Information relating to the 1st and 2nd quarters of 2000 would require a disproportionate administrative effort, given that it could not be undertaken by the computer system in place before the introduction of Profile 2000.

The extensive, factual and statistical information requested by the hon Member in relation to the 3rd quarter of 2000 only is set out in the written schedule that I now hand to him.

Answer to Question 497 of 2001

Registered vacancies for 3rd Quarter of 2000.

	Total No. of Vacancies Registered	Total No. of Vacancies Registered for P/T Employment
JULY	631	143
AUGUST	522	94
SEPTEMBER	435	78

ORAL

NO. 498 OF 2001

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

VACANCIES FILLED

Can Government state of the vacancies filled in the 1st quarter of 2001 how many were for part-time employment giving a breakdown by sex and age for each month?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

The extensive, factual and statistical information requested by the hon Member is set out in the written schedule that I now hand to him.

Answer to Question of 498 of 2001

Part-time employment in the 1st Quarter of 2001.

	MALE			FEMALES			
	Under 18	18-24	Over 25	Under 18	18-24	Over 25	Total
Jan	1	6	11	2	11	25	56
Feb	1	4	9	5	26	37	82
Mar	0	1	10	1	6	15	33
Total	2	11	30	8	43	77	171

NO. 499 OF 2001

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

TERMS OF ENGAGEMENT

Can Government state how many Terms of Engagements were registered with the Employment Agency

- (a) on 30th January 2001;
- (b) on 28th February 2001;
- (c) on 31st March 2001?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

The number of Notice of Terms of Engagements registered with the Employment Service is as follows : -

as at 31 st January 2001,	18213;
as at 28 th February 2001,	18320;
and as at 31 st March 2001,	18398.

These figures include directors and self-employed.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 499 OF 2001

HON J L BALDACHINO:

Has the Minister got the figures that excludes

HON H A CORBY:

They are as follows : -

as at 31 st January 2001,	15106;
as at 28 th February 2001,	15202;
and as at 31 st March 2001,	15275.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

These are Terms of Engagements that are still opened with the ETB?

HON H A CORBY:

Yes.

ORAL

NO. 500 OF 2001

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS TERMINATED

Can Government give a breakdown by nationality and industry for each month from January 2001 to March 2001 in respect of employment contracts terminated?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 501 to 505 of 2001.

NO. 501 OF 2001

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

EMPLOYMENT - NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED

Can Government give a breakdown by month of male and female unemployed Gibraltarians aged 18 and over from the 1st February 2001 to 31st March 2001 receiving

- (a) Unemployment Benefits
- (b) Social Assistance
- (c) No Payments?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 500 and 502 to 505 of 2001.

NO. 502 OF 2001

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

EMPLOYMENT - NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED

Can Government state if they are now in a position to give an answer to Question No. 37 of 2001 which read, "Can Government state of persons registered as unemployed at the end of December 2000, how many of those so registered had been unemployed for more than six months giving a breakdown by age and sex?"

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 500, 501 and 503 to 505 of 2001.

NO. 503 OF 2001

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

EMPLOYMENT - NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED

Can Government state of the persons registered unemployed for more than six months as at the end of December 1999 how many of those are still registered with the Employment Agency as unemployed giving a breakdown by age and sex?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 500 to 502 and 504 and 505 of 2001.

NO. 504 OF 2001

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

EMPLOYMENT - NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED

Can Government state of the Gibraltarians registered as unemployed with the Employment Agency as at the 1st quarter of 2001 how many were registered as looking for part-time jobs giving a breakdown for each month and by sex and age?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 500 to 503 and 505 of 2001.

NO. 505 OF 2001

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

EMPLOYMENT - NUMBER OF GIBRALTARIANS

Can Government state of the Gibraltarians employed in the 1st quarter of 2001 how many were registered with the Employment Agency giving a breakdown for each month by age and sex?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

The extensive, factual and statistical information requested by the hon Member is set out in the written schedule that I now hand to him.

Answer to Question 500 of 2001

Employment Contracts Terminated by Nationality & Industry for January – March 2001																		
Industry	January						February						March					
	GIB	BRI	SPA	MOR	EEC	OTH	GIB	BRI	SPA	MOR	EEC	OTH	GIB	BRI	SPA	MOR	EEC	OTH
Shipbldg, repair etc.							5	1	3	1			4	3	18		3	1
M/f of food, & tobacco																		
Printing & publishing	2						2	2					6		1			
M/f n.e.c.(clothing etc)							1			1								
Biding & construction	9	16	9	6	1		18	6	16	12	1		18	15	30	4	1	1
Electricity supply													1	1				
Water supply	1																	
Sea transport/shipping	5	3	1	1			2		1	1	1		4		1			
Port & services							1											
Road transport				2														
Post & telecomm.	1							2					2					
Air transport & related																		
W/sale food, drink	1			2			1		2						1			
W/sale fuel									1									
W/sale n.e.c.	4		2				1	1	1				1	1		1		
Retail –food	11		4	1		2	11	3	4	1	1	1	11	5	4	1		
Retail-drink & tobacco			1						1									
Ret.-clothing, footwear	5	1	2				2		2				1		1			
Retail – h/hold goods	2	1	1				1						2	1				
Retail – n.e.c.	12	3	7	3	1	2	8	2	11		1	1	12	5	9	1		1
Hotels,hostels,g/houses	2	3		2	3		3	1	3		2		7	1	2	1		
Restaurants, cafes etc	10	6	9	4	1	1	6	11	13	4	1	1	5	7	11	2	2	
Bars(lic to sell alcohol)	4	1	1				2	3					2	3	3			
Tourist svcs n.e.c.	6	1	1				1	2					3	1	1			
Banking & finance	5	3				2	7		1		2	1	7	1			2	1
Insurance & real estate	4						7	3			1		3					1
Legal,account,other svc	8	3	2		1	1	6	7	3	5			14	4	4		1	1
Public admin	21	1					9						14					
Education services		1											3					
Medical/health services	2												3					2
Welfare,charity,rel svcs	2	1					3	1					3					
Entertainment & sport	6	13	2	1			5	4			1	1	6	1			1	
Repairs-consumer good	4	1	3				1	1	2				7	2	1	2		
Police/fire services	4	2					2	2	1				3	2	1			
Defence	3			1			6						2					
Sanitary services																		
Services n.e.c.	16	11	3	4		1	10	7	2	3	2		17	6	2	3		

Answer to Question 501 of 2001

Breakdown of unemployed Gibraltarians, over 18, receiving payments from 1 January 2001 to 31 March 2001.

	Unemployment Benefit		Social Assistant		No Payment		Total	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Jan 01	36	26	91	35	75	64	202	125
Feb 01	42	21	95	36	59	68	196	125
Mar 01	49	32	92	39	47	58	188	129

Answer to Question 502 of 2001

Number of persons registered as unemployed as at December 2000, and who had been unemployed for more than 6 months by age and sex.

	Male	Female	Total
Under 18	1	4	5
18 - 24	6	4	10
Over 24	55	21	76
Total	62	29	91

Answer to Question 503 of 2001

Persons registered unemployed for over 6 months in December 1999, still registered in March 2001.

	Under 18	18 - 24	Over 25
Females	0	1	5
Males	0	1	20

Answer to Question 504 of 2001

Unemployed Gibraltarians registering for Part-time in the 1st Quarter

Jan 01		Male	Female	Total
	Under 18	0	0	0
	18 – 24	0	5	5
	Over 25	1	23	24
	Total	1	28	29

Feb 01		Male	Female	Total
	Under 18	0	0	0
	18 – 24	0	6	6
	Over 25	0	22	22
	Total	0	28	28

March 01		Male	Female	Total
	Under 18	0	0	0
	18 – 24	0	4	4
	Over 25	0	21	21
	Total	0	25	25

Answer to Question 505 of 2001

Registered Unemployed Gibraltarians employed during the 1st Quarter of 2001.

JANUARY 2001			
	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Under 18	0	6	6
18 - 24	13	7	20
Over 25	3	6	9
TOTAL	16	19	35

FEBRUARY 2001			
	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Under 18	4	3	7
18 - 24	10	6	16
Over 25	11	6	17
TOTAL	25	15	40

MARCH 2001			
	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Under 18	4	3	7
18 - 24	13	8	21
Over 25	13	11	24
TOTAL	30	22	52

NO. 506 OF 2001

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

BRITISH NATIONALS EMPLOYED

Can Government state of the British nationals employed on the 1st quarter of 2001 how many were new entrants to the local labour market giving a breakdown for each month?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 507 and 508 of 2001.

NO. 507 OF 2001

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

SPANISH NATIONALS EMPLOYED

Can Government state of the Spanish nationals employed in the 1st quarter of 2001 how many were new entrants to the local labour market giving a breakdown for each month?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 506 and 508 of 2001.

NO. 508 OF 2001

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

NON-EEC NATIONALS EMPLOYED

Can Government state of the non-EEC nationals employed in the 1st quarter of 2001 how many were new entrants to the local labour market giving a breakdown for each month?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

The extensive, factual and statistical information requested by the hon Member is set out in the written schedule that I now hand to him.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 506 TO 508 OF 2001

HON J L BALDACHINO:

In the month of March, it looks like there is a bigger influx of Spanish nationals as new entrants, is there a reason for that than what normally is the trend in any other month?

HON H A CORBY:

I think it is the trend, it fluctuates. At times we have construction companies coming in and new entrants to the labour market, so it fluctuates from one month to the other.

Answer to Question 508 of 2001

New Entrants to the Local Labour Market in the 1st Quarter of 2001

	British Nationals	Spanish Nationals	Non-EEC Nationals	Total
Jan 01	52	47	1	100
Feb 01	47	40	6	93
March 01	42	57	6	105

ORAL

NO. 509 OF 2001

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

EMPLOYMENT - DETACHED WORKERS

Can Government state the number of workers that were registered with the Employment Agency as "Detached Workers" from January to December 2000 giving a breakdown for each month, their trade and nationality?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 510 of 2001.

NO. 510 OF 2001

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

EMPLOYMENT - DETACHED WORKERS

Can Government state the number of workers that were registered with the Employment Agency as "Detached Workers" in the 1st quarter of 2001 giving a breakdown for each month, their trade and nationality?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

The extensive, factual and statistical information requested by the hon Member is set out in the written schedules that I now hand to him.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 509 AND 510 OF 2001

HON J L BALDACHINO:

Seeing that the majority are from a particular nationality, does this mean that most of them are persons that are employed in ship yards and construction work?

HON H A CORBY:

Yes, that is correct. There are also special people, I will give an example, they need to build a steel structure and they have not got the manpower to do it, then the detached worker comes along contracted by whatever firm, they do the work and then they leave.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

They come and go.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In the figures that have been given of Terms of Employment registered, are the detached workers included or are these in addition to those figures?

HON H A CORBY:

I think that they are included.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

When a company brings in a detached worker for a short period of time, is the company required to open the vacancy at the ETB or do they inform the ETB and the ETB registers the worker.

HON H A CORBY:

There is a procedure of notification of temporary appointment. There is a form which has to be signed and the application must be completed and sent to the ETB not later than five days before the commencement of the employment, it is Form 101 and the fee is £20 each.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

I am asking the question because of the answer the Minister has given to the Leader of the Opposition. In the question of where vacancies are open, is it that these vacancies have to be opened under the law, or is it that they are not opened, because it does make a difference. If the hon Member is telling us that these vacancies are being opened and we receive it as opened, is that the case because I am not sure, I do not think that the case was that they had to open the vacancy but simply that they had to ask permission.

HON H A CORBY:

They do not need to open a vacancy, but they have to register for it.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

It will not be shown as vacancies open when we get the provision, neither will it show as vacancies filled.

HON H A CORBY:

It is vacancies filled.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

When the Minister provides us with vacancies open for each month and then the Minister provides us with vacancies filled, are these shown in any of the two?

HON H A CORBY:

Vacancies filled is within the month.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

If the workers come in for a short time and they do not need to open a vacancy, all they have to do is get permission from the Employment Agency to get the workers in who have to conform to certain regulations as the law sees fit, after that they leave, therefore they are not registering the vacancy because they are not going to fill it up with anybody. If those vacancies are shown when we get vacancies open and also shown as vacancies filled this will not be as the the Minister has said.

HON H A CORBY:

I am told that they are.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The persons that are shown on this list are people who are paying social insurance in another EU State, is that correct? And they do not have to be necessarily EU nationals, is that right?

HON H A CORBY:

They can be employees of companies. For example, shipping, they can have their own workforce here for a certain amount of time and then they go back.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Given that if they are non-EU nationals they require a work permit, is there a different procedure if the detached worker is an EU national as opposed to a non-EU national?

HON H A CORBY:

I need to check that out, I am not sure about that.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In the case of the ship yard, have they been paying this £20 fee for every detached worker that they bring in?

HON H A CORBY:

Yes.

Detached workers registered from January to December of 2000.

JANUARY 2000					
NATIONALITY	TRADE				
	Professional	Semi Skilled	Skilled	Manual	Total
Spanish			14		14
British			1		1
Other EEC					0
Other Non EEC					0
Moroccan					0
TOTAL			15		15

FEBRUARY 2000					
NATIONALITY	TRADE				
	Professional	Semi Skilled	Skilled	Manual	Total
Spanish			39		39
British	3		5		8
Other EEC			12		12
Other Non EEC					0
Moroccan					0
TOTAL	3		56		59

MARCH 2000					
NATIONALITY	TRADE				
	Professional	Semi Skilled	Skilled	Manual	Total
Spanish			15	4	19
British	7		9		16
Other EEC	2				2
Other Non EEC					0
Moroccan					0
TOTAL	9		24	4	37

APRIL 2000					
NATIONALITY	TRADE				
	Professional	Semi Skilled	Skilled	Manual	Total
Spanish	5		42	2	49
British		5			5
Other EEC					0
Other Non EEC					0
Moroccan					0
TOTAL	5	5	42	2	54

MAY 2000					
NATIONALITY	TRADE				
	Professional	Semi Skilled	Skilled	Manual	Total
Spanish			30		30
British		5			5
Other EEC			16		16
Other Non EEC					0
Moroccan					0
TOTAL		5	46		51

JUNE 2000					
NATIONALITY	TRADE				
	Professional	Semi Skilled	Skilled	Manual	Total
Spanish			50		50
British					0
Other EEC			32		32
Other Non EEC					0
Moroccan					0
TOTAL			82		82

JULY 2000					
NATIONALITY	TRADE				
	Professional	Semi Skilled	Skilled	Manual	Total
Spanish			20	2	22
British	2				2
Other EEC					0
Other Non EEC					0
Moroccan					0
TOTAL	2		20	2	24

AUGUST 2000					
NATIONALITY	TRADE				
	Professional	Semi Skilled	Skilled	Manual	Total
Spanish	1		41		42
British			1		1
Other EEC					0
Other Non EEC					0
Moroccan					0
TOTAL	1		42		43

SEPTEMBER 2000					
NATIONALITY	TRADE				
	Professional	Semi Skilled	Skilled	Manual	Total
Spanish			39	7	46
British	4	1	7		12
Other EEC			16		16
Other Non EEC					0
Moroccan					0
TOTAL	4	1	62	7	74

OCTOBER 2000					
NATIONALITY	TRADE				
	Professional	Semi Skilled	Skilled	Manual	Total
Spanish			34		34
British			5		5
Other EEC					0
Other Non EEC					0
Moroccan					0
TOTAL			39		39

NOVEMBER 2000					
NATIONALITY	TRADE				
	Professional	Semi Skilled	Skilled	Manual	Total
Spanish			24	24	48
British			9	1	10
Other EEC			3		3
Other Non EEC					0
Moroccan					0
TOTAL			36	25	61

DECEMBER 2000					
NATIONALITY	TRADE				
	Professional	Semi Skilled	Skilled	Manual	Total
Spanish			22	6	28
British					0
Other EEC			6		6
Other Non EEC					0
Moroccan					0
TOTAL			28	6	34

Contd. Answer to Question 510 of 2001

Answer to Question 510 of 2001

Detached workers registered in the 1st Quarter of 2001

JANUARY 2001					
NATIONALITY	TRADE				
	Professional	Semi Skilled	Skilled	Manual	Total
Spanish		5	29	5	39
British	1				1
Other EEC	6				6
Other Non EEC					0
Moroccan					0
TOTAL	7	5	29	5	46

FEBRUARY 2001					
NATIONALITY	TRADE				
	Professional	Semi Skilled	Skilled	Manual	Total
Spanish		11	46	3	60
British	3		15		18
Other EEC			3		3
Other Non EEC					0
Moroccan					0
TOTAL	3	11	64	3	81

MARCH 2001					
NATIONALITY	TRADE				
	Professional	Semi Skilled	Skilled	Manual	Total
Spanish			32		32
British			2		2
Other EEC			2		2
Other Non EEC			3		3
Moroccan					0
TOTAL			39		39

ORAL

NO. 511 OF 2001

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CAMMELL LAIRD

Can Government state how many persons were employed by Cammell Laird, or alternatively, in the shipping industry as at the end of December 2000 and how many of these were Gibraltarian?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Persons employed in the Shipping Industry as at the end of December 2000 were 253 of which 117 were Gibraltarian.

NO. 512 OF 2001

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CAMMELL LAIRD

Can Government give a monthly breakdown of the vacancies for casual workers opened with the ETB by Cammell Laird or alternatively, in the shipping industry in the years 1999 and 2000?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

The extensive, factual and statistical information requested by the hon Member is set out in the written schedule that I now hand to him.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 512 OF 2001

HON J J BOSSANO:

Would these casual workers vacancies include the detached workers of which we had an answer previously or would they be local?

HON H A CORBY:

They only include the local ones.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In addition to this they would also be opening and closing vacancies which were essentially casual but for a fixed term, is that correct?

HON H A CORBY:

That is correct.

Answer to Question 512 of 2001

Vacancies for Casual Workers opened by Cammell Laird in 1999 and 2000

Year 1999	Month	No. of Casual Workers
	Jan	0
	Feb	19
	Mar	2
	Apr	2
	May	13
	Jun	2
	July	0
	Aug	7
	Sept	15
	Oct	14
	Nov	43
	Dec	0

Year 2000	Month	No. of Casual Workers
	Jan	7
	Feb	12
	Mar	15
	Apr	14
	May	17
	Jun	15
	July	0
	Aug	8
	Sept	11
	Oct	4
	Nov	1
	Dec	7

NO. 513 OF 2001

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Can Government give a breakdown by nationality of the numbers employed full-time and part-time in the official and private sector in respect of the October 1998 Employment Survey?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 514 to 516 of 2001.

NO. 514 OF 2001

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Can Government give a breakdown in respect of Table 11 of the 1998 Employment Survey Report, showing employment by the Gibraltar Government separate from employment by the MOD?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 513 and 515 to 516 of 2001.

NO. 515 OF 2001

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Can Government give a breakdown of full-time and part-time employment in respect of Table 12 of the October 1998 Employment Survey Report with respect to employment in the private sector?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 513 to 514 and 516 of 2001.

NO. 516 OF 2001

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Can Government give a breakdown of full-time and part-time employment in respect of Table 11 of the October 1998 Employment Survey Report, with respect to employment in the official sector?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

The extensive, factual and statistical information requested by the hon Member is set out in the written schedule that I now hand to him.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 513 TO 516 OF 2001

HON J J BOSSANO:

I would assume that the Health Authority would normally come under the Gibraltar Government. Would something like GBC be included in the Gibraltar Government Sector under public sector in these tables?

HON H A CORBY:

I suspect but I am not sure.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Would the Minister be able to confirm to me once the Minister gets verification?

HON H A CORBY:

Yes.

Answer to Question 516 of 2001

Breakdown of persons employed in respect of October 1998 Employment Survey

	OFFICIAL		PRIVATE	
	FULL TIME	PART TIME	FULL TIME	PART TIME
Gibraltar	3219	372	4335	1100
British	167	16	1147	177
Moroccan	142		665	67
Spanish	11		770	137
Other EEC	13	1	175	23
Other Non EEC	13	3	187	34
TOTAL	3565	392	7279	1538

Contd Answer to Question 516 of 2001

Table 11: All Employee Jobs by Industry, Sex and Nationality, Gibraltar Government, October 1998

ALL SECTORS	ALL		GIB		UK		MOR		SPA		OTH EU		OTHER	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Shipbuilding														
Other Manuf														
Elect/Water Supply	102	4	97	4			2		3					
Construction	291	14	263	14	1		24				3			
Whole/Retail Trade														
Hotels/Restaurants														
Transp/Comms	88	25	86	25	2									
Fin Intermed														
Real Estate/Bus Ac														
Public Admin	683	282	612	274	55	8	9		1		6			
Education	190	361	175	353	13	8	2							
Health/Social Wrk	195	514	158	452	28	53	3	3			1	3	5	3
Other Services	45	16	43	15		1	2							
Total	1594	1216	1434	1137	99	70	42	3	4	0	10	3	5	3

Contd....

Contd Answer to Question 516 of 2001

Table 11: All Employee Jobs by Industry, Sex and Nationality, MoD, October 1998

ALL SECTORS	ALL		GIB		UK		MOR		SPA		OTH EU		OTHER	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Public Admin	802	345	699	321	4	10	91	6	5	2	0	1	3	5
Total	802	345	699	321	4	10	91	6	5	2	0	1	3	5

Contd....

Contd Answer to Question 516 of 2001

Table 12 Full-Time Jobs by Industry, Sex and Nationality, Private Sector, October 1998

All Sectors	All		Gibraltarians		UK		Moroccan		Spanish		Other EU		Other	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Shipbuilding	192	8	110	6	15	2	15	0	30	0	6	0	16	0
Other Manu.	123	56	64	38	13	10	31	1	11	5	2	0	2	2
Elec/Wtr Supply	114	12	93	12	7	0	9	0	3	0	2	0	0	0
Construction	1146	65	494	50	210	11	177	1	236	2	28	1	1	0
Whste/Retail Tr.	1301	681	744	491	159	98	172	6	136	64	22	9	68	13
Hotels/Restrnrs	346	183	66	45	49	50	123	37	78	39	13	10	17	2
Trans/Comm.	481	132	362	103	60	25	28	2	25	1	5	1	1	0
Fin. Intermed.	384	498	254	367	70	104	0	0	18	9	21	15	21	3
Real Est/Bus.Ac.	452	365	309	233	70	90	22	5	25	19	18	13	8	5
Public Admin	50	60	44	57	6	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Education	3	24	3	19	0	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Health/Social Wrk	18	125	12	96	3	18	1	3	2	7	0	1	0	0
Other Services	319	141	183	80	44	27	28	4	34	24	6	2	24	4
TOTAL	4929	2350	2738	1597	706	442	606	59	598	171	123	52	158	29

Contd Answer to Question 516 of 2001

Table 12 Part-Time Jobs by Industry, Sex and Nationality, Private Sector, October 1998

All Sectors	All		Gibraltarians		UK		Moroccan		Spanish		Other EU		Other	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Shipbuilding	5	6	1	3	2	0	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	0
Other Manu.	4	8	1	7	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Elec/Wtr Supply	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Construction	18	19	11	10	3	8	3	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Whsle/Retail Tr.	111	401	55	288	13	41	14	5	20	46	1	5	8	16
Hotels/Restrnrs	37	79	15	21	5	30	4	6	12	15	1	2	0	5
Trans/Comm.	20	41	15	33	2	5	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	0
Fin. Intermed.	13	92	6	72	4	14	0	2	0	0	2	2	1	2
Real Est/Bus.Ac.	382	102	354	67	19	9	2	4	3	18	4	4	0	0
Public Admin	2	6	2	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Education	5	26	5	18	0	4	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0
Health/Social Wrk	2	48	2	39	0	7	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Other Services	33	78	25	45	2	6	5	12	1	14	0	0	0	1
TOTAL	632	906	492	608	51	126	34	33	38	99	8	15	9	25

Contd.

Contd Answer to Question 516 of 2001

Table 12 All Private October 1998

All Sectors	All		Gibraltarians		UK		Moroccan		Spanish		Other EU		Other	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Shipbuilding	197	14	111	9	17	2	17	2	30	1	6	0	16	0
Other Manu.	127	64	65	45	14	11	33	1	11	5	2	0	2	2
Elec/Wtr Supply	114	12	93	12	7	0	9	0	3	0	2	0	0	0
Construction	1164	84	505	60	213	19	180	1	237	3	28	1	1	0
Whsle/Retail Tr.	1412	1082	799	779	172	139	186	11	156	110	23	14	76	29
Hotels/Restnts	383	262	81	66	54	80	127	43	90	54	14	12	17	7
Trans/Comm.	501	173	377	136	62	30	30	4	26	2	5	1	1	0
Fin. Intermed	397	590	260	439	74	118	0	2	18	9	23	17	22	5
Real Est/Bus.Ac.	834	467	663	300	89	99	24	9	28	37	22	17	8	5
Public Admin	52	66	46	62	6	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Education	8	50	8	37	0	8	0	0	0	3	0	2	0	0
Health/Social Wrk	20	173	14	135	3	25	1	3	2	8	0	1	0	1
Other Services	352	219	208	125	46	33	33	16	35	38	6	2	24	5
TOTAL	5561	3256	3230	2205	757	568	640	92	636	270	131	67	167	54

Contd Answer to Question \$16 of 2001

Table 11 Full-Time Jobs by Industry, Sex and Nationality, Official Sector, October 1998

All Sectors	All		Gibraltarians		UK		Moroccan		Spanish		Other EU		Other	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Shipbuilding	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Manu.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Elec/Wtr Supply	102	4	97	4	0	0	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Construction	291	12	263	12	1	0	24	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
Whsle/Retail Tr.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hotels/Restrnrs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trans/Comm.	86	23	84	23	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fin. Intermed.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Real Est/Bus.Ac.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Public Admin	1475	508	1301	484	59	12	100	6	6	2	6	0	3	4
Education	188	240	174	233	12	7	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Health/Social Wrk	193	389	157	336	27	46	3	3	0	0	1	3	5	1
Other Services	45	9	43	8	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	2380	1185	2119	1100	101	66	133	9	9	2	10	3	8	5

Contd Answer to Question 51 6 of 2001

Table 11 Part-Time Jobs by Industry, Sex and Nationality, Official Sector, October 1998

All Sectors	All		Gibraltarians		UK		Moroccan		Spanish		Other EU		Other	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Shipbuilding	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Manu.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Elec/Wtr Supply	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Construction	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whsle/Retail Tr.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hotels/Restrnrs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trans/Comm.	2	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fin. Intermed.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Real Est/Bus.Ac.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Public Admin	10	119	10	111	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Education	2	121	1	120	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Health/Social Wrk	2	125	1	116	1	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Other Services	0	7	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	16	376	14	358	2	14	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3

Contd....

Contd Answer to Question 516 of 2001

Table 11 All Official October 1998

All Sectors	All		Gibraltarians		UK		Moroccan		Spanish		Other EU		Other	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Shlpbuilding	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Manu.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Elec/Wtr Supply	102	4	97	4	0	0	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Construction	291	14	263	14	1	0	24	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
Whsle/Retail Tr.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hotels/Restrnrs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trans/Comm.	88	25	86	25	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fin. Intermed.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Real Est/Bus.Ac.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Public Admin	1485	627	1311	595	59	18	100	6	6	2	6	1	3	5
Education	190	361	175	353	13	8	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Health/Social Wrk	195	514	158	452	28	53	3	3	0	0	1	3	5	3
Other Services	45	16	43	15	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	2396	1561	2133	1458	103	80	133	9	9	2	10	4	8	8

NO. 517 OF 2001

THE HON J C PEREZ

BUILDING AND WORKS DEPARTMENT

Can Government confirm that their position is that they will not open negotiations with the Union over the report commissioned by them into the Buildings and Works Department until they have finalised the on-going negotiations with the Electricity Department?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

The Government's position is not that stated in the question. The Government will initiate discussions with the Union in relation to the restructure and reform of the Buildings and Works Department when it is ready to do so.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 517 OF 2001

HON J C PEREZ:

When does the Minister expect to be ready to do so?

HON J J NETTO:

This is something which I am not in a position to say when I will be ready. It is far too early in the day to say when I will be ready to do so.

HON J C PEREZ:

Can the Minister say how long the Minister has had the report he commissioned with him?

HON J J NETTO:

The hon Member knows from the previous answer by the Chief Minister, the Government had the report for a while in draft form.

HON J C PEREZ:

Does that mean that the non draft form of the official report has not yet arrived with the Government, is that the position?

HON J J NETTO:

I can confirm that the Government do have the report in the final form.

HON J C PEREZ:

How long have the Government had the report in its final form?

HON J J NETTO:

I know it is recently, but I would not like to say a date. I would daresay weeks but I would have to go and check it out. It is definitely after this same question was asked the last time.

NO. 518 OF 2001

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

POST OF HOUSING MANAGER

How long has the position of Housing Manager been vacant?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

The position has been vacant since 8th January 2001. Since that date it has been filled on an acting basis.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 518 OF 2001

HON DR R G VALARINO:

Is there any likelihood of the position being filled within the near future, because at the moment at least five Heads of Departments are on an acting capacity?

HON J J NETTO:

Obviously the vacancy will have to be filled at some time in the future. What I am not in a position to tell the hon Member is when the process will start.

ORAL

NO. 519 OF 2001

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

GLACIS ESTATE - LIFTS

Will Government state how many lifts have been installed at Glacis Estate and how many are operational?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 520 to 523 of 2001.

ORAL

NO. 520 OF 2001

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

GLACIS ESTATE - LIFTS

Can Government state in what blocks of Glacis Estate have lifts been installed to date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 519 and 521 to 523 of 2001.

ORAL

NO. 521 OF 2001

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

GLACIS ESTATE - LIFTS

Can Government confirm that there has been water penetration in at least two of the newly installed lifts at Glacis Estate?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 519, 520, 522 and 523 of 2001.

ORAL

NO. 522 OF 2001

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

GLACIS ESTATE - LIFTS

Can Government state whether the maintenance of lifts at Glacis Estate will be done by Government or a maintenance contract will be put out to tender?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 519 to 521 and 523 of 2001.

NO. 523 OF 2001

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

VARYL BEGG ESTATE - LIFTS

Will Government state whether they intend to install lifts at Varyl Begg Estate?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Five lifts have been installed at Glacis Estate of which four are operational. The lifts have been installed at Archbishop Amigo House, Brother O'Brien House and between George Don House/Gustavo Bacarisas House, George Jeger House/Portmore House and Goole House/Ironside House. Consequently all floors are served by lifts. Yes, there has been water penetration in two of the lifts installed at Glacis Estate and the maintenance of the lifts at Glacis Estate is being carried out by the contractor as a post installation service. I have here, although things have changed, the long term arrangements are still under consideration by Government, I have to say that since this has been written I am informed that given the extra manual levels that have been employed in the Electrical Department at Wellington Front, there is now a dedicated team of electricians to carry out the maintenance of Government lifts. Finally, Government intend to install lifts at Varyl Begg Estate.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 519 TO 523 OF 2001

HON DR R G VALARINO:

On a point of order. I put these questions on the 20th April for the House today on the 30th April, a Government Press Release dated 26th April, which appeared in the Gibraltar Chronicle on the 27th April, partly answered Question Nos. 519 and 520. I am sure the Chief Minister has not seen this. I am sure it has been his press officer who has done this, but there is a certain thing as Privilege of the House, Erskine May page 68, chapter 5, the general view of parliamentary privilege. Apart from that there is an article of parliamentary updates respecting the House. Ministers have been criticised by two presiding officers for failing to respect Parliament. The Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament has prevented a Minister from making a statement in Parliament because its contents had already appeared in the media, Rt Hon Sir David Steel ruled on the 18th January that Finance Minister Mr Angus McKay, would answer questions from members but not read his statement as he said its contents were in the morning's newspaper. "We do not expect to read in the newspapers what will be said in Parliament, we expect to read what has been said", commented Sir David. This House has a certain prestige or, shall we call it, duty to not only to us but to every Gibraltarian and I would like a ruling on whether Erskine May privilege has been breached by this press release, which again, I point out is probably not at all the Chief Minister's fault.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The hon Member has provoked me beyond what is reasonable. In the first place, the Government's press release does not relate to any of the questions that the Minister has answered. The Government's press release is about the vandalism to lifts.

None of the questions that the hon Member has asked relates to vandalism to lifts. As to the number of lifts that have been installed, it is a matter of public record already how many lifts have been installed. Therefore, the hon Member ought not to have asked that question at all. The fact of the matter is, that if we are going to have a debate here about what is and what is not in breach of Standing Orders, that there is only one bit of information in the Government's press release which relates in any way to any of the questions that the hon Member has asked. That is that it does reveal that the Government have recently installed five lifts. That is two words in a press release comprising one whole side of paper, the rest of which, has absolutely nothing to do with the subject matter of the hon Member's questions. Therefore, even if the hon Member were right which I would not conceive, but it is not up to me, it is up to the Speaker to make rulings, the only content of the Government's press release No.66 of 2000, is the number of lifts installed, five. Therefore, quite apart from the fact that that is a statement, as a matter of public interest, namely the vandalism of lifts almost as soon as they had been installed, not the issues, surprisingly about which the hon Member has chosen not to ask any questions.

HON DR R G VALARINO:

I think the Chief Minister is defending the indefensible. Three of the lifts were vandalised on the 15th March, 18th March and 29th March. That gives the Government more than enough time to have put out a press release.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The lifts were not vandalised on those days, the lifts were commissioned on those days. The hon Member has not even read the press release.

HON DR R G VALARINO:

On the 15th March, the sensor connections to the door of the lift at Archbishop Amigo was deliberately broken. On the 18th March, the external lift door at Gustavo Bacarissas House was forced open. On the 29th March, the safety mechanism of the lift at Archbishop Amigo House was tampered with. That is vandalism.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The hon Member does not address the issue. The issue is that the hon Member has not asked questions about vandalism to lifts. There are no questions on the Order Paper about vandalism to lifts. So what difference does it make whether, giving the dates in the press release, about vandalism to lifts. The hon Member has not put questions down about vandalism to lifts. That is the point that the hon Member has got to address.

HON DR R G VALARINO:

Question No. 519 of 2001, states as to how many were operational and obviously if lifts are vandalised in this manner, they may or they may not be operational by this date. The fact that the press release may have been unintentional but it is dated the 26th April 2001, just before this House has had its meeting on the 30th April, it tends one to think that one is trying to patch up the question before the Government's reply. It is not, as the Chief Minister says, it is not up to us, it is the Speaker's ruling on the matter that counts.

MR SPEAKER:

First the Chair is grateful to the Hon Dr Valarino for bringing this question up. Too often and not necessarily in Gibraltar, but in other Parliaments, the Government of the day give information to the press before they give it to the Parliament. This is a border line case because the only thing there is how many lifts. So I will not make a ruling. I am only giving my advise.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I wonder if Mr Speaker, will allow me to make a comment on that ruling, which as Mr Speaker knows, I am aware of.

MR SPEAKER:

I have not made a ruling.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. The view about Government's making statements in Parliament. That might be very well in countries where Parliaments are sitting constantly. But in a jurisdiction like Gibraltar where the Parliament only sits for particular meetings, if the Government did not make any public statements except when the House was in session and then when, during question time, during debates or ministerial statements, the Government would never tell the public anything except for four occasions a year. The rule, which is intended, as I understand it, to make sure that the Government make statements to Parliament and not to the media, is of very difficult application in Gibraltar, unless because of, the way our Parliament is structured we are not constantly in session, as is the House of Commons in England.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

Of the two lifts that the Minister has said had water penetration, can we have the blocks where they are situated, because the Minister said Glacis and obviously there are five. The other thing is on the question of maintenance, the Minister said that the Electrical Department of the Government would take it up, I presume that this will be after the guarantee has expired, so what is the guarantee on the lifts?

HON J J NETTO:

The period covers for one year, but it covers for liability on things which are wrong from the manufacturer's point of view, which is separate from the maintenance side. That is what I was referring on the maintenance side, notwithstanding any liability for which the manufacturers or the fitters are responsible for. Recently just after the question was formulated, I found out that in the Electrical Department at Wellington Front, there has been an increase in manning levels, people have been recruited and I am informed that they have put in place a team of dedicated electricians in order to maintain Government lifts within housing estates. In relation to the first question, the first supplementary question, the lifts installed at Goole House/Ironside House suffered water penetration as a result of a faulty water outlet at roof level, this has been rectified and the lift is now operational. The lift at George Jeger House/Portmore House suffered water penetration as a result of wind driven rain causing ponding in the access corridors which penetrated into the lift shaft. Glaze screens have been ordered which when fixed will eliminate the problem. The lift although operational has been stopped for safety reasons.

HON DR R G VALARINO:

When do Government intend to start installing the lifts at Varyl Begg, more or less?

HON J J NETTO:

Well I am not in a position to say when we shall be installing lifts at Varyl Begg, all I can say is that the Government will have or place a rolling program for the installation of lifts and once decided will make it public.

HON DR R G VALARINO:

So Government will be installing the lifts at the same time as Laguna Estate more or less?

HON J J NETTO:

No, Mr Speaker this is not what I am saying. I have not said that we have got a decision yet as to when we are going to be installing lifts in Varyl Begg or elsewhere, all I am saying is that we have got a rolling program to decide and once we have decided upon it, then we will make it public for the next financial year.

ORAL

NO.524 OF 2001

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

BISHOP CANILLA HOUSE

Will Government state whether all the remedial works at Bishop Canilla House have now been carried out, and can Government provide the cost of such works?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 525 and 526 of 2001.

ORAL

NO.525 OF 2001

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

BISHOP CANILLA HOUSE

Can Government confirm that no fire extinguishers have been installed at Bishop Canilla House?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question No. 524 and 526 of 2001.

NO.526 OF 2001

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

EDINBURGH HOUSE

Can Government confirm that fire extinguishers have not been provided for at Edinburgh House?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

The remedial works at Bishop Canilla House are still on-going. These works are being carried out by the contractor at no cost to Government.

No fire extinguishers have been provided at Bishop Canilla House, although Government expect the management contractor on site to provide them in the new financial year.

No fire extinguishers have been provided at Edinburgh House.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 524 TO 526 OF 2001

HON DR R G VALARINO:

Was it not a Government commitment to provide fire extinguishers in the landings at Edinburgh House? There are three floors in each block and do Government know that the top windows at Edinburgh House do not open fully so should there be a fire in the centre corridor, it would be a problem for the people to get out and I hope fire extinguishers are quickly installed at Bishop Canilla House because there are a number of elderly people living there and there has already been one sad accident there and we do not want dead Gibraltarians.

HON J J NETTO:

I think the hon Member has been mis-informed. The windows at Edinburgh House have not been constructed as a means of escape.

HON J C PEREZ:

Does the Minister think that the Government are complying with the requirements of the Fire Brigade by allocating flats without proper fire extinguishing facilities as dictated to every other development in Gibraltar?

HON J J NETTO:

I am informed and satisfied that the regulations in question which is British Standard 5588 part 1, section 1 general, refers in my view to the construction of new buildings or the conversion of existing, therefore Edinburgh House does not fall into any of the categories defined thereunder. Section 3 only refers to windows which have been previously identified as a means of escape and not to windows in general. The general use of windows does not come under British Standard 5588 part 1 and are

not designed as an authentic means of fire escape and it seems that we are obviously complying with the legislation given the fact that the defence fire service who originally placed these windows accepted the design of the windows as suitable and fit for its purpose.

HON J C PEREZ

We are not talking about windows, we are talking about fire extinguishers. The Minister has said that there are no fire extinguishers at present at Bishop Canilla House, whereas Bishop Canilla House has already been allocated and there are people living there and in every other case before people live in a flat, in a private development there is an exigency on the part of the Fire Brigade that fire extinguishers need to be provided before houses are allocated. We have a situation where in Bishop Canilla House where the houses are new they have not been provided and in Edinburgh House where it is a conversion given they have been repaired and that construes a reconstruction and a conversion, there have been no fire extinguishers made available and the houses have been allocated and the Minister in replying has talked about glazed windows and windows opening. I mean, we are talking about fire extinguishers not windows.

HON J J NETTO:

It seems to me the hon Member is getting confused, definitely I have not been talking about glazed windows and he is right in relation to Bishop Canilla House, it is a new building and we have to provide fire extinguishers. I have said that the management contractor are expected to provide them at Bishop Canilla but that does not mean that in Edinburgh House which has been a refurbishment not a conversion.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

I think if the Minister were to check the Ordinance and the question of fire extinguishers he will see that all flats have to be provided with fire extinguishers regardless if they are old or new. I remember a case that this happened when the AACR were in Government where all flats, including pre-war houses, had to be provided with fire extinguishers. As a matter of fact, if we were to look at the estimates we would see that there have been provisions under the Fire Brigade Department estimates to provide fire extinguishers for Government tenants. It is a requirement by law immaterial whether they are new or whether they are old. It is a different thing altogether when one comes to construction, obviously in construction one cannot convert an old building to a new requirement under the Fire Brigade Ordinance but in the question of fire extinguishers, if he checks, he will see the requirement for fire extinguishers in all Government flats.

HON J J NETTO:

Yes, he is right that the AACR Government used to provide individual tenants with fire extinguishers but the fact is that this was done away in the GSLP period in Government and it is this Government now that issued a press release where we want to get the tenders out again where individual tenants may apply to the City Fire Brigade once again.

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Minister confirm whether the allocation of Bishop Canilla House was done against the law by giving them when they did not have fire extinguishers?

MR SPEAKER:

Yes, no need to answer that question because you cannot give legal advice, it has got to be put some other way.

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Minister confirm whether or is aware that the allocation to the tenants of Bishop Canilla House was given without fire extinguishers which is against the law?

HON CHIEF MINISTER

The Government pleads the fourth amendment.

NO.527 OF 2001

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

SIR WILLIAM JACKSON GROVE

Can Government now state whether the contract for the replacement of the dry risers at Sir William Jackson Grove has now been awarded and when will the work start?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

The contract for the replacement of the dry risers at Sir William Jackson Grove was awarded on 23 April 2001. The date of commencement on site has still to be agreed with the contractor.

ORAL

NO.528 OF 2001

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

SIR WILLIAM JACKSON GROVE

Can Government confirm the purchase of the Option C flats at Sir William Jackson Grove under the present arrangements which involves an increase in ownership at the rate of 2.5 per cent per annum is on the basis of the original value of the flat?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 529 to 531 of 2001.

ORAL

NO.529 OF 2001

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

SIR WILLIAM JACKSON GROVE

Will Government state what is the average price of Option C flats giving the original price and the present day value on the basis of the proposed 7 per cent annual increase?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 528 and 530 to 531 of 2001.

ORAL

NO.530 OF 2001

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

SIR WILLIAM JACKSON GROVE

How many Option C tenants are eligible to avail themselves of the proposal to purchase their own flats at Sir William Jackson Grove?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 528 to 529 and 531 of 2001.

NO.531 OF 2001

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

SIR WILLIAM JACKSON GROVE

How many Government tenants have registered their interest in Government's proposal to offer Option C tenants at Sir William Jackson Grove the possibility to purchase their flats?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

The answer to Question No 528 of 2001 is yes.

QUESTION NO 529 of 2001

Type K	3RKB	£33,650
Type F	3RKB	£36,250

The average price therefore being £34,950. The price today would be £49,629.

Type D	4RKB	£44,700
Type E	4RKB	£44,700
Type G	4RKB	£49,900
Type L	4RKB	£50,700
Type M	4RKB	£47,100

The average price therefore being £47,420. The price today would be £67,336.

QUESTION NO 530 OF 2001

All tenants who are interested are eligible to avail themselves to the proposal to purchase their own flats.

QUESTION NO 531 OF 2001

Nine tenants have shown an interest.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 528 TO 531 OF 2001

HON J J BOSSANO:

The original Option C came about as a result of people not being able to obtain mortgages because of the level of their income, so is it then that circumstances have changed for some of those people, are they now in a position to obtain the money to buy which they were not before?

HON J J NETTO:

Yes

NO. 532 OF 2001

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

HOUSING – POST-WAR FLATS ALLOCATED

Can Government state how many post-war housing units have been allocated since this question was last asked?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

The hon Member cannot place the onus on Government to research whether and when this question has been asked in the past.

Since 1 January 2001, 57 post-war housing units have been allocated/under offer.

ORAL

NO. 533 OF 2001

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

MEDICAL ADVISORY BOARD

Will Government state, as a result of the reply to Question No. 96 of 2001, how often the Medical Advisory Board has met since this question was last asked?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 534 and 535 of 2001.

ORAL

NO. 534 OF 2001

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

HOUSING

Can Government state whether there are any applicants who are medically categorised "A" on the "A" list since Question No. 108 of 2001?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 533 and 535 of 2001.

NO. 535 OF 2001

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

HOUSING

Will Government state whether the three cases classified as homeless and who are socially recommended are still in the same position?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Two times, on the 5 and 19 March 2001.

Twenty-two medically categorised "A" of which one is still an applicant as well.

Yes. All are known to have temporary addresses.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 533 TO 535 OF 2001

HON DR R G VALARINO:

I beg your pardon, could I have the answer to Question No 534 of 2001 again because it was in the middle and I missed out.

HON J J NETTO:

Yes. What I said is 22 medically categorised "A" of which one is still an applicant as well.

HON DR R G VALARINO:

So, there are 22 applicants who are medically categorised "A" on the "A" list?

HON J J NETTO:

The last time the question was asked there were none on the "A" category but given that there has been two meetings of the medical advisory board, there are now 22 medical "A's" of which one is also an applicant.

HON DR R G VALARINO:

When I last asked the question he said there was nobody on category "A" which was rather surprising because I have got two letters here, one dated the 29 November and the other one 11 October and both say that they have been categorised "A" and that a further communication will be sent when a suitable flat is identified. This was before the February meeting so that there was then two which did not appear in the answer given to me by the Minister.

ORAL

NO. 536 OF 2001

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

EDINBURGH HOUSE

Can Government state whether any meetings have been held between themselves and the committee of Edinburgh House in order to resolve outstanding issues?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question No. 537 of 2001.

NO. 537 OF 2001

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

EDINBURGH HOUSE

Can Government now state how many tenants at Edinburgh House are on rent relief?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

The Government meet regularly with the Tenants Association of all Government housing estates which have them.

Nineteen tenants in Edinburgh House enjoy rent relief.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 536 AND 537 OF 2001

HON DR R G VALARINO:

So from that, I gather that there have been no meetings between Government and the committee of Edinburgh House.

HON J J NETTO:

Yes.

HON J C PEREZ:

Are the grievances reported publicly in the press being brought to the attention of the Minister either through the committee or directly through tenants who are not in the committee?

HON J J NETTO:

Yes they have.

HON J C PEREZ:

In what way, through the committee or through tenants who are not in the committee?

HON J J NETTO:

Through the committee and through individuals as well

HON J C PEREZ:

Other than the public response given by the Government, are there issues pending which the Government are considering?

HON J J NETTO:

Well, I think that perhaps I need to tell hon Members that I meet with Tenants Associations every three months, I meet with all of them and of course there are many many issues that relate to matters in a given housing estate. What we do basically is we look at some of the old items, some of the new items and some of the old items are items which either the Government may or may not agree with, or maybe items in terms of doing certain works for instance, that may require a certain period of time until the actual works are carried out.

HON J C PEREZ:

I am asking the Minister about grievances made publicly by a group of tenants there, which he said he admits has been represented to him by the committee and by members who are not in the committee, whether there are any issues in that list which are awaiting consideration by the Government or whether everything raised in that list has been rejected by the Government? That is what I am asking the Minister, not the day to day running of the estate where people raise different issues all the time in the committees which he meets with.

HON J J NETTO:

No. There is nothing else outstanding from those grievances. Answer has been given to either the individuals or the committees themselves.

ORAL

NO. 538 OF 2001

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

OMBUDSMAN REPORT

Will Government accept the recommendation of the Ombudsman in CS/45 of his Report, paragraph 7, as regards the need to ascertain the veracity of the illness of a tenant and the General Practitioner's recommendations?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question No. 539 of 2001.

NO. 539 OF 2001

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

OMBUDSMAN REPORT

Will Government act on the Ombudsman's concern over the intolerable practice of delays in answering letters, which the Ombudsman points out in page 165 of his report had become a common occurrence in the Housing Agency?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

The Government are studying the First Ombudsman Report and is not in a position to state which of his recommendations the Government will accept and which it will not.

Whilst Government have no doubt that there is room for further improvement in the speed with which letters are answered by the Housing Agency, I have no doubt that the present practice represents a considerable improvement over that suffered by users at the hands of the Residential Services Ltd which was the structure inherited by this Government from the previous administration.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 536 TO 539 OF 2001

HON DR R G VALARINO:

I think 538 and 539 are totally different. I do accept that 538 covers that, the spectrum which the Chief Minister mentioned before that Government were going to reconsider but 539 is one which is of extreme importance, in fact only in section 4 right at the beginning of the Ombudsman Report it says that out of a total of 760 complaints received by the office of the Ombudsman against Government departments et cetera, et cetera, 177 were against the Housing Agency. It is obvious from the nature of complaints brought to the attention of the Ombudsman that many of these could have been avoided had the agency been more diligent in communicating with members of the general public. So, I stress again that this is a practice which has to be improved, let us not put blame in the past, we have got to look towards the future and could the Minister ensure that letters from complainants are answered more quickly.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

For a start the 177 complaints against the Housing Agency, frankly I am surprised that it was not more, given that housing is one of the problems that most affects people, the 177 complaints do not all relate to delay in answering letters. A lot of them are complaints about the way their applications were handled in substance. Now, everyone knows that the speed with which we deal with matters and with which we reply to letters is something that can always be improved and as my hon Colleague said in his answer, nothing that the Government say in answer to this question should be interpreted to mean that we do not think that there is room for further improvement but that there has been improvements already is clear and then, as I am sure the hon Member remembers from his days when he was a Minister, people do not accept a ruling. People submit an application, it gets processed in the

usual way that everyone in this House understands, the result is communicated to them and they carry on writing in because they just do not accept the position. This is not maladministration, this is simply that people do not accept the results. They use the Ombudsman like a Court of Appeal. I have looked through the Ombudsman's Report, I have not studied it in minute detail yet but there are threads of things there which strike me as being improvements for the future, for example, it is helpful in my experience of dealing with people, that people are much more likely to be satisfied if they are given not just the results of their application but the reasons for the result of their application and that it really does not take all that much extra work to write out three or four lines just setting out for people the rationale for the adverse decision. The Government chose to set up the Office of the Ombudsman precisely for the purpose of improving the administration, so that there would be an authoritative external assessment of the administration so that that could be used to improve the administration. There was no need for us to make a stick for our own backs as the hon Member can well imagine. He should not doubt for one minute that we will study the Ombudsman's report and where things that he suggests are purely administrative and can be taken on board and they are sensible and can be a moral improvement and can be implemented without a significant escalation in costs, then the Government will do it. Now, where he suggests things which are policy decisions as he sometimes does, that is a different matter. The Ombudsman is as free as anybody else to make policy recommendations to the Government but in principle his statutory remit is maladministration which unless it is for reason of policy, I mean, it is possible for the Government to have a policy that results in maladministration. That is a legitimate area of policy for the Ombudsman to get involved in but not otherwise. So this business of answering letters, I would like to see improvements in not just in the time that it takes to answer a letter but indeed in the nature of the response contained in letters when eventually they are sent. But these things take time, systems take time to change and this is the first Ombudsman's Report, everyone is on a learning curve, including the Civil Service itself. They are not used to being so scrutinised in the administrative detail of how it works and it will take time for these improvements to come through.

HON J C PEREZ:

Whilst accepting everything that the Chief Minister has said and that the report needs to be read and the Government need to take stock of what it says and where to act and where to decide not to act, obviously there is no mechanism to deal with the report because it is the first one but where there are cases where the Government agree with the Ombudsman that there has been individual cases, that there has been an injustice committed, surely there must be a remedy to reverse that injustice wherever possible in individual cases. I am not talking about the general policy of maladministration.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, absolutely. The hon Member has got to bear in mind that the Ombudsman's Report is in a sense the tip of the iceberg. There are many complaints, many issues which the Ombudsman takes up with the Government, points things out to the Government which the Government then says, yes that is right and gets corrected and it never gets round to the writing of the report. The cases that are in that report are cases which either the Government did not agree with the Ombudsman when it was put or where the Ombudsman has nevertheless wanted to include the report because although the case may have been resolved, there is nevertheless still a valid commentary on the bureaucratic administrative system generally. Many cases are resolved in the way that the hon Member is hoping would be so by the

Ombudsman's intervention and that indeed is one of the more constructive parts of the Ombudsman's office that he does sometimes act as a catalyst to get the administration to reconsider things from a point of view that perhaps it is not considered.

HON J J NETTO:

Can I just go back to the original question by the hon Member in relation where he was citing that particular report in relation to delays in letter writing and I think that we need to put it in the right context in the sense that, at the time when he was making that report there was a number of factors affecting the Housing Agency. The then Housing Manager as we all know, was in St Bernard's Hospital, we had lost another valuable member of staff who had got a job in the private sector, we had additional work by the allocation, all the tenancies had to be prepared for Bishop Canilla House and of course the numbers employed in the Housing Agency are not that many. So all this affected at that precise moment in time to these unacceptable delays in writing back. I am informed however, since then, not just because of the fact that we have a Housing Manager on an acting basis but the Government have employed more people recently in the Housing Agency and that the backlog which had accumulated in terms of writing back has been cleared, this is what I am informed. Finally, in terms of what the Chief Minister was saying that sometimes the reports of the Ombudsman act as a catalyst, well he has done because quite apart of being the Ombudsman we all know in this House that this particular man has a tremendous knowledge of Housing matters and there have been suggestions which he has put to us which we in turn have put to the Government and for which we have agreed at policy level already. So yes, it is very valuable advice at times and one the Government when it is practical agree to it and implements it.

NO. 540 OF 2001

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

ALAMEDA HOUSE

Can Government now state whether the five empty units present in February at Alameda Estate have now been awarded and on what criteria?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

With regard to the five empty units in February at Alameda House the situation is as follows:

Two are at the Electricity Department awaiting attention;
Two have been allocated; and
One has recently been brought back to the Housing Agency ready for allocation.

ORAL

NO. 541 OF 2001

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

COELHO HOUSE

Are Government now in a position to state when the repairs to Coelho House will be put out to tender?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question No. 542 of 2001.

NO. 542 OF 2001

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

MACMILLAN HOUSE

Can Government now state when the external refurbishment of Macmillan House will now start?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

In order to remedy the lamentable state of disrepair into which Government housing buildings have been allowed to fall over the decades as a result of the failure to invest in them by previous Governments, including the one of which the hon Member was a Minister, the Government now have in place an extensive programme of refurbishments as per our manifesto commitments.

These two buildings feature prominently in that programme. Indeed, Coelho House is specifically mentioned in the Government's last election manifesto.

ORAL

NO. 543 OF 2001

THE HON J C PEREZ

GBC

Can Government state how many new employees have been taken on by GBC to date, as a result of the Government approved television relaunch?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC SERVICES, THE ENVIRONMENT,

SPORT & YOUTH

Answered together with Question No. 544 of 2001.

NO. 544 OF 2001

THE HON J C PEREZ

GBC

Have the Board of GBC made any new recommendations to the Government over the level of the annual Government subvention to the Corporation?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC SERVICES, THE ENVIRONMENT,

SPORT & YOUTH

The Government are not responsible or accountable for the management of GBC or its recruitment of staff. The Government's role in connection with GBC is limited to the provision of funds.

GBC has submitted a bid for an annual subvention this year as it does every year. The extent of Government's proposed subvention will become clear to the hon Member from the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the current Financial Year tabled by the Government at this meeting of the House.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 543 AND 544 OF 2001

HON J C PEREZ:

Is the Minister aware that he has answered questions on the level of employment of GBC in the past in the house and is he not aware that the Chairman of GBC recently in the Chronicle stated that he and the board were reviewing the question of the annual subvention in order to put recommendations to the Government? Is he aware of these factors and does he not realize that the questions arise exactly as the result of this?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

I read the Chronicle just as the hon Member obviously does. I read many things in it but I do not comment on articles in the press.

HON J C PEREZ:

Then the answer is that there have been no new recommendations on the part of the board. Is that the answer?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

The question has already been answered.

HON J J BOSSANO

With all due respect, the question is, how many new employees have been taken on and he has not answered. Notwithstanding the fact that these employees are paid from the subvention is the House not entitled to know how many there are?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

The hon Members are quite at liberty to ask GBC. The Government give a lump sum to GBC and GBC manages that lump sum in the way that it wants to manage. We are not there employing and unemploying people and therefore we are not accountable for directions in this field.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The question is not asking the Minister why did he employ anybody but is asking him how many new employees have been taken on by GBC. It is of course up to us, if we want to ask GBC and presumably it is up to GBC to say they are not under any obligation to give us an answer. The point that I would like the Minister to take into account is, is he suggesting to the House that in fact GBC happily goes on and takes on new people without knowing whether it is going to be in a position to pay their wages, which would be a highly irresponsible way to behave.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The matters are not as the Leader of the Opposition describes them. I agree that it would be highly irresponsible for GBC to adopt a management recruitment policy that was not covered by funding, that does not make the Government accountable in this House for the actions of GBC. GBC is not a Government department. GBC is not running according to Government policy. The Government are not responsible for the management and running of GBC and those are the things for which the Government are accountable in this House. For matters of Government policy, for matters for which the Government are responsible, including and I accept this much of what the hon Member has said, including public funds made available to GBC. Now, if the hon Member wants to ask the Government questions about the level of public funding and whether it is too much or too little, or whether it is satisfied that the public funding provided is being tactically used, those are different matters. The Government will not accept to respond in this House for the internal matters of GBC as if it were a Government department and therefore sending the signal to the outside world that these are matters for which the Government are responsible and possibly with which the Government interfere, which they certainly do not and we are not willing to send that signal to the community at large.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I fail to see how the nature of the questions that have been put can be construed as sending a signal of Government interference in GBC. There are people who think there is interference but not because of the nature of the question but because of the nature of the contents of the news but that is not what we are asking. Are Government then saying that when GBC took the decision to employ new people they did not inform the Government and seek from them an indication that if they proceeded the money would be available. Was that done or not?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes. When GBC want to do something, the effect of which may be to increase their operating deficit in a way which would require an increase in Government's subvention they put their proposals to the Government, not to see whether the Government approve of their proposal but to see whether the Government are willing to fund them and that is what GBC does from time to time, at least once a year in respect of their recurrent budget and from time to time extraordinarily when it has an extraordinary project as was the case of the re-launch last year, when precisely the process that the Leader of the Opposition has described occurred. And as to whether there is interference in GBC, is the hon Member limiting his comments to the news program, or is he extending it to culinary programs as well?

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well I think we will wait until the culinary series is exhausted and then we will see how it develops before we extend it to the culinary series. Were Government then told at the time of the re-launch how many new employees would be required?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

That information is a matter of public record at the time of the re-launch, I gave the House full details of what GBC's proposals were.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So it was possible to give the answer then at the time.

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

The hon Member has just been told by the Chief Minister that Government listen to proposals and agree to fundings, they do not agree to the proposals.

HON J C PEREZ:

Does the Minister not consider that it is fair that given that the re-launch was approved by the Government and that a certain number of employees were going to be employed and that the extra income that was going to be derived from the re-launch has not taken place as we were informed in the House when they came for a supplementary expenditure for this year, that the House ought to know the number of employees extra that need to be funded in order to know the totality of the problem that GBC has, given that the question of the increased income has not happened as the Government informed the House when they came for the supplementary expenditure?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

The hon Member is asking me to express an opinion and I am sure the House will agree that that is against Standing Orders.

NO. 545 OF 2001

THE HON J C PEREZ

ELECTRICITY – POWER CUTS

Can Government state how many power cuts there have been since 1st December 2000, how many districts were affected and for how long?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC SERVICES, THE ENVIRONMENT,

SPORT & YOUTH

There have been five power cuts since 1st December 2000. The dates and the number of districts affected and the duration of the power cuts is set out in the written Schedule that I will now hand to the hon Member.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 545 OF 2001

HON J C PEREZ:

Would any or all of these power cuts been avoided had the new system been implemented already, the new system that co-ordinates the Generating Station?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

No, the SCADA system is an analytical system that comes into place subsequent to a problem arising and tells us where the problem is, rather than pre-empting the problem. What it should do when it comes into use, is to make the power cut shorter because by diagnosticating the fault faster, we will be able to cure it more quickly.

HON J C PEREZ:

But it will not do away with the power cuts themselves. If I recall correctly and I am not sure of this but I think that when the Minister announced the project, it was said that this would cut the number of power cuts because we would be given a warning system that the power could be cut and pass on the load from one Generating Station to another but I might be wrong I am not sure. The Minister is saying that that is not the case, that the power cut would continue, it is just that they would be for a shorter duration because we would know where the fault is?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

That is my understanding of the system but if the hon Member's memory is better than mine and what he says I said is indeed what I did say, then obviously it does do what he says it is supposed to.

Answer to Question 545 of 2001

Date	Districts affected	Duration
3 December 2000	Five	One to eight minutes
27 January 2001	Eight	One to five minutes
3 February 2001	One	Three minutes
5 March 2001	Two	Five minutes
14 April 2001	Total Blackout (20 districts)	Between 3 hours and 4½ hours

NO. 546 OF 2001

THE HON J C PEREZ

ELECTRICITY – STRATEGIC REVIEW

Can Government state whether the Unions concerned have agreed to the creation of an Electricity Authority as proposed by the Strategic Review into the Electricity Department commissioned by the Government?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC SERVICES, THE ENVIRONMENT,

SPORT & YOUTH

The Government remain in discussion with the Unions and staff concerning proposals for the restructure of the Electricity Department. It would therefore be inappropriate to comment on the issues under discussion, at this stage.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 546 OF 2001

HON J C PEREZ:

But none of the Union's concerned have rejected the creation of the authority. Is that the case?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

Government do not wish to comment at all.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is the objective of the authority the economics of the operation? Is it that they think that it would be possible to run the electricity generation cheaper through having an authority, or is it not driven by economics?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, the purpose of the authority is not to reduce the operating costs and it will not have that effect, nor is it the intention that it should.

NO. 547 OF 2001

THE HON J C PEREZ

INCOMING INTERNATIONAL CALLS

Can Government state what percentage of incoming international calls, excluding calls from Spain, is being received via the 00 34 Spanish route and what percentage is being received via the Gibraltar 350 telephone code?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC SERVICES, THE ENVIRONMENT,

SPORT & YOUTH

Answered together with Question No. 548 of 2001.

NO. 548 OF 2001

THE HON J C PEREZ

INCOMING INTERNATIONAL CALLS

Can Government state whether any action has been taken to ameliorate the problem of incoming international calls being lost as a result of Spain's non recognition of the 350 code?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC SERVICES, THE ENVIRONMENT,

SPORT & YOUTH

It is currently estimated that 74 per cent of incoming international calls, excluding calls from Spain, are received via the Gibraltar 350 telephone code.

The Government have on a number of occasions brought to the notice of the British Government the problems being encountered of incoming calls being lost as a result of Spain's non recognition of Gibraltar's 350 international code. It is understood that the British Government have brought up the matter with the Spanish Government in bilateral discussions. In addition the Gibraltar Government have raised the issue directly with the EC Commission.

GNC and Gibtel are currently working closely together to try and ameliorate the problem. Discussions are being held with BT Concert and Cable & Wireless, and other major carriers, to encourage them to send traffic directly to Gibraltar instead of using least cost routing techniques.

NO. 549 OF 2001

THE HON J C PEREZ

PRE-PAID CARDS

Have Government looked at the possibility of exchanging mobile fixed numbers held by public servants for re-load numbers in order to release more fixed numbers for use by private sector customers?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC SERVICES, THE ENVIRONMENT,

SPORT & YOUTH

Answered together with Question No. 550 of 2001.

NO. 550 OF 2001

THE HON J C PEREZ

PRE-PAID CARDS

Can Government state, as at 31st March 2001, what was the total number of pre-paid cards for mobile telephony activated by Gibtel?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC SERVICES, THE ENVIRONMENT,

SPORT & YOUTH

The introduction of pre-paid cards has resulted in the elimination of the waiting list for customers requiring a permanent fixed number for the Post Paid Service. Since 14th March 2001, Gibtel has been able to service without delay all customers requiring the post paid service.

As at 31st March 2001 Gibtel had activated 3,291 pre-paid cards.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 549 AND 550 OF 2001

HON J C PEREZ:

So the suggestion by the Opposition the last time, which the Government said they were going to take on, the Minister is saying it is now no longer necessary because the number of private sector customers that could not be serviced according to the information that was provided in the House the last time, now no longer exists. Is that what the Minister is saying?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

That is exactly what the Minister is saying.

HON J C PEREZ:

And is it not perhaps more efficient and better to have a number of numbers aside for people in the private sector that might have to use their communications with Spain much more than public servants and would not this exercise release some of these numbers?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

The level of numbers that are available since the date that I gave, the 14th March, do not make it necessary to have a number of numbers in reserve. There are well over 50 per month in the rolling over of numbers.

ORAL

NO. 551 OF 2001

THE HON J C PEREZ

GIBTEL / NYNEX

Can Government state whether the proposed take-over by Verizon of the shareholding of British Telecom in Gibtel will necessarily mean that Gibtel and Gibraltar Nynex will merge into one company?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC SERVICES, THE ENVIRONMENT,

SPORT & YOUTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 552 to 554 of 2001.

ORAL

NO. 552 OF 2001

THE HON J C PEREZ

GIBTEL / NYNEX

Can Government state whether Verizon will have any problems in supplying telecommunications between Gibraltar and the United States, in the event that the takeover of the British Telecom shareholding in Gibtel takes place, as a result of the restrictive licensing procedures in existence in the United States?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC SERVICES, THE ENVIRONMENT,

SPORT & YOUTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 551, 553 and 554 of 2001.

ORAL

NO. 553 OF 2001

THE HON J C PEREZ

GIBTEL / NYNEX

Will the number of posts in Gibtel and Nynex remain at their present level should the proposed takeover of the British Telecom shareholding in Gibtel by Verizon take place?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC SERVICES, THE ENVIRONMENT,

SPORT & YOUTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 551, 552 and 554 of 2001.

NO. 554 OF 2001

THE HON J C PEREZ

GIBTEL / NYNEX

Can Government state whether they expect local and international telecom charges to be reduced in the event that Verizon takes over the British Telecom shareholding in Gibtel?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC SERVICES, THE ENVIRONMENT,

SPORT & YOUTH

The Government are not aware of any proposal for Verizon to take over the shareholding of British Telecom in Gibtel.

The proposed arrangements do not result in any impediment to telecommunications between Gibraltar and the United States. Nor will the proposed arrangements result in any compulsory redundancies.

The Government envisage the proposed arrangements resulting in significant falls in international telecom charges.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 551 TO 554 OF 2001

HON J C PEREZ:

Is it the case then, that instead of Verizon taking the shareholder of Gibtel what is envisaged is that Gibraltar Nynex of which the Government is a 50 per cent shareholder, should be the vehicle that takes over Gibtel and that therefore the Gibraltar Government would be financing half of the takeover?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well the first half of what the hon Member is saying is right. The arrangements envisaged that Gibraltar Nynex Telecommunications Limited of which the Government are a 50 per cent shareholder will take over Gibtel but it does not follow that the Government are therefore financing the takeover. The takeover is being financed by Gibraltar Nynex Telecommunications Limited from its own resources [interruption] yes, all right but look I cannot in the answer to a parliamentary question give the hon Member a three year lecture in company law. There is a distinction between the company and its shareholders. The Government are a shareholder in Gibraltar Nynex, Gibraltar Nynex is taking over, or it is envisaged that Gibraltar Nynex will take over Gibtel. The arrangements nevertheless do not envisage that the Gibraltar Government will be in any way involved in the financing of that acquisition and the hon Member has to accept that those are factual statements and therefore the connection that he is making between the Government status as shareholder and as financier are non sequitur, they do not follow and it is not correct.

HON J C PEREZ:

Does the Minister know whether that takeover would mean necessarily, that Gibtel and Gibraltar Nynex will merge into one company or is it envisaged that the two companies could at least for some time operate separately?

HON CHIEF MINISTER

No, this transaction which the Government uses for bringing the two companies together, the concept of the takeover is technically correct but the Government which is a 50 per cent shareholder in both companies use it as the bringing of these two companies together. The exit of one of the partners and the overall structure then being owned by the Government and the remaining partner on the 50 per cent basis. It is envisaged I understand, that the management in due course and I suppose I do not know up to what extent that sort of detail needs to be put to shareholders for approval but my understanding of the intention is that the companies will continue to operate separately and that there may be some re-distribution of activities but that basically there would be a separate wireless company and a separate fixed wire company. I believe that those are the ideas being bandied about but yes, in any event they would continue to operate separately.

HON J C PEREZ:

Notwithstanding the guarantee of employment that the Minister has mentioned, my question dealt with a number of posts in Gibtel and Nynex, that is to say, is it envisaged that notwithstanding the guarantee of employment that there would be voluntary redundancies or voluntary retirements available to those wishing to take them up?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO

We are verging on the same territory as the GBC question. In any case too far away from implementation of that sort of policy to give any authoritative answer to it. The nuts of the problem is that there needs to be a joint management study, approval by the new board and subsequently implementation by management, of which Government will be there as a shareholder and not answerable in this House for employment policy of the company.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is Nynex buying the 50 per cent shareholding from British Telecom or is it buying 100 per cent of the shares?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The plan envisaged and the hon Member must not talk about it as if it was a dumb deal, it is not a dumb deal, it is agreed in outline but it is not a dumb deal but the intention with everything that is envisaged happens is that Gibraltar Nynex Telecommunications will take over the entirety of the shareholding in Gibtel.

HON J J BOSSANO:

And would the Government expect to receive the same price for their shares as British Telecom does for theirs?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, unless Christmas comes early the answer is yes.

NO. 555 OF 2001

THE HON J C PEREZ

INTERNATIONAL TELEPHONE CHARGES

Can Government state why the cheap rate for international telephone calls, normally afforded during the Easter break, has been discontinued?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC SERVICES, THE ENVIRONMENT,
SPORT & YOUTH

The cheap rate for international telephone calls afforded during the Easter break has not been discontinued.

Telephone calls on Good Friday, throughout the weekend, and on Easter Monday, both for local and international calls have all been charged at the weekend cheap rate.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 555 OF 2001

HON J C PEREZ:

Is it not the case that they have been charged at the weekend cheap rate retrospectively because no such facility was available and that this is the response to complaints from the public to Nynex that no such facility was available? Is that not the case?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

No, the hon Member has obviously heard rumblings and he is only partly correct in what he is saying. There was no intention by GNC to do away with the weekend rates but what did happen was, that due to an oversight the cheap rates which were going to be applied were not advertised by GNC. When this was realized, the billing system was immediately adjusted and therefore all calls during that period, as I said in my main answer, had been charged the cheap rates. Steps have been taken to automate the computer system so that a similar oversight does not happen electronically in the future.

HON J C PEREZ:

But the oversight was not just that they forgot to advertise it. The computer was not counting the minutes in the cheap rate. The cheap rate was not implemented and Nynex became aware of it when people complained and people have since received letters from Nynex saying it was an oversight. "We are sorry it was an oversight and you will be compensated by the cheap rate for the weekend." So the Minister is saying that I am wrong in what I am saying and then he is confirming what I am saying. That is what I do not understand.

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

The inference is what I am saying is wrong, the inference in the question, was that there had been a change of mind by GNC due to complaints by the public and that is what I am making the hon Member realize. That inference if it was there, that inference was wrong. It was never the intention and going further, the indication of the computer counting minutes at the cheap rate is an erroneous one. The computer counts the minutes and then another section of the program allocates a telephone tariff. What was not done due to an oversight was pre-program the computer so that the tariffing would be at the lower rate but I have said it was an oversight.

HON J C PEREZ:

It does not happen until the end of the month

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

Indeed. It does not happen until the bill is issued at the end of the month. The computer has now been re-programmed, I am led to understand, and this will prevent similar oversights happening in future.

NO. 556 OF 2001

THE HON J C PEREZ

VISITS ABROAD BY THE MINISTER

Can the Minister for Public Services, the Environment, Sport and Youth give the dates when he has been away from Gibraltar on Government business in the years 2000 and 2001 to date, giving the event or function attended and the venue, city and country visited?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC SERVICES, THE ENVIRONMENT,
SPORT & YOUTH

Since January 2000 I have chaired a number of Government Joint Venture Company Board Meetings away from Gibraltar as well as a number of Shareholder Meetings to do with the merger of Gibtel and Nynex. I have also attended a number of events which have included the Special Olympics European Championships, the Cowes Powerboat Festival, an Internet and Telecommunications Expo 2000 Conference, the British Telecom International Mobility Leaders Conference and a Verizon International Regulatory Issues Conference.

The detailed information requested by the hon Member in respect of each event is set out in the schedule that I now hand to him.

Answer to Question 556 of 2001

Date	Country	City	Venue	Event or Function
23/3/00	U.K.	London	Lyonnaise Head Office	Lyonnaise Board Meeting
29-30/5/00	Holland	Groningen	Groningen Sports Facilities	Special Olympics European Championships
22/6/00	U.K.	London	BT Centre, Newgate Street	Gibtel Board & Shareholders Merger Meetings
27/8/00	U.K.	Cowes	English Channel	Cowes Powerboat Festival
19-21/9/00	USA	New York	Jacob K Javits Convention Centre	Internet & Telecoms Expo 2000 Conference
26/9/00	Switzerland	Lausanne	Hotel Conference facility	Gibraltar Philatelic Bureau Board Meeting
6/10/00	USA	New York	Verizon Head Office	GNC, and GNC Networks Board Meetings, GNC Shareholders Merger Meeting
8-9/11/00	China	Hong Kong	Hotel Conference Facility	BT International Mobility Leaders Conference
21/11/00	UK	London	GIB Office	Gibtel Shareholders Merger Meeting
9/3/01	UK	London	GIB Office	GNC Shareholders Merger Meeting, GNC Board Meeting, Verizon/BT/Govt. Merger Meeting
13/3/01	UK	London	GIB Office	Gibtel Board and Shareholders Merger Meetings
14/3/01	UK	Coventry	Marconi Head Office	GNC Meeting with Marconi Communications
4-5/4/01	USA	Washington	Washington Hotel	GNC Shareholders Merger Meeting, Verizon International Regulatory Issues Conference

ORAL

NO. 557 OF 2001

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

NEW SPORTS CITY

Are Government now in a position to confirm when they expect the whole of the works for the new Sports City at the area of Bayside to be finalised?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC SERVICES, THE ENVIRONMENT,

SPORT & YOUTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 558 and 559 of 2001.

NO. 558 OF 2001

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

EUROPA SPORTS GROUND

When can Government expect the hand-over of the Europa Sports Ground to the Government by the MOD to take place?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC SERVICES, THE ENVIRONMENT,

SPORT & YOUTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 557 and 559 of 2001.

NO. 559 OF 2001

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

VICTORIA STADIUM – SQUASH COURT

Can Government confirm when they can expect the repairs to the Squash Court at the Victoria Stadium to be finished?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC SERVICES, THE ENVIRONMENT,

SPORT & YOUTH

No.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 557 TO 559 OF 2001

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Does that mean that the Minister is not in a position to confirm?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

The three questions essentially ask me to give dates of completion or of an event happening and the answer to all three is no, both are well ahead in time and for a number of reasons I cannot give a date which is what has been asked.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

I would not hold the Minister responsible for a specific date but if he could give an indication of saying either this year, next year or the following year or the year 2002, 2003.

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

It brings me to the point that I have answered these three questions, well maybe not the one of the Squash Court that may be only once or twice but the other two I have answered on numerous occasions. The last one, specifically the Europa Sports Ground was answered in March I think it was of this year, in detail and the question is almost the same, and if my memory again does not fail me, it is against Standing Orders to ask the same question within six months. But be that as it may, the question of the Sports Ground is exactly as given in the answer to question 143 of 2001 and I find it unnecessary to repeat it. The question of the sports facilities at the Victoria Stadium, I have again at the budget speech last year and in a number of questions since then, given a detailed answer saying that it is divided over a period of three phases and that one phase is about to finish, that the hockey pitch is about to be ready, I have given details of what is expected during the next phase in the current financial year and in the final phase and the overall completion date is somewhere in the year 2003/2004. The Squash Court, again I gave a detailed answer at the last meeting of the House, works are in progress and once the water proofing is tested to make sure that the water proofing of the roof stands up to the

test before we spend money on what is an expensive exercise in lining up the back wall, the answer is, no, because I cannot give an answer to the questions as phrased.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Well, he has been a little bit more explicit than he was originally and he has said round about the year 2003/2004 which is something that I was asking him which he was reluctant to provide. Now, the question of the Europa Sports Ground, if I have asked it, is because I really have not had a reply to the question when I put it forward to the House six months ago. So I do not think if my memory serves me right, that I have been given a date as to when the hand-over is expected.

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

The answer is exactly as given in question 143 of 2001 which was given in March of this year and I have it here in front of me, it is a three page answer. If that is not detailed enough, I would ask the hon Member to go back to Hansard and read it and then she will see that the answer specifically details why I cannot give a date.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Can Government please confirm whether they are still discussing matters that could be more or less considered to be in dispute between the Government and the MOD in relation to the sports ground, or have all matters now been resolved?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

The position remains as given in answer to 143 of 2001.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

So the position is that the Minister announced last year on GBC that there was going to be the hand-over and nearly a year after it has not happened.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Absolutely right, absolutely right, yes.

NO. 560 OF 2001

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GFA / UEFA

Are Government aware of the present situation regarding the GFA's application of membership of UEFA in face of Spanish opposition to recognise Gibraltar as a nation in its own right?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC SERVICES, THE ENVIRONMENT,

SPORT & YOUTH

The Government are consulted and informed by many private organisations on many issues. This includes the GFA on the matter of the UEFA membership.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 560 OF 2001

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

If the Government are being informed, are the Government pleased with the progress that is being made?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The hon Member must be aware just from reading the press of the difficulty that the Greek Football Association has recently got into but she must be aware that the UEFA and FIFA for that matter, take a very serious view of governmental interference in National Football Association matters. If she wants a private indication of what the Government know and how the Government feel, she is very welcome to have it privately in the ante room. I do not think it is right for us to debate across the floor of this House this matter in a way that suggests that this is Governmental business because that can only prejudice the application of the hearing, which incidently, contrary to what the question suggests, actually does not require them to recognize that we are a nation in our own right.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Does UEFA view the Spanish position in the same line, because my understanding is that the Spanish Football Association bases its entire opposition on the Treaty of Utrecht, which I do not think has anything to do with football.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Absolutely right and the Gibraltar side, if I can just call it very loosely, argues that that is wrong and as we argue that that is wrong, one cannot with any credit or merit argue that that is wrong and engage in it oneself. So, the GFA gets that measure of advice which is appropriate and which they request from Government in formulating their own arguments and I think that is as much as we would wish to say publicly but

as I say, anything that they want to discover privately, they are very welcome to share with them all that the Government knows about it.

NO. 561 OF 2001

THE HON J C PEREZ

GIBRALTAR PORT AUTHORITY

Can Government state whether there is any single issue holding up the negotiations with the Union over the establishment of the Gibraltar Port Authority?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

The Union which represents the employees of the Port Department refuse to meet the Official Side to negotiate the transition to the Port Authority until such time as the 1999/2000 pay reviews for Port Department non-clerical employees are as far as they are concerned settled.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 561 OF 2001

HON J C PEREZ:

And is the issue now a different assimilation with UK grades, taking them out of the clerical structure? Is that what is being looked at and reviewed at the moment?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, these issues of on-going industrial relations, discussions and negotiations cannot be discussed in advance other than with the employees concerned and their representatives. At the moment as the hon Member knows, Port Department Officers are analogued to other local grades and that is how the situation is in relation to the 1999/2000 pay review. The Government are open to consider any proposals and to discuss any proposal that any group of their employees may wish to put to the Government and they would be considered against the criteria of whether or not they are consistent or inconsistent with the principle of parity by which the Government are bound and indeed to which they are committed.

NO. 562 OF 2001

THE HON J C PEREZ

PORT - SECURITY

Can Government confirm that they intend to contract out the new security arrangements at the Port?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

The Government cannot confirm that they intend to contract out the new security arrangements at the Port. This is one option open to the Government.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 562 OF 2001

HON J C PEREZ:

Is it not the case that part of the negotiation with the Union is that the Port Department should take over the security?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Assuming the negotiations continue along the lines of what was being originally envisaged, it is one of the options that is open to the Government.

HON J C PEREZ:

So, what the Minister is saying is that until those negotiations are completed the Government do not know whether it might go out to contract or not? The Minister does not even intend to go out on contract on a short term basis whilst the negotiations take place. Is that the position?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

That is the position at present.

HON J C PEREZ:

So Government will not go out on contract on a short term basis.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No we will not, at present.

NO. 563 OF 2001

THE HON J C PEREZ

TRANSPORT INSPECTORS

Can Government state how many Transport Inspectors have been appointed in full time employment and how many have been appointed in an ex-officio capacity?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

There is one Transport Inspector in full employment and eight ex-officio Inspectors.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 563 OF 2001

HON J C PEREZ:

And are all the ex-officio Inspectors members of the Tourism Department?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

There are two members that are from the Ministry of Tourism and Transport, the rest are all from the Gibraltar Tourist Board.

HON J C PEREZ:

And what are the duties expected of the ex-officio Transport Inspectors as compared to the full timers and are they remunerated for these duties?

HON J J HOLLIDAY?

No, they are not remunerated for these duties but there are times when these ex-officio Transport Inspectors would have to take decisions in different circumstances and therefore they need to have the powers to be able to carry out those decisions and duties.

HON J C PEREZ:

But is it the full extent of the powers of the Transport Inspectors that they hold to take decisions at a given time, or are they limited to certain areas?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

The law actually sets out the duties and powers of the Transport Inspectors and these ex-officio members have exactly the same powers as the full time Inspectors and therefore they are there with their own powers and duties to perform them.

HON J C PEREZ:

And the Government consider it correct that someone that is not fully employed on transport should have to take a decision on transport at a given time, without the full

knowledge of the whole aspect of transport? These people are employed as something different and they are being given powers to exercise the functions of the Transport Inspector at a given time. Does the Minister not see that that could be badly administered by the people concerned, given that they do not know the extent of the job that is involved in Transport Inspector?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No, the Government have full confidence in the members of the Ministry and the Gibraltar Tourist Board that have been appointed for this purpose and I must point out, that even though these people do have other responsibilities, they are in a way related to the transport and the running of transport related issues. An example of this is for example the Terminal Manager at the Coach Park, although he has got a tourism function, he does have an administrative function within the cruise or the ferry or coach park and therefore he needs to have the powers to be able to direct transport and take decisions depending on circumstances at a given time.

NO. 564 OF 2001

THE HON J C PEREZ

TRANSPORT – PARKING TICKETS

Can Government state how many parking tickets have been issued this year with a breakdown by months and the comparative figures for the same months last year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

The information requested is as follows:

	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>
January	1027	1140
February	913	1877
March	1069	1507
	<u>3009</u>	<u>4524</u>

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 564 OF 2001

HON J C PEREZ:

Is there any reason for the large increase in February and March? Is this that there is a greater amount of policing, or is it that there is a certain amount of offences?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Well, this is purely a policing matter. I assume that if the police have issued parking tickets, it is because it is justified.

HON J C PEREZ:

Unless it is a policy decision.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, if it is a policy decision he must be aware that it cannot possibly be the Government, since one of the things that the Gibraltar Government do not have

HON J C PEREZ:

No, no but the Attorney-General

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Attorney-General has got no constitutional responsibility for policing in Gibraltar. He is the prosecution authority. He gets cases brought to him by the police. Frankly, the hon Member should know better, than to ask the Government, at least to ask this

Government, questions in the House about operational matters of the police because he knows that we do not interfere in such matters.

HON J C PEREZ:

Not even in the fishing agreement.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Especially not the fishing agreement.

NO. 565 OF 2001

THE HON J C PEREZ

TRAFFIC - QUEENSWAY

Have Government now completed their plans to decongest traffic at Queensway, between the junction of Europort Avenue and Waterport roundabout, and if so, will they state what these plans entail?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Government have no plans to alter the traffic arrangements in the place or for the purpose described in the question. Government continue to consider ways of decongesting the entrances to and exits from the Westside area as a whole.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 565 OF 2001

HON J C PEREZ:

So the information that I have been given in the House in the past means, that this would be decongested by virtue of the decongestion of the other areas because this question has been answered in a different way in the past.

NO. 566 OF 2001

THE HON J C PEREZ

TRAFFIC – WATERPORT ROAD

Do Government not consider that having two-lane traffic at Waterport Road, with parked cars on either side having to reverse into the road, is not conducive to good traffic management?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question No. 567 of 2001.

NO. 567 OF 2001

THE HON J C PEREZ

TRAFFIC – WATERPORT ROAD

Will Government consider creating short-term waiting bays at Waterport Road in the area of Watergardens given the nature of many businesses in the area?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Parked cars have been reversing on to the road on the Watergardens side for many years, even when the hon Member was Minister with responsibility for traffic matters. Indeed, vehicles frequently used to park illegally behind properly parked cars, thereby causing obstruction and restricting the views of drivers exiting from parking bays. To all intents and purposes, Waterport Road operated as two lanes, even though it was not marked out as such.

Now that the two lanes have been widened because the central reservation has been narrowed and a 30 kph speed limit imposed, these new measures actually enhance the traffic safety.

The creation of short-term parking bays is a matter which the Traffic Commission would need to consider. As far as Government are aware no such request has been made to the Commission to consider.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 566 AND 567 OF 2001

HON J C PEREZ:

Should they not consider it before the works are completed, given that the works have already started in the area?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I am sure that those that have designed the road and layout have taken the matter into consideration and that have not thought it fit to provide for this.

HON J C PEREZ:

Is it not the case that this is the first time that Waterport Road has been demarcated two-lane?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

That is correct, I have said that in my answer.

HON J C PEREZ:

Well, because the Minister is saying that cars used to reverse into the road in my time and in my time it was not two-lane and the standard practice of traffic anywhere

in Europe is that if there is a two-lane the cars do not reverse to get out of the parkings, they come out from the front, which is an impossibility in this situation, that is why I am asking the Minister whether he considers it to be good traffic management. The fact that people might be using it for two lanes when that is not happening is one thing but to demarcate a two-lane when all cars on either side have to reverse into the road, I think is a mistake.

ORAL

NO. 568 OF 2001

THE HON J C PEREZ

TRAFFIC – UPPER TOWN

Are Government now in a position to announce their plans for traffic for the Upper Town area?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

No.

NO. 569 OF 2001

THE HON J C PEREZ

BUS SERVICE

Has the second bus operator now submitted their proposals to Government in relation to Government's own plans for the bus service?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

I do not know who is the "second bus operator". The Government have now received proposals from both companies currently engaged in the provision of the bus services.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 569 OF 2001

HON J C PEREZ:

The second bus operator is in Hansard the reply that the Minister gave to me when he said that one bus operator had submitted proposals and the second one had not and he was expecting them, that is the second bus operator. So the Minister has now received the proposals from the second operator and has now got both proposals, is that the case?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

That is correct.

HON J C PEREZ:

And does the Minister envisage when it is that he can announce his own plans in conjunction with the proposals that he has, or after having digested the ideas and proposals he has received?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

The Government are giving consideration to the proposals that have been made and an announcement will be made as soon as possible.

NO. 570 OF 2001

THE HON J C PEREZ

TRANSPORT – EU REGISTRATION PLATE

Have Government now taken a decision on when the new EU format registration plate for Gibraltar is to be introduced?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

No.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 570 OF 2001

HON J C PEREZ:

Is there anything in particular holding it up? The concern is, that there are people already buying plates with the EU and putting them on and it is not gazetted, it is not standardised, what form it should take. Is there anything in particular holding it up?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

We are in the process of finalising the details of the relevant legislation that comes into place and as soon as that is ready we will press the button.

ORAL

NO. 571 OF 2001

THE HON J C PEREZ

NUMBER OF VEHICLES REGISTERED

What is the total number of new vehicle registrations for this year as at 31st March 2001?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

The total number of new vehicles registered for this year as at 31st March 2001 was 704.

NO. 572 OF 2001

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

17 EUROPA ROAD

Can Government now state when they will be in a position to issue the tender for the demolition of 17 Europa Road?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

The tender for this project was advertised in late March 2001.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 572 OF 2001

HON DR R G VALARINO:

Have Government had any replies since?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

My understanding is that the tender submissions are currently being assessed and an award of this tender is expected shortly.

NO. 573 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PERSONS INTERVIEWED

Can Government state how many interviews with persons who said that they had not stayed at a hotel have been carried out since December 2000, on a monthly basis, giving the number interviewed each month and where they were interviewed?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question Nos. 574 to 576 of 2001.

NO. 574 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PERSONS INTERVIEWED

Can Government state, of the number of persons who have been interviewed since December 2000 inclusive, who had not stayed at a hotel, how many were interviewed at the land frontier, how many were interviewed at the airport, and how many were interviewed elsewhere?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question Nos. 573 and 575 to 576 of 2001.

NO. 575 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PERSONS INTERVIEWED

Can Government state, of the number of persons who have been interviewed since December 2000 who said they had stayed at a hotel, how many were interviewed at the airport, how many were interviewed elsewhere, 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 Nos. 573, 574 and 576 of 2001.

NO. 576 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PERSONS INTERVIEWED

Can Government say how many interviews with persons who said that they had stayed at a hotel have been carried out since December 2000, on a monthly basis, giving the number interviewed each month and where they were interviewed?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

The extensive factual and statistical information requested by the hon Member is set out in the schedule which I now hand to him.

Answer to Question 573 of 2001

The number of interviews carried out in respect of visitors who did not stay at a hotel was as follows:

January	832
February	848
March	689

The interviews were carried out as set out in the answer to Question 574 which follows:

Answer to Question 574 of 2001

The information requested in respect of visitors interviewed who did not stay at hotels is as follows:

	January	February	March	Total
Land Frontier	469	476	333	1,278
Airport	48	98	36	182
Elsewhere	315	274	320	909
TOTAL	832	848	689	2,369

Answer to Question 575 of 2001

The results from Tourist Survey questionnaires in respect of 2001 are as yet provisional. The figures requested are as follows:

	Airport	Average Length of Stay	Land Frontier	Average Length of Stay	Waterport	Average Length of Stay
January	24	5.3	2	2.6	4	3.3
February	30	6.2	4	2.0	-	-
March	39	4.8	9	2.8	-	-

Answer to Question 576 of 2001

The information requested is as follows:

	Stayed at Hotel	Number of Interviews
January	30	862
February	34	882
March	48	737
Total	112	2,481

	Airport	Frontier	Waterport	Total
January	24	2	4	30
February	30	4	-	34
March	39	9	-	48
TOTAL	93	15	4	112

NO. 577 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

NUMBER OF HOTEL BEDS

Have any new parties expressed an interest in making proposals, or actually made proposals, to the Government with a view to increasing the number of hotel beds in Gibraltar, apart from the six given in answer to questions in February?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question No. 578 of 2001.

NO. 578 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

NUMBER OF HOTEL BEDS

Do the discussions between the Government and the six parties that have expressed an interest in making proposals to increase the number of hotel beds in Gibraltar continue?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

No new parties have expressed an interest in hotel development in Gibraltar. Discussions continue with those parties who have already shown an interest in this matter.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 577 AND 578 OF 2001

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is the Minister in a position to say whether the negotiations with the six parties are all at the same stage or are they all at different stages, and if so, at what stage are each?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Well, the reality is they are all awaiting developments at a particular area and when that happens negotiations will continue, so basically they are all at similar stages, anyway.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

So we have not got to a stage then, if the Minister could say, where anybody has made specific concrete proposals which the Government are considering, only just loose negotiations.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Well, they are not strictly loose negotiations but I think that they would not be in anybody's interest for me to actually openly give information away on this respect at this stage.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Have any possible sites been identified?

Hon J J HOLLIDAY:

As I think I have said in the House before, the Government's vision for the east side may include the development of a hotel and with this in mind we are now waiting for the consultants who are doing the whole feasibility study of the east side to be

completed and they will be able to tell us what sort of construction can actually be done on the reclaimed land and this will then open up opportunities for us to consider which avenue we wish to take in this particular respect and there are a number of interested parties that are awaiting for that sort of level and the stage in our consideration to be made available and made public, but obviously at that stage any interested parties, whether they are in discussions already and have expressed an interest to the Government, or anybody that comes in new, will have the opportunity of being able to look at this. The reality is that there is interest and it is obviously Government policy to keep them warm and interested and that is exactly what I am trying to do at the moment.

NO. 579 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

HOTEL ASSISTANCE SCHEME

How much money have the Government paid to hotels since 1 January 2001 in loans and grants under the Hotel Assistance Scheme, or from elsewhere, in chronological order with a breakdown giving the name of the hotels in question and the amount paid?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Only one payment has been made, in the form of £6,438.42 granted to the Continental Hotel.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 579 OF 2001

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Government say, whether this is because nobody has actually requested any funding or whether funding has been requested and been rejected.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No, the Hotel Assistance Scheme that was launched in 1997 had the initial submission made by the various hotels, Government considered those, it made decisions as to the level of support that was given in each and every circumstance and now all the hotels have drawn down all that was agreed. The Continental Hotel at that stage was in the process of being sold and never actually made the request. For all intents and purposes the Hotel Assistance Scheme from the point of view of loans is now closed for the time being anyway.

NO. 580 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

HOTEL ASSISTANCE SCHEME

What is the total amount owing to the Government by each hotel in respect of loans and grants under the Hotel Assistance Scheme as at 31st March 2001, giving the name of each hotel, the amount of the loan, the repayments made against each loan, and the total amount owing for each hotel?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

The extensive factual and statistical information requested by the hon Member has been set out in the schedule which I now hand over to him.

Answer to Question 580/2001

Hotel Assistance Scheme Loans	Loan Approved	Drawdown as at 31 March 2001	Repayment Dates
Bell Hotels Ltd	£1,000,000	£1,000,000	26 02 03
Rock Hotels Ltd	£1,500,000	£1,425,000	23 01 03
G & JB Hotels Ltd (Caleta Palace)	£1,500,000	£1,450,000	21 10 03
Total	£4,000,000	£3,875,789	

No repayments are due to be made until 2003 – five years from the date of first drawing.

NO. 581 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

HOTEL ARREARS

What amounts are due and owing to Government by hotels broken down by item and in respect of which periods these monies become due as at the end of March 2001.

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

The arrears due by hotels stood at £690,000 as at 31st March 2001. These arrears are in respect of amounts due over a number of years dating back to 1991. The breakdown is as follows:

Social Insurance	£197,000
PAYE Tax	£177,000
Electricity	£292,000
Rates	£ 24,000
	<hr/>
	£690,000
	<hr/>

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 581 OF 2001

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The Minister is obviously aware the figure has gone up since we last asked the question in December. Is there any reason for that or is it simply that people have not paid whatever the agreement they had entered into?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

My understanding is that the figure as it stands as at 31st March, the actual arrears was £690,000 but in fact the balance outstanding in respect of the arrears is £613,000. When this question was previously asked, the balance stood at £642,000, so the figure that I have given of £690,000 includes both what is sort of overdue and what is current. The thing is that possibly because hotel occupancy is higher, the actual arrears are up because obviously there is more consumption in terms of electricity and people they employ et cetera, but overall the figure is actually down, even though the figure which I have quoted is higher.

ORAL

NO. 582 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

HOTEL GRADINGS

How is the progress being made by the Bristol Hotel, the Caleta Hotel and the Continental Hotel with respect of keeping their provisional star grading being monitored?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question No. 583 of 2001.

NO. 583 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

HOTEL GRADINGS

Can Government list the exact detailed specifications that would differentiate a four star hotel from a five star hotel in the assessment of local hotels carried out by Associated Quality Services Ltd?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

The Government are not monitoring progress.

The hotels in question were given a deadline of 1st November 2001 by which time all improvements needed to be in place. Once the deadline expires, the Government will then ascertain whether all the improvements have been made to the required standard.

And in his question in respect of the difference between the four and five star criterias, I am handing over a factually detailed resume of the difference between the two different gradings.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 583/2001

All hotels to comply with statutory obligations - where applicable these include the following
- Fire Precautions, Price Display Orders, Food Safety, Licensing, Health and Safety and Public Liability Insurance Cover.

FACILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR A MINIMUM 1 STAR RATING.

- A minimum of 6 letting rooms.
- 75% of rooms to be en-suite or with a designated private bathroom.
- A restaurant (or eating area) for the service of both dinner and breakfast (lunch optional).
- Dinner to be available for residents and their guests (last orders no earlier than 6.30 p.m.)
- A lounge or easy seating area with television if not in every bedroom.
- A residential liquor licence.
- Service may be informal.
- The issuing of a bedroom key to guests.
- Decor, Furnishings, Fixtures and Fittings in both Public Areas and Bedrooms may have more of a domestic quality than that associated with specialist/larger hotels.
- Optional room service.
- All bedrooms and bathrooms to be cleaned daily, with beds made daily (sheets and duvets to be changed every 4 days and for each new guest).

All bedrooms and bathrooms should have sufficient space to allow guests freedom of movement - minimum floor areas should be -

Single 5.6 sq m/60 sq ft.

Double 6.4 sq m/90 sq ft.

Twin 10.2 sq m/110 sq ft.

- All bedrooms to have at least minimum sized beds -
Single - 190 x 90 cms/6'3" x 3'.
Double - 190 x 132 cms/6'3" x 4'6".
- All rooms to be provided with fixed heating and adequately lit - (160 watts in single and 220 watts in double).
- All windows to have opaque curtains.

Contd Answer to Question 583 of 2021

- All bedrooms to have a dressing table, mirror, wardrobe (or clothes hanging space), bedside table (with light controllable from both the bed and door), a minimum of one chair in single rooms and two chairs or one chair and a stool in double rooms and a hand and bath towel and bath mat with fresh soap for each new guest.
- At least one bath, shower room and a separate WC. for every six resident guests (other than guests in bedrooms with en-suite facilities).

QUALITY STANDARD REQUIREMENTS FOR A MINIMUM 1 STAR RATING

A minimum of 90 % of all scores to be "Fair" or better.

Contd Answer to Question 583 of 2001

FACILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR A 2 STAR RATING.

In addition to the minimum 1 Star rating requirements, the following will be expected at 2 Stars -

- Normally small/medium sized hotels.
- Management and staff more smartly and professionally presented with service skills more evident than at 1 Star level.
- Decor, Furnishings, Fixtures and Fittings with less of a domestic quality than usually seen at 1 Star level, with evidence of co-ordinated furnishings, fabrics and decor within bedrooms. Bedroom chairs to be upholstered seat and back, with or without arms.
- Bedroom sizes to exceed the minimum 1 Star dimensions.
- Last orders at dinner no earlier than 7.00 p.m.
- A colour television provided in every bedroom (at no extra cost).
- 100% of bedrooms to be en-suite or with 'private' facilities comprising a bath or shower.
- A clearly designated reception area to be provided (a bar used for reception purposes is not acceptable).

QUALITY STANDARD REQUIREMENTS FOR A 2 STAR RATING

A minimum of 85% of all scores are likely to be "Good" and better, with probably 30% of all scores at least "Very Good". Normally no scores of "Acceptable".

FACILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR A 3 STAR RATING

In addition to the minimum 1 and 2 Star rating requirements, the following would be expected at 3 Stars -

- May be medium sized hotels with significantly greater quality and range of facilities and services than usually seen at 1 and 2 Star levels.
- A higher degree of public access, with the public areas and bedrooms usually more spacious than at 1 and 2 Star levels.
- A higher staffing level than usually seen at 1 and 2 star levels, with staff smartly and professionally presented and usually uniformed. A more formal style of service, with staff demonstrating good levels of product knowledge, restaurant staff applying correct service methods and bar staff preparing a range of drinks competently.
- A dedicated receptionist on duty.
- Last orders at dinner no earlier than 8.00 p.m.
- Room service to be available and advertised with menus available (including continental breakfast).
- Laundry service available with details advertised.
- Better quality bedroom furnishings with less evidence of self assembly and melamine topped surfaces. All bedrooms to be well lit and have sufficient free space to allow for the provision of the appropriate level of room service.
- Bedding should be co-ordinated.
- Individually controlled thermostatic heating (preferably 24 hours).
- Curtain materials, when used, should be substantial, fully lined and of contract quality. Similarly carpeting should also be of heavyweight contract standard.
- A kneehole dressing/writing table to be provided in all rooms.
- Single rooms to have one easy chair, with two easy chairs or one easy chair and stool in all twins/doubles.
- A better range of good quality beverage making facilities.
- A radio to be provided in each bedroom, with televisions provided with a remote control.
- A direct dial telephone to be provided in each bedroom.
- A hair dryer to be provided in each room.
- 100% of bedrooms to have en suite bath or shower and WC and to be more spacious with more shelf space and decorated to a high standard (ie tiled walls and fitted floorings). A full sized washbasin to be located within the en suite bathroom.
- Shampoo and/or bath/shower gel to be provided as a minimum.
- A higher quality of food served with evidence of fresh foods used - more emphasis on quality rather than extensive menus.

Lord Answer to Question 583 of 2011

- Breakfast to include a range of hot and cold items with a choice of good quality accompaniments (i.e. jams, marmalades, ground and decaffeinated coffee, teas etc.).
- Public rooms generally more spacious and offering a greater range with all furnishings, fittings and decor of good quality and in good condition.
- A dedicated reception area with desk, counter or desk. (a bell to be provided when receptionist is not present).
- The restaurant also to be of good quality, including the standard of decor and furnishings and tableware - all commensurate with hotel ware quality.
- A lift required in all establishments with 3 floors or more, including the ground floor.
- A pay phone to be provided.
- Convenient public area located separate Ladies and Gents public WC's.
- A residential and restaurant liquor licence.

QUALITY STANDARD REQUIREMENTS FOR A 3 STAR RATING

80% of all scores are likely to be "Very Good" and better, with probably 20% of all scores "Excellent" or better. Normally no scores of "Fair" or "Acceptable".

Lord Answer to Question 583 of 2001

FACILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR A 4 STAR RATING

In addition to the minimum 1, 2 and 3 Star rating, the following would be expected for a 4 Star rating -

- In order to provide the expected level of quality and range of facilities and services, hotels will be expected to have extensive accommodation and usually with spacious and very well appointed public areas, with bedrooms offering superior quality than in 1 to 3 Star hotels. Could also include smaller, luxury hotels.
- A formal, professional service structure, with smartly presented, uniformed staff.
- A strong emphasis on food and beverage with a serious approach to cuisine.
- Extra facilities, depending on location and style of operation, such as conference and banqueting, business centre, health and leisure, second eating option etc..
- Reception manned 24 hours per day, with express check out facilities provided where appropriate. There may well be a dedicated reservations department with an efficient formal bookings procedure in place. Well trained reception staff professionally presented, with staffing levels commensurate with the size of hotel.
- Porterage to be available by uniformed staff, with a night porter also available.
- At least one restaurant open to residents and non residents for all meals 7 days per week.
- A breakfast menu to be provided, although a buffet style is acceptable if table service is also provided.
- Lunch to be provided in a restaurant, bar or brasserie.
- An extensive choice of hot and cold dinner dishes with a comprehensive list of wines.
- Last dinner orders no earlier than 9.00 p.m.
- Light refreshments and snacks to be available during the day and evening, with service easily available without having to order at reception or bar.
- Provision of full room service meals to be eaten in comfort, possibly on a dining table and chairs or a trolley service. A procedure in place to remove trays/trolleys.
- Room service of both continental and full cooked breakfast, lunch and dinner (during restaurant hours) to be provided and advertised with drinks, refreshments and light snacks to be available 24 hours per day
- Consider an air conditioning requirement?

QUALITY STANDARD REQUIREMENTS FOR A 4 STAR RATING.

75% of all scores are likely to be "Excellent" and better, with probably 10% of all scores "Exceptional" Very few scores will be less than "Very Good" No scores of "Fair" or "Acceptable"

Contd Answer to Question 583 of 2001

FACILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR A 5 STAR RATING

In addition to the minimum 1, 2, 3 and 4 Star rating, the following would be expected at 5 Stars.

- Spacious, luxurious establishments, offering the highest International standards of accommodation, facilities, services and cuisine.
- Very spacious, luxurious accommodation throughout, with a range of extra facilities.
- Flawless guest services by professional, attentive staff, with a formal and structured team of impeccably presented staff with technical and social skills of the highest order.
- Highly trained reception staff, immaculately presented. First time guests, at the very least given an escort by reception staff or management to their room. A multilingual service provided. A dedicated reservations department displaying the highest levels of customer care and telephone manner.
- Porterage offered by uniformed staff, with luggage handling on arrival and departure. A doorman or means of greeting guests, provided at the hotel entrance. A full concierge service provided.
- Staff to show a serious commitment to and enthusiasm for food and wine. The quality of dinner menu and wine list presentation of a very high standard.
- A wide selection of drinks, including cocktails, to be available in a bar or lounge. Table service of drinks to be provided.
- A full lunch service to be provided in a restaurant.
- Last dinner orders no earlier than 10.00 p.m.
- Full afternoon teas to be served.
- Room service menus to be provided in each room, with a dedicated room service/staff.
- A shoe cleaning service to be available and advertised.
- 24 hour laundry service (dry cleaning week-days only) and full valet service.
- Bedrooms to be of excellent quality with a luxurious standard of furnishings, fittings and decor.
- All beds made daily, with bed linen, including duvet covers changed every day. An evening turn down service normally provided.
- Single beds exceeding the 3' minimum size.
- Bedrooms to be exceptionally well lit, with additional lighting likely to be provided e.g. armchair reading light, wardrobe lighting etc.
- Single rooms to have an easy chair and one desk chair and a double/twins to have two easy chairs and one desk chair.
- Satellite or cable and/or TV channels to be provided.

Lord Answer to Questions SRB of 2011

- All rooms to have direct dial telephones at both bedside and writing table. Additional fax and computer points may be available.
- A 48 hour laundry and dry cleaning service (weekdays only).
- All bedrooms to be of very good quality with a superior standard of decor, furnishings and fittings. It is unlikely that there will be any self assembly melamine topped or space saving furniture, as all furniture will need to be of a good contract standard as a minimum.
- In addition to beds being made daily and for each new guest, all bed linen (including duvet covers) to be changed at least every two days.
- All bedrooms and bathrooms to have an obvious degree of spaciousness, allowing ample ease of movement and which will significantly exceed the minimum dimensions.
- A range of bed sizes incl. standard doubles (6'3" x 4'6") and queen (6'6" x 6" etc.) to be available. All beds to be of very good quality with superior headboard attached and dressed to a very high standard, including immaculately laundered quality and co-ordinated bedding.
- Bedroom heating to be individually thermostatically controlled and operable 24 hours.
- High quality lighting, including the room lights to be controllable from the bedside and with twin beds to have two bedside lights (and bedside tables - not shelves).
- High quality window and floor coverings, co-ordinating with surrounding fabrics and soft furnishings.
- A wider range of hangers to be provided, suitable for all types of clothes.
- One easy chair to be provided in single rooms with two easy chairs in doubles/twins (a substantial chair at the writing deck in addition to an easy chair may be acceptable).
- Bedroom televisions to be of high quality with generously sized screens.
- Some bedrooms to have the telephone capable of being used at both bedside and desk.
- Writing materials, including stationery to be provided in all bedrooms.
- A least one bedroom suite with separate sitting room, reached as a minimum, through an arch from the main area.
- A face cloth to be provided for each new guest, changed daily and a range of high quality guest toiletries to be provided.
- 100% of bedrooms to be en-suite with a bath and fixed overhead shower and WC. Bathroom suites would be expected to be matching with showers preferably thermostatically controlled. Very good shower curtains or glass screen to be fitted.
- A wider range of menus and dishes to be offered, although the emphasis will be on food quality rather than extensive menu. A range of dietary and vegetarian options to be available for each meal and at breakfast a wider range of accompaniments (e.g. butters, spreads, jams, marmalades, ground and decaffeinated coffees, teas etc.) would be expected.

Could Answer to Question 583 of 201

- A clearly designated reception area, with a formal desk, or counter provided. If appropriate the foyer may well contain a separate porters desk.
- The restaurant, regardless of style, to be appointed to a very good standard with quality tableware and comfortable seating. tables to be reasonably well spaced.
- A sitting area provided at all times. The bar and lounge may be combined.
- A full liquor licence.
- A number of permanent luxury suites to be available.
- Bath sheets to be provided for each new guest, changed daily. Bathrobes to be provided.
- Extensive public areas, with the lounge areas and restaurant with excellent quality furnishings and fittings and having an air of luxury.
- * Consider an air conditioning requirement, 24hr availability ?

QUALITY STANDARD REQUIREMENTS FOR A MINIMUM 5 STAR RATING

Mostly "Exceptional" scores. No scores less than "Very Good".

A SUMMARY OF 5 STAR QUALITY INDICATORS

Bedrooms/Bathrooms/Public Areas

- The highest standards of floor coverings, furnishings, fittings and decor.
- Attention to guests expectations, comfort and needs evident in the amenities provided.
- All fittings and furnishings to complement the overall design, style and decor of any given area.
- Bedrooms to be amply proportioned in order to accommodate the facilities and services available.
- All areas to be exceptionally well lit.

General Services

- The highest levels of customer care skills and telephone manner.
- Service to be flawless, with technical and social skills of the highest order.

Food and Beverage

- Outstanding levels of product knowledge and service skills in food and wine.
- All staff to be unobtrusive, polite and courteous.
- Menu presentation of the highest order.

Contd Answer to Question 533 of 2001

- Guest preferences accommodated without question.
- All meals prepared with a high level of technical skill.
- All food to be freshly prepared and of the highest quality.

NO. 584 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

FLIGHTS – GIBRALTAR / TANGIER

When in the year 2000 was the last flight between Gibraltar and Tangier and are there plans to establish a service other than those on which the Opposition have been briefed privately?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

The last flight was on 28 July 2000. Since then, Regional Air Lines has been examining the option of the Tangier service, amongst other routes, which the hon Member has been briefed privately. A new operator has recently come forward who is also exploring the possibility of servicing the Tangier route.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 584 OF 2001

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In relation to the new operator, the Minister has mentioned Tangier, obviously at present the situation is there are no air links between Gibraltar and Morocco. Is the possibility of opening routes to other Moroccan cities also available?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

This is something that obviously Regional Airlines had been considering. The new operator which I have mentioned in my answer is not a Moroccan operator. I do not really know where they are from, I think they are probably British. They have asked the Gibraltar Government for certain assistance and this has not been forthcoming in the light of certain commitments that we do have with Regional Airlines and others. However, our communications do remain open, in fact it is only this morning that I have had communications with them on this, in that they irrespective of our position, they are currently giving consideration to the Tangier / Gibraltar route.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Does the Minister have any information in relation to the frequency of the route and the type of aircraft which they envisage to use or has it not got to that stage yet?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No, I am afraid that I do not have concrete information. They were talking of the service twice a day on a very very small little aircraft but the reality is that the aircraft does not exist and they were about to consider the leasing of an aircraft and it is not really an operation which is firm on the ground and so we are concerned as to opening up our cheque book without really knowing where we are going.

NO. 585 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

MONARCH AIRLINES

Are the talks still on-going between the Government and Monarch Airlines to re-establish flights between Gibraltar and Manchester Airport?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question Nos. 586 to 591 of 2001.

NO. 586 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

NEW AIRLINES

Do the discussions continue with the two new airlines who were interested in flying to Gibraltar according to the information supplied by the Government at the last question time in this House?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question Nos. 585 and 587 to 591 of 2001.

NO. 587 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

NEW AIRLINES

Have any new airlines expressed an interest in flying to Gibraltar other than those referred to in the answer given this February?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question Nos. 585, 586 and 588 to 591 of 2001.

ORAL

NO. 588 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

REGIONAL AIRLINES

Has any payment been made to Regional Airlines this year and if so what amount and when?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question Nos. 585 to 587 and 589 to 591 of 2001.

ORAL

NO. 589 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

REGIONAL AIRLINES

Do discussions continue between the Government and Regional Airlines on a Draft Memorandum of Understanding?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question Nos. 585 to 588 and 590 to 591 of 2001.

ORAL

NO. 590 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

NEW AIRLINES

Is the airline that was very keen in starting flights to Gibraltar in April 2001 going to do so?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question Nos. 585 to 589 and 591 of 2001.

NO. 591 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

AIRLINE ASSISTANCE SCHEME

How much has been paid from the Airline Assistance Scheme and to what airlines since February 2001 on a monthly basis, giving the amounts and the dates when the payments were made?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Discussions continue with two new airlines who are interested in flying to Gibraltar. No other airlines are in discussions with the Government, beyond those referred to previously in this House. Indeed, one airline – Fly Europa – has now filed an application to operate a service from Stansted to Gibraltar and from Manchester to Gibraltar. This was the airline that was keen to commence operations in April or May this year. Government nevertheless would wish to encourage Monarch Airlines to continue considering operating the Gibraltar/Manchester service as it is felt there is demand for this route.

A draft Memorandum of Understanding with Regional Air Lines is close to being agreed. However, no payments have been made to this airline in the year 2000. The only payments made in respect of airline assistance since February 2001 was the sum of £21,500 paid to Monarch Airlines on the 15th March 2001.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 585 TO 591 OF 2001

HON DR J J GARCIA:

With respect to the Monarch application which the Minister says is on-going, is the Government aware whether Monarch Airlines have a base at Manchester Airport, which would make it easier for them to operate from there?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Monarch have headquarters in Luton, however, they are expanding their operations in to Manchester as well, in fact they do operate a Manchester/Malaga flight which they started very recently, when they were giving consideration to the Manchester/Gibraltar route. They told me that they would not be putting on a Manchester/Gibraltar flight this summer, basically because of the non availability of aircrafts in that they take commercial decisions as to what priorities they have on certain routes as against others. This is why I insisted that when Fly Europa was considering the daily flight from Stansted to Gibraltar, I insisted that they should cut down to five, seeing that they could only travel to Gibraltar once a day I insisted that they put on a Manchester route because I felt there was demand of market there. They have obviously followed the recommendations that the Government have made and in their applications to the C A A only last Tuesday, they applied for five flights a week from Stansted and two from Manchester. I think this is an important development and something that the Government welcomes.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

It has long been the policy of the Opposition that there should be more airlines flying to more routes from Gibraltar airport, particularly since the situation at present was that there were less airlines flying less routes during the last four or five years, so obviously it is something that we would like to see. Can the Minister confirm in relation to airlines and air routes whether the introduction of the seven flights to Heathrow by British Airways or GB Airways recently was accompanied by a cut back of four flights to Gatwick in the evening during the week?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

In order to accommodate Government's request to operate out of Heathrow and the fact that Government wish to see a daily flight from Heathrow to Gibraltar, the initial schedule finally agreed with GB Airways is that they would do a daily W rotation including Gatwick and Heathrow with Gibraltar, so all those daily flights summer and winter leaving Heathrow in the morning, coming in to Gibraltar, flying out through Gatwick at lunch time, returning back to Gibraltar in the early part of the afternoon from Gatwick and then flying back to Heathrow. And that W rotation will remain throughout the year. In addition to that, as they jiggle around with schedule, the actual number of flights to Gatwick would probably be increased back to their original number subsequent to the change of this schedule. Let me add that Fly Europa will add a different dimension to the whole routing as they intend to fly out from Gibraltar in the morning and return back to Gibraltar in the evening, both through Stansted and Manchester and will over night in Gibraltar. So it will mean that they would be promoting a new product in that they would actually be leaving Gibraltar early in the morning. This would mean that people would be able to go to London or to Stansted for a day trip if required. It would fly out at 8 o'clock in the morning and return back in the evening.

NO. 592 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

“PRIDE OF GIBRALTAR”

Have the owners or operators of the vessel “Pride of Gibraltar” which is providing dolphin sightseeing trips from the new port in La Linea received any EU (via Gibraltar) or Gibraltar Government funding, and if so how much and on what date was such funding paid?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

No public funding has ever been given to the “Pride of Gibraltar” venture.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 592 OF 2001

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Does that include any type of concession in relation to for example, to import duties or anything like that in the vessel?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

No, it does not include it?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No, no subsidy or grant or anything were ever granted to the Pride of Gibraltar.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In relation to the wider question of this vessel, have the Government been able to establish what the operators of the vessel mean by offering rapid frontier access to people who use the services?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No, I think it is possibly a selling gimmick that does not actually materialize but no, is the answer.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

So are the Government aware then, whether the people who use these services are put in coaches which then jump the queue at the border on the Spanish side?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, the Government are not aware of any such practice, what the Government are aware of is what he has himself said in the press and that is, that his customers are walked across the border to rejoin a bus that has been queuing up without them. That is what he has said in the interview, which is not the same thing as the hon Member has just described. Certainly the Government are not aware of what the hon Member is saying, does not believe that it is happening and indeed doubts that this gentleman would have the ability to procure that sort of access on the other side of the border. I mean, I know more influential people than the dolphin safari provider who appeared to be unable to gain for themselves that sort of priority on the other side of the border.

HON S E LINARES:

Then the Chief Minister is not aware of the fact that there are two loops in the other side of the frontier and of which one of the loops is jumped by the coaches themselves, even though they are full?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, it is implicit in what I have said, that I am not aware. Nor do I accept either the tone or the construction of the hon Member's sentence which is intended to give the impression that what he is saying is necessarily correct. I have no knowledge of it and nor do I accept, unless I have it properly confirmed by the authorities in Gibraltar, that that is happening. The hon Member is suggesting that that is happening. I will have the matter investigated but certainly no-one has ever pointed out to the Government that that is happening.

HON S E LINARES:

I am now suggesting it to him, could he investigate it.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, if it is happening I am surprised that his party leader and the Opposition Spokesman on Tourism that has just finished questioning the Minister for Tourism on this very subject, appears not to have been aware of it himself either. Or if he was aware of it, has chosen not to raise it in this House. It is surprising that it should be raised by the Opposition Spokesman for Education, immediately after the Opposition Spokesman for Tourism has finished debating the matter.

HON S E LINARES:

The fact is that I was in the queue myself and I saw it and it was not him that saw it, that is why I brought it up myself. He did not know that I had seen it. He does not travel with me all the time. I travel with my family. When I travel with my family, I note these things and that is why I brought it up to the attention of the Chief Minister.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

What the hon Member is bringing up to my attention something that he claims to have seen on one occasion. Well even if he has seen it on one occasion and it remains to be established what exactly he has seen, he has not seen it necessary or relevant to bring this to his party leader's attention, it still would not justify the

formulation of his original supplementary, which was that there was some established system of a second loop in which all buses jump the queue from. I mean, that even if he has seen this happening once, it does not render factually correct the supposition in his question. The Government keep under constant review the arrangements that take place on the other side of the border because the hon Member is aware that from time to time rumours emerge about whether different arrangements are going to be made for cross frontier workers, or that cross frontier workers are going to get a special fast track and these things are not acceptable to the Government and therefore there is an element of keeping the situation constantly under review to ensure that there is no discrimination against local users of the border in the way the border is operated. None of the things that the hon Member has described has been brought to the Government's attention by anybody, any of the various official sources that operate in and around the border and I would be very very surprised if the matters that the hon Member was describing or insinuating, or implying to his question were actually the case and now that he has raised it, certainly I will have it looked into to make sure that the Government's view, that it is very unlikely to be correct, is actually itself correct.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Do the Government share the Opposition's concern that tourist orientated industries which are set up and based in Gibraltar choose to leave Gibraltar, set up in La Linea and compete with Gibraltar from there?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Government do not believe that La Linea is capable of constituting a threat to Gibraltar's touristic product. We co-operate with La Linea, we would have no difficulty in helping them indeed develop their own tourism product, the Government of Gibraltar do not see Gibraltar as being in competition with La Linea. If we can both do business, the Government would have no difficulty with helping La Linea develop tourism products for the benefit of the whole region but the suggestion that Gibraltar's own touristic product is somehow threatened by anything that can be done in La Linea is simply not a view which the Government think is worthy, enjoys the degree of seriousness and credibility that the Government could share. For Government, the location of businesses in Gibraltar is important. The gentleman in question still has a boat established in Gibraltar. I suppose that the dolphins that they go to see are the same dolphins, I do not think there are dolphins marked Gibraltar and dolphins marked La Linea, swimming out there in the sea. Look, I hope the hon Member can accept that no-one that is holidaying up the Costa del Sol gets into a coach, travels down a motorway for an hour or an hour and a quarter in order to go to La Linea to view dolphins. If what they want to do is view dolphins, they can have dolphin excursions in Marbella, they do not have to come down to La Linea to do it. The hon Member ought to glean from the situation that there are issues involved in this particular operator which have caused him to do what he has done for reasons which the Government chose not to remedy and there are things in the nature of conditions as to what the Government could or could not do with others in relation to other people who want to run dolphin safaris from Gibraltar. The Government have chosen not to engage in this debate in public but the hon Member presumably has deduced that if somebody decides to go to La Linea with his boat, at the end of the day there are still dolphin safari providers in Gibraltar and the extent to which one operator contributes significantly to the economy of Gibraltar is limited. He would nevertheless had been very welcome to stay. He still has one boat in Gibraltar I understand of the two that he operated but he has to stay on ordinary market conditions that allow others to join that marketing competition and the Government of

Gibraltar are not willing to create cartels or monopolies for the benefit of individual businesses and if there are people that are not willing to participate in the domestic economy of Gibraltar on those open basis, then they had better go elsewhere because the Government are not in the business of protecting anyone's monopoly.

NO. 593 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

“NAUTILUS IV”

What steps do Government intend to take to introduce a special regime of safety measures for inshore tourist-type craft in Gibraltar, as is the case in the United Kingdom, following the situation that has arisen with the semi-submersible vessel Nautilus IV?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

The Government are considering introducing the Class VI regime for vessels of this type.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 593 OF 2001

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Government confirm that the vessel is now operating on the basis of such certificates from the United Kingdom?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Government's understanding and of course we would need notice of the question for it to be administratively accurate but the Government's understanding is that all certificates to Gibraltar registered boats in Gibraltar Harbour Craft are issued by the Gibraltar authorities and not by the United Kingdom. They may be issued to United Kingdom standards, in other words, the requirements may mirror United Kingdom safety standards but the certificates themselves, I think is how the hon Member formulated his supplementary, the certificate itself is issued locally under the Merchant Shipping Ordinance or the Port Ordinance, or whichever of the two it is.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can Government clarify the position then. Is the vessel still operating under the original licence issued in Gibraltar, whereby it can only have 12 passengers or is it now licenced to carry 49?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

The vessel is now able to carry 49 passengers.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

When I raised the issue in February, I think it was the Chief Minister who advised that there was a vacuum in our local legislation and that we actually were unable to licence this type of vessel because of this gap in our law. It simply had never happened before, either treating it in the sense of as we would a commercial or a port vessel or some other type of craft. Is it that we now have that vacuum filled in

Gibraltar, or is it that they can now carry 49 passengers because of the licence that they have which is a UK licence and not a Gibraltar one?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

In the first place, the Government do not accept that there is a vacuum in the law. The Government believe that the Gibraltar Port Authorities have an over-riding duty to ensure public safety above all else and that they have done so and the Government are not willing to discuss this matter in any further detail given that legal proceedings have either been initiated or are threatened against the Government for what has happened in protection of public safety. We do not know whether those proceedings are going to be pursued but certainly they have been initiated and therefore it would be inappropriate for Government to make statements here which may prejudice the outcome of that.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

I understand and appreciate that but I will put the question and perhaps the Chief Minister can see whether it is possible to answer it or not. The information the Opposition is trying to obtain, is whether the vessel can now operate with 49 passengers. In February it could not and what has changed in the interim to allow that to happen?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well what has changed is that they have now been issued with a licence following the incorporation of certain additional safety measures on the boat. They have now been issued with a licence that entitles them to carry 49 passengers which was not available to them back in February or whatever month he mentioned, which I have forgotten.

NO. 594 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

SCHOOL OF MARITIME STUDIES

Are Government now in a position to say when the new school of maritime studies will be opened, where it will be located, or whether the idea has now been definitively abandoned?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

No. However, I must emphasise that the concept most certainly has not been abandoned. This is a project that the Government would like to see come to fruition, during this current term of office.

NO. 595 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

NUMBER OF PORT OPERATORS

Are Government now in a position to say how many port operators there are and how many have applied for licences showing those who have been successful and those who have been unsuccessful?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

The licensing regime will be put in place shortly. It is not therefore possible to answer this question at this stage.

ORAL

NO. 596 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

NUMBER OF PRIVATE MOTOR VEHICLES

What was the value and number of private motor vehicles imported by individuals for each month from 2001 to date inclusive?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question No. 597 of 2001.

NO. 597 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

NUMBER OF PRIVATE MOTOR VEHICLES

What was the value and number of private motor vehicles imported by licensed dealers for each month from January 2001 to date inclusive?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

The extensive factual and statistical information requested by the hon Member is set out in the schedule which I now hand over to him.

Answer to Questions 596 and 597 of 2001

Licensed Dealers

2001

	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>£(million)</u>
January	695	7.04
February	571	6.15
March	670	6.40
TOTAL	1,936	19.59

Individuals

2001

	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>£(Thousand)</u>
January	17	68.2
February	13	40.3
March	15	35.4
TOTAL	45	143.9

NO. 598 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

COURSE IN HOTEL, CATERING AND HOSPITALITY SERVICES

How many persons applied for training places in the course in Hotel, Catering and Hospitality Services in response to the Government's official notice published on 13th February 2001, how many places were available and how many trainees have been taken on?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

There were 15 places, 22 persons applied and 11 were taken on.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 598 OF 2001

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Were the other people not considered suitable for the course or did they withdraw voluntarily?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I understand the remaining 11 applicants were not considered suitable.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Are these courses for people who are already in the industry or for people who are unemployed and wanting to join the industry?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I am not sure, I have not got that information available. They are all young applicants which I assume may probably have never had jobs, I am not sure but that is just my own gut feeling from the list of applicants but the interview panel obviously thought that they were not suitable for the type of training that was required. I believe the course is one year.

HON J J BOSSANO:

And they spend part of that time working in hotels, do they?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Absolutely. I have not actually got that information readily available yet but they do spend a part of their training, not just in hotels but in catering establishments as well in order for them to widen their experience in the different areas of training.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Has in fact the course already started for the 11 that were taken on?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

The one that we are talking about here? Yes, I believe it has started already. There is sort of a rolling on program in that I think the courses are actually started at six monthly intervals, so possibly the next one will start in about September and then by that time, those that have started would have been half way through the course and those that started last September will have finished. So, there is usually I think, three courses going on at any one time, obviously at different levels of their training.

NO. 599 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – GRADE 1 OFFICER

How many persons have applied for the post of Grade 1 Officer in the Gibraltar Tourist Board in response to the Gibraltar Development Corporation notice published on the 22nd February 2001, how many places were available and how many have now been filled?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question Nos. 600 and 601 of 2001.

ORAL

NO. 600 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TERMINALS ASSISTANT

Can the Government say whether and if so when the two vacancies for Terminals Assistant have now been filled?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question Nos. 599 and 601 of 2001.

NO. 601 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

VISITOR INFORMATION PATROL OFFICERS

Can the Government say whether and if so when the two vacancies for Visitor Information Patrol Officers advertised in the Official Notice published in January have now been filled?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

There were seven applicants for one post of Grade 1 officer in the Gibraltar Tourist Board. The successful applicant started work on the 2nd April 2001.

The successful applicants for the two vacancies for Terminal Assistant commenced work on the 5th February 2001.

The successful applicants for the posts of Visitor Information Patrol Officers started work on the 1st March 2001 and 26th March 2001, respectively.

NO. 602 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR TOURIST BOARD – MINI-GUIDE

How many parties have submitted a tender for a Mini-Guide for the Gibraltar Tourist Board the closing date for which was the 6th April, who are they and what have they quoted?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

The notice that was issued on the 27th March was not a tender notice. It invited proposals from interested parties for the production of a Mini-Guide to be produced at no cost to the Gibraltar Tourist Board. Those companies that contacted the Tourist Board with a view of submitting a proposal were informed about the publication that had to be produced, and told that they should cover their production costs by selling advertising space on the Mini-Guide.

Two proposals were actually received:

1. Copywrite Advertising
2. Target Marketing Services Ltd

After presenting their proposals to the Tourist Board, Target Marketing have since withdrawn their proposal. Copywrite Advertising will be reverting to the Gibraltar Tourist Board shortly with their final proposal.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 602 OF 2001

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Minister say why Target Marketing withdrew the proposal?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I am afraid I cannot. I was just informed that they had withdrawn their proposal but I do not know why.

NO. 603 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TENDER FOR WARDEN CONTROL CABINS

What was the cost to the Government of the warden control cabins for the coach park as submitted by the two tenderers in response to the original advertisement, and has the tender now been awarded and if so to whom and for how much?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question Nos. 604 to 610 of 2001.

ORAL

NO. 604 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TENDER FOR PASSENGER SEATING

Who were the three companies that submitted tenders for the supply of passenger seating at the coach and ferry terminal and what offers did they make?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question Nos. 603 and 605 to 610 of 2001.

NO. 605 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TENDER FOR 'GIVE-AWAYS'

Has the tender for "Give-Aways" advertised on the 5th May 2000 now been awarded and what reasons are there for the long delay that has ensued?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question Nos. 603, 604 and 606 to 610 of 2001.

ORAL

NO. 606 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TENDER FOR 'GIVE-AWAYS'

With respect to the tender for "Give-Aways" advertised on the 5th May 2000, can Government list the tenderers from which additional information has been requested, and what that information is?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question Nos. 603 to 605 and 607 to 610 of 2001.

NO. 607 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TENDER – WORLD WAR II TUNNELS

Can Government now say who has been awarded the tender for works to develop a visitor attraction within the World War II Tunnels and when is phase one of the project expected to commence?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question Nos. 603 to 606 and 608 to 610 of 2001.

NO. 608 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TENDER – WORLD WAR II TUNNELS

Can Government say how many parties have expressed an interest in the tender for works to develop a visitor attraction within the World War II Tunnels, listing the parties in question and indicating which are established Gibraltar businesses and which are not?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question Nos. 603 to 607 and 609 to 610 of 2001.

NO. 609 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TENDER – MAIN STREET BEAUTIFICATION

Can Government say what the “Extension to Main Street Beautification Works” tender notice published on the 1st March 2001 entails, and how many tenderers have applied, listing the tenderers and the amounts quoted?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question Nos. 603 to 608 and 610 of 2001.

NO. 610 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TENDER – ROSIA BAY

Can Government say why invitations to tender for the development of Rosia Bay have not been issued given the length of time that has elapsed since four parties put forward pre-tender proposals?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

The extensive factual and statistical information requested by the hon Member is set out in the schedule that I now hand over to him.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 603 TO 610 OF 2001

HON DR J J GARCIA:

When do the Government expect to award the tender in respect of the cabins for the coach park?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I do not know whether the tender for the cabins at the coach park will be awarded or alternative ways of erecting these may be considered as the costs of these were totally prohibitive, so therefore the Government decided that it would reconsider their position and a decision has not yet been taken.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In relation to Question 610 of 2001 which was the one about Rosia Bay, the delays according to this answer is because some of the pre-tender proposals have a heritage impact. I am not mistaken when I say that I think the issue of Rosia Bay has been raised at practically every question time in the House of Assembly and the actual pre-tender notice itself came out in December 1999. Although there is a heritage consideration and although the heritage trust or whoever has to be consulted and involved, are the Government satisfied given the long delay that has ensued?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

The fact that no progress has really been made on this, there is concern as to the heritage implication of some of the proposals that have been received by the Government and therefore a decision has yet not been taken as to the way forward taking into consideration the sensitivity of the area.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Given that in relation to Question 605 of 2001 a tender which came out in May of 2000 which is now a year ago, the answer the Government give is that they are not

satisfied with the quotations submitted by the tenderers. Are the Government proposing now to scrap that and put it out to tender again, or what is the position?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I think as I have explained in this House, the decision was not taken as a result of the fact that there were budgetary restraints as to whether money would be available. If hon Members have a look at some of the out-turn of our marketing budget last year, we have just underspent the amount, so therefore no funds would have been available for this anyway. In addition to that, we requested further information as can be seen from my answer to Question 606 of 2001 from some of the parties that had produced some items which might have been of interest and in fact no replies were actually forthcoming from these people themselves, so we basically abandoned the idea for the time being, although we would have to reconsider because it is something that is required as part of our marketing activities but generally speaking the response that we had was not really very positive.

Answer to Question 610 of 2001

Question 603

This tender has not yet been awarded

Question 604

The three tenderers, and the sums offered were:-

(1)	Gibral-Flora	£2,507.75	
(2)	Interbuild	£3,430.00	
(3)	Portman	Offer 1.	£3,164
		Offer 2.	£3,304
		Offer 3.	£2,436
		Offer 4.	£2,576

The tender was awarded to Portman, and offer 4 was the option chosen.

Question 605

This tender has not yet been awarded, as the Government is not satisfied with the offers made by tenderers.

Question 606

Additional information requested was as follows:-

Zenith Printers-	Costs for various items requested No reply has been forthcoming
Vogue Ltd	- Prices for mouse pads requested. No reply has been forthcoming
Mr R B Simonsen	- Samples of souvenirs requested. The tenderer has indicated he cannot supply these unless a firm order is placed.

Question 607

The tender has just been awarded to Amco. The project will commence shortly.

Question 608

Two tenders were received, from Amco and Sharrock Shand, both established Gibraltar businesses.

Question 609

The works involve the beautification of Library Street from its junction with Cannon Lane to its junction with Main Street, Main Street from its junction with Library Street to its junction with Governor's Lane and the east side of Cathedral Square from its junction with Secretary's Lane to its junction with Bomb House Lane.

Cont...

Contd Answer to Question 610 of 2001

The tender has not been awarded, so it is not possible to give the details requested. There were two tenderers.

Question 610

There have been delays in this matter because some of the pre-tender proposals have a heritage impact, which is being assessed.

- 2 -

NO. 611 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TENDER – MISS GIBRALTAR 2001 BEAUTY CONTEST

How many parties have applied for the tender to organise, produce and stage the Miss Gibraltar 2001 Beauty Contest, who were they and what did the offers made consist of?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Three entities applied for the tender to stage the Miss Gibraltar contest 2001. The tender is in the process of adjudication. Once it is awarded the entity which has been successful and the amount bid, will be published as a matter of course. The identity of other tenderers will then be given.

NO. 612 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

BEAUTIFICATION WORKS AT THE LAND FRONTIER

What is the expected duration of the refurbishment and beautification works at the land frontier?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

The works are scheduled to be completed by September 2001.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 612 OF 2001

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is the Minister also intending to beautify the frontier fence, or is that outside the scope of these works?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

This is outside the scope of this particular project.

NO. 613 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

FEASIBILITY STUDY – EASTERN BEACH / CATALAN BAY

What were the conclusions of the Dutch experts who in February 2001 looked at the options available with regard to the feasibility study into the extension of Eastern Beach and Catalan Bay?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

The Consultants engaged by Government to advise on this project have yet not completed their work.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 613 OF 2001

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Do the Government have an indication by when the work will be completed and the reports made to them?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

The feasibility study should be made available to the Government by the end of May and then the Government will need time to consider the details and make decisions.

NO. 614 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

CONTAINER TRANSHIPMENT PROJECT

When do Government expect Phase 1 of the Container Transhipment Project for the port, being the commissioning of the technical and marketing feasibility studies, to be completed?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

The Transaction Adviser appointed by the Government has now prepared a draft report consequent on receipt of the technical and marketing feasibility studies. The final reports, which will be considered by Government, will follow shortly.

NO. 615 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

ST MICHAEL'S CAVE – SOUND / LIGHT SYSTEM

How long is the installation of the new sound and light system at St Michael's Cave expected to take?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

The works are scheduled for completion on the 8th July 2001.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 615 OF 2001

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Minister say whether the works have actually commenced at this stage?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes. The works have definitely commenced and I understand that they are ahead of schedule.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

When we raised the issue in February, we raised the question as to whether the company which is an outside firm would be sub-contracting work to local businesses or local electrical companies. Are the Government aware or in a position to say whether that has happened or not?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I cannot really give an answer on this, I am afraid.

NO. 616 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

NUMBER OF VISITORS TO PARSON'S LODGE / 100 TON GUN

Following the introduction of a new ticketing system on 1 February 2001, are Government now in a position to give the number of visitors to Parson's Lodge and the 100 Ton Gun on a monthly basis since then?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Information on visitor numbers to Parson's Lodge is not available to the Government as this site is not operated by the Gibraltar Tourist Board.

Entry to the 100 Ton Gun is included within the Upper Rock admission ticket and no records are kept of visitor numbers.

NO. 617 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

COACH TERMINAL

Can Government provide a breakdown of the £19,154.36 it cost for the lighting in the new coach terminal indicating to whom the payments were made and on what dates?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

All payments were made on the 31st January 2001, as follows:-

British Steel Ltd	£ 8,328.06
Groupe Schneider	£ 6,888.00
Trident Freight	£ 335.40
Batt Cables	<u>£ 3,602.90</u>
	<u>£19,154.36</u>

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 617 OF 2001

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The reasons for querying the amounts is that it seems quite high for lighting in a building of this kind to cost nearly £20,000.00. Is it a special kind of lighting or is it just normal lighting?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I am afraid I am not briefed on the issue. I have assumed that that is the cost but obviously there are technical people within the Government who assess the cost of items like this and bring it to the attention if there is something that does not look right. In this case, I really cannot comment.

NO. 618 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

VISITS ABROAD BY THE MINISTER

Can the Minister for Tourism give the dates when he has been away from Gibraltar on Government business from the 1st February 2001 to date, giving the event or function attended, the venue, the city and the country visited?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

I have been away on two occasions, from the 25th to 27th of February and from the 22nd to the 24th April 2001. On both occasions, I travelled to London to attend a series of meetings.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 618 OF 2001

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is it possible for the Minister to say meetings in relation to what, to any specific project or event?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

When I say I left on the 25th, and came back on the 27th I was only in London on the 26th, it is only one day and on the 26th of February I went to London for a special UK GTA meeting where the Gibraltar Tourist Board made a presentation to tour operators who are members of the UK GTA and the airlines themselves, in order for them to be fully informed as to what the Government strategy was for this coming financial year and allow them the opportunity to input into that before a final decision was taken in time for the budget. In respect of the 23rd April, I had meetings with the container transshipment advisors. I also had a meeting with the media buyers for the Gibraltar Tourist Board in order for them to be fully briefed as to what strategy we wanted, following on from the previous visit to the UK. I also had a meeting with Unique Commerce Company who were doing a certain amount of advertising for us as well, which is the new strategy which the Tourism Board will be undertaking this year as part of their overall strategy and I also had a meeting with Fly Europa in the lead up to their applications to the CAA. I take this opportunity to remind the hon Member that everything that I have said in the House today in respect of Fly Europa is still pending that CAA application and whether there are objections and whether it actually gets approved and therefore I put that proviso because I felt a bit optimistic as I was speaking earlier on in the afternoon but there are still the pending question as to the final approval.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Have the Government decided whether it is going to support in the CAA the application?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes. The Government will be supporting the application and therefore highly likely that it will get approved.

NO. 619 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM ADVISORY COUNCIL

How often and on what dates has the Tourism Advisory Council met in 2001?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

The Tourism Advisory Council has met twice since January 2001.

Meetings have been held on the 9th February and 19th April 2001.

NO. 620 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR / MOROCCO FORUM

Have there been any more meetings of the Gibraltar/Morocco forum since that held in Gibraltar in October 2000?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

No.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 620 OF 2001

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Minister elaborate as to why not?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

This is very much a DTI led forum, although obviously members of the Gibraltar Tourist Board participated in this forum, it was one of the previous meetings that were held I believe in Tangiers and obviously we played a major role because in the lead up to the possible coming back of original airlines on the Tangier/Casablanca route and we wanted to promote that. Nothing has happened since and I believe that the last meeting was actually some time in October, if I do not recollect incorrectly and I believe that was held in Gibraltar, where major participation was held by the finance centre sector. There has not been any further meetings. I really cannot give a reason as to why there has not been any meeting but I do not think that the idea of this forum is to meet as regularly as that. I think that possibly twice a year would be acceptable, probably having one meeting in Gibraltar and another one in Morocco, so I presume that there is another meeting scheduled. I do not know whether my hon Colleague is able to enlighten me on this but if he is not, I assume that there will be a meeting shortly and that will possibly take place back in Morocco again.

NO. 621 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

'WHICH REGISTER? WHICH FLAG?' CONFERENCE

What was the cost of attending the 'Which Register? Which Flag?' conference in London on 5th to 6th April 2001, providing a breakdown of the sum involved?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

The cost was £235.00, for the installation of the stand. The attendees at this event were the Principal Secretary of the Ministry for Tourism and Transport, who was in London to attend other meetings and the Chief Executive of the Port Authority, who was also in London attending other meetings, and the Maritime Administrator, who was an invited speaker at this event. The House may recall that I was due to attend the meeting but decided to remain in Gibraltar, the result of on-going issues that I felt compelled me to stay in Gibraltar at the time.

NO. 622 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

COACH PARK - CHARGES

How much revenue has been raised to date on a monthly basis as a result of charging coaches that use the coach park?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

It is not possible to provide the hon Member with the information which he requests, namely the revenue raised on a monthly basis since 1985 from charging coaches that use the Coach Park. What the Government have at their disposal is details of the revenue raised from this source since Sights Management contract was terminated.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 622 OF 2001

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Minister supply that information then, given that he has it?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes. I will now pass on the information going back to February 1999. I wish to bring to the hon Member's attention that the figures for April this year do not cover the whole month, they cover only a specific part of the month, I think it is the 24th of the month. I have not kept a copy of what I have just given him here on file but I wish to bring it to his attention.

1999	Coaches	Rate	Total
Jan-99	0	£ 5.00	£ -
Feb-99	186	£ 5.00	£ 930.00
Mar-99	749	£ 5.00	£ 3,745.00
Apr-99	900	£ 5.00	£ 4,500.00
May-99	1032	£ 5.00	£ 5,160.00
Jun-99	942	£ 5.00	£ 4,710.00
Jul-99	845	£ 5.00	£ 4,225.00
Aug-99	875	£ 5.00	£ 4,375.00
Sep-99	1151	£ 5.00	£ 5,755.00
Oct-99	1160	£ 5.00	£ 5,800.00
Nov-99	830	£ 5.00	£ 4,150.00
Dec-99	480	£ 5.00	£ 2,400.00
TOTAL	9160		£ 46,760.00

* February 1999 Supplied as from 19/02/99

2000	Coaches	Rate	Total
Jan-00	413	£ 5.00	£ 2,085.00
Feb-00	699	£ 5.00	£ 3,495.00
Mar-00	1021	£ 5.00	£ 5,105.00
Apr-00	1019	£ 5.00	£ 5,095.00
May-00	1214	£ 5.00	£ 6,070.00
Jun-00	1135	£ 5.00	£ 5,675.00
Jul-00	1077	£ 5.00	£ 5,385.00
Aug-00	1028	£ 5.00	£ 5,140.00
Sep-00	1396	£ 5.00	£ 6,975.00
Oct-00	1488	£ 5.00	£ 7,440.00
Nov-00	897	£ 5.00	£ 4,985.00
Dec-00	634	£ 5.00	£ 3,170.00
TOTAL	12120		£ 60,600.00

2001	Coaches	Rate	Total
Jan-01	592	£ 5.00	£ 2,960.00
Feb-01	724	£ 5.00	£ 3,620.00
Mar-01	1173	£ 5.00	£ 5,865.00
Apr-01	1015	£ 10.00	£ 10,150.00
TOTAL	3504		£ 22,595.00

* April 2001 supplied from 1st to 27th April.

ORAL

NO. 623 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

HEAD 6A, SUB-HEAD 8

How much of the estimated £750,000 for 2000/2001 tourism budget for marketing has been spent in Head 6A, Sub-Head 8?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question No. 624 of 2001.

NO. 624 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

UPPER ROCK - FEES

What are the Government's forecast for increased revenue to be derived as a result of the increase in entrance fees to the Upper Rock?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

The hon Member will receive this information requested and in fact has already received the information requested with the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the current year, which include the forecast outturn of expenditure for last year and the estimated revenue for this year.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 623 AND 624 OF 2001

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is it not correct that from the figure that is provided in the estimate it is not possible to deduce the numbers paying that is to say, is the figure based on a higher yield because of the higher payment with the same numbers, or does it assume an increase in numbers, because the question deals with the effect of the increase?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The estimated figure for the forthcoming year, for the current financial year already started, makes a substantial allowance for the increase in fees but it is not symmetrical, in other words it does not say, last year there were so many people, multiplied by the new fee and it is not estimating the amount on the basis that we get the same number of tourists.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The effect of the revenue increase presumably would be on the assumption that one gets at least as many people, that there is not going to be a decline, or are the Government assuming a lower number of people paying a higher amount?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, it is possible to interpret the figure in that way but it is not because the Government think there is going to be a fall in numbers, it is because it is an estimate, it is a prudent estimate and we are not assuming that we are going to get the whole benefit of the fee increase for the whole year, so that if we do get the same number of passengers paying the increased fee, the actual amount collected will be higher than estimated.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am not very sure but would the forecast outturn show any effect at all of the higher fees, or would that all be on the old rate?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It started on the 1st April. The Government have already said publicly that we are going to keep a close eye on the effect that the higher fees have on passenger numbers, on visitor numbers. Obviously the Government have an interest, we are not the only interest group that has a position on this matter but certainly the Government have no interest in seeing visitor numbers fall, so we are keeping a close eye. What we said in our last statement, following a visit that I had from the Taxi Association, was that the Government could not form a view on the effect of that, just on the figures that we had so far relating to April. First of all April had not yet then finished, although it has now, secondly April has been a disruptive month because of action that was taken by various transport contractors and therefore it is not until we have a set of normal statistics that we could see. If it turns out that this increase in fees has an adverse effect on the numbers and on the revenue and on the general level of business, the Government will not be shy to review the matter. I mean, it is just a question but until we have evidence of that or unless we have evidence of that, the Government's position is that it should try to maximise the contribution to Government coffers by visitors, who generate a lot of cost, a lot of people are employed whose salaries would otherwise ought to be paid by the ordinary tax payer in Gibraltar and if visitors can be made to contribute higher amounts of money to Government revenue, this is money that the local tax payer is relieved of having to pay. Now, the Government have got to balance against that desirable objective, the fact that we do not want to kill the goose that lays the golden egg and it is just a question of keeping both in balance. What we do not think is reasonable is that the Government should be expected to pursue the judgement of a private interest group out there. I think the Government are entitled to make their judgement which we have made, see whether the judgement has been a right one or not, so long as the Government are then big enough to recognise if it has made a miscalculation to back track and the Government will have no difficulty in doing that, if that turns out to be what the evidence shows. But Government do not think that anyone is justified in calling on the Government to take that action now, on the basis of their speculation, on what they think is going to happen.

NO. 625 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE TO CONFERENCES

Can Government say how many conferences they have assisted, sponsored or co-sponsored this year to date, giving the dates, the venue, the number of participants and the subject matter of each conference?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

The Government sponsored the "Which Register? Which Flag?" Conference which took place at the Café Royal in London on the 4th and 5th April 2001. The subject matter of this conference was to review the political, economic and business issues associated with vessel registration and flagging. There were approximately 80 attendees.

The Government co-sponsored an e-commerce conference. "Taking E-Commerce Offshore", that took place on the 21st and 22nd February 2001 at the Meridien Waldorf Hotel in London. There were about 110 delegates present.

No Government assistance was given to any conference.

NO. 626 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

CO-OPERATION AGREEMENT ON TOURISM

Can Government say whether the co-operation agreement on tourism between Gibraltar and La Linea has now been signed and if so will a copy be made available to the Opposition?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

The co-operation agreement on tourism between Gibraltar and La Linea has not yet been signed.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 626 OF 2001

HON DR J J GARCIA:

If and when it is signed, will a copy be made available to the Opposition and secondly, can the Minister expand on the reason why it has not yet been signed?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, rather than when and if, perhaps the hon Member should have said if and when. The Government are certainly willing to sign the agreement, indeed the model proposed is the same one as we signed in Los Barrios and any Ayuntamiento in the Campo who wants to enter with the Government of Gibraltar, any of the agreements that the Government of Gibraltar has entered into with Los Barrios, the Government of Gibraltar are perfectly amenable and that applies to the tourism agreement in relation to La Linea as to any other agreement that we have entered into with Los Barrios. I cannot offer an explanation as to why it has not been signed yet, I suspect it is just sort of general inertia in relation to the issue but there is certainly no specific reason and certainly no specific reason as far as we are concerned why it should not be signed.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In the light of the dolphin boats controversy that we discussed earlier, are the Government still of the view that Gibraltar does not have very much to gain or lose with this kind of co-operation?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, absolutely. Look, in the real world where at least as far as the Government are concerned Gibraltar lives, whether individuals choose to moor their dolphin excursion boat against a wharf in Gibraltar or against a wharf in La Linea, depends on the fact that people have freedom of choice, it does not depend on whether Gibraltar signs or does not sign a Tourism Co-operation Agreement with La Linea. Gibraltar has to keep businesses here on our merits and the day that the economy of Gibraltar still less, the tourism industry in Gibraltar depends on Gibraltar beaver away to

frustrate La Linea getting even a dolphin safari boat, I think we would then be in that degree of jeopardy but frankly, the dolphin safaris would be the very least of our problems. I think this matter has got to be kept in perspective and those that wish to create a climatology of crisis around the fact that one gentleman has taken one of his two dolphin boats away from Gibraltar to La Linea, can do it all by themselves. The Government have not the remotest intention of participating in any such silly debate.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

By implication then, are the Government saying that the Traders Association like the Chamber, the FSB, the GLVA are all indulging in silly debates?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, certainly the GLVA constantly indulges in silly debates. Indeed, I want to know who the GLVA is because I have yet to find a reputable licenced victualler that claims to have any connection with it at all. I want to know who the committee is, who elected them, when they last held a general meeting, or whether the organisation has been hi-jacked by one or two individuals with well known political connections and are using that long established historical organisation for reasons that have nothing to do with the general interest of licenced victuallers in Gibraltar. All of whom are constantly applauding the Government for many other things that we are doing, for example in relation to Casemates and many of these projects which are creating massive amounts of new business for licenced victuallers in Gibraltar. Now, what the Licence Victuallers Association think that they have at stake by what the upper rock entry fee is, is something which no-one has yet been able to explain to me. They issued a statement immediately in support of the Taxi Association on the question of the upper rock entry fee. I am not aware that any licenced victualler has any establishment in the upper rock, so why the sort of self-appointed spokesman of whoever the Licence Victuallers Association may in fact turn out to be, I have my own suspicions on the matter but anyway what interest they have on the level of entry fee to the upper rock, is not immediately obvious to the Government but yet they make statements and very aggressive statements on the matter, all of which suggests to the Government that this is just a front for people with very different agendas. This is fine, it does not worry the Government unduly but the Government deal with them accordingly and as far as other organisations that have expressed the views concerned, I am not aware that any serious organisation in Gibraltar has adopted the position that they feel that tourism in Gibraltar is threatened by La Linea, or that tourism in Gibraltar is threatened by the fact that La Linea now offers a dolphin excursion boat. I think most people in Gibraltar, most serious organisations in Gibraltar understand that Gibraltar's tourism product is considerably broader, deeper and indeed more sophisticated than to rely on the existence of dolphin safaris which are a useful part of Gibraltar's general tourism but people do not come either to Gibraltar or to La Linea to see dolphins. People come to Gibraltar because it is an interesting place and whilst they are here, amongst the other things that they might do, is go and see the dolphins but I cannot imagine that anybody comes all the way to Gibraltar just to see dolphins, and if they did, they are still able to see dolphins from boats in Gibraltar. So, I just wish the hon Member would agree with the Government that the matter of the dolphin safari boat, quite apart from the fact that I would hope that the hon Members could agree that the issues that have arisen between that particular operator and the Government, which I gave an indication earlier, are not issues that the Government can just collapse in the face of and therefore, however undesirable it is for people to leave Gibraltar, there are certain circumstances in which the Government are left with no option but to allow it to happen and that nothing that results from the signing of a Tourism Co-operation

Agreement between Gibraltar and La Linea will result in a single person that would otherwise had visited Gibraltar not visiting Gibraltar. Nor will it result, at least not with the co-operation and not by the act of the Government of Gibraltar, not will it result in any valuable economic activity for Gibraltar being with the support or assistance of the Gibraltar Government dislocated to the La Linea economy.

NO. 627 OF 2001

THE HON J J BOSSANO

'BARTHON QUEEN'

Can Government confirm that the vessel "Barthon Queen" recently found with three tons of cocaine with an estimated street value of £122 million, is on the Gibraltar Shipping Registry?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

No.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 627 OF 2001

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is it that it has been removed recently and was there before or that it has not been there at all?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

The vessel was registered in the Gibraltar Yacht Registry.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is it still then in the Yacht Registry?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I believe it is, yes in the Yacht Registry.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Given the fact that it has been, I think found, I do not know whether it has to be convicted or not but really they found the stuff on board, so I do not see how they can deny the use to which it was being put. Does that give us grounds for wanting to have it removed from the registry?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I take it that this is something that Government will want to do, since we do not particularly want to have our name mentioned in connection with people carrying tons of cocaine about the world, if one can help it.

NO. 628 OF 2001

THE HON S E LINARES

RELOCATION OF ST BERNARD'S SCHOOL

Can the Minister for Education state at what stage is his review on the relocation of St Bernard's School?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

The Government are not currently actively considering the relocation of St Bernard's School.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 628 OF 2001

HON S E LINARES:

Does the Minister not think that St Bernard's School is a priority like mentioned in the House last time?

HON DR B A LINARES:

No. Moving this school might be desirable for the reasons that we have discussed earlier in this House, but after the refurbishment works carried out recently to the tune of £80,000, which involved work on the roof, the enlargement of the playing area, which is one of the intrinsic problems of the school and the creation of extra teaching spaces, at this moment the facilities have been greatly improved and therefore I have to say it is not of immediate priority.

NO. 629 OF 2001

THE HON S E LINARES

COLLEGE OF FURTHER EDUCATION

Can the Minister for Education state why the Resource Room in the College of Further Education is not available to students?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

Answered together with Question No. 630 of 2001.

NO. 630 OF 2001

THE HON S E LINARES

COLLEGE OF FURTHER EDUCATION

Can the Minister for Education state why the Library in the College of Further Education has been closed for so long?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

The computer facilities in the Student Resource Centre were dismantled in order to improve the centre facilities and to develop a new library.

All the computers were transferred to other rooms and a new teaching suite created. Students were able to use these computers at all times, either for teaching purposes or as supervised additional work.

The furniture for the library arrived in late summer and was assembled. The College has since spent approximately £20,000 in new books which are currently being catalogued and made available but this is a slow process which, hopefully, will be complete by the end of this summer and the beginning of the new academic year.

Students have had access all the time to the Resource Centre Library when accompanied by lecturers, so the facilities have been available, albeit not on a self-service basis.

NO. 631 OF 2001

THE HON S E LINARES

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS IN SPAIN 1998/2001

Can the Minister for Education give the dates when he has been away from Gibraltar in Spain on Government business in 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2001 to date, giving the event or function attended, the venue, the city and the cost?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

The Government are not willing to answer questions in respect of periods prior to the last general election, that is the 10th February 2000.

I have during the period from 10th February 2000 to date visited Spain on official business on countless occasions. These visits have been to Cadiz, La Linea, Los Barrios, Algeciras and San Roque. I have attended conferences related to educational and cultural matters, I have held meetings with authorities such as the President of the Diputacion de Cadiz, Don Rafael Roman, the Rector and Professors of Cadiz University and the mayors of the Campo area and held discussions with relevant officials in the field of education and culture. I have attended functions, concerts, exhibitions to which I have been officially invited. But I do not keep a log of these visits so I cannot give the hon Member details of dates et cetera.

As regards costs, these have been minimal since on most occasions I have travelled to Spain in my own car and I do not claim a mileage allowance. When it has been appropriate for me to travel in an official car the cost to Government is that of petrol and whatever payments are made to the driver. There has been no subsistence allowance given to me since generally I am fed sumptuously at the expense of my hosts in Spain.

ORAL

NO. 632 of 2001

THE HON S E LINARES

YOUTH EXCHANGES

Can the Minister for Education list the youth exchanges between Gibraltar and Spain in 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2001 to date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

Answered together with Question No. 633 of 2001.

NO. 633 OF 2001

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGES

Can the Minister for Education list the educational exchanges between Gibraltar and Spain in 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2001 to date, giving the actual dates, cost and what they involved?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

The extensive factual and statistical information requested by the hon Member is set out in the written schedule that I now hand to him and the total cost for these exchanges for the financial year 2000/2001 was £663.20.

Answer to Question 633 of 2001

Summary of Exchange Visits and events re Spanish and Local Schools

18 February 2000	3 Teachers from Bayside/College of FE visit Los Barrios instituto.
25 February 2000	I.E.S. Juan Antonio, Melilla, students visited Westside.
3 rd March 2000	Juan-Jose Cuadrado Fuentes, Técnico de Educacion visited Governor's Meadow, Bishop Fitzgerald, Westside and Youth Centre.
9 March	Visit by adult students to waterworks, Moorish Castle, Generating Station and Desalination Plant (42 persons) for their project under the general term 'water'.
21 March	C.P. Gloria Fuentes, Guadiaro, on Rock Tour (1 coach) First Group
28 March	C P Gloria Fuentes, Guadiaro, on Rock Tour (1 coach) Second Group
29 March	Bayside/Westside choir performance in Los Barrios. Also on programme Banda Municipal.
7 April	Mr Sergio Ballantine, Bayside held meeting in Los Barrios with Heads of Languages on Resources and Teaching methods.
Friday 12 May	Reps from the 4 Middle Schools and one from T Joseph's First together with Mrs P Scott, Dr D Fa, Mr R Beiso and Mr Juan-Jose Cuadrado from Los Barrios visited the Laboratorio de Arqueologia, near Chiclana, Cadiz.
Wednesday 17 May	9 teachers from Los Barrios visited Governor's Meadow, Bishop Fitzgerald and Westside.
Thursday 18 May	8 teachers from Los Barrios visited St Joseph's Middle and Bayside
Monday 22 May	8 teachers from Los Barrios visited St Paul's Notre Dame and Westside.
Tuesday 23 May	CP Cristo Rey from San Pablo de Buceite, Jimena visited Gibraltar on a Rock Tour. There were 19 pupils and 2 teachers

Contd Answer to Question 633/2001

Wednesday 24 May	16 pupils and 2 teachers from C P Virgen de Guadalupe from Palmones, Los Barrios, were hosted to a Rock Tour.
Thursday 15 June	43 pupils and 3 teachers from C P San Garcia in Algeciras visited St Joseph's Middle in the morning and were then taken on a Rock Tour.
Tuesday 22 August	Señor Manuel Gomez from Selwo made a presentation on the Park to Mrs Scott and R Beiso.
Thursday 31 August	<p>Meeting at the Department to review and renew areas of collaboration between Los Barrios and Gibraltar.</p> <p>In attendance Señor Miguel Angel Rodriguez Palomo, Consejal de Educación de Ayuntamiento de Los Barrios and Señor Juan-Jose Cuadrado Fuentes, Técnico de Educación. Mr Lester and Mrs Scott represented the Department of Education. Also attending Mr R Beiso.</p>
Thursday 7 September	Señor Manuel Gomez from Selwo delivered a presentation on the Park to Heads of Departments of local schools at Bleak House.
Friday 29 February	Government sponsored trip to ERA (Laboratorio de Arqueologia Esperimental) of 44 pupils and 5 teachers from St Joseph's First.
Wednesday 11 October	<p>Launch of the 'Curso de Experto' at Bleak House, Experto Universitario en Comercio Internacional – Run by the University of Cadiz with the collaboration of the Department of Education, Government of Gibraltar.</p> <p>Official Opening by the Hon Minister for Education, Dr Bernard Linares and the Secretario General de la Universidad de Cadiz. Señor Miguel Checa Martinez</p>
Friday 20 October	Government sponsored trip to ERA of 46 pupils and 4 teachers of pupils from St Joseph's Middle School.
Wednesday 8 November	Government sponsored trip to ERA of 49 pupils and 4 teachers of Sacred Heart School
Tuesday 14 November	Government sponsored trip to ERA of 44 pupils and 3 teachers of St Anne's Middle School

Contd. Answer to Question 633/2001

Tuesday 21 November	Posted letters from Bayside and St Joseph's Middle School pupils to Secretario de Alcalde de Pruna in response to the request initially made by the Alcalde for collaboration between Pruna and Gibraltar received by the Chief Minister.
Friday 24 November	25 teachers from the Province of Malaga on a planguage project for the University of Cadiz visited local schools.
Thursday 30 November	Meeting – Mrs Scott and Mr Juan-Jose Cuadrado Fuentes to discuss outstanding projects for co-operation.
Wednesday 17 January 2001	Señor Fernando Mariscal from the Conserjería de medio ambiente delivered a talk to Middle School pupils participating in the reforestation programme 'Bosque Vivo'
Monday 27 January	Bishop Fitzgerald visit ERA on government funded trip (50 pupils).
Thursday 1 February	"Bosque Vivo" reforestation programme. 48 pupils from Middle Schools participated.
Tuesday 13 February	Headteachers Mrs G Beiso/Ryan and Mrs T Beiso visit C P Luis La Madrid and San Ramon Nonato in Los Barrios
Tuesday 20 March	Meeting in Los Barrios between Mrs Scott and Mrs Sacramento with Mrs Yolanda Peinado, concejala de asunto sociales to discuss Special Needs provision.
Thursday 29 March	Mrs Ryan/Beiso, Mrs Beiso and Mrs. Scott attend a workshop for parents at San Ramon Nonato in Los Barrios.
Tuesday 3 April	Government funded trip to ERA by St Paul's pupils (30 pupils)
Tuesday 17 April	C P Cristo Rey (22 pupils), San Pablo de Buceite, on Rock Tour

Contd. Answer to Question 633/2001

Monday 23 April

6 Teachers from Los Barrios visit Governor's Meadow, Westside and St Martin's/

Tuesday 24 April

Mrs Towills, Mrs Viales and Mrs Abudarham visit San Ramon Nonato and C O Juan Gonzalez in Los Barrios

NO. 634 OF 2001

THE HON S E LINARES

CULTURAL EXCHANGES

Can the Minister for Education list the cultural exchanges between Gibraltar and Spain in 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2001 to date, giving the actual dates, cost and what they involved?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

The extensive factual and statistical information requested by the hon Member is set out in the written schedule that I now hand to him.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 634 OF 2001

The following cross frontier cultural activities were undertaken during 200/2001:

27 January 2000

Performance in the Teatro Municipal 'La Velada' of La Linea de la Concepcion of the Calpe Singers.

(No expenses involved)

29 March 2000

Concert by Gibraltarian school children in Los Barrios.

(No expenses involved)

5-9 April 2000

Participation of the Gibraltar Arts and Crafts Association in the Nuevo Futuro Rastrillo in Los Barrios.

(£70 – Hire of tables)

6 May 2000

Concert in the Cathedral of St Mary the Crowned, Gibraltar by the Orquesta de Camara 'Ciudad de La Linea' organised by Enclave XXI.

(£70 – Hire of van for transportation of musical instruments).

19 May 2000

Concert in the Convent, Gibraltar by Sarah Barnes and Vortie Ashkenazy organised by Enclave XXI.

£283.84 spent as follows:-

£50.00 - Tuning of Piano
£120.00 - Setting up of chairs etc.
£ 25.00 - Insurance
£88.84 - Drinks

20-22 October 2000

VI Jornadas de Historia del Campo de Gibraltar held in the John Mackintosh Hall.

(Total expenses: £28,866.90)

2-4 November 2000

Symposium of the Multi-border Societies of the Straits of Gibraltar held in Gibraltar and La Linea de la Concepcion.

(Total expenses - £9,919.60)

NO. 635 OF 2001

THE HON S E LINARES

RISK ASSESSMENTS

Can the Minister for Education state if suitable and sufficient risk assessments have been carried out throughout the Department of Education and have significant findings been recorded?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

On the same basis as between 1988 and 1996. Teachers carry out their own risk assessments in laboratories, workshops, gymnasiums and in other situations where risks are identified. Appropriate departmental support is then provided. Some work, for example, the inspection of gym equipment is contracted out and is done on a regular basis. The lack of major incidences in our schools is proof that risks assessments are continuously carried out, recorded and appropriate action is taken.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 635 OF 2001

HON S E LINARES:

Is the Minister aware that there is a Management and Health and Safety at Work regulation which started in 1996?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I am aware of that.

HON S E LINARES:

The Minister has mentioned since 1988 onwards and the regulation sets out new criteria and new things for health and safety. Therefore it is not a question of saying that is what used to happen from 1988 onwards as if there was something wrong. The regulation has been put in place by his Government. Is the Minister aware?

HON DR B A LINARES:

The regulations says minimal standards and what I was saying was that those minimal standards were kept even before 1996. They have been updated by the regulations in 1996 and I believe the practice in schools is perfectly in tune with those regulations.

ORAL

NO. 636 OF 2001

THE HON S E LINARES

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Is the Minister for Education satisfied at the amount of information being given to employees of the Department of Education in relation to Health and Safety?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

Answered together with Question No. 637 of 2001.

NO. 637 OF 2001

THE HON S E LINARES

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Can the Minister for Education state who are the Health and Safety Competent Persons for the Department of Education?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

In answer to Question No.636 of 2001 I have to say that Health and Safety courses delivered by the Environmental Agency and the Gibraltar College of Further Education, have been attended by members of staff of all schools, including Heads and Deputies and officers from the Main Office. Information gained is passed on to the rest of the staff. Further courses are currently being offered by the Gibraltar College of Further Education through the accredited organisation known as the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health aimed at staff and management.

In answer to Question No.637 of 2001 about the Competent Person, the Higher Executive Officer in the Department of Education is considered as the Health and Safety Competent Person and the equivalent in the schools are those who attended the training courses.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 636 AND 637 OF 2001

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Minister state what qualifications the Higher Executive Officer has to do the Health and Safety assessments?

HON DR B A LINARES:

The qualification that was gained by attendance and by successfully completing the courses that I have referred to.

NO. 638 OF 2001

THE HON S E LINARES

CHANGE OF SCHOOL HOURS

Can the Minister for Education state how many formal meetings have been held by the Working Group set up to study all aspects of the change of school hours since it was formed in February 1998 giving dates and names of persons attending?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 639 to 645 of 2001.

NO. 639 OF 2001

THE HON S E LINARES

CHANGE OF SCHOOL HOURS

Can the Minister for Education state how many formal meetings have been held between the Department of Education and the Royal Gibraltar Police in relation to the change of school hours giving dates and names of persons attending?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 638 and 640 to 645 of 2001.

NO. 640 OF 2001

THE HON S E LINARES

MEETINGS - PARENTS ASSOCIATIONS

Can the Minister state how many formal meetings have been held between the Department of Education and the Parents' Associations, giving the names of the schools to which the said associations belong?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 638, 639 and 641 to 645 of 2001.

NO. 641 OF 2001

THE HON S E LINARES

CHANGE OF SCHOOL HOURS

Can the Minister for Education state how many formal meetings have been held between the Department of Education and the Transport Commission in relation to the change of school hours in 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2001 to date giving dates and names of persons attending?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 638 to 640 and 642 to 645 of 2001.

NO. 642 OF 2001

THE HON S E LINARES

CHANGE OF SCHOOL HOURS

Can the Minister state at what stage they are in in relation to recruiting staff to supervise the lunch break once the school hours change in September 2001?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 638 to 641 and 643 to 645 of 2001.

NO. 643 OF 2001

THE HON S E LINARES

SCHOOL HOURS - SURVEY

Will the Minister give the results of the survey conducted in January/February 2001?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 638 to 642 and 644 and 645 of 2001.

NO. 644 OF 2001

THE HON S E LINARES

QUESTIONNAIRE ON SCHOOL HOURS

Can the Minister state when the new questionnaire on school hours will be ready with the results and conclusions?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 638 to 643 and 645 of 2001.

NO. 645 OF 2001

THE HON S E LINARES

FACILITIES FOR PACKED LUNCHES – SCHOOLS

Can the Minister give a breakdown of the facilities that are to be put in place in each school for the children to have their packed lunches giving the exact nature of the works in each school?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

The working group met on six occasions throughout 1998. Exact dates are not available. The persons attending were:-

1. Mr Brian Gonzalez – Gibraltar Teachers' Association
(Mr Edwin Reyes for two of the meetings)
2. Mrs Christine Reyes – Gibraltar Women's Association
3. Mrs Pam Baker – Parents' Associations
4. Mrs Maria Luisa Towills – representing the collectivity of Headteachers
5. Mr B Clark – Traffic Commission
6. Chief Inspector Danino – Royal Gibraltar Police
7. The Director of Education and Training, Mr Leslie Lester, chaired the meetings

Discussions with the RGP were held always in the context of the working group. The discussions with the representatives of the Parents' Association similarly were held in the context of the working group. Discussions with the representative of the Transport Commission were also held in the context of the working group. Discussions however have also taken place between the Department of Education and Training, the Personnel Department and the Transport and General Workers Union on the question of employing supervisors, carers to undertake lunchtime supervision. I cannot tell the hon Member when the forthcoming questionnaire addressed to parents will be exactly issued and the extensive factual and statistical information sought by the hon Member on the question of the previous survey and on the works carried out to make the schools suitable for the purpose is given in the schedule, which I will now hand to him.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 638 TO 645 OF 2001

HON S E LINARES:

The Minister is actually stating that there has not been individual meetings with the organisations or associations that I have mentioned, but that they are all under the

umbrella of the working group, for example, they have met since 1998 six times. Is that correct?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Yes. Why should there be individual meetings when they were all formally represented in the collectivity of the working group. When the working group failed to reach consensus, then all the individual representatives and bodies were asked to submit their own particular representations in writing.

HON S E LINARES:

Is it possible to pass on their proposals? Did the actual groups have proposals as such on the change of school hours, written proposals presented in the working group?

HON DR B A LINARES:

No. These representative bodies were reporting and making representations to the Government, to the Department of Education and Training. I am not at liberty to make public whatever submissions they made directly to us.

HON S E LINARES:

In relation to the Parents' Association, does the person mentioned in the working group represent all the schools, because as far as I am aware the Parents' Association belongs to a specific school. Each school has their own Parents' Association. Does that person represent the whole of the Parents' Association?

HON DR B A LINARES:

May I correct the hon Member? Not all schools have Parents' Associations. All schools have school committees. Some schools have voluntary Parents' Associations and in direct answer to the question, Mrs Pam Baker, reported repeatedly in the working group that she was in constant contact and she was voicing the views of her colleagues in other Parents' Associations. She was actually appointed and elected by the Parents' Associations to represent formally.

HON S E LINARES:

Is that the case with the rest of the people that I presume they all represent their own groups?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Of course.

Answer to Question 6.43 of 2001

PARENTS

		MIDDLE SCHOOLS								FIRST SCHOOLS												SECONDARY							
		SA		BF		SJM		SH		SJF		GM		SP		SB		SM		ND		B		W		Heb		Nur	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
A) Not staying for lunch	Option A	8	2%	9	2%	5	2%	7	3%	6	2%	1	0%	5	2%	4	3%	2	1%	4	2%	22	5%	20	5%	0	0%	2	5%
	Option B	23	6%	31	7%	21	7%	16	6%	15	5%	6	2%	21	9%	10	7%	14	9%	20	8%	53	11%	43	10%	10	26%	3	7%
	Other	14	4%	14	3%	9	3%	7	3%	12	4%	20	7%	6	2%	6	4%	6	4%	13	5%	28	6%	47	11%	8	21%	8	19%
	Total	45	12%	54	13%	35	12%	30	11%	33	11%	27	9%	32	13%	20	14%	22	15%	37	15%	103	21%	110	25%	18	47%	13	30%
B) Staying for lunch	Option A	61	16%	50	12%	52	19%	26	10%	71	23%	45	15%	30	12%	25	17%	26	17%	42	16%	107	22%	58	13%	2	5%	3	7%
	Option B	257	66%	278	67%	172	61%	206	76%	188	61%	189	65%	164	68%	93	64%	90	60%	158	62%	226	47%	170	39%	18	47%	19	44%
	Other	20	5%	19	5%	13	5%	4	1%	11	4%	16	5%	10	4%	5	3%	8	5%	13	5%	34	7%	51	12%	0	0%	1	2%
	Total	338	86%	347	83%	237	84%	236	87%	270	88%	250	86%	204	84%	123	84%	124	83%	213	84%	367	76%	279	64%	20	53%	23	53%
C) No decision	Option A	2	1%	1	0%	3	1%	0	0%	2	1%	2	1%	2	1%	0	0%	0	0%	1	0%	1	0%	3	1%	0	0%	1	9%
	Option B	6	2%	5	1%	2	1%	3	1%	0	0%	6	2%	3	1%	0	0%	0	0%	2	1%	6	1%	3	1%	0	0%	2	5%
	Other	0	0%	9	2%	4	1%	2	1%	1	0%	7	2%	1	0%	3	2%	3	2%	2	1%	6	1%	41	9%	0	0%	1	2%
	Total	8	2%	15	4%	9	3%	5	2%	3	1%	15	5%	6	2%	3	0.021	3	2%	5	2%	13	3%	47	11%	0	0%	7	16%
Grand Total		391		416		281		271		306		292		242		146		149		255		483		436		38		43	

Total returns = 3749

Total not staying for lunch = 579 = 15%

Total staying for lunch = 3031 81%

No decision = 139 4%

	First schools		Middle Schools		Secondary Schools		Hebrew		Nursery		All schools	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Option A	268	19%	261	19%	211	23%	2	5%	9	21%	751	20%
Option B	979	70%	1020	75%	501	55%	28	74%	24	56%	2552	68%
Other	143	10%	115	8%	207	23%	8	21%	10	23%	483	13%
Total	1390		1359		919		38		43		3749	

TEACHERS

	SECONDARY				MIDDLE						FIRST										Total	%
	W/S	B/S	Sec	%	SJM	BF	SH	SA	Mid	%	SP	ND	SB	SM	SJF	GM	First	%	H	N	Total	%
A	3	4	7	9%	0	5	2	1	8	10%	5	0	9	0	1	1	16	16%	0	3	34	13%
B	3	0	3	4%	0	0	2	1	3	4%	6	1	1	0	0	6	14	14%	0	0	20	8%
CD	26	34	60	76%	17	12	12	18	59	73%	3	17	1	0	3	12	36	37%	4	0	159	60%
OTHER	5	4	9	11%	0	7	1	3	11	14%	4	0	0	12	15	0	31	32%	1	0	52	20%
TOTAL	37	42	79		17	24	17	23	81		18	18	11	12	19	19	97		5	3	265	

Grand Total = 265 represents about 84% of the teaching complement

Answer to Question 645 of 2001

Works being undertaken to provide facilities to enable children to have packed lunches

- Bayside - 2-storey building on site of portakabins. Top floor dining area; ground floor to provide facilities previously available as portakabins.
- Westside - Hall being constructed at the western end of the school – to double up as dining area during wet weather.
- Bishop Fitzgerald - building of store to release space in Hall to be used during wet weather.
- St Anne's - refurbishment of ex-gym in 'old' building.
- St Joseph's Middle - new gymnasium being constructed on tennis court to the east of the playground to release existing gym for dining purposes.
- Sacred Heart - refurbishment of "vandalised area" and provision of roofs to provide covered areas.
- Governor's Meadow - provision of covered areas – existing Hall can be used in wet weather.
- St Bernard's - no works required.
- Notre Dame - Dining room/Hall being built on playground.
- St Mary's - existing vacant rooms to be refurbished to enable children to have packed lunches and provision of covered area in playground.
- St Paul's - provision of covered areas in playground.
- St Joseph's First - new gymnasium and adjacent dining area to release existing gym for the provision of extra classrooms given increasing numbers on roll.

NO. 646 OF 2001

THE HON S E LINARES

SCHOOL FOCUS VISIT REPORTS

Can the Minister state if the school focus visit reports are made available to teachers?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

The report of the school focus visits is made available to the Headteacher, who then exercises discretion as to who else reads the report within his or her school.

The Department insists however, that subject co-ordinators and Heads of Departments have access to that part of the report for which they have a management responsibility and immediate feedback is provided for every teacher at the end of the observed lesson.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 646 OF 2001

HON S E LINARES:

Is the Minister satisfied that every Head actually informs Heads of Departments and teachers directly about the reports?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I have not checked on them but knowing the professionalism of the Heads, I would think very definitely that they would actually transmit to whoever they think appropriate the contents of the school focus report.

HON S E LINARES:

Does the Minister not think that it is advisable that if the teacher has been assessed or has had a focus visit, that that teacher gets a report on what has actually been written about them?

HON DR B A LINARES:

The feedback comes to the teachers even before the written phase of the report. Straight after the observed lesson the teacher will meet with the observer and will get verbally a very frank and open report.

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Minister state on these school focus visits whether the person actually visiting is assessing the teacher's performance or are they assessing the curriculum that they are delivering rather than the performance of the teacher?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Everything. Obviously the performance is a key element in the observation but the performance is based on preparation on a curricula content and all these elements are assessed globally by the assessors.

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Minister confirm that these visits are actually to assess the teacher's performance?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Yes indeed. The teacher's performance is a key element in the assessment.

NO. 647 OF 2001

THE HON S E LINARES

TRUANT CHILDREN

Can the Minister state if he has looked at the legal position on truant children with a view to establishing what changes are needed?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

The Department is currently drafting legislation with the support of the Legislation Support Unit, aimed at criminalising – I do not like that word – but it is stated in a purely legalistic sense, persistent truants who are causing mischief in the community and leading others astray. This legislation will be modelled on current UK legislation.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 647 OF 2001

HON S E LINARES:

What is the time limit between the actual process of trying to draft out legislation and the actual Bill presented in the House?

HON DR B A LINARES:

The draft legislation will be put to the Council of Ministers for a policy decision. The Hon Member asked me what stage and the stage is precisely that. The drafting is now almost complete.

NO. 648 OF 2001

THE HON S E LINARES

KEY SKILLS PROGRAMME - BAYSIDE

Can the Minister state when Bayside will be implementing in Year 12 the key skills programme?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

The Year 12 key skills programme will be implemented in Bayside in September 2001. The teacher responsible has already undergone a preliminary course in the UK in order to put in place an induction course for other key members of staff who will be contributing to the implementation of this programme.

NO. 649 OF 2001

THE HON S E LINARES

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY – WESTSIDE

Can the Minister state when Westside will be offering Information Technology at GCSE and 'A' Level?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

Westside will be offering Information Technology at GCSE and 'A' Level as soon as it is determined that there is sufficient demand from students wishing to do this subject at these levels. However, the Department is actively considering the opportunity of offering Information Technology courses currently on offer already at the Gibraltar College of Further Education to 16-18 year old girls, who will be taking other A/S and 'A' Levels at school. It will also feature as part of the key skills provision.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 649 OF 2001

HON S E LINARES:

When saying we are waiting for numbers to come up, if the students do not know that this is going to be offered, then they will not put their names down. I am sure that there are many girls who would like to do GCSE and 'A' Level in Information Technology. The thing is that they know that the school is not offering those two subjects and therefore they will not even put their names down, how do they know that there is a course? Would it not be better to say, here is the course put your names down?

HON DR B A LINARES:

That is not the way it works in Secondary Schools because very often courses can only be offered if the demand is already there, but there are ways in which the school surveys response and demand from the pupils without actually putting the menu before them.

HON S E LINARES:

In Bayside this subject is very popular and I do not see why it should not be popular in the Girl's Comprehensive. May I urge the Minister to try and offer the girls the IT at GCSE and 'A' level. The courses should be quite simple to put forward, they are already there in Bayside.

HON DR B A LINARES:

Yes, the hon Member may urge me to attend to those value judgements but I assure him that I am quite aware of the importance of Information Technology in the curriculum, but there are different ways of providing Information Technology across the curriculum. For instance, the girls at Westside will now be resuming the RSA courses, which are based on computer literacy and Information Technology and the

school offers a very broad curriculum involving Information Technology in all subjects.

HON S E LINARES:

Is Bayside getting also the RSAs that Westside is?

HON DR B A LINARES:

The Oxford and Cambridge and RSA Examination Board has decided that Gibraltar students and candidates will be able to take that examination and Bayside will be offering these OCR exams, which are validated by the RSA.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

Why is it that Bayside has got it in their curriculum and Westside cannot have it on their curriculum? Why is it that they need to go to the College of Further Education, why is it not incorporated at Westside as well?

HON DR B A LINARES:

The girls in Westside will have every opportunity of doing GCSE and 'A' level courses in Information Technology. It remains to be seen whether it is more viable to do that within the resources of the school or within the resources already there in the College of Further Education. At present we are studying to what extent the different institutions catering for 16-18 education can actually support each other instead of multiplying and duplicating resources.

HON S E LINARES:

What the Minister is now actually confirming is that as an option in Westside, Information Technology will be included.

HON DR B A LINARES:

Yes indeed.

ORAL

NO. 650 OF 2001

THE HON S E LINARES

PURCHASE OF STATIONERY

Can the Minister state how they have worked out how much to give schools over and above what is given in capitation for purchasing stationery locally?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

Answered together with Question No. 651 of 2001.

NO. 651 OF 2001

THE HON S E LINARES

STATIONERY

Can the Minister state how much more it is costing Government to pay for stationery bought locally as opposed to schools buying them via catalogues?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

On the basis of a sample of items, the Department estimates that overall stationery costs would be approximately 3 per cent higher than if purchases were made directly from the UK. Given the differential use of resources at different levels (first, middle and secondary) the Department provided with compensatory funding according to use. It has cost, as I have just explained, approximately 3 per cent more to buy locally. The Government have now taken a decision to revert to the previous system since the delivery time for some items was unacceptably long leading to shortages and also because of the further reason to save costs.

ORAL

NO. 652 OF 2001

THE HON S E LINARES

POST THRESHOLD SALARIES

Can the Minister state when the Post Threshold Salaries will be implemented?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 653 to 655 of 2001.

NO. 653 OF 2001

THE HON S E LINARES

POST THRESHOLD SALARIES

Can the Minister state how the Post Threshold Salaries fit in within the global context of the Civil Service?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 652 and 654 to 655 of 2001.

NO. 654 OF 2001

THE HON S E LINARES

POST THRESHOLD SALARIES

Can the Minister state whether teachers will be given feedback as to why they are not successful in obtaining higher points in their salary scales once the Post Threshold Salaries start?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 652, 653 and 655 of 2001.

NO. 655 OF 2001

THE HON S E LINARES

POST THRESHOLD SALARIES

Can the Minister state what sort of appraisal scheme will be put in place for the teachers after the Post Threshold Salaries are introduced?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

Post Threshold Salaries will be implemented for all successful applicants with effect from 1st September 2000. Teachers salaries in Gibraltar are identical to the UK salaries. This position has arisen given that the Gibraltar Teachers Association submitted a claim for parity with the UK. This means the introduction of appraisal of performance for all teachers at all levels. Other civil servants opted not to have their performance appraised and hence a local package was devised. At present, only the first point of the Upper Pay Scale over the threshold is available to teachers. The second point is available as from 1st September 2002 and details of the standards required to progress to this point are not available yet in the UK. Given that the performance management framework envisaged locally is open, in keeping with the policy of transparency, there is absolutely no reason for not providing feedback to unsuccessful teachers. Since the performance management philosophy is one of professional development aimed at improving standards, it is expected that teachers will have ample opportunity to meet the demands in the two-year cycle of assessment within the upper pay scale. The Department has already circulated to GTA a FIRST draft of the appraisal framework for Gibraltar. This is essentially the UK model.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS.652 TO 655 OF 2001

HON S E LINARES:

When the Minister speaks about the appraisal model, is he aware that there will have to be many more teacher inspectors in order to ascertain whether the teacher is actually meeting those criteria which are set down, or is it just meeting the criteria with the Head and then getting the point. Can the Minister explain?

HON DR B A LINARES:

In no way does it mean a multiplication, a myriad of inspectors and assessors. There is a chain of accountability. Teachers will be assessed by their Head Teachers in the school and there may be an element of validation of that assessment through one of the external advisers from the department.

HON J C PEREZ:

Is the Minister not aware that the first stage of the implementation of this was done on the basis that the appraisal was not done and that is why they have one point and not three like in the UK, because it goes across the board and it applies to all teachers on the basis that it is one point and there is no appraisal? Is it that the

policy has changed now and in order to get point 2 of the three points that are available in the UK, there is now a system of appraisal in Gibraltar that there was not before.

HON DR B A LINARES:

I am not sure that I understand exactly what the hon Member is asking. All I can say is that the system is very clearly laid down. There is a threshold, once a teacher arrives at a maximum of the main scale and will pass on to the first point through an assessment, an appraisal system that will qualify or not qualify the teacher to pass on to the first point. The second point is not yet elaborated in the UK.

HON S E LINARES:

The Minister is actually satisfied that these teachers are going to be assessed by the Head and that somebody from the Department will come in and look at what the Heads report? Are the teachers going to be made aware of all the reports done on them, it is a two way process, because we have been discussing before teacher promotion and this is a completely new way of actually assessing the wages of teachers. Therefore, I am asking the Minister whether he is satisfied at the way that the teachers are going to be appraised because in the UK there are standardised ways of appraising. There is OFSTED, HM Inspectors, all these people who come in to assess the teachers in order to give them their wages.

HON DR B A LINARES:

I am afraid that the hon Member, I cannot find any other way of saying this, he is really not knowledgeable. The system which is already implemented in the UK, I have before me the official document on threshold assessment application form with all the information that teachers have to give about their knowledge and understanding, about their teaching and assessment, about pupil progress in their classrooms, about wider professional effectiveness and development, about professional characteristics and in each of these sections, the teacher will make his or her case and this will be validated by the Head Teachers as having met those targets or not met those targets. If there is any necessity for an appeal, then the external advisers will come into play. The whole thrust of the performance appraisal is a positive one, it is one of supporting the teachers to attain those targets, which he or she sets before himself or herself and actually giving as much feedback as possible. I agree with the hon Member that the philosophy behind it is one of transparency and of the information to the teacher to see and be able to self assess himself or herself in that context.

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Minister state whether it will be the Head as a recommendation or the Head actually giving the teacher or the department the authority to add on a point, or is it going to be the department then going back to the Head to justify the sort of reporting that they have done or the criteria they used in order to give their point? Can the Minister state which will it be, whether it will be a recommendation by the Head only or just that the Head actually does inform the department, this teacher has got an extra point?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

In the first place I would like the hon Member to be aware, if he is not already aware given that the hon Member is still a member of the Teachers Association, that it is the teachers themselves that have asked the Government to do this. It is the teachers themselves and frankly the Government are full of admiration for their boldness and their commitment to their own professional standards, it is the teachers themselves the first group of workers in Gibraltar, that have asked the Government to subject them to a performance related system of pay increment. They are entirely aware of what the system is in the UK. They have asked for the system and the Government are committed to giving the system as they have in the UK. There is no issue as between the teachers and the Government on this issue. The system for performance assessment is the same one as occurs in the UK and I will sit down and yield to the Minister to answer it. My understanding is that the initial assessment of teachers is done by the Head Teacher and then the department engages in a random auditing of selected assessments just to make sure that the criteria have been properly applied.

HON S E LINARES:

I appreciate the Chief Minister telling me that the teachers have been the first. I am a teacher myself and I have never shrugged away with whichever Government on appraisal on teachers. I can guarantee the Chief Minister this because I actually put it to the GSLP then, as the President of the GTA, that the teachers were never afraid of appraisal. That is a fact. Not only that, I will also add that in the UK schools are governed by governing bodies, there are grant maintained schools, there are local authorities schools, there are different types of schools. The one that we are talking about would be local authorities schools, which is the Blue Book, which I am aware of the Blue Book, which states the pay and conditions of teachers. This Blue Book, which the Chief Minister might not be aware of, is what regulates the teacher.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Are you aware of the Blue Book?

HON S E LINARES:

Of course I am aware of the Blue Book, it is the Chief Minister who is not aware of the Blue Book it seems. I have asked this specific question, "Will the Head only recommend as going up the scale of the pay, will the Head recommend or will the Head actually give that point, or will other people be assessing it?" That is the question, nothing to do with whether the teachers are being professional, I know that, I am one myself.

HON DR B A LINARES:

I have before me the form for threshold assessment and as I have explained, it is one box in which the teacher is given the opportunity of making a case for himself or herself in terms of certain standards to be met and targets to be arrived at. Below that box there is another box which says "Assessment by Head Teacher". Teachers know perfectly well what is meant by an assessment. In fact they are being now inducted into processes of assessment, taking account of each aspect above, that is the case made by the teacher and noting any areas for further improvement. The Head Teacher has to sign either 'standard met' or 'standard not yet met'. The assessment falls and weighs upon the Head Teacher 100 per cent.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

All of which is clearly set out in the Blue Book, which I have read but it is clear from the hon Member's question that he has not. All the things that the hon Member is asking are clearly set out in the Blue Book.

HON DR B A LINARES:

I can assure the hon Member that the Chief Minister knows the Blue Book inside out because we have been discussing it, reading it, analysing it with the Director of Education and with the Union itself, but the point that the Chief Minister was trying to make before and I want to reinforce, is that the hon Member seems to be questioning the validity and the intrinsic merits of the assessment form and then the point is made. We have not invented this wheel, it has been the GTA, the teachers themselves who have put before the Government this claim involving the mechanics of this assessment process, which the hon Member is questioning.

NO. 656 OF 2001THE HON S E LINARES**PERIPATETIC TEACHER**

Can the Minister state if he has completed the study in order to employ an extra peripatetic teacher?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

Yes. The Department is convinced that there is a need to develop the Behaviour Support Service. Government have placed considerable emphasis on improving pupil behaviour and working preventively by identifying problems early. It has not been possible to recruit as yet an experienced and well qualified teacher from the existing supply pool. Most of our qualified and experienced staff are actually employed in our schools and we are reluctant to deprive a class of its teacher for this purpose. We are however, the hon Member will be glad to hear, optimistic that the recruitment difficulty can be resolved in good time for the forthcoming academic year.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 656 OF 2001**HON S E LINARES:**

Is it that the Minister cannot find suitable teachers as I stated in the House last time? Should not the Government be looking into the fact that the teacher who is actually doing this work will get a plus 1, plus 2, on their wage rather than a normal teacher. I think the problem, as the Minister is stating, is the recruiting of a suitable person.

HON DR B A LINARES:

The problem is not one of recruiting or inviting or attracting applications. The problem has been that within the supply pool, I have just explained that we do not want to draw from the established complement in the schools, because that would be depriving a class of a qualified and experienced teacher, so we have to look to the supply pool and within the supply pool we have not found a teacher with sufficient expertise and experience in this particular and very difficult and complex area of behaviour modification.

HON S E LINARES:

Would it not be logical that the Minister gets some teachers from the classroom and gets a supply teacher to go into the classroom?

HON DR B A LINARES:

It is not as easy as all that and I would have thought that the hon Member would know that from his experience in schools. One cannot just take a teacher out of a classroom and deprive those children of the relationship that has already been established and sometimes just plonking another teacher from outside. These aspects are weighed seriously and sensitively by the department and nevertheless

the department assures me that for the next academic year they are very hopeful to have identified a suitable teacher.

NO. 657 OF 2001

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGIST

Can the Minister state at what stage is the review on the workload of the Educational Psychologist?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

The workload of the Principal Educational Psychologist is reviewed on a regular basis.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 657 OF 2001

HON S E LINARES:

What is that finding that we need another Educational Psychologist or not?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Ideally Government would want to employ several Psychologists, but we need to be realistic. We are looking at areas involving special educational needs, which need to be done, which need not be done directly by an Educational Psychologist. We now have a special adviser for special educational needs. We also employ a behaviour support service – we have just been talking about that – we pay for qualified Psychologist to counsel some parents on the advise of our Principal Education Psychologist. We enhance our staff in ratio and train our teachers in counselling skills to provide good psychological backup. The great inroads that we have made in the training of our special needs co-ordinators has also gone a long way into optimising the time allocated by the schools psychological service.

HON S E LINARES:

The Minister stated in answering the question that sometimes an Educational Psychologist is brought over on contract by parents? To counsel parents?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I did not say on contract. I said that we actually ask other visiting Psychologists, sometimes those come in for the Services children, to do some counselling at all levels.

HON S E LINARES:

By actually having this the Minister is admitting that we need another Educational Psychologist. I know that ideally the Minister would like to employ seven or eight. I am referring to the question that I asked in the previous House where the Minister mentioned that I asked how many referrals there were. The Minister mentioned that there were 2,417 at the time and I said that in the UK they had 750 which is the

maximum that an Educational Psychologist had. That is where I am drawing the question from. There seems to be enough evidence that there is a need for another Educational Psychologist.

HON DR B A LINARES:

What I am admitting is that those needs are being met adequately without the employment of another Educational Psychologist. I have described all the resources, all the strategies that we are employing precisely to meet those needs without having actually to appoint another additional Psychologist here and now at this stage, although it would be desirable, but as I say, at this stage not an immediate priority.

NO. 658 OF 2001

THE HON S E LINARES

SPEECH AND OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS

Can the Minister state how many speech and occupational therapists are currently available to the Department of the Education?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

The Department of Education and Training does not employ any speech therapists or occupational therapists, but therapists employed by the GHA work with school children in schools and in Health Authority clinics. The Chief Speech and Language Therapist and two Senior Speech and Language Therapists support children in schools individually and within groups and offer advice to teachers as part of their regular workload, as does one Senior Occupational Therapist and one Physiotherapist.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 658 of 2001

HON S E LINARES:

That is why I have directed my question and said currently available.

HON DR B A LINARES:

I just wanted to clarify that for the record.

HON S E LINARES:

Is the Minister satisfied that it has to come from the pool of the Health Authority and not from the Department of Education?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The hon Member would employ more of those as well?

HON S E LINARES:

If I could of course.

HON DR B A LINARES:

I am totally satisfied particularly now that very soon we are going to have two additional Occupational Psychologists and Occupational Therapists and one additional Physiotherapist. The pool within the GHA is precisely to work in liaison with the schools. I am perfectly satisfied with the present system.

HON S E LINARES:

The number that the Minister has mentioned is the number that the whole of Gibraltar has, the pool is the whole of Gibraltar, we are talking about. Not that the Health Authority have certain Speech and Occupational Therapists on their own and the Department, but that is the whole pool?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Yes.

NO. 659 OF 2001

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION - DISCRETIONARY GRANTS

Can the Minister state whether the 43 students who obtained discretionary grants were the initial ones who applied, or the 43 include some reversals as a result of appeals?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

Of the 43 students who obtained discretionary grants, five of them were granted following appeals to the Scholarship Awards Committee. In a previous question by the Leader of the Opposition I was only able to answer some will have been. I can now confirm that the exact figure is five.

NO. 660 OF 2001

THE HON S E LINARES

NURSERIES

Can the Minister state at what stage he is in, in relation to regulating Nurseries?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

The first draft of the Nursery Regulations Ordinance has been prepared by the Department and the Legislation Support Unit. This is in the process of being considered by the Council of Ministers.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO.660 of 2001

HON S E LINARES:

The answer is exactly the same as the last time. When does the Minister think that the regulation will either be presented to the House or put in place for it to happen?

HON DR B A LINARES:

The Council of Ministers has an extensive agenda. It is difficult to set datelines of that nature.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

Is the answer that has been given by the Minister saying that it is now ready and only awaiting the decision of the Council of Ministers?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Consideration and decision by the Council of Ministers.

HON S E LINARES:

Is it on the Agenda for the Council of Ministers?

HON B A LINARES:

Indeed it is.

NO. 661 OF 2001

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION - EDINBURGH HOUSE

Can the Minister state how many children who are of school attending age live in Edinburgh House?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

One hundred and thirty-eight school children now live in Edinburgh House.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 661 OF 2001

HON S E LINARES:

Was the Minister aware of this number before or after the houses were given?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Obviously after the houses were given.

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Minister state before or after they were living there?

HON DR B A LINARES:

The department is perfectly aware and they have gone into great detail. I have all the figures here, which is not a schedule, but if the hon Member likes I will pass it on to him. Exactly the number of children in all the first schools, all the middle schools and the comprehensives, who are actually living in Edinburgh House.

HON S E LINARES:

I would appreciate the breakdown, thank you.

ORAL

NO. 662 OF 2001

THE HON S E LINARES

THEATRE ROYAL

Can the Minister state what will be the capacity of the Theatre Royal once the refurbishments are completed?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 713 to 715 of 2001.

NO. 663 OF 2001

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

PRIMARY CARE CENTRE

Can Government state whether once again they intend to relocate the Primary Care Centre, on this occasion to the Europort Building?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

The Government have no such intention.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO: 663 OF 2001

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Can the Minister say whether at some stage the Government have been contemplating the idea and discarded it for some reason?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is bad enough that the hon Lady comes to ask in this House a question based on complete rumour. I do not know where she has got the idea that the Government might have been intending to relocate to Europort Building. We have nevertheless treated the question seriously, but frankly to ask what the hon Member is now asking for is taking it a bridge too far. The Government have no intention of operating the Primary Care Centre anywhere else when the Government have just spent quite a lot of money relocating it.

NO. 664 OF 2001

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

DISPENSING FEES

Is the Minister for Health now able to provide information he undertook to make available in relation to Question No. 287 of 2001?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

The cost of prescriptions dispensed in 1999/2000 was	£4,048,698.45
The amount paid to pharmacists in respect of the 15% on cost basic price and which is included in that figure is	£ 261,650.73
The yield from £2.35, not the £2.50, the dispensing fees to chemists at that time, now it is £1.80 was	£ 310,448.50

NO. 665 OF 2001

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

PRIMARY CARE CENTRE

Are Government aware that there are numerous complaints by the general public that it is very difficult in obtaining appointments over the telephone at the Primary Care Centre?

ANSWER

THE HON. THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

The matter was resolved successfully last December, when a so called 'forcing call' system was installed. The telephone is permanently manned from 8.30 am to 3.30 pm with the caller automatically coming through to the operator's headset. If there is more than one caller on the line the system queues the callers and a recorded message asks them to hold the line and the calls will eventually come through in chronological order. No complaints about this service have been received since the change.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 665 OF 2001

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

I personally have been approached with formal complaints, which I will be happy to pass on to the Minister later on. The last time that I brought here complaints generally about the Health Authority, I was told by the Government that why did I not inform them. That is what I am doing. I am informing the Minister so that he knows exactly the nature of the complaints that are being received. In fact, only this morning I had a gentleman coming to see me saying that he wanted to get to the advance appointments number and that he was unsuccessful. He had to go there personally and since 9.30 am the advance appointments was closed and he was told that it was a matter of there being a shortage of staff. There are other complaints of people who want to ring, like a lady came to see me about one week ago, it took her one whole week to get through and she ended up going herself, in order to get the results of an x-ray. These are the nature of the complaints that we are receiving.

HON DR B A LINARES:

The main difficulty, there may be some confusion here. Some people still have difficulty in obtaining an appointment with a particular doctor, but that is not related, not intrinsic to the telephone difficulties. As the hon Lady will know, the doctors have a slot of 10 appointments out of 20 for advanced bookings and some of the more popular doctors have a waiting list. They have difficulty in getting an appointment with a particular doctor. I will be glad to hear what the complaints are because the system has been working quite successfully from all accounts.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

I will definitely pass on the complaints and I would also like to draw the attention of the Minister to the GHA's Annual Report and perhaps he could confirm whether what

it says is in fact occurring and I will quote from it, "A much needed and long awaited post of a receptionist to deal with the heavy and growing demand for telephone appointments was created during the quarter of 1998". Is there a receptionist there in place?

HON DR B A LINARES:

The difficulties that the hon Lady is referring to and reported in the Annual Report go back to 1998. I am saying that the matter was resolved successfully with this 'forcing call' system, which has been installed with someone from 9.30 am to 3.30 pm, with headsets actually receiving calls but of course on a first come first served basis. This is a very common system in busy institutions everywhere, not just in Gibraltar, where one has to wait until ones call comes through when the line is extremely occupied. This is the situation at the moment, but as far as I know from all the people there, there is certainly not a generalised dissatisfaction.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

I will pass on the complaints to the Minister.

NO. 666 OF 2001

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA - NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS

Can the Government state the number of complaints that are being received through the GHA's complaint procedure, for each month since it was instituted?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

The factual and statistical information requested by the hon Member is set out in the written schedule that I now hand to her.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 666 OF 2001

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Can the Minister give me his views on the comments made by the Ombudsman in his Annual Report reference the complaints being received by the Gibraltar Health Authority, where he says, "Complainants have remained dissatisfied with the outcome of the GHA's investigation into their complaints. To date the Ombudsman has only been able to conduct three formal investigations involving administrative complaints made against the GHA. He has not been able to formally investigate any of the clinical complaints brought to his attention. The reason being that the investigations into these complaints have been held up in the GHA complaints procedure and none have been concluded. It seems that instead of the complainant exhausting his/her avenue of redress, the GHA complaints procedure exhausts them. Needless to say, these excessive delays give rise to anger and frustration amongst complainants". Does the Minister agree with all this?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I do not agree entirely with this. The complaints procedure has had its teething problems, mostly based on the question of being able to respond to the fact that we have opened up an avenue for complaints. Therefore we need the resources to meet that demand and precisely that is what is being done at the moment and the Ombudsman is being kept informed of the steps that we are taking to actually expedite these matters.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Will the Government be taking into consideration the Ombudsman opinion that it should be an independent body that looks into the complaints of the GHA?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Government are considering the Ombudsman's Report as a whole, not just insofar as it relates to health. This is a learning kerb for us all. Of course, one of the things that struck me when the hon Lady was asking her last question, is that it is really interesting that she should be complaining or asking questions about delay in

the Ombudsman ability to investigate things and a thought crossed my mind that at least there is now an Ombudsman for people to complain to. In the hon Member's day there was neither a Health Authority complaints procedure nor an Ombudsman to complain to when it went too slowly. However badly off the hon Member may think people are now, it strikes me that they must necessarily be better off than they were when she had the stewardship of the Health Authority. More seriously, we are going through the Ombudsman Report to see which of his suggestions – of course the Ombudsman statutory function is to investigate maladministration. I suppose maladministration occurs as a result of things that can only be cured by policy, it is perfectly acceptable for the Ombudsman to make policy suggestions, of course otherwise policy suggestions are not in the Ombudsman's statutory remit. Nevertheless, we are looking through his Report and to the extent that his suggestions are commonsense and viable politically and financially, the Government will be deciding which of his suggestions the Government wish to take on board on the policy side. On the administration side, it is a matter for the administrative machinery in Government and for the Heads of Departments to take on board his criticism of purely administrative functions of Government. Insofar as he makes policy suggestions, the Government will be digesting at leisure his Report and see which of his policy suggestions the Government would wish to adopt as their own policy and implement as necessary. The hon Lady will see, she is not the only one who has asked similar questions from amongst her colleagues, that we are not taking at this stage, individual questions about individual suggestions made by the Ombudsman in any of the areas where hon Members have shadow responsibility.

The total number of complaints for the period January 1999 to date is 209 broken down as follows:-

Month	1999	2000	2001	Total
January	5	8	1	14
February	7	9	6	22
March	11	8	0	19
April	12	7	4	23
May	7	4	-	11
June	15	7	-	22
July	19	3	-	22
August	10	3	-	13
September	8	7	-	15
October	6	5	-	11
November	9	8	-	17
December	13	7	-	20
TOTALS	122	76	11	209

NO. 667 OF 2001

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

NUMBER OF PRESCRIPTIONS

Can Government give a breakdown of the total number of prescriptions issued, the number of items and the cost of the medicines covered by such prescriptions under the GPMS for the accounting periods in respect of 10, 11, 12 and 13 of 2000/2001?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 668 to 670 of 2001.

NO. 668 OF 2001

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

NUMBER OF PRESCRIPTIONS

Can Government state the total number of prescriptions issued, the number of items and the cost of the medicines covered by the GPMS prescriptions for periods 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 of 2000/2001, in respect of which £2.50 per item was paid by patients to dispensing pharmacists and the total value of the medicines so dispensed and the comparable figures for the previous year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 667, 669 and 670 of 2001.

NO. 669 OF 2001

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

DISPENSING FEES

Can Government say what was the amount paid to pharmacists in the financial year 2000/2001 and how much of this was due to prescriptions dispensed in that financial year and give a breakdown of the yield of 15 per cent on cost of the basic price of medicines and of the £2.35 per item prescription charged in respect of the medicines to which the sum applied?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 667, 668 and 670 of 2001.

NO. 670 OF 2001

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

PRESCRIPTION CHARGES

Can Government state how much revenue the Gibraltar Health Authority has raised from 1st January 2001 to end of March 2001, as a result of their policy to increase prescription charges by 100 per cent?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

The extensive, factual and statistical information requested by the hon Member is set out in the written schedule that I now hand to her.

I must add that in relation to Question No.668 of 2001, I have given the full details about the items on the prescriptions in respect of which charges are payable by patients. It is not however possible to answer the question that the hon Member is asking because there are some items within the same prescriptions that do not attract a charge, that is to say, prescriptions with more than three items. What I mean is that the prescription can have five items, now which of these five items at different prices for each of the items, which of these three among five actually attract the £2.50. That is mathematically impossible to answer that question.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 667 TO 670 OF 2001

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is the information being provided showing the cost of all the items on the prescriptions?

HON DR B A LINARES:

That is right.

Answer to Question 667 of 2001

2000/2001

PERIOD	10	11	12	13
SCRIPTS	11566	12208	12920	12179
ITEMS	35903	36396	37964	36926
COST £	340930.40	350696.50	361660.18	362926.18

Answer to Question 668 of 2001

1999/ 2000 PERIOD	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Week	22/8/99	19/9/99	17/10/99	14/11/99	12/12/99	9/1/00	6/2/00	5/3/00
Scripts	4319	5374	5079	5579	5290	5933	5591	5616
Items	8311	10805	10698	11326	11089	12257	11638	11649
COST £	67806.26	87016.25	92775.22	90808.09	88894.56	98810.24	95853.65	95334.30

2000/ 2001 PERIOD	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Week	22/8/00	17/9/00	15/10/00	12/11/00	10/12/00	7/1/01	4/2/01	3/3/01
Scripts	5298	5595	5803	5464	5276	5799	6144	5669
Items	11085	11803	12350	11767	11636	12347	12893	12286
COST £	99324.03	105984.92	112926.32	107408.50	107566.69	111666.19	117882.88	116228.7

Answer to Question 669 of 2001

The amount paid to pharmacists in 2000/2001 was £4,773,702.69.

Answer to Question 670 of 2001

The actual revenue raised for the periods 11 to 13 ie week ending 7 January to week ending 25 March in respect of the £2.50 charge was £79,545 00

The previous formula would have yielded £45 271.20 in respect of the £1.20's and approximately £9671 80 in respect of the 20p's that would have been payable by pensioners.

The additional revenue is therefore calculated as being £24.602 (approx)

ORAL

NO. 671 OF 2001

THE HON MISS M J MONTEGRIFFO

PATIENT REFERRALS TO UK

Can Government state since the 1st January to the end of March 2001, what was the total number of patient referrals to the UK?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 675 and 678 of 2001.

NO. 672 OF 2001

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

PATIENT REFERRALS TO UK

Can Government state what is the latest available cost to the UK of treating patients referred to UK for treatment in respect of 1998?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 673, 674, 677, 679 and 686 to 688 of 2001.

ORAL

NO. 673 OF 2001

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

PATIENT REFERRALS TO UK

Can Government state what is the latest available cost to the UK of treating patients referred to UK for treatment in respect of 1999?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 672, 674, 677, 679 and 686 to 688 of 2001.

NO. 674 OF 2001

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

PATIENT REFERRALS TO UK

Can Government state what is the latest available cost to the UK of treating patients referred to UK for treatment in respect of 2000?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 672, 673, 677, 679 and 686 to 688 of 2001.

NO. 675 OF 2001

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

PATIENT REFERRALS TO UK

Can Government state what was the total number of sponsored patients treated in the UK for the period 1st January to the end of March 2001, with the costs being met by the UK and what was the cost?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 671 and 678 of 2001.

NO. 676 OF 2001

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

PATIENT REFERRALS TO UK

Can Government confirm that sponsored patients and the escorts are free to choose whatever accommodation they wish in the UK, should Calpe House be full, and that the Government will provide them with the necessary allowance?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

Sponsored patients and their escorts are free to choose whatever accommodation they wish in the UK. The allowance payable is dependent on the means test and on whether they are paying for their own accommodation.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 676 OF 2001

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Can the Minister confirm why there is a family that have been told that they have rented private accommodation in the UK, which is not registered with the Health Authority and they have been forced to repay the allowance pertaining to the accommodation they chose?

HON DR B A LINARES:

The private accommodation that would qualify for a refund has to be recognised and registered by the London Tourist Board.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

When did this condition come into force?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I understand that that has always been the system.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Not prior to 1996.

HON DR B A LINARES:

Do you mean to say that prior to 1996 a person could go into any accommodation, whatever the cost and then claim back from Government?

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

That is the case. We never told sponsored patients that the accommodation had to be recognised by the London Tourist Board.

HON DR B A LINARES:

The point of this system is precisely to avoid abuse. People could actually stay with their own families and then bring up a receipt from some non registered accommodation, there have been cases of that, and in order to prevent that we demand receipts from recognised and registered accommodation by the London Tourist Board, which seems to me a very sensible and honest and fair way of dealing with this.

NO. 677 OF 2001

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

PATIENT REFERRALS TO UK

Have the costs of sponsored patients treated in the UK for the period 1st January 2000 to the end of July 2000 with the fees being met by the UK Government now been received?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 672, 674, 679 and 686 to 688 of 2001.

NO. 678 OF 2001

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

PATIENT REFERRALS TO UK

Can Government state what was the number of sponsored patients treated in the UK from 1st January to the end of March 2001 with the fees being met by the Gibraltar Health Authority and the cost of such fees?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

There were 216 referrals during the period 1st January to the end of March 2001.

There were 24 sponsored patients during the same period for which the costs were met by the UK Government. The costs are as yet unavailable.

There were 163 ex-quota patients treated during the same period. The medical costs invoiced to date amount to £38,426.

NO. 679 OF 2001

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

PATIENT REFERRALS TO UK

Can Government state what was the total cost of the quota patients treated in the UK during the period 1st August 2000 to the end of December 2000?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 672 to 674 and 686 to 688 of 2001.

NO. 680 OF 2001

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

DIALYSIS UNIT

Can Government state what their position is on the setting up of a dialysis unit, following representations they have received from dialysis patients?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

The Government's position is as already stated in this House in answer to Question No.309 of 2001.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO.680 OF 2001

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Can the Minister confirm reports in the press whether it is a fact that he has had meetings with a Mr Huntly of Nerco Ltd?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I can confirm that I have had meetings with Mr Huntly of Nerco Ltd.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Can the Government confirm that the Government have already taken a decision as to which company they will choose in order to run the dialysis unit in Gibraltar?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The hon Lady has to listen to the answer to the original question, which was that the Government's position is as already stated in this House in answer to Question No.309 of 2001. That is whether we yet had arrived at a position of the setting up of a dialysis unit. If we have not arrived at a position about the setting up of a dialysis unit, how can we have decided what company to use to set it up?

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

I remember that the Chief Minister said in the last House of Assembly meeting, "Whatever facilities there were in La Linea, they will be provided in Gibraltar". If there are reports in the press by the Association of Dialysis Patients saying that they have had a very fruitful meeting with the Hon Dr Linares and they are asking the Minister to contract the services of this company, I think it is only legitimate that I ask the question whether Government will consider this company or not? That is all that I am asking.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

With the greatest of respect to the hon Lady, first of all, I have never said and certainly never in this House, that we will provide what there was in La Linea. If I had said that, then we would already have fixed our position as to the setting up of the dialysis unit in Gibraltar and the answer that the hon Lady has got to her question would be nonsensical. Certainly it is perfectly open to the hon Lady to ask my hon Colleague as to how many fruitful meetings that he has with people in order to give them the opportunity to express their views to him, and indeed those people did mention that company to the Minister and he has told the hon Lady that he has spoken to that company, but that is not the last supplementary that the hon Member has asked. The last supplementary that the hon Member has asked is not any of that, all of which is perfectly reasonable, but whether the Government are now in a position to state which company the Government are going to choose to set up the dialysis unit. That is the last supplementary that the hon Member has asked.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

So what is the answer, do I get a no or a yes?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The answer is that the question is nonsensical, because if the Government have not yet decided what dialysis we are going to have in Gibraltar, how can we have chosen the company to do it? That is what I have explained to the hon Member. In the hon Member's last supplementary, she is overlooking the answer that the hon Member has had to the principal question.

HON J C PEREZ:

Is the Minister saying that there could still be a possibility that the Government decide not to provide any dialysis unit when they transfer St Bernard's Hospital to the new building?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Government have not yet fixed their position on the provision of dialysis services in the new hospital in Gibraltar. We have certain commitments, as the hon Member knows, generally in relation to dialysis. The answer to the hon Member's question is that the Government have not yet fixed the Government's position on the extent or the manner to or in which dialysis could be provided in the new hospital.

HON J C PEREZ:

But one can take it that a certain level of dialysis will be provided. I can take it from the Minister's intervention?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The hon Member can certainly take that there will certainly be some provision of dialysis in the new hospital.

ORAL

NO. 681 OF 2001

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

COST OF TREATING PENSIONERS IN UK

Can Government state what was the latest average annual cost of treating a pensioner in the UK in 1996?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 682 to 685 of 2001.

NO. 682 OF 2001

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

COST OF TREATING PENSIONERS IN UK

Can Government state what was the latest average annual cost of treating a pensioner in the UK in 1997?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 681 and 683 to 685 of 2001.

NO. 683 OF 2001

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

COST OF TREATING PENSIONERS IN UK

Can Government state what was the latest average annual cost of treating a pensioner in the UK in 1998?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 681, 682, 684 and 685 of 2001.

NO. 684 OF 2001

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

COST OF TREATING PENSIONERS IN UK

Can Government state what was the latest average annual cost of treating a pensioner in the UK in 1999?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 681 to 683 and 685 of 2001.

NO. 685 OF 2001

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

COST OF TREATING PENSIONERS IN UK

Can Government state what was the latest average annual cost of treating a pensioner in the UK in 2000?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

The average cost of treating pensioners in the UK for 1996 and 1997 was £1831.58 and £1903.84 respectively. Costs beyond 1997 are not available. The figures for 1998 because I had occasion earlier to state that these figures have to be audited by the Audit Board of the European Commission and I understand that the figures for 1998 and 1999 will be presented to the Audit Board of the European Commission this week.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 681 TO 685 OF 2001

HON J J BOSSANO:

In arriving at the 120 quota in 1998, was it the 1997 figure for the cost of pensioners in the UK that was used?

HON DR B A LINARES:

It is the only figure that the Government have.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I was just wondering because when the Minister was giving an explanation before he said that the quota had come down because the cost per pensioner had gone up.

HON DR B A LINARES:

The patient yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The cost of providing health care for a pensioner in the UK.....

HON DR B A LINARES:

For a patient. That is one of the factors in the formula.

ORAL

NO. 686 OF 2001

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

COST OF TREATING TEMPORARY VISITORS IN UK

Can Government state what was the latest available cost to the UK of treating temporary visitors from Gibraltar in respect of 1998?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 672 to 674, 677, 679, 687 and 688 of 2001.

NO. 687 OF 2001

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

COST OF TREATING TEMPORARY VISITORS IN UK

Can Government state what was the latest available cost to the UK of treating temporary visitors from Gibraltar in respect of 1999?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 672 to 674, 677, 679, 686 and 688 of 2001.

NO. 688 OF 2001

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

COST OF TREATING TEMPORARY VISITORS IN UK

Can Government state what was the latest available cost to the UK of treating temporary visitors from Gibraltar in respect of 2000?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

The extensive factual and statistical information requested by the hon Member is set out in the written schedule that I now hand to her.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 672 TO 674, 677, 679, 686 TO 688
OF 2001

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Can the Minister confirm whether the GHA has at all received any settlement fees in respect of the reciprocal agreement since it was signed?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Yes. Some of the information is given in this schedule in answer to Question No.674 of 2001.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

The information the Minister has handed me are the fees in respect of cost of referred patients and the cost of temporary visitors. What I am asking the Minister is, "In the reciprocal agreement with the UK, when the GSD signed the agreement, since then, have the Government received any fees from the UK when they have done the adjustments?"

HON DR B A LINARES:

There was an adjustment to the quota in 4th June 1998, when it was established that the quota was 120 patients. Since then there has not been a further adjustment. I am talking about the 4th June 1998, but of course that is not cost as the hon Member was asking, but simply the number of patients who are registered or numbered in the quota.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is the number of patients not arrived at on the premise of a certain cost per patient?

HON DR B A LINARES:

That number is arrived at in a formula which is very complicated, which needs a lecture to actually work out all the factors involved, but it is basically worked out and

this is why the question about UK pensioners was relevant based on the net number of pensioners that are the responsibility of the UK to treat at their own expense and from that we deduct the number of pensioners, which is the responsibility of the Gibraltar Government to pay for and this is multiplied by the cost of treating the pensioner, which is a cost actually audited by the European Commission. That is then divided by the cost of treating a Gibraltar patient or referral and that yields a particular number, which in 1998, as I say, yielded a figure of 120, somewhat lower than the previous figure in 1996 of 180 because simply the cost of treating the patient had risen. The factor that divides the total cost of pensioners treatment yielded a lower figure because the figure of the cost of treating a patient had risen, the total number of quota patients fell from 180 to 120 on the adjustment that was made in June 1998.

HON J J BOSSANO:

If the cost of treating patients goes up and that means they pay for less, then it must follow that there is a fixed amount that they pay and that fixed amount will pay for either more or less depending on what each one costs?

HON DR B A LINARES:

There is not a fixed sum, which has been established. I see now the point of the hon Member's question. The hon Member was asking for a sum of money. There is no such thing. There is a number of quota patients. In this case 120 and the cost of these patients may vary. One patient may have a number of referrals, which means that the cost of treating that patient will rise tremendously, whereas some patients may be treated once and never again and the cost may be minimal. It is the number of patients but there is no lump sum that has been fixed as a responsibility of the UK Government to deliver.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I think the Minister is wrong in what he has just stated. Can I be clear that what the Minister is saying is that the United Kingdom based on the figure of the 4th June 1998 will pay for 120 patients irrespective of the cost of their treatment and that the cost depends on the nature of their illness and not on anything else. Is that the position?

HON DR B A LINARES:

That is my understanding.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Even though I think that the Minister's understanding is wrong, would he check his understanding and then correct it if it is wrong?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

If the hon Member wants to know the exact nature of the formula I can give it to him.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I do know the exact nature of the formula. I have had that formula since it was first agreed. I know the exact nature of the formula and I think the Minister does not know it because the answer that he has given me is not compatible with the formula. I

accept that the Minister may have a mistaken understanding and all I am asking is that he checks his understanding.

HON DR B A LINARES:

I will check but the mistake in understanding is not of my own, this is the information given to me by the people who administer the formula, namely the Chief Executive. That is the formula which has been given to me by them as they have operated it precisely on numerous occasions.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is the Minister then saying that we have got an agreement in which the United Kingdom says they will pay for 120 patients and the amount that they pay is dependent on the cost of the treatment, are we then free to select the 120 patients whose treatment is most expensive?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

We then pick the 120 persons whose expenses are the most expensive and we say to the United Kingdom that is the bill that they have to pay?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

If the hon Member wants to debate this issue perhaps we can do it in private. I will have to give the hon Member an answer that does not suit us to give. I have already said 'yes' in answer to the last question that the hon Member formulated. The Government are not willing publicly to give this matter a wider airing, but if the hon Member wants an explanation of what the reason for that is, I am very happy to give it to him privately.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am satisfied with that.

Answer to Question 688 of 2001

The latest figures available to us responding to the relevant questions are up to and including March 2000 only and are as follows:-

YEAR	COST OF REFERRED PATIENTS £	COST OF TEMPORARY VISITORS £
1998 (FROM 1/1/98 - 31/3/98)*	149,516 (Q672)	16,331 (Q686)
1998/99	467,816 (Q673)	42,759 (Q687)
1999/00	210,352 (Q674 & Q677)	16,342 (Q688)

* In 1998 the quota system changed from calendar to financial years. This figure reflects the first three months of 1998.

We have been advised by the UK that all the above-mentioned figures are subject to change because they have not received all the relevant information from the various hospitals.

NO. 689 OF 2001

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GPMS - UK PENSIONERS REGISTERED

Can Government state how many UK Social Security pensioners, who were not also in receipt of a Gibraltar Social Security pension, were resident as at 31st December 1997 and registered with the Group Practice Medical Scheme?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 690 to 692 of 2001.

NO. 690 OF 2001

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GPMS - UK PENSIONERS REGISTERED

Can Government state how many UK Social Security pensioners, who were not also in receipt of a Gibraltar Social Security pension, were resident as at 31st December 1998 and registered with the Group Practice Medical Scheme?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 689, 691 and 692 of 2001.

NO. 691 OF 2001

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GPMS - UK PENSIONERS REGISTERED

Can Government state how many UK Social Security pensioners, who were not also in receipt of a Gibraltar Social Security pension, were resident as at 31st December 1999 and registered with the Group Practice Medical Scheme?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 689, 690 and 692 of 2001.

NO. 692 OF 2001

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GPMS - UK PENSIONERS REGISTERED

Can Government state how many UK Social Security pensioners, who were not also in receipt of a Gibraltar Social Security pension, were resident as at 31st December 2000 and registered with the Group Practice Medical Scheme?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

The number of pensioners referred to in Question Nos. 689 to 692 of 2001 are:-

275 for 1997 and 303 for 1998

The registration of these pensioners is updated routinely, that is by the Central office of the DSS, Newcastle, and we know how many UK pensioners are registered as from the current date. However, we have not received the verification list from the UK for 1999 and 2000. I am informed that these will be forwarded shortly.

NO. 693 OF 2001

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

NUMBER OF NURSES

Can Government state what was the number of Nurses in post as at the 31st March 2001 with a breakdown by grade, giving the full-time equivalent of each grade?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

The factual and statistical information requested by the hon Member is set out in the written schedule that I now hand to her.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 693 OF 2001.

	Staff in Post <u>March 2001</u>
Director of Nursing Services	1
Deputy Director of Nursing Services	1
Clinical Nurse Manager	6
Sister / Charge Nurse	31
Staff Nurse	102
Senior Enrolled Nurse	10
Enrolled Nurse	84
Nursing Assistant	91
Tutor	2
Total	328

NO. 694 OF 2001

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

ENROLLED NURSES

Can Government now confirm whether Enrolled Nurses will be able to train up to the level of Staff Nurse?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

The Government can confirm that through the School of Health Studies we are keen to facilitate nurses to develop professionally. Currently, the areas being looked into include NVQ training for Nursing Assistants and also Enrolled Nurse conversion to Staff grade.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 694 OF 2001

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Can the Minister give an indication of more or less when this will occur?

HON DR B A LINARES:

We are actually awaiting curricula advise from Sheffield University School of Nursing and Midwifery to implement a structured course for the conversion of Enrolled Nurses to Staff Nurses.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Does the Minister know more or less how many Enrolled Nurses we are talking about?

HON DR B A LINARES:

We have no idea because it all depends on the context and the nature of the eligibility criteria that will be placed by the structured course that Sheffield University will be advising us on.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Will the eligibility also include for those that wish to train up to Staff Nurse level, the Government's condition of having a certain amount of GCSEs?

HON DR B A LINARES:

It is all in the balance at the moment. This is why we are seeking advice from Sheffield University to see exactly how they operate these conversion courses.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is the Minister saying that the conversion courses currently exist in the United Kingdom to go from Enrolled Nurse to Staff Nurse?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I do not know whether these particular courses exist in the United Kingdom, but I do know that Sheffield University when I met with the Dean of the school, he actually said that they would be able to provide a professional development course that would enable and give opportunity to our own Enrolled Nurses, but I think the whole concept of Enrolled Nurse is being eliminated in the UK, so that would not apply.

HON J J BOSSANO:

That is why I am asking because I thought the Minister had said in his last answer that he was seeing how they do it in the UK.

HON DR B A LINARES:

No I said see what advice they give the Government to do it here.

NO. 695 OF 2001

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA - POST OF RADIOLOGIST

Can Government confirm when they can expect the Gibraltar Health Authority to have a permanent Radiologist in post?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

The post of Radiologist was advertised, two applications for the post were received and neither appeared suitable. In view of the fact that all practitioners, and indeed the patients, were satisfied with the current arrangements, may I emphasise that the current arrangements provide for a permanent Radiology service, it was agreed that these should be extended and the position reviewed later this year.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 695 of 2001

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

When the Minister refers to a permanent Radiology service, he is referring to the service not to the post I take it, which could mean that there will be a number of Radiologists covering for that post?

HON DR B A LINARES:

There are two Radiologists covering for that post at present, but they cover for the full time equivalence.

NO. 696 OF 2001

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

PSYCHO – GERIATRIC PATIENTS

Can Government state how many psycho-geriatric patients have been admitted in KGV from 1st February to end of March 2001?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

None.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 696 OF 2001

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Can the Minister confirm – it is good news anyway – whether the Government's policy has changed in any way as to admitting these sort of patients in KGV? Is the policy now more stringent or has the Government not changed their policy at all?

HON DR B A LINARES:

There is no Government policy at a political level. These are matters which are decided in a clinical level.

NO. 697 OF 2001

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

POST OF MATRON

Will Government confirm whether they will follow the United Kingdom when they introduce the post of Matron in the Health Service?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

No.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 697 OF 2001

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Can Government give an explanation as to why they will not introduce the post of Matron in the Gibraltar Health Authority?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Because in the Government's mind the same functions are currently being carried out by the Director of Nursing Services and his clinical nurse management team. It will merely be a change of title. What is in a name?

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

What the Minister is saying is that the present title in Gibraltar does not exist in the UK, therefore the Government believe that the present post by the Director of Nursing Services is being covered as Matron? Is that what the Minister is saying?

HON DR B A LINARES:

The Minister is saying that the functions of the Matron is covered by the Director of Nursing Services.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

I will repeat my supplementary again. The Minister is looking a bit perplexed. All I want to know, the post of Director of Nursing Services, are the Government saying that that post does not exist in the UK and that therefore it will cover the post of Matron?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Minister has not said anything that can possibly mean that. For a start the Minister's answer was not limited to the post of Director. The Minister said that the Director of Nursing Services and his clinical nurse management team are already carrying out the functions that will be carried out by the Matron, not the Director by himself. The Director and his clinical nurse management team already carry out the

functions that are now to be carried out in England by somebody who they call a Matron.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Are the Government saying that in the United Kingdom having carried out presumably the same function collectively, they have now come to the conclusion that there is a need for a specific post and it is not the Government's intention to follow that practice?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It strikes me that if we did follow that practice the Government would simply be reversing the hon Member's abolition of the post of Matron when they were in Office. Gibraltar always had Matrons, they abolished it and introduced the post of Director of Nursing Services, as I understand it.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The Chief Minister understands wrong.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

What does the hon Member mean, that is exactly what happened.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The Chief Minister wishes to pin everything on us and he cannot help it in all his answers, but the Health Authority came into existence before the GSLP. Therefore the structure that was in existence in the Health Authority with or without Matron was there already at the 1988 election. The point is that the post of Matron was done away with in the UK. Therefore the grade of Matron was done away with in the UK and as so often happens in the United Kingdom, they have now come full circle and decided that there is after all a need for somebody to do that. What we want to know is have the Government thought of following that or not?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I cannot answer here for what happens in the UK in the sense that I do not know if in the UK they abolished the function and are now bringing it back. We in Gibraltar never abolished the function. The title was changed to Director of Nursing Services and there was a clinical nurse management staff so in Gibraltar there was no interruption in the provision of the function that used to be provided by a lady called the Matron. The UK is restoring the post, what I cannot tell the hon Member is whether that is because the UK had abolished the function or are now simply changing the title back or remodelling the post. I do not know the practice in the UK, but in Gibraltar there has not been any interruption in that function.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In Gibraltar what happened was, as happens in most areas of the public service analogued to the UK, structural changes were introduced following structural changes in the UK, then whatever it was that the Matron was doing in the United Kingdom, to my knowledge, it did not just disappear because it was found to be obsolete, but it was redistributed amongst other grades, the Director and his staff,

and we did the same thing in Gibraltar. In the United Kingdom they have come to the conclusion that dispersing that function seems to have been, with the benefit of hindsight, a retrograde step, and they are now looking as an improvement of the Health Service to restoring the responsibility of that dispersed function in one person. Given that this is what is happening in the UK, have the Government given any thought to following suit here? That is the original question.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

We do not know what the reasons are for the post coming back in the United Kingdom except that which we have read in the press, which is that people complain that the hospitals are dirty and they cannot get enough access to clean linen quickly enough. We do not suffer from these problems in Gibraltar, therefore whatever may have been the reason as reported in the press, which is all that we know, for wanting to go back to that situation in the UK, certainly we have not identified that there is anything broke here in Gibraltar in that respect, therefore we would not need to feel the need to fix it in the same way as the UK have done. That is on the basis of the reporting reasons for why the UK has done this.

NO. 698 OF 2001

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA - RESIGNATION OF MEDICAL PRACTITIONER

Can Government give the reasons as to why three medical practitioners have recently resigned from the Gibraltar Health Authority?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

Only one medical practitioner has recently resigned from the GHA and this has been for personal reasons and I am only authorised to say that these personal reasons are not the concern of Government, of the general public or indeed the Opposition.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 698 OF 2001

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Are the Government aware of other medical practitioners that will be resigning shortly?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I am not at all aware of that.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Let me see if I can short circuit where I think the hon Member is trying to get to without revealing anybody's confidentiality. Following a recent and unexpected death at St Bernard's Hospital, there were unacceptable incidences in which one doctor was physically assaulted and another was subjected to intense personal abuse. Neither of those doctors have happily for the Gibraltar Health Authority actually resigned because they have been prevailed upon not to do so, despite, in my opinion, more than sufficient provocation for them to have done so.

NO. 699 OF 2001

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA - AVERAGE WAITING TIME

Can the Minister for Health state what is the average waiting time for public patients requiring to see visiting consultants of the Gibraltar Health Authority as out-patients and the average waiting time for those requiring surgical interventions at St Bernard's Hospital and in UK hospitals?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 700 to 702 of 2001.

NO. 700 OF 2001

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA - AVERAGE WAITING TIME

Can the Minister for Health state what is the average waiting time for public patients requiring to see consultants of the Gibraltar Health Authority as out-patients and the average waiting time for those requiring surgical interventions at St Bernard's Hospital?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 699, 701 and 702 of 2001.

NO. 701 OF 2001

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

BHA - AVERAGE WAITING TIME

Can the Minister for Health state what is the average waiting time for private patients requiring to see visiting consultants of the Gibraltar Health Authority as out-patients and the average waiting time for those requiring surgical interventions at St Bernard's Hospital and in UK hospitals?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 699, 700 and 701 of 2001.

NO. 702 OF 2001

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA - AVERAGE WAITING TIME

Can the Minister for Health state what is the average waiting time for private patients requiring to see all consultants of the Gibraltar Health Authority as out-patients and the average waiting time for those requiring surgical interventions at St Bernard's Hospital?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

The extensive, factual and statistical information requested by the hon Member is set out in the written schedule that I now hand to her. Question Nos. 701. and 702 on the waiting list for private patients, both for clinics and for surgery, the Government are not responsible or accountable for private patients waiting lists.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 669 TO 702 OF 2001

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

If the Government are not accountable and the Government are the employer of the consultant in question, is the Minister then saying that he is not interested at all in the waiting times for private patients when compared to public?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Government are very interested. The only thing is that the Government inherited from the hon Lady a series of contracts. There is no getting away from the legacies that we have inherited from the hon Member previously, which is a series of consultants with contracts that allowed private practice or worse still that did not allow private practice but were nevertheless permitted. The Government have restructured and regulated the system of private practice to ensure that private practice cannot occur within the rules in a way which is to the prejudice of the public waiting list. Our interest in private practice now is limited to making sure that they comply with the rules and that therefore it does not prejudice public patients waiting time, which is the enormous innovation that this Government have introduced in order to ensure that the private practice that has always been rampant in public time does not prejudice the public waiting lists.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Just to say two things to the Chief Minister before I ask my supplementary, first of all the GSLP indeed was committed to phasing out private practice and that is where we were going. These were contracts that we were waiting for people to actually retire and then we would have implemented a no private practice policy within the Health Service. Having had a reverse of that policy from the Government and the Government having had five years in order to introduce their policy, in order to monitor what is happening, if the Chief Minister is so concerned about not prejudicing

the public patients, how can he actually evaluate the position if he has not got the information from the consultants when they do private practice?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I have not said to the hon Lady that we have not got the information. I have said to the hon Lady that we are not willing to account for it to her in this House. Of course the Government have got the information that the hon Lady has asked.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

If the Government have the information then in view of the policy repeatedly of the GSD of transparency and accountability, why is it that the Government do not wish the Opposition to have the information?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

If the hon Lady can get that information from the consultants, I am perfectly happy for the consultants to give it to her. All we are saying in this House is that under the ordinary rules of Parliament, Government and Opposition, the Government are not accountable in this House for matters for which it is not responsible, is not Government business and which is not Government information. This is not Government information, this is not Government business, this is a practitioners private practice.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

I will repeat my supplementary in another way. How can the Chief Minister say that the Government are not accountable for this information if about one minute ago, even less, the Chief Minister said that he does not want public patients to be prejudiced.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Because that is achieved by virtue of the new private practice regime that specifies the times at which consultants can carry out private practice so that it is not on their public time. I would have thought the concept was relatively straightforward. The consultants now do private practice in their own time. If the consultants were doing it on public time, then I would certainly take the view that the hon Lady is entitled to the information that she has sought, because it would be something that would be done on time for which the taxpayer is paying. The whole essence of the new system is that they are now not allowed to do that. They may only do private practice when they have finished with the public time that they are contractually bound to work. In public time they may only see public free patients. Once they have finished their public time, in their time therefore, they may see private patients.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

The Chief Minister does not seem to be wanting to answer my question. I am not asking whether consultants are doing it in public time or in the morning or in the afternoon or in the evening or whenever. All I am asking the Chief Minister is whether it is not advisable in order to protect public patients to know how the waiting list compares private to public. That is all I am asking. Will the Chief Minister provide that information?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is actually completely irrelevant for the purposes of working because however long or short consultants private waiting lists are, it does not allow the Government to get more out of them than 100 per cent working on public patients on public time. Does the hon Lady grasp that? These doctors are not allowed to see private patients during the Government's time, therefore such private patients as they see, they see in their own private time. Does the hon Lady understand that? Again I repeat, notwithstanding that it is irrelevant for the purposes that the hon Lady describes, I have now to repeat a second time and therefore tell the hon Lady for the third time, that the Government do have the information. It is not as if it were relevant and the Government cannot do the trick because they have not got the information, it is irrelevant. The Government in any case do have the information but do not think it is appropriate to give it to the hon Lady.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Are the Government aware whether these consultants who see public free patients in the public time, tell their patients how long they have to wait as public patients and how long they would have to wait if they went private?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Leader of the Opposition does put his finger on one aspect of the new system with which the Government are not entirely satisfied and are looking at it. The hon Member is absolutely right. They use the public list as a marketing tool for their private practice, that is absolutely correct. But that is a very different issue, I think the hon Member will agree.

HON J J BOSSANO:

No, I would not agree, because that is precisely the comparison that patients get put in front of them and on which we were seeking information on. That is to say, if I go as a public free patient and I am told that I have to wait six months and then I am also told that if I choose to come after x number of hours when I stop being public and I become private one only has to wait one week, if that is what people are being told, we thought it would be useful for the House to know that, that if the Government have that knowledge and think it is not something they ought to make public, then fair enough.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Because it is not actually relevant, whatever the length of the waiting list is, is irrelevant. What the Government have done in order to make sure that the use that they make of the public list length for their private practice, marketing, if one could call it very loosely that, is to make sure that it is correct because whereas before the consultants used to themselves control to the point that they carried it around in their brief cases the public waiting list, the public waiting list is now controlled centrally by the Authority. So whereas historically each consultant used to control his own public list had the Leader of the Opposition asked the question at the time, now at least the public waiting list is centrally controlled by the Authority, not by the consultants, so that (a) the information given is realistic or it can be established and (b) the hospital management can stay on top of the lists to see whether they are getting longer than what the consultants have agreed to keep them. The hon Members will recall from a previous answer given in this House that part of the new arrangements for regulating

private practice includes that the consultants have undertaken to keep public waiting lists to a certain maximum duration and the hon Members will recall that we gave them details of the different durations for the different surgical disciplines.

Answer to Question 699 of 2001

Patients requiring to see visiting consultants are generally seen at the next visit. Most consultants visit bi-annually. The dermatology waiting list is about 3 – 4 months.

Only plastic surgery is regularly performed at St Bernard's Hospital and has a waiting time of 8 – 9 years, except urgent cases which are done immediately and children have some priority.

Insofar as UK hospitals are concerned, the waiting time depends on the specialty and on the hospital to which they are referred. In general, our patients often wait less than those of the hospital to which they are referred.

Answer to Question 700 of 2001

All urgent cases are seen immediately at an agreed clinic when referred directly by the GP to the consultant.

The following are approximate waiting times and have a seasonal variation:-

Routine Appointments – New Patients

Dr K Farrell, ENT	4 weeks – Adults 5 weeks – Paediatrics
Dr Maskill, Physician	5 weeks
Dr Correa/Dr Moeser, Pain Clinic	2 weeks
Mr Malik, Orthopaedics	8 weeks - Adults 4 weeks max – Orthopaedics Paediatric
Dr Borge, Physician	2 weeks
Dr Benady, Paediatrics	1 week
Mr Haroon, Ophthalmics	22 weeks
Mr Sene, General Surgery	8 weeks
Mr Armon, Gynaecology	4 weeks

Waiting time for public patient (Surgery)

(a) Surgical waiting time:

Gynae: Less than 6 weeks

ENT: Adults 1 year. Children 4 – 6 months

General Surgery: Elective surgery 6 months (except for possible cancers which are not waiting)

Orthopaedic: 8 months. Knees 2 years Urgent cases straightaway. .

Ophthalmology: Minor 3 months
Major 12 months

Cont. .

Answer to Question 701 of 2001

Generally private patients waiting for operations are seen at the Visiting Consultants' next visit.

Only Plastic Surgeon regularly operates and his waiting list may be up to 6 years.

Since patients may be referred or refer themselves privately to many hospitals in the UK. Waiting times are not available.

Answer to Question 702 of 2001

1. Waiting time for Private Patients:

(a) Outpatients:

Gynae: 2 weeks

ENT: 1 Week

General Surgery: 2 weeks

Orthopaedic: 2 weeks

Ophthalmology: 1 week

Physicians: 1 – 2 weeks

(b) Surgical waiting time:

Gynae: 6 weeks (on same list as public patients)

ENT: No private surgical waiting list (Only 2 or 3 patients last year)

General Surgery: 4 weeks.

Orthopaedic: Minor 2 – 3 weeks. Major 2 months.

Ophthalmology: 3 – 4 weeks

NO. 703 OF 2001

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

POST OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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 EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

No.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 703 OF 2001

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Can the Minister say whether they are meeting with the Union concerned about the question of the salary of the Chief Executive, as the Chief Minister said in the last meeting of the House, that it was connected also with the senior grades of the civil service?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I have not held any meetings with the Union in respect of the salary of the Chief Executive.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Has the Personnel Department done so?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I do not believe so.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

When is it that the Government intend to resolve the issue seeing that it has been dragging on for the past three years?

HON DR B A LINARES:

This matter is being seen globally, as the Chief Minister has explained in the previous occasion.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

What I am asking is have there been any meetings held up to now on the matter?

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is the salary that is being paid at the moment, is that something that would need to be reviewed from a particular date when the matter was first raised or at a future date?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

That is one of the issues indeed that would have to be looked into. The general policy of the Government without suggesting that there might not be exceptional circumstances, which would justify departure from it, the general policy is that the Government do not accept or do not meet claims retrospectively further back than the beginning of the current financial year, in which the claim is met. The date in which a claim is put is not generally a factor.

NO. 704 OF 2001

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

ELDERLY CARE PATIENTS

Can Government state how many long stay elderly care patients there were at St Bernard's Hospital in January, February and March 2001?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

There were 149 long stay elderly patients during the said period in total.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 704 OF 2001

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Can the Minister confirm whether this figure represents an increase in past months?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I have not got before me the figures for the previous months before January, but I doubt whether those marked increase or decrease.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

I did hear the Minister right when he said 149 and not 49?

HON DR B A LINARES:

The totals per month, were 51 for January, 49 for February and 49 for March.

NO. 705 OF 2001

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

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 1st January to the end of March 2001?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

The total number of in-patients from 1st January to the end of March 2001 was 1399. The total average number of patients per day for the same period was 137.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 705 OF 2001

HON J J BOSSANO:

Given the fact that the long-stay elderly care have shown a drop from 51 to 49, has this been reflected in the average number per day of total patients? In the past it was suggested that the reduction in the number of elderly care patients would be reflected in less pressure of hospital beds.

HON DR B A LINARES:

Yes, there is a slight decrease in the number of elderly care patients for the periods that we discussed in previous questions and that is marked by a parallel decrease of the average number of patients per day. So the answer is yes.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The statistics are consistent with the premise of the hon Member's question, If he was asking "and is that the reason for?", but certainly there is a fall.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The figure that is given in respect of Question No.705 of 2001, of 137 per day does not show if there has been a higher average per day in January than in February/ March, which would show the same pattern as in the answer given to the previous question.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, but unlike the hon Member we have the monthly averages per day for January, February and March.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So can Government say what is the monthly average for January, February and March?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

They are 141, 139 and 131, so read as against 51, 49 and 49, the average between January and February were down from 141 to 139.

NO. 706 OF 2001

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

OUT-PATIENT ATTENDANCES

Can Government state what was the total number of out-patient attendances at St Bernard's Hospital from 1st January to the end of March 2001?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

The total number of out-patient attendances at St Bernard's Hospital for the period 1 January to the end of March 2001 was 12,338.

NO. 707 OF 2001

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

HOUSE-CALLS

Can Government state how many house-calls were attended to by Health Centre doctors from 1st January to the end of March 2001?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

The Primary Care Centre doctors attended to 1653 house-calls during the period 1st January 2001 to 31st March 2001. As the hon Member knows, these statistics are based on the house-calls received between 9.00 am and 4.00 pm. No record is kept of calls made between 4.00 pm and 9.00 am.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 707 OF 2001

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Are the Government intending to start keeping records?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I have no firm intention as such, but these are matters that are constantly under review.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

As with the Chief Minister in the previous question, does the Minister have a breakdown for each month, January, February and March and can he provide that now?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Yes, January 529, February 561, March 563 and that adds up to the 1653.

NO. 708 OF 2001

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

OUT-PATIENT ATTENDANCES

Can Government state what was the total number of out-patient attendances at the Health Centre from 1st January to the end of March 2001?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

The total number of out-patient attendances at the Primary Care Centre from 1st January 2001 to 31st March 2001 was 35,599.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 708 OF 2001

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Can I have the breakdown for the different months?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I would have to give the hon Lady a schedule because it is very detailed, giving different departments in the Primary Care Centre and in compiling the total number we have actually given a breakdown of the out-patient attendances in the GP clinic, the Child Welfare department, the Paediatric clinic et cetera. It is a very detailed information.

SUPPLEMENTARY to Question 708 of 2001

GP CLINIC

JAN	FEB	MAR	TOTAL
7508	7910	8345	23,763

CHILD WELFARE DEPARTMENT

JAN	FEB	MAR	TOTAL
539	759	726	2024

PAEDIATRIC CLINIC

Total for January to March: 436

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

JAN	FEB	MAR	TOTAL
180	843	1089	2112

TREATMENT ROOM

JAN	FEB	MAR	TOTAL
269	302	270	841

PHLEBOTOMY

JAN	FEB	MAR	TOTAL
321	358	465	1144

EAR SYRINGING SERVICE

JAN	FEB	MAR	TOTAL
10	14	21	45

WARTS/MINOR OPS

JAN	FEB	MAR	TOTAL
43	13	26	82

AUDIOLOGY

JAN	FEB	MAR	TOTAL
133	148	160	441

SPEECH & LANGUAGE THERAPY DEPARTMENT

PAEDIATRIC N/A

ADULTS

JAN	FEB	MAR	TOTAL
18	20	22	60

DIETITIAN

JAN	FEB	MAR	TOTAL
68	64	102	234

DENTAL DEPARTMENT

MR CLINTON

JAN	FEB	MAR	TOTAL
480	415	421	1316

MR MORILLO

JAN	FEB	MAR	TOTAL
639	591	531	1761

MR PIZARRO

JAN	FEB	MAR	TOTAL
479	497	364	1340

NO. 709 OF 2001

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA - ALZHEIMERS DISEASE

Following the request by the Opposition that the drug Reminyl for Alzheimers Disease be made available in Gibraltar, can Government now say when they can expect it to be available under the Group Practice Medical Scheme?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

The Gibraltar Formulary Committee recommended in November 2000 that the use of Galantamine (Reminyl®) on the GPMS should be in line with UK recommendations. I can now confirm that the consultant psychiatrist Dr Coogan has submitted a clinical protocol, which recommends that the treatment of this drug should only be arranged through a Dementia Clinic. The Dementia Clinic should be a one-stop facility to assess, to treat, to review and arrange comprehensive care for patients with dementia. This clinic, which will be jointly run by the psychiatrist and the geriatrician will be operational only after the geriatrician (due to arrive in Gibraltar later this week) is in post. The Dementia Clinic will be the first of its kind in Gibraltar and has been welcomed by the medical fraternity. The Formulary Committee is due to meet on May 18th to review the advice in the protocol and to consider the proposal that these drugs should be made available in Gibraltar for all those who need it, but only through the assessment process affirmed for the Dementia Clinic.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 709 OF 2001

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Will the Dementia Clinic be located at the KGV Psychiatric Unit?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I am not sure of the actual location. Very likely but I have not been told of the actual location.

ORAL

NO. 710 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

SECRETARIAL AND BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Can Government say how many of the 12 persons who were successful in their application to attend the course on Secretarial and Business Administration held in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce and the FSB, have proceeded with the course?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

Answered together with Question No. 711 of 2001.

NO. 711 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

SECRETARIAL AND BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Can Government say how many of the 20 companies that expressed an interest in the course on Secretarial and Business Administration held in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce and the FSB, have decided to proceed with the course?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

Of the 12 persons who were offered a training placement in this course, all decided to proceed with the course. All of the 20 companies wished to proceed with the course as well. The number which actually proceeded was determined by the number of trainees, thus 10 private companies and one Government department, which took two trainees, have proceeded with offering placements for trainees.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 710 AND 711 OF 2001

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Minister say whether any of the 12 trainees have dropped out or whether all are still pursuing the course?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Out of the 12, three have found employment, one in the Gibraltar Regiment, one in the Prison Service and one in Legal Practice in the private sector, so having found employment, they have opted out of the course.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Where are the other nine placed?

HON DR B A LINARES:

The other nine are placed in different companies, but obviously not more than 10 companies are offering placements.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Just to clarify the point. The hon Member said in response to the original question that there were 10 private companies that were proceeding with offering places for trainees and one Government department, which makes 11 and there are now nine trainees that have proceeded with the course, so it would follow that there are less private companies. Can the Minister clarify that point for us?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I have not got the exact information as to which companies are no longer operating in this course, but obviously only nine will be involved.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In relation to the length of the course and the date of it starting, can the Minister tell the House when the course actually started and at what stage the course actually is at?

HON DR B A LINARES:

The course started in December 2000 to finish in December 2001, it is a one year course.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The one Government department that has expressed an interest in the course and been involved, is it then that this is training for people who are civil servants?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Not at all, the great majority are not in the public sector, they are in the private sector. It is a hands on course, a very basic secretarial skills and administration skills, which have been very welcomed by many employers in the private sector, but of course useful also – remember this is a question of training, there is no guarantee that the two trainees within the Government department will be taken on for employment in the public sector. It is a question of offering them the opportunity to learn with a hands on type of system, secretarial and business skills or office skills.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Given that the Government sector has a more rigid structure than the private sector has, in terms of grades, AO, AA or Secretarial, in what context would the level of skills that are being imparted in this course fall in? Presumably in the private sector, people have got the flexibility in an office to not work in such a structured situation?

HON DR B A LINARES:

The course is validated by the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry, so there is a set and generalised curriculum or programme covering different aspects of office work that has to be covered in order to qualify. There is a certificate at the end of the course, which as I say, is awarded by the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Therefore there is some rigid or established pattern in the course, which all the different firms and employers will have to comply with and monitored by the Training Advisers. Certainly the Government department, which is the Department of Education and Training will also adhere and make sure that the targets and the objectives, the aims of the course as set by the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry are covered.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is it that the completion of the course would lead to a qualification that would meet civil service entrance requirements, in terms of what is now demanded in GCSEs?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I am not sure of that. It certainly offers a qualification but I do not know how it equates, how it matches the entry qualifications that are now required within the civil service, whether it is an equivalent qualification to the five GCSEs. I have not got that information but I doubt it very much, in my experience GCSEs are more academically orientated and this is very much a practical course in handling office operations at a very basic level.

HON J J BOSSANO:

If this is the case, would the Government not be precluded by their recruitment policy from offering employment to the two trainees that are in the Minister's department? I accept that they have not got a guarantee of a job, but is it not impossible for them anyway to be offered a job if they do not match the GCSEs that are required as the minimum entrance?

HON DR B A LINARES:

The employer is only there as a vehicle to offer these skills, which as I say are established in the definite curriculum. We look for firms in the private sector, competent enough, committed enough, interested enough to be able to offer this course, prepared to being monitored in the on-going both training and in that same light the Department of Education and Training was prepared also to contribute to the course and take on two trainees but there is no understanding either in their minds or in the mind of the Department of Education that this would lead necessarily to entry into the civil service.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I accept that. I know that the Minister has already said it need not necessarily. What I am asking is it is not just that it will not necessarily lead to it but that it is in fact impossible for that to happen. That is to say, is there a possibility that at the end of December 2001, these trainees who have been in the Government department, would be able to compete for vacancies that come up in January in the civil service as clerical grades?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The answer is probably not. I believe that the entry requirements to the civil service speak of 'equivalent'. I do not know who makes the judgement of what is an equivalent or what is not an equivalent and indeed I do not know whether this is capable even of being an equivalent. That to one side, in any case there is a bigger obstacle and that is that there is an established process of recruitment into the public service, which this would not comply with. One option that would be opened to the Department, if they were particularly keen to keep them, is to recruit this person through the Gibraltar Development Corporation.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I was not suggesting, given the original answer, that they would be assured of preferential treatment. I was trying to establish whether the course would enable them to apply if they completed in December, would vacancies in January or

February be something that they could then apply for on the strength of the course they had completed?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I doubt it very much. Knowing exactly what the course involves, I do not think the training and the qualification of these trainees at the end of the course will bring them up to the standard or to the level of equivalent qualification that is required in the civil service entry.

NO. 712 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GARRISON LIBRARY

At what stage are discussions with the Ministry of Defence over the transfer of the Garrison Library?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

The Garrison Library Committee has now replied to the Government's proposals, which I announced in previous questions to this House, for the transfer of the Garrison Library and these counter-proposals from the Library Committee are now being considered by Government.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 712 OF 2001

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Are the Government in a position to say how often or how frequently these issues are raised with the MOD or with the Garrison Library Committee? Does this happen on an on-going basis? What is the frequency?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I think we have had two or three meetings and a certain amount of correspondence.

HON J C PEREZ:

Do the counter-proposals being put by the MOD include a proposal for a cash payment?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Counter-proposals are under consideration but it would not be appropriate to divulge at this stage what that is.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Whilst respecting that confidentiality, are Government in a position to say broadly speaking what the areas of these agreements are?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I am not prepared to comment any further at this stage because the matter is very much under negotiation and consideration.

ORAL

NO. 713 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

THEATRE ROYAL

Can Government give the composition of the Theatre Royal Steering Group?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 662, 714 and 715 of 2001.

NO. 714 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

THEATRE ROYAL

Are Government now in a position to give an indication of the nature and size of the conference facilities for the restored Theatre Royal?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 662, 713 and 715 of 2001.

NO. 715 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

THEATRE ROYAL

Following the presentation on the Theatre Royal held on Thursday 15th February 2001, are Government now in a position to provide full details of the total projected cost of the project, indicating what sum will be paid for by the local taxpayer and what sum will be made available of EU funding?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

The Steering Group is composed of the following:

Chairman:	The Hon Dr Bernard Linares, Minister for Education & Culture
Vice Chairman:	Mr James Galliano
Members:	Mr Joe Desoisa
	Dr Clive Finlayson
	Mr Eric Sene
	Mr Francis Sheriff
Secretary:	Mr Manolo Galliano

Government have not yet made final decisions about the extent of the refurbishment project and of the facilities that will be available and consequently it is not possible to give details of the total projected cost.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 662 AND 713 TO 715 OF 2001

HON S E LINARES:

Is the Minister aware of the capacity that the Theatre Royal might have?

HON DR B A LINARES:

That is related to the form that the Theatre Royal will be given in the design which is currently being carried out. Therefore, it is not possible to give any accurate figures at the moment.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In relation to the composition of the Theatre Royal Steering Group, can the Minister say in what capacity the members of that group actually sit and when this committee was actually established?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I cannot remember here and now when exactly the group was established. It was soon after the purchase of the lease, when the Theatre Royal came into the propriety of the Government that we decided that the best way forward was to bring together a group of people experienced and knowledgeable in different aspects of the project.

There are members there representing the world of the theatre, there are members representing heritage aspects, Mr Eric Sene represents a more technical aspect of construction, Mr Francis Sheriff is there as a member of the group Department of Trade and Industry with close links to the European Funding process and Mr Manolo Galliano who is the Director of Culture.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In relation to the actual presentation that took place in February, can the Minister perhaps elaborate to the House what the nature of that presentation was and what its purpose was?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Yes. The stage scene design was put before us in the form of different options, obviously each option more elaborate than others and more costly than others and this is currently under consideration by the Government.

HON S E LINARES:

The Minister says that there are three proposals, three stages or three options?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I would not like to say three or four, five or two. It is more nebulous than that. Presentations and designs are a bit more less demarcated than to give them a number as the hon Member has suggested.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Have Government then not made any allowance for the expense of the Theatre Royal project in the Estimates which we are due to discuss soon?

HON DR B A LINARES:

The hon Member will see very soon. There is an allowance made in the Estimates.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Minister not tell us the figure at this stage even though that has already been established?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I am told by the Financial and Development Secretary that it is not public information yet. It is confidential information. It is not publicly available.

ORAL

NO. 716 OF 2001

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GHA - COST PER BED

What was the estimated cost per bed in St Bernard's Hospital in the last financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

Answered together with Question No. 717.

NO. 717 OF 2001

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GHA - COST PER BED

What was the estimated cost per bed in KGV Hospital in the last financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND HEALTH

The Government do not keep information as to the cost of beds. Given that not all services and therefore costs at St Bernard's and KGV Hospital are residential involving the use of beds, the calculation cannot be made by simply dividing the total cost of these establishments by the number of beds. So we do not have a figure for that cost per bed. I do not think we have ever had.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 716 AND 717 OF 2001

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is it not correct to say that at one stage the Government were arguing that the cost of having people in the Health Authority occupying beds, independent of the fact that the bed might be better used for other types of patients, was higher than that of having them in the Elderly People's Home?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes. Qualitatively speaking that must be true even though it cannot be demonstrated by figures. The support staff for one clinical bed is much higher than the support staff for one residential bed, therefore a residential bed in Mount Alvernia is necessarily cheaper than a clinical bed at St Bernard's Hospital, which does not mean that the cost per bed of one operation or the other operation would necessarily reflect that given that Mount Alvernia is a much smaller operation with fewer residents, if I can call them that. In the Elderly Care Agency, everybody is residential. Therefore whatever are the costs of running the Elderly Care Agency are capable of being divided into a cost per bed because all costs are in support of beds, whereas in the KGV and in St Bernard's Hospital, both of those organisations expend costs, which have nothing to do with in-patients. One would have to strip out from the St Bernard's expenditure the out-patient expenditure and divide the balance by the number of beds and that information is just not kept.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can the Minister tell me what is the cost per bed if that stripping out is not done? That is to say, taking into account the level of inaccuracy that is introduced by the need to strip something out, can the Minister say how much is the cost per bed in the knowledge that the stripping out has not been done? Given the difficulty of stripping out the cost of the operation which is not required for in-patients, can the Government say what is the cost per bed inclusive of those other costs?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I have never entertained myself doing that but the hon Member can if he likes. The hon Member knows what the forecast outturn expenditure is of the Health Service and he can strip out if he wanted to the money spent on sponsored patients for example, which is money paid to England, and divide the total by the number of beds at St Bernard's Hospital. That would give the hon Member a cost per bed of running the Health Service. It would not give the hon Member a cost per bed of running the beds.

HON J J BOSSANO:

That is why I am asking for KGV and St Bernard's in two separate questions and it is not an exercise that I can do by looking at the Estimates.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is not an exercise that the hon Member can do or that the Government can do, he has all the information that the Government have. The hon Member has asked in his second supplementary whether the Government can give him the cost per bed inclusive of out-patient costs. In other words, assuming that all the Health Authority costs.....

HON J J BOSSANO:

No, that was not the question. The question was "Assuming all the costs of St Bernard's were for in-patients and all the costs of KGV were for in-patients, can a figure of costs be given?"

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It can be worked out because the hon Member has the detailed breakdown of costs of the whole Health Authority in the Estimates booklet. It is relatively easy to identify which relate to St Bernard's, although in the Emoluments the hon Member would have to do a very careful complicated calculation because some of the staff is employed in the Primary Care Centre. If all he wants to do is to divide the total cost of running St Bernard's Hospital by the number of beds, he would then need to know the number of beds and the total cost of running St Bernard's Hospital. The hon Member cannot get that from there because in that cost, that is not just St Bernard's Hospital or KGV, but also the Psychiatric Unit, the District Nurses, the Health Care Centre. It may be possible. We can ask the Hospital Management whether they have costs, nominal ledgers on the basis of St Bernard's Hospital as an establishment as opposed to all the Health Service put together, we will find out for the hon Member and let him know.

NO. 718 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

CABLE LINK – GIBRALTAR / MOROCCO

At what stage are discussions between the Government and the six companies who expressed an interest in the provision of a cable link between Gibraltar and Morocco?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Preliminary discussions have already been held with four of the six parties that showed interest in the cable link project. These meetings were held in Gibraltar on the 10th and 11th April 2001. The remaining two parties will be met as soon as possible.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 718 OF 2001

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is it possible for the Minister to give an indication as to the results or conclusions of that meeting in terms of the wider projects?

HON K AZOPARDI:

Not really because those discussions had been held confidentially between parties and the Government and as indeed the preliminary discussions with all the parties had not been conducted yet, I think it would be premature for me to inform the House or indeed form any conclusions as to the way that the discussions will flow.

NO. 719 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

VISIT BY FINANCIAL JOURNALISTS

What was the cost of hosting the visit to Gibraltar of financial journalists that took place on or around the 9th April 2001, providing a breakdown of the sum involved?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question No. 720 of 2001.

NO. 720 OF 2001THE HON DR J J GARCIA**VISIT BY FINANCIAL JOURNALISTS**

Can Government provide a list of the financial journalists who visited Gibraltar on or around the 9th April 2001, giving the name of the journalist and the media in question and indicating which media published articles as a result?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Eleven financial journalists were invited to Gibraltar on the 3rd to the 5th April 2001. The total cost came to £4,855.30. This can be broken down as follows:

Accommodation	£1,430
Flights	£1,780.30
Buffet Dinner	£ 545
Coach	£ 165
Tour	£ 105
Buffet Lunch	£ 345
Dinner	£ 485
Total	£4,855.30

Articles have been written by a number of these journalists, which are due to appear in the forthcoming months. We are in constant contact with these journalists and regularly update them on all issues relating to financial services. The list itself I now hand to the hon Member.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 719 AND 720 OF 2001

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The Minister said that articles had been written by all the journalists but that some were due to appear in the coming months, does that mean none have actually appeared yet, is that the case?

HON K AZOPARDI:

We are aware that some of them had been written because we are in constant contact with them and so they give us an advance copy usually. I think I got one yesterday which may have appeared already but I could not confirm that but I know they are in the pipe line, even if they have not.

Financial journalists - Gibraltar visit , 3-5 April 2001

1. Joanne Frearson, Staff writer, International Investment
2. Alison Ebbage, Features Editor, Portfolio International
3. Scott Farley, Senior Reporter, Insurance Day
4. Charlotte Njeru, Reporter, International Wealth Management (FT Business)
5. Jason Groves, Deputy Editor, World Insurance Report
6. Stuart Fieldhouse, Editor, FundXchange.com
7. Alaric Nightingale, Editor, Investment International/Offshore Business
8. Adrian Leonard, Freelance journalist - financial services/insurance
9. Sarah Brown, News Editor, International Money Marketing
10. Neville Smith, Content Manager, lloydslist.com
11. Natasha de Terán, Freelance - financial services

NO. 721 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

VISITS ABROAD BY THE MINISTER

Can the Minister for Trade and Industry give the dates when he has been away from Gibraltar on Government business in 2000 and 2001 to date, giving the event or function attended, the venue, the city and the country visited?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The extensive, factual and statistical information requested by the hon Member is set out in the schedule which I now hand to him.

Answer to Question 721 of 2001

Year 2000

27 February to 1 March

21 March to 23 March

29 March to 1 April

7 June to 8 June

26 June to 28 June

2 September to 8 September

18 September to 21 September

24 September to 26 September

16 October to 18 October

29 November to 30 November

3 December to 6 December

- e-Commerce Conference/London
- Treasury
- Grand Cayman Plenary (UN Anti-Money Laundering Forum)
- Paris (FATF)
- Presentation to Journalists - London
- Suwon (UNESCO Meeting – Paid by UNESCO)
- Malta (Commonwealth Finance Ministers)
- London (Treasury)
- Gibraltar/Trafalgar Day, Guildhall
- London Trust Conference
- Lisbon (Finance Centre Presentations) and London (Crown Dependencies Meeting)

Year 2001

28 January to 1 February

21 February to 22 February

19 March to 21 March

8 April to 10 April

- Switzerland (Finance Centre Presentations) and Paris (OECD)
- e-Commerce Conference - London
- Zurich (Finance Centre Presentation)
- Crown Dependencies Meeting in London

NO. 722 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

E-COMMERCE OFFSHORE CONFERENCE

What was the cost giving a breakdown, of attending the e-Commerce Offshore Conference "Making Business Offshore" held in London from the 20th to the 22nd February?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The total cost came to £8,976.47 and the breakdown is as follows:

Co-sponsorship of e-Commerce conference	£5,875.00
Accommodation (3 nights)	£1,315.84
Flights	£1,081.10
Expenses	£ 499.68
Subsistence	£ 204.85
<hr/>	
TOTAL	<u>£8,976.47</u>

ORAL

NO. 723 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

ELECTRONIC COMMERCE ORDINANCE

Has the Minister for Trade and Industry required any service provider on the internet to remove information from any information system under his control, under Section 26(1) of the Electronic Commerce Ordinance to date, and if so who was the service provider and what was the information?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & TELECOMMUNICATIONS

No.

NO. 724 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

ELECTRONIC COMMERCE DIRECTIVE

Has the designation of a Gibraltar "Contact Point" under the Electronic Commerce Directive now been communicated to other Member States and to the European Commission as required by Article 19 of the Directive?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question No. 725 of 2001.

NO. 725 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

ELECTRONIC COMMERCE DIRECTIVE

When was the transposition into Gibraltar law of the Electronic Signatures Directive and the Electronic Commerce Directive communicated to the European Commission?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The necessary steps are being taken by HMG to notify the Commission of the transposition by Gibraltar of the directives together with the designation of a Gibraltar contact point under the e-Commerce Directive. Government expect the notification to be completed imminently.

NO. 726 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

ELECTRONIC COMMERCE DIRECTIVE

How many applications for certification services providers have been received and how many have been approved by the Minister to issue accreditation certificates for Electronic Signatures, when were they approved and who are they?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & TELECOMMUNICATIONS

No applications have been received to date.

NO. 727 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR GOVERNMENT FUNDING

At what stage are the three applications for funding made under the Gibraltar Enterprise Scheme which were listed as "Projects under Consideration" in answer to questions in February this year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Two applications are still under consideration. The other applicant has been advised to resubmit a new application. Let me just add that since the drafting of that answer, in fact of the other two applications that were under consideration, one has been granted and the other has been asked to resubmit.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 727 OF 2001

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Minister explain the reasons why these businesses or these persons are asked to resubmit applications?

HON K AZOPARDI:

Yes, the same answer for both. The application in both cases exceeded the maximum amounts set in the criteria and so, we have in principal considered that they are notwithstanding that they have exceeded the maximum amount, we wanted to consider the principal. We view the principal favourably in I think both cases but we have asked them to resubmit on more acceptable terms.

NO. 728 OF 2001THE HON DR J J GARCIA**GIBRALTAR GOVERNMENT FUNDING**

Can Government list the parties that have applied for Gibraltar Government funding, from the Gibraltar Enterprise Scheme or from any other source since this information was made available in answer to questions in February this year, indicating the amount of funding requested and the purposes for which it was intended, listing those that have been successful, those that have been unsuccessful and those applications that are still pending?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & TELECOMMUNICATIONS

One application for Gibraltar Government funding under the Gibraltar Enterprise Scheme has been submitted since the information was made available in answer to questions in February this year and since the formulation of this answer the application has been granted.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 728 OF 2001

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Does the Minister have the rest of the information requested in the question, which is the amount of funding and what it was required for?

HON K AZOPARDI:

Yes. The amount of funding is a £30,000 loan and it is for the purchase of plant and machinery.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In line with the previous answers, can the Minister say who the applicant is?

HON K AZOPARDI:

Yes. The applicant in this case is Monteverde and Sons.

Gibraltar Enterprise Scheme

Project Number	Total Grant/ Loan	Sponsor	Purpose of Grant	Status
050	£31,731 (Loan)	Monteverde & Sons Limited	Purchase of plant and machinery	Sent to Economic Committee on the 31 March 2001.

NO. 729 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

EU FUNDING

Can Government list the parties that have applied for EU funding since the 1st January 2001, indicating the amount of funding requested and the purposes for which it was intended, listing those that have been successful, those that have been unsuccessful, and those applications that are still pending?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & TELECOMMUNICATIONS

One company has applied for EU funding since the 1st January 2001. The application was submitted on the 12th April, so just three weeks ago.

It is listed as follows:-

Objective 2 Programme 2000-2006

Project Number	Total EU Grant	Sponsor	Purpose Of Grant	Status
001	£20,602	Filmteam Ltd	The purchase of a film processing machine	Application pending consideration

NO. 730 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

BANKING LICENCES

How many applications for new banking licences have been received since January 2001 inclusive and how many have been handed back to the Government, giving the relevant dates and the names of the banks concerned?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & TELECOMMUNICATIONS

There have been no applications received since January 2001.

During the last quarter no banking licences have been surrendered.

Details of all licensed institutions can be reviewed via the FSC's website www.fsc.gi/ which is regularly updated.

NO. 731 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

NEW HARBOURS - ARREARS

As at the 31st March 2001 how many tenants at New Harbours owe Government:

- (a) between £5,000 and £10,000 in rent arrears;
- (b) between £10,000 and £20,000 in rent arrears;
- (c) between £20,000 and £30,000 in rent arrears;
- (d) between £30,000 and £50,000 in rent arrears;
- (e) between £50,000 and £100,000 in rent arrears;
- (f) over £100,000 in rent arrears?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 732 to 734 of 2001.

NO. 732 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

EUROPA BUSINESS CENTRE - ARREARS

As at the 31st March 2001 how many tenants at Europa Business Centre owe Government:

- (a) between £5,000 and £10,000 in rent arrears;
- (b) between £10,000 and £20,000 in rent arrears;
- (c) between £20,000 and £30,000 in rent arrears;
- (d) between £30,000 and £50,000 in rent arrears;
- (e) between £50,000 and £100,000 in rent arrears;
- (f) over £100,000 in rent arrears?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 731, 733 and 734 of 2001.

NO. 733 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

EUROPA BUSINESS CENTRE - ARREARS

What is the total amount of rent arrears owed by Government tenants at Europa Business Centre as at the 31st March 2001, giving a breakdown of the amount as follows and indicating the number of tenants or ex-tenants in each category:

- (a) arrears of rent owing for 3 months or under;
- (b) arrears of rent owing for up to 6 months;
- (c) arrears of rent owing for up to 12 months;
- (d) arrears of rent owing for up to 24 months;
- (e) arrears of rent owing for 3 years or over?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 731, 732 and 734 of 2001.

NO. 734 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

NEW HARBOURS - ARREARS

What is the total amount of rent arrears owed by Government tenants in New Harbours as at the 31st March 2001, giving a breakdown of the amount as follows, indicating the number of tenants or ex-tenants in each category:

- (a) arrears of rent owing for 3 months or under;
- (b) arrears of rent owing for 6 months;
- (c) arrears of rent owing for 12 months;
- (d) arrears of rent owing for 24 months;
- (e) arrears of rent owing for 3 years or over?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The extensive, factual and statistical information requested by the hon Member is included in the Schedule which I now hand to him.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 734 OF 2001

Answer to Question 731 OF 2001

Tenants at New Harbours were in rent arrears as at 31 March 2001 as follows:

- (a) 5 No. owed between £5,000 and £10,000
- (b) 3 No. owed between £10,000 and £20,000 (2 No. under arrears agreements)
- (c) 2 No. owed between £20,000 and £30,000 (2 No. under arrears agreements)
- (d) 3 No. owed between £30,000 and £40,000 (3 No. under arrears agreements)
- (e) 2 No. owed between £50,000 and £100,000 (2 No. under arrears agreements)
- (f) Nil owed over £100,000.

The Landlord, however, is the Gibraltar Commercial Property Company Limited and not the Government.

Answer to Question 732 OF 2001

Tenants at Europa Business Centre were in rent arrears as at 31 March 2001 as follows:

- (a) 2 No. owed between £5,000 and £10,000 (1 No. under arrears agreement)
- (b) 1 No. owed between £10,000 and £20,000
- (c) 2 No. owed between £20,000 and £30,000 (1 No. under arrears agreement)
- (d) Nil No. owed between £30,000 and £50,000
- (e) Nil No. owed between £50,000 and £100,000
- (f) Nil No. owed over £100,000.

The Landlord is the Government.

Answer to Question 733 OF 2001

The total amount of rent arrears owed by Government tenants and ex-tenants at the Europa Business Centre as at 31 March 2001 is as follows:

	<u>Tenants</u>	<u>Ex-Tenants</u>
(a) owing less than three months	36 No. £12,073.86	5 No. £1,605.76
(b) owing between four to six months	4 No. £ 4,743.36	3 No. £4,891.11
(c) owing between seven to twelve months	2 No. £ 3,113.53	Nil
(d) owing between thirteen to twenty four months	Nil	7 No. £27,780.42
(e) owing between twenty five months and 3 years	2 No. £18,285.45	Nil
(f) owing for over 3 years	1 No. £24,930.00	Nil
	-----	-----
	£63,146.20	£34,277.29

Cont

CONTD. ANSWER TO QUESTIONS 734 OF 2001

Answer to Question 734 OF 2001

The total amount of rent arrears owed by the tenants and ex-tenants at New Harbours as at 31 March 2001 is as follows:

	<u>Tenants</u>	<u>Ex-Tenants</u>
(a) owing less than three months	69 No. £26,749.38	5 No. £ 1,828.23
(b) owing between four to six months	2 No. £ 2,398.66	6 No. £39,282.20
(c) owing between seven to twelve months	7 No. £53,911.47	6 No. £33,286.32
(d) owing between thirteen and twenty four months	6 No. £83,876.47	7 No. £25,791.35
(e) owing between twenty five months and 3 years	2 No. £29,541.46	1 No. £ 7,832.68
(f) owing for over 3 years	5 No. £212,709.27	1 No. £37,714.67
	-----	-----
	<u>£409,186.71</u>	<u>£145,735.45</u>

NO. 735 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

VISIT TO LISBON

Can Government list the 17 financial institutions visited during the three day visit to Lisbon in December 2000, giving the positions of the people from each organisation that the Government met?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & TELECOMMUNICATIONS

It is not appropriate for Government to identify the institutions to whom it makes individual presentations or with whom it holds discussions.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 735 OF 2001

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Government then say whether any results have materialised from those visits and whether perhaps any follow ups are expected?

HON KAZOPARDI:

When we went to Lisbon in December 2000, it was because we had identified that we really wanted to conduct a rolling campaign. I think I explained to the hon Member last time that marketing of a fairly long term nature and specifically marketing on a one to one basis with institutions in the Finance Centre has a relatively long lead in time. That requires constant updates and constant information to flow to those institutions to see if we can attract business to Gibraltar. We are doing so. We are in constant contact with several of the people that we met. The Finance Centre division itself has gone back to Lisbon later, subsequent to that visit, and it intends to go back again because we need to continue these visits as a one off. I am aware that some of those institutions are already channelling some business to Gibraltar, whether it is as a result of others, if they are not, these things are difficult to tell but I am aware of that and we will continue to have those one to one presentations to institutions to see if we can attract them to Gibraltar and wider presentations with the help of players from Gibraltar who have contacts in these jurisdictions so that we can transmit a good international image and attract business to Gibraltar.

NO. 736 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

OBJECTIVE 2 PROGRAMME MONITORING COMMITTEE

What is the current composition of the Objective 2 Programme Monitoring Committee and how often and on what dates has it met in (a) 2000, (b) 2001?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The information requested and the current composition of the Objective 2 Programme Monitoring Committee is set out in the list I now hand to the hon Member.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO., 736 OF 2001

HON DR J J GARCIA:

From what the Minister has just handed me, it says here that there were no meetings in the year 2000 and a meeting was held on the 7th February 2001, is that common practice? What is the exact function of the Committee and why has it only met once in the last year?

HON K AZOPARDI:

The Monitoring Committee normally meets twice a year, that is the normal practice. No meeting took place in the year 2000 because the programme monitoring committee's work had been largely completed by December 1999 when the funds had to be committed, so the Programme Monitoring Committee monitors those applications for funding and had been transmitted and committed through the programme. As all the funds for use by the old programme had to be committed by December and used by December 2001, but committed in December 1999, then the work of the Committee had been done principally and no meetings were required in the year 2000. The new single programme in documents for the new programme, which is for the years 2000-2006 was submitted to the European Commission in April 2000, which then did not require meetings because the Commission was considering the drafts submitted by Gibraltar. The programme, as we said in our draft press release that we issued last week, was adopted and approved by the European Commission on the 22nd March this year and now the work of the Programme Monitoring Committee will commence under the new programme so I expect that there will be two meetings this year possibly, if two meetings are required. Certainly two meetings as from next year but certainly a meeting at least this year.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

When the Minister said that this relates to the allocation of funds for projects, is the type of things he is talking about the various companies and organisations which may put in requests for funds or are these public sector projects or are they both?

HON K AZOPARDI:

There is only one Programme Monitoring Committee. This Committee does not assess applications, there are other committees that assess applications and make recommendations to Government for Government to then take the decisions on them. This is a Monitoring Committee as to the entire programme. In other words, the programme requires a general committee to be set up which includes Government officials and the private sector partners and European Commission officials, this is why down the list it includes people like the Chief Secretary of the Government and it includes the Chamber and the FSB and it also includes the European Commission, I think it is Mr Frank Elholm from the relevant Director General in the EU, who sits on an advisory capacity. It meets twice a year because it monitors the general parameters and the conceptual side of the programme, a day to day evaluations of the recommendations and the day to day decisions are taken to different bodies that are also identified in the SPD which has been filed and approved.

Answer to Question 736 of 2001

The Hon P Speller	-	Deputy Governor – Chairman
Mr E Montado	-	Chief Secretary
The Hon T Bristow	-	Financial and Development Secretary
Mr F Sheriff	-	Commercial Director DTIT
Mr L Montiel	-	Transport & General Workers Union
Mrs M Guerrero	-	Gibraltar Federation of Small Businesses
Mr J Risso	-	Chamber of Commerce
Mr L Lester	-	Director of Education and Training
Mr N Guerrero	-	Ministry of Tourism and Transport
Mr J Delgado	-	Environmental Agency
Mr E Chevasco	-	Employment Services
Dr J Cortes	-	Gibraltar Ornithological & Natural History Society
Mr J Baldachino	-	Secretary DTIT
Mr F Elholm	-	European Commission (Advisory capacity)
Mr A Bayer	-	Department of Trade & Industry UK (Observer)

No meetings were held in the year 2000. A meeting was held on the 2 February 2001.

NO. 737 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

OBJECTIVE 2 MONITORING COMMITTEE

What is the Technical Assistance budget available to the Objective 2 Monitoring Committee for the period 2000-2003?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The Technical Assistance budget available to the Objective 2 Monitoring Committee for the period 2000-2003 is 16,800 Euros (approximately £10, 800).

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 737 OF 2001

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Minister explain what the function or what use that money is put to?

HON K AZOPARDI:

This is a fund that is usually used for the appointment of experts to assist the Programme Monitoring Committee in satisfying the European Commission that the parameters of the programme have been met, so for example, I recall that I was shown a report that had been prepared by external experts in relation to the 1997/1999 programme and indeed the programme before that. Essentially what happens is the Monitoring Committee has to satisfy the European Commission, the European Commission itself requires usually that a technical report is prepared on the evaluation of the projects and whether the conceptual aspects of the programme have been met and what it usually means is that the member states involved consign the work to experts that work in this field. The Gibraltar Government engaged a firm of consultants to prepare a report for the satisfaction of the European Commission and we expect that we will again have to do that and this is why there is this small item of expenditure to deal with this issue, but it is a necessary expenditure because the EU not only audits but expects to evaluate the general programme to decide whether one has met the original targets.

NO. 738 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR IN EUROPE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES

What are the 33 individual projects approved under the Gibraltar in Europe Business Development Schemes, how many are still running, and how many are on track for implementation by the deadline of 31st December 2001, providing a list of the projects showing the names of the parties, the sum involved, the date the project was approved, and the date that the funds were paid?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & TELECOMMUNICATIONS

All the information requested by the hon Member is set out in the schedule that I hand to him.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 738 OF 2001

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Are the projects which are listed as on-going in the schedule the Minister has just provided, due for completion by the expected deadline?

HON K AZOPARDI:

The rules of the programme are that the funds not only should be committed by a certain date, but should be spent by a certain date. The expenditure deadline is the 31st December 2001, so I assume that all of them will from now to December 2001 finish their projects.

Answer to Question 738 of 2001

GIBRALTAR IN EUROPE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SCHEME - PROJECT 02/97/99/002/ERDF OBJECTIVE 2 1997/99 PROGRAMME

APPROVED PROJECTS	NAME OF COMPANY	EU £	GOG £	PS £	TOTAL £	1st PAYMENT	2nd PAYMENT	3rd PAYMENT	TOTAL TO 31-03-01	PROJECT APPROVAL DATE	PROJECT STATUS
02/97/99/002(1)VERDF Plaster of Paris	Henry Services	£675	£675	£3,150	£4,500					12/06/98	Claim Invalidated
02/97/99/002(2)VERDF Light Industrial Activities - Aluminium Workshop	Light Industrial Activities	£1,425	£1,425	£8,550	£9,500	25,099 £477.45	14,100 £1,221.87		£1,999.32	07/06/98	Ongoing
02/97/99/002(3)VERDF Tailors	Finishing Touches	£1,293	£1,292	£8,032	£8,617	10,099 £577.24	18,899 £239.81		£816.85	22/10/98	Completed
02/97/99/002(4)VERDF Showroom	New World Interiors	£845	£845	£3,010	£4,300					07/12/98	Ongoing
02/97/99/002(8)VERDF Advertising Services	Dash Distributions	£980	£960	£4,480	£6,400					31/12/98	Not proceeded with
02/97/99/002(7)VERDF Workshop Extension	{Self Employed}	£1,350	£0	£3,150	£4,500	20,599 £80.00			£80.00	22/02/99	Ongoing
02/97/99/002(8)VERDF Sandwich Service	Crossroads Sandwich Bar	£972	£971	£4,535	£6,478	11,699 £1,202.32	20,799 £590.40		£1,782.72	22/02/99	Ongoing
02/97/99/002(8)VERDF Conference Organisation	Corporate Events	£308	£308	£1,428	£2,040	28,699 £108.98	26,899 £505.02		£812.00	21/03/99	Completed
02/97/99/002(10)VERDF R & J Refrigeration	R & J Refrigeration	£1,125	£1,125	£5,250	£7,500					01/04/99	Completed
02/97/99/002(11)VERDF Le Rock Chef	Le Rock Chef	£2,991	£2,990	£13,958	£19,937	17,999 £3,387.80	1,1199 £1,400.40		£4,788.20	23/05/99	Ongoing
02/97/99/002(12)VERDF Trico-Computer System Upgrade	Canessa, Trico & Co.	£483	£483	£2,254	£3,220					14/05/99	Not proceeded with
02/97/99/002(13)VERDF RLS - 2000 Compliant Systems	RLS - 2000 Compliant Systems	£1,379	£1,379	£8,437	£9,195	20,1199 £585.50			£585.50	14/05/99	Ongoing
02/97/99/002(14)VERDF Window World	Window World Ltd	£1,500	£1,500	£7,000	£10,000	13,899 £2,528.87	15,201 £478.13		£3,000.00	30/06/99	Completed
02/97/99/002(15)VERDF Engine Re-conditioning	Sky's Electromechanics	£3,855	£3,855	£18,058	£25,788	1,200 £5,378.48	15,300 £1,579.33		£8,857.82	23/06/99	Completed
02/97/99/002(16)VERDF Holy Land Travel	Holy Land Travel Ltd	£1,500	£0	£3,500	£5,000					30/06/99	Not proceeded with
02/97/99/002(17)VERDF Oak's Garage	Oak's Garage Ltd	£1,500	£1,500	£9,204	£12,204	6,999 £2,876.88			£2,876.88	18/07/99	Completed
02/97/99/002(18)VERDF Hansel Plumbing	Hansel Plumbing	£2,337	£0	£5,453	£7,790	18,1200 £453.18			£453.18	24/07/99	Completed
02/97/99/002(19)VERDF Two Post Car Lift	In-Tune Co Ltd	£641	£640	£2,880	£4,271					09/08/99	Offer withdrawn
02/97/99/002(20)VERDF Fabrication & Welding	Welding & Fabrication Services Ltd	£659	£658	£3,121	£4,458					18/08/99	Not proceeded with
02/97/99/002(21)VERDF Photo Image Library	Stra's Image Library	£2,487	£2,081	£10,565	£15,093					21/11/99	Not proceeded with
02/97/99/002(22)VERDF Stylos Dance Academy	Stylos Dance Academy	£3,000	£0	£10,020	£13,020	18,500 £3,000.00			£3,000.00	14/09/99	Completed
02/97/99/002(23)VERDF Hand Made Local Crafts	Hand Made Local Crafts	£1,466	£774	£5,110	£7,300	27,1000 £240.06			£240.06	07/12/99	Ongoing
02/97/99/002(25)VERDF World Travel Market	Herald Travel Ltd	£456	£0	£1,064	£1,520	23,1299 £425.73			£425.73	07/10/99	Completed
02/97/99/002(26)VERDF Mickey Partnership	Mickey Partnership	£1,482	£1,482	£4,622	£9,746					20/10/99	Not proceeded with
02/97/99/002(27)VERDF Security Express	P & H Private Consultants Ltd	£2,418	£573	£6,975	£9,964	12,600 £2,957.15			£2,957.15	22/10/99	Completed
02/97/99/002(28)VERDF 123 Printers	123 Printers Ltd	£1,089	£1,089	£5,082	£7,260	27,500 £752.10	13,201 £398.10		£1,750.30	22/10/99	Ongoing
02/97/99/002(29)VERDF Autocad Computer System	M J Hassan	£1,500	£1,500	£7,000	£10,000	8,300 £2,929.41			£2,929.41	07/10/99	Completed
02/97/99/002(31)VERDF BMW Specialists	CC Engineering	£1,551	£470	£4,716	£8,737	18,200 £398.19	14,300 £340.00	12,600 £540.00	£1,798.19	30/10/99	Ongoing
02/97/99/002(32)VERDF Cleaning Services	JAD & Son's	£595	£595	£2,778	£3,968	18,100 £398.58			£398.58	12/11/99	Completed
02/97/99/002(33)VERDF Comdeck	Comdeck Ltd	£4,381	£4,080	£19,043	£27,504	27,700 £1,894.86	15,900 £1,620.00		£3,514.86	07/11/99	Ongoing
02/97/99/002(34)VERDF Signalix	Signalix Ltd	£3,858	£3,858	£17,994	£25,706					16/12/99	Completed
02/97/99/002(35)VERDF Europe Access	Europe Access Ltd	£1,500	£1,500	£7,000	£10,000	10,400 £1,011.00			£1,011.00	03/12/99	Ongoing
02/97/99/002(36)VERDF Valmar Medical Clinic	Valmar {Self Employed}	£1,340	£1,105	£5,708	£8,151					13/12/99	Completed
TOTAL		£52,385	£39,439	£219,531	£311,367						

NO. 739 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR IN EUROPE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

How many full time jobs has the Gibraltar in Europe Business Development Scheme created to 31st March 2001, providing a breakdown to indicate whether the persons in those jobs have moved there from other employment, from outside Gibraltar, or from the unemployment list?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The compilation of the answer to this question requires a disproportionate administrative effort, since it requires each individual to be traced personally.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 739 OF 2001

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Minister say whether the figure is in the hundreds or is it just a few. In their own newsletter in "Gibraltar in Europa", it is mentioned that the Gibraltar in Europe Business Development Scheme will result in a creation of 25 full time jobs and it is now expected that 48 will be created. What the Opposition is interested in knowing is whether the new jobs created by the scheme are filled by people moving there from other employments or are they generally new jobs in the sense that people move there from the unemployment list?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

They are new jobs in that company, whether they are filled by first time entrants into the labour market or whether they are filled by people who are already in a job elsewhere in the labour market. I suppose it would be possible to establish how many of them are first time entrants, how many were not that might also be possible to establish, but where they came from, all that information is difficult. I suspect some of them are first time entrants and others are not. I expect some of them apply for those jobs from elsewhere in the economy.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

I appreciate the reply. Given the answer that it was too voluminous to compile in the Government's own newsletter they indicated that it was between 25 and 48 jobs, that is what we are talking about. It might not have been that difficult to see how many were first time entrants.

HON K AZOPARDI:

That information is based on the applications themselves, so we have a general feel when people submit an application of how many jobs they say they are going to create when we approve an application or not, but we do not know who they are. It would be impossible to trace the individuals, we would find it very difficult to tell

whether those are the same individuals that are still in the post three years on and this is why we gave the answer that we gave. That is why that information is included in the newsletter, but it is impossible to be able to give a consistent information to the hon Member which he required in his question on 31st March 2001, that is an impossible task to complete.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Do the Government have the information without necessarily providing a breakdown? In other words, how many full time jobs have been actually created irrespective of whether people have moved from new employment or not? In their own newsletter, it says that the ability to create full time jobs is a fundamental aspect in assessing potential projects in terms of value for money.

HON K AZOPARDI:

Indeed it is a fundamental factor to be borne into account when we consider these applications that there should be some job creation when people submit these applications. I do not have the information with me, but I can certainly supply the hon Member information of the total number of jobs that the applicants said that they would create. That is all I could do. I cannot answer the specific question that he has put.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

There are two issues. One is the actual number of jobs which people say they are going to create when they submit an application, and the other is whether they have actually created the jobs or not, if the Minister will supply us with those two sets of information, I would certainly be grateful.

ORAL

NO. 740 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

HEAD 7 SUB-HEAD 6

How much of the estimated £25,000 for the 2000/2001 Trade and Industry Administration Division Budget for marketing, Head 7, Sub-head 6 has been spent as at 31st March 2001?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 741 and 742 of 2001.

ORAL

NO. 741 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

HEAD 7 SUB-HEAD 10

How much has been spent as at 31st March 2001 of the Trade and Industry Commercial Division Budget for marketing, Head 7, Sub-head 10, and by how much is that now over budget?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 740 and 742 of 2001.

NO. 742 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

HEAD 7, SUB-HEAD 14

How much of the estimated £240,000 for 2000/2001 Trade and Industry Finance Centre Division budget for marketing Head 7, Sub-head 14, has been spent as at 31st March 2001?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & TELECOMMUNICATIONS

All this information will now be available to the hon Member following the tabling of the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 740 TO 742 OF 2001

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The Estimates of Revenue, we have on a confidential basis, so obviously we are not going to use that and we also did not have it at the time the questions were tabled, but I accept that.

NO. 743 OF 2001THE HON DR J J GARCIA**FINANCE CENTRE SURVEY**

How many Finance Centre Survey questionnaires were sent out by the Finance Centre Division of the Department of Trade and Industry and how many have been returned, with a breakdown by sector of those sent out and those returned?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & TELECOMMUNICATIONS

A total of 295 questionnaires were sent out. This was divided as follows:

	<u>Sent</u>	<u>Returned</u>	<u>% returned by sector</u>
Company Management Companies	105	28	26.7
Banks	22	15	68.2
Insurance firms	51	16	31.4
Investment firms	28	19	67.9
Accountancy firms	33	14	42.4
Law firms	56	16	28.6
TOTAL	295	108	

The questionnaire was sent to all members of each finance sector association and also to all non-member firms in each sector. For this reason there has been a doubling up of some firms. This is why we estimate the 295 questionnaires to represent approximately 200 firms. From the 200 firms, 108 were returned representing 54 per cent response rate.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 743 OF 2001

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In relation to the company management area where the Minister mentioned there were 105 sent out and only 28 came back, does the Minister have any explanation or any reasons for that?

HON K AZOPARDI:

The reason is in the last answer that I gave. Of the 105, many of these double up with other firms, so lawyers, accountants, even banks will have businesses that hold licences under the relevant rules of the Financial Services Ordinance. They have received a questionnaire but when a particular law firm has returned its questionnaire, it has returned it on behalf of the law firm plus all the other licences that they hold. That is why we estimate that even though we sent out 300, in reality we are talking about 200 firms. That issue is more particularly relevant in the statistics of Company Management companies that have returned questionnaires, so I would ask the hon Member to deal with it on that basis. We estimate that we have had a 54 per cent response rate as I have indicated in the general answer I gave.

NO. 744 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

FINANCE CENTRE - EMPLOYMENT

Can Government say how many people are directly employed in the Financial Sector as at 31st March 1999, 31st March 2000 and 31st March 2001?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Employment Surveys which would contain the information requested have as yet not been published so it is not possible to give the hon Member the information he requires as to the state of employment in the Finance Centre on the dates specified. The latest published statistics on employment currently available from the Employment Survey Report October 1998 indicate that there were approximately 1900 directly employed in the Finance Centre on that date. In relation to the previous question, the Government are currently assessing the result of a survey they have just carried out in the Finance Centre that indicates that there were approximately 2200 people directly employed in the Finance Centre in December 2000.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 744 OF 2001

HON DR J J GARCIA:

When the Government use the figures in relation to the number of people employed in the Finance Centre and they were used last year, for example, in the budget speech by the Chief Minister and also subsequently in other public addresses, where did those figures actually come from? Do they refer to the 1998 Survey?

HON K AZOPARDI:

The figures that the Government have used previously stem also from the previous Finance Centre survey that was undertaken by my predecessor, which indicated employment of about 2100 in the Finance Centre the last time. I think we had given a feeling of not only the numbers of direct employees in the Finance Centre but also people who derived their indirect income from the Finance Centre and some business from it. That is the basis on which we have made comments previously as to the importance of the Finance Centre.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In the classification that was introduced in the Employment Survey Report for October 1998, which follows, we are told, the United Kingdom standard industrial classification, there is an industry group called "Financial Intermediation", which shows 882 full time and 105 part time persons or jobs in existence, how does that translate into the Finance Centre industry as defined by the Government? Should not the classification that is used in official publications correspond to the industry?

HON K AZOPARDI:

There is a lag of course in the statistics for the reasons I have given, that they are not published for some years, so therefore we would place reliance to a very large extent, at least departmentally, on the survey that we are conducting because we go direct to the people that we know are employed in the Finance Centre. We can assess it on that basis. But just to answer the hon Member's question, when I indicate to the hon Member that based on the October 1998 Employment Survey, we estimate that there were then about 1900 directly employed in the Finance Centre is because we take the figure of financial intermediation, which really represents, as far as we are concerned, banks, finance and insurance and the real estate and business activities within which lawyers and accountants represent 617 out of a total of 1301, together with a further 300, which are not included in these figures but work in the Finance Centre as self employed persons. That is how the estimated figure of 1900 is arrived at. It is a bit difficult in a way to actually define what Finance Centre means given that there are spin off businesses that do business with Finance Centre operators so it is very difficult to actually define the circle. That is how we have reached the figure 1900. The figure of 2200, which I am more confident about is because that stems from our initial calculation from the Finance Centre survey and it is consistent with the trend of the previous survey and I know those questionnaires have gone to licensees who hold licences under the Financial Services Ordinance or accountants or lawyers or insurers or investment firms and those are people who are easily defined within the Finance Centre itself.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Given the fact that the October 1998 report is based on questionnaires going out to employers, would the questionnaires not have gone to the same employers?

HON K AZOPARDI:

I imagine so, but I cannot speak for the Statistics Department. I can only tell the hon Member how the Finance Centre surveys have been conducted by my department, which was the thrust of the previous question. I know that we have targeted people who hold licences under the Ordinances and who we are aware work within the Finance Centre specifically because we have a database in the department of all firms in Gibraltar that work within the Finance Centre. I assume that the hon Member is correct in saying that the questionnaires presumably go to the same people but there is a time lag between the figures. Even if that were the case and the questionnaires go to the same people, there is no real contradiction given that we are talking about an October 1998 figure, we are then talking about a 1998-1999 figure, which is when the department last did a Finance Centre survey and we are now talking about a December 2000 figure, so it would be consistent with growth of the industry.

HON J J BOSSANO:

It would only be consistent with growth in the industry when the official report comes out, which is the document on which we are told employers and unions and the national accounts and everybody else has to rely. This is the one that counts if when eventually this catches up we see that reflected. Therefore it would be important to know whether the people that are being researched by the Minister's department appear in the two areas he has indicated or are to be found somewhere else. Presumably it should be possible to establish that.

HON K AZOPARDI:

We can certainly ascertain that and indeed the department can sit down with statistics and discuss and disclose to them the results of the survey, which in any event would provide them with the useful indication of information that has been collated by our department but which would be of relevance and of interest to the Statistics Department. I am happy to do that. The purpose of this survey is to have a feel given that there is a time lag, to have a feel of how the industry is doing and how the Finance Centre in particular is doing in progressing and I think it is quite appropriate for Government to conduct exercises of this type notwithstanding the fact that the Employment Survey for this particular year, for the year in question, will follow in due course. It is of no interest to me to know in 2003 how many people were working in the Finance Centre now, I would like to know now as the hon Member will appreciate.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I do appreciate that. It might help if these surveys were to appear earlier then we would not have to rely on intuitive assessments. Given the fact that this is the official legally binding requirement, the House has to be given this information. What the Minister has been doing in his department, he is doing for very understandable reasons of wanting to get a feel of what is happening, but it is not what the obligation of the Government under the Statistics Ordinance that has been around for the last twenty odd years. Presumably if we followed the United Kingdom classification, that United Kingdom classification would be the one that in the United Kingdom would appear in the National Statistics as showing what the Finance Industry is. We are working on the assumption that what the DTI considers to be Finance Centre, given that we are told that the industrial classification in this report follows UK practice, would be coherent with and covering the same area and if that is not the case it would be desirable that if people are to be found in an advertisement shown as being in something else, it is difficult to see. They could hardly be considered by the DTI to be in the Finance Centre and by the Statistics Office to be in construction or in shipbuilding or in retailing, but nevertheless if there is a discrepancy, so that we know when we follow the statistics that we are working on comparable figures, it would be useful to know the difference.

HON K AZOPARDI:

I follow the hon Member's points and I agree that there is a need for consistency. I will speak to my department so that they in turn sit down in Statistics and discuss these matters to ensure that there is as much consistency as possible, which I think would be a valuable component in our assessing on a proper basis what the statistics which are put in front of us are.

NO. 745 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

MTI VISITS TO GERMANY/ITALY

At what stage are the plans for high-level visits by the Ministry of Trade and Industry to financial institutions in Germany and Italy?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & TELECOMMUNICATIONS

We are at a preliminary stage of consultation with the industry.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 745 OF 2001

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Minister clarify whether the department still intends for these visits to proceed?

HON K AZOPARDI:

Yes. It is difficult to find time to plan these visits because of other matters that are on-going which require the attention of the senior officials within the department. Let me explain a bit of background for the hon Member so that he understands why we are envisaging these visits. While we are at the moment assessing the results of the Finance Centre survey, it is not possible at the moment to give the hon Member more details as to that because the questionnaires have just come in and we have just got an initial feel of it. What is clearly coming through is that apart from the natural markets that the Finance Centre operators have had historically, which really could be described as the UK, Spain, Portugal and Switzerland in the last 10 or 15 years, the two other areas that are coming through as markets from which people are deriving business are Germany and Italy, which is an interesting fact, which I think is not necessarily that well known but certainly it has opened the possibility for the Finance Centre to review its marketing strategy that we have been given some indication prior to the Finance Centre survey that Germany was becoming a very active market for Gibraltar, we initially decided to go there and wrote to all the Finance Centre operators offering them to conduct presentations with them if they had contacts in those countries, in the same way as we did with Portugal. That initial feeling has been confirmed by the Finance Centre survey. It is important that we realise that there is some interesting diversification into other countries. Obviously they are not going to become main markets for Gibraltar but if Gibraltar can become a complementary jurisdiction for some of these countries I think it would be very valuable for us and that is why we are looking at the possibility of doing presentations, but notwithstanding and not losing the focus that we need to keep on with our main markets which I indicated to the hon Member are the UK, Portugal, Spain and Switzerland.

NO. 746 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR IN EUROPA

What was the cost of producing Issue 5 of the Newsletter "Gibraltar in Europa"?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The cost was £1120.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 746 OF 2001

HON J J GARCIA:

Can the Minister say for how many issues or newsletters that figure accounts for?

HON K AZOPARDI:

The only information that I could give the hon Member is that the printing costs is done under a Government tender, which was awarded and expires at the end of December.

NO. 747 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

POST OF COMMERCIAL PROJECTS OFFICER

Can Government explain why the post of Commercial Projects Officer with the Gibraltar Development Corporation was advertised twice, with a closing date of 9th March and then of 18th April 2001?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with question No. 748 of 2001.

NO. 748 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

POST OF COMMERCIAL PROJECTS OFFICER

How many persons have applied for the post of Commercial Projects Officer with the Gibraltar Development Corporation, how many vacancies are there, and has the post now been filled?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Twenty persons applied for the post of Commercial Projects Officer.

There is only one vacancy and the post has not yet been filled.

The post was advertised twice to ensure the widest public notice possible.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 747 AND 748 OF 2001

HON J C PEREZ:

Is it not odd that there should be two closing dates advertised? If the closing date had remained the 18th April on the two adverts, one could understand that one duplicates ones effort to attract the highest amount of people. What is strange is that there should be a closing date of the 8th March and then that should be extended to the 18th April, does the Minister not agree?

HON K AZOPARDI:

Let me give the hon Member some background. The advert was placed, as the hon Member says, with a particular closing date and after that process the Personnel Department received very few applications, a certain number, I cannot tell the hon Member the exact number. At the same time a job was advertised by the Gibraltar Regulatory Authority for lower pay and that entity attracted about 40 applicants for their job which was a lower paid job, which the Government thought was a bit strange. In the days after the closing date of the GRA application, which was running parallel to the job that we had advertised, we then started to get complaints from people who had applied for the GRA post saying that they were not aware that the Government had advertised the post in the DTI. We then investigated the matter, we realised that the GRA had advertised on three occasions, that they had advertised on a boxed form. The initial DTI advert was advertised once and it was not boxed so it was not clear that there was even a job vacancy, so the decision was taken to advertise again because the interviews had not been held anyway, to give the widest possible notice and that is the reason an advert then went out in a clearer way, presentationally clearer, although the content was the same, which then gave more people the chance to apply and that is the reason why and the result is that we have had 20 people applying and the interviews are going to be held next week.

NO. 749 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING COMMISSION

How often and on what dates has the Development and Planning Commission met in:

- (a) 2000
- (b) 2001?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & TELECOMMUNICATIONS

While the Development and Planning Commission is not a Government Department, I can inform the hon Member that the Secretary of the DPC has given me the information that I now hand to him.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 749 OF 2001

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In relation to the meetings of the Development and Planning Commission and particularly to the structure and the business that it conducts, are the Government considering any changes to the composition and structure and to that of the Appeals Board following the court ruling against the British Government, that the composition of the Committee could not be independent and was incompatible with the European Convention of Human Rights because it was chaired by a Minister.

HON K AZOPARDI:

The UK decision was rather different because it was based on appeals from a Planning Inspector through the Secretary of State. I understand that the English ruling is under appeal to the House of Lords. The Government's position is that we went through an extensive review process at the time that we presented the new Ordinance to the House in an extensive debate. Our intention is not to amend the Ordinance or the Regulations for the moment but we will monitor the situation and monitor how the House of Lords deals and evaluates the English case and see whether there are any implications for the Gibraltar structure. It is a moot point whether there are differences and distinguishing factors between the English bases of the decision and the Gibraltar structures, but rather than pre-empt the matter, what we tend to do is monitor the situation and when a judgement emanates from the House of Lords and if the House of Lords upholds the decision of the Court of Appeal, then we would decide what to do if there is any impact on Gibraltar from that decision.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The ruling of the Court in England was the 13th December 2000, which was obviously after we had the situation in the House and passed the relevant Bill. I am grateful to

the Minister for confirming that the Government will now wait to see what happens with the House of Lords appeal.

HON K AZOPARDI:

Let me be clear and not mislead the hon Member. Things must go on and the planning process must go on and we are not going to await in the sense of not doing anything. That is why the commencement of the Ordinance had to happen because we will see what the impact is, if there is any. Otherwise we will have to carry on with business as usual.

Answer to Question 749/2001

The Development and Planning Commission met on eight occasions in 2000 on the following dates:

Wednesday 19 January 2000
Wednesday 15 March 2000
Wednesday 24 May 2000
Thursday 15 June 2000
Wednesday 2 August 2000
Thursday 14 September 2000
Wednesday 25 October 2000
Wednesday 13 December 2000

The Commission to this date has met on four occasions in 2001. The first meeting was a special meeting to hear representations on a specific matter only. The meetings were held on the following dates:

Thursday 11 January 2001
Wednesday 24 January 2001
Wednesday 28 February 2001
Thursday 5 April 2001

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 16 May 2001.

NO. 750 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

ADMIRAL'S PLACE DEVELOPMENT

Can Government say, with respect to the Admiral's Place development at the Old Naval Hospital:

- (a) whether the Development Licence has now been issued and if so when;
- (b) whether any further sum has been paid by the tenderer, other than the initial 10 per cent deposit of the tender sum paid on 23rd August 1999, and if so what amount and when?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The Development Licence to Hopefield Properties Limited in respect of the Old Naval Hospital was granted with effect from the 30th March 2001. Hopefield Properties paid the sum of £1,249,800 on the 2nd April 2001 being the balance and final payment of the increased premium of £1,386,000.

ORAL

NO. 751 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PROPOSED SCIENCE PARK

Have Government now considered the study by Segal Quince Wicksteed (SQW) for a Science Park and will the report be made available to the Opposition?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question No. 752 of 2001.

NO. 752 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PROPOSED SCIENCE PARK

What is the cost of the scoping study by Segal Quince Wicksteed (SQW) for a Science Park which was submitted to the Government on 20 December 2000?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Government have now considered the Science Park scoping study undertaken by Segal Quince Wicksteed Limited.

The report will not be made public.

The cost of the "Science Park" scoping study undertaken by Segal Quince Wicksteed Limited amounted to £22,759.36.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 751 AND 752 OF 2001

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Are the Government in a position to say what the recommendations or conclusions of that report were with respect to setting up a Science Park?

HON K AZOPARDI:

The general thrust of it is that Gibraltar is a good location for the setting up of a Science Park or R & D Centre, but that certain issues need to be dealt with as pre-conditions for that project proceeding on a solid foundation that it should include a strong educational institution, that a private sector interest should be introduced and injected into the process, that Gibraltar should have a strong telecom infrastructure, matters of that sort. The general thrust of the report or at least the aim of the report initially, because this goes back to the days of my predecessor at DTI, it had been commissioned on the basis that they were looking at the particular possibility of enhancing e-commerce links of a scientific nature between Gibraltar and Morocco and I think I can say certainly from my view, having seen the report, and certainly my view generally, is that for a Science Park or R & D Centre to be successful in Gibraltar, for a project of that kind to be successful, we have to look at a panorama much wider than just purely North Africa. The report was commissioned on that basis but I have spoken to the consultants and they have agreed with me that while their brief initially had been that, they do concur that it would have to be on a wider basis for it to be successful even though certain factors need to be dealt with and included for that to be the case. The Government are now considering how best to take forward the possibility of encouraging investments in Gibraltar for the establishment of an R & D Centre type of institution and we will consider that in formulating internal proposals to take that matter forward as a matter of Government policy.

NO. 753 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

LATHBURY BARRACKS INDUSTRIAL PARK

At what stage are the plans to design and build Phase 1 of the Industrial Park at Lathbury Barracks?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & TELECOMMUNICATIONS

A full design for the construction works of Phase 1 of the Lathbury Barracks Industrial Park has now been submitted by the contractor. Demolition works are at an advanced stage and the enabling works are substantially completed. Works on the construction of the business units is expected to commence in about six weeks time.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 753 OF 2001

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Have the Government established for the rents of these units to be compared to Europa Business Centre or New Harbours or the other industrial parks?

HON K AZOPARDI:

No, not yet, but it is something that the Government intend to consider in the next few months. We have got time. The completion date is expected to be March 2002 but we want to consider that and we want to consider, not only the criteria, but also the rent for the other industrial park. That is something I expect we will discuss in the next few months.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In relation to the actual size of the units, the Minister said the design has now been submitted, can the Minister elaborate as to the size of the various units in question?

HON K AZOPARDI:

I do not have the information with me but I recollect that I did on another occasion when the hon Member asked me about this project, so it may be that if he goes to Hansard I may already have given him that information. If I have not and the hon Member wants to write to me I am happy to give it to him, but I am sure I brought it to the House at some point.

NO. 754 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

ECOM LTD

Can Government say, with respect to the Ecom project at Lathbury Barracks:

- (a) whether and when the conditional outline permit has been issued;
- (b) on what date was the building application submitted to the Development and Planning Commission;
- (c) has the Development Licence been issued and if so when;
- (d) has any payment been made by the tenderer and if so what amount and when?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The Development and Planning Commission is not a Government Department and is not accountable for it in this House. It would be inappropriate for the Government to give details of individual applications in this House. The Development Licence on the other hand which is a matter for Government to consider directly has not been issued nor has any payment been made.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 754 OF 2001

HON DR J J GARCIA:

I find it odd that the Minister should now be saying that it is not appropriate to give this information to the House when similar questions were asked in February and indeed the time before that in relation to the development at the Old Naval Hospital, all the information was supplied immediately by the Government and no reservation was entered into.

HON K AZOPARDI:

I cannot recall that matter but I will certainly check that in Hansard. The point is that Government wanted to stress that the DPC is a statutory body created by the Town Planning Ordinance. It is independent of Government, it takes its own decisions. When the Government have given information in relation to the DPC we have historically done so in a way which was generalised as to policy or number of applications. There is another question on the Order Paper as to number of applications on the change of use and we will provide the hon Member with an answer because it does not identify individual applicants. The Government thought that they should make that point to the hon Member so that he appreciates that applicants apply to the DPC as an independent statutory body and perhaps it is not appropriate to give that information of individual applications in this House, but the Government are quite happy to answer matters related to governmental decisions on land allocation, which is the development licence points that I have given him. I will certainly look at whether the Government have given that information previously and if that is the case then the Government will review the point.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Just to emphasise the point, the information was indeed given in relation to the Old Naval Hospital project and in detail when the question was put to the Minister in February and I believe also the time before that as well and no reservation was entered into. Nobody has mentioned this before in relation to the Development and Planning Commission being or not being a Government department. Having said that the fact that the independence of such bodies is not in question in Courts of Law or elsewhere and the fact that the Chairman of the body is a Minister himself. Add to all that the fact that information has been available in the past without any reservations, I think it was quite a pertinent and valid question to ask.

HON K AZOPARDI:

I am quite happy to review the answers we have given in the past to ensure that we are consistent, which is the thrust of the hon Member's point. What I am not willing to concede is that the Development and Planning Commission is anything but independent because anyone who sits in that body could certainly tell the hon Member that the decision making process of the DPC is certainly independent and is not guided or geared or directed as a matter of Government policy. If the hon Member was alluding to that because he thinks that in any way the DPC in Gibraltar is not independent, either as a matter of fact or because some court in the United Kingdom thinks that the United Kingdom Secretary of State structure is not independent, that is a matter for those courts. As I have said in response to the hon Member, we will assess the implications, if any, of that judgement in Gibraltar, but I can certainly assert quite clearly that the DPC is independent and it will continue to be statutorily independent in this decision making function.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Obviously I have no intention of entering into a debate as to the independence or not of the DPC. The intention has been simply to say that that information has been given voluntarily before and nobody has mentioned whether the Development and Planning Commission is independent or not. Be that as it may, on the 5th April 2001, the composition of the Commission was published. It includes a Minister, that is the Chairman, it includes five more persons nominated by the Chief Minister, including one Minister and effectively what could be seen as possible servants and three others who were nominated by other people. That is not the issue and I am glad that the Minister will go back to Hansard and look at the position and review it.

HON K AZOPARDI:

I reiterate that while the composition is well known because it has been gazetted and while it includes all the people that the hon Member lists, it also includes external members, independent members who are not officials in the Government, who have votes as well, and anyone can tell the hon Member that the process itself is independent. People approach matters with an independent mind and the decision making process is entirely free standing and independent, notwithstanding the implication of the hon Member's point.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Given that we have heard in relation to questions on the Development and Planning Commission on GBC, on Nynex and on Gibtel, the issue of whether the Government ought to give answers to questions here on the basis that to do that might suggest

that any of these are not independent, is it that there has been a Government policy decision in respect of this meeting of the House, which was not there in previous meetings of the House where the matter has never surfaced, because we have had the same argument now for the fourth time.

HON K AZOPARDI:

The Government merely wished to stress on this occasion with a degree of consistency and respect of all statutory bodies, which were being asked about, that they were indeed statutorily created and independent. That is why the Government are, as the hon Member puts it, talking about the same thing for the fourth time, because the Government wished to do so with a degree of consistency.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is it that the Government for the first time since 1996 came to the conclusion that if we put a question about one of these bodies, we would be questioning its independence, which was not what the Government thought until now, and certainly not what the Government thought when they asked questions on the same areas when they were in the Opposition benches. Nobody has ever interpreted, to my recollection, a question about an area in which there is information available to Government, which the Government share with the House. If the Government wants to, it can simply refuse as an indication that the body in respect of which the question was being asked was a Government department. To ask the question implied that it was seen as a Government department, which seems to have been the thrust of the replies.

HON K AZOPARDI:

The Government merely wished to clarify for the avoidance of doubt if there was any doubt in people's minds, if there was no doubt from the people who were putting the questions, there may have been doubt from people who are listening to the answers, that these bodies are statutorily created. That is the point that we wanted to make. As I say, that is essentially in a nutshell, the issue that we wanted to put forward and put forward clearly in case there was any public misconception about this matter.

HON J J BOSSANO:

It is difficult to understand, given the fact that we are not suggesting that, why in this particular meeting the Government felt there was a need to do this unless somebody was suggesting it to them. For the avoidance of doubt, we are putting the questions in this House on this occasion in the same spirit as we have put them before and in the same spirit as they have been put by other Members of the Opposition before us.

HON K AZOPARDI:

I am happy to hear the hon Member clarify his position. I can only state what is the Government's position, which is that we merely wanted to confirm as part of the answer that we are giving to this House, what is the relationship between the bodies that are created by law in Gibraltar and the relationship with the Government that have responsibility in certain areas.

NO. 755 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GUN WHARF

Can Government confirm whether they have received representations regarding the Gun Wharf tender award and in particular over whether the Government have insisted on the construction of a finger jetty?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The first part of the question is insufficiently specific to enable it to be accurately answered. But in any event, as has been indicated previously in this House alternative proposals are being pursued which do not require the construction of a finger jetty.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 755 OF 2001

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Was the construction of a finger jetty a condition of the tender?

HON K AZOPARDI:

I believe it was but since then alternative proposals have been put which are being examined.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is it possible that there were potential developers out there who may not have tendered on the basis of having to construct a finger jetty, when now that construction is not necessary?

HON K AZOPARDI:

As we have said, we have flogged this question to death probably last time when we had a debate as to whether this had been the case previously. Certainly I remember having a discussion. The point was the Government wanted to reach a decision on this tender. It did so as the situation was when the Government decided it, this tender had been advertised twice, we were under substantial pressure to reach a decision from the developers and when we felt it was right to reach a decision we conditionally awarded the tender to a third bidder on the basis of a condition that they should present a satisfactory business plan to the Government within four or five months. They did so and we finally awarded the tender to them late last year. Since the final award they have been in discussion trying to put alternative proposals to Government so that they do not require the construction of a finger jetty. That has been post award. We awarded the tender on the basis of what was in front of us and we awarded it not on that precise factor but taking all factors into account, taking the fact of the essential premium offer that was in front of us and also the scheme that

was being put forward. We thought it was the best scheme which was being considered at the time. That is the reason and rationale behind the award.

HON J J BOSSANO:

When did the Government decide that the finger jetty was not required post the tender?

HON K AZOPARDI:

It is not that the Government have decided that the finger jetty is not required but rather that the party who has had the tender awarded is seeking to achieve the reason behind the construction of the finger jetty by alternative means, which the Government are considering if it is achievable.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Does that objective relate to the MOD requirement? Is it the MOD that has to be satisfied with the alternatives?

HON K AZOPARDI:

The MOD have to be involved. They are an essential part of those discussions because they obviously would need to be reprovided in a manner which is satisfactory.

HON J J BOSSANO:

If this attempts are not successful does it mean that the position goes back to the finger jetty?

HON K AZOPARDI:

If the alternative proposals do not succeed then we will have to go back to the original proposal, which was the construction of the finger jetty.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Minister say whether they have received any representations on this point? In other words, were there potential developers who may have been interested in tendering were it not for the fact that it contained the need to construct a finger jetty?

HON K AZOPARDI:

No one who tendered and was not awarded the tender has complained to the Government. I have been in a meeting with a party that did not tender who made a comment to me about it, but that is as far as it got.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The question referred to somebody or to any potential developer who actually did not tender, not the developer who did on that basis.

HON K AZOPARDI:

All I can tell the hon Member is that I have been in a meeting where a party that did not tender made comments to me about it, but I did not regard it as a complaint and neither have they formally submitted anything to me.

NO. 756 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TENDER FOR PLOT AT CATALAN BAY

In relation to the Tender Notice for the residential development of a Plot at Catalan Bay, what evidence of financial resources of the applicants to undertake the development do Government require?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The tender requirements are as set out and contained in the tender documents. One of the Conditions of Tender is that the tenderer shall provide contemporaneously with the submission of their tender, information satisfactory to the Government of Gibraltar of their financial capability to carry out and complete the development in conformity with the conditions and to pay the tender sum.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 756 OF 2001

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In terms of a tenderer proving his financial capability, what exactly do the Government require?

HON K AZOPARDI:

What we require is a letter from the bank saying that funds are available if they are awarded the tender.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Minister say since when it is a practice to insert these clauses in tenders or particularly in the Official Notices which advertise the tenders? I am certainly not aware if these have been included before.

HON K AZOPARDI:

I cannot give the hon Member that information as whether clauses are standard or not. I can certainly check that information for him, but I suspect that it is important certainly in this development because of the background history to this matter, which really lies on the fact that this is a tender that has issued from the Government and it is a tender in which the Government have an interest with another party, a bank, who has repossessed part of the site because a proposed developer who had historic discussions with the Government went bust. I imagine that the bank probably want to ensure that whoever we award the tender to, because the bank have an interest in the premium, that does not happen again.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

This is related to the circumstances rather than the allocation of this particular plot of land and not to the fact that the Government may have had problems in the past with particular tenderers and now they want to be secure that it is not going to happen again.

HON K AZOPARDI:

No. I have not said that. What I have said is that I do not know what the source of the clause is. I can certainly find out whether it is a one off or it has been previous practice, but that in respect of this situation, I can understand why it is there and I can understand why it is important in this case, but I will certainly check whether it is standard practice.

NO. 757 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

SULLAGE PLANT

Can Government say whether the tanks put in place by Chemco at the site for the sullage plant are new, and whose responsibility it is to inspect and approve them?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The tanks installed by Chemco at the sullage plant site are not new. The sullage reception tanks were built in accordance with approved standards for atmospheric storage tanks. The storage tanks and the whole of the plant will be pressure tested to a full hydrostatic head as part of the commissioning by qualified and experienced engineers. The responsibility for inspecting and testing the sullage tanks and the plant as a whole lies with the Environmental Agency.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 757 OF 2001

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The actual supervision of the pressure testing and of all the rest of the plant and the qualified engineers, which the Minister referred to, are people within the agency already. It is not people from outside?

HON K AZOPARDI:

The agency conducts these assessments directly or engages experts to advise it. On this occasion I understand that the applications are being considered by the Environmental Agency, but that the details of the plant and the requirements on testing have been referred to a UK consultant, who is advising the Environmental Agency on the matter.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Minister say whether the Government are aware why new tanks were not used and installed in the new plants?

HON K AZOPARDI:

The Government are not aware new tanks were not used. The Government's prime consideration is to ensure that they work well and that they meet the standards in this industry and that we hope to do with the consultants engaged by the Environmental Agency. That is the most important consideration.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Do the Government know whether the tanks had been used before they were brought to Gibraltar?

HON K AZOPARDI:

No.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Presumably they have been removed from a plant somewhere else if they are not new? Would it not be useful to find out what they performed like where they were before?

HON K AZOPARDI:

Of course the logic dictates that if they are not new they are used, and if they are used they must have been used somewhere, and somewhere means presumably that they have been removed to be brought here at some point. I imagine that without descending into a technical debate, I imagine that that is one of the issues that the UK consultant will want advice on as to where they have been used, for what purpose et cetera. I am sure that we do not need to tell the Environmental Agency how to conduct this assessment, I am sure that they are well aware what they have to do.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Are the Government aware how old the tanks actually are? Have the Government got that information?

HON K AZOPARDI:

Again, I do not have the A to Z of when the tanks were built, what colour they are and who used them last. I imagine that all of these facts will be laid in front of the UK consultant advising the Environmental Agency. It would seem to me to be an essential element of the evaluation of this matter for those consultants, together with the Agency to ascertain and indeed to sieve through all that information. As I say, their task and the prime consideration of the Government is to ensure that they work well. The fact that they are not new does not mean that they do not meet approved standards. What this process is going to do is to ensure that they meet approved standards, and if they do so, that will be enough for the Government.

HON J C PEREZ:

If and when the sullage plant begins to operate, has the Environmental Agency been notified on how it is expected that the final residue of the plant be disposed of whether in Gibraltar or elsewhere?

HON K AZOPARDI:

There was a discussion the other day just precisely on that matter. The precise details were going to be forwarded to the department. I would have to revert to the hon Member on that issue but I know that we are in contact with the operators to fully examine that.

HON J C PEREZ:

Would the Minister also take note that in Gibraltar the sullage plant is near residential areas, whereas in other places it would not be and that perhaps the operation could

have a secondary effect in Gibraltar, whereas in other operations elsewhere because of the distance from populated areas that factor might not come into play?

HON K AZOPARDI:

I think there have been previous questions to my predecessor on that issue of the environmental impact of the plants when the project was first being considered by the Government and I think we have given answers on those issues. In any event, the Environmental Agency is tasked not only with ensuring that the sullage tanks work and work to approved standards, but also to review the conduct and work of the plant as a whole. So they will be in a position to advise the Government of all those questions and we will certainly consider their advice quite firmly if we receive it.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can Government say who are the consultants that are going to be retained to do this work in the UK?

HON K AZOPARDI:

The Government can certainly say so, but not today, because I do not have the information with me, but I am happy to inform the hon Member if he is interested on that matter.

NO. 758 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DPC - NEW OFFICE SPACE

Can Government state, of the 18 applications to create new office space given in answer to Question No. 358 of 2001 in February, how many have been approved, how many have been rejected and how many are still pending, listing the addresses of the premises in question and the name of the applicants?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Ten applications have been approved and none have been rejected. The remaining eight are pending. The approved ones are as follows: Suite 6/11 Europort, Suite 9/12B Europort, Suite 731 Europort; there is an extension in Jyske House as well; Unit 97 New Harbours, Suite 913 Europort, Suite 961 Europort and Suite 743/6 Europort. All of those have been approved, together with 17/21 Cannon Lane and 235 Main Street, which has been approved but the permit has not issued yet. Units 20/21 Queensway Quay and Suite 735 Europort. Then there are others that have not been approved as yet. The ones pending would be 3 Library Ramp, Lathbury Barracks, the Queens Cinema, 218 Main Street, 33 Main Street, an application at Eurotowers – I do not have the particular office address. I think I may have given the hon Member 913 Europort as approved, it is pending.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 758 OF 2001

HON DR J J GARCIA:

It might be useful if the Minister would let us have a copy of that. We seem to have 11 on the approved list and seven on the pending.

HON K AZOPARDI:

I have not done a tally but it is in the handwriting of the Town Planner, so I will have to get it typed and double checked. The Town Planner adds it up like that, 10 approvals, eight pending. If I have not given the hon Member that specific tally I will certainly look at that.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Are these all currently residential premises?

HON K AZOPARDI:

No. Very few I suspect are. For example, all the ones that I have given the hon Member in Europort are presumably already office space. As I have explained to the hon Member last time when he put this question about the creation of new office space, we considered new office space in two ways, either change of use applications from residential to office space or vacant space, which was for the first

time going to be used as office space. That is how the planning department interpreted the question.

HON J J BOSSANO:

If there is a void in a building which has never been used, presumably when the building went up it was originally given planning permission on the premise that what was going to fill the voids was already decided. It must have been shown as offices originally. It is just that it has never happened.

HON K AZOPARDI:

I explained all that last time that we took the question, the hon Member has framed the question in exactly the same way as last time. Last time we had the same difficulty in trying to understand exactly what the hon Member wanted. So as not to give the hon Member half the information, we made the point last time that we are giving him the information because we have interpreted what he is asking for as "give me a feel of all applications that there are before the Commission which are in relation to offices." The Government said last time, some of them are change of use in a traditional sense from residential to commercial and some of them are the use of vacant buildings. We have separated it into new build and use of vacant buildings and that same exercise would have to be done today with the matters that I have given him. The hon Member is right. Ostensibly Europort was built for office space and that clearly it is not in the same league as the change of use of a building in Main Street or Cannon Lane, but the Government made that point and distinction last time, but we felt that the hon Member would want the entire information.

HON J J BOSSANO:

We appreciate being given the widest possible interpretation to give us more information, but obviously it would be useful to know whether it so happens that the ones that are given in Europort are voids, or since some of Eurotowers, for example, have got flats, we do not know whether any of Europort was previously residential.

HON K AZOPARDI:

There is only one application at Eurotowers. It is from a well known company in Gibraltar. It may well just be an extension of their premises into other commercial use. It is something that will have to be checked.

HON J J BOSSANO:

When the Minister checks the information, can the Minister identify of the 18, which are conversions from residential and therefore requiring a change of use, which are previously unused voids that are now for the first time being put to use as offices?

HON K AZOPARDI:

I will be happy to give the hon Member that information.

NO. 759 OF 2001

THE HON J J BOSSANO:

COMMERCIAL BANKS

What was the level of total liability of commercial banks at the end of March 2001, giving a breakdown of total deposits, balances due to other banks and other liabilities?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question No. 760 of 2001.

NO. 760 OF 2001

THE HON J J BOSSANO

COMMERCIAL BANKS

What was the level of total assets of commercial banks at the end of March 2001, giving a breakdown of cash, balances due by other banks, loans and advances, investments and other assets?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Total liabilities for commercial banks at the end of March 2001 stood at £5.2 billion approximately. The breakdown of these figures is as follows:

Total Deposits	£2.481billion
Balances from other Credit Institutions	£1.74 billion
Other Liabilities	£65 million
Capital	£911 million

The level of total assets for commercial banks at the end of March 2001 stood at £5.2 billion. The breakdown of these figures is as follows:

Cash	£6 million
Balances with other Credit Institutions	£3.85 billion
Loans and Advances	£1.19 billion
Investments	£6.7 million
Other Assets	£126 million

I should add that the figures are available on the FCS website.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 759 AND 760 OF 2001

HON J J BOSSANO:

Do these figures not show that there seems to be very little growth in the deposit base of the Gibraltar banks comparing one quarter with another, compared to the answers given in the last House about the two previous quarters?

HON K AZOPARDI:

The general deposit base of the Gibraltar banks hovers just over £2 billion. That has been the case since Republic National left because they had deposits here of about £3 or £4 million, which was primarily a treasury function. Since then the numbers may just about be the same. I cannot say whether they have slightly grown or not, but the hon Member is correct. On looking at these figures, I think that the deposit base is more or less the same as it was about a year ago. That would be correct since Republic National left.

NO. 761 OF 2001

THE HON J J BOSSANO

WINE BOTTLING PLANT

Have Government received an indication of the possible closure of the Wine Bottling Plant?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Government have received representations from the owners of the Bottling Plant in relation to the commercial difficulties they have encountered. The Government are being kept informed by the owners of the plant of developments as the difficulties encountered emerged entirely outside Gibraltar. Although the closure of the wine bottling plant is possible, it is a matter entirely for the owners of the plant who have confirmed to Government that they are exploring all avenues to avoid this possibility. The owners have indicated that they will revert to Government within a period of three months on conclusion of their review.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 761 OF 2001

HON J J BOSSANO:

When have these difficulties that the plant have been encountering emerged?

HON K AZOPARDI:

The difficulties date back probably for several months, though they were first brought to the attention of the Government in this way, in the sense that the plant was encountering severe difficulties, which made difficult their continued operation, about four or five weeks ago. It has been the implication of their dealings with us that it is not being entirely sound because they have been liasing with Government once or twice to see if Government could suspend the payments of rent or rates and take a view as to other payments due to the Government and enter into arrears agreements and enter into agreements to prolong the payments over a period of time. That was the type of discussion we were having since I have been Minister for Trade and Industry, which suggested that perhaps the company needed some flexibility, did not necessarily suggest to me that they were going to go under, but they did suggest that they needed some flexibility and assistance from Government to continue their operation or to at least have the chance to progress their business in a better way. After New Year and certainly in the last five or six weeks we were then contacted by the company, who said that their difficulties had increased, primarily because the Eastern European market for sparkling wines, which is what they were aiming for, did not materialise. That has meant that they have been now looking at alternative markets and they sought to try to reduce all costs to a minimum by taking the decisions they have at the moment. They want to carry on into new markets and into new products. They promised to try to salvage the business as much as possible and to revert to Government. Their intention is to do as much as they can and they will tell us in the next three months how things are moving along. I cannot give the House more information at the moment as I do not have any more information.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Have any difficulties been as a result of problems with getting supplies across the frontier?

HON K AZOPARDI:

I have a letter from their solicitors in front of me, which does not mention anything about that. Principally, it goes on about the difficulties that they have encountered with their Eastern European markets. It describes the other dealings that they have done, they have tried to do in alternative markets in North Africa and how that has not succeeded. It then goes on to describe their strategy of trying to salvage the business over the next three months and then confirm to the Government that they wish to continue and inform us on a constant basis by that three month period. It does not mention anything else.

HON J J BOSSANO:

What is the nature of the relationship between landlord and tenant, between the Government and the company in terms of the premises? If the company were to close down, would they be required to relinquish the premises to the Government? Is the condition under which they got the lease for the place that they employ an x number of people?

HON K AZOPARDI:

It is the usual practice to have clauses which allow re-entry and repossession and also to have user clauses in the leases. If they wanted to conduct another business, they would have to make an application to the Government for change of use. The Government can then decide whether to grant it or not. If they are not pursuing the business that Government have given consent to, or indeed, if they go into liquidation or otherwise not able to conduct their business, the Government have the right to repossess and to take those premises back.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Do Government know how many jobs would be at stake if unfortunately there was no way of salvaging the plant and it had to close?

HON K AZOPARDI:

I do not have the information exactly with me, but I believe we are talking about 11 or 12 people. When I had an initial discussion with the company and they were mentioning to me that they were contemplating redundancies if this did not work out, I thought that that was the figure that they had mentioned to me. It was certainly under 20. Whether that is the entire complement or not, I suspect it might be. I would have to check that information. If the hon Member wishes to have that information I can certainly request it and provide him with it. I pencilled in a note that there had already been, as part of this process, eight or nine posts, which were laid off with the possibility of re-engagement if the company is salvaged. It may have a running complement which is trying to continue the business for the next period of three months and I should be in a position by then to have all the information as to whether the company has indeed been able to present a suitable and satisfactory salvage operation, and indeed, if so, how many people are affected by any process.

NO. 762 OF 2001

THE HON S E LINARES

CAMMELL LAIRD TRAINING CENTRE

Can the Minister for Education state whether there are any contingency plans for apprentices to be able to continue and/or complete courses at Cammell Laird Training Centre should this company suddenly cease to operate in Gibraltar?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

No. The Government intend to ensure that there should be no interruption in the operation of the yard and that is what efforts are currently concentrating on.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 762 OF 2001

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Minister state if the company did leave, could students continue their apprenticeships in our own Training Centre at Europa Business Centre or elsewhere. My worry is obviously if the company leaves. I know that the Chief Minister is hopeful and we are all hopeful that the company will stay, but what if it does not?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I understand this is a hypothetical question which is not permitted by Standing Orders.

MR SPEAKER:

That is right.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I take it that the answer that the Government are doing something to ensure it does not close is not a hypothetical answer. Does that mean that the Government are prepared to provide financial support to the company?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Nothing that I have given in my answer suggests anything upon which his supplementary is based. That question has not arisen. If the Government were willing to give financial support to the company it certainly would not announce it in advance or in negotiations here in public. The Government's answer is, that they intend to ensure that there should be no interruption to the operation of the yard and that is where our efforts are concentrated at present. How we achieve that is not a matter that needs to be aired in public right now.

HON J J BOSSANO:

If the Government make a statement saying they intend to ensure, rather than they hope or are trying to do something, then this suggests that the Government have got options which they consider will ensure. Intends to ensure gives me the impression that they know they are going to be successful.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It should not be necessary, certainly not this early in the morning, to engage the hon Member in a semantic debate. I have said "that the Government intend to ensure", that is one sentence in my answer. The second sentence in my answer was "and that is where the Government's efforts are currently concentrated". If it were a done deal, it would not be a matter of concentrating efforts.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is it the case that the management of a company in Gibraltar is engaged in negotiations with the parent in the United Kingdom to engage in a management buyer of the local business?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I am not willing to say anything beyond what I have already said on this matter at this point in time. The Government will give a full account to the House when facts and events have unfolded and not discussed them hypothetically in advance.

NO. 763 OF 2001

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION - GIBPUBSAFE

Can the Minister for Education state what precautionary measures were and are in place in schools in the event of a nuclear incident?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The same ones that have always been in place since Gibraltar has been a base for visiting nuclear submarines. No specific precautionary measures have ever been in place in schools in the event of a nuclear incident. However, the GIBPUBSAFE document envisages that schools would be informed of what to do as and when the need arises.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 763 OF 2001

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Chief Minister state if the schools were informed since HMS Tireless has been berthed and repaired here and have the teachers been informed of what they have to do in case of an incident?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The answer to that is no and it is implicit in my first answer. The concern expressed by the hon Member suggests a complete misconception about how nuclear incidents arise. The hon Member appears to be under the impression that threatening nuclear incidents occur in the context of a sudden explosion that would give no time for measures to be put into effect. That is not how nuclear incidents occur in water-cool nuclear reactors, which is what submarines contain. It is not the basis upon which GIBPUBSAFE is drawn up either for Gibraltar or for Davenport or for anywhere else. These schemes are drawn up on the basis that incidents in water-cool nuclear reactors, should they ever regrettably occur, occur on a gradually escalating basis, and one gets plenty of notice before there is any danger of an escape of radiation or fusion of particles into the atmosphere. Because that is the scientific fact of life, that is how response programmes are drawn up. Therefore, GIBPUBSAFE envisages on the basis that it is known that there would be plenty of time to do so, to issue the warnings and the instructions when circumstances require in the context of a gradual build up of events, which are capable of leading with the passage of further time, to what the hon Member loosely calls a nuclear incident. Nuclear incidents are not explosions and we are not in the realms of a sudden event. That is not how nuclear incidents derive from water-cooled nuclear reactors.

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Government state when was the last time they updated or reviewed the GIBPUBSAFE document?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The GIBPUBSAFE document is constantly under review between the Ministry of Defence and the Civilian Emergency Services in Gibraltar.

HON S E LINARES:

What public consultation has taken place to put together the GIBPUBSAFE document?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Much as this Government, contrary to others that preceded it, are committed fans of public consultation, there are certain things in life, which simply do not lend themselves to consultation and responses to nuclear incidents is something that is not capable of being drawn up on the basis of public consultation. It requires, for example, a detailed knowledge of how nuclear incidents occur, of which a considerable degree of lack of knowledge has been demonstrated already here this morning. The Emergency Services in Gibraltar kept employed on a full time basis by the Government, that is to say, the Environmental Agency, the Health Authority, the Fire Brigade, the Royal Gibraltar Police, together with the Ministry of Defence specialist experts in nuclear incident management, are the authorities on this matter. The idea that one consults publicly, as if this were a proposal to change the school hours, with the general public on something as technical and specialist as a nuclear response scheme, is simply not a serious proposition. If the hon Member really means but has not yet found the words to articulate it, if he really means has anybody consulted Mr Joe Bishop, the answer is no.

HON S E LINARES:

What public information has been given of the GIBPUBSAFE document?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The same information as has always been available in the 33 years that Gibraltar has been a base for visiting nuclear submarines. That is that the GIBPUBSAFE document is a publicly available document. It lies on the table in the John Mackintosh Hall Library and indeed, if anything, it has in the last year, had a much more extensive public and critical airing than it has ever had before. People in Gibraltar, certainly the hon Member, would be, according to the advise that we have had from our independent experts, mistaken to proceed on the assumption that the current HMS Tireless situation represents greater risk than we have ever and always endured when hosting visits by nuclear submarines in Gibraltar in the past.

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Chief Minister say who was the expert in emergency management within his experts that he contracted?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, Mr Davidson. I have seen the use that the hon Members have made of it. There have been no withdrawals or resignations from the panel. NNC Limited represented by Mr Peter Davidson, a senior nuclear safety director, Ove Arup, a specialist firm of engineering consultants included because of their knowledge and

expertise in welding techniques and welding practices and Mr John Large, a notoriously hostile to the Ministry of Defence, United Kingdom expert of international renown on matters of nuclear safety and public safety documents, like GIBPUBSAFE in relating to nuclear safety, who has advised many UK councils, many foreign Governments, many international organisations like Greenpeace and Friends of the Earth, on matters of nuclear safety. The gentleman that the hon Member has in mind, whose name I do not now remember, is a gentleman that was engaged on an ad hoc basis for one part of the panel's work by Ove Arup, as a sub-consultant to them. It is true that in one press release issued by the Government towards the beginning of this, this gentleman was listed as being a separate member of the panel, that was never correct, the panel has always consisted of three gentlemen. They have always been unanimous and the Government have never been faced by the advise of the panel proffered by a simple majority or by any majority.

HON S E LINARES:

Who are the Government representatives in the Gibraltar Liaison Committee, which is stated in the GIBPUBSAFE document?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I cannot from memory recall everyone that is on that Committee, but I understand it includes the Chief Fire Officer, I believe it also includes the Chief Environmental Health Officer, I believe there is also a representative of the Chief Secretary. It might even include representatives of the Port Department. If the hon Member wants an accurate list of the composition of that Committee, which I understand incidentally is set out in an appendix at the back of the publicly available GIBPUBSAFE document, but if the hon Member does not want to take the trouble notwithstanding the concern that he appears to be showing of this issue, to go to the John Mackintosh Hall to look it up for himself, I am very happy to try and procure that information for him and provide it to him.

HON S E LINARES:

Yes, I do know who they are. It is the Chief Minister himself who does not know because he has left out a couple of people, like the Commissioner of Police and other people. What worries me is that there is no school authority, nobody from the Department of Education, because in GIBPUBSAFE document, it states very clearly that the school authorities in case of an incident have to stay with the children and they do not rush out to parents. There is also a big problem when it is pick up time in schools, when parents are just directly outside school and children are inside. The GIBPUBSAFE document states very clearly that children should stay with the school authority. What would happen in that case, can the Chief Minister answer that question?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is perfectly clear from that last supplementary that the hon Member has understood not a word that I have said to him in the last 20 minutes. It is not necessary to be the recipient of instructions in the event of a nuclear incident to be involved in the drawing up of the Nuclear Response document. Schools and school children are not the only people that would need to be mobilised and given instructions and told how to behave in the context of a nuclear incident, if it occurred. So why is the hon Member asking that question. Is he not concerned about how the Gibraltar Health Authority deals with patients lying flat on their back, immobile in hospital? Is he not

concerned about who deals with inmates at the KGV Psychiatric Hospital, is he not concerned about who deals with Mount Alvernia and all the immobile elderly persons in Mount Alvernia? Is the hon Member not concerned about who deals with prisoners, locked up in their cells in Moorish Castle? Or is the hon Member suggesting that the Head of all those departments should also be in the Liaison Committee because they are responsible for part of the putting into effect of the plan. It is just not a serious proposition. I have already explained to him that the basis upon which GIBPUBSAFE and all equivalent documents in the United Kingdom, for the United Kingdom cities is drawn up, is on the basis that there is time to issue these advisory instructions or operational instructions to everybody that needs to be informed, and I did not include the Commissioner of Police. I did not exclude the Commissioner of Police from my list. The hon Member asked me who is the representative of the Gibraltar Government, the Commissioner of Police is a member of that Committee in the context of his responsibility for internal security. The Gibraltar Government are not responsible constitutionally for the internal security of Gibraltar. Therefore the Commissioner of Police does not represent the Government of Gibraltar in that Committee, he represents his Excellency the Governor, who is the constitutional authority responsible for internal security here. That is why he was not on a list of names that I gave to him in answer to his question of who represents the Government of Gibraltar on that Committee. I would have thought these things were perfectly clear.

HON S E LINARES:

How many practice drills have been done in conjunction with the hospitals, the KGV, the schools, the prison and Mount Alvernia, with the elderly, with the disabled, St Martins. Can the Chief Minister tell us how many times there has been practices which involves all these agencies, which we are all worried about in case of an incident?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The problem with the hon Member coming to this House with a list of prepared questions, probably by somebody else, is that if he is thrown off the scent, he finds difficulty in keeping to his notes. The hon Member's questions continue to be based on the notion of a sudden explosion. I am not going to explain to him again, if the hon Member wants to become knowledgeable about these nuclear issues I am quite happy to impart to him the knowledge that I have acquired during the last year, but I do not have time to do it across the floor of the House this morning. We can get together some other time at his convenience and mine and we can have a long informative chat about it. The fact of the matter is that as he should also know, but apparently does not, the GIBPUBSAFE is rehearsed on what is called a desk top basis annually by all the authorities in something called Operation Rocky Pigeon. I have always thought it to be a particularly unfortunate choice of name for a rehearsal of this document. Still that is what in the past they have chosen to call it and I have never felt strongly enough about it to propose that the name should change. The hon Member may also wish to be aware that I separately from GIBPUBSAFE have had several meetings with all heads of Emergency Services in Gibraltar to satisfy myself, given that I do not attend these exercises, that there is the maximum measure of preparation and co-ordination amongst the authorities for which the Gibraltar Government are responsible, and I would like to thank all those Heads of department that have co-operated with the Government on that exercise and that have shown a degree of professionalism and readiness, which in my opinion, makes it perfectly clear that the decision of successive governments to rely on their own in-house expertise in the Emergency Services and not to proceed on the basis that there is

need for the services of private management consultants in this field is perfectly justified. That the confidence that successive governments have shown in the professionalism of our own Emergency Services is more than entirely justified when it is done by this Government just as it was more than entirely justified and clear to me when the hon Members made the same judgement during the eight years that they were in office.

HON S E LINARES:

The Chief Minister has taken four minutes not to answer my question, so therefore I am going to pose the question again.

MR SPEAKER:

Let us get one thing clear. You ask a question, the other side is perfectly entitled not to answer it if it does not want to. You cannot repeat the question. Ask a different question meaning the same thing, but not repeat the same question.

HON S E LINARES:

In view that the Chief Minister has not answered my question, I will rephrase the question in a different way in order to see if I can get an answer from him. How many times have the different emergency agencies involved practised a routine in order that they can safely take the population of Gibraltar elsewhere or whatever in case of a nuclear incident?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is becoming clear to the Government that one of the problems with the hon Member is that he appears to be interested only in listening to his own question and never shows any interest in listening to the answer. It suggests that the hon Member thinks that the purpose of this exercise is for him to ask the question because he clearly ignores the answer. The Hon Member has engaged on the basis that I have not answered his question, because I have taken four minutes not to answer it. I answered the question with the very first two sentences of my answer. I then extended my answer in order to give him the fullest possible amount of information. If the hon Member wants yes and no answers from me, that is what I will give him and it will mean that we can all go back to our offices much sooner than is the case with the Government's approach to question time, which is to have the fullest exchange of information and views in this House. It seems to me that it is entirely wasted on the hon Member. If there is an answer that comprises more than two sentences, the hon Member forgets the information contained in the first sentence and then accuses me of not having given it. My first answer was that there are annual desk top rehearsals of the GIBPUBSAFE document by Emergency Services under an operation called Rocky Pigeon. That is a complete answer to his question.

HON S E LINARES:

Will Government be updating and looking at re-writing the GIBPUBSAFE document?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not believe that that is a supplementary to anything that the hon Member has asked so far. If the hon Member wants to engage me in a debate on all aspects of Gibraltar's exposure to the nuclear industry, I am perfectly happy to do that. As I

have said to him before, the GIBPUBSAFE document is a document that is kept constantly under review. The Government of Gibraltar have no reason to believe that the GIBPUBSAFE document is in need of a major review of the sort that the hon Member has suggested in his question. It is not a document that the Gibraltar Government are capable of re-writing on their own. It is a document which primarily belongs to the Ministry of Defence in which civilian entities take part. The document is constantly under review and I have no doubt that both the civil and the MOD authorities will take into account in the context of any future reviews, any issues, any points that might have arisen during the last year, which they consider necessary to be taken on board in future reviews of GIBPUBSAFE. The hon Member should be aware that the sort of repairs that are taking place in Gibraltar and which he suspects requires major changes to GIBPUBSAFE take place routinely and much more serious repairs of actual intervention in the reactor itself, take place on a routine basis. We have not discovered sliced bread. There is not a new situation that requires a new form of public safety document. It is the first time that it has happened in Gibraltar and rightly in my opinion, caused the measure of public concern and the measure of public interest that it has generated. It would have been extraordinary if it had not. It is the natural concern that occurs when something happens for the first time and a very different thing is the rational scientific assessment of whether that event requires a major overhaul of a document that exists elsewhere for similar situations.

HON S E LINARES:

Is the Chief Minister aware that the GIBPUBSAFE document has been totally discredited by experts?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The hon Member would have to give me details of the experts and then of course everyone else would have to form a view of the competence and qualification of those so called experts in expressing a view on nuclear safety response documents. Earthquakes and volcanic eruptions are not the same as nuclear incidents. So that sceptics like the hon Member could draw comfort from the Government's panel of nuclear experts - I regret that it appears not to have had this effect on him, as it appears to have had on a large proportion of the population in Gibraltar - the Government have included in it not establishment poodles that might have been suspected to go along with whatever advice was necessary to allow the MOD to have their way, but precisely people that are known for their critical approach to all these things, for example, Mr John Large. The panel of which Mr Large forms part has advised the Government that GIBPUBSAFE is perfectly adequate and appropriate for the risks that are involved in the context of these repairs to GIBPUBSAFE and with respect to any other expert, self-appointed, general or otherwise, local or international. When one chooses a panel of experts who are renowned for their expertise specifically in this field, it would be a fool that disregards that advice in favour of someone whose credentials in the nuclear industry or people whose credentials in the nuclear industry are completely undemonstrated.

ORAL

NO. 764 OF 2001

THE HON J C PEREZ

NON-RECOGNITION BY SPAIN OF 350 CODE

Can Government state whether the European Commission has now indicated their readiness to initiate legal proceedings against Spain for their non-recognition of the 350 code?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 765 and 766 of 2001.

ORAL

NO. 765 OF 2001

THE HON J C PEREZ

TELEPHONE NUMBERING PROBLEM

Can Government state whether the European Commission themselves have recently proposed an interim solution to the telephone numbering problem?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 764 and 766 of 2001.

NO. 766 OF 2001

THE HON J C PEREZ

NON-RECOGNITION BY SPAIN OF 350 CODE

Do Government continue to agree that the adoption of the UK 0044 international telephone code for Gibraltar is only acceptable if granted as interim relief during the course of legal proceedings by the European Commission against Spain for their non-recognition of the 350 code?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

By letter dated 7th June 2000 the European Commission invited the United Kingdom and Spanish Governments to find a negotiated solution to the problem of Spain's non-recognition of the 350 code. Although the United Kingdom and Spanish Governments have met for such purpose, no solution has been found. The European Commission is monitoring the situation but has still not taken the decision to initiate legal proceedings against Spain. The Government, together with the telecommunications operators in Gibraltar, continue to press the EC Commission to initiate such proceedings.

The Commission can only formally propose interim measures if it first commences legal proceedings, on the substance of the case against Spain. Since it has not commenced such proceedings, it has not been able to propose any formal interim measures.

The Government's position insofar as the question in No. 766 of 2001 as to the acceptability of 0044 under these circumstances, remain as stated in this House in answer to Question No. 391 of 2001.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 764 TO 766 OF 2001

HON J C PEREZ:

Is the Chief Minister aware of the discussions being held between the United Kingdom and Spain over the attempt to solve the problem and can he state whether the UK position is now in line with that of the Gibraltar Government or they are still adopting the one that he referred to in this House previously, which was different to the one of the Government of Gibraltar?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I cannot recall exactly what I may have said in supplementaries on the last occasion about these differences, but let me explain to the hon Members what the UK's position now is and the hon Member will be able to judge whether there is a change or not in the UK's position from the one I last described to him. The United Kingdom have now adopted a position paper as their policy on the matter, which enjoys the approval and support of the Gibraltar Government and which was arrived at in discussion with the Gibraltar Government. That is namely that we are willing to offer 0044 only for calls from Spain, given that calls from Spain are not currently accessed

by 350 anyway. The offer is also on the basis that it is without prejudice to the complaints of the telephone companies that wish to pursue it on the 350 issue. This is not at a political level definitive of the issue. The position that the UK have now formally adopted is the one that the Gibraltar Government have expressed publicly, that is, that we are willing to support, that we are willing to see implemented and that is namely the adoption of 0044 for calls from Spain only to Gibraltar, not for calls from the rest of the world to Gibraltar.

HON J J BOSSANO:

This is not what the Government said was their position in the last House of Assembly Meeting and which the Government have repeated today continues to be their position, which was that as far as the Government were concerned, moving away from the 350 would only be acceptable as interim relief consequent upon the obligation of Spain to use the 350 being tested in Court. Today the formulation seems to be that it is acceptable as a bilateral agreement between the United Kingdom and Spain in the absence of court proceedings, which of the two is it?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Everything that the hon Member has just said is not correct. I have explained to his hon Colleague, I do not know whether the hon Member was not listening, that 0044 from Spain was on the basis that it was without prejudice to the ability of the companies to continue with their litigation. The Government of Gibraltar and the Government of the United Kingdom are not parties to any litigation in relation to the establishment of 350 in any court or in any legal proceedings. The only entity that has initiated or is trying to have initiated formal legal proceedings on this issue are the two telephone companies pursuant to their complaints to the European Commission and I have explained to the hon Member that even the 0044 calls from Spain only would not be on a basis that was definitive as to the issue and that the companies must remain free to pursue their complaints through that litigation if that is what they choose to do.

HON J J BOSSANO:

There is absolutely nothing wrong with my hearing. What I am saying to the Chief Minister is that the position that he has just explained is not the position that he gave this House the last time the question was put. The last time the Chief Minister said that the option of the 0044 was only acceptable to the Government as interim relief and his formulation of it today is not that it is interim relief but that it is a political agreement between the United Kingdom and Spain, which we understood was not previously acceptable to the Government from the nature of the answer given previously and that the companies are going to be free to pursue the case. Presumably neither the Government of Gibraltar nor the Government of the United Kingdom can politically instruct the companies not to pursue. The only way that the companies will not pursue their claim would be on the basis of the Government using their position as shareholders in the company, not because anybody can tell any other institution in the UK or anywhere else whether they can test their rights in court. The Chief Minister cannot possibly misunderstand what I am asking. I am saying, "Is it no longer the case that the position of the Government of Gibraltar is that any deal done with Spain has to be the result of us seeking interim relief because of the time that it will take?". That were precisely his words in this House. It is recorded in Hansard and the position, as the Chief Minister explained it was, that obviously if we go to court tomorrow, 'we' meaning the companies or whoever goes to court, we are not going to get the court saying "yes you are right, you are entitled to 350", because

that would be winning the case outright. Then he told us, in that instance what one does is one asks the court for interim relief until a final decision is taken, and it is on that basis and only on that basis that we would accept the use of something which would automatically disappear once a final ruling was made. It seems that it is no longer the position or is the Chief Minister saying that that formulation and what he said today are the same thing, because they do not sound the same to me?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Of course they are not the same thing. It is not that they are not the same thing for the reasons that the hon Member is describing. The hon Member appears not to have taken on board the fact that there is no litigation afoot, that there is no legal rights that the telecom companies can have as a matter of choice of theirs or of the Government. Only the Commission is entitled to commence legal proceedings. If the Commission do not choose to commence legal proceedings there will be no legal proceedings upon which or in which anyone, and it will have to be the Commission, can seek interim relief. This is not a question of compromising existing litigation initiated by civil parties in a court in which it has a right to initiate litigation. The telephone companies have got no right to initiate action against Spain or Telefonica or anybody else in the European Court of Justice or anywhere else. Only the Commission has the power to initiate legal action against Spain on this issue. If the Commission choose, for reasons that we would regard as indefensible, not to initiate legal proceedings the question of interim relief or whether the relief is interim or not interim or the conditions of the relief simply never arise, we are not even in the ballpark of interim relief as there is no litigation because the only party that can commence the litigation has chosen not to commence. It is true that if the Commission make a when and if, but of course life is never that simple, it is true that when and if the Commission make a formal decision not to take action, the complainants can then take the Commission to the European Court of Action for what is called an action for failure to take action. In other words, a citizen can sue the Commission, it takes seven or eight years, but the procedure exists, a private entity can sue the Commission for their failure to take action in circumstances in which the complainant believes they should have taken action. That is itself an even more complicated form of legal procedure that takes even longer. The hon Member must be aware that there are consequences to the telephone problem that require urgent solutions. Therefore if the Commission does commence legal action, everything that I said to the hon Member last time from the exchange that he is recalling, and he is recalling it accurately insofar as what he has said, remains true. If the Commission initiates action against Spain which has to be obtained from the court by the Commission itself, is interim in the litigation and the 0044 solution in whatever form it emerges will be interim in that litigation. The litigation will not come to an end, it will have to go on to resolve the issue. But if the Commission do not take action and there are politically acceptable solutions, then the Government would be foolish not to facilitate those solutions.

The position of the Government, and the hon Member knows that the Government are under a lot of pressure from some sectors of the community to pursue a different position, but the position of the Government is that we are not willing to give up 350 in respect of any country that can presently access Gibraltar through 350. That is not the case with Spain. In giving up, in saying to Spain, we will accept that callers from Spain only may telephone Gibraltar by dialling 0044, given that callers from Spain dialling Gibraltar or ringing in Gibraltar presently do not use 350, that what they use is a Spanish prefix, we see it not as surrendering 350, which is currently not in use for calls from Spain, we see it as swapping a Spanish code for Gibraltar in favour of a British code for Gibraltar and the Government see absolutely no political harm in that,

indeed the Government think it is a considerable improvement on the 1982 situation. Frankly, if the hon Member stills subscribes to the political theories that appeared to drive him when he was in political office, that one can hold out regardless of the cost to Gibraltar in other aspects of life until ones opponent lowers his pants to his ankles regardless of whether ones opponents are bigger or more powerful, that is not an approach that Gibraltar can survive. Gibraltar has got to be pragmatic on matters that do not raise fundamental issues and hold firm on issues that do raise fundamental issues. That is the Government's approach to life and it will continue to be the Government's approach to life in Gibraltar regardless of the hon Member's very different views. I know that the hon Member has got very different views, but he will forgive us for deploying in Government our views and our style and not to be driven by the hon Member's views, which incidentally have been rejected by the electorate twice now.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Independent of whether the electorate has rejected that or not rejected that, the point is of course that if we have different views in which we believe firmly and honestly is in Gibraltar's best interests, then we have an obligation to continue to defend it. I do not see why incidentally that it has been rejected would lead the Chief Minister to expect that I should drop my convictions because they have been rejected, maybe he changes his convictions from time to time to sail with the wind, but I do not. Maybe that is also one of our differences. I do not want to divert from the subject of the question but since the Chief Minister constantly makes these asides, they cannot remain unanswered. As far as I am concerned, this is not a debate about our differences in terms of our outlook on life, it is about whether the position of the Government today is the same as the position was the last time the question was answered and it would appear not to be the same. If the last time we did not know who was going to drop their pants and now we know that the bigger fish have not dropped their pants, either everybody is still wearing their pants or the Chief Minister is now pantless.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The position is that everyone is still wearing their pants. It is not a question of the Government expecting the hon Member to abandon his convictions given that they have been rejected by the electorate twice, indeed it suits the Government right down to the ground that he should not abandon his convictions for that very same reason. One thing is that the hon Member should not abandon his 30 year old convictions, even though the world has changed in the meantime and a quite different thing is for the hon Member to expect the Government to adopt his convictions. The hon Member can keep his convictions for as long as he likes. He can continue to articulate them and make them the basis of his political philosophy. What he cannot do, and this is all I am suggesting to him, is expect the Government to adopt them as their approach. That is all I am saying. I would be most grateful to the hon Member if he would keep his convictions and continue to express views based on them. The last thing that I would like to do is to encourage the hon Member to mend his ways.

I do not accept, returning back to the substance of the question, that the Government's position has changed. Although the Government's position has not changed, the hon Members should not deduce from that, that the Government is not willing to change their position when it requires the interests of Gibraltar to require it. Inflexibility of mind and lack of open mind, which is not something that prudent governments should suffer from, because what then happens is that bigger and bigger holes are dug, not just for the Government but for the whole of the community,

and that is not, in my judgement, the function of a prudent government. What the hon Member can rest assured is that the Government's line on 0044 has not changed. I do not know of anybody that would regard as lowering his pants swapping the current status, which are for calls from Spain, Gibraltar is part of the Spanish numbering plan and part of Spain telephonically, and swapping for that, not in respect for the rest of the world that reach us on 350, but only to the extent that Gibraltar is part of Spain for telephone purposes, namely for calls from Spain, to swap that situation for being part of the United Kingdom for telephone purposes, far from being regarded by the good citizens of Gibraltar as being lowering ones pants to ones ankles, most people would regard it as raising ones pants to ones forehead, because most people in Gibraltar would prefer to be part of the United Kingdom for telephone purposes than part of Spain. That is why, as the Government have said publicly on numerous occasions and I am surprised that the hon Member should now be challenging the Government, we have made public statements, detailed public statements setting these things out, it has not attracted this response from the hon Member, this is not a new position that I am describing. The Government have set out this position carefully in answer to a public statement made by the President of the Chamber of Commerce, when he suggested that perhaps we ought to accept the 0044 from the whole world. These points have been made before. They are not new and I have tried, obviously I have not succeeded, but I have tried to explain to the hon Member the distinction between what the Government's position would be in terms of interim relief if litigation is started, but we are not there yet because litigation has not been started, and I would ask the hon Member to accept that it does not lie in the gift either of the Government or of the telephone companies to initiate litigation. If it did we would have done so already. If the Commission is not persuaded to initiate legal proceedings, there are no legal proceedings and we just suffer the current telephone problems through lack of roving agreement including non availability of telephone numbers, including now the latest manifestation on it the least cost routing thing. We continue to suffer that indefinitely and forever more and that is not a position that the economy of Gibraltar can sustain.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The problem with trying to get the Government to give information is that it is quite obvious that instead of simply giving the information that is being sought, there are all sorts of attempts at red herrings. This is not an issue whether we want to be part of Spain or part of the United Kingdom. The people of Gibraltar are not being asked to choose. I certainly had no part in the decision in 1982 to become part of the Cadiz numbering plan. I voted against it. I was not as pragmatic as the Chief Minister is. If I had been pragmatic in 1982 or if he had been here in 1982, he might have voted in favour because that was the pragmatic thing to do then because then in 1982 the Government of the day thought that 30,000 numbers were so many that they were being realistic and said, it is better to get the numbers and they will never run out. I am not asking the Government to adopt my policies or the policies of the Opposition or the views of the Opposition because I respect that the Government have a right to have a different view. If I try to persuade them is because I think their view is wrong and ours is right in Gibraltar's interests, not because I want to win an election or I want to lose an election or anything else. I know that there are people who hold the view that prefer the Chief Minister to be sitting there and for me to be sitting here, but it is not a view to which I subscribe. I do not know whether he subscribes to that view or not given his close association with a particular periodical that says that all the time. The point is that the formulation that has been made publicly by the Chief Minister was a formulation that at the time when it was made public we questioned publicly whether it was still the same position. If I ask the Chief Minister whether it is not indicative that he is the one that has dropped his pants and not the others, it is

only because he has raised the issues of pants dropping not us. If he comes and tells us "what do you expect me to do, if I have got two big powers dealing with me, do I follow your example and keep my pants on in the hope that they will drop theirs?", the inevitable logical conclusion to which he seems to be pointing us is that the realistic pragmatic modern thing to do is to measure the size of the opponent before deciding whether one keeps ones pants or one drops them.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Absolutely.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Unless they shrank in size, one can assume the inevitable consequence. If that has not happened, the position of the Government is that this is a very good thing to do. That it is better to have a 0044 for Spain only than to have a Cadiz number because this makes us more British. Well look why have we waited for the crisis, why did the Government, convinced of this wonderful result, promote it without waiting for litigation, without waiting for the Commission, without waiting for the numbers to run out. I cannot understand it. It is quite obvious to me that the philosophy of the Government, given the commitment that they have to perception as opposed to reality is that rather than defending honesty as I would expect the Chief Minister to do on the basis of saying, "you may have one view of hanging in there and fighting your corner and I have the other view, that that is okay up to a point, and then the point is reached when the price is too high and we feel then we have to review the situation and if we need to give ground we will give ground", which is one way of defending it. The Chief Minister said that that was his position and also that his position is that it is a wonderful beneficial thing which is better than what we have today. The two cannot be true because if one is holding on to what we have today, why hold on to something that is inferior, either one is holding on to something and decide to give up because of force majeure, which we may have different views on but at least we can understand or one does not want to have the Cadiz code, one wants the 0044 and therefore ones position ought to be, this is what we want because we prefer it. Therefore, irrespective of whether Spain gives us more numbers or does not give us more numbers, this is what we want, the 0044 for Spain, because it is objectionable to us to use the Cadiz number. We could have been doing that, if the Chief Minister thought it was such a good idea since 1996. The point that I am trying to make is if in fact the Government have shifted from the answer that they gave in No.129 of 2001, because the Government see the prospects of the Commission doing anything about it looking less realistic and the position is no longer what he told us then, which was interim in the legal action yes, interim in a political process no, I think we are now talking about interim in a political process. I would put it to the Chief Minister that if the Commission is reluctant to proceed with the legal action against Spain, is it not an unreasonable assumption to say, they are less likely to be enthusiastic if they think we have now got the problem solved because we have gone passed their obstacles created by Spain, then if they have got the pressure of saying this is contrary to competition rules, Spain is acting in a way which damages the Gibraltar economy. Presumably once Spain can call Gibraltar using the 0044, there will be no damage to the economy. That pressure will no longer be there.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I had hoped that the hon Member would have had a greater understanding of the reality of this situation by now than that. I have told the hon Member in his original answer to his Colleague, that the Commission, the same Commission that has to

decide whether it is going to initiate action or not, is the one that said to both the UK and Spain, "you must try and resolve this matter". It is therefore obviously prudent not to be seen by the Commission as the one that is being unreasonable and ignoring their call to an attempted settlement and one improves ones chances rather than worsen ones chances of the Commission taking action if one is seen by the Commission to have been the one that has tried to go along with what they have set out which was an attempt to negotiate a solution. The United Kingdom and Gibraltar in response to that specific call by the Commission proffered this 0044 from Spain only in these bilateral meetings between the UK and Spain in order to demonstrate that the Gibraltar and UK sides were willing to be reasonable in the response to the call by the Commission for a settlement. If the Gibraltar side or the UK side had said, I am sorry, never mind your letter of the 7th June, "I am not willing to engage in an attempt to resolve the matter", not that the Gibraltar Government ever had any confidence in the ability of that process to arrive at an acceptable solution, but it was nevertheless thought tactically important to be seen to be reasonably engaged in satisfying what the Commission have set out it wanted to see happen before it took a decision. That is the context in which this UK position paper that I described to the hon Member 20 minutes ago arose, that is the context in which the Gibraltar Government have agreed to the 0044 for calls from Spain only and it certainly, in the Government's judgement, does not involve any lowering of pants and it is not a question of whether, it is not a question of hanging on to what we have got, we want to hang on to what is good of what we have got and we are willing to give up what is bad of what we have got. What is good of what we have got is that we have got our own code for the rest of the world and that we want to keep. What is bad of what we have got, and I am not suggesting that the hon Member had been responsible for the Cadiz number, I do not think that anything that I have said could possibly have been interpreted in that way, but still he chose to clarify the point for the sake of the record, that is the hon Member's right. What is bad about what we have got in a theoretical political sense is, the hon Member agrees it is bad and he was in office for eight years and did not try to do anything about it. The reality of life is that established practices and established systems only get looked at for the possibility of change when they become problematical. During the eight years that the hon Member was in office, I do not know whether towards the end of it the numbering plan was moving its head or beginning to move its head at the lack of numbers, but during the eight years that the hon Member was in office, even though he had voted against the Cadiz numbering plan back in 1982, the fact that he had voted against the Cadiz numbering plan in 1982 did not lead him during the eight years that he was in office to resurrect the matter and to say, given that I have voted against this in 1982, now that I am in Government and in a position perhaps to try to do something about it, I am going to raise this issue so that we are no longer part of the Cadiz numbering plan because the reality of life is that these things only get addressed when they become problematical. It is in that context that the Government of Gibraltar have adopted a position, which is, I would have thought one to which the hon Member could subscribe. That is, we want to keep what is good of our telephone system, the 350 for the rest of the world, and we are willing to make compromise in what is in any case bad of what we have got, and the compromise that we are willing to make upon what is bad of what we have got, is that we stop being part of the Cadiz numbering plan, which he voted against in 1982 and that only in respect of calls from Spain, we become part of the United Kingdom, which in 1982 the hon Member was advocating presumably as part of the Integration with Britain Party, unless he had already given that up. I would have thought that given that in 1982 the hon Member voted against the Cadiz numbering plan, presumably because it linked us to Spain....

HON J J BOSSANO:

No, because I wanted the 350.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

And the hon Member then wanted integration with Britain, that he should now have no difficulty subscribing to the Government's position, which is, let us give up our telephone links with Spain, in terms of being part of the Cadiz telephone area, in favour of being reached through the United Kingdom. The Government's position therefore is keep what is good, even though we are under extreme pressure to give up that which is good and willing to make compromise on things which in any case we regard as not a desirable situation, because it makes us part of the Cadiz numbering plan. I cannot tell the hon Member as of today where that situation lies. The United Kingdom has taken away this position months and months ago. They are engaged in bilateral discussions with Spain, they appear to have reached nowhere. We are now writing directly to the Commission urging them to take action, bringing to their attention the dire situation in Gibraltar on this issue and we sit here waiting to see whether either the Commission acts or whether the UK paper prospers in its bilateral relationship with Spain. At the moment neither of the two is happening. The bilateral process is not delivering and the Commission is not taking action either, so we are putting pressure on both sources. We are putting pressure on the United Kingdom, I have just come back from briefing MPs. Since we were last in this House, I have had dinner with 28 Members of Parliament, mainly to bring them up to date on this issue and we are now writing directly. I think I have written to the Commission, the three Commissioners, four or five times in the last four or five months everytime I get a batch of letters of complaints from businesses saying my callers cannot reach me. That is as much as the Government can do without rushing to do what we have been urged publicly to do from some quarters of Gibraltar, unhelpfully given what is happening elsewhere, which is to rush directly into capitulating to the abandonment of 350.

I do not know whether the price through inactivity of the United Kingdom and through inactivity of the Commission, I cannot judge right now whether the pain and cost, in terms of economic consequences to Gibraltar of maintaining that line, will become so acute and unsustainable that it may not be necessary at some future time to say, we have no alternative but to capitulate. What I think is singularly unhelpful is for people to be urging that on the Government publicly now, which is being read in Spain and consumed in Spain at a time when the Commission and the United Kingdom are alleged to be involved in a process, which would deliver much more favourable results to Gibraltar than that. All it does is encourage people to hold out until the moment when we have no alternative but to capitulate, because at the end of the day, I do not know whether the position of the hon Member, given the views that he has expressed is such, that he would rather preside over the total collapse of whole sectors of the economy of Gibraltar rather than give ground. It is an issue which we will have to debate in this House if and when it arises. All the Government are saying is that public comments of the sort that have been made from two quarters in Gibraltar on this issue make it more rather than less likely that we should have to have that debate at some stage in the future because it just seems to weaken Gibraltar's hand in the Government's attempt to obtain a more favourable result than that. Regardless of the question of whether the hon Member thinks we changed the position that we had since the last time that he asked that question, regardless of that issue, I would have thought that the position that the Government are currently adopting on telephones, I would have thought that it was one to which the hon Member could subscribe.

HON J C PEREZ:

If this formula is so desirable and so good, if this formula of having the 0044 for Gibraltar for incoming calls from Spain only is so good, how is it and if this is not a change of policy on the part of the Government, how is it that in a Government of Gibraltar telephone numbering issue information bulletin, obviously having been prepared by the Office of the Chief Minister, it says and I quote "As a possible temporary solution representatives of the EU at a meeting with Gibraltar's Chief Minister asked him to consider the use of the United Kingdom's 44 IDD code. This would make Gibraltar part of the UK numbering plan. The operators decided to accept reluctantly the proposal but only for calls from Spain as all other countries already recognise the 350 code. This is the desirable solution." The desirable solution was rejected by the Chief Minister, however the Government of Gibraltar informed the EU that they were not prepared to accept this solution for political reasons and asked the EU to press for full recognition of the 350 code. This is what the position of the Government of Gibraltar was at the last meeting of the House when it was raised and now it has changed and now the Chief Minister has accepted what he refused then. The Chief Minister can say that the policy is that he wants to be pragmatic and change his position. What the Chief Minister cannot say is that he has not changed his position, that everybody else is wrong, that we are extremists to believe what we believed with him two month's ago and he now says that he is being reasonable. If the Chief Minister is being reasonable today, according to his judgement, he was being very unreasonable two months ago.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The hon Member cannot be that disingenuous or so incompetent. Does the hon Member think that public affairs can be conducted on the basis of revealing from the very first day what ones bottom line is and it is not so long ago that the hon Member was a Trade Unionist, I know he still regards himself as a Trade Unionist but nobody else regards him as a Trade Unionist. The hon Member cannot have forgotten from his days negotiating with the Union, that when one is engaged in a process of this nature involving the Spanish Government, the United Kingdom Government and the European Commission, that one does not go blundering in on the first day with what might be the position that one eventually will be willing to accept. If that is the hon Member's view of how these things are conducted, I do not know the paper that he is actually reading from. It does not reflect meetings at which I was present except a meeting that I attended in Brussels with Mr Templelang at which my recollection of the meeting is that what was then offered as an interim solution was 0044 from the whole world. I remember saying if I accept 0044 from the whole world as an interim solution, first of all the litigation will never be initiated and secondly it will be an interim solution that would become permanent. Something that people in Gibraltar are now recommending and which the Government are still resisting. The hon Members being the inflexible creatures that they all appear to be, they appear to think that even if there were a change of position, that this is wrong. It is necessary in life to change ones position and government's change their position all the time. The hon Members are the only inflexible close mind dinosaurs, who think that it is actually possible to maintain a position intransigently, inflexibly, regardless of the consequences and that Government do not as a matter of normal routine in the management of public affairs allow themselves a degree of room and margin for manoeuvre in which we set the outside parameter as being manoeuvred within a parameter that does not compromise any of Gibraltar's fundamental interests. The hon Member can judge the Government as he pleases favourably or disavourably when this matter is resolved. What I think will be a matter of considerable interest to a very large sector of this community is what appears to be implicit in the hon

Member's exposition of this matter which is that regardless of the economic consequences to Gibraltar, they would not be willing ever to adopt a position different to one that they may have articulated, it does not matter how many years ago. That is the position that is implicit in the hon Members and it is that degree of mental inflexibility and political inflexibility and out of touch with the realities of life that has already once caused the hon Members to bring this community to the brink of calamity. Fortunately the people of Gibraltar recognised this shortcoming of the hon Members and did something about it. So the hon Members will forgive me if I do not allow them to lure me into the same political defect as characterised of the eight years that they were in office.

HON J C PEREZ:

If the Chief Minister thinks that being consistent to the truth is being a dinosaur then so be it. I am a dinosaur. He is certainly not one. Let me say that the Chief Minister has said that in negotiation with the Union one does not give up all one's cards. My point is that if he has got to say something to this House, he should not then mislead the House and tell me that the position of the Government is one when he is using the House to send a particular message so that later he can adapt his position, which is what he is saying he has done. Whatever the Chief Minister said in that notice and I have told him what he said in that notice was the position that he explained here in February at the last Question Time, he said "the hon Member should know that in Union circles you do not always adapt your position". The Chief Minister could easily have stood up in the House, as he has done with other things, and said "the situation is a sensitive one, I do not want to give information at the moment" and hold his position, but he has not. He has taken one position in February, another one now and because he is trying to justify his change, and at the same time saying that he has not changed. The use that the Chief Minister is making of this House is incredible.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The hon Member's outburst is based on a fallacy that the Government do not accept and that is that there has been a change in the Government's position. There has not been a change in the Government's position. I would like the hon Member to identify the documents from which he claims to be reading so that we can study it. Whatever that document says, the suggestion by the hon Member that assuming that his analysis of the position is correct and on that assumption he bases an accusation that the Chief Minister has misled the House, well I think that that is an outrageous abuse of the procedure of this House. The hon Member on the basis of his interpretation of an alleged inconsistency, it would have to be two things that I have said in this House, that on an alleged basis on that, on his assessment of those events, there has been an inconsistency and that therefore if there has been an inconsistency on the basis of his interpretation of the facts, there must have been a misleading of the House. Misleading this House is something that the hon Members perfected over eight years in Government and I sat in that bench for four years, lack of information, lack of explanation. The hon Members perfected the art of marginalising this House, of treating this House with contempt and of rendering this House a practically irrelevant institution in the democratic light of this community. This Government stand here answering their 358 questions, which incidentally are only ever repetitions of the questions they asked three months ago, nevertheless every three months we answer the photocopy of the questions so that they can brag. Nevertheless because the Government think it is important that this institution the Parliament should adopt a primary role in the democratic process in Gibraltar. We answer all the questions, we answer the questions extensively, that then encourages

the hon Member to stand up and say it has taken me four minutes to answer the question, as if the hon Member preferred that we only took 4 seconds. Fine if that is what the hon Members prefer we can consider that approach, the result would be much less accountability, much less information in this House, much less debating in this House on issues of public importance. The hon Members are trying to give the impression that the Government's position on the telephone matter has changed and I am telling the hon Members that although we fully reserve the right to change the position if we judge the interests of Gibraltar to require it, it actually has not happened yet and we are trying to conduct this matter in a way which minimises the prospects that we might have to change our position. That is all that I am saying to the hon Member.

MR SPEAKER:

One more question, one more answer. This is no longer a question and answer. It is a debate.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am sorry Mr Speaker, but it is only a debate to the extent that we are required to defend integration, whether we are dinosaurs, whether we are still trade unionists, all of which has nothing to do with the numbering plan. If the Chief Minister limited himself to factual replies to factual questions instead of converting virtually every question where he feels he is vulnerable to having his judgement questioned, which he seems to resent. Nobody is seeking to insult him or call him names. All we want to do is point out to him where the differences between the Government and the Opposition lie. We are entitled to have differences or is that not permitted either? The democratic element in the Chief Minister's position sometimes stretches one's attempt to make allowances for the difficulties of being in Government to the limit. The Government have just told us that the UK/Gibraltar proffered this 0044 for Spain only solution in response to the letter from the Commission of the 7th June last year. Can we know when they proffered it and to whom they proffered it?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes. It was formally proffered in a paper that was drawn up for the first time in August last year and which has been revised by the United Kingdom following the first round of bilateral discussions with Spain. The paper was recast to take account of developments in January and both papers were provided by the British Government to the Spanish Government and I believe also to the European Commission. What I cannot give the hon Member is exact dates of when that happened but in the context of both those processes.

MR SPEAKER:

That is it, one question, one answer. We have got to get on.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Mr Speaker, with all due respect. This is information that I am seeking and I am not diverting from the original. I cannot help it if the Chief Minister spends a long time talking about lots of other things. I really would like to have further information.

MR SPEAKER:

One more question, one more answer. We have got to carry on. In the mother of Parliaments, there are only two supplementaries.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The mother of Parliament may have as many or as few supplementaries as they want, but the point is that I have now been given information, which is new, which is that the paper was produced in August last year and recast in January. I think it is legitimate to ask whether the 0044 for Spain only was in the original version or in the recast version?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I cannot accurately answer that question. From memory I believe that aspect of it has been in both, but I would have to check that and I cannot be held by that answer. I would ask the hon Member to bear in mind, he is presuming I suspect that he is presuming from his last intervention that the Government of Gibraltar are the source of the 0044 call from Spain only proposal and he should not make that assumption. The fact that the Gibraltar Government accept and adopt it and are willing to accept it in the context of a solution does not necessarily mean, which I suspect he may be presuming, that the initiative emanated from the Gibraltar Government.

NO. 767 OF 2001

THE HON J C PEREZ

GIBRALTAR ISSUED DRIVING LICENCES

Can Government state what action they have taken over the last reported case of non-recognition of a Gibraltar issued driving licence by a Spanish policeman?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

On the 4th April 2001, the Gibraltar Government met with the relevant EC Commission official and fully appraised him of these isolated but unlawful and unacceptable incidents. As a result of that meeting a full documented dossier of the instances that have occurred is being prepared for submission directly to the Commission by the Gibraltar Government. The Government are also giving active consideration to sponsoring a direct legal challenge to this behaviour.

NO. 768 OF 2001

THE HON J C PEREZ

GIBRALTAR ISSUED DRIVING LICENCES

Can Government state whether the Foreign Office have now received a satisfactory reply from the Spanish Government over complaints of non-recognition of Gibraltar issued driving licences approved by the EU?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Gibraltar's two current forms of driving licences are apparently neither approved nor disapproved by the EU. Nor are the driving licences of any other part of the European Community. However both our forms of licences feature on an EC Commission list of licences that all Member States are obliged to recognise and accept. The Gibraltar Government regularly raise with Her Majesty's Government the issue of the unlawful non-acceptance of Gibraltar issued licences by rogue Spanish Civil Guards. If the Foreign Office have received a satisfactory answer from the Spanish Government, they have not yet communicated it to us.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 768 OF 2001

HON J C PEREZ:

The question arises out of the last exchanges where the Chief Minister said that the replies received until now had been unsatisfactory and that the Madrid Government seemed not to be acting on the complaints received by the Foreign Office, that is the reason for the reply. The Chief Minister is saying that nothing new has happened and in the previous question that the Gibraltar Government are now taking it up directly with the EU Commissioner. Is that the position?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The position is as I have stated it and not as the hon Member has inaccurately summarised it. I have not said that nothing new has happened. I have not cast it in that language. What I have said is that if the Foreign Office have received a satisfactory answer from the Spanish Government, they have not yet communicated it to us. Certainly we are not aware that there has been a satisfactory answer from the Spaniards.

HON J C PEREZ:

Something new could have happened, but if it has happened, the Chief Minister has not been informed by the Foreign Office, and in the meantime he is taking the matter up directly with the EU Commission. That is then the official position?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Absolutely. If they have received a satisfactory answer from the Spanish Government, they have not yet communicated it to us.

HON J J BOSSANO:

If the previous answer from the Spanish Government was unsatisfactory, was it unsatisfactory in the judgement of the United Kingdom Government or in the judgement of the Gibraltar Government?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The United Kingdom Government do not describe things very often neither as satisfactory or unsatisfactory. The people who come to that judgement are invariably in Gibraltar. The position of the Spanish Government appears to be that even though they have views about the licence in the context of the EU and whether it is compliant or not compliant, even though they have a view about that, there is no policy of putting those views into practice on the side of the road. It is also true that when, what I call in my answer rogue Spanish Civil Guards, nevertheless subject GBZ licence holders to the sort of unacceptable treatment that they are being subjected to from time to time, that when the United Kingdom raises it with Spain, the result appears not to be that the practice stops. Both of those things are true and that is the position. To me a satisfactory answer is that the practice should stop. It would not even be a satisfactory answer for the Spanish authorities to agree with me that these are the actions of rogue policemen, because that would not be of any great consolation to the people who get held up on a Sunday afternoon. So the only acceptable solution, the only satisfactory solution to the Gibraltar Government is that this behaviour should stop. We have not seen anything that gives us any degree of satisfaction that this behaviour is going to stop and there is never going to be another incident.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Has there been at least acknowledgement by the Government of Spain in response to the Government of the United Kingdom representation that it should not be happening, or have they not even done that?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

There has been acknowledgement that it is not the policy of the Government that it should happen, even though they have views about the licensing issue generally.

HON J J BOSSANO:

They have views which are not supportive of the licences but they have not issued instructions to the civil guards?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

That is what they say.

NO. 769 OF 2001

THE HON J C PEREZ

EEC - COMPETENT AUTHORITIES

Can Government state whether the United Kingdom have now informed the European Commission that the Captain of the Port is the competent authority in Gibraltar for the purpose of applying Council Directives 93/75 EEC and 98/55 EEC and if so, whether this now appears in the list of competent authorities published by the Commission?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Government can confirm that the Commission was notified on 24th April 2001, of Gibraltar's competent authority. This will presumably appear on the Commission's list next time a revised version is published.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 769 OF 2001

HON J C PEREZ:

Would the Chief Minister know when the revised version gets published. Is it an annual event?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not know but I will try and find out for the hon Member. There are different regimes under different directives, some actually provide for the frequency of re-publication of the list, others are just done at the administrative discretion of the Commission. I cannot tell the hon Member which category this one falls in.

NO. 770 OF 2001

THE HON J C PEREZ

POST OF PERSONNEL MANAGER

Have Government now decided whether they intend to fill in the post of Personnel Manager via internal recruitment or by someone from outside the service?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Needless to say it is the Government's very strong preference to fill this sensitive post from within the service. Government would only consider recruiting outside the service in the extreme circumstance that the needs of Government could not be met from within the service. That is not currently the case.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 770 OF 2001

HON J C PEREZ:

Is it not the case that the post has been advertised once already and that there were no applicants from within the Service?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. This is a tape recording of what we exchanged between us in March when we were last in this House. I do not mind repeating the position. The position is not that there were no applicants, the position is that there was one applicant but he was judged not to satisfy the qualifications and experience. Therefore there were in effect no applicants who met the qualifications specified, but it is not that there were no applicants. I also told the hon Member at the time that the Chief Secretary was engaged in a process, and I cannot tell the hon Member at what stage that process is at an administrative level, to see whether the functions currently carried out by the Personnel Department could be restructured in a way that would facilitate the apparent difficulty in recruiting somebody with the right qualifications to the post of Personnel Manager as it is currently constituted with the responsibility that it currently has.

HON J J BOSSANO:

There is an acting Personnel Manager now. Does he not have the right qualifications?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes indeed. There is an acting Personnel Manager, in my opinion, he has all the qualifications. From what I have seen of him, it seems to me anyway, that he has all the technical qualifications and indeed experience, but he does not wish to apply for the post as it is presently constituted. The Government are not minded to forcibly

transfer somebody to a post at that level which they do not want to do. In any case it is a senior officer post and this person is not a senior officer. I do not think one can force people to accept a post on promotion, even if it were desirable to try, which in my judgement is a matter of management. It is never desirable even if one has the power to do it.

NO. 771 OF 2001

THE HON J C PEREZ

GIBRALTAR DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

How many people have been recruited into the Development Corporation in this financial year giving a breakdown of the posts and the area of employment?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

There has been no recruitment in the current financial year.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 771 OF 2001

HON J C PEREZ:

When the Chief Minister talks about the current financial year does he mean the one starting on the 1st April, not when the question was put?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is the 3rd May now. If the hon Member checks when the question was put, he will find that the question was put during the current financial year, after the 1st April. The current financial year means the current financial year and given that he asked the question after the 1st April, it means the same to both of us.

HON J C PEREZ:

Could the Chief Minister have possibly thought that I meant the other year and has he got the information available in supplementaries to give me for the year 2000/2001?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I have far too much to do to add to my considerable responsibilities, the almost impossible task of fathoming out what might be in the hon Member's mind. Given the outburst that we have had during the last House about the Government not sticking to the question and the Government not giving out factual information, I am sure the hon Member will forgive me if I say that there seems to be an element of inconsistency here. I do indeed have the information in respect of the previous financial year, but it is not the answer to the question that he has asked. On the assumption that the hon Member graciously, or even ungraciously as appears to be the case, accepts that he made a mistake in formulating his question, the information that is not sought in his question relating to the last financial year, is that in the last financial year, as opposed to the current one, 30 persons were recruited into the Gibraltar Development Corporation, 28 permanent or contract staff and two temporary staff.

HON J C PEREZ:

Would the Chief Minister have the breakdown of posts and the area of employment?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, I do.

HON J C PEREZ:

Is this information which the Chief Minister is graciously willing to impart as well?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Government take the view that they have an obligation to impart information and therefore whether I do it graciously or ungraciously is irrelevant. I have an obligation to impart information whether it comes graciously or not. In fact, as the hon Member must have deduced after opposing us for five years in this Parliament, the hon Member must know that we graciously and willingly give information to the Opposition Members indeed in greater quantities than they seek. Unfortunately, as it is not the information that the hon Member sought in his question, I do not have it in a form that I can just hand over to him here and now. I have it in the form of information to me, but it is too voluminous to read out, too many details. So what I will do is that I will have this information translated into a letter addressed to the hon Member, which I will have sent to him at the earliest opportunity.

NO. 772 OF 2001

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

TRANSFER OF BOATS AT WESTERN BEACH TO COALING ISLAND

Can Government give an indication as to when they can expect the transfer of boats at Western Beach to the area of Coaling Island to commence?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The position remains as explained in answer to Question No. 403 of 2001.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 772 OF 2001

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Which means that discussions are progressing well and if they are progressing well, at least can the Chief Minister confirm that this will happen?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The position remains as explained in answer to Question No. 403 of 2001.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Yes, but I have Question No. 403 of 2001, and it says that discussions are progressing well. As a result of the answer that he has given, I am asking whether the Chief Minister can give a commitment that the transfer will take place.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

If in answer to Question No. 403 of 2001, I told the hon Lady that discussions with the MOD had progressed very well and there is the outline of an agreement in principle, implementation requires discussion with a third party and these are now also progressing well and I tell her that the position remains as set out in answer to Question No. 403 of 2001, then she should deduce from that that the discussions are proceeding well. Is that not exactly what my answer means? I do not know why she wants me to use a different language.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Because sometimes it is so difficult to capture the meaning of what the Chief Minister says that I just wanted to get a categorical yes or no.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

If it is difficult to capture what the Chief Minister says it means, it must be because the hon Lady has a problem in understanding. No-one has ever accused me of being inarticulate to the point of not making myself understandable. I am sorry that

the hon Lady should have difficulty in understanding what I say. I will try to be more articulate when I talk to her in the future, so to facilitate her understanding.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

In view that all Opposition Members seem to have the same problem can the Chief Minister be more articulate now by saying whether he can give a commitment that the transfer of the boats will occur during this year?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Government give political commitments to the electorate in their election manifesto. What the Government are committed to, to the electorate, is contained in the election manifesto upon which the Government were elected. The Government do not give political commitments to the Opposition.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Can the Chief Minister say whether his Government will honour the commitment that he gave in his election manifesto to the electorate?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Government work very hard to honour all their commitments contained in the manifesto, and indeed I am delighted to tell the hon Lady that the Government are ahead of schedule in delivering our political commitments contained in the 2000 election manifesto. There are from time to time - I do not think this is going to be one such case - circumstances outside the control of Government that prevent us from honouring manifesto commitments. On the occasions where that happens it is up to the electorate to judge what they believe the electoral consequences should be of any such failure.

NO. 773 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBTEL LEGAL CASE

In relation to the Gibnet case, can Government say whether the final total cost of the legal action is now known, listing the bills that have been received from their legal advisers, giving the dates and amounts involved and showing which have been paid and which remain outstanding?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 774 of 2001.

NO. 774 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBNET LEGAL CASE

Can Government say whether any compensation has been paid, is owing or has been claimed by Gibnet as a result of the legal action against the Government, if so, how much and when was that paid?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The final cost of the Gibnet legal action is not yet known. As stated in answer to Question No. 419 of 2001, the Government have received bills from their legal advisers of a total of £176,649.54 for work carried out in relation to the case. No further bills have been received after 1st February 2001. The extensive, factual and statistical information requested by the hon Member in the other part of his question is set out in the written schedule that I will now hand to him. All these bills have been paid. As has already been explained Gibnet submitted their bill of costs for the proceedings at the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal which totalled £117,802.68. The Costs Judge has allowed costs of £101,486.77 to Gibnet. Gibnet has filed a claim for damages in July last year, but that claim has not been proceeded with and my understanding is that it is intended not to proceed with.

Answer to Question 774 of 2001

The bills were;

Hassans:

Bill dated 26/3/99	-	£22,996.02
Bill dated 6/7/99	-	£16,954.69
Bill dated 30/9/99	-	£15,112.50
Bill dated 20/3/00	-	£38,522.90
Bill dated 5/5/00	-	£8,835.00
Bill dated 13/7/00	-	£26,171.22
Bill dated 27/9/00	-	£21,513.11
Bill dated 1/2/01	-	£10,017.10

O'Connor (Brussels):

Bill dated 16/5/00	-	£407 approx. (24,454 Belgian Francs)
--------------------	---	--------------------------------------

Michael Llamas:

Bill dated 27/9/00	-	£9,620.00
Bill dated 29/1/01	-	£6,500.00

NO. 775 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

EEC - TAXATION OF SAVINGS INCOME

Can Government say what views, if any, they have put to the British Government on the application to Gibraltar of the future directive on the taxation of savings income and what is the position of the British Government?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Directives apply to Gibraltar automatically as they will to the rest of the European Community. It is proposed that this directive will allow three existing Member States to enjoy – what we regard – as beneficial transitional provisions. The Gibraltar Government's position is that Gibraltar should also be allowed to enjoy such transitional provisions. The UK will not benefit from these transitional provisions and have not sought to do so.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 775 OF 2001

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Chief Minister explain to the House what the position of the British Government is in relation to this request for a transitional period?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I suppose that by now the hon Member will have seen the Government's consultation paper on all these matters. The issue is dealt with there. The position of the British Government to date has been that as the United Kingdom are themselves not seeking to benefit from these transitional provisions, they do not think that Gibraltar can either.

HON J J BOSSANO:

When they say that they do not think that Gibraltar can either, are they saying that it is not possible because of the nature of our membership of the European Union as a territory for whose external relations they are responsible or that they do not think we should have it if they do not?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

They have never actually articulated the basis for that position but I think it is as much the latter as the former.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is the position then that the matter is now closed and the United Kingdom have no intentions of pursuing it or is the debate between GOG and London still open?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I cannot say whether the United Kingdom are proceeding on the basis that the debate is closed. The debate is certainly not closed as far as the Gibraltar Government are concerned and we are conducting ourselves on that basis. Namely, that the debate is not closed. The realities of life are being pointed out carefully to the British Government.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Are the Government aware whether the British Government have replied or taken on board that view in relation to this future directive? There was a council meeting of ECOFIN on the 2nd March 2001, and several statements were made by some of the Member States. One of those made by Luxembourg, which presumably is one of the ones claiming the transitional period for themselves, is, and I quote from the minutes, "Luxembourg considers that these conclusions can only be included in the directive if it is ensured that they are applied in a strictly identical fashion to the associated or dependent territories and to States with which the Commission and the presidency should engage in negotiations with the view to adopting equivalent measures". Does the Chief Minister have any information to the view and position of the British Government in relation to that statement?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

That statement is not as transcendental as the hon Member might think. The Feira Agreement itself which constitutes the political agreement in relation to this directive may contain what are called sequencing provisions. All this is perfectly explained in detail in the Government's consultation paper, but the Feira Agreement contains what are called sequencing provisions. This means that the 15 Member States have agreed between themselves that they would not unanimously as is required adopt this directive unless certain third countries and certain associated territories of Member States have adopted – in the case of third countries equivalent provisions and in the case of overseas territories or associated territories the same measures. The sequencing provisions are "this is what we want to achieve, but we will not adopt it for ourselves unless there are six countries, the United States, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, San Marino, Andorra, Monaco, unless they agree and commit themselves beforehand to adopting equivalent measures, equivalent as opposed to the same." Equivalent meaning measures that achieve the same objectives even though they might be different measures. In respect of the associated territories, which includes overseas territories, colonies, crown dependencies and whatever the other constitutional status might be of the Dutch territory and things like that, they have got to commit themselves to accepting the same measures and if those two things do not happen, then under the Feira Council Agreement, these measures will not be adopted by the community for itself either. Gibraltar is in a slightly different position because we are not in this directive by virtue of being an associated territory of the UK. Under the sequencing clause we are the only associated territory of the UK, whether overseas or crown dependency, that would be bound by this directive because of our status in the EU regardless of the sequencing clause. Luxembourg is one of the Member States that would benefit from this transitional provision. But the clause, the declaration that the hon Member has read out as having been made by Luxembourg, does not refer to the transitional arrangements. It applies to the whole measure including after the transitional arrangements.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Given the obstacles that exist the indications then are that it does not look as if agreement in this directive is imminent. This could be quite a lengthy process?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes indeed. It is not a forgone conclusion. There is a considerable amount of political hostility even amongst some Member States to this directive. For example, the position of Luxembourg, Belgium and Austria, is that we will veto this unless those countries and those territories that we have just been discussing agree to do the same. It is not a forgone conclusion that all those countries are going to agree to fall into line. The United Kingdom will try to persuade their overseas territories and their crown dependencies, so it is not a forgone conclusion. There is more because this directive is part of the so called Monti package. The other parts of the Monti package include the EU code of conduct and business taxation. If this part of the package does not go through, there are Member States that say that they will not allow the rest of the package to go through. If this directive goes down the code of conduct itself may go down, none of which is to be confused with the OECD Report, which is a very different matter.

NO. 776 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

OECD TAX INITIATIVES

Are Government in a position to say how they intend to reposition our finance centre and reshape our tax laws and administrative practices to ensure the continued prosperity of a competitive finance centre in Gibraltar?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The position remains as stated in answer to Question No. 417 of 2001.

ORAL

NO. 777 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

OECD TAX INITIATIVES

How many reports on the Government's position in relation to the various international tax initiatives have been printed, where were they printed and when did this come out to tender?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 778 to 782 of 2001.

NO. 778 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

OECD TAX INITIATIVES

How many parties have been sent copies of the Government's report on their position in relation to the various international tax initiatives, and can Government provide a copy of the list?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 777 and 779 to 782 of 2001.

NO. 779 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

OECD TAX INITIATIVES

What was the cost of producing, printing and distributing the Government's report on their position in relation to the various international tax initiatives, and can Government give a breakdown of the sum?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 777 to 778 and 780 to 782 of 2001.

NO. 780 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

OECD TAX INITIATIVES

What formal and informal mechanisms to enable interested parties to express their views and ideas on the various international tax initiatives do Government intend to establish?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 777 to 779 and 781 to 782 of 2001.

NO. 781 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

OECD TAX INITIATIVES

How many joint working groups do Government intend to establish as part of their announced consultation mechanism in respect of the international tax initiatives and can Government list the intended composition and terms of reference of each?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 777 to 780 and 782 of 2001.

NO. 782 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

OECD TAX INITIATIVES

Can Government list the important compliance requirements that remain undetermined in relation to the OECD and other international tax initiatives?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Five hundred copies of the Government's report and consultation paper have been printed. The contract for the design and production of the booklet was given to Copywrite. There was no tender process for this particular contract given the shortness of time available. The document has been sent to all licensed financial services institutions. The external cost of producing the document was £850 – I would like the opportunity to check and confirm that figure, it seems very low to me. Distribution was done by the Government. Individual or firms within the Finance Centre may meet with the Finance Centre Director to express or discuss their views. Views may also be submitted in writing. In addition, Government will be holding meetings with sector associations and with the Finance Centre Council. When it comes to making decisions on which specific remedial actions to adopt Government will form working groups. It is not yet possible to give details of these working groups. The issues that remain undetermined by the OECD relate to the scope of application of the report, the exact meaning of the ring fencing criteria, the exchange of information model and grand-fathering rules.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 777 TO 782 OF 2001

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Government confirm, when the Chief Minister in his forward to the report highlights the fact that these joint working groups are to be established, that the position is that the Government do not actually know what the groups are yet and what they are going to be involved with, what their terms of reference are or who is going to be on them?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

That is correct.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Does the report that the Government produce actually propose any action to deal with the perceived dangers of this international initiative or does it just point to the dangers and invites comment?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I am sorry that the question reveals that despite the considerable effort that we have put into drafting the Leader of the Opposition has not yet found the time to read it. I

think that it is important that the Opposition should read it and if they have not received a copy, then I will certainly be happy to send them one. It is an extraordinarily informative analysis of each of these initiatives, how they represent a challenge to Gibraltar, which of our current laws and practices will be in breach of it and would have to be changed. It is a worthwhile educational informative document and I would encourage the hon Members to try and find the time to read it and if they have not had copies directly from the Government I will see to it that they receive copies, with the caution please that it does not suit Gibraltar in terms of our international Finance Centre marketing and projection for this matter to be debated publicly at this stage. This is why the distribution of the document has been kept to within the industry. In answer to the hon Member's question, which I say reveals that the hon Member has not yet had time to read it, because in my preface one of the things that I say is that the document does not identify remedial actions, first of all because it is not necessary at this stage in the context of the programme and timetable, which is also set out in there. Secondly, that the finalisation of the remedial action is not possible given that there are still these four areas, which I have given in my answer where the OECD yet has not fixed the goal posts. The criteria not yet determined. The position is that the Government have done a fair amount of thinking and preparatory work and research and exploration around what are the possible causes for remedial action but that it is not possible to finalise this, at least to the point where it is possible to go public on that, because some of the obstacles have themselves not yet been fixed by the OECD. That is part of the process that we are currently engaged in, in the bilateral discussions with the OECD, as is Jersey and Guernsey and many other of the territories, precisely to try and pin the OECD down in respect of some of these undetermined issues so that when we do make the commitment and we do start the detail planning, we know what we are planning around.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I can confirm that we have not been provided with a copy of the report and therefore I have not studied it.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Hon Dr Garcia has studied it.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

All that is available is the preface. We have not seen the report itself.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The preface has not been separately published.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The Government have not provided the Opposition with a copy of the report, let us put it this way, therefore, we are asking questions without the benefit of having read the report. But can I ask, is it then that the Government have already got a view on the areas which are not still to be decided? That is to say, the impression that I have been given is that there are a number of areas he mentioned, the scope, the ring fencing, the exchange of information and the grand-fathering rules are still not totally clear what it is that the OECD is looking for. Presumably there are other areas which are not unclear or is it that it is all unclear?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. These areas are absolutely key to the planning. For example, the extent and meaning of the ring fencing criteria and what is acceptable and not acceptable to the OECD by way of eliminating what they call ring fencing is absolutely fundamental to the design of a remedial action plan. The ring fencing criteria means in a nutshell that one cannot ring fence one's domestic economy from concessions and concessionary tax regimes that are available to the non-domestic economy. The extent to which we plan around that so that we can continue to have a finance centre in Gibraltar depends on fixing exactly what is acceptable and what is not acceptable to the OECD by way of complying with that criteria. The Government have broad ideas in terms of how these initiatives could be dealt with given the information that we already have. The process that we are now engaged in is to make sure that when the detail emerges, it will not derail those broad directional strategies that currently exist.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is it then that, for example, in ring fencing the broad ideas have to be put to the OECD to get a reaction from them because each jurisdiction has to have their own tailor made response to the ring fencing depending on the nature of the mechanism it has?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The OECD report requires all of the territories to submit to the OECD what is called an implementation plan. The published date is 31st December 2001, but there has been an unpublished extension to that. The actual deadline for the submission of the implementation plan is actually going to be 30th July 2002. Yes, each territory has got to submit to the OECD an implementation plan setting out how they intend to eliminate those harmful tax practices which have been identified in respect of it. Each jurisdiction on the list has been put on the list of territories which the OECD regards as tax havens because of the existence in them of certain regimes. They are not the same. In our case it is the exempt company, the qualifying company et cetera, et cetera. In the case of Cayman Islands it is something else. In the case of Jersey it is something else, but what we have in common is that we each have some aspect of our tax regime that they have judged to be harmful. The solutions are necessarily different for each territory although the objective and the result has to be the same. Namely, in terms of ring fencing, that there should be no ring fencing of one's domestic economy in other ways. That there should be no discrimination against one's resident taxpayers in that one denies them access to regimes which are available to non residents.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Am I correct in thinking that this only applies to corporate taxpayers not to individuals, the OECD?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The report on its face says that it applies to what is called "Business Entities". It has recently transpired from discussions that have been held with the OECD that they believe that in the case of savings instruments it may apply to non business entities.

That is why one of the items on the outstanding list of issues is the scope of application of the report.

HON J J BOSSANO:

If it did apply to savings instruments for non business investors, would that not cover the same ground as the directive of the EEC that may not materialise?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It would indeed cover part of that ground. It is something which is positive for us because if we end up having to do something because a directive applies to us, it suits us that our competing finance centres are bound by the same regime through the OECD. That aspect of it is actually positive to Gibraltar. It brings the rest of them into the position in which we might find ourselves under the directive either before if we do not get it or after we do get it the transition period.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Given that the directive might never happen from the answer to the earlier question, are we not as likely to finish up having to do it, not to go on the black list even without the directive. Our competitors in the EEC are not on this list of tax havens are they?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The hon Member is drawing me further than I would wish to be drawn publicly at this stage. It is true that no EU Member State is on the list of originally 35 tax havens, but as members of the OECD, all of them except Luxembourg, has signed up the report and is therefore committed to implementing it. Luxembourg has abstained. The consequences of not implementing the report are the application of a common framework of defensive measures, namely, sanctions. This very issue is known as the level playing field issue and one of the issues that is under discussion with the OECD, not just by Gibraltar but by all the other serious centres that have not yet given the commitment and possibly also the not so serious centres, is to ensure that all OECD member countries and non OECD member countries either comply or will face the same sanctions. In other words, this is not a set of rules for the 35 territories and that everybody else carries on making hay. That is known as the level playing field issue.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In terms of the broad ideas that the Government already have, which could be finessed when they get detailed responses, are these going to be discussed with the people who have been sent the report or are the discussions going to be limited to the reactions to the report?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. Can I suggest to the hon Member whilst he gets the whole of the report that at least he borrows from Dr Garcia the preface, which he already has because these issues are covered directly in the preface. This is an information and consultation report about the threats and challenges themselves and we are inviting feedback comments on that. The preface also says, and it was the subject matter of Dr Garcia's original question or perhaps the first or second supplementary, that in addition to that we would be setting up consultation and working groups with the industry in relation to the remedial action as and when that begins to take shape

following the settling of the outstanding issues. They are different issues. One is feedback on the report as it now is and a separate exercise is consultation on the remedial measures.

HON J J BOSSANO:

My question is, in that consultation process in the second stage, will the Government be putting to the different groups their own broad ideas or will they just be pursuing what has been the initial response of these groups in further depth? Are they going to be spelling out their ideas at some stage within these groups to the people in the industry?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

That is exactly what I have just told the hon Member, the preface says, the Government are going to do. We are going to be consulting on the proposed measures that the Government are contemplating or will be contemplating implementing.

ORAL

NO. 783 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

CASEMATES DEVELOPMENT

Have the Fine Arts Society and The Arts and Crafts Association now accepted the offer of Units 13B, 14B and 15B of the Casemates Development?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 784 of 2001.

NO. 784 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

CASEMATES DEVELOPMENT

When is Unit 18B at the Casemates Development going to be put out to tender?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The acceptance of the offer of these Units by the Fine Arts Society and the Arts and Crafts Association has never been in doubt. What remains outstanding are administrative issues such as who will sign the leases, how the premises will be run and managed et cetera. Unit 18B will be advertised shortly, as well as Units 21B and 6E.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 783 AND 784 OF 2001

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Chief Minister expand on Units 12, 21B and 16. Are those also Units that have been handed back or are the Units going to be used for some other purpose and the Government now intend to put them out to tender?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Presumably the hon Member refers to Units 21B and 6C, not 12 as he erroneously said. I do not have the numbering plan at Casemates in my head. I know that one of the Units on the corridor upstairs was not taken up and I do not know which is the other one. I am told that there are three Units. I think that 6E may be one of the Arcade Units in the tunnel. There is a Unit upstairs, there is a Unit in the Arcade and I do not know which is the third Unit.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In relation to Question No. 783 of 2001, the Arts and Crafts Association and the Fine Arts Society, can the Minister say when it is expected that these administrative issues will be resolved?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is in their hands. The Government are not raising any obstacles. They are not Corporate entities, they are volunteer organisations, they do not have a formal structure. They are getting their act together, so to speak, and as soon as they are ready the Government will just transfer it to them.

ORAL

NO. 785 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR BUSINESS EXPENDITURE SURVEY

At what stage is the production of the Gibraltar business expenditure survey input/output study 2000?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 786 and 787 of 2001.

ORAL

NO. 786 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SURVEY

What is the exact number of questionnaires on the Gibraltar Business Development Survey input/output study 2000 that were sent out to each sector, and what was the exact number of returns from each sector?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 785 and 787 of 2001.

NO. 787 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SURVEY

What payments have been made to date to those producing the Gibraltar Business Expenditure Survey input/output study 2000?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The consultants confirm that the model is well on the way to completion and estimate that it is now around 75 per cent complete.

The consultants confirm that, as explained in answer to Question No. 577 of 2000, 500 questionnaires were handed out to businesses throughout Gibraltar during the visit by the data collection team in May 2000. It is not possible to say exactly how many were given out by sector since some of the questionnaires completed by businesses and associations were composite questionnaires. As further explained in answer to Question No. 170 of 2001, around 50 per cent of the companies targeted have responded. In terms of a breakdown by sector, the consultants confirm the following number of returns:

	<u>No. of Returns</u>
Manufacturing	7
Electricity and Water	3
Construction	5
Wholesale	7
Retail	35
Hotels	3
Restaurants	13
Transport	132
Communications	3
Financial Intermediation	21
Real Estate & Business Activities	24
Government & Welfare Services	1
Other Services	7
TOTAL	261

The cost to date of the Gibraltar Business Expenditure Survey Input/Output Study is £49,938.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS.785 TO 787 OF 2001

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is it on the results of these responses that the model is going to be constructed, which will be used to calculate the National Income figures for Gibraltar?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I understand that there are nearly 7,000 tourist expenditure questionnaires, which will also be inputted into the model. I assume that with that caveat the answer to the hon Member's question is yes. I have not yet seen the draft model or been briefed about how it has been arrived at. Therefore, I cannot with any degree of reliability answer a question to what eventually should be the composition of the model. But when I know it I will certainly let the House know.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Were the questionnaires the same for all the sectors?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not know.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Would it be possible to be provided with a copy of an unused questionnaire?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I will ask the consultants. I really do not think it is appropriate to expose the machinery or methodology of how this exercise has been carried out, whilst it is being carried out. When the model has been produced and published, if the hon Member then wishes to be critical or not about how it has been arrived at, I think that will be the appropriate time for the hon Member to ask questions including documentation, about how it has been constituted rather than at this stage when the process is still on-going. It is not something that the Gibraltar Government are doing. As the hon Member knows we have recruited people that hold themselves out as experts in this field and I suppose that they know what they are doing.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am not passing judgement on their expertise. What I am asking is if it is possible to get a copy of the questionnaire that has been distributed so that we can see what are the nature of the questions that people are being asked to answer. It is not a secret document.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I will find out. I am sure the hon Member could get it anyway from one of the recipients.

HON J J BOSSANO:

They have to be returned.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No doubt they keep copies.

NO. 788 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

MEETING WITH THE GOVERNMENTS OF JERSEY/GUERNSEY

What was the cost, with a breakdown, of attending the meeting in London with the Government's of Jersey and Guernsey on 9th April 2001, what was on the agenda and what were the results?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The information as to cost is not yet available to the Government. It is inappropriate to give a public account of confidential discussions between Governments, especially on sensitive issues. But, as has already been reported in the press, the purpose of the meeting was to exchange views on the OECD Report on harmful tax practices and to co-ordinate positions in relation to the giving of commitments to the OECD.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO.788 OF 2001

HON J J BOSSANO:

Following that meeting is there now a common position between ourselves and the Crown Dependencies on the response to the OECD?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

There is a very large measure of common ground.

NO. 789 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

VISAS FOR NON-EU NATIONALS

How many visas for Non-EU Nationals wishing to travel to Gibraltar have been issued at the British Consulate in:

- (a) Tangier
- (b) Casablanca

On a monthly basis since February 2001 inclusive?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The extensive, factual and statistical information requested by the hon Member is set out in the schedule that I now hand to him.

Answer to Question 789 of 2001

The number of visas issued to Non-EU Nationals by the British Consulate General in Casablanca and the British Consulate in Tangier since February 2001 inclusive is as follows:

CASABLANCA

FEBRUARY 2001	8
MARCH 2001	18
APRIL 2001	5
(UP TO AND INCLUDING 23 APRIL 2001)	

TANGIER

FEBRUARY 2001	74
MARCH 2001	91
APRIL 2001	73
(UP TO AND INCLUDING 23 APRIL 2001)	

NO. 790 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

NORTH MOLE DEVELOPMENT

Have Government now reached any conclusions on the possible development of the area in the North Mole formerly known as Atlantic Village, and if so what is being planned for the area?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

No final decisions have been made.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 790 OF 2001

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Are the Government in a position to say whether any proposals have been made by interested parties with regard to that area?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I am not aware of any and the site has not been made available for private proposals.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Government say what kind of development is envisaged in that area, given that it is not a private development?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No final decisions have been made.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Chief Minister say what is being considered even though it has not been decided?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. I think it is inappropriate to give information on the basis of what is being considered. The hon Member is entitled to information about decisions that the Government have made, not to be exposed to the internal Government discussions and consideration processes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The position then is that it is unlikely that anything will be happening in the current financial year with respect to developing that site?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not think I have said anything that entitles the hon Member to draw that deduction.

HON J J BOSSANO:

When we come to the Estimates and we look at the Improvement and Development Fund, are we likely to find anything there?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

As the hon Member is aware the Improvement and Development Fund does not set out in detail, individual projects, upon which the Heads might be deployed.

NO. 791 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

OFFSHORE BETTING

Further to the answer to questions in February 2001, what is the position on the license to conduct offshore betting from Gibraltar that was taken forward to the application stage, and what is the position on the one pending consideration?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 792, 793, 795 and 796 of 2001.

NO. 792 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

OFFSHORE BETTING

Can Government say how many persons are employed in the offshore betting industry, indicating how many are part-time and how many are full-time as at:

- (a) 31st December 2000 and
- (b) 31st March 2001,

listing the companies where such persons are employed and how many are Gibraltarians, how many are EU Nationals and how many are non-EU Nationals?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 791, 793, 795 and 796 of 2001.

NO. 793 OF 2001

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

OFFSHORE BETTING

How many enquiries for a licence to conduct offshore betting from Gibraltar have been received since 1st February 2001, on what dates and by whom, how many have progressed to the application stage, how many have been rejected and how many are pending consideration?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 791, 792, 795 and 796 of 2001.

ORAL

NO. 794 OF 2001

THE HON J J BOSSANO

OFFSHORE BETTING

Are Government aware of any move to reposition offshore companies operating from Gibraltar to the Falkland Islands?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

No.

ORAL

NO. 795 OF 2001

THE HON J J BOSSANO

OFFSHORE BETTING

Can Government state by which date the Ladbrokes call centre is expected to cease operations?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 791, 792, 793 and 796 of 2001.

NO. 796 OF 2001

THE HON J J BOSSANO

OFFSHORE BETTING

Can Government list the companies currently licensed to run offshore betting operations and the number of employees engaged in the sector, giving a breakdown of full-time and part-time employment and the number of Gibraltarians employed in each category?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Of the two companies, the position is that in the first case the application has been approved in principle but the applicant has not yet entered into an agreement with the Government, in the latter case the application has been withdrawn.

There are currently nine licensed offshore betting operators in Gibraltar. These are:-

A F Ballester Ltd
Demmysportsbet.com
Eurobet
Ladbrokes
Netgame
Rockgame
Simon Bold
Stan James
Victor Chandler International

As at 24th April 2001, there was a total of 629 employees engaged by the nine companies.

The comparative total of the number of employees in January 2001 is the same, but with 577 full-time and 52 part-time jobs. The employment information requested was as at 31st December 2000 and 31st March 2001. As the data was readily available to the Government as at 18th January 2001 and is broadly similar to the latest employment statistics, I now hand the two hon Members, who asked for employment statistics on offshore betting companies, the latest information.

Of about 16 enquiries received since 1st February 2001, two are being taken forward to the application stage and are pending consideration. The Government policy on the issue of gaming licences remains as set out in answer to Question No. 580 of 2000.

The Government have been informed by Ladbrokes that their best estimate of when its call centre servicing UK customers will be relocated to the UK is not earlier than October 2001 and it is unlikely to be later than January 2002.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 791 TO 793 AND 795 AND 796 OF 2001

HON J J BOSSANO:

In the light of other possible incoming operators and the remaining ones there, is it Government's view that any loss of jobs by the departure of Ladbrokes in October is likely to be absorbed by expansion by the remaining or incoming operators?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Some of it will happen in that way. It is not clear how many jobs are going to be lost as a result of this transfer. Ladbrokes has not yet indicated how many of their current jobs are going to go as a result of the transfer of the call centre. It may not be that all of those jobs can be saved before or in time with that departure, so there may be an element of job losses in the interim. The Government hope that Ladbrokes can find a buyer for what is really a very state of the art sophisticated call centre in which it has invested several millions of pounds, on which it is unlikely to wish to abandon. Ladbrokes are actively engaged in seeking a buyer to sell that facility. That I think is the best prospect for saving the maximum number of jobs.

HON J J BOSSANO:

That would have to be still within the time scale that has been mentioned of October and January. If they do not manage to find somebody then, are they likely to go?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Their departure date is driven by their negotiations with the Treasury in the UK, not by whether they can find a buyer for the facility here.

	<u>Gibraltar</u>	<u>Other British</u>	<u>Spanish</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Total</u>
Full-time	183	280	26	83	572
Part-time	<u>21</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>57</u>
Total	<u>204</u>	<u>310</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>88</u>	<u>629</u>

OFFSHORE GAMING COMPANIES - EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS AS AT 24 APRIL 2001

<u>Licensed Operators</u>		<u>Gibraltarian</u>	<u>Other British</u>	<u>Spanish</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Total</u>
Ladbroke (Gibraltar) Ltd - Full Time		71	82	6	15	174
- Part Time		19	28	1	3	51
Sub-Total		90	110	7	18	225
Victor Chandler (Int) Ltd - Full Time		80	125	15	52	272
- Part Time		2	2	0	2	6
Sub-Total		82	127	15	54	278
Netgame Ltd)		8	1	4	0	13
Rockgame Ltd)						
Eurobet (Gibraltar) Ltd		6	4	0	8	18
Stan James (Gibraltar) Ltd		7	61	0	0	68
Simon Bold (Gibraltar) Ltd		3	6	0	0	9
Demmysportsbet.com Ltd		5	1	0	1	7
A F Ballester Ltd		3	0	1	7	11
Totals:-	Full Time	183	280	26	83	572
	Part Time	21	30	1	5	57
Overall Total		204	310	27	88	629

NO. 797 OF 2001

THE HON J J BOSSANO

RATES

Can Government state what was the total amount of Rates paid in the last two quarters in respect of commercial Rates where the 20 per cent rebate was obtained by those paying the Rates demanded within three months of the due date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The second quarter £1,113,319 and the third quarter £1,197,793.

ORAL

NO. 798 OF 2001

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GOODS IMPORTED

What was the value of goods imported by land and sea, other than petroleum products, since 1st January 2001?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 799 of 2001.

NO. 799 OF 2001

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GOODS IMPORTED

What was the value of goods imported by land and sea, other than petroleum products, since 1st January 2001?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

	<u>Land</u> <u>£ million</u>	<u>Sea</u> <u>£ million</u>
January	21.6	6.7
February	17.3	3.3
March	17.7	2.3
Total	<u>56.6</u>	<u>12.3</u>

NO. 800 OF 2001

THE HON J J BOSSANO

ADVERTISING IN NEWSPAPERS

Can Government state how much money has been spent on advertising in Gibraltar newspapers in the Financial Year 2000/2001, giving the amount and the name of the publication?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 801 and 802 of 2001.

NO. 801 OF 2001

THE HON J J BOSSANO

ADVERTISING IN NEWSPAPERS

Can Government state how much money has been spent on advertising in Gibraltar publications other than newspapers in the Financial Years 1998/1999, 1999/2000 and 2000/2001, giving the amount and the name of the publication?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 800 and 802 of 2001.

NO. 802 OF 2001

THE HON J J BOSSANO

ADVERTISING IN NEWSPAPERS

Can Government state how much money has been spent on advertising in Spanish newspapers in the Financial Years 1998/1999, 1999/2000 and 2000/2001, giving the amount and the name of the publication?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Gibraltar Chronicle	£54,564.50
Panorama (weekly)	£23,575.00
Vox (weekly)	£36,829.00
Gibsport	£ 170.00

I am told that the reason for the disparity between the two weekly papers is, firstly, that the Panorama apparently has not invoiced Government in respect of the month of February, and secondly, that there are some instances when there is a need to publish a notice before a weekend for some reason to do with the weekend and these are mainly in respect of traffic notices and things like that. These are put in the Vox which publishes on a Friday but not in Panorama which publishes on a Monday evening.

On Spanish newspaper advertising, the position is:

1998/1999	Zero
1999/2000	Zero
2000/2001	£532.11

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 800 TO 802 OF 2001

HON J J BOSSANO:

We also asked for the name of the publication and it asked in respect of Question No. 801 of 2001, for the Financial Years, am I to take it that Gibsport is the only publication in respect of Question No. 801 and the only one in three years?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Question No. 801 of 2001, asks for expenditure in publications other than newspapers. The answer is that there has been no expenditure incurred on advertising during the Financial Years 1998/1999, 1999/2000 and 2000/2001 in publications other than newspapers.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The £170 in Gibsport is that Gibsport is deemed to be a newspaper and is in respect of the year 2000/2001 and in answer to Question No. 800 of 2001, is that correct?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

That is how it has been dealt with. I suppose the definition of a newspaper is something that needs to register under the Newspaper Ordinance. I do not know how the distinction is made. It does give sports news and I suppose at least sportsmen regard that as a newspaper.

NO. 803 OF 2001

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX - CORPORATION TAX

Can Government state how many companies have declared a taxable profit (a) above £35,000 and (b) below £35,000 in the tax year ending June 1999 and what is the total amount of tax assessed and tax paid in each category?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 804 of 2001.

NO. 804 OF 2001

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX - CORPORATION TAX

Can Government state how many companies have declared a taxable profit (a) above £35,000 and (b) below £35,000 in the tax year ending June 2000 and what is the total amount of tax assessed and tax paid in each category?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The information requested by the hon Member is set out in the schedule that I now hand to him.

Answer to Question 804 of 2001

Question 803 of 2001	Question 804 of 2001
-------------------------	-------------------------

Year of Assessment

	<u>1999/2000</u>	<u>2000/2001</u>
<u>Under £35,000</u>		
No of Companies assessed	1064	148
Total assessed under £35,000	£1.1M	£0.3M
Total paid under £35,000	£0.6M	£0.1M
 <u>Over £35,000</u>		
No of Companies assessed	166	43
Total assessed over £35,000	£11.4M	£5.9M
Total paid over £35,000	£10.2M	£2.8M

NO. 805 OF 2001

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX - CORPORATION TAX

Can Government state what is the amount collected in Corporation Tax in each month since December 2000?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Corporation Tax collected in each month since December 2000 (net of refunds) was:

	<u>£ Million</u>
December 2000	0.2
January 2001	0.3
February 2001	1.5
March 2001	1.9

NO. 806 OF 2001

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX - PAYE

Can Government state how much was collected in PAYE each month since December 2000?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Net of refunds and subject to possible adjustments when reconciled with the Treasury Books:

	<u>£ Million</u>
December 2000	4.7
January 2001	4.3
February 2001	3.6
March 2001	4.4

NO. 807 OF 2001

THE HON J J BOSSANO

REPRESENTATIONS BY THE FCO TO THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT

Are Government aware whether the Foreign and Commonwealth Office have made representations to Spain following the accusations against Gibraltar made by Spanish Foreign Minister Josep Pique during a recent visit to Argentina and what is the nature of the representations made and what has been the reply?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Gibraltar Government are not aware whether the Foreign and Commonwealth Office have made any such representations.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 807 OF 2001

HON J J BOSSANO:

Have the Government of Gibraltar requested of the Foreign Office that they should respond to these in line with the view that was expressed by the Foreign Affairs Committee that the Spaniards should not be allowed to get away with these things?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Gibraltar Government constantly ask the United Kingdom to rebut the defamatory accusations made by Spain against Gibraltar. The United Kingdom's position, as the hon Member knows, is that they do not engage in megaphone diplomacy. Therefore, we do not ask them to do it on each specific case in which it occurs. I think that the whole House can unite in expressing gratitude to the Foreign Affairs Committee for focusing specifically on this question and making their position, as UK parliamentarians, crystal clear to the United Kingdom Government as to the deficiencies in their interventions on Gibraltar's behalf in this respect.

NO. 808 OF 2001

THE HON J J BOSSANO

1987 AIRPORT AGREEMENT

Have Government been informed by Her Majesty's Government that they will not seek the implementation of the 1987 Airport Agreement?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The 1987 Airport Agreement has been implemented in that Gibraltar was illegally made to choose between putting certain arrangements into effect or staying out of the EU regime relating to liberalised air services. Gibraltar has chosen not to put those arrangements into place and has therefore been suspended from EU air services liberalisation. Only Spain argues that the 1987 Airport Agreement has not been implemented in the sense that the UK/Gibraltar are in breach of an obligation or commitment contained in it. On all the occasions that the airport issue has arisen in discussions between HMG and the Gibraltar Government, the Gibraltar Government's clear understanding of HMG's position is that it is based on the reality that the practical arrangements envisaged as one option under the 1987 Airport Agreement cannot and will not be put into effect.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 808 OF 2001

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is the position of the British Government that they are no longer seeking of the Gibraltar Government that the terms of that Agreement should be put into effect?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I have given a very carefully chosen answer, which I have drafted personally. The 1987 Airport Agreement has been put into effect. The 1987 Airport Agreement was an agreement in which the United Kingdom and Spain agreed that unless Gibraltar did a number of things, it would be excluded from the Air Liberalisation regime, and that is exactly what has happened. Gibraltar has been suspended from the Airport Liberalisation regime because it has not done those things, that is, implementation of the agreement and it is not as the Spaniards argued non implementation. The Spaniards argue that the United Kingdom is in breach of the agreement because the agreement obliged it to implement the arrangements. Our view and the United Kingdom's view is that that is not the effect of the 1987 Airport Agreement and that the effect of the 1987 Airport Agreement was in effect to give Gibraltar a choice, which it has exercised. A choice which the Leader of the Opposition and I could agree that we should never have been made to choose between, but nevertheless given a choice, we have chosen, we have paid the price in our, I suspect, joint opinion an illegal price for that choice, but having made the choice envisaged and given to us under the agreement, the agreement has not been implemented. Therefore I have tried to draw a careful distinction so as not to use language which could be interpreted as being supportive of the Spanish interpretation of breach of the agreement. I have thought to draw a distinction between the arrangements, the

practical arrangements envisaged under one of the two options that we face and the implementation of the agreement, and I have answered the question by making it clear that the United Kingdom no longer expects us to and in terms of the specific supplementary that he has asked, appears to have stopped asking us to do this. I have never been asked in the years that I have been in Government, I do not know if they used to do it to the Leader of the Opposition when he was in Government. I have never been asked in the years that I have been in office to implement the 1987 Airport Agreement arrangements in the first option.

HON J J BOSSANO:

While I am not sure that the definition that the Chief Minister has provided in his answer is really necessary in terms of what the question deals with, in fact, in my view, what leaves us out of the Air Liberalisation measures is the wording of the directive and then the regulation, which says, "Gibraltar is not included until the two Member States come back and inform the Commission that they have implemented the 1987 Joint Declaration." Whether that is a legal binding agreement between the two I am not entirely sure. In any case the arrangements which are required by Community Law in order to have the advantage of joint rights, we should have had unconditionally, it was recently reported in the Spanish media that the United Kingdom was saying would not now be complied with because it was now obsolete. Is that the position that the United Kingdom Government have confirmed to the Gibraltar Government as their current position, which was not always the case, or is all the evidence we have in support of that, the reports, put into the Spanish media apparently by the Spanish Government?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The answer is as I have given to the hon Member, that it seems clear to the Gibraltar Government that Her Majesty's Government's position is based on the reality that the practical arrangements envisaged under the agreement cannot and will not be put into effect. Whether that statement in the Spanish press has been put in there by the British Government or by the Spanish Government or by neither, I do not know.

HON J J BOSSANO:

It is quoting the Spanish Government.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Certainly it is the position of the UK Government that they do not regard it fruitful to continue to seek implementation of the original arrangements. Whether that is for practical political reasons or whether it is for legalistic reasons or the fact that air liberalisation has moved on to the point which renders irrelevant the text of the agreement, I could not say, both, I suspect.

NO. 809 OF 2001

THE HON J J BOSSANO

MATUTES' PROPOSALS

Have Government had confirmation that Her Majesty's Government will be rejecting the Matutes proposals at the next meeting of the Brussels process and is there an indication when this is likely to take place?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Government do not have any such confirmation.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 809 OF 2001

HON J J BOSSANO:

Given again that it is from a Spanish source that we have the information attributed to the Spanish Foreign Secretary himself, that the United Kingdom have now confirmed to him that the proposals will be rejected, have the Government of Gibraltar asked the United Kingdom Government to confirm this?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It has been implicit in the United Kingdom's position that it will give a response at the next Brussels meeting, but we have no formal confirmation of that. I suspect that that is one of the reasons why Brussels meetings have not taken place precisely to avoid the dilemma of the giving of the response. Certainly I think it would be consistent with the indications, although not confirmation, that the United Kingdom Government have led us to understand that they would be responded to at the next Brussels meeting, but we have not had formal written confirmation that this would be so, nor have we sought it in those terms.

HON J J BOSSANO:

My question is not about whether they will be responding because I think the United Kingdom Government through one of their Ministers have actually said in a statement in the House of Commons formally, that they will be responding to the proposals at the next meeting, but what they have not been willing to be drawn on is the nature of the response. We seem to have moved further according to Josep Pique in that now he knows the nature of the response and I think if indeed the United Kingdom Government have now informed the Spanish Government in anticipation of the meeting, that the response is going to be negative is a very welcome thing, but it would be useful to know that we are not just relying on a report in a Spanish newspaper quoting a Spanish Minister and that we have had it from the horses mouth as it were.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I for my part, have never doubted that the response when forthcoming would be negative, indeed it would be inconceivable. In my mind the issue has always been whether there would be a response, that the moment that they commit themselves to giving a response it can only be negative, given that the United Kingdom is committed to respecting the wishes of the people of Gibraltar on the question of sovereignty and that the Matutes proposals intrinsically and fundamentally raise those very same issues of sovereignty. Therefore, if the United Kingdom does give a response it can only be a negative response. I am much more concerned by the distinction between a negative response and an outright rejection. Therefore, what we have all called for in Gibraltar is an outright rejection. It is possible in diplomatic procedures to give a negative response but still leave the document on the table. That is the distinction that is more relevant, rather than whether the response is negative or not. It is bound to be negative, it cannot be not negative. Therefore what we are going to be looking out for is whether the United Kingdom says "I am sorry but I cannot do this because I am bound by my commitment to the people of Gibraltar. It appears that they do not want it but your document stays there on the table until some counter proposal is made". That would be a negative response, but the document remains on the table.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I was not drawing that kind of distinction. I was using negative response to mean the same as rejection because I believe the quote, speaking from memory was that indeed Sr Pique had said not only that he had been told by Mr Cook that the proposals would be rejected, but it went on to say that the United Kingdom had the right to reject them, strangely enough. I would have thought it was sufficiently worthwhile finding out if indeed that is the position, which in my judgement, would be an improvement on the previous position which was, they are going to reply, but they would not give any indication of the nature of the reply.

NO. 810 OF 2001

THE HON J J BOSSANO

FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Can Government state whether they are satisfied with the reply of the Foreign Office to the last criticism by The Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Commons?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Government applaud the findings and conclusions of The Foreign Affairs Committee which in the Government's opinion are not rectified or invalidated by the reply of the Foreign Office.

NO. 811 OF 2001

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SUPREME COURT OF GIBRALTAR - JUDGEMENTS

Can Government say what action has been taken to ensure that judgements of the Supreme Court of Gibraltar can be enforced in Spain?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Judgements of the Supreme Court of Gibraltar are enforceable in Spain under the Brussels and Lugano Conventions, following Spain's formal withdrawal of objections to their extension to Gibraltar. Furthermore, the enforceability of such judgements is specifically provided for in the Competent Authority agreements concluded in April last year. The position of the Spanish Government appears to be that such judgements are enforceable and that the recent ruling of the Spanish Supreme Court is not binding and does not prevent enforcement in future cases when pursued under the new competent authority arrangements. Nevertheless, the Gibraltar Government are pressing the British Government to get the Spanish Government to obtain a removal of the ruling or a clarification of it from the Spanish Judiciary.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 811 OF 2001

HON J J BOSSANO:

Was the particular case in respect of which the ruling was made one that was pursued through the competent authorities arrangements?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, it was not. It arose before that.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In terms of the Spanish Government's position, it would not then apply to that particular case? In a previous answer the Chief Minister has said that the Spanish Government's position was that the judgements of the Supreme Court have to be accepted if pursued through the competent authority.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The post boxing.

HON J J BOSSANO:

What I am saying is, if the Spanish Government's position was that if this one had been done through the post boxing, it would have had to be accepted, but since it was not it did not.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

That is what they are saying, but the Gibraltar Government are not entirely satisfied with that answer or they cannot be tested until the next occasion when there is a judgement to be enforced. The reason why we are not satisfied and we remain sceptical and remain to be convinced that that is the correct position. The Spanish Government have stated exactly what the hon Member has just stated, but we remain sceptical about whether it is genuinely the Spanish Government's position, but that cannot be tested until somebody wants to enforce a judgement of Gibraltar in Spain and it is passed to the competent authority. The reason why we are sceptical is that the party that argued for non recognition was not the solicitor of the defendant or the solicitor for the case, it was the Spanish Attorney-General's Office, part of the Spanish Government. The Court did not say, "I am sorry, the State's position is that we do not recognise Gibraltar rulings for political reasons, we note the recent competent authority arrangements, we note that the Spanish Government have recently gazetted the withdrawal of objection to the extension of Brussels and Lugano Conventions, but as those procedures have not been followed in this case, we will not recognise the judgement." They did not say any of that, which is what one would have expected them to say if the reason for the rejection was non attainment to the competent authority arrangement. What they actually said was that the nature of the sovereignty ceded by Spain to Britain under the Treaty of Utrecht did not include sovereignty to exercise judicial competence in Gibraltar. It seems to me that that argument, if it is correct, and it is the view of the Supreme Court of Spain, must remain correct in law regardless of the physical channel through which the document reaches Spain. That is why the Gibraltar Government are sceptical of the reasons that the Foreign Office have been given by the Spanish Government. It was the Spanish Attorney-General who launched the sovereignty based Utrecht based argument, presumably in the knowledge, given that he is a department of the Spanish Government, that his Government had signed the April agreements, that his Government had formally withdrawn objections to Gibraltar's extension to the Brussels and Lugano Convention and that indeed all of that had been gazetted in the Spanish Gazette. After all of that has happened the Attorney-General does not go to Court to say "My Lord, we have just signed all these agreements, but do not recognise these judgements because it has not followed the agreed procedure or because this is old stock". There was no reference to any of that and there was an extraordinary argument about the meaning of the words 'without jurisdiction', to suggest in effect that Britain does not have sufficient sovereignty over Gibraltar to set up a Judiciary here. In other words that the Chief Justice is a sort of unlawful institution because Britain was not endowed with sufficient jurisdiction by the Treaty of Utrecht over the territory of Gibraltar to provide for its judicial functions. It seems to me that that is an extraordinary argument. It is quite apart from the effect that it has on the enforceability of Gibraltar judgements in Spain, it is a direct challenge to the qualitative nature and extent of British sovereignty in Gibraltar even in relation to those parts of Gibraltar which they concede is ceded under the Treaty of Utrecht. As far as the Government of Gibraltar are concerned, we are sceptical for the reasons that I have just explained to the hon Member in a lot of detail and the proof of the pudding will be in the eating, as to whether what the Spanish Government are feeding to the British Government now is just so much hot air or true and the test will come when the very next judgement of a Gibraltar Court, it does not have to be the Supreme Court, any Gibraltar Court comes to be enforced in Spain. It will then be passed through the agreed arrangements and we will see whether it is accepted for enforcement in Spain.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In a situation, for example, where there was a judgement here and the legal representative of whoever it was that was affected by it, was seeking to block it, would they be able to use the ruling of the Supreme Court in terms of a legal mechanism?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

They could not use it here to prevent the document going out through the post box, but it remains to be seen whether when the judgement gets to Spain, somebody is going to challenge its validity in the Spanish Court on the basis of the ruling by the Supreme Court, which we are told is not a binding ruling, in other words, is not binding precedent on other courts. But all these things remain to be seen. We cannot reconcile the Spanish Government's arguments now with the fact presumably they sent their Attorney-General into the Court to argue what they argued without referring to all the things that they had just committed themselves to, not just on the competent authority arrangements but indeed with the secretariat of the Brussels and Lugano Conventions, to which the Spanish Government have sent because I have seen them, letters saying the Spanish Government withdraw their reservations on the extension of these Conventions to Gibraltar, whereupon the extension to Gibraltar is now unconditional.

ORAL

NO. 812 OF 2001

THE HON J J BOSSANO

FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Have Government any indication whether the United Kingdom might itself be willing to take Spain to Court over the border delays under Article 227 of the European Treaty as recommended in the recent report of the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 813 of 2001.

NO. 813 OF 2001

THE HON J J BOSSANO

FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Have Government any indication whether the United Kingdom might itself be willing to take Spain to Court over the telephone problems under Article 227 of the European Treaty as suggested by the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee in their recent report?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Gibraltar Government have not detected any willingness on the part of Her Majesty's Government to itself initiate legal action against Spain under Article 227 of the Treaty establishing the Community, on any issue.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 812 AND. 813 OF 2001

HON J J BOSSANO:

We are aware that there was no sign of any willingness prior to the Foreign Affairs Committee Report, is the answer then that the Foreign Affairs Committee Report apparently has had no impact on the views of the British Government?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

We have not seen evidence that it has had any positive impact as we would both define positive.

NO. 814 OF 2001

THE HON J J BOSSANO

BORDER DELAYS

At what stage is the action that the European Commission was going to take against Spain over the border delays?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The action which the EC Commission commenced against Spain in relation to the border delays is a confidential matter between the parties to that action, namely, the EC Commission and the Spanish Government. Neither the Gibraltar or UK Governments are privy to the action. However, the Gibraltar Government understand that the Spanish Government did reply to the EC Commission's Article 226 letter in December 2000 claiming that the border delays were due to the large number of crossings. The Gibraltar Government understand that the EC Commission and Spain remain engaged in discussion on this case.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 814 OF 2001

HON J J BOSSANO:

The state of play would be then that Spain replied last December and that they are talking about the reply that Spain sent back?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes. The hon Member knows that infraction proceedings involve first a letter and depending what they say in response, the Commission then decides whether to take the procedure into the Court phase by issuing a reasoned opinion. They have not yet reached that second stage.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is it the case that when the reasoned opinion - I cannot recall, perhaps the Chief Minister will be able to confirm it - that when the reasoned opinion is issued if it reaches that stage, it is something that is available to others, other than the two parties? Or is the recent opinion also something that only the country getting it and the Commission knows?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The latter part of his assumption is correct. Even the recent opinion is confidential because the Commission under State litigated against.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Presumably there is a way of getting to know this because Spain seems always to be able to get to know when the recent opinions are dealing with Gibraltar?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

As the hon Member knows Brussels is the world's largest sieve and information invariably leaks from it, which is how we find out much of what we find out.

NO. 815 OF 2001

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EEC - SINGLE EUROPEAN SKY

Can Government say what representations have been made to the British Government over the inclusion of Gibraltar airport in the Single European Sky and what has been the response of the British Government?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Gibraltar Government have made it clear to the British Government that Gibraltar must be included in the Single European Sky, which, not unlike the External Frontiers Convention, will, in practice constitute part of the physical delineation of the EC – in this case, the EC's airspace. To date the British Government share and uphold that position.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 815 OF 2001

HON J J BOSSANO:

In what has come out publicly about the disagreement between Spain and the United Kingdom on this point, the United Kingdom position did not appear to be that clear, in the sense that they were talking that there should not be a systematic inclusion of the clause, but also saying they were willing to sit down and discuss with Spain as if they were looking for some formula.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The formal position of Spain appears to be that the 1987 Agreement formula, in other words, the Suspension Clause, should be applied to all aviation measures. We have made it clear to the United Kingdom Government that the commitment on the part of the UK to include the Gibraltar Exclusion Clause is limited under 1987 Agreement only to access measures. In other words, only to aviation measures that relate to the provision of services to and from Gibraltar airport. There are a number of aviation issues which do not relate to access and from which therefore there is no commitment on the part of the UK to agree to exclude Gibraltar. The United Kingdom's position is that it will not agree to the systematic exclusion of Gibraltar from all aviation measures but wishes to consider its position on a case by case basis, which means, I hope it means, we would like the UK's position to be that it insists on Gibraltar's inclusion in all aviation measures. That at least the United Kingdom's position should mean that they will not agree to exclude Gibraltar from any measure which is both relevant to Gibraltar's aviation position, which prejudice the fact that Gibraltar is part of the Community. Whereas the hon Member might agree with me that to be excluded from a directive about checking the undercarriage of aeroplanes from non EC countries, for example, the Ramp Check Directive, that that is politically objectionable but not fundamentally important, that excluding Gibraltar from what is in effect the first ever effort by the community to delineate the boundaries of the community in terms of airspace that that is fundamental and does raise fundamental issues. As to how the United Kingdom's judgement can go in this

case by case approach we are where we have always been since 1987. We have been included in some and excluded from others. The Gibraltar Government invest a lot of time and effort and resources in spotting all these aviation measures as soon as they emerge from the various sources that we have, long before we are advised on them by the UK, so we make sure that we feed it to the UK, the view that we take on that.

HON J J BOSSANO:

But is the UK's position at the moment that the nature of the disagreement with Spain is as to whether inclusion or exclusion should be automatic or negotiated on a case by case basis or is the position that in this particular instance it has to be inclusion?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I think it is the latter. In deploying its case by case approach policy, the United Kingdom has agreed that this case is not one from which Gibraltar should be excluded.

NO. 816 OF 2001

THE HON J J BOSSANO

HMS TIRELESS

Can Government say how much money has been spent to date, in consulting experts, in respect of the repairs to HMS Tireless, giving a breakdown?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The total expenditure to date has been £115,500 broken down to £107,000 consultancy fees and £8,500 of travel and accommodation costs.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 816 OF 2001

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is this the total expected cost?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not know for certain, but I suspect that there are still invoices to come in respect of the last periods.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Have the Government of Gibraltar suggested to the United Kingdom that they may wish to contribute to this expense?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Not yet. The Government of Gibraltar have not wished to involve the United Kingdom Government in the question of paying these expenses for fear that it might, in some people's mind compromise the credibility and reliability of the report. Therefore, we have so far proceeded on the basis that this was something that the Gibraltar Government are doing for the benefit of the people of Gibraltar and that we would be paying for it. Certainly the possibility of asking Her Majesty's Government to contribute to its cost after the event is not one that has been discarded.

NO. 817 OF 2001

THE HON J J BOSSANO

HMS TIRELESS

Have Government sought any assurances from the MOD that they will not seek to repair any nuclear submarines in future at the Naval Base?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Government are assured by the MOD that the repair of Tireless in Gibraltar does not create a precedent to follow.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 817 OF 2001

HON J J BOSSANO:

Does the objection create a precedent to following that they will not do it again?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

There is no formal agreement between the Gibraltar Government and the British Government that the British Government should not ever again in the future try to effect repairs to submarines in Gibraltar but the position of the Gibraltar Government is well known. The Gibraltar Government do not wish Gibraltar to become, by a process of gradual creepage, into a nuclear repair facility and have already indicated publicly, to the consternation of the hon Member – I note from his public reaction – that the Gibraltar Government are giving consideration to the introduction of legislation if necessary to achieve that. Another dimension to this matter is that given the amount of political heartache that they have sustained on this issue in terms of their bilateral relationship with Spain, I do not see them rushing to repeat the exercise.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I would agree if they have any sense they should not be rushing quite apart from anything else because it is conceivable that had they towed the thing away one year ago, they would have had it back in service much quicker than it has taken to get it done in Gibraltar. But given the fact that the Government have indicated a willingness to legislate if necessary, would not a preliminary step in deciding whether it is necessary, be to seek a commitment from the UK that they will not try and repair submarines here in which case the legislation would not arise then?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Indeed that is the position.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The answer to the original question then should have been yes, the Government have sought assurances.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Not yet.

ORAL

NO. 818 OF 2001

THE HON J J BOSSANO

HMS TIRELESS

Are Government in a position to say whether the joint Anglo-Spanish Committee will be disbanded after HMS Tireless has left Gibraltar?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 819 of 2001.

NO. 819 OF 2001

THE HON J J BOSSANO

HMS TIRELESS

How often and on what dates, has the Anglo-Spanish committee that was monitoring HMS Tireless, met in the years 2000 and 2001?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Government are not accountable in this House for this matter in which the Gibraltar Government have had no involvement. However, according to the Convent, the Committee met 13 times. Given that the Committee was constituted specifically for that purpose, Government would expect it to be dissolved upon Tireless' departure from Gibraltar.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 818 AND 819 OF 2001

HON J J BOSSANO:

I take it then that they have not had confirmation that this is going to happen, although it is a natural expectation?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It would be a natural expectation with considerable and serious consequences if it did not happen, because if it did not happen it would have converted itself from an ad hoc Tireless committee into a standing commission in relation to the use by Her Majesty's Government of a sovereign base in Gibraltar. That would be very serious and I think the United Kingdom understands what the consequences of that could be.

NO. 820 OF 2001

THE HON J J BOSSANO

OECD

Can Government state when they expect they will be giving the commitment sought by the OECD?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Government envisage giving a commitment to the OECD prior to 31st July this year.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 820 OF 2001

HON J J BOSSANO:

Obviously it has to be prior to that because that is the deadline. Do they know how much prior to the 31st July 2001, they expect to be in a position to give it?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, not yet. I can tell the hon Member that in practice the deadline is not 31st July, it is actually sooner, because the list is going to be drawn up on 31st July. The text of ones commitment letter has got to be submitted and it has got to be subjected to scrutiny by two OECD Committees, which takes time, and if that process is going to be completed by the 31st July, in effect one has got to give the commitment by the 30th June. In theory the deadline is 31st July, but for logistical reasons, in practice, if one is going to commit, one really needs to be doing it by the end of June or thereabouts.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The position, as I understand it, is that the policy decision on giving the commitment has been taken and it is a question of what has to be written in the committee. If that is dependent on the negotiations with the OECD, what happens if June comes along and there are still unanswered questions?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The giving or the not giving of the commitment does not depend on resolving by then the detail of the four issues that remain unsettled. It depends on the OECD agreeing the language in which the Government of Gibraltar wish to give the commitment to accommodate the fact that there are unresolved issues which are relevant. I am not sure if the distinction is clear. It is not the case that the nitty gritty of the unresolved issues have got to be settled before the Commitment can be given, but rather than given a series of uncertainties, and not just the four unresolved issues, but also the level playing field issues that the OECD members do the same thing and the non OECD members do the same thing, passage of legislation in this House in theoretical terms cannot commit itself that this House would pass the necessary legislation. We

take the legislation to the House, the Government want to include that caveat to the extent that implementation requires legislation, that implementation is subject to the House adopting the legislation otherwise it assumes that this House is a rubber stamp, I do not think it is something that either of us would wish to project internationally. The issue is the language of the covering letter, the 'ifs' and 'buts' that accompany the commitment rather than the content of the unresolved issues.

NO. 821 OF 2001

THE HON J J BOSSANO

FRONTIER FENCE

Can Government say whether the cost of rebuilding of the frontier fence is to be met by the MOD?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The cost is not to be met by the MOD, nor have the Government invited them to meet the cost.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 821 OF 2001

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is it not the case that the MOD has been responsible for the maintenance of the fence until now?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not know what the answer to that is, but if they have been responsible for it they have been doing a very poor job about maintaining it, because the need to replace it arises from the fact that it has had no maintenance at all, at least not in the civilian parts of it. Whether they have been maintaining it along the MOD length of it, I do not know or the length of it that borders the MOD, for example, the North Front Four Corners complex. The fence is not there for purposes for which the Ministry of Defence is responsible. If the hon Member had asked me if the British Government were going to pay for it, I suppose it is arguable that safeguarding the physical delineation of Gibraltar's sovereignty is a responsibility of the British Government through the Foreign Office, but the Ministry of Defence exists for the military defence of the United Kingdom and hopefully their realms and the frontier fence does not exist because of any military threat or defence threat to Gibraltar. Certainly it would not be the MOD that were asked to pay for it and at the moment the Gibraltar Government have not asked the British Government to pay or to contribute to it either through one of their other ministries. We are proceeding on the basis that we are in today.

NO. 822 OF 2001

THE HON J J BOSSANO

OPERATIONAL RESOURCES

Can Government say what extra resources are being provided within the current financial year to the Gibraltar Customs, to enable them to provide constant around the clock, effective patrolling, in the land frontier area?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 823 of 2001.

NO. 823 OF 2001

THE HON J J BOSSANO

OPERATIONAL RESOURCES

Can Government say what extra resources are being provided within the current financial year, to the Royal Gibraltar Police, to enable them to provide constant around the clock, effective patrolling, in the land frontier area?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

As is customary for both the RGP and Customs, they undertake law enforcement duties with the operational resources available to them. Government cannot yet say whether any increased policing of any particular area of Gibraltar will require specific additional resources and, if so, what amount.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 822 AND 823 OF 2001

HON J J BOSSANO:

Has either the RGP or the Customs Department in response to the Press Release that came out saying they had been in one case requested and in the other case instructed to provide this level of patrolling, given an indication that this would mean they would need more resources because presumably the people who are already fully employed are doing something else before this commitment was required of them?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, they have not. I suppose it is a question of management redeployment of existing resources in part and there may be a need for additional resources in terms of overtime payment provisions and things of that sort. They have not raised it yet and if they have it has not reached the political level. What they have raised is what they regard as a lack of legislative backdrop against which to police. In other words, that there are not any offences. There appear to be no specific offences that prohibit chucking things over the frontier fence. As announced in our recent Press Release we are bringing legislation to this meeting of the House, primary legislation to deal with those deficiencies, to provide them with specific offences and in the meantime a subsidiary legislation was passed on Monday. An Extraordinary Gazette was published making regulations under an existing power I suspect of the Imports and Exports Ordinance covering the point whilst this House can consider the matter in primary legislation.