

GIBRALTAR

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

13th, 14th, and 19th February 2002

No. 1 to No. 353



The Speaker

- **The Hon Judge J E Alcantara CBE**

GOVERNMENT (GSD):

**The Hon P R Caruana QC
The Hon K Azopardi**

- **Chief Minister**
- **Minister for Trade, Industry and
Telecommunications**

The Hon Dr B A Linares

- **Minister for Education, Training, Culture and
Health**

The Hon J J Holliday

- **Minister for Tourism and Transport**

The Hon Lt-Col E M Britto OBE , ED

- **Minister for Public Services, the Environment,
Sport and Youth**

The Hon H A Corby

- **Minister for Employment and Consumer Affairs**

The Hon J J Netto

- **Minister for Housing**

The Hon Mrs Y Del Agua

- **Minister for Social Affairs**

The Hon R Rhoda QC

- **Attorney General**

The Hon T J Bristow

- **Financial and Development Secretary**

OPPOSITION (GSLP/ Liberals):

The Hon J J Bossano

- **Leader of the Opposition**

The Hon Dr J J Garcia

The Hon J L Baldachino

The Hon Miss M I Montegriffo

The Hon Dr R G Valarino

The Hon J C Perez

The Hon S E Linares

D J Reyes Esq, ED

- **Clerk of the House of Assembly**

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NO. 1 OF 2002

THE HON S E LINARES

NATIONAL WEEK COMMITTEE

Can Government state how many meetings the National Week Committee have had since National Day on September 2001?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

None.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 1 OF 2002

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Minister state whether the members are still the same as originally put forward?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I think it was made clear in answer to a previous question that the original National Week Committee which was formed when Government took over the organisation of National Week is in effect now dormant. The role of this committee was to look at what events should take place in National Week and how the event should be run. That procedure has been well established for some time now and the actual hands on organisation of the events is now undertaken by a group of different people in different Government departments including some volunteers. I would have thought that the extensive debate which ensued as the result of the last question tabled on this issue would have served to clarify matters.

HON S E LINARES:

Well, it does not actually clarify it, it confuses matters more. I am asking this question because she has stated that they have not met which was the original question, since she said that they had not met it is confusing that she said that it had not met, which committee is she referring that had not met if there is a defunct committee anyway? So which committee is she talking about?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I think the hon Member is referring to the same committee that he was referring to in the previous question which is the original National Week Committee and I have responded accordingly. That committee has not met.

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Minister state how many times her new committee has met?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Although it is a completely different question I will answer. The committee as he puts it and I have explained previously and I will explain again, which is the people who organise the events leading up to National Week meet nearer the date but there is no necessity to meet at this early stage during the year.

NO. 2 OF 2002

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

SOCIAL INSURANCE SCHEDULES

Can Government state how many Gibraltar social insurance schedules have been issued to employers, the number of employers, and in respect of how many employees for the 4th quarter of last year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos 3 to 5 of 2002.

NO. 3 OF 2002

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

SOCIAL INSURANCE SCHEDULES

Can Government state how many social insurance schedules for self-employed persons were issued in respect of the 4th quarter finally last year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos 2, 4 and 5 of 2002.

NO. 4 OF 2002

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

SOCIAL INSURANCE SCHEDULES

Can Government state how many social insurance schedules have been issued to employers, the number of employers and in respect of how many employees for the 1st quarter of 2002 to-date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos 2, 3 and 5 of 2002.

NO. 5 OF 2002

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

SOCIAL INSURANCE SCHEDULES

Can Government state how many social insurance schedules for self-employed persons have been issued in respect of the 1st quarter of 2002 to-date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Answer to Question No 2 of 2002

In the 4th quarter 2001, 1,453 employers have been issued with social insurance contribution schedules covering 17,898 employees.

Answer to Question No 3 of 2002

In the 4th quarter 2001, 925 self-employed persons were issued with social insurance contribution schedules.

Answer to Question No 4 of 2002

In the 1st quarter 2002, 1320 employers have been issued with social insurance contribution schedules covering 8,410 employees.

Answer to Question No 5 of 2002

In the 1st quarter 2002, 935 self-employed persons have been issued with social insurance contribution schedules.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 2, 3, 4, AND 5 OF 2002

HON J J BOSSANO:

Did the Minister say that in the 4th quarter the number of employers was 1,453 or did I hear that wrong?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

That is correct.

HON J J BOSSANO:

How come that in fact in the previous answer the figure given was 1480, how could there be less now than had been issued before the quarter was over?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I made that query as well, the explanation that has been given to me is that the interim figure which was quoted in respect of the 4th quarter of 2001, at that time the quarter had not yet ended and in my answer to Question No 846 of 2001 the figure was higher due to the fact there was more than one transaction in respect of the same employer during the period in question. It should be noted that the schedules are issued for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd quarters in advance and numerous changes take place in the course of the year in respect of new employment, changes of employment, terminations et cetera and because the question was asked in the middle of the quarter it did not reflect the accurate figure that resulted when the analysis was made at the end of that quarter.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is the implication of that in fact that the same employer was issued with two schedules and counted as two employers?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

It could be, yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well it is just that it is difficult to understand how before the end of a quarter there could have been more schedules issued than after the end of the quarter.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

We are talking technically of schedules issued which is what the computer dishes out to each and every employee for each employer but in the interim period we might have received notifications that either that employee was no longer working for that

employer, the company had ceased to trade and things of that nature which causes the end result to be different at the end of the quarter.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well we are trying to make sense of the figures with the way that it is being done now which is different from the old system of social insurance cards. Now, the arguments the Minister is putting would make sense as regards the number of employees but surely the number of employers are the number of employers and even if they go bust before the end of the quarter they have still been issued with a schedule so that if the question is how many people have in the last three months of last year been issued with schedules it is a finite figure I do not see how it can change.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I understand what the Leader of the Opposition is saying but that is the way the computer dishes out the information, it can not give an accurate figure of how many schedules were issued but how many schedules were issued on active files and not those that have been issued or have ceased to exist, companies which have ceased to exist.

HON J J BOSSANO:

How are we to interpret the 1320 for the 1st quarter that we have just been given, what does that mean?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Well, that figure has been given after the 1st quarter was closed so to speak, we have the correct analysis of those figures because the quarter was over when the figures were asked for.

HON J J BOSSANO:

No, the figure is for the 1st quarter of this year it is not yet over we are in February.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

By way of explanation all I can offer is the information that has been passed on to me I would be more than happy for maybe the Principal Secretary to meet with the hon Member and explain to him exactly how the system works. I think he would be in a better position to explain than I am at the moment.

NO. 6 OF 2002

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

SOCIAL INSURANCE SCHEDULES

Can Government state the number of employers who have now returned the social insurance schedules for the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th quarter of last year and the number of employees covered by such returns, respectively?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question No 8 of 2002.

NO. 7 OF 2002**THE HON J L BALDACHINO****NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED**

Can Government give a breakdown by month of male and female unemployed Gibraltarians aged 18 and over from 1st October 2001 to January 2002 receiving:-

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

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS**

I now hand the hon Member a list giving the information requested.

Answer to Question No 7 of 2002**A. UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS**

MONTH	MALE	FEMALE
October 2001	28	28
November 2001	42	44
December 2001	40	48
January 2002	46	40

B. SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

MONTH	MALE	FEMALE
October 2001	63	20
November 2001	60	23
December 2001	69	21
January 2002	68	28

C. NO PAYMENTS

MONTH	MALE	FEMALE
October 2001	84	86
November 2001	72	72
December 2001	33	58
January 2002	Not available	Not available

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 7 OF 2002

HON J L BALDACHINO:

Has the Minister got a further breakdown of the age of the different persons from 18-25, 26-35, as she gave me before and if she has not got it is she prepared to give it to me at a later date?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

The question did not ask for that but I am willing to provide him with that information if that is what he wants.

NO. 8 OF 2002

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

SOCIAL INSURANCE SCHEDULES

Can Government state how many employers have now returned the social insurance schedules and in respect of how many employees for each of the four quarters of 2001?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

In the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th quarters of 2001, 1,163, 1,099, 986 and 754 employers respectively have returned the social insurance contribution schedules covering 12,181, 11,946, 11,542 and 7,212 employees respectively.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 6 AND 8 OF 2001

HON J J BOSSANO:

In respect of the 1st quarter the number of employees covered was 12,181. I think the last time we were told it was 12,288 that were returned how can there be less returns now than there were before?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Simply because the employers have failed to return the schedules.

HON J J BOSSANO:

No we have been told before in answer to Question No 842 of 2001 we were told that employers had returned the schedules, the insurance records of 12,288. I would have expected the figure to either be the same or higher but not lower because those were already returned so what has happened to the 120 that were there before.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I have not got the answer Mr Speaker, we will find out.

MR SPEAKER:

She does not have the answer she will find out.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Could I ask the Minister whether she will investigate this because obviously we are talking about insurance contributions of 120 workers. It should not get lost, it may be that the original figure was mistaken, can I also ask in terms of the dates is there a need to seek to go back that far to see if more are being returned or would the Minister be satisfied that now that we are talking about 12 months ago the figure that she has just given us would be an accurate figure of the returns and it is not likely to be going up?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

It is a more accurate figure, a much more accurate figure than what we could have provided originally but I am not sure that it is 100 per cent accurate still, there is still an element of weeding out involved in the procedure.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Would the Minister give an indication as to what time scale because we will stop asking questions going back to a certain date once she can tell us that figure is more or less the final one. She will agree that the last quarter which is much lower than the previous one is likely obviously to be revised upwards to come closer to the other but the 1st and 2nd quarters where we are talking about 11,900 and 12,100, is that likely to go up by much more or is that likely in her judgement or in the judgement of her department fairly close to what the final figure is?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I would have said that it would be fairly close .

NO. 9 OF 2002**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 October, November, December 2001 and for January 2002 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**

I hand the hon Member a list giving the information requested.

The balance of the Closed Long-term Benefits Fund from 1 October 2001 to 31 January 2002 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:

	31-Oct-01	30-Nov-01	31-Dec-01	31-Jan-02
	£	£	£	£
Fund Account-Opening Balance	767,857	430,586	456,355	1,230,681
<u>"Local Account"</u>				
Opening Balance	472,477	112,088	130,238	665,999

<u>Add</u>				
Transfers from the Open Long-Term Benefits Fund	515,000	900,000	1,550,000	0
Other Receipts	4,601	2,677	2,452	1,720
	992,078	1,014,765	1,682,690	667,719
<u>Less</u>				
Pension Payments	(879,991)	(884,527)	(1,016,692)	(750,804)
Closing Balance	112,088	130,238	665,999	(83,085)
<u>"Spanish Account"</u>				
Opening Balance	295,380	318,498	326,117	564,682
<u>Add</u>				
Receipts from DFID	430,000	250,000	1,540,000	0
	827,738	741,271	1,584,323	789,755
<u>Less</u>				
Pension Payments	(406,882)	(242,380)	(1,301,435)	(252,668)
Closing Balance	318,498	326,117	564,682	312,014
<u>Fund Account – Closing Balance</u>	430,586	456,355	1,230,681	228,929

NO. 10 of 2002**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 November, December 2001 and January 2002 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**

I hand the hon Member a list of the information requested, however I should point out that in my answer to Question No 7 of 2001, I informed the hon Member that the British, Moroccan and other nationality pensioner files would be thoroughly checked, as we did with the Spanish pension files, to ensure that all the data transferred to the new computer system was 100 per cent correct. This task has now been completed and I am advised that an adjustment to the running balance has been made as from November 2001 to exclude 111 persons in receipt of Elderly Person's Allowance. Although these persons previously appeared in the old database as beneficiaries from the Closed Long-Term Benefits Fund I can confirm that the money paid out to them is being charged to the Social Assistance Fund.

Answer to Question No 10 of 2002

	November 2001	December 2001	January 2002
Pre-1969 Spanish pensioners	7,148	7,116	7,087
British pensioners (Gib/UK Nat)	4,604	4,616	4,625
Moroccan pensioners	1,225	1,225	1,246
Other nationalities	347	346	344
Total	13,324	13,303	13,302

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 10 OF 2002

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is the Minister saying that it has always been charged to the Social Assistance fund or only since this changed?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

In respect of the Elderly Persons Allowance it has always been charged to the Social Assistance Fund.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Are these people who have got also an entitlement to a contributory social insurance pension or they have only got the other entitlement?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

The Elderly Persons Allowance is exactly for people who did not contribute sufficient funds and do not get an old age pension.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So in fact they should never have been included in that?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

They should have never been included as statistics.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

On the pre-1969 pensioners can the Minister confirm that the figure is actually now coming down?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I suspect that it will be going down as people obviously pass away.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

If one takes the demographic factors here and the fact that people stopped, these are pre-1969 figures, they must by now, the people reaching pensionable age that worked here before 1969 must by now I would have thought be statistically exhausted so that figure can only come down as they go dying off.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

I fully appreciate that but the reason that I am asking the question is that when I asked a similar question about two years ago the department had obviously made an estimate that the figure would be coming down and at a certain point of time in a year it would be coming down and that is why I am asking is it that we have now reached that stage at the point where it is now coming down?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Yes, that is correct.

NO. 11 OF 2002

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

OPEN LONG TERM BENEFITS - TRANSFERS

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 October 2001?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

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

October 2001	-	£515,000
November 2001	-	£900,000
December 2001	-	£1,550,000
		<hr/>
		£2,965,000
		<hr/>

NO. 12 OF 2002

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

DISABILITY ALLOWANCE

Can Government state how many persons applied for Disability Allowance under the Social Assistance Arrangements in 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999 and 2000 and how many of these applications were not successful, giving a breakdown for each year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

I hand the hon Member a list giving the information requested.

DISABILITY ALLOWANCE

YEAR	APPLICATIONS RECEIVED	APPROVED	DISALLOWED
1996	2	2	-
1997	7	7	-
1998	3	3	-
1999	7	4	3
2000	17	13	4

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 12 OF 2002

HON J L BALDACHINO:

Can the Minister confirm if the people that were disallowed in 1999 and 2000 were people that did not have a disability at birth?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I would need previous notice of that question.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

Is the Minister willing to pass it over to me when she gets it?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Certainly.

NO. 13 of 2002

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

DISABILITY ALLOWANCE

Can Government state of persons receiving Disability Allowance payments under Social Assistance Arrangements how many are those who have had a disability from birth and how many are people who have become disabled later on in life?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

At present there are 103 persons receiving Disability Allowance payments under the Social Assistance Arrangements. There are 90 persons who have been disabled since birth and 13 persons who became disabled later on in life.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 13 OF 2002

HON J L BALDACHINO:

Can the Minister confirm that people seeking disability allowance, have to apply, it is not something that in some cases it is automatic, is that the position?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

No. They have to apply.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

In the figures the Minister gave me before, the highest is 2000 where there is 17 persons and 13 were approved. We are now told that there is 100 odd persons receiving, is it that now more people have applied and how does that reconcile with the figures that the Minister has given me?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

People apply as and when and the figure is increasing on a yearly basis.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

Yes I fully appreciate that but what I am saying is that apparently the answer that the Minister has just given me is that more people are applying now than in 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999 and 2000, is that the case?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

The figure that I have given is an overall figure of the people receiving Disability Benefit.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

I just want clarification so that I am clear in my mind that I am correct in the analysis that I am making, for example, and I will get just one year, in 1996 two applications were received according to the answer that the Minister has given me and two were approved. Therefore there were only according to the question previously there were only two persons receiving Disability Allowance?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

No, two applications.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

I see, but there could have been more in that year, is that correct?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Yes, the ones that have been there historically.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

I see.

NO. 14 OF 2002

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

Can Government state the number of persons receiving social assistance each month from November 2001 to the end of January 2002 giving a breakdown by age and sex?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

I hand the hon Member a list giving the information requested.

2001	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL	18/25	26/35	36/45	46/60
November	118	188	306	50	96	91	69
December	122	174	296	46	93	84	73

2002	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL	18/25	26/35	36/45	46/60
January	122	201	323	53	103	102	65

NO. 15 OF 2002**THE HON J L BALDACHINO****DR GIRALDI HOME**

Can Government state how many individuals applied for respite facilities at Dr Giraldi Home and how many were accommodated giving a breakdown for each of the months of October, November, December 2001 and for January 2002?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS**

I hand the hon Member a list giving the information requested.

Respite Hours	Application	Met	Hours Used	Sitting Hours Numbers	Hours Used
October	6	6	376	13	577
November	7	6	786	14	630
December	13	10	1357	13	524
January	4	3	802	15	488

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 15 OF 2002**HON J L BALDACHINO:**

Can the Minister say, when somebody applies for respite and the application is not successful or is not met, is it because there is not enough room in the Dr Giraldi Home or is it for any other reason?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Yes, the reasons for declining are mainly because there are overlapping requests for the same period and obviously there are certain number of beds available and all requests cannot be met.

NO. 16 OF 2002

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

CHILDREN IN CARE

Can Government state how many children are held in care giving a breakdown by age and sex?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

I hand the hon Member the information requested.

As at the 31st January 2002 twenty six (26) children and young persons were in care with the Social Services Agency.

The following statistical analysis gives details of age band and gender:-

0-4 Years	M	F	5-9 Years	M	F	10-14 Years	M	F	15-18 Years	M	F
6	3	3	2	2	-	7	2	5	11	3	8

NO. 17 OF 2002

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

CHALLENGING BEHAVIOUR

Can Government state how many persons there are who present challenging learning disabilities and behaviour giving a breakdown by age?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

There are varying degrees of what is described as 'Challenging Behaviour'. Some people presenting a moderate or mild challenge to the service being provided at Dr Giraldi can be catered for adequately within the system. There are, however several individuals who present more severe challenging behaviour and who are currently being assessed to see whether their needs can best be met in a specialist unit. It is therefore not possible at this stage to give the hon Member an accurate figure.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 17 OF 2002

HON J L BALDACHINO:

She has not even got the figures for the ones who have a severe challenging learning behaviour, is that correct?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

As I said these people are being assessed and at this precise moment in time I do not have a figure.

NO. 18 OF 2002

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

SENIOR CITIZENS – EXEMPTION TO PAY TELEVISION LICENCE

Can Government state if they have now made a decision to exempt senior citizens from the payment of the annual television licence fee?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

A decision has not yet been taken.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 18 OF 2002

HON J L BALDACHINO:

I presume that it is still under consideration?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Yes it has not been discarded but a decision has not yet been taken.

NO. 19 OF 2002

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

BISHOP HEALY HOME

Can Government state when the adaptation of Bishop Healy House will be completed?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

It is envisaged that the adaptation works will be completed late this year.

SUPPLEMENATARY TO QUESTION NO 19 OF 2002

HON J L BALDACHINO:

The decision on this must obviously be based on the number of persons the Minister gave me in answer to Question No 17 of 2002.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

There is a basic idea of how many people will fill the rooms in the new Challenging Behaviour Unit but as the adaptation works have not yet started there is still room to manoeuvre on how many rooms we need and things of that nature.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

I presume that what is being taken into account on the adaptation of the house is if people who have more severe disabilities will be put together with those who have less problems?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

As I understand it there will be two units, one for children and one for adults obviously taking into account that their disability are more or less of the same severity.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The work that is currently already contracted out assumes how many occupants, the work that has been contracted out for the adaptation, subject to any changes that may happen how many occupants does that assume for, how many is there a provision at the moment?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

The work has still not yet been contracted out. We have still not decided how many rooms will be needed.

HON J J BOSSANO:

How is the Minister able to say that the work will be completed if it has not even been contracted?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

We are envisaging that the works will be finished, it is hoped that the contract will be tendered out very shortly.

NO. 20 OF 2002

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

MILBURY CARE SERVICE

Can Government state how many of the four posts held by persons contracted by Milbury outside Gibraltar will be localised and when is this expected to happen?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

The four posts held by persons contracted by Milbury outside Gibraltar will be localised by the 9th November 2002.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 20 OF 2002

HON J L BALDACHINO:

Has that got anything to do with Milbury finishing as the contract is only for one year?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

A fair assumption.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

Is it also a fair assumption that Milbury's contract will not be extended beyond 2002?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

That could be considered a fair assumption as well.

NO. 21 OF 2002

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

HEAD 5B SOCIAL SERVICES – 5(c) CONTINGENCIES

Can Government state how much has been spent to date from Head 5B Social Services, sub-head 5(C) contingencies, giving a breakdown?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

A total of £18,136.52 has been spent to-date from head 5B Social Services, sub-head 5(C) contingencies. In addition the purchase of further equipment amounting to £16,000 is pending payment.

The following items have been purchased to-date:-

MOBILITY AIDS

Transit wheelchair	£501.44
Jupiter chair	1,469.00
Foldable wheelchair	528.22
2 symmetric chairs	254.58
Scooter	1,761.06
Specialised seating system	886.58
Jay gel seat cushion	328.44
Electric wheelchair	2,176.10
Giraffe chair	518.00

MANUAL HANDLING EQUIPMENT AND INDEPENDENT LIVING AIDS

5 Bed rails	£455.60
Bed rails & clamp	£113.00
Special batteries for hearing aid	£200.00
Fitting of wheelchair lift in car	£817.00
Difference in payment as pro-forma invoice previously paid did not include several items	£87.86
Pressure mattress & cushion	£510.36
Overhead electric hoist	£2,661.03
Midi electric hoist & Slinge Oxford	£1,367.56
Contribution paid towards building an extension to house bathroom & toilet for disabled person	£3,000.00

Others	£500.00
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Total	£18,136.52
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EQUIPMENT	AMOUNT
Mobility Aids	£8,423.42
Manual handling equipment and Independent living aids	£9,213.10
Others	£500.00
Total	£18,136.52

NO. 22 OF 2002

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

EMPLOYMENT - NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED

How many Gibraltarians joined the unemployment register during each month since October 2001 to date giving a breakdown by age and sex groups?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

(On behalf of 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 hand to him.

Gibraltarians who joined the Unemployment Register during the 4th Quarter of 2001

OCTOBER			
	Male	Female	Total
Under 18	15	7	22
18-24	39	33	72
Over 25	40	31	71
Total	94	71	165

NOVEMBER			
	Male	Female	Total
Under 18	9	3	12
18-24	23	16	39
Over 25	37	36	73
Total	69	55	124

DECEMBER			
	Male	Female	Total
Under 18	0	3	3
18-24	9	13	22
Over 25	11	21	32
Total	20	37	57

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 22 OF 2002

HON J J BOSSANO:

In terms of relating this information to the movement in the unemployment register would it be reasonable to expect that the movement in minus the numbers employed and elapsed would have to coincide with changes in the total or is there another factor?

HON J J NETTO:

I understand that the situation is as the hon Member has said that it is taking into account that particular movement. Movements of addition in the month, in other words people who have joined in the month along with those who have been employed in the month or those who have lapsed in the month.

HON J J BOSSANO:

There was an indication that in that final quarter there might be the effect of the changes in the gaming industry, that does not appear to be reflected in these numbers which do not seem to be different from any other quarter of people joining the register, is it that it did not happen or is it that the people went away rather than stay here looking for work?

HON J J NETTO:

Well, if the hon Member is referring to that particular quarter and what effect it might have had by way of new additions from the gaming industry obviously the figures provided here do not seem to make that

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

There is a question on the Order Paper about the employment levels in the gaming industry.

HON J J BOSSANO:

My question is in fact that the numbers entering the unemployment register, does not indicate people registering who have been previously employed in gaming given that the figures are different from other months.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, there is a netting effect that there may be people there in these figures who are from the gaming industry and the figure is no higher than usual because there are fewer people from others.

NO. 23 OF 2002**THE HON J L BALDACHINO****EMPLOYMENT – NUMBER OF GIBRALTARIANS**

Can Government state of the Gibraltarians employed in the 4th 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 HOUSING)**

(On behalf of 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 hand to him.

Registered Unemployed Gibraltarians employed during the 4th Quarter of 2001.

OCTOBER 2001			
	Male	Female	Total
Under 18	6	5	11
18-24	15	20	35
Over 25	14	15	29
Total	35	40	75

NOVEMBER 2001			
	Male	Female	Total
Under 18	5	5	10
18-24	14	13	27
Over 25	16	10	26
Total	35	28	63

DECEMBER 2001			
	Male	Female	Total
Under 18	2	1	3
18-24	6	3	9
Over 25	5	6	11
Total	13	10	23

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 23 OF 2002

HON J L BALDACHINO:

On the figures that the Minister gave me for the 4th quarter on people who joined the unemployment register, the answer that he has just given me, is it that those people will also have been included in the other figure?

HON J J NETTO:

There are indeed occasions that a person can join the unemployment register at the beginning of the month and two weeks later could find a job and obviously gets employment, so it can happen and it does happen.

NO. 24 OF 2002

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

BRITISH NATIONALS EMPLOYED

Can Government state of the 221 British nationals employed in the 4th quarter how many were new entrants to the local labour market giving a breakdown for each month?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

(On behalf of the Hon the Minister for Employment and Consumer Affairs)

Answered together with Question Nos 25, 26 and 27 of 2002.

NO. 25 OF 2002

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

SPANISH NATIONALS EMPLOYED

Can Government state of the 322 Spanish nationals employed in the 4th quarter how many were new entrants to the local labour market giving a breakdown for each month?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

(On behalf of the Hon the Minister for Employment and Consumer Affairs)

Answered together with Question Nos 24, 26, and 27 of 2002.

NO. 26 OF 2002

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

MOROCCAN NATIONALS EMPLOYED

Can Government state of the Moroccan nationals employed in the 3rd and 4th 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 HOUSING

(On behalf of the Hon the Minister for Employment and Consumer Affairs)

Answered together with Question Nos 24, 25 and 27 of 2002.

NO. 27 OF 2002

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

NON-EEC NATIONALS EMPLOYED

Can Government state of the other Non-EEC persons employed in the 4th quarter of 2001, how many were new entrants to the local labour market giving a breakdown by nationality and job title, for each month?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

(On behalf of 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 hand to him.

British Nationals employed in the 4th quarter 2001 which are new entrants to the Local Labour Market.

Month	New Entrants
October 2001	36
November 2001	34
December 2001	16

Spanish Nationals employed in the 4th quarter 2001 which are new entrants to the Local Labour Market.

Month	New Entrants
October 2001	67
November 2001	61
December 2001	36

Moroccan Nationals employed in the 4th quarter 2001.

Month	Total	New Entrants
October 2001	14	2
November 2001	10	0
December 2001	2	0
Totals	26	2

Other Non-EEC new entrants in the 4th quarter of 2001.

October 2001	American	Chinese	Swiss	Other	Totals
Managerial	1		1		2
Professional		3	1	5	9
Medical					
Clerical					
Semi-Skilled					
Domestic					
Catering					
Skilled					
Director					
Totals	1	3	2	5	11

November 2001	American	Chinese	Other	Totals
Managerial	1			1
Professional		4	1	5
Medical				
Clerical				
Semi-Skilled				
Domestic				
Catering				
Skilled				
Director				
Totals	1	4	1	6

December 2001	American	Other	Totals
Managerial			
Professional	2		2
Medical			
Clerical			
Semi-Skilled			
Domestic			
Catering		1	1
Skilled		1	1
Director			
Totals	2	2	4

NO. 28 OF 2002**THE HON J L BALDACHINO****WORK PERMITS**

Can Government state of the number of Work Permits issued from 1st October 2001 to the end of December 2001 giving a breakdown for each month by occupation, sex and nationality?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING**

(On behalf of 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 hand to him.

Oct 2001	American		Mor		Swiss		Chinese		Turkish		Other		Totals
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Managerial	1				1			1					2
Professional			1			1			1				3
Medical													
Clerical							3				3	1	7
Semi-Skilled													
Domestic													
Catering			1										1
Skilled													
Director													
Totals	1		2		1	1	3		1		3	1	13

Nov 2001	American		Mor		Swiss		Chinese		Turkish		Other		Totals
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Managerial	1												1
Professional									1				1
Medical													
Clerical							2	2					4
Semi-Skilled				1									1
Domestic													
Catering													
Skilled													
Director													
Totals	1			1			2	2	1				7

Dec 2001	American		Mor		Swiss		Chinese		Turkish		Other		Totals
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Managerial													
Professional	1	1											2
Medical													
Clerical													
Semi-Skilled													
Domestic													
Catering												1	1
Skilled											1		1
Director													
Totals	1	1									1	1	4

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION No 28 OF 2002

HON J L BALDACHINO:

The two Moroccans who were given work permits, is it that they were actually persons that had married Gibraltarians or what is the reason then that they were given because I understand that the Minister had a policy were they offered a deal to the Moroccan workers and if that happened to all Moroccan workers how is it that we are now bringing new ones in?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The hon Member should not assume although I cannot identify these two cases particularly, but he should not assume that they are necessarily new arrivals in Gibraltar. They might be but they could be new entrants into the labour market from people who have been in Gibraltar without working, spouses, for example, but I am not saying to him that that is the case. The premise of his question may be correct they may be two people that have arrived newly into Gibraltar so to speak. The Government do from time to time although on a very exceptional and rare basis allow people, it is very much the exception, when a very strong case is made which justifies departure from the normal rule there is just one or two people probably not

more than three or four a year and a lot of them arise not from people coming into Gibraltar for the first time but from the regularisation of the status of people that have been here before. Very often children, it is not necessarily that somebody decides to recruit a butcher or somebody else. There are very rare cases of those but mainly it is the regularisation of people who are already in Gibraltar by virtue of family ties.

NO. 29 OF 2002

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

VACANCIES FILLED

Can Government state of the vacancies filled in the 4th 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 HOUSING

(On behalf of 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 hand to him.

Month	MALE			FEMALES			Total
	Under 18	18-24	Over 25	Under 18	18-24	Over 25	
October	5	9	15	5	26	52	112
November	5	14	13	3	20	37	92
December	1	12	3	1	7	81	105
Total	11	35	31	9	53	170	309

NO. 30 OF 2002**THE HON J L BALDACHINO****EMPLOYMENT AGENCY**

Can Government state of the Gibraltarians registered with the Employment Agency as at the 4th quarter of 2001 how many were registered as looking for part-time jobs giving a breakdown for each month, by sex and age?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING**

(On behalf of 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 hand to him.

Unemployed Gibraltarians registering in the 4th quarter of 2001.

Month	MALE			FEMALES			Total
	Under 18	18-24	Over 25	Under 18	18-24	Over 25	
October	0	0	1	0	5	11	17
November	0	0	0	0	5	13	18
December	0	0	0	0	4	10	14
Total	0	0	1	0	14	34	49

NO. 31 OF 2002

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

TERMS OF ENGAGEMENT

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

- (a) in October 2001;
- (b) in November 2001;
- (c) in December 2001;
- (d) in January 2002?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

(On behalf of the Hon the Minister for Employment and Consumer Affairs)

The Number of Notice of Terms of Engagements registered with the Employment Service as at

31 st October 2001	-	18,139
30 th Novemebr 2001	-	18,225
31 st December 2001	-	18,043

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 31 OF 2002

HON J L BALDACHINO:

Does the Minister have the figure for January 2002?

HON J J NETTO:

No I have not.

HON J J BOSSANO:

When information to this question has been given before a distinction has been drawn as to whether it contains directors or it does not, is this the figures with directors or without?

HON J J NETTO:

This includes everyone employed but if the hon Member wishes to know the figures excluding the directors that are employed I can give it to him now. As at the 31st October 2001, 16,381, as at the 30th November 2001, 15,462 and as at the 31st December 2001, 15,286.

NO. 32 OF 2002

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

CAMMELL LAIRD

Can Government state how many persons were employed by Cammell Laird or alternatively in the shipping industry as at the end of October, November, December 2001 and January 2002, and how many of these were Gibraltarians?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

(On behalf of the Hon the Minister for Employment and Consumer Affairs)

Answered together with Question No 33 of 2002.

NO. 33 OF 2002**THE HON J L BALDACHINO****CAMMELL LAIRD**

Can Government give a monthly breakdown of the vacancies for Casual Workers opened with the Employment Agency by Cammell Laird or alternatively in the Shipping Industry in the 4th Quarter of 2001, and of these how many have been taken by Gibraltarians?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING****(On behalf of 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 hand to him. The number of vacancies opened for casual workers in the Shipping Industry is as follows:-

Month	Number of Workers Taken On
October	1
November	1 (1 Gib)
December	0

The number of persons employed in the Shipping Industry on the 4th Quarter is as follows:

Month	Gibraltarians	Other	Total
31 st October	116	119	235
30 th November	115	119	234
31 st December	114	107	221

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 32 AND 33 OF 2002

HON J J BOSSANO:

The number of vacancies for casual workers is shown as one in October, one in November and none in December. Given that this is a well known fact that Cammell Laird depends heavily on casual workers how does the Minister explain that, is it that they do not open these vacancies with the ETB?

HON J J NETTO:

I remember when I was the Minister for Employment that they did have vacancies opened for casual work and these figures seem to portray a very small amount indeed as the hon Member is rightly saying but that seems to be the case, that is the information given by the officials.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I accept that but the fact that the information presumably provided by the department is that the vacancies have not been opened other than this, but given the fact that in the past they were asked to open the vacancies and there was a record of the movement of labour in and out, is it that this has been discontinued? Do the Government think that if only one person in October, one person in November and no persons in December were actually taken on as casual workers in the shipyard, is this figure accurate?

HON J J NETTO:

I believe that the official probably got the information which is accurate but then again the hon Member ought to bear in mind, and I am talking again from my own experience, that in the shipping industry not only do they intend to rely for casual workers from time to time depending on the workload that they have but also with detached workers from time to time to do specialised type of works. Now, we are assuming here that perhaps the basis for casual workers has dropped down and perhaps, I am just speculating now, whether the vacancies for detached workers may have increased, we are in the realm of speculation here but again I can go back to the officials in the Employment Services and ensure that the information given is accurate.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The only part of the hon Member's question for which the Government are accountable, we are not accountable in this House for the parts of the question that relate to business of Cammell Laird, but he has asked, I think I understood him to have asked, whether there had been a change of policy in how these casual workers were accounted for or whether they were no longer required. I am not aware of any change of policy so unless one has been implemented by the absent Minister for Employment without mentioning it to me which would be unusual, I am not aware of

any change in policy relieving employers in Gibraltar from the need to register casual workers as previously with the ETB.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So would the Government agree, given that this appears to be unusual in the context of previous experience, that if this is accurate it ought to be investigated just in case the requirements are not being complied with?

HON J J NETTO:

As I have said before I will definitely tell officials at the Employment Services to double-check the information to be accurate or not, and if it is not accurate then obviously then to pass the information to the hon Members.

HON J J BOSSANO:

No but what I am asking is for more.....

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The hon Member suggests to ask whether these figures are significant of any fact and if the fact of which they are significant is non-compliance obviously that matter needs to be investigated.

NO. 34 OF 2002

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS TERMINATED

Can Government give a breakdown by nationality and industry for each month from October 2001 to January 2002 in respect of employment contracts terminated?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

(On behalf of 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 hand to him.

Answer to Question 34 of 2002

Employment Contracts Terminated by Nationality & Industry for April – June 2001																		
Industry	October						November						December					
	GIB	BRI	SPA	MOR	EEC	OTH	GIB	BRI	SPA	MOR	EEC	OTH	GIB	BRI	SPA	MOR	EEC	OTH
Shipbldg, repair etc.	2		14	1	1		3		1		2		1		12		2	
M/f of food, & tobacco							1							1		1		
Printing & publishing			1				1	1					1	1				
M/f n.e.c.(clothing etc)																		
Blding & construction	13	16	31	3	1		24	13	25	5	1	1	15	10	18	3	6	
Electricity supply		2																
Water supply																		
Sea transport/shipping	4		2	1			2		1					1				
Port & services		1												1				
Road transport																1		1
Post & telecomm.	1						1						3					
Air transport & related	3																	
W/sale food, drink	2	1	1				3		2				1	1	1			
W/sale fuel																		
W/sale n.e.c.				1			1			2			2	1				
Retail –food	5	3	11	1		1	12	4	7	3			6	2	5			
Retail-drink & tobacco	1						1		1				2	1		1		
Ret.-clothing, footwear	2		5				3		1				3		2			
Retail – h/hold goods	1	2						5					1			1		
Retail – n.e.c.	13		5			1	3	2	7				12	6	7	1	2	
Hotels,hostels,g/houses	4	4	2		5		3	1	2	1	1		4	2	2			
Restaurants, cafes etc	15	11	26	2	6		4	11	11	1			9	9	13	1	1	
Bars(lic to sell alcohol)	5	5	2	1			1	1	3	2				3				1
Tourist svcs n.e.c.	13	2	4		1	1	8	1	2				1	2	2		1	
Banking & finance	6	1	2			1	5	2	1		1	1	65	23	1		2	
Insurance & real estate	4	3					1						7	4				
Legal,account,other svc	23	8				2	8	6	3				12	3	1	2	1	
Public admin	13	3					17						12	2				
Education services	3	2					1							1				
Medical/health services	8	4					4	4						1				
Welfare,charity,rel svcs	1	3					1						1	1				
Entertainment & sport	1	3			1		6	2	1		1		4	4			3	1
Repairs-consumer good	4	3	3	1				2	1		1		2					
Police/fire services	1	2					4								1		1	
Defence	2							1					1					
Sanitary services													1					
Services n.e.c.	75	54	14	1	2	1	19	14	7	1	2	15	17	17	6	3	2	

NO. 35 OF 2002**THE HON J L BALDACHINO****DETACHED WORKERS**

Can Government state the number of workers that were registered with the Employment Agency as “Detached Workers” in the 4th quarter 2001 giving a breakdown for each month, their trade and nationality?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING**

(On behalf of 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 hand to him.

The number of workers registered with the Employment Agency as Detached Workers in the 4th Quarter of 2001.

October 2001					
Nationality	Professional	Semi-skilled	Skilled	Manual	Total
Spanish	-	-	41	1	42
British	3	-	3	-	6
Other EEC	2	-	5	-	7
Other Non EEC	3	1	-	-	4
Total	8	1	49	1	59

November 2001					
Nationality	Professional	Semi-skilled	Skilled	Manual	Total
Spanish	-	1	84	-	85
British	-	-	3	-	3
Other EEC	-	-	2	-	2
Other Non EEC	-	-	1	-	1
Total	-	1	90	-	91

December 2001					
Nationality	Professional	Semi-skilled	Skilled	Manual	Total
Spanish	-	-	37	-	37
British	-	-	7	-	7
Other EEC	-	-	-	-	-
Other Non EEC	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	44	-	44

NO. 36 OF 2002

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 October, November, December 2001 and January 2002 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 HOUSING

(On behalf of 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 hand him.

October 2001

Number of inspections carried out were 16.
No Fixed Penalty Notices were issued.
No Fixed Penalty Notices were paid.
No pending cases with the Attorney General.

November 2001

Number of inspections carried out were 17.
3 Fixed Penalty Notices were issued.
2 Fixed Penalty Notices were paid.
No pending cases with the Attorney General.

December 2001

Number of inspections carried out were 4.
2 Fixed Penalty Notices were issued.
1 Fixed Penalty Notice was paid.
1 pending case with the Attorney General.

The provisions are as follows:-

- (1) Regulation 8 (2A) of the Income Tax (Pay As You Earn) Regulations 1989 (Duty to Register).
- (2) Regulation 3 of the Employment Injuries (Contributions) Regulations (Duty to Register).
- (3) Regulation 3 of the Employment Injuries (Contributions) Regulations as applied by Regulation 4(1) of the Social Security (Contributions) Regulations (Duty to Register).
- (4) 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).
- (5) Regulation 7 of the Employment Regulations 1994 (Duty to apply to the Director for a permit in relation to a non-entitled worker.)
- (6) Regulation 13 of the Employment Regulations 1994 (Duty to notify Director of Termination).
- (7) Section 3 of the Business Trades and Professions (Registration) Ordinance 1989 (Duty to Register).

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 36 OF 2002

HON J L BALDACHINO:

Are the inspections carried out at random or is it that there is a set procedure to carry these out?

HON J J NETTO:

They tend to do it in several ways, sometimes they do it by specific industry groups, sometimes they do it by specific areas of Gibraltar and sometimes they do it at random so it may come in different sequences on a weekly or a monthly basis.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

The inspections carried out in December is lower than the inspections that have been carried out to date, is there an explanation for that?

HON J J NETTO:

Yes, we have to understand that there are other duties assigned to the inspectors. The inspectors not only have to undertake the duties of these Regulations have to balance their workload and sometimes they do more of this type of work and less of the other and sometimes it is the other way around.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

Is it then, by the explanation that the Minister has given me, that they have more duties in December than there has been in previous months?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I would have thought the obvious reason for a dip in the December figure was that I suppose during the Christmas festivities people are less inclined to be bureaucratically aggressive than they might be throughout the rest of the year apart from the fact that it is a shorter working month in terms of the number of holidays of the holiday season involved, but it is, that explanation aside it is possible that in some months, this one happens to be December they have focused more on some of the other legislation that this same group of inspectors have to enforce. I do not think that Government are in a position to give the hon Member a single reason which explains why in this particular month of December the figure of inspection is 14 compared to 17 in November and 16 in October but if I have to speculate I would have thought it had more to do with the time of the year than any other consideration.

NO. 37 OF 2002

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Can Government give a breakdown in respect of table 11 of the 1999 Employment Survey Report, showing employment by the Gibraltar Government separate from Employment by MOD?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

(On behalf of the Hon the Minister for Employment and Consumer Affairs)

Answered together with Question Nos 38 to 42 of 2002.

NO. 38 OF 2002

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Can Government give a breakdown in respect of table 11 of the October 2000 Employment Survey Report, showing employment by the Gibraltar Government separate from employment by the MOD?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

(On behalf of the Hon the Minister for Employment and Consumer Affairs)

Answered together with Question Nos 37 and 39 to 42 of 2002.

NO. 39 OF 2002

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Can Government give a breakdown of full-time and part-time employment in respect of table 11 of the October 1999 Employment Survey Report with respect to employment in the official sector?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

(On behalf of the Hon the Minister for Employment and Consumer Affairs)

Answered together with Question Nos 37, 38 and 40 to 42 of 2002.

NO. 40 OF 2002

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Can Government give a breakdown of full-time and part-time employment in respect of table 11 of the October 2000 Employment Survey Report with respect to employment in the official sector?

ANSWER

THE HON MINISTER FOR HOUSING

(On behalf of the Hon the Minister for Employment and Consumer Affairs)

Answered together with Question Nos 37 to 39, 41 and 42 of 2002.

NO. 41 OF 2002

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Can Government give a breakdown of full-time and part-time employment in respect of table 12 of the October 1999 Employment Survey Report with respect to employment in the Private Sector?

ANSWER

THE HON MINISTER FOR HOUSING

(On behalf of the Hon the Minister for Employment and Consumer Affairs)

Answered together with Question Nos 37 to 40 and 42 of 2002.

NO. 42 OF 2002

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Can Government give a breakdown of full-time and part-time employment in respect of table 12 of the October 2000 Employment Survey Report with respect to employment in the Private Sector?

ANSWER

THE HON MINISTER FOR HOUSING

(On behalf of 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 hand to him.

All Employee Jobs by Industry, Sex and Nationality, Official Sector, October 1999 - Gibraltar Government

ALL SECTORS	ALL		GIBRALTARIAN		UK		MOROCCAN		SPANISH		OTHER EU		OTHER	
	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE
Elec/Wtr Supply	102	5	95	5	2	0	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Construction	260	10	230	10	5	0	23	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Trans/Comm.	89	23	88	23	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Public Admin.	671	283	605	273	49	10	10	0	1	0	6	0	0	0
Education	192	391	184	383	6	8	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Health/Social Wrk.	200	530	163	469	21	54	4	2	1	1	2	2	9	2
Other Services	37	17	35	16	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	1,551	1,259	1,400	1,179	85	73	42	2	5	1	10	2	9	2

Contd. Answer to Question 42 of 2002

All Employee Jobs by Industry, Sex and Nationality, Official Sector, October 1999 - MoD

ALL SECTORS	ALL		GIBALTARIAN		UK		MOROCCAN		SPANISH		OTHER EU		OTHER	
	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE
Public Admin.	680	278	561	255	54	15	59	3	6	4	0	0	0	1
Health/Social Wrk*	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Services*	1	2	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	682	280	563	255	54	17	59	3	6	4	0	0	0	1

Note: * These four employees have been incorrectly coded and should have been included under the private sector in the October 1999 Report.

Contd. Answer to Question 42 of 2002

All Employee Jobs by Industry, Sex and Nationality, Official Sector, October 2000 - Gibraltar Government

ALL SECTORS	ALL		GIBALTARIAN		UK		MOROCCAN		SPANISH		OTHER EU		OTHER	
	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE
Elec/Wtr Supply	98	5	92	5	3	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Construction	263	12	235	12	0	0	26	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Trans/Comm.	84	25	84	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Public Admin.	672	281	611	274	45	7	9	0	1	0	5	0	1	0
Education	185	415	179	409	4	6	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Health/Social Wrk.	201	528	161	460	23	61	3	2	1	1	1	3	12	1
Other Services	38	12	36	11	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	1,541	1,278	1,398	1,196	76	75	42	2	4	1	8	3	13	1

Contd. Answer to Question 42 of 2002

All Employee Jobs by Industry, Sex and Nationality, Official Sector, October 2000 - MoD

ALL SECTORS	ALL		GIBALTARIAN		UK		MOROCCAN		SPANISH		OTHER EU		OTHER	
	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE
Public Admin.	719	334	594	301	51	19	64	5	10	7	0	0	0	2
TOTAL	719	334	594	301	51	19	64	5	10	7	0	0	0	2

Contd. Answer to Question 42 of 2002

All Employee Jobs by Industry, Sex and Nationality, Official Sector, October 1999 - Full -Time

ALL SECTORS	ALL		GIBRALTARIAN		UK		MOROCCAN		SPANISH		OTHER EU		OTHER	
	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE
Elec/Wtr Supply	102	4	95	4	2	0	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Construction	259	8	229	8	5	0	23	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Trans/Comm.	88	18	87	18	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Public Admin.	1,337	488	1,155	463	102	19	68	3	6	3	6	0	0	0
Education	191	252	184	246	5	6	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Health/Social Wrk.	201	453	164	394	21	52	4	2	1	1	2	2	9	2
Other Services	38	12	36	9	1	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	2,216	1,235	1,950	1,142	137	80	100	5	10	4	10	2	9	2

Contd. Answer to Question 42 of 2002

All Employee Jobs by Industry, Sex and Nationality, Official Sector, October 1999 - Part-Time

ALL SECTORS	ALL		GIBALTARIAN		UK		MOROCCAN		SPANISH		OTHER EU		OTHER	
	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE
Elec/Wtr Supply	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Construction	1	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trans/Comm.	1	5	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Public Admin.	14	73	11	65	1	6	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	1
Education	1	139	0	137	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Health/Social Wrk.	0	77	0	75	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Services	0	7	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	17	304	13	292	2	10	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	1

Contd. Answer to Question 42 of 2002

All Employee Jobs by Industry, Sex and Nationality, Official Sector, October 2000 - Full -Time

ALL SECTORS	ALL		GIBRALTARIAN		UK		MOROCCAN		SPANISH		OTHER EU		OTHER	
	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE
Elec/Wtr Supply	98	4	92	4	3	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Construction	260	12	234	12	0	0	24	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Trans/Comm.	84	21	84	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Public Admin.	1,379	536	1,195	501	95	24	73	5	11	6	4	0	1	0
Education	184	260	178	256	4	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Health/Social Wrk.	201	464	161	401	23	56	3	2	1	1	1	3	12	1
Other Services	37	10	35	9	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	2,243	1,307	1,979	1,204	126	85	104	7	14	7	7	3	13	1

Contd. Answer to Question 42 of 2002

All Employee Jobs by Industry, Sex and Nationality, Private Sector, October 1998 - Full-Time

ALL SECTORS	ALL		GIBRALTARIAN		UK		MOROCCAN		SPANISH		OTHER EU		OTHER	
	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE
Shipbuilding	229	9	114	8	25	1	22	0	56	0	11	0	1	0
Other Manuf.	113	47	57	33	14	11	26	1	42	2	2	0	2	0
Elec/Wtr Supply	113	12	91	12	7	0	10	0	4	0	1	0	0	0
Construction	1,057	69	510	41	229	20	132	0	166	6	17	2	3	0
Wholesale/Retail Tr.	1,304	627	690	411	159	103	177	8	182	78	25	17	71	13
Hotels/Restaurants	338	213	63	63	49	40	133	36	72	67	9	6	12	1
Trans/Comm.	438	126	315	100	56	20	28	1	28	2	9	3	0	0
Fin. Intermed.	403	555	266	396	64	118	0	0	21	18	29	16	31	7
Real Est./Bus.Ac.	411	345	271	227	71	74	19	6	29	24	15	12	6	2
Public Admin.	90	62	74	61	5	1	7	0	2	0	2	0	0	0
Education	3	23	2	17	0	5	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Health/Social Wk.	15	118	14	96	1	18	0	2	0	2	0	1	0	0
Other Services	427	267	207	124	125	87	22	5	34	29	14	6	25	16
TOTAL	4,939	2,474	2,666	1,589	805	498	576	59	607	226	134	63	151	39

Contd. Answer to Question 42 of 2002

All Employee Jobs by Industry, Sex and Nationality, Private Sector, October 1999 - Full-Time

ALL SECTORS	ALL		GIBALTARIAN		UK		MOROCCAN		SPANISH		OTHER EU		OTHER	
	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE
Shipbuilding	229	9	114	8	25	1	22	0	56	0	11	0	1	0
Other Manuf.	113	47	57	33	14	11	26	1	12	2	2	0	2	0
Elec/Wir Supply	113	12	91	12	7	0	10	0	4	0	1	0	0	0
Construction	1,057	69	510	41	229	20	132	0	166	6	17	2	3	0
Wholesale/Retail Tr.	1,304	627	690	411	159	103	177	8	182	78	25	17	71	13
Hotels/Restaurants	338	213	63	63	49	40	133	36	72	67	9	6	12	1
Trans/Comm.	436	126	315	100	56	20	28	1	28	2	9	3	0	0
Fin. Intermed.	403	555	268	396	64	118	0	0	21	18	29	16	31	7
Real Est./Bus. Ac.	411	345	271	227	71	74	19	6	29	24	15	12	6	2
Public Admin.	90	62	74	61	5	1	7	0	2	0	2	0	0	0
Education	3	23	2	17	0	5	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Health/Social Wk.	15	119	14	96	1	18	0	2	0	2	0	1	0	0
Other Services	427	267	207	124	125	87	22	5	34	29	14	6	25	16
TOTAL	4,939	2,474	2,866	1,589	805	498	576	59	607	226	134	63	151	39

Contd. Answer to Question 42 of 2002

ALL SECTORS	ALL		GIBALTARIAN		UK		MOROCCAN		SPANISH		OTHER EU		OTHER	
	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE
Shipbuilding	6	8	5	4	0	1	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	0
Other Manuf.	1	13	0	9	0	2	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
Elec/Wtr Supply	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Construction	16	28	6	16	2	9	3	0	5	3	0	0	0	0
Whsle/Retail Tr.	101	427	42	283	11	53	18	6	23	69	3	4	4	12
Hotels/Restmnts.	53	129	25	29	8	33	7	9	11	47	2	6	0	5
Trans/Comm.	18	39	16	29	0	6	1	3	1	1	0	0	0	0
Fin. Intermed.	11	97	7	79	2	14	0	2	0	1	1	1	1	0
Real Est./Bus.Ac.	414	119	391	79	17	14	3	4	2	22	1	0	0	0
Public Admin.	1	7	1	6	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Education	9	38	9	24	0	10	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	0
Health/Social Wrk.	5	55	5	46	0	7	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Other Services	48	108	32	53	6	19	6	6	2	21	0	7	0	2
TOTAL	683	1,068	539	657	48	168	38	32	45	172	7	19	5	20

Contd. Answer to Question 42 of 2002

All Employee Jobs by Industry, Sex and Nationality, Private Sector, October 2000 - Full-Time

ALL SECTORS	ALL		GIBRALTARIAN		UK		MOROCCAN		SPANISH		OTHER EU		OTHER	
	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE
Shipbuilding	256	14	131	10	22	1	19	1	68	2	15	0	1	0
Other Manuf.	106	44	54	28	11	9	24	1	11	3	1	1	5	2
Elec/Wtr Supply	113	11	96	11	6	0	8	0	2	0	0	0	1	0
Construction	987	52	402	31	180	15	135	0	208	4	11	1	51	1
Wholesale/Retail Tr.	1,248	654	669	429	124	78	169	9	207	117	21	11	58	10
Hotels/Restaurants	333	245	62	35	47	54	110	39	77	103	22	14	15	1
Trans/Comm.	497	173	381	134	37	19	30	4	40	12	8	4	1	0
Fin. Intermed.	431	598	273	421	70	116	1	0	20	17	39	31	28	13
Real Est./Bus. Ac.	397	342	261	230	74	73	11	3	27	24	16	11	8	1
Public Admin.	98	67	82	65	5	1	6	0	2	1	1	0	0	0
Education	5	20	5	13	0	6	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Health/Social Wk.	31	171	24	127	4	32	0	2	3	8	0	1	0	1
Other Services	524	336	252	153	173	111	27	5	38	34	23	17	11	16
TOTAL	5,024	2,728	2,692	1,687	753	515	540	64	703	326	157	91	179	45

Contd. Answer to Question 42 of 2002

ALL SECTORS	ALL		GIBALTARIAN		UK		MOROCCAN		SPANISH		OTHER EU		OTHER	
	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE
Shipbuilding	29	2	8	1	2	0	2	1	8	0	3	0	0	0
Other Manuf.	6	15	1	13	2	1	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Elec/Wtr Supply	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Construction	60	27	39	21	6	3	4	0	9	2	0	1	2	0
Whsle/Retail Tr.	101	362	57	250	7	31	14	6	19	55	0	9	4	11
Hotels/Restmts.	64	107	22	29	14	31	6	4	18	33	2	9	2	1
Trans/Comm.	21	38	16	29	4	0	0	0	1	10	0	0	0	0
Fin, Intermed.	15	62	10	45	1	10	0	2	2	2	1	3	1	0
Real Est./Bus.Ac.	422	138	398	96	13	8	2	7	6	26	3	1	0	0
Public Admin.	2	7	2	5	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Education	6	34	6	26	0	5	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0
Health/Social Wrk.	7	46	6	41	1	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Other Services	55	134	39	69	9	30	2	4	5	25	0	4	0	2
TOTAL	784	973	606	625	59	123	32	25	69	159	9	27	9	14

NO. 43 OF 2002

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Can Government state how many questionnaires have been sent to employers in relation to the Employment Survey 2001 and how many have been returned to date?

ANSWER

THE HON MINISTER FOR HOUSING

(On behalf of the Hon the Minister for Employment and Consumer Affairs)

There were 1,136 Employment Survey October 2001 questionnaires sent to private sector employers. Of these, 969 have been returned to date.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 43 OF 2002

HON J L BALDACHINO:

By what date did the employers have to return the questionnaires or is it still open?

HON J J NETTO:

I do not have that information available but I will be glad to look it up and provide it to the hon Member.

NO. 44 OF 2002

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Can Government state when they intend to publish the October 2001 Employment Survey report?

ANSWER

THE HON MINISTER FOR HOUSING

(On behalf of the Hon the Minister for Employment and Consumer Affairs)

In the prefix to the October 2000 Employment Survey Report, the Government Statistician stated his intention to complete the October 2001 Employment Survey within six months from the date of the conduct of the Survey, that is, the end of October 2001. The October 2001 Employment Survey will be available for publication by April 2002 at the latest.

NO. 45 OF 2002**THE HON J L BALDACHINO****BRUCE'S FARM**

Can Government state how many persons have been admitted as in-patients and how many persons have been given help as out-patients, at Bruce's Farm Drug Rehabilitation Centre since the 1st October 2001 giving a breakdown by age and sex for each month?

ANSWER**THE HON MINISTER FOR HOUSING**

(On behalf of 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 hand to him.

Out-patients seen from 1st October 2001 – 31st December 2001

	October 2001			November 2001			December 2001		
Age Groups	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Under 18	2	0	2	2	0	2	2	0	2
18 to 24	3	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	1
25 and over	5	4	9	10	8	18	7	5	12

Admissions for in-patient treatment as from 1st October 2001 – 31st December 2001

	October 2001			November 2001			December 2001		
Age Groups	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Under 18	2	0	2	2	0	2	2	0	2
18 to 24	3	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	1
25 and over	5	4	9	10	8	18	7	5	12

NO. 46 OF 2002**THE HON J L BALDACHINO****JOB CLUB**

Can Government state how many persons have used the facilities provided at the Job Club from February 2001 to December 2001 giving a breakdown for each month, by sex and age groups?

ANSWER**THE HON MINISTER FOR HOUSING**

(On behalf of 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 hand to him.

Persons using the Job Club facilities from February 2001 to December 2001 by gender:-

Month (2001)	Males	Females	Monthly Total
February	8	0	8
March	7	5	12
April	6	3	9
May	3	1	4
June	6	9	15
July	4	4	8
August	8	5	13
September	5	7	12
October	3	2	5
November	7	3	10
December	4	0	4
Totals	61	39	100

Persons using the Job Club facilities from February 2001 to December 2001 by age group:

Month (2001)	Under 18	18-24	25 and Over	Monthly Total
February	4	3	1	8
March	3	4	5	12
April	4	1	4	9
May	2	0	2	4
June	4	4	7	15
July	3	3	2	8
August	4	3	6	13
September	1	6	5	12
October	0	2	3	5
November	1	5	4	10
December	0	2	2	4
Totals	26	33	41	100

NO. 47 OF 2002

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

JOB CLUB

Of the 82 persons that used the Job Club facilities from February 2000 to January 2001 can Government state how many found employment, how soon after using the facilities giving a monthly breakdown?

ANSWER

THE HON MINISTER FOR HOUSING

(On behalf of the Hon the Minister for Employment and Consumer Affairs)

Thirty-nine out of the 82 persons who made use of the Job Club facilities from February 2000 to January 2001 have gained employment. It is not possible to determine how soon after using the facilities of the Job Club a person may have found employment. Such data is not readily available and would require a voluminous and manual administrative exercise to check when the person last made use of the facilities of the Job Club and when the person commenced employment.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 47 OF 2002

HON J J BOSSANO:

Given the fact that we are talking about 82 persons in one year and that we were given a breakdown previously by months which showed in some months there was nobody at all, surely one can say how many people went in October to take a random example of which there is only half a dozen and know how soon after October they got a job that does not seem to be a major exercise given that we are talking about such small numbers.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Of course it is possible to find out the information, one gets the name of the individual and then one goes and finds out through his personal file when that person found a job. Whether it is eight or 80 it is not a productive use of time, the statistics are just not that valuable. The Job Club is a highly targeted service, it is for people who have systematically found difficulty finding employment, the Question asks for registration for use of the Job Club but it is not just people who register as Job Club users that use the facilities, many other people just use it generally without actually registering for the full treatment so to speak. There are facilities in the Job Club which are used by many other people, we think actually that it has been relatively successful. Since the Job Club started in February 2000 right up to January 2002, which is almost two years, 227 people have used it, 161 of those have found employment, joined a Government training scheme or gone on to further education of one sort or another. In respect perhaps of one month if the hon Members want a random sample of the people who registered and how many have found jobs and when, it might be okay to do the research in respect of one month if the hon Members would accept that as a random mark likely to be indicative of the sort of success rate or the lag time but what we could not do is over lengthy periods if they are interested to have it done in a one off basis for six or seven individuals in one month I am happy to ask the people at the ETB to do that for me.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I thought that this information was now computerised?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No apparently not. It seems to be the sort of thing that might be computerised if after all the registration as unemployed is registered in the computer the registration in the Job Club is registered in the computer and the gaining of employment is registered in the computer, it should not be beyond the wit of man to ask the computer to report against those three criteria but apparently it is not so just now.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Would the Government not agree that it would be useful to know whether the people, if one takes the prospects of employment, if one goes to the Job Club and if one does not go to the Job Club, the whole purpose of the exercise is of course that their prospects of employment will be enhanced and consequently the success rate in finding employment of those in the Job Club surely is the very justification of the existence of the Job Club?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Question that the hon Member has asked before that one was not so much about success rate but about time lag, how long did it take them to find a job was the information that they were asking. We have told them how many have found jobs and then they wanted to know well how long did it take them to find jobs and it was the second part that we are not able to answer. Yes the Job Club is primarily about giving people who naturally are not attractive employees either because they do not

perform well in interviews or because they have presentational difficulty or for any other reason, coaching them up to maximise the chances that they will get a job when they apply rather than always be amongst the unsuccessful. That is how the Government measure success not by the rate or by the time it takes but rather, I mean any people that we can help to improve their chances of winning interviews for jobs is valuable particularly as a measure of the success of a measure that is designed specifically to be targeted at such people anyway. This is not for people who can get a job on their own anyway this are for people who for one reason or another need help in increasing their chances of winning interviews and making themselves attractive to employers. So, I think it is possible to work out a success rate, I am not sure that it is being done but certainly I agree it would be useful as a measure.

NO. 48 OF 2002

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

EMPLOYMENT – SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

Are Government now in the position to clarify the apparent contradiction in the information provided in answer to Supplementary Question No 28 of 2001 and Question Nos 37 and 284 of 2000 which was promised last year?

ANSWER

THE HON MINISTER FOR HOUSING

(On behalf of the Hon the Minister for Employment and Consumer Affairs)

Yes, the Government are in a position to offer the clarification that this Question seeks. The number of persons receiving Social Assistance and registered with the Employment Service as at the end of December 1999 was 92 as per answer to Question No 37 of 2000. In respect of answer to Question No 284 of 2000, there appears to have been made the erroneous assumption that because 26 of the 136 Social Assistance payees had been employed, that then the remaining 110 were still in receipt of Social Assistance and which was not the case. More confusion has no doubt been given rise to on account of the fact that in relation to Question No 37 of 2000 the number of persons registered and receiving no payments was by sheer coincidence also 110. It is hoped that these explanations will serve to clarify the apparent contradiction which the hon Member makes reference to in his Question.

NO. 49 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Can Government state whether the Gibraltar Development Corporation, JBS Co Ltd and the Elderly Care Agency are included in the Private Sector in the October 1998, 1999 and 2000 Employment Survey Reports and if so give a breakdown by nationality of the number of full-time and part-time employees accounted for by these three employers?

ANSWER

THE HON MINISTER FOR HOUSING

(On behalf of the Hon the Minister for Employment and Consumer Affairs)

Yes, they are included in the private sector and the extensive, factual and statistical information requested by the hon Member is set out in the written schedule that I hand to him.

Employee Jobs in GDC, GJBS and Elderly Care Agency – October 1998

	October 1998		
	Full Time	Part-time	Total
Gibraltar	218	13	231
UK	7	0	7
Moroccan	19	0	19
Spanish	1	0	1
Other EU	1	0	1
Other	1	1	0
Total	247	14	261

Employee Jobs in GDC, GJBS and Elderly Care Agency – October 1999

	October 1999		
	Full Time	Part-time	Total
Gibraltar	264	21	285
UK	6	0	6
Moroccan	28	0	28
Spanish	3	0	3
Other EU	2	0	2
Other	1	0	1
Total	304	21	325

Employee Jobs in GDC, GJBS and Elderly Care Agency – October 2000

	October 2000		
	Full Time	Part-time	Total
Gibraltar	264	22	286
UK	22	0	22
Moroccan	26	1	27
Spanish	8	0	8
Other EU	3	0	3
Other	1	0	1
Total	324	23	347

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 49 OF 2002

HON J J BOSSANO:

I know it is not part of the original Question but would the Minister know in which sector they were included in terms of the classification of the private sector?

HON J J NETTO:

I do not have that information available but I would be glad to try and provide it and give it to the hon Member.

NO. 50 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

BUILDINGS AND WORKS DEPARTMENT

Can Government confirm that the staff of the Buildings and Works Department have proposed to Government the introduction of the same pay scales offered to employees in the Electricity Department?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

I can confirm that I have received a letter from the Branch Officer (TGWU) to the effect that members of that section of the union do not desire their union to continue discussions and negotiations with the Government unless and until Government offers the same rate of pay as offered to those members employed in the various electrical departments. Furthermore, in a recent informal discussion between the shop stewards, convenor and myself, some shop stewards were of the view that they would not accept anything less than those rates offered in the electrical sector, and the convenor suggested a review of the proposed pay offer in line with the merit and circumstances related to the building trades.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 50 OF 2002

HON J C PEREZ:

The Minister has said what the union has told him, he certainly has not informed the House of what the position of the Government is in respect to those requests. Can the Minister say whether Government are well disposed to accept the offer?

HON J J NETTO:

Throughout the entire process the answer is no.

HON J C PEREZ:

Does the Minister see any prospect of proceeding in relation to the recommendations of the report in bringing about an authority in the Buildings and Works given the wide gap that exists in thinking definitely at the moment between the employees and the Government?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I think that answer requires two parts. First of all that the Government is very disappointed because we started the Electricity review on the clear understanding that it would be ring fenced to the department because of its historical alleged discriminations and would not be used as a precedent or as a justification for demanding the same elsewhere. So, certainly to the extent that Government proceeded on that basis and that basis is not available to the Government then the Government will not proceed along the basis of an authority by consensus with the staff. If the requirement of the staff to agree to transfer or to make alternative arrangements is parity with the electricity industry the answer is that they will not get that. They will get improved pay offer and therefore it leaves the Government having to follow a different path and route to resolving the problems of the Buildings and Works Department including the unacceptably poor service that Government housing tenants are receiving from that department and no one should be led to believe that a pay claim by the staff which may prevent the authority being introduced by consensus will be an obstacle or will prevent the Government from resolving the problems of Government tenants by another means.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is it not a fact that there has been a significant improvement in productivity in that area?

HON J J NETTO:

Yes, the fact I have always said in my budget speech that productivity is up but the fact that productivity is up that does not mean that it is up to the level that the Government feel happy or satisfied with the performance of the department. The Government have made it clear in various statements that we are not satisfied with the overall performance of the department and or to improve further, hence the reasons why the Government wish to restructure that department.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is it not a fact that it is better than the Minister expected at Budget time last year?

HON J J NETTO:

No.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Then how does the Minister explain that in the papers laid today in this House he has shown greater payments of productivity because the productivity has been higher than he budgeted for at the beginning of the financial year.

HON J J NETTO:

The answer to that question requires an analysis on the way Buildings and Works operates and at the moment as it operates with a system of grades and the procedures it operates then the papers that have been laid this morning shows that there has been an increase based on the way that it is operating but that is not to say that Government are satisfied with the structures, the procedures and the systems in place. We think that it needs to be reviewed and this will lead obviously to a higher performance in that department and more satisfaction to Government tenants.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Yes but there has been higher performance. According to the paper that was laid today the Government have paid more money than they budgeted for because more work has been produced so it is more than was expected no?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

There is no doubt that overall as my Colleague said in his answer, the levels of output are being increased but there is great lack of uniformity throughout the workforce as to output. There are no doubts that there are people in the Buildings and Works Department who want to work, want to earn money, understand that under the new system their earnings is directly related to getting jobs done, accept it, get on with it and earn good money, but there are other people who do not share that view and make the output of the department overall be less than what it could be. Therefore the Government wish to prove the structures of the department not just for the benefit of the tenants but for the benefit of the staff themselves, the Government are intending to offer the staff enhanced remuneration packages in exchange for what the Government want out of them but we are simply not willing to offer them the same as is being offered in the Electricity Department which is for reasons peculiar to the Electricity Department and some historical alleged discriminations that are thought to exist there. So, the Government's desire to shake up the Buildings and Works Department is not judged against whether things are better this year than they were last year, I believe that things are much better since overtime was eliminated, well eliminated except for certain things and earnings above over above basic depended on the completion of specific jobs work. I think there has been improvements, considerable improvements in the productivity of the Buildings and Works Department in the last three or four years but it is a long way short of what it is possible and reasonable to expect by way of a quality of service and I have said this before in respect of the Buildings and Works Department and I have said it also about the other Government departments that the Government are looking to restructure. The Government do not proceed on the basis that this is exclusively the fault of the workforce, there are many other dimensions, the historical attitudes to working practice amongst the workforce is one, but there are others there are also management deficiencies, there might be resources deficiencies, Government systems. When we talk about reviewing a department we talk about looking at all

aspects that need to be reviewed in order to put the department or the agency or whatever it is on a proper footing and we do not view this as pointing the finger exclusively at one section of it as opposed to the other. I think there is general consensus in Gibraltar that the tax payer does not get the value that it should or could out of the Buildings and Works Department. I think that the workforce themselves accept that, we were engaged on a joint initiative with the unions and the management to radically alter the way that the Buildings and Works Department functions, it is viewed by the tenants and indeed the quality of product it gives to the tenant and it has just ground to a halt temporarily because of this read across to the Electricity Department, until that point it was a consensus exercise. We are all working at it together, it was not a question of the Government reading a riot act it was a question of all of us together identifying things that could be done better, identifying how the condition of the workforce could and should be improved et cetera, et cetera and rather like has happened in the Electricity and the Post Office but here we are now ground to a halt because of the desire to match what has been achieved elsewhere.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The point that I am making is not the changes over three years but given the fact that in the estimates this year clearly an amount of money was put in on an assumption of what the workforce was capable of doing with the existing set-up, much more has been done presumably because the explanation for the extra money being spent is not that one is paying more money to people who are doing the same, we are paying them more for doing more.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The hon Member is saying because more has been output than we estimated for, that therefore there has been an increase in productivity. There may have been an increase in productivity or there may not have been but he should not deduce it just from that because he knows how budgets are put together. There is a stringent exercise in keeping figures to the minimum, it may well be, I would have to check before I could agree with him, the department may have put in a higher bid than that and when it came to generally reducing the amount of bids that departments make they may have been required to shake something off their bid. So, all I am saying is that it does not necessarily follow that because more has been paid than was in the estimates that that necessarily means that more has been done than the department was expecting to be done. If the hon Member wants to know I am perfectly happy to tell him what the departmental bid was so that he can test his theory against departmental expectations.

HON J J BOSSANO:

With all due respects it is not my theory it is the explanation that the Government have provided to the House which obviously the Chief Minister has not read because in the paper tabled this morning it says "Industrial wages, Housing maintenance, bonus payment £100,000 increased productivity." That is £100,000 extra and then it says "materials for Housing maintenance £300,000 extra because of increased workloads and productivity." If this explanation is incorrect I would like to know what the correct explanation is but it is not speculation on my part, I am just accepting at face value the accuracy of what has been tabled.

HON J J NETTO:

I think the Leader of the Opposition did not pay sufficient attention to my answer. What I said before was that under the current systems and under the current procedures it does mean that there is more output but that does not mean to say that if we were to do an audit on the current systems and procedures that through a value for money exercise that necessarily one should conclude that there is more output as reflected in those papers which he is quoting this morning. Under the current systems procedure that is the case and it may be the case but what I am saying that when we analyse the system the incentive bonus scheme at the moment with hindsight, rather than from the beginning when it started in July 1997, we may appreciate that in the absence of introducing into the incentive bonus scheme a recognised schedule of rate for the industry it means that the calculation in itself does not necessarily or scientifically or objectively reflect an increase in output which may be the case I am saying. In other words if we have to bring an estimator to refurbish this particular chamber well of course in the specification we would put all the measurements for the walls, the floors, and the ceilings but when in the absence of a recognised schedule of rates or industry the estimator on his own back in his own experience may be 10 years experience, 20 years experience, but his own experience as opposed to a proper recognised yardstick for the industry. Therefore the answer to the Question is that under the current system, under the current procedure, yes, we need more money to be put for bonuses and we need more money to be put for materials but if we were to conduct an audit into value for money in order to arrive at the performance of the department we may not get that precise conclusion.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am sure that the Minister has not forgotten how he and I used to see those alternative systems when we were both at the other end of the negotiating table, which we have both done, but is it not the case he is talking about the same workforce with the same experience and the same skills, if the system that operates now is the one introduced by the Government not the one that used to be before which the Minister defended as being more scientific and more accurate, so would he not agree that on that basis it is producing more results and that is the only basis he has got to go on.

HON J J NETTO:

Government have already said it, I have already said it that there is definitely more productivity and now more output from the department. The days before I was responsible for Buildings and Works was the days that it was based on social overtime it was not linked, the money from the bonus schemes related to the output, that was introduced when the current incentive bonus scheme was introduced in July 1997. There has been an enormous increase in output and in productivity but that is not to say what the Government have been saying that although we recognise that there is increases in productivity that the level of productivity in itself is sufficient to meet the demands of Government earnings and hence the reason why we seek further improvements.

NO. 51 OF 2002

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

HOUSING – POST-WAR FLATS

Can Government state how many post-war housing units have been allocated since 1st November 2001, broken down by month to date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos 52 and 55 of 2002.

NO. 52 OF 2002

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

HOUSING – PRE-WAR FLATS

Can Government state how many pre-war housing units have been allocated since 1st November 2001, broken down by month to date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos 51 and 55 of 2002.

NO. 53 OF 2002

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

HOUSING – POST-WAR FLATS

Can Government state how many post-war flats are vacant giving the area, room composition and the date they became vacant?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question No 54 of 2002.

NO. 54 OF 2002

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

HOUSING – PRE-WAR FLATS

Can Government state how many pre-war flats are vacant giving the area, room composition and the date they became vacant?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

I hand the hon Member a Table with the data sought.

Answer to Question No 53 of 2002

There are 96 post-war flats currently vacant. The area, room composition and date they became vacant is as follows:

South

8 x 2RKB	-	19.02.01
		19.03.01
		08.05.01
		09.07.01
		14.09.01
		04.11.01
		22.11.01
		22.01.02
9 x 3RKB	-	19.03.01
		04.04.01 (x2)
		24.05.01
		17.07.01
		04.11.01

		19.11.01
		17.01.02
		24.01.02
3 x 4RKB		06.04.01
		17.11.01
		03.12.01
<u>North</u>		
5 x 1RKB	-	10.05.01
		18.07.01
		16.11.01
		22.11.01
		05.02.02
13 x 2RKB		08.05.01
		02.07.01
		05.09.01
		08.11.01
		12.11.01
		16.11.01
		03.12.01 (x2)
		17.01.02
		29.01.02 (x3)
		05.02.02
19 x 3RKB	-	14.06.00
		06.10.00 (x2)
		12.01.01
		26.06.01
		03.07.01
		01.08.01
		13.10.01
		17.10.01
		23.10.01
		12.11.01 (x2)
		07.01.02
		09.01.02
		13.01.02
		17.01.02
		21.01.02
		28.01.02
		04.02.02
5 x 4RKB	-	16.07.01
		14.09.01
		16.12.01
		17.01.02
		22.01.02

Town

2 x 1RKB	-	04.11.01 15.01.02
2 x 2RKB	-	04.04.01 01.10.01
18 x 3RKB	-	15.03.99 12.05.00 07.04.01 14.05.01 11.10.01 25.11.01 26.11.01 30.11.01 07.12.01 07.01.02 (x4) 15.01.02 (x2) 21.01.02 29.01.02 04.02.02
12 x 4RKB	-	12.08.00 04.06.01 06.07.01 02.11.01 12.11.01 14.11.01 03.12.01 13.12.01 21.12.01 17.01.02 30.01.02 04.02.02

Answer to Question No 54 of 2002

There are 38 pre-war flats currently vacant. The area, room composition and date they came vacant are as follows:-

South

2 x 2RKB	-	20.06.01 04.11.01
2 x 3RKB	-	21.05.01

Town

5 x 1RKB	-	14.03.98 (x2) 22.01.01 25.01.01 15.08.01
13 x 2RKB	-	11.05.98 01.12.00 22.01.01 29.01.01 05.02.01 12.06.01 28.08.01 26.11.01 (x4) 22.01.02 04.02.02
11 x 3RKB	-	15.09.98 18.10.00 05.11.00 15.11.00 25.01.00 29.01.01 13.02.01 27.02.01 17.07.01 01.10.01 01.02.02
5 x 4RKB	-	04.09.00 26.02.01 11.06.01 01.10.01 27.01.02
1 x 5RKB	-	19.03.01

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 53 AND 54 OF 2002**HON DR R G VALARINO:**

Noting the dates of some of these flats especially some that go back even a couple of years, in fact more there is one in 1999 and 1998 has the Minister any idea why some of these flats should have taken so long to have been fixed up and allocated?

HON J J NETTO:

The answer to that supplementary question takes me back to the previous debate that we were just having about the performance of Buildings and Works. Unfortunately the case is that not just in this category of work meaning flat

refurbishment there are delays but indeed there are in other categories, I wish it was not the case but this is the reason, one of the reasons the Government seek to improve Buildings and Works.

HON DR R G VALARINO:

I accept that explanation and I would simply urge the Minister to see whether when he does his improvement of Buildings and Works because he was basing his argument on the amount of money that was provided for.....

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The hon Member is right precisely one of the things that the Government want to achieve is specifically is a faster turn around in the repair and reallocation of flats once they become empty. People out there amongst the general public complain that they have to wait for housing whilst there are 100 empty flats and that they have been empty for a long time. It is a perfectly legitimate frustrating complaint that is why the Government are determined to do something about it and I am glad that when we do do something about it we will have the wholehearted support of the hon Member.

NO. 55 OF 2002

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

HOUSING – PRE/POST-WAR HOUSES

Can Government state how many of the pre and post-war housing units which have been allocated since 1st November 2001, have been on a do-it-yourself basis?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

I hand the hon Member a Table with the data sought.

Answer to Question No 51 of 2002

Post- war housing units allocated since 1st November 2001 is as follows:-

November 2001	-	18
December 2001	-	10
January 2002	-	10
		—
Total		38
		—

Answer to Question No 52 of 2002

Pre-war housing units allocated since 1st November 2001 is as follows:-

November 2001	-	3
---------------	---	---

January 2002	-	2
		—
Total		5
		—

Answer to Question No 55 of 2002

Housing units allocated since 1st November 2001 on a do-it-yourself basis is as follows:-

Pre-war	-	3
Post-war	-	12
		—
Total		15
		—

NO. 56 OF 2002

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

HOUSING – WAITING LIST

Can Government state how many applicants are in the pre-list for housing (those who have not met the two-year qualifying period), giving a breakdown of their flat requirements?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question No 57 of 2002.

NO. 57 OF 2002

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

HOUSING – WAITING LIST

Can Government state how many applicants are in the Housing Waiting List, who have met the two year qualifying period , giving a breakdown of their flat requirements?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answer to Question No 56 of 2002

A total of 346 applicants are on the pre-list. Their flat requirements are:-

1 RKB	-	187
2 RKB	-	31
3 RKB	-	74
4 RKB	-	44
5 RKB	-	9
6 RKB	-	1

Answer to Question No 57 of 2002

A total of 241 applicants are on the Hosing Waiting List. Their flat requirements are:-

1 RKB	-	116
2 RKB	-	31
3 RKB	-	54
4 RKB	-	34
5 RKB	-	6

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 56 AND 57 OF 2002

HON DR R G VALARINO:

There are more applicants at the moment on the housing waiting list than when this question was last asked. In his previous answer the Minister valued that more houses were coming through the system. Why are there more applicants, is it because there were more applicants on the pre-list than previously thought ?

HON J J NETTO:

Exactly, it is true to say that there are more houses that are being refurbished by Buildings and Works but as the hon Member rightly says there are people moving from the pre-list to the actual waiting list and that factor has to be taken into account as well, hence the movement on the people in the waiting list.

HON DR R G VALARINO:

On a recommendation from the Ombudsman anybody coming from the UK instead of having to wait for three years to be able to get on the list, this would be reduced to one year. Has this recommendation been implemented?

HON J J NETTO:

It has just been gazetted, it came out in the last Gazette, they have changed the rule. The hon Member ought to realise that that particular rule and I have done a lot of research, as to why and when that particular clause, the actual clause goes back to the 1950's and the reason why it was introduced in the 1950's I am told is that a lot of Gibraltarian families emigrated to the United Kingdom all to find work and live at the time there but with the large amount of Gibraltarians that actually went to the United Kingdom there were some who made a pretence to go to the United Kingdom stayed there for a couple of months then came back to Gibraltar saying that they were homeless and short cutting the whole system. There must have been a recommendation from officials in 1950's to make this particular clause. Now, in my time we have looked at this again, in fact we are looking at the whole thing and we do not feel that there is a need to put conditions to accept the application, we feel that bringing it down to one year and allowing as well a certain level of discretion to the Housing Allocation Committee it would be more in keeping with the times that we live as opposed to going back to 1950's but anyway the short answer is that it is being done.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

I quite agree with what he has said because we have already a safety net in the two years qualifying period before a person is considered therefore by adding the three and the two we are now coming to five and I quite agree that that is outdated. May I ask a question on this one, a question on the pre-list, the highest number of applications that the Housing Agency is getting is on the 1 RKB is it that more younger people are applying for housing than elderly?

HON J J NETTO:

Sorry I have missed the point, could the hon Member repeat the question?

HON J L BALDACHINO:

Yes, out of the 346 applications that the Housing Agency is getting, the highest number is for 1RKB.

HON J J NETTO:

Correct.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

Is it that younger persons are applying , is it that the biggest amount of that figure is of young persons applying for Housing?

HON J J NETTO:

Without having the information available to me I would dare say that that is correct. It is younger people yes but I cannot say it 100 per cent because I have not got the information with me.

NO. 58 OF 2002

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

HOUSING – RENT RELIEF

Can Government state how many tenants of post-war housing units are on rent relief and how much has been spent on this from the £430.000 provided in the Social Assistance Fund Appendix 'G' to date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question No 58 of 2002.

NO. 59 OF 2002

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

HOUSING – RENT RELIEF

Can Government state how many tenants of pre-war housing units are on rent relief and how much has been spent on this from the £430.000 provided in the Social Assistance Fund Appendix 'G' to date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answer to Question No 58 of 2002

Four hundred and eighty one tenants of post-war housing units are currently on rent relief.

Answer to Question No 59 2002

Sixty one tenants of pre-war housing units are currently on rent relief and £358,330.40 has been spent from the £430,000 provided in the Social Assistance Fund for both.

NO. 60 OF 2002

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

HEAD 101 – SUBHEAD (1)

Can Government state what amount of Head 101, subhead (1), has been spent to date and on what projects?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

The total amount of £1,750,872 has been incurred to date under Head 101 Subhead 1. I hand the hon Member the information requested.

The analysis by projects is as follows:-

	£
Miscellaneous Works	115,543
Window Replacements	160,883
Scaffolding	155,192
Laguna Estate	247,908
Heathfield House	356,004
Anderson House	274,831
Glacis Estate	115,930
MacMillan House	238,997
Reconversion Works for Disability purposes/ Edinburgh House and Bishop Canilla House	85,584

Miscellaneous Works	£
North Depot	8,418
273 B Main Street	2,887
Varyl Begg Estate	3,207
3 Castle Steps	27,317
Laguna Estate	4,500
Electra Flats	4,354
Sandpits	8,865
Haymills	1,090
Moorish Castle Estate Club	20,640
Private Estates – Loans	34,265
Total	£115,543

Address	Amount (£)	Sub-Totals (£)
5 Medview Terrace	3,666.00	3,666.00
Aquitania House Chutes	1,113.00	1,113.00
Bado's Buildings	895.00	895.00
Ballymena House	3,445.83	3,445.83
Belvedere House	1,866.00	1,866.00
BW Main Street	5,224.50	5,224.50
Castle House Gantry	436.00	436.00
Castle Road	400.00	400.00
Chusan House	894.00	894.00
Crutchett's Ramp	485.75	485.75
Devil's Gap	560.00	-
Devil's Gap	4,861.00	5,421.00
Elliot's House Chute	348.00	348.00
Faulknor House	708.00	708.00
Fearless House	6,405.00	6,405.00
Flat Bastion Road	1,218.00	1,218.00
Gannet House	151.75	151.75
Gavino's Dwelling	1,087.50	1,087.50
Goole House	750.00	750.00
Harrier House	167.50	167.50
Hazle House	436.00	436.00
Hospital Steps	265.00	265.00
St Jago's Building	2,812.50	2,812.50
Jamaica House	436.00	436.00
Johnson's Passage	570.00	570.00
Keightley House	12,577.00	-
Keightley House	436.00	13,013.50
Knight's Court	6,762.00	-
Knight's Court	30,495.00	-
Knight's Court Bin Stores	216.25	-
Knight's Court Block 1	4,069.25	41,542.50
Lower Castle Road	436.00	436.00

Lower Castle Road No 24	4,199.00	4,199.00
Lower Witham's Road	1,007.50	1,007.50
Madeira House	3,516.50	3,156.50
Main Street No 3	148.12	148.12
Mallard House	847.50	847.50
Mauretania House	693.00	-
Mauretania House	387.00	1,080.00
McFarlane House	387.00	387.00
MacMillan House	428.75	428.75
Moorish Castle Play area	306.00	306.00
Morello's Ramp 16	562.50	-
Morello's Ramp 16	272.50	835.00
NavalGround Stage 1	2,,863.00	2,863.00
North Pavilion	465.00	465.00
Osprey House	483.75	-
Osprey House	2,425.50	2,909.25
Paradise Steps	605.50	605.50
Ragged Staff Joiners	270.00	270.00
Red Sands House	2,436.00	-
Red Sands House	2,772.00	5,208.00
Resolution House	1,206.00	1,206.00
Richardsons Steps	364.37	364.37
Road to the Lines 16	1,692.00	1,692.00
Rosia House	1,180.50	-
Ross House	1,968.00	3,148.50
Ross House West	1,257.50	1,257.50
Royal Oak House	547.50	547.50
Scud Hill	6,260.00	-
Scud Hill	760.00	-
Scud Hill	173.00	7,193.00
Sheffield House	330.60	330.60
South Pavilion	465.25	465.25
St Bernard's Nursery	2,281.50	2,281.50
Stanley Buildings	4,050.00	4,050.00
Tarik House	845.00	845.00
Tarik Road	825.00	825.00
Upper Withams House	1,315.00	1,315.00
Willis's Passage	6,387.50	6,387.50
Willis's Road	1,050.00	1,050.00
Willis's Ramp	2,963.00	2,963.00
Total	£155,192.10	£155,192.17

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 60 OF 2002

HON DR R G VALARINO:

On the last one, Miscellaneous Works, private estates loans of £34,265, I imagine that the loans will be paid back to Government.

HON J J NETTO:

Yes, part of the conditions of the loans is that it has to be paid back.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

There is a standard format of these loans, the hon Member will recall that we have a manifesto commitment to assist private estates in their refurbishment. There is a standard format of loan with a standard a repayment programme although the length of the repayment programme varies, lengthens, depending on the size of the loan and the purpose for which the loan is wanted but yes they are all loans repaid, the terms of the repayment may vary as to the length.

HON DR R G VALARINO:

Thank you very much.

NO. 61 OF 2002

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

HOUSING – PENSIONER EXCHANGE LIST

Can Government state how many housing applicants are in the Housing Pensioner Exchange List giving a breakdown of those who are Government tenants and private sector?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos 62 and 63 of 2002.

NO. 62 OF 2002

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

HOUSING – NUMBER OF APPLICANTS

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

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos 61 and 63 of 2002.

NO. 63 OF 2002

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

HOUSING – NUMBER OF APPLICANTS

Can Government state what is the number of housing applicants who are socially recommended, their requirements and how many are classified as homeless?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answer to Question No 61 of 2002

There are 295 applicants in the Housing Pensioner Exchange List. The breakdown of Government tenants and private sector tenants is as follows:

Government tenants	-	233
Private sector tenants	-	62

Answer to Question No 62 of 2002

There are a total of nine applicants medically categorised as follows:

A – 2; B – 2; C – 5;

The housing requirement of these nine applicants is as follows:-

1 RKB – 4; 2 RKB – 3; 3 RKB – 2.

Answer to Question No 63 of 2002

There are 12 housing applicants socially recommended as follows:

A – 8; B –1; C-3.

The housing requirement of these 12 applicants is as follows:

1 RKB – 4; 2 RKB – 2; 3 RKB – 3; 4 RKB – 3.

Two are classified as homeless.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 61, 62 AND 63 OF 2002

HON DR R G VALARINO:

The two who are classified as homeless I presume these are the same two as were classified as homeless when the Minister last answered this question, in fact he said that they were really not homeless but they were squatting at the time.

HON J J NETTO:

I remember something along those lines, that was information given to me I can also say that of those two classified as homeless, one has recently been categorised as social A the other one is either B or C, I have not got that information available with me.

NO. 64 OF 2002

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

HOUSING – BISHOP CANILLA HOUSE

Can Government state why has water penetration occurred this winter once again at Bishop Canilla House and the severe dampness that is present in some of the flats?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question No 65 of 2002.

NO. 65 OF 2002

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

HOUSING – BISHOP CANILLA HOUSE

Can Government state whether there are any non-occupied flats at Bishop Canilla House?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answer to Question No 64 of 2002

Following the recent heavy rains experienced during the last few weeks of December 2001, a number of reports were received concerning dampness/water ingress into a number of flats. This was reported to the relevant department and an inspection was undertaken. Two distinct problems were identified, either of which having affected different flats. The first such problem was identified as a tear in the lead flashing in some of the valley gutters on the roof. This is the first time that such a problem has occurred in this building. Immediate emergency repairs were undertaken at the time which proved totally successful. Permanent repairs are currently being effected. The second problem was re-occurrence of the previously experienced dampness problem in some flats. There has however been a noticeable improvement in the situation in respect of the number of flats affected and the degree of the problem. In any case, the situation is still wholly unsatisfactory, as it is not acceptable for even a single flat to have suffered such a problem. The contractor is currently actively involved in investigating the matter with a view to finally identifying the cause of this problem so that an effective solution can be found. Until such time as this investigation has been completed and a permanent solution identified, no further repair works will be undertaken within the affected flats although individual tenants will be offered the opportunity of having cosmetic repairs undertaken, should they so desire.

Answer to Question No 65 of 2002

There are no unoccupied flats at Bishop Canilla House.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 64 AND 65 OF 2002

HON J C PEREZ:

Is the Minister suggesting that it is still the obligation of the contractor and that all of those repairs that he has mentioned are covered by the contract and will be undertaken at the cost of the contractor?

HON J J NETTO:

That is the case.

HON J C PEREZ:

Including the new thing that has been identified now which he explained previously all of it?

HON J J NETTO:

My understanding is that that is the case.

HON J C PEREZ:

One will presume that there will be a check on what the contractor is doing given that the last time that the Minister came to the House he said that the whole problem had now been solved and we have had a repetition of some and new problems occurring, can the Minister say what grade in the department is checking the contractor to ensure the non-recurrence of this problem?

HON J J NETTO:

This has been checked in three different ways. This is checked first of all anything that may happen on a day to day basis by the actual people that we have got employed there as caretakers in terms of making forms and actually detailing where the flood is affecting and where it is affected so that is the first of level of checking. The second level of checking is by the Housing Inspectors, they also do their reports but finally at a much higher level of this it is all checked by Technical Services Department. They are the main persons who check not just what is visible to see and in terms of reporting but also checking the work that the contractor is doing.

HON J C PEREZ:

Can the Minister state whether there are still funds held by the Government from the contractor?

HON J J NETTO:

I have not got that information available with me. This is not part of the original question.

HON DR R G VALARINO:

The Minister mentions two aspects one was the initial repairs and the other one was the long standing repairs that obviously will be carried out by the contractor. Who did the initial repairs was it the Minister's department or the contractor?

HON J J NETTO:

I have already answered that question, the initial repairs were done by the contractor.

HON DR R G VALARINO:

On question No 65 of 2002 did the Minister give me a reply?

HON J J NETTO:

I think I did but the answer is that there are no unoccupied flats at Bishop Canilla House. There is one particular flat that we make available to the Occupational Therapist for their own assessments of people of mobility and diagnosis and these kind of things. Leaving aside the flat that we have given to the Occupational Therapist for this kind of analysis and treatment, everything is occupied.

HON DR R G VALARINO:

Well practically.

HON J J NETTO:

Well.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

The flat that has been given to the Occupational Therapist is it on a permanent basis or is it temporary until something else.....

HON J J NETTO:

Well for the time being yes, we have had an approach by that section of the GHA in which they said that not just to do their assessments in terms of housing demands but there are other demands made from other various Government Departments that they would have liked to have had a particular flat which is dedicated for this type of

work, so for the time being the answer is yes but obviously this kind of thing is reviewed from time to time.

ORAL

NO. 66 OF 2002

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

HOUSING – VARYL BEGG ESTATE

Have Government now taken a decision as to when they will start to install lifts at Varyl Begg Estate?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos 72 and 80 of 2002.

NO. 67 OF 2002

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

HOUSING – GLACIS ESTATE LIFTS

Can Government state how many of the lifts installed at Glacis Estate are presently in a working condition?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question No 68 of 2002.

NO. 68 OF 2002

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

HOUSING – GLACIS ESTATE LIFTS

Can Government state how many of the lifts at Glacis Estate have had water penetration this winter or have been subjected to vandalism?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answer to Question No 67 of 2002

All the lifts at Glacis Estate are presently in working condition.

Answer to Question No 68 of 2002

Two of the lifts at Glacis Estate have had instances of water penetration this winter and all the lifts have been subjected to minor acts of vandalism at one stage or another since they were installed.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 67 AND 68 OF 2002

HON DR R G VALARINO:

On the water penetration side, this occurred last year, why does it happen on these lifts?

HON J J NETTO:

The source of the problem is that if one goes down to Glacis Estate, we are talking about external communal corridors and when we have strong wind blown rain it actually moves along and actually penetrates into the lifts. So, what they are doing at the moment is to build up some kind of barriers in order to avoid this happening.

HON DR R G VALARINO:

I will await until next winter.

NO. 69 OF 2002

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

HOUSING – LAGUNA ESTATE LIFTS

Have Government now taken a decision as to whether to install lifts at Laguna Estate?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos 70 and 71 of 2002.

NO. 70 OF 2002

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

HOUSING – LAGUNA ESTATE

What works are presently being carried out at Laguna Estate and what is the cost to date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos 69 and 71 of 2002.

NO. 71 OF 2002

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

HOUSING – LAGUNA ESTATE

What is the estimated date of completion of the beautification project at Laguna Estate?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answer to Question No 69 of 2002

The answer remains that for the time being Government are not going to proceed with the installation of lifts in that estate as explained by the Chief Minister in a supplementary question to Question No 891 of 2001. Works will proceed when the various technical difficulties that arise in that estate have been overcome.

Answer to Question No 70 of 2002

In relation to the scope of works the answer to this question has already been given to the hon Member in a supplementary question to Question Nos 891 and 901 of 2001. As to the cost to date, it is £247,908.39.

Answer to Question No 71 of 2002

The contract works currently in progress at Laguna Estate are scheduled for completion on 8th December 2002.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 69, 70, AND 71 OF 2002

HON DR R G VALARINO:

So, the works will be finished by the 8th December?

HON J J NETTO:

I would not put too much notice on the 8th, suffice to say if they will be done hopefully in December if there is no delay but I would not put much notice on the day.

HON J C PEREZ:

The Minister has said that no final decision has yet been taken on the lifts. Is it not something that would be important for the Government in connection with the refurbishment programme in Laguna Estate given that, for example, if one is going to paint a block and later decide to install lifts that it would be better to know whether the lifts are going to be installed and do the things together as the Minister had explained he is going to do in Varyl Begg?

HON J J NETTO:

Well, that should not cause much of a problem because I can recall that when we actually installed the lifts in Glacis Estate we then sometime had to call back the painters to paint up certain areas as a result of the installation of the lifts when it was done later on. I would not make that as being an important issue.

HON J C PEREZ:

Could the Minister state what is the technical difficulties the Government are studying in relation to that?

HON J J NETTO:

As I indicated in my original answer to the question, the Chief Minister gave a very lengthy explanation as to the difficulties in Laguna Estate. The report by the Technical Services Department they did say that many of the buildings would not be possible at all to be able to fit a lift. Then there were other buildings which in order to do it it would mean that there would be all sorts of problems, they would have to build a shaft of the lift on the pavement or even on the road which would create problems for traffic circulation or encroachment on the pedestrian way. Then against that there were all sorts of other problems in the sense that the lifts were it can be fitted had to fitted not at the landing, in other words when one comes out of the lifts one would not come out straight at the landing but to the half landing and only servicing two tenants in each particular level. All of this was part of the consideration and it did point all the difficulties that would be incurred and the astronomical cost as well to overcome all such difficulties but I remember as I said before the Chief Minister did go at much length in giving an explanation.

HON J C PEREZ:

In the areas where the Minister had said that the study says it is not possible at all I presume that the Government have accepted that and there are certain blocks where that is not pending a decision. Have Government accepted the recommendation of the study where in some cases it says that the lift will not be possible at all?

HON J J NETTO:

The Government not necessarily judged this in the manner that the hon Member is saying. The hon Member needs to take into account that all we have is a particular size of funds to be able to fulfil our manifesto commitment for the installation of lifts throughout Gibraltar and to maximise that. As Housing Minister I would wish to be able to have millions and millions of pounds to do the kind of things that have not been done in the last 40 years but I have not got that size amount of money to be able to catch up with the historical neglect. So, with the amount of money that we have available for the lifts installation I need to try and use it and maximise it as much as I can.

HON J C PEREZ:

So what the Minister is saying is that it is not within the realms of impossibility but it is the cost factor that is influencing the Government in delaying a decision over Laguna Estate and not the report of the experts as mentioned before with what the difficulties involve. The difficulties incur extra costs and it is the cost factor that is the one that is drawing away the Government from providing this in Laguna.

HON J J NETTO:

The hon Member should not conclude one factor against the other, he should take the two into account.

HON J C PEREZ:

Well I am just taking into account the last thing that the Minister says here, one cannot take into account all the factors if at the end of the day what the Minister says here is that he has got a strict budget and that if he had more money presumably he would do Laguna but at the moment he has not got enough money for all the lifts he wants to install.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

The Minister said that in certain areas in Laguna in certain blocks the lifts cannot be installed, physically impossible, so the question whether one has funds or whether one has not is irrelevant, can the Minister tell us in which areas in Laguna, is he referring to the blocks in what is known as Lake Chad or any other block in Laguna? Which particular area because there is an area which is the first blocks that were built in 1953 I think it was which is called Lake Chad are those the ones he is referring where it is impossible to build?

HON J J NETTO:

I do not have that information with me .

NO. 72 OF 2002

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

HOUSING – VARYL BEGG ESTATE

When will all remedial and beautifying works commence at Varyl Begg Estate?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos 66 and 80 of 2002.

NO. 73 OF 2002

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

HOUSING – 50/50

Have Government now identified a site in order to build further housing units on a 50/50 basis as this is becoming an urgent issue?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question No 74 of 2002.

NO. 74 OF 2002

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

HOUSING

Are Government still set on the idea of building further housing for the elderly in a planned project together with further units for sale and/or renting?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answer to Question No 73 of 2002

The situation remains as answered previously, that the Government are looking at various sites, some of which while being ideal to develop Government's housing commitments, have nevertheless some peripheral problems to overcome.

Answer to Question No 74 of 2002

The Government have never stated to be set on the idea of building further housing for the elderly in a planned project together with further units for sale and/or renting. It seems that the hon Member is confusing various GSD Housing Manifesto commitments in a manner that becomes meaningless.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 73 AND 74 OF 2002

HON DR R G VALARINO:

It was actually the Chief Minister who said at the last meeting of the House that a Bishop Canilla type of building would be built in a planned project and he was here at the time and he actually said it as the answer to a supplementary. I mention this

because there have been complaints from people at Bishop Canilla House on the noise emanating from Edinburgh House so that a planned project incorporating both the elderly and normal housing stock seems to bring about its own problems.

HON J J NETTO:

The point that I was trying to make is that this may be the case or may not be the case but it is not a question of Government being set in their minds. My recollection is that it may be the position that we may put a further building accommodation for senior citizens along with other projects that we may wish to have but it is not necessarily that we are set in the mind. In relation to the second point that the hon Member has made I meet regularly with the people in Bishop Canilla House, I do not recall that people have said to me that they are complaining about the noises emanating from Edinburgh House. They have made all sorts of complaints about other issues that we have been tackling but the point should remain that the Government are committed to fulfil our Government manifesto commitment and we are working on it.

HON J C PEREZ:

On the question of providing subsidised housing being on a 50/50 or 60/40 or whatever the Government idea now is, can the Minister state whether it is one of the priorities of the Government and whether we can expect to see something in the next financial year given the great demand that there is for housing particularly from young couples wanting to get married and the trend that is starting to reoccur of people having to move to La Linea without wanting to because they can not find affordable housing in Gibraltar given the demand in the private sector as well?

HON J J NETTO:

In relation to people that may be moving to La Linea the Government have not got statistics to say how many are going necessarily as a result of the prices that they cannot afford in Gibraltar in the private sector, but the first part to his question is when will Government be in a position to be able to move this particular subject forward, that is the first part of his question. I do not wish to enter into areas which are third party discussions but of course the Government are keen to fulfil this commitment as we are indeed serious of fulfilling all our commitments to our manifesto and Government would want to be in a position in the next financial year to start speeding up and moving up this particular issue,

HON S E LINARES:

Apart from what the Minister said that the Chief Minister mentioned in the House, it was also mentioned by the Minister himself in a party political broadcast.

HON J J NETTO:

What?

HON S E LINARES:

The fact that the Government were going to build houses, 500 units on a 50/50 basis.

HON J J NETTO:

All these?

HON S E LINARES:

If he wants I will bring him the tape, he actually mentions it and every time he is in a political broadcast he promises these houses so it is not only the Chief Minister who has mentioned it, it is himself in a party political broadcast.

HON J J NETTO:

The hon Member is confusing some of the statements contained in the GSLP manifesto, the GSD has never said that it is going to build 500 units, that has been said in the GSLP manifesto he should read it himself so it is not that I have said it or that the Chief Minister has said it. The question really is what I have just said and that is that Government take very seriously their manifesto commitment and are proud in honouring that.

NO. 75 OF 2002

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

HOUSING – COELHO HOUSE

When are the works at Coelho House scheduled for completion?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question No 77 of 2002.

NO. 76 OF 2002

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

HOUSING – MOORISH CASTLE ESTATE

Can Government state what are the present works being carried out at Moorish Castle Estate?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

The works presently being carried out at Moorish Castle Estate consists of the external repairs to Keightley House. This consists of re-roofing and the external redecoration of the building including repairs to the external rendering of the building and the redecoration of communal staircases. These works form part of an on-going maintenance programme being carried out by the department within the estate. Once works at Keightley House are completed, similar works will then be carried out at Wall House.

NO. 77 OF 2002

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

HOUSING – COELHO HOUSE

What is the total number of flats at Coelho House and how many units are vacant at the present time?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answer to Question No 75 of 2002

The works at Coelho House are scheduled to be completed on the 6th November 2002.

Answer to Question No 77 of 2002

The total number of flats at Coelho House is 30. There are five flats vacant at present.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 75 AND 77 OF 2002

HON J L BALDACHINO:

How long have these flats been empty?

HON J J NETTO:

That information is not available to me because it does not form part of the original question.

HON J C PEREZ:

Is there an intention on behalf of the Government not to release those flats until the repairs are over or are those flats available for allocation?

HON J J NETTO:

It would probably be the case that the flats will not be available for allocation because probably one of the reasons for which they have been empty is because as part of the necessary remedial works to the external façade and the demolition of the balconies is that they have had water penetration and obviously we needed to fix the external façade before getting into the refurbishment of the flat so probably the answer would be that we have to wait until the façade is finished.

NO. 78 OF 2002

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

HOUSING – ALAMEDA ESTATE

Can Government state whether the empty housing units at Alameda Estate have now been allocated?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Yes. Two are under offer and two have been allocated.

NO. 79 OF 2002

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

HOUSING – COELHO HOUSE

Will Government state whether they will move tenants at Coelho House who have serious medical complaints and on medical advice to other areas prior to work starting at Coelho House as promised by the acting Housing Manager in a meeting with tenants in December?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

One tenant has brought medical evidence which will be put to the Medical Board.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 79 OF 2002

HON DR R G VALARINO:

I also understand that the acting Housing Manager told the tenants that if they were going to be moved out they would be moved out on a permanent basis and I had word since then from two of the tenants that this will be so, if this is so can I have a reassurance from the Minister that where they will be moved it will be somewhere where they will be able to lead a normal life considering their condition and I do believe that the two tenants have had assurances from Government that at least verbally from the acting Housing Manager that they will be moved but no site or area has been designated as yet ?

HON J J NETTO:

I am afraid that the information that is available to me does not tally with the information available to the hon Member. What I have been informed is that this particular tenant the one we are referring to had a temporary re-allocation was made

to her while the works were starting but she refused because she prefers to be moved permanently. Of course when the person wants to leave permanently based on her medical condition then that has to go to the relevant committee for due consideration. That is the position that we are at the moment and it is the only case for which we have information available from the people in Coelho House in terms of medical problems.

HON DR R G VALARINO:

Two things here, one is that the acting Housing Manager definitely stated in December that if people were moved out they could remain there. I have got that as factual words from the acting Housing Manager. The Minister was not present but the person in fact said this and I would ask him to liaise with the acting Housing Manager because there is also somebody else.

HON J J NETTO:

I think we are confusing two issues here, the acting Housing Manager did say in that meeting with all the tenants there that if anyone were to be affected as a result of the repairs the Housing Agency would provide temporary re-allocation for the period of the works depending on the circumstances that they merit for that particular person and that is what has been offered to this particular person, but they are not seeking temporary re-accommodation, they are seeking permanent re-accommodation and obviously within the procedures if one wants permanent re-accommodation in this case the Medical Advisory Board to determine the medical case for a permanent re-accommodation which is not to be confused with something temporary because some works are being done. So, that is what is happening at the moment and there are communications indeed between the acting Housing Manager and the person in question. People are talking to each other and the final point is that the hon Member seems to be saying that this is not just the only case that there is another case or two cases. The information available to me is that this is the only case but if people come forward we will listen to them and we will look into the case.

HON DR R G VALARINO:

I would just like to say to the Minister that it was only yesterday when I spoke to a tenant at Coelho House and he had been guaranteed by the acting Housing Manager that he and his family would be moved out on a permanent basis somewhere else. Maybe this has happened of late and he has not had any notice.

HON J J NETTO:

I cannot say whether it did or it did not but what I find a bit odd is that the acting Housing Manager should take decisions for which she is not empowered to. That is to say, she is not empowered to re-accommodate people on a permanent basis, that decision is not made by her.

HON S E LINARES:

Just as a matter of interest what happens with the person who is living in that house now and although he or she is seeking permanent housing somewhere else and the works at Coelho House have already begun so is that person still living in that house even though medically they should not be living there? I understand the problem of permanent and temporary and I am not getting into that I am just concerned about the person living there whilst the works are going on whilst medically he/she should not be there.

HON J J NETTO:

We are concerned as well but my understanding is that although the works have started they are starting at the position on the building that is not affecting her at all.

NO. 80 OF 2002

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

HOUSING – VARYL BEGG ESTATE

Are Government aware that further water penetration has occurred this winter at Varyl Begg Estate in a large number of housing units and how do Government intend to remedy this situation?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answer to Question No 66 of 2002

The answer to this question is contained in my answer to Question No 892 of 2001.

Answer to Question No 72 of 2002

The answer to this question is contained in answer to Question No 896 of 2001. Additionally in order to keep the hon Member informed to the same degree as tenants of the estate I am passing to him an information leaflet that I sent in December 2001 to all tenants of the estate giving detailed information on these matters.

Answer to Question 80 of 2002

Government are aware that further water penetration has occurred at Varyl Begg Estate this year. Government intend to provide new pitch roofs to all the buildings in the estate, which together with modifications to the rainwater disposal installation, should eliminate the water penetration problems which have affected this estate for a very long time. These works which are currently at design stage are envisaged to commence within the next financial year.



GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR
OFFICE OF THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING
2nd Floor
City Hall
Gibraltar

11 December 2001

To: Varyl Begg Estate tenants

Dear Tenant

Given the various works, projects and other matters in which Government officials are working on for Varyl Begg Estate, I thought it would be prudent to keep you informed of such events in order to enable you to be aware of these as they unfold over the next few years.

1. Refurbishment of the Estate

The nature of the works in each block will be to install new pitched roofs and the installation of lifts in every block. Along with the new roofs, there will be gutters and downpipes on the external façade of the buildings, thereby addressing the historical collection of water within the building. The lifts themselves will be of the normal standard types being accessible from the ground floor.

Once all the buildings of the estate are refurbished (expected to last three years), the final phase on the fourth year will be the general embellishment of the communal areas. Furthermore the works will also include tackling the ineffective water drainage system leading to accumulation of surface water at the centre of the estate.

In all, due to the amount of works to be carried out in the estate it is envisaged that it will take four years to complete. Within the embellishment phases these will consist of the following:

- (a) Tidying-up/embellishment of existing planters.
- (b) Provision of new street furniture including lampposts, benches, etc.
- (c) Construction of an under-12 year old playground area and a new enclosed football pitch.
- (d) Complete repaving of all communal areas as carried out in Glacis and Laguna Estates.

Already officials are working on tender documents and designs so as to be in a position to invite tenders, hopefully before the end of this financial year (April 2002). Initially, the works will be concentrated in the bigger blocks (ie Alert, Royal Sovereign, Repulse and Valiant), then moving down and out.

2. Parking in the Estate

Despite the current parking arrangements in the estate whereby tenants are allotted a parking space for a nominal fee, on a number of occasions other vehicles have been found to be obstructing a parking bay or a garage.

Throughout this time officials from various departments and the RGP have worked to find a permanent solution to this matter. Currently, we are working on making amendments to the Traffic Ordinance so that it will enable the Government to provide a service by tender for the clamping or towing away of such offending vehicles. This is something that my Ministry would like to see in operation hopefully within the following months.

Finally, on this point, I would like to remind those tenants in arrears of their licence agreement to ensure their payments are up-to-date. Failure to do so risks having their licence not being renewed.

3. Lights/Electricity to the Garages

We are informed by the Electricity Department, that out of the 128 garages, applications for the supply of electricity have only been received from 10 garage owners. It is therefore important that garage owners complete their own internal wiring and produce a diagram to be sent by hand during normal working hours to their Consumer Section, at its new depot; next to the Piccadilly Gardens Restaurant. This will facilitate supply of electricity to their garages. Upon completion of this procedure meters will be installed.

4. Cleanliness of the Estate

On a general note covering all Housing Estates, the Government has already informed the unions of our intentions to contract out the cleanliness of the estates. It is envisaged that the new arrangements throughout would be much enhanced, and at the same time it could provide in the long-term other services.

5. Dog fouling in the Estate

We are being constantly informed of the indiscriminate abuse of certain dog owners for not removing their dog's faeces. We would like to remind such owners that these acts not only constitute an unhygienic action by placing other people at risk, but also constitutes an offence.

In the interest of all, we would appeal to those offending dog owners to correct such practice. Equally, tenants of the estate who may wish to inform confidentially to the RGP or the Environmental Agency of dog owners allowing such practice, to help identify, spot and possibly fine such unscrupulous persons.

Finally, it will be my desire to keep tenants informed regularly as we embark to implement the various projects.

Yours sincerely

J J Netto
Minister for Housing

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 66, 72, AND 80 OF 2002

HON DR R G VALARINO:

I thank the Minister for his replies, when he referred that he had previously answered the two earlier questions it was because he said that he had said so in his Budget statement. He certainly did not say in his Budget statement when the lifts were going to be installed in Varyl Begg Estate, in fact if I may quote from what he said, the only thing he said on Varyl Begg Estate was, "and lastly to round up this topic we would like towards the end of this financial year," that was last year, "to commence with the Varyl Begg Estate project," and he was talking about the project at the time of beautification and not lifts. He had mentioned lifts at Laguna before but he did not specifically mention lifts at Varyl Begg Estate, so he is erring somewhat by going back to a Budget Statement which certainly did not say anything about when lifts were going to be or were going to start to be installed at Varyl Begg Estate. Has the letter been circulated to all tenants of Varyl Begg Estate? Because there are severe problems in this estate and since the Minister said at the time that work would commence towards the end of the year I wonder whether it says here in any part of this lengthy exposure when work will commence at the estate to try to refurbish what was once a beautiful estate.

HON J J NETTO:

Well, the tenants and the Tenants Association are fully aware not just because of the information contained in there, what we are aiming to do is to have a situation, well in fact officials in the Technical Services Department as we speak are working on the designs and tender documents and I would want to be in the position soon after the commencement of the new financial year to be able to start the refurbishment and the beautification of the estate. Now, this is going to be a very long project, in fact it is probably estimated as being something like four years. The first three most

probably will be in doing the new pitch roofs plus all the details of the changes that we are talking about in terms of putting gutters in the external façade of the building, the down pipes in the traditional way that we know about, some of the internal water penetration that we have in the building and that will go on for three years probably, because of the number of buildings in that particular estate. The last year is the last year that we want to dedicate to beautification, in other words to try to cause as least inconvenience so that the whole estate does not resemble a construction site. Should I also add that in the same time as we are working on a particular building for the new pitch roofs they will be installing a lift in that particular building, in other words what we are trying to do is say well, we will start on one building put the lifts, put the new pitched roof and move on to the next building and then leaving less inconvenience caused to those tenants in that particular building. So, it is a very ambitious, very costly project but one that should have been done long, long, ago.

HON DR R G VALARINO:

Will lifts be installed in all buildings at Varyl Begg Estate?

HON J J NETTO:

Yes. This is a particular estate where from the reports that we have from the Technical Services Department it is quite feasible to install these both in the big buildings and in the small buildings.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

Has consideration been given to adding an extra storey to the buildings seeing that they are now going to place lifts ?

HON J J NETTO:

This was discussed but the idea in itself was rejected on the basis that if we were to add an extra floor in all the buildings, I do not know how many tenants we would be adding to the overall estate, perhaps more than 100 families all in all and then one has got to consider that in the context of the pressure of getting more people in the estate, the pressure that would put in the schools in terms of having more people living in that estate, more problems of parking, we know we have problems of parking in the estate so there are many other factors to be considered. I understand what the hon Member is trying to say in terms of maximising new flats for people in those estates but there are other considerations that should be taken into account as well.

NO. 81 OF 2002

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

HOUSING – WAITING LIST

Can Government state at what intervals was the publication of the Housing Waiting List throughout the year 2001 and when was it last published?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

The Housing Waiting Lists were published twice in 2001. On 9th February and 7th September 2001.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 81 OF 2002

HON DR R G VALARINO:

It has always been published on a quarterly basis, why has this not been done during the last year? Could it be because there is too much workload on the department side?

HON J J NETTO:

Well, the hon Member obviously makes a very good point and I share his sentiments. When this information was made available to me I had the same reaction as he is having. I think that this is not good, I think that the publication of the waiting list should be done as he rightly says in a quarterly basis as has been done in the past and I have informed the Housing Agency to take steps and measures to ensure that we continue to publish the lists as hitherto. They argue that it has been an oversight

and because they have been overworked in other areas but I maintain the position that it is not good enough.

HON DR R G VALARINO:

I totally agree with the Minister, people are coming to see me and saying that they have no idea where they are on the list and it certainly does not help the Housing Agency to run efficiently.

HON J J NETTO:

Not necessarily because despite the publication if someone just wants to go there and see in person any of the staff members at the reception just to know what is their position they would gladly give it but that is one issue not to be confused with the other.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

If the list is not published, which was a policy that they made to publish the list on a quarterly basis, there is an important factor if that is not done and that is that when one allocates houses or allocates a flat one is actually doing it by the list and therefore if the position is that the list has not been able to be published because of the workload that the department has had, which might be one of the factors, then obviously the allocation is done by the list that is published because there is no other list and therefore when one sits and makes a decision on a particular allocation one has not got the appropriate list and people who could have benefited if the list had been published could find themselves out of having been allocated a house precisely because the list has not been published. That is the case.

HON J J NETTO:

No, I do not share that view, one thing is that it has not been published as it should have been published during the course of the year, but one has to take into account the movement of people in the actual waiting list, that is to say that the fact that it has only been published twice instead of four in that period, people have been allocated flats as being at the top of the waiting list so the fact remains it is not good for transparency I agree hence the reason why it should be published four times in the year.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

I am not asking for transparency, my position is not whether it is transparent or not because if we have a Housing Allocation Committee we have to consider that what they do is done within the law so it is not a question whether it is transparent or not it is when a decision has to be taken by the Housing Allocation Committee obviously the people who have the points as is normal, the person who is at the top of the list who has more points because that is how the waiting list is based is the one that should be allocated the house and therefore if the points are not updated and in this case it has only been updated twice in the year instead of four, in the intervening period were for example if it had been January, February and March, let us start one

year, the people in April and May that could have been maybe on top because he actually knows that the list is not static there is movement almost every day on positions of people going up and down depending when the anniversary of their application comes and therefore one might have somebody at the top today and somebody which is third or fourth might go to the top later on. Therefore, if the list is not adhered to every three months or the date is not adhered to then obviously one is going by the old list and people find they are losing out, this is what I am asking?

HON J J NETTO:

Not necessarily that is not the recollection that I have despite the fact that the list is being published twice that does not necessarily stop that on the anniversary of the application form the merits of that application is not taken into account and the pointage system comes into it and taken into account, the point system still applies on the application of the person so nobody seems to be losing out.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

If that is happening what is the workload that the department has because the information is there anyway to publish the list every three months.

HON J J NETTO:

Well that is the oversight they say they have been doing.

HON J C PEREZ:

The point is that if the information is available for the committee and the list the Minister is saying is updated for the committee when they sit to allocate then why is that information not published on a quarterly basis given that they have got it? If they have got it I presume that it is computerised, they have got all the information and the only thing that one has to do is press the button and get the list published.

HON J J NETTO:

What the hon Member has said is entirely right but they have not done it.

NO. 82 OF 2002

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

POST OF HOUSING MANAGER

Can Government state when the post of Housing Manager is expected to be filled as it has been vacant since the 8th January 2001?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

I hope to be in the position to have the post filled in the not too distant future.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 82 OF 2002

HON DR R G VALARINO:

Does that mean that the vacancy has already been advertised?

HON J J NETTO:

No it has not been advertised yet.

HON J C PEREZ:

And what is stopping it being advertised?

HON J J NETTO:

Nothing in particular we have just been dedicating our energies to other matters and it is a post as I said previously to my shadow spokesman that the Government intend to fill and will fill it and I hope to do that in the not too distant future but it is just that we have not come round to it yet.

HON J C PEREZ:

So can we take it that the Personnel Manager will be given instructions to advertise the post?

HON J J NETTO:

As far as taking a departmental point of view as opposed to other responsibilities for which I do not hold, being personnel matters, I can say from a departmental point of view the position is a necessary post to be filled but I am talking from a departmental point of view as opposed to a general point of view.

HON J C PEREZ:

Yes. The Minister I accept is talking about a departmental point of view but normally the practice is that when any department wants to fill in a post they contact the Personnel Manager and the Personnel Manager does the work of advertising it. It has been vacant since January 2001 and there is such eagerness in the department and from the Minister himself to fill it I cannot understand what is holding it up, he only has to pick up the phone and say, "please advertise for the post of Personnel Manager."

HON DR R G VALARINO:

On that question there is a rumour going round the civil service that the previous Housing Manager is keen to come back, I do not know why, to the Housing Agency and that the present acting Housing Manager would then step down, has he heard anything about this?

HON J J NETTO:

I am not privy to any such rumours.

NO. 83 OF 2002

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

HOUSING ALLOCATION COMMITTEE

Can Government state on how many occasions since the 1st November 2001 the Housing Allocation Committee has met to date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos 84 and 85 of 2002.

NO. 84 OF 2002

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

HOUSING MEDICAL ADVISORY BOARD

Can Government on how many occasions since the 1st September 2001 the Housing Medical Advisory Board has met to date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos 83 and 85 of 2002.

NO. 85 OF 2002

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

SOCIAL ADVISORY BOARD

Can Government state on how many occasions since the 1st November 2001 the Social Advisory Committee has met to date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answer to Question No 83 of 2002

The Housing Allocation Committee has met on five occasions since the 1st November 2001.

Answer to Question No 84 of 2002

The Housing Medical Advisory Board has met on five occasions since the 1st September 2001.

Answer to Question No 85 of 2002

The Social Advisory Committee has met on six occasions since the 1st November 2001.

NO. 86 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

SCADA CONTROLLER LINK PROJECT

Can Government state what is the new date by which the Scada Controller Link Project is expected to be completed?

ANSWER

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

A date for the completion of this project cannot be given at present. There are on-going discussions with the suppliers with regards to the extent of supply and the degree of factory testing that should be carried out on the replacement equipment. The delivery date for the replacement equipment cannot be known until these matters are settled. Clearly a firm completion date cannot be given at present.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 86 OF 2002

HON J C PEREZ:

Will the Minister not agree with me that ever since he announced the project in the first year of his term in office, which was five years ago, that the delays are unacceptable, that although he has come back to the House and explained several problems to it that the project has now been going on for over three or four years and we still have not got at the end of the day any assumption as to when that project will be completed?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

One could be forgiven for reaching that conclusion, however, on closer examination of the facts let me explain the two parameters of what has happened. Firstly, as the hon Member is aware, when he left office there was a plan to introduce a similar

system which was then modified by this Government to the SCADA system which is much more sophisticated and much more involved. *[Interruption]* That is part of the problem. What the hon Member was planning to do was in fact a relatively simple system which connected wires to every item that needed to be monitored, it is the simplest way of putting it. The new system is computerised, digitalised and software and hardware driven and hence much more complicated, having said all that we are still in the realms of a three to four year project. The project has been plagued by a number of problems, in the planning stages, in the testing stages, the hon Member has to remember that it is tailor made and custom made for Gibraltar it is not an off the shelf product and there were delays in the testing stage, it was set up here and it did not work properly it had to go back to UK, there have been delay after delay, after delay. To me I am as impatient as the hon Member to see it off the ground but there is no large degree of priority given to this project. The Electricity Department can generate electricity and hon Members' houses and this House can exist on an electricity supply without the SCADA system working and therefore when there are other work priorities these tend to take a higher priority to the work that needs to be done for the SCADA system and again as the hon Member is aware very recently there was a flooding of the Orange Bastion depot which is the direct cause now of this aspect of the delay. What has happened now is that the equipment that arrived about a year ago and which was damaged in the water ingress into Orange Bastion is now, which is not unusual in computer terms, is now out of date and certainly obsolescent if not obsolete and the opportunity is being taken to replace not just the hardware and that is the study that I referred to in my original answer, the software as well to update the software to what is currently available and we are in the process of doing that evaluation and until that evaluation is done and tested so we are back to the two years ago stage and hence the consequent delay. I have had meetings recently, the next one is due sometime next week or the week after next with the senior people in the Electricity Department to try to set target dates and get the project finished once and for all. The bottom line of my answer is yes I am as keen to get it over and done with, there are reasons why it has taken so long but it is becoming increasingly desirable to end this once and for all.

HON J C PEREZ:

I hope for the sake of Gibraltar that the Minister is right and that the project will serve us given that he upgraded the one that I was looking at and it is more sophisticated but it seems to me that the problems encountered given that it is made for Gibraltar only would suggest that we are going to have difficulties and problems with this controller link even after the project is completed, but I hope that that is not the case and that once it is completed it will serve the purposes for which it has been installed.

ORAL

NO. 87 OF 2002

THE HON S E LINARES

YOUTH CLUBS

Can Government state how many voluntary Youth Officers are currently enrolled in each Youth Club?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question No 88 of 2002.

NO. 88 OF 2002

THE HON S E LINARES

YOUTH SERVICE

Can Government state how many persons have enrolled on the Youth Officers Course offered by the Youth Service?

ANSWER

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

The post of voluntary Youth Officer does not exist nor has it ever existed. The Youth Service has a complement of:-

- ◆ One Senior Youth Officer
- ◆ Two full-time Youth Officers
- ◆ One Trainee Youth Worker
- ◆ Five part-time Youth Workers

Each youth club has a full-time Youth Officer assigned to it. There are an undefined number of young adult volunteers/leaders who assist with events and programmes depending on their commitment, level of expertise, et cetera . There is no system at present that registers or enrolls people as voluntary leaders. This will change after the present training course when a criteria will be established. This will enable the youth service to know at any time how many youth workers, voluntary or otherwise are registered and delivering youth work in Government youth clubs in a voluntary or part-time capacity. It is not clear what the hon Member means by "Youth Officers Course". No such course exists. However, I am assuming he is referring to a course which started on 5th February 2002 which is for part-time and voluntary leaders. The breakdown of participants at the course is the following:-

◆ British Forces Youth Workers	4
◆ Gibraltar Youth Service part time youth leaders	4
◆ Gibraltar Youth Service young adult youth leaders (volunteers)	6
◆ Volunteers from other groups	10
	<hr/>
Total	24
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SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 87 AND 88 OF 2002

HON S E LINARES:

Once the Youth Workers have done the course will they be assigned to different youth clubs or will they be working under the youth service office who will then allocate them to different clubs?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

The short answer is that this is a matter for the Senior Youth Officer to use his volunteers and people under him in the best way available to him at any given moment. At this moment in time I do not know how he intends to do that, it is a matter entirely for him.

HON S E LINARES:

What qualifications will they obtain after they finish the course?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

This part of the course, because the course is in two parts, this part of the course will qualify the participants who successfully complete it as "Part-time Youth Leaders." There will be a further course which starts, the second part of the course will be offered to 16 participants and this phase will commence in March and the training will include work at different youth clubs and groups and will end in July.

HON S E LINARES:

So in actual fact the course has not got any accreditation from any other institution, the course is just conducted by the Senior Youth Officer and maybe some other qualified personnel within his department or his office, is that correct? Is it actually the Youth Service itself that are going to give the award, is that correct?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

Yes. There are no courses locally available or validated for Youth Officers. Qualifications for such posts require training in UK for a two year diploma or a three year degree in Youth and community Work.

ORAL

NO. 89 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

POST OF DIRECTOR OF POSTAL SERVICES

Have Government now taken a decision on whether or not they intend to fill the post of Director of Postal Services?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question No 90 of 2002.

NO. 90 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

POSTAL SERVICES

Can Government state whether they have now recruited more postal delivery workers, and if so, whether they are now satisfied that the new level of employment is enough to provide a satisfactory service?

ANSWER

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

The situation remains as given in answer to Question Nos 923, 924, and 925 of 2001.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 89 AND 90 OF 2002

HON J C PEREZ:

So what the Minister is saying that although that the postal delivery workers have been recruited the situation is that they are still discussing the matter with the Union and the matter is still under review, and the post of director will come out as part of that review, is that the position?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

No. What the Minister is saying that the answer remains, the situation remains as given in answer to the questions I have given and the answer for the benefit of the hon Member then given was that negotiations are at an advanced stage and that Government consider it would be inappropriate and counter productive to make any further comment at this stage but I will add that there have been no further recruitments.

NO. 91 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

POSTAL SERVICES - DELAYS

Can Government confirm that the delay in receiving mail from abroad during Christmas was the result of mail being held back in London as a result of the cancellation of flights by GB Airways?

ANSWER

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

During December a number of flights were cancelled or diverted to Spanish airports due to unfavourable weather conditions at Gibraltar Airport. As a result of this, several consignments of mail bags were returned to the United Kingdom and subsequently re-routed by air direct to Gibraltar or by air to Madrid and then to Gibraltar by road with the consequential delay.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 91 OF 2002

HON J C PEREZ:

Is the Minister not aware that a lot of those mail bags arrived in Gibraltar in January?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

I am aware that there was consequential delays and that mail bags were arriving throughout December and throughout January, there was a gradual build-up. There were five flights delayed which ranged from the 12th to the 18th of December on the

dates they were diverted and consequently because of the Christmas period, yes, I am aware some arrived in January.

HON J C PEREZ:

Is he not aware that there were also scheduled flights cancelled as happened last year or was it only the question of the diversion of flights that caused the delay in the mail?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

There may have been flights cancelled but I am not aware if flights were cancelled or if flights were not cancelled.

HON J C PEREZ:

My understanding is that there were flights cancelled and as a result the normal mail that needs to come and there is a lot of mail over Christmas stayed behind and that mail that stayed behind stayed behind for a very long time. I am saying this because there are all sorts of complaints and talk about the unsatisfactory service of delivery but when things like that happen I think it is important that the public ought to be notified where the root of the delay lies in order that we all know where to point the finger and not point it wrongly.

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

Yes, the point is well made and taken and accepted. What is of more concern if the hon Member has not hit on it yet, what is more concern and will certainly be looked at very soon now and certainly before next Christmas, is the number of flights that arrive during the period concerned and it only came to my notice as a result of the question that I did more research the number of flights that came with little or no mail in them. So, it was not just a question of flights that were diverted or been cancelled of which I am not aware of but also of flights which arrived with little or no mail and that all contributes to a backlog. What I can say is that the service this year, the delivery service locally was a vast improvement on last year and that there was no backlog locally or no appreciable backlog locally throughout November and December other than late mail that arrived late because it was held up in UK. We did not experience the problems this year that we had experienced in the previous years.

NO. 92 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

GNC/GIBTEL

Does Gibraltar Nynex now intend to introduce what is termed as “number shadowing”?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos 93 and 94 of 2002.

NO. 93 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

GNC/GIBTEL

Does Gibtel still have enough numbers to meet its commitment to customers?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos 92 and 94 of 2002.

NO. 94 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

GNC/GIBTEL

Does Gibraltar Nynex have enough numbers to meet its commitments to customers?

ANSWER

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

The availability of numbers is severely constrained. However, in the very short term the Government understand that both companies are broadly able to satisfy demand for numbers. GNC currently has around 900 numbers available, following the transfer of the '49' number sub-level from paging to wireline services. Gibtel is able to satisfy customer demand for pre-paid services. Demand for post paid services is met from the churn of numbers, and this may entail being placed on a waiting list for up to three months. The Government do not consider it is in the public interest to comment on any of the options for action available. Number shadowing falls into the category.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 92, 93 AND 94 OF 2002

HON J C PEREZ:

Is this consideration a new one given that the Minister has freely answered questions on this subject before in the House?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

Yes. In present circumstances it is not considered wise to comment.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can I ask in relation to the additional numbers that came into effect, I think it was in November according to the Spanish legislation, would that change totally the scenario that the Minister is describing if that actually was functioning?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

The hon Member brings up a much wider subject totally outside the context of this question and totally unrelated to it and in any case I would prefer not to comment either.

HON J J BOSSANO:

As I said in the present circumstances, I take it that that is the present circumstances that he was referring to constraining his answers?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

No. The circumstances that I was referring to is that we do not want to publicise the action that we intend to take. One of the actions that we may decide to take, we do not want to put it out in the public domain ahead of it happening but I am quite prepared as I have been in the past to meet the hon Member if he wishes and to discuss the matter with him on what is being considered, an action has already been taken.

NO. 95 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

WATER SUPPLY

Will Government explain the high chlorine content in the potable water supply which has led to a serious deterioration in the taste of the water?

ANSWER

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

Chlorination is a standard treatment method in use in all major water supply systems. Chlorination is an essential element of the water treatment process and is used to ensure the purity of the water supplied and its compliance with EU Drinking Water Directives. The amount of chlorine in the water will need to vary in response to a number of operational circumstances. Following the general review of security worldwide as a result of the 11th September occurrence in the United States, the guidance standard on chlorine levels applicable in the water industry has been increased in many countries. It is normal when one has a change in the level of chlorine in the water on supply for customers to notice a change in the taste. As the distribution system accommodates this change in chlorine levels, taste problems will decrease significantly. Additionally, security measures have been taken which will enable the chlorine dose to be gradually brought down to a level nearer that to which consumers have been accustomed.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 95 OF 2002

HON J C PEREZ:

So, what the Minister is saying is that as a result of the 11th September situation there was a guidance that the level of chlorine in the water stocks should be increased and that that will be kept at a particular level until certain security measures are implemented by which time the companies supplying the water will be

able to decrease the level of chlorine so that we get back to the taste of water, is that the situation?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

Yes. Not just the September 11th events themselves but the aftermath of it has brought increased security awareness and sort of fairly recently there was a direct indication that we should be more careful about security and we have increased as I have said increased levels initially, taken other security measures and once the security measures are all in place the chlorine level will be lowered. In fact it is probably being lowered already.

HON J C PEREZ:

So we will probably get back to the normal conditions that were before were sometimes there was a bit of more chlorine needed than not depending on the source of the water for the mix that is necessary, can the Minister tell me more or less when it is expected that the taste of the water will come back to what clients are accustomed to here?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

I do not have that kind of information with me but I am quite happy to procure it for him. The indication that I have is that the level will remain higher than it was before but we will reduce it to much nearer the level where it was and the difference in taste should become much less noticeable. My understanding is that this had happened or is happening already but I do not have information on time-scales.

NO. 96 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

ROSIA ROAD - SEWERS

Can Government state whether they now have a detailed report over the problem affecting the sewer system, and if so, can they say what is the nature of the work being undertaken, which company or companies are involved in the work and what is the estimated cost?

ANSWER

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

The problem affecting the sewer at Rosia Road has been identified as a partial collapse of a section of the egg-shaped Trunk Sewer at a location just to the south of the junction of Red Sands Road with Rosia Road. Although it has not been possible to accurately define the exact limits of the damage given the serious safety implications involved in entering a partially collapsed live sewer, whose invert is at a depth of about 10m, the scope of the works has been defined on the basis of replacing the complete damaged section of sewer along the same line and level as the existing one. Once this had been established, a decision was taken to proceed with the urgent preparation of contract documents to enable the remedial works to go out to tender. A specialist UK Consultant, Entec UK Ltd has been engaged to prepare the contract documents together with a brief outlining the client's requirements and specification for the work. Six major civil engineering companies, based both locally and abroad, have been invited to tender for these works. Tenders are due to be returned on the 12th February 2002 and it is intended to award the works by no later than the end of February 2002. An order of cost for the works will not be available until tenders are returned.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 96 OF 2002

HON J C PEREZ:

Has any of the reports received by the Minister or done by the experts suggested that this could affect other parts of the sewer in the not too distant future, that is to say that the collapse of this part of the sewer could have a certain domino effect down the line or up the line in the not too distant future?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

I have not read the report myself but neither have I been advised on any indication of a dramatic deterioration of the sewer and a domino effect as the hon Member puts it. I have been advised on the cause, it seems to be a collapse of the roof of the sewer and an ingress of large amounts of sand which have then expanded sideways and that would seem to my non-technical and therefore non-expert opinion to be something very local and not an indication of a general malady except it were to be that the sewer is now getting so old that the roof were to be giving way but there have been no indication or signals to the Government by either UK experts or local experts of any fears in the direction the hon Member is pointing.

HON J C PEREZ:

Is it right to suggest that the closure of what is commonly know as “Lovers Turn” in “Lover’s Lane” in the evening has to do with the works carried out in the sewers?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

I do not know the answer to the question, I know that the surface pumping of sewage starts round about the end of “Lover’s Lane” and that is where the pumps are but I have no responsibility for traffic.

HON J C PEREZ:

Given that the works seem to be going to take quite a considerable time may I suggest to the Government that when “Lover’s Lane” is closed to vehicular traffic they make the part of Main Street up to the Convent two-way as it used to be in order to be able to alleviate those people living in Humphreys and in the near south that need to go all the way down to Winston Churchill Avenue and up Queensway again to get home. This is happening regularly now in the evening, I know it has not got a direct link with the question but unfortunately since it came to my notice after I put the questions and I heard that the work was related to the sewer I thought I might mention it here for Government to take note to see whether they can do something about it.

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

Diversion of traffic as the hon Member knows is a police matter but my Colleague the Hon Mr J Holliday who has responsibility for traffic has obviously taken note of the hon Member's comments and he is telling me that he will act on them if it is possible.

NO. 97 of 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

MASTER SERVICE LTD

Does the company that holds the contract for street cleaning require the permission of Government to sub-contract any of the work undertaken for Government?

ANSWER

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

The company that holds the contract for street cleaning, Master Service Ltd, requires the written consent of the supervising officer before sub-contracting any part of the services specified in the agreement and such consent if given does not relieve the contractor from any liability or obligation under the contract. The supervising officer appointed by the Government is the Cleansing Superintendent.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 97 OF 2002

HON J C PEREZ:

Can the Minister state whether such consent has been requested from the Government by the company?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

No . I am advised that to date subcontracting has neither been requested nor has it been authorised.

HON J C PEREZ:

Is the Minister aware that the company has a sister company that employs people at lower rates than what they pay in the company that has the contract and that some of

these workers are being used to undertake Government contract work and that they are undermining the work of the employees that were transferred to the company given that they are being employed under the rates that the company was required to pay when they took the contract?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

No. The Minister is not aware that that is taking place, the sister company, as the hon Member puts it, is a commercial activity of Master Service which is not in any way controlled by the Government. The company asked for permission to do private work through Master Service and the Government denied this permission but said that if the company formed a separate company, which it has done called Service Master, Service Master being at arm's length and independent of the Government, was obviously free to contract or to carry out work on its own. If there is interchange of employees I am not aware. If the hon Member has any information in that direction I would be grateful if he could pass it on and I would act accordingly.

HON J C PEREZ:

I would ask the Minister to investigate it because it is information that has come to us saying that that new company employs people at lower rates and is actually at times carrying out Government work?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

I have already replied that subcontracting has neither been requested nor authorised.

HON J C PEREZ:

And the Minister is not aware that it is happening?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

I am not aware and if it were happening it would be against the terms of the contract, let us be absolutely clear, the hon Member was referring to using staff from one company into the other. I will certainly investigate that the company itself is not doing Government work but I cannot investigate the other allegation without further information. I cannot go round asking people, if he has information I would welcome it, if he does not have information there is not a lot I can do.

HON J C PEREZ:

If the Minister can satisfy himself that that company is not doing any work, then that is what needs to be done. If he can get a guarantee then that is it, then any other time that people see employees of this company doing Government work if they come to me I will get the details, the time and the hour and I will pass it on to the Minister.

NO. 98 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

INCINERATOR

Have Government now taken a decision of which of the two proposals for the refurbishment and operation of the existing incinerator they will accept, and if so, when do they expect to sign the contract?

ANSWER

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

No.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 98 OF 2002

HON J C PEREZ:

The situation is the same as the last time, no decision has been taken and does the Minister not expect to take a decision in the short term?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

Not exactly the same as the last time because a further detailed examination of the existing plant was undertaken by one of the interested bidders and a technical support, a new technical support, was submitted to the Government in October 2001. However this report was not accompanied by corresponding costings and consequently full consideration of this new proposal could not be given until this latter information has been received. It has now been received I understand the middle end of January and is currently being considered so it is a similar situation but not quite.

NO. 99 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

EUROPA ROAD – RETAINING WALL

Can Government state when the contract for the retaining wall between Loreto Convent and the Mount, awarded to Profield Contractors Ltd in the sum of £129,335.50, originally expected to be completed by September 2001, is now expected to be completed?

ANSWER

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

The expected revised completion date for this contract is 22 February 2002.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 99 OF 2002

HON J C PEREZ:

Is there a penalty clause in the contract or are there other reasons why the contract has overlapped?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

I presume that there are penalty clauses in the contract there always are but of course I cannot confirm that without previous notice. What I can tell him is that the configuration of the existing retaining wall was different to that anticipated in the designed stage and this meant that revised methods of working including enhanced temporary supports have had to be adopted and this has invariably resulted in a delay to the completion of the project.

HON J J BOSSANO:

As a result of the changes is it likely to cost more than the original contract sum?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

I need notice of questions like that, the question asked “when is it expected to be completed” and I have answered that, I have no information costings.

NO. 100 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

EUROPA SPORTS GROUND

Is the Minister for Sport confident that after he announced about two years ago, the hand-over of the Europa Sports ground to the Government by the MOD, that it will still be taking place?

ANSWER

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

An agreement in principle exists between the MOD and the Government for the hand-over of the Europa Sports Ground. However, land transfers from MOD are being delayed for reasons internal to the MOD and the UK Treasury.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 100 OF 2002

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Is the Minister aware what these reasons are?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

Reasons which are well known to the hon Members by requiring payment for items that Government and the previous Government were not prepared to pay.

NO. 101 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

LEISURE CENTRE – KING’S BASTION

Can the Minister for Sport confirm when he can expect the old King’s Bastion to be converted to a Leisure Centre?

ANSWER

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

Documents are in the process of being prepared to invite tender applications for the conversion of the King’s Bastion Engine Hall on Queensway into the first phase of a larger King’s Bastion Leisure Centre.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 101 OF 2002

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Is the Minister at the present time able to say what sort of facilities Government intend to provide within the old King’s Bastion area?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

No I am not. Feasibility studies and other considerations of this nature are currently being carried out, the Government have a broad idea of what they want but I cannot give specific item by item detail of what will end up being there, that point is still some way ahead. What I can tell the hon Member is that we are looking for is a family type of leisure centre I explained this before the gladiatorial type of pass-time or sports are at Bayside and at Victoria Stadium, here we are looking at things like bowling alleys, cinemas or other activities that are of a leisure variety as opposed to a sporting

variety, for example, we would not have a squash court which I know is a favourite of the hon Member, we would not have a squash court there. In broad terms that is what we are looking for.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Within the broad idea of what the Government are thinking in the lines of this new leisure centre are they expecting it to be privately run or Government run?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

Government are looking at all possibilities at the moment and there is no definitive plan yet decided and set in concrete to which I can give definite answers to.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is the demolition of the old generating station going to be part of that conversion or is that something that can be done independently of it and separately. At one stage the Government were saying they were going to get on with that part of the area to make it more attractive without having to wait for the leisure centre.

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

The Government decision at the moment for reasons that I have said previously mainly the cost of replacing the existing building is not to demolish the old engine hall on Queensway and in fact the first steps that I have described will be the old engine hall itself which will be converted and used for the hall in the first phase of the leisure centre but if other things were to emerge that are in the pipeline that decision might still be changed although the recommendation for tenders is in the process of being prepared and tenders are going to be requested but there are still a number of balls in the air, I cannot be more explicit than that.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Can the Minister say whether the Government need to abide by any constraints of a heritage nature?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

Well obviously the old Kings Bastion is a valuable monument which covers three centuries and there will be very strong heritage influences and considerations and I daresay difficulties to be overcome in order to satisfy both the development lobby, the heritage lobby, and the Government side, so yes, there will be a lot of heritage considerations.

NO. 102 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

VICTORIA STADIUM – SQUASH COURT

Can the Minister for Sport give a progress report on the repairs to the squash court at the Victoria Stadium?

ANSWER

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

Work has already re-started on the structural repairs and waterproofing of the external areas of the squash court. It is estimated that this will be completed by the end of the month. On completion of these works the replacement of the squash court's play wall will be carried out.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 102 OF 2002

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Can the Minister give a broad indication of when the completion of the works, could it be in this year or does he expect it to be in the next financial year?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

I do not have a completion date in front of me so it is difficult for me to give an actual date but I would imagine that the plastering of the surface of the play wall although as we both know that is a specialist job and not simply like plastering the wall of one's living room, I would imagine we are looking at ending the structural repairs and waterproofing at the end of February and we are then replastering the play wall and allowing for settling between one and the other we must be looking at the next few

months but that is an opinion it is not a factual reply. I do not have that accurate information in front of me.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Could the Minister seek the information for me and provide it at a later stage in the House?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

Yes I will see if I can obtain it before the end of Questions.

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**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

I undertook to give some information previously. On completion of the works the replacement of the squash courts play wall will be carried out but completion of the works includes testing for water penetration to ensure that the external works that are being done have been successful and so no water gets in and we prevent a recurrence of what is happening at the moment. So it is not possible at this stage to give the information that she was asking me, to give a date, because it will depend on I seem to remember from by classical days from Julius Pluvius the God of Rain and only when it does rain and it is proven can we then have a final date.



ORAL

**NO. 103 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**DEVELOPMENT APPEALS TRIBUNAL**

Have any of the five appeals before the Development Appeals Tribunal that were listed as pending in answer to questions at the last House, now been heard and what was the outcome in each case?

**ANSWER**

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

Answered together with Question No 104 of 2002.

**NO. 104 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**DEVELOPMENT APPEALS TRIBUNAL**

Are there any new appeals before the Development Appeals Tribunal since the answer given at the last question time in this House, and if so, giving the dates when the appeals were filed and the nature of each appeal?

**ANSWER**

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

Two new appeals have been received since the answer to Question No 1140 of 2001.

1. On the 18<sup>th</sup> December 2001, for an appeal against notice for removal of double glazed partition.
2. On 19<sup>th</sup> December 2001 for an appeal against refusal to grant permission for the widening of a shopfront.

The Tribunal met on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2002 to consider one of the original five appeals listed in answer to Question No 1140 of 2001. The Tribunal deferred its final decision pending receipt of further and better particulars from one of the parties. None of the other six appeals have at the date this answer was written yet reached the stage at which the Tribunal can be convened for a hearing. In most cases, bilateral discussions are being held between legal representatives representing the appellant and DPC or between these two parties themselves.

## **SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 104 OF 2002**

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

Can the Minister confirm that there has only been one meeting of the Tribunal, is that the case?

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

No that is not correct, from memory I think that there have been three meetings, the original meeting which was literally the first meeting of the Tribunal of the members only to discuss procedure and how we would be conducting the enquiry, the Tribunal hearings et cetera and I think that during my period of absence on sick leave there was a meeting set to be held and I am told it was adjourned during my absence so this has been the second meeting but the hon Member is correct in saying that it is the first working meeting, the first meeting to hear an appeal. This one was not ready to be heard until fairly recently and it was held after Christmas as soon as it was ready and the other six even as we speak are not yet ready. We have dates set for March and if they are ready we will hear two in March but at the moment the parties are still trying to sort things out between themselves.

**NO. 105 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**WASTEWATER TREATMENT SEA-OUTFALL STUDY**

Who has been awarded the tender to produce the Wastewater Treatment Works-Sea Outfall Study?

**ANSWER**

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

The tender for the Wastewater Treatment Sea-Outfall study has been awarded to Halcrow Group Limited.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 105 OF 2002**

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

Can the Minister give the amounts bid by the successful tenderer how much he is being paid to do the job?

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

I am not sure whether this figure is still confidential or whether it has been notified. I am quite happy to check that and either give it to him privately or if he wants it given publicly I will check that and if I am able to release it I tell him before the end of Question Time. Which would the hon Member prefer?

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

If the Minister could find out before the end of Question Time and let us know publicly if it is possible, what I would also like to ask is whether there were in fact other tenderers for this or whether Halcrow was the only one?

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

Yes there were seven submissions received in all.

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

Can the Minister say whether the bid by Halcrow was in fact the lowest or the highest or how does it compare with the others?

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

Again I do not have that information in front of me I would assume it was the lowest tender but I mean the question was who it was awarded to and that was who it was awarded to, there were seven submissions and I assume it was the lowest tender which is the normal Government policy but again if the Member is particularly interested I do not have the figures for the other tenders in front of me, but this will be published in due course and it will become a matter of public knowledge so.... unless the hon Member wants it urgently.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Is there a time scale within which this study has to be completed?

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

I am sure the tender will have specified the time limit but I do not have that information in front of me.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Does the Minister know whether we are talking about something that will take weeks or months or is it a very complex and long.....does he have any idea of time?

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

No I do not have any idea of time but it is a complex study and we are not talking of days, we are talking of weeks and probably months and the tender is in six figures so that gives an indication that it is not a small amount. Speaking from memory I think we are talking of months from what I have heard in the past.

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HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

I undertook to give some information previously. The figure for the Halcrow tender has now been published so I am in a position to release it and the figure is £120,907.97 for Phase I and £25,000 for phase II.

NO. 106 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

WATER CATCHMENTS

Can Government say when the works at the water catchments are scheduled for completion?

ANSWER

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

The removal of the water catchment sheeting, in the Gibraltar Government side of the catchments, was completed in May 2000. Works then progressed with the laying of stabilisation matting over the exposed sand slopes followed by the subsequent seeding of the area with such works practically having been completed around September 2001. The situation is currently being monitored to gauge the effectiveness of the planting previously undertaken and whether any additional areas need to be stabilised/seeded. If fully satisfactory, no further such works will be undertaken with the few remaining odd items in the area being completed thereafter.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 106 OF 2002

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Minister say whether this is related to the closure of the road and when does he expect that to be normalised?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

The answer that I have given refer to the works that have been carried out by the Government on the Government side of the catchments which was done without needing to close the road. The closure of the road now is due to the MOD following suit and doing the same on their side and I understand that the programme

completion date of those works is in October this year so I would assume the road diversion or restriction should end roundabout that date.

NO. 107 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

LATHBURY BARRACKS – SERGEANTS MESS

Can Government list the five tenderers who submitted tenders for the conversion of Lathbury Barracks Sergeants Mess into a retreat, seminar and public events centre, including the amount bid by each tenderer?

ANSWER

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

The following five tenders were received for this project with the works having been awarded to Sharrock Shand, having submitted the lowest tender received.

COMPANY	AMOUNT (£)
Fitzpatrick	1,862,783.57
Skanska Construction Ltd	1,430,000.00
Profield Ltd	1,256,564.13
Sando (Gibraltar) Ltd	1,116,057.77
Sharrock Shand	1,081,762.58

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 107 OF 2002

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Does the Minister know when the conversion works of the Sergeants Mess is expected to commence and to be completed?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

I am advised that the project is scheduled to be ready in September so I would imagine then that it should start fairly imminently.

NO. 108 OF 2002

THE HON S E LINARES

CHANGE OF SCHOOL HOURS

Can Government state what impact has the change of school hours had on traffic flow?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

The available evidence, as well as simple observation, indicate an obvious improvement to traffic flows as a result of the change of school hours.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 108 OF 2002

HON S E LINARES:

The Minister says “of available evidence” what “available evidence” has the Minister got to state that it is better?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

The evidence available is a statement issued by the Royal Gibraltar Police which states that in the mornings they have noticed an improvement, at lunch time they have experienced a noticeable improvement in traffic flow since the change and this is linked with the reduction of pedestrians and vehicles from all roads during lunch time. In the afternoon the new early closing of schools also helps traffic flow at the conversions of vehicles collecting school children and the increase of normal afternoon traffic on or about 1700 hrs is minimised or eliminated. So the indications are at this early stage that there is a remarkable improvement in the traffic situation in Gibraltar.

NO. 109 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

EUROPA ROAD

Can Government state whether AMCO have met the completion date for the widening scheme at Europa Road, scheduled to have been completed by 26th January 2002?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question No 110 of 2002.

NO. 110 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

EUROPA ROAD

Will Government state when they will be in a position to re-open Europa Road, between the junction of South Barrack Road and The Mount, to vehicular traffic?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

A number of unforeseen issues have arisen during the execution of this contract which have led to additional works having had to be undertaken and which has regrettably delayed the completion of the project. The current revised completion date is 29th March 2002. The re-opening of Europa Road to through traffic will coincide with the completion of all such works.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 109 AND 110 OF 2002

HON J C PEREZ:

Is there an effect on the cost of the project the fact that some other things in addition to that are part and parcel of the same contract or an extension to the contract?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I understand that some of the additional works will signify in additional costs. The details of that I do not have available with me today.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

I understand that the Minister does not have the details with him but could he provide us at a later date how much the extra cost will be?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes.

NO. 111 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

QUEENSWAY

Can Government state why the road between Waterport and Queensway, which runs via the entrance to Montagu Crescent, is still closed?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

The vehicular and pedestrian traffic management for this area has only recently been approved. The necessary zebra crossing marking have consequently been painted and we are currently awaiting the erection of the Belisha Beacons and lights as well as the completion of a minor modification to the traffic island at the junction with Queensway. Until all such works have been completed, this road cannot be opened to through traffic.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 111 OF 2002

HON J C PEREZ:

I presume that they will now take away the bollards that have been there for 18 months?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Absolutely, those bollards will be removed as soon as the roads are opened.

HON J C PEREZ:

Is the Minister aware what the name of that road is because no one seems to know and there are no signs saying what the name of that road is?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I believe the name of the road is Devil's Tongue, maybe due for a change of name.

HON J C PEREZ:

The Minister is saying that all there is awaited for the opening of the road is a pelican lights to be erected?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Pelican lights and the traffic island at the junction of Queensway that needs to be slightly modified according to the request that has been received from the police in order to facilitate traffic flow.

HON J C PEREZ:

Does the Minister not think that pelican lights at that junction might not be the most opportune, depends how it is going to operate, if it is going to operate two way or one way but if we are talking about traffic coming in from Waterport Road into the Devil's Tongue then it might prove rather dangerous, certainly it will delay a lot of the traffic up Waterport unless it is linked to the other pelican crossing which is there at the moment.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

The only thing I can inform the hon Member is that this matter has been considered very thoroughly by the Transport Commission and relevant input has been obtained from the police and it was only a week or two ago that the final traffic management proposal was concluded and so therefore I respect their views and we will see how things develop.

NO. 112 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

SIR HERBERT MILES ROAD

Are Government aware of complaints made by the public about the temporary traffic lights in Sir Herbert Miles Road in the area of Both Worlds apartments?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Government are indeed aware of some complaints from the public in this respect.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 112 OF 2002

HON J C PEREZ:

Can the Minister state what are the nature of the complaints he has?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

The main area of complaint has been that representations have been made on the reversal of traffic flow as it currently exists it is one way in a southerly direction and a number of suggestions have been received in order to reverse that so that it heads in a northerly direction. The complaints have been considered and the one way system the long part of Sir Herbert Miles Road was introduced for safety and operational reasons whilst works were being undertaken by the MOD catchment area and it is believed that the southerly flow in one way system with traffic light is adequate and meets the safety requirements which we want.

HON J C PEREZ:

Well the nature of the complaints we have received is that there are no notices to suggest that it is a one way system, that people come from the south down to where the traffic lights are thinking that they can travel northwards and when they get to that traffic light unless there is an employee of the company that has the offices there who seem to have a remote control to change the light, they just have to stay waiting for hours on end because the traffic lights never change. If it were intended to be one way there would be no need for a traffic light because the traffic light is to allow traffic both ways. As it happens traffic gets to the point by the gate, the old gate where the distiller was, there is a red light there and the traffic stops and nothing happens. Then all of a sudden an employee from the office opposite comes out and with a remote control he changes the light because his lorry is passing and then everybody passes behind him and some people have had to turn back and go the way they came because that traffic light does not change unless it is for the company with the remote control.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It really is a pity that people who make all of these complaints to the hon Members do not make them to the correct Government department because if they made them to the correct Government department obviously the Government would look into what would be if the position were as the hon Member is describing wholly unacceptable. On the basis of what the hon Member has said in the House now we will of course look into it but it is strange that these complaints are never made to the appropriate departments or to the police where they can be investigated and everyone goes rushing straight to the hon Member who keeps this matter to himself until the next Question Time in the House which could be a month or two away at any given point in time to then make use of it. Well fine but it just delays the Government trying to put things right, there may be things going on out there that the Government do not know about this one for example, if it is as he says it is wholly unacceptable and let me say a breach of the terms on which the MOD were allowed. The MOD's contractors were allowed to implement this arrangement so I am grateful for the hon Member for alerting us at least to the possibility that this might be happening and we will certainly look into it.

HON J C PEREZ:

On this occasion the Chief Minister is wrong, there were complaints to his office and they were told that it was a one way system and that they could not use that traffic light but there are no signs either outside the tunnel or anything saying that it is a one way system.

HON S E LINARES:

I happen to pass through that area every single day and I think if I may, the main complaint is the control that the company who is undertaking the catchment works for the MOD have over the lights and I think if one can tackle the fact that they are controlling the lights at their whim because like the hon Member said if they have two lorries, for example, the lorries from Monteverde who come with all the rubbish through there, they change the light whenever they want but many tourists who get lost at the other end in the lighthouse who actually travel through the tunnel find

themselves there for the lights to change green until somebody in the company inside there realises that there are two or three cars and lets them through so I think if one tackles the company one will be at least getting nearer to a solution.

NO. 113 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

DEVIL'S TOWER ROAD

Can Government state whether the contract for the lay-by at 35 Devil's Tower Road has been completed within the scheduled time scale?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

The contract for the re-paving of the lay-by at 35 Devil's Tower Road was completed one week later than the initially agreed completion date. The reason for this slight delay was due to an increase in the scope of the works resulting from additional unforeseen works to services and further deterioration of the adjoining areas occasioned from the time the initial survey was undertaken and the time that the contract was awarded.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 113 OF 2002

HON J C PEREZ:

I would ask the Minister to check whether this has incurred extra costs as a result of the extra works and could he inform me as we suspect that he has not got the information at hand.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes.

NO. 114 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

BUS SERVICE

What is the nature of the discussions between the Government and the present bus operators over the proposed long overdue improvement to the bus service?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Discussions have almost been concluded with the two existing public bus operators which will pave the way for a radical improvement to the public bus service. I am unable to furnish details of the discussions at this stage, as this might prejudice the negotiations which are taking place. I will be making a public statement on this issue once the negotiations and discussions are completed.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 114 OF 2002

HON J C PEREZ:

Can the Minister state whether there is now scope for agreement rather than the very tough line he indicated he would take in the House whether there is now the possibility of an agreement with the existing operators rather than the Government take over their service as he suggested at the time of the budget?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

There is scope for agreement with both operators but it should not be interpreted that the new system will incorporate both operators or not. All I am saying is that agreement has now been agreed in principal with both operators and I am quite optimistic that we will be able to put the new system into place and an announcement made very shortly but should the negotiations not come to a satisfactory conclusion as had been said in the House before the Government intend to proceed with the system anyway.

NO. 115 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

TRANSPORT – PARKING TICKETS

Can Government state how many parking tickets have been issued since 1st November 2001 with a breakdown by month and the comparative figure for the previous year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

The information requested by the hon Member is set out in the written schedule that I hand to him.

Police Parking Tickets			Traffic Warden Tickets			Total
November	2000	699	November	2000	358	1057
December	2000	848	December	2000	118	966
January	2001	845	January	2001	290	1135
November	2001	727	November	2001	526	1253
December	2001	501	December	2001	223	724
January	2002	1434	January	2002	408	1842

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 115 OF 2002

HON J C PEREZ:

Have Government now found out whether the large increase in the issuing of parking tickets is the result of an increase in employment in the department which is what the Chief Minister suggested could be the cause the last time I raised the matter in the House? There is a clear increase of about 40 per cent between one year and another of the issuing of parking tickets and the Chief Minister suggested that it was either better policing or an increase in staff. Could the Minister find out what it is, are there more offenders or is it that there is a stricter application of the law now than there used to be and if so it is very strange that there should be a stricter application of the law when half the roads of Gibraltar are closed for one reason or another and the situation in parking is in some areas worse than what it would be when those roads are open and traffic is normal.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The application of the law as the hon Member calls it is not a matter in which Government can give directions [*HON J C PEREZ - except for Spanish fishermen*] including Spanish fishermen but certainly if the Royal Gibraltar Police are pursuing traffic offenders then I am sure it is in response either to safety on the roads or possibly also in response to the numerous complaints that I know they get from residents of housing estates and other places who complain about inconsiderate parking by some of their neighbours. Every time the police receives a complaint of this sort there are two types of person involved, there is the victim of the complaint and then there is the complainer so what I can tell the hon Member is that it certainly is not a matter of Government policy although the Government certainly support the fact that our traffic laws should be enforced for the convenience of the citizenry at large, what the Government do not do is regard these things as revenue raising measures. The Government have no interest one way or another in whether parking tickets are issued but the Government do have an interest as I think we should all have an interest in that parking is not abused in a way that makes the roads more dangerous for pedestrians and for traffic or that it prevents people getting to their own parking et cetera et cetera. I really do not see an issue here for the Government to account about to this House but if the hon Member wants to know why there appears to be such an acceleration I am very happy to find out for them, whether the police themselves have sat down in one of their policy group meetings and perhaps decided to concentrate some resources on this area, they sometimes reprioritise their resources and that is a matter for them.

NO. 116 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

TRANSPORT – SEAT BELTS

Can Government state whether any driver or passenger in a vehicle has been fined for not wearing a seat belt since the new regulations were introduced, making the use of seat belts compulsory?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Enforcement of Laws is a matter for the RGP. The Government are not accountable for Law Enforcement matters in this house. However, the Government understand from information provided by the RGP that since 26 November 2001 to date, 52 persons have been reported for contravening the seat belt laws. First time offenders have been dealt with by way of caution. Second time offenders would be processed by way of summons. The RGP has not reported any person a second time.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION 116 OF 2002

HON J C PEREZ:

I thank the Minister for the information and may I remind him that the Attorney General is part of the Government and is in this House and can respond for the police if the Minister does not want to do so.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No that is not the basis upon which the Attorney General is in this House. *[Interruption]* No, the Attorney General is in this House as a part of the Government,

the Government , some people say thank goodness and other people lament it, Gibraltar Government not this one in particular, are not responsible for what are called "Law and order" issues and certainly the Government are not willing to be held accountable in this House for matters which are literally outside of the Government's control to influence. We can provide information to the hon Member that is why he got it, we can have information to the extent that it may be available to us but not to the hon Members but there is a difference between providing information and being held to account for decisions made by law enforcement bodies which are outside of our control.

NO. 117 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

TRANSPORT – MOT BUILDING – EASTERN BEACH

When do Government intend to move the whole of the MOT testing operation to the new station at Eastern Beach?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

The whole of the new Motor Vehicle Test Centre is now almost complete. A number of matters still remain to be done to make the building usable for motor vehicle testing. The intention is that the new centre will be inaugurated at the earliest possible date, and it is likely this will be in April 2002.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 117 OF 2002

HON J C PEREZ:

Obviously the site of the present MOT station will remain empty I presume, it will become vacant, have Government thought of any use for that site yet ?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

There are a number of applicants, some go to the Minister others come to my office others go to the Minister for Trade and Industry. The Government's preference is that it be used for some port related activity to take advantage of its location near the port but we have not yet made a decision as to who the preferred user would be.

NO. 118 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

BREATHALYSER TESTS

Can Government state whether the Royal Gibraltar Police is already using breathalysers in line with the legislation passed by this House recently, and if so, whether this is having the desired result or whether some problems have been encountered?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

The Royal Gibraltar Police is actively pursuing the implementation of the new breathalyser and alcohol limit legislation. Consultations with the Attorney General's Chambers are currently taking place to resolve the legal aspects for the practical application of the legislation.

NO. 119 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

PORT AUTHORITY

Can Government state whether they are any nearer to arriving at an agreement with the staff side over the creation of a Port Authority, and if so, when is it intended that this should happen?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

After consultation with the staff association representing Port employees, the Government will shortly be making their final proposals and hope that the Gibraltar Port Authority staff structure will be in place soon.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 119 OF 2002

HON J C PEREZ:

So Government have now put a new offer to the staff side over the negotiations that have been taking place for a couple of years, there is a new offer made to the union representing Port employees?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

There has been on-going negotiations and meetings have been held in order to look at various aspects of the new structure for the Port Authority involving the actual structure themselves, the job descriptions, the new salary level that will compose the full package and this is now being compiled into the final proposal which we hope we will be able to send to the staff representatives in the very near future.

NO. 120 OF 2002**THE HON DR J J GARCIA****MINISTER'S OVERSEAS VISITS**

Can the Minister for Tourism give the dates when he has been away from Gibraltar on Government business from 1st November 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**

The information requested by the hon Member is set out in the written schedule that I hand to him.

DATE	LOCATION	EVENT
10-13 November 2001	London	Inward Investor World Travel Market UKGTA P & O Cruises Press Interview
7 – 10 December 2001	London	Home from Home Media Campaign Inward Investor
10 – 12 January 2002	London	London Boat Show Press Lunch UKGTA
31 Jan – 1 Feb 2002	Madrid	FITUR Press Interview

NO. 121 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM ADVISORY COUNCIL

How often and on what dates has the Tourism Advisory Council met since 1st November 2001?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

The council met on two occasions, the 19th November 2001 and 7th February 2002.

NO. 122 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

LAND FRONTIER BEAUTIFICATION WORKS

Are the beautification works at the frontier on schedule for completion by March 2002 after the six months delay from the original completion date of September 2001?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

No.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 122 OF 2002

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Minister give the reasons for the delay and when is it expected to be completed?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

This project is now envisaged to be completed towards the end of April, first week of May. Unfortunately the delays can be attributed to a number of issues. One is the fact that there were an unforeseen number of existing services uncovered were no details were provided within the original contract so therefore that has signified delay. There was additional requirement by 642 Signals, by Gibraltar Nynex and the Electricity Department which were not originally envisaged, there was also additional requirements and delay as a result of the information that was not forthcoming from the MOD and hon Members may recall that this project actually extends to MOD land at the rear and that suffered some delay. This signified in the redesigning of the

electrical installations to the actual project and there were some changes that were made onsite as a result of one of my visits there were I thought that in practical terms some of the decisions that had originally been taken were not in the best interests of the project and so some changes needed to be done and it was rather better to wait or to delay the project slightly and get the product right, and then some of the redesign of external works that we have undertaken as an addition to the project I felt, that once the new building had been done, some of the structures surrounding the buildings would have looked even in a worse state than they are today and so therefore we wanted to upgrade those in order to make sure that the whole project and the whole environment around the project was suitable.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is it the case then that all the reasons to the delay were all extraneous to the contractor, that there will not be any penalty clause involved?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes. I do not think that I can answer that question because there may be the case that some of the issues were related and it would prejudice our negotiations in terms of the delay clauses on the contract.

NO. 123 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

ST MICHAEL'S CAVE

Can Government say on what date the entire St Michael's Cave sound and light experience was up and running?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

The installation of the new sound and light system is now complete. A series of previews, to tourism trade professionals is being planned, with a view to inaugurating the system by Easter.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 123 OF 2002

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is it not the case that this was originally expected to be up and running by November last year and what was the reason for the delay?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes there has been a number of reasons for the delay and that is that Government were not satisfied with some of the final touches to the project also the voice-over which is both available in English and Spanish were not to the Government's satisfaction and these had to be re-done on a number of occasions and in fact the English text still has to be re-done again. I actually listened to it last week and I was not quite satisfied with what was there. We want a first class product and therefore we wanted to ensure that we were able to deliver accordingly.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Could the Minister say if any of these changes have incurred an additional cost?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No the project I believe has been completed within the budget that was originally tendered for and it is 40 per cent EU funded.

NO. 124 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

NUN'S WELL

Has there been any movement on the project to improve and develop the area of Nun's Well further to the answer given at the last Question Time in this House?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

No.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 124 OF 2002

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is the Minister then in a position to say when he expects this to be put out to tender?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

The project has been shelved for the time being however this will be reviewed at a later date when we see that we are able to get value for money which obviously if the hon Member remembers the previous tender applications were not in line with our expectations.

NO. 125 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

FEASIBILITY STUDY - EASTERN BEACH/CATALAN BAY

Has the report/feasibility study into the extension of Eastern Beach and Catalan Bay been completed and submitted to the Government, and at what cost?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

The final report on the feasibility study has yet to be submitted to Government. This should happen very shortly. The cost of the different feasibility studies and the reports to date is £503,620.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 125 OF 2002

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Would the Minister have the breakdown of the figure he has just given?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I think that this was given to the hon Member in the previous question, all there has been is an additional £13,000 which has been paid to Andrew Kent & Stone for a geo-tech study which is currently being undertaken and this should be ready possibly next week and that will then complete the whole feasibility study and that report is what is holding the whole completion of the study at the moment.

NO. 126 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

BEAUTIFICATION OF CATALAN BAY

Can Government say how many times and on what dates has the village committee formed to review and comment on the beautification of Catalan Bay,

- (a) met;
- (b) met with the Minister responsible?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question No 127 of 2002.

NO. 127 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

BEAUTIFICATION OF CATALAN BAY

At what stage are the beautification works at Catalan Bay?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Answer to Question No 126 of 2002

I am informed that the Committee formed to review and comment on the beautification of Catalan Bay has met on five occasions, on the following days: 14th May, 21st May, 4th and 25th June, and 11th October 2001; The next meeting is due to be held during the month of February. No meetings have been held with myself as Minister responsible apart from the original presentation which I gave at Catalan Bay initially.

Answer to Question No 127 of 2002

The works on Phase 1 of the beautification works for Catalan Bay are approximately 80 per cent complete.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 126 AND 127 OF 2002

HON DR J J GARCIA:

When does the Minister expect the first phase to be totally complete?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

The first phase should be finished by May 2002 and that would be the end of phase one and then phase two should recommence or will commence after the bathing season in September.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Given that the committee has not met with the Minister responsible other than the original presentation, have they met with officials from his department in order to put their views across to them?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

The meetings that I have highlighted at the beginning of my answer are meetings that they have had with the project manager which is appointed by the Government for this purpose. Most of the meetings which were in May and June were held prior to the actual project starting, then, after in October they had an initial meeting in order to brief on the actual logistics of getting the project done. Most of the consultation and input has taken place prior to the project starting and so therefore there has not really been a need to meet.

NO. 128 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

BEAUTIFICATION OF CITY MILL LANE/CORNWALL'S LANE

Can Government say whether there are any plans for the refurbishment and beautification of City Mill Lane and Cornwall's Lane?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Government intend to beautify the area of Cornwall's Lane and City Mill Lane as part of the upper town urban renewal scheme. I cannot give the hon Member any idea of when this might occur.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 128 OF 2002

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Minister confirm whether it was the case that it had been agreed to beautify Cornwall's Lane and City Mill Lane in April 2001 but as from then nothing has actually happened?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I cannot confirm that that is the case, I have had meetings with a group of residents and traders of Engineer Lane and they may have included some of Cornwall's Lane and there is a scheme there that we are currently working on. I can tell hon Members that City Mill Lane needs some resurfacing and may undertake that during the course of this year but the actual major part of the beautification project will not be undertaken until the urban renewal programme of the upper town is undertaken.

NO. 129 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

BEAUTIFICATION OF THE PIAZZA

Can Government say whether the works for the beautification of the Piazza are behind schedule and if so for what reason?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

The works are not behind schedule because they have not started.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 129 OF 2002

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Minister provide the House with an indication of when the works are expected to commence?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I anticipate that this will happen during the year 2002. However there are current negotiations being conducted with two parties who currently have establishments within the area and as soon as those two processes are completed then obviously we will probably be in a position to commence the process to bring the beautification of the Piazza.

NO. 130 OF 2002

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 period these monies become due as at the end of December 2001?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

The arrears due by hotels continues to fall. They stood at £576,000 as at 31st December 2001 compared with the £999,000 arrears bill which was highlighted in answer to Question No 211 of 1998. These arrears are in respect of amounts due over a number of years dating as far back as 1991. The breakdown is as follows:

Social Insurance	£193,000
PAYE Tax	£169,000
Electricity	£290,000
Rates	£ 24,000
	<hr/>
	£676,000
	<hr/>

Agreements were entered into for the repayment of arrears as well as for ensuring that current bills are settled as and when due.

NO. 131 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM – PERSONS INTERVIEWED

Can Government state, of the number of persons who have been interviewed since November 2001 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 No 132 of 2002.

NO. 132 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM – 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 November 2001 inclusive, 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 information requested by the hon Member is set out in the written schedule that I hand to him.

2001								
Month	Interviews not stayed at hotel	Place of Interview						
		Airport	Port	Frontier	Waterport	Marina	Coach Park	Total
November	1330	56	237	564	-	-	473	1330
December	1294	24	72	675	-	-	523	1294

NO. 133 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM – PERSONS INTERVIEWED

Can Government state, of the number of persons who have been interviewed since November 2001 inclusive, who said that they had stayed at a hotel, how many were interviewed at the airport, how many were interviewed at the land frontier, and 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

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

Month 2001	No of Interview Staying at hotels	Airport	Average Length of Stay	Frontier	Average Length of Stay	Waterport	Average Length of Stay
November	45	43	6.8	2	2.7	-	-
December	19	19	7.1	-	-	-	-

NO. 134 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM – PERSONS INTERVIEWED

Can Government say how many interviews with persons who said that they had stayed at a hotel have been carried out since November 2001 inclusive, 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 information requested by the hon Member is set out in the written schedule that I hand to him.

Month 2001	Interviews		Place of Interview	
	Stayed at Hotel	Airport	Frontier	Waterport
November	45	43	2	-
December	19	19	-	-

NO. 135 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

NUMBER OF HOTEL BEDS

Can Government say whether discussions continue with the three new parties who expressed an interest in increasing the number of hotel beds in Gibraltar, as given in answer to questions at the last Question Time in this House?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question Nos 136 and 137 of 2002.

NO. 136 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

NUMBER OF HOTEL BEDS

Can Government say whether the five parties who have expressed an interest in increasing the number of hotel beds in Gibraltar in relation to the East Side remain in discussions with the Government?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question Nos 135 and 137 of 2002.

NO. 137 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

NUMBER OF HOTEL BEDS

Can Government say whether any new parties have expressed an interest in increasing the number of hotel beds in Gibraltar since the last Question Time in this House?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Answer to Question No 135 of 2002

Yes.

Answer to Question No 136 of 2002

Yes.

Answer to Question No 137 Of 2002

No.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 135, 136 AND 137 OF 2002

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Minister confirm at what stage the discussions are whether they are still at the preliminary enquiry stage or whether something more concrete is expected to materialise?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

This varies depending on the parties concerned, however, most are waiting for the sites to be made available and put out to tender. Some of them have asked for information to carry out their own feasibility study and that is basically where we are at.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Minister say whether the Government have any indication or indeed any policy with regard to what type of hotel they would like?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

The Government's preference is, in order of priority, for a three star hotel which we currently do not have of good quality and a five star hotel as a second priority.

NO. 138 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM – ROADSHOWS IN ANDALUCIA

Do Government have any evidence of an increase in overnight stays at hotels as a result of their roadshows in Andalucia?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

It is not possible to attribute any increase in tourism activity in any specific field to a particular element of a wider marketing campaign.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 138 OF 2002

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can I ask the Minister given that it is not monitored how they measure the effectiveness of those campaigns?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

We monitor the overall results of our total marketing activities rather than any specific event itself. There are events that are measurable others that are not, this is one particular one which really one cannot pinpoint to whether how successful that particular event has been.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Given that I think the hotels provide information as to whether the people staying are coming in overland or not, cannot they look at the figures before and after the event

to see if there is any change? It may not be directly attributable or correlated but it is certainly possible to establish if any change has taken place.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

The only thing that I can anticipate is that the hotel occupancy figures for the year 2001 have increased but not necessarily as a result of any roadshow activities in Andalucia. They may be a contributor to that but not necessarily completely as a result of this.

HON J J BOSSANO:

What I am suggesting to the Minister whilst I accept that it may not be a totally scientific cause and effect formula it ought to be possible to say we took this action in this month and then to look at what happens in terms of people coming across the frontier and staying in hotels some months later and comparing it to the same period in the previous year. Surely that is possible?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It may be possible to do it physically, yes, hotels could be asked to report by reference to the address of their guests but of course not everyone that comes to Gibraltar from overland from Spain has necessarily responded to an Andalucian roadshow. There are lots of people who visit Spain from abroad and who may decide to visit Gibraltar because they have seen an advertisement in a German magazine or in an English magazine. I do not think that even if we did do what the Leader of the Opposition is suggesting all that it would produce is whether there is an increase in people staying at hotels having entered Gibraltar overland from Spain but it would still not be forensic as to the underlying reason for any such increase, if there were an increase, were down to the Andalucian roadshow because they are not all Spaniards that come overland.

HON J J BOSSANO:

What I am suggesting is that at least we would know if there is an increase or not, at least that much would be known.

HON S E LINARES:

Another suggestion would be in Question No 133 of 2002, there has been questions about the interview whether they have been interviewed at airports and different places, maybe when they are interviewed they could be asked where have they seen it whether in a German magazine or they have seen it in a British magazine?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The hon Member has to understand that a lot of things are desirable, but in the real world there are limited resources. The Minister has said the Government monitors the overall effect of their spend on marketing by reference to a number of indicators,

we then do not go further and say well which, I suppose if we had the means to do it, it would be useful because then next year one would spend more on one thing and less on the other. I am not arguing the logic but in terms of the resources that one would need and the number of questionnaires that one would need to carry out it is just not something that the Government does because the next question would be about something else. It would not be how many responded to the Andalucia roadshow, the next question might be well how many responded to the new posters on the London Underground and how many responded to seeing the Taxi painted in the Gibraltar colours driving around Oxford Street. It is of course possible to ask everybody what made them come to Gibraltar, what did they see that triggered their interest but it really is much more fine tuning than is probably than necessary or that we have the resources to do. I am sure that the Minister will take it into account and that if it can be added to a future questionnaire I am sure it would be.

NO. 139 OF 2002**THE HON DR J J GARCIA****TOURISM – CRUISE BOOKINGS**

Can Government say how many cruise bookings have been made by cruise liners intending to call at Gibraltar in 2002 on a monthly basis?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT**

The information requested by the hon Member is set out in the written schedule that I hand to him. However, I have to point out that these figures are changing almost on a daily basis, due to market circumstances.

Month	Cruise Bookings for 2002
January	0
February	0
March	4
April	12
May	17
June	11
July	14
August	18
September	26
October	24
November	14
December	5
Total	145

NO. 140 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM – FLIGHTS GIBRALTAR/MANCHESTER

Are there any prospects of a resumption of flights between Gibraltar and Manchester?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question Nos 141 to 145 of 2002.

NO. 141 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM – FLIGHTS TO LONDON STANSTEAD AND MANCHESTER

Can Government say when the Fly Europa service to London Stanstead and Manchester airports are scheduled to start?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question Nos 140 and 142 to 145 of 2002.

NO. 142 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

AIRLINES

With how many of the four airlines interested in flying to Gibraltar at the last Question Time in this House are the Government currently continuing discussions?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question Nos 140, 141 and 143 to 145 of 2002.

NO. 143 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM – FLIGHTS GIBRALTAR/LONDON HEATHROW

What steps have Government taken to try and ensure the continuation of the Gibraltar-Heathrow flights which are due to stop at the end of March?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question Nos 140 to 142 and 144 to 145 of 2002.

NO. 144 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

REGIONAL AIRLINES

Has the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government and Regional Air Lines which was close to being agreed in November now been agreed?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question Nos 140 to 143 and 145 of 2002.

NO. 145 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

AIRLINES

Have any new airlines expressed an interest in flying to Gibraltar since the last Question Time in this House?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

The Government have no proposal to provide flights between Gibraltar and Manchester. It continues to be an objective of the Government to secure the resumption of such flights, but ultimately it is a commercial decision for airline operators. A statement from Fly Europa with regard to the inauguration of a service between Gibraltar and Stanstead and Manchester airports is expected shortly. The Government continue in discussion with four other airlines, as stated in the last Question Time in this House. No new airlines have expressed an interest in a Gibraltar service. The Memorandum of Understanding with Regional Airlines has not yet been agreed. With regard to the Heathrow service, its discontinuation has been a commercial decision by GB Airways based on its own commercial interests and judgement. This is not a matter for the Government.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 140 TO 145 OF 2002

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In relation first of all to the Heathrow flights, do the figures in relation to the occupancy of seats in the airlines show a decline which would justify the flights being withdrawn for commercial reasons?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

The figures for 2001 actually show an increase for both departing and arrivals in Gibraltar. However, in discussions with GB Airways when they first announced to me the idea of withdrawing the Heathrow service, they informed me that this was based on a number of issues not just load factor and basically some of the scenario had been reflected as a reflection of the market situation arriving after the 11th of September and the way airlines have had to look at their existing operation and prioritise on these. Therefore their decision was purely a commercial decision and had nothing to do with the actual load factors on the Gibraltar route.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

It does not make any sense to the Opposition that if the load factor of the plane has actually increased and more people are travelling that the airline should have a commercial reason for ending the route. Can the Minister perhaps clarify that further?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Government do not answer in this House for the commercial decisions of GB Airways but let me tell the hon Member that the Government are most upset by the decision of GB Airways. We have made it perfectly clear to them that we regard this is an unnecessary and unfavourable decision. We have tried to persuade them not to do it, we have failed and we cannot do more than that, but my very limited understanding and certainly having said everything that I have just said I would not wish to be seen to be trying to defend the decision, on the contrary I severely criticised the decision that they have made but my limited knowledge of airline economics causes me to be aware of the fact that load factor is not the only relevant consideration, there is also the question of yield per seat. One can fill an aeroplane with people paying reduced fares, the aeroplane is full but not necessarily operating at a profit and therefore it is not just the number of, I understand that a rather crude phrase in the industry for it is "bums on seats", jargon I understand and perfectly acceptable language in the airline industry if not in this House. There is something called a yield per seat or a yield per passenger and the profitability of the route is the factor of all three rather than just of the two of those and what we are told is that past September 11th, the only way that passenger numbers have been kept up across Europe is by substantially discounting the price of seats. There is some circumstantial evidence that that may be true if one considers the success that the low cost operators have had at the expense of the high cost operators, high ticket cost operators which suggests that the extent to which people are frightened of flying in terms of terrorist circumstances appears to depend on the amount of money that they have paid for their ticket which I would have thought was neither here or there. I hope that that is helpful to the hon Member, I suppose a little knowledge is a dangerous thing and I share my little knowledge with him but certainly the Government have been severely critical of GB Airways for its decision. We do not believe it is justified and we intend to continue to persuade GB Airways to reverse that decision at the earliest possible opportunity.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Certainly the Opposition agrees that the loss of this route is a blow to Gibraltar and to the business community in particular. Can I ask the Chief Minister whether the slots that were allocated to Gibraltar/Heathrow will now be allocated by the airline somewhere else?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, first of all let me just take him up on the premise of the supplementary. He says it is a blow for Gibraltar, particularly at the current time blows I suppose are relative. We may disagree about why it is a blow to Gibraltar, I personally find Gatwick a more pleasant and convivial airport to use and it does not take less only if you go by car does it take less time to get to Heathrow than Gatwick if one gets in a train one is there in half an hour so, I think there is an element of blow, we may not have identified the same one, I believe that the big disadvantage to Gibraltar is that as British Airways reduces its Gatwick link as it is committed to doing there are fewer connections onwards from Gatwick once one has arrived there from Gibraltar. so, whereas before if one wanted to go to New York or to Paris or to wherever there was almost certainly an onwards flight sometime during that day from Heathrow, now I fear that we will find that we will increasingly have to change airports to find that connection. I think that is the principal inconvenience that makes Gibraltar just that little bit less well connected from the UK.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

I move now to another of the questions of the three or four that were answered together and this was in relation to the four airlines and on the question of the slots. Is the Chief Minister aware if the slots have been allocated anywhere else?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, I can promise that Heathrow slots being as valuable as they are, the fact that they remove the Gibraltar flight definitely does not mean that they are going to give up their Heathrow slot. It means that they are going to use it for some other service and I would not be surprised that it were Malaga. Certainly they have removed it from Gibraltar to use it for some other service not to leave it there dormant. These slots, even the insomniac slot as I call it, the seven o'clock in the morning, are still very valuable and if they have swapped it for Gatwick it is because they have a more commercially lucrative purpose to put it to.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In relation to a different question on the four airlines can I ask the Minister whether he might be able to say if any of those four airlines are the budget airlines to which the Chief Minister referred?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes one of them is.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

We would not use the phrase “budget” though we would use the phrase “low cost”.

NO. 146 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

AIRLINE ASSISTANCE SCHEME

How much has been paid from the Airline Assistance Scheme and to what airlines since November 2001 inclusive, giving the amounts and dates when the payments were made?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Payments were made as follows:-

10.12.01	Monarch Airlines	£26,700
05.02.02	Bland	£15,000
05.02.02	Monarch Airlines	£18,900

NO. 147 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

COACH PARK CHARGES

Can Government say how much revenue has been raised on a monthly basis by charging coaches that use the coach park since November 2001 inclusive?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

The revenue generated was:-

November 2001	£7,450
December 2001	£5,100
January 2002	£3,230

NO. 148 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

UPPER ROCK - ADMISSION FEES

Can Government say how much revenue has been raised in admission fees to the Upper Rock on a monthly basis since November 2001 inclusive?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

The revenue raised in admission fees to the Upper Rock on a monthly basis since November 2001 inclusive is:-

November	£144,225.50
December	£ 77,603.00
January	£ 76,990.50

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 148 OF 2002

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Does this reflect that December and January are normally low months compared to November?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Well normally December and January are low months compared to November, this year they have been exceptionally low in respect to previous years basically as a result of the drop in the number of coaches especially arriving in Gibraltar and as a consequence mainly of the drop of tourists along the Costa del Sol which tend to come into Gibraltar for day trips.

NO. 149 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM CO-OPERATION AGREEMENT – LA LINEA

Are Government now in a position to say whether, and if so when, the tourism co-operation agreement with La Linea will be signed?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

No.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 149 OF 2002

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is this a matter that is being pursued or is it simply left to rest for the time being?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No. This is a matter that there has not really been any direct contact between the Consejal de Turismo and myself which were the initial contacts for the co-operation agreement. I do not rule out that something may happen in the future but it is not something that is actually being pursued at present.

NO. 150 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

ASSOCIATION FOR TOURIST INFORMATION – LA LINEA

Can Government say whether they are aware of the decision by the Association for Tourist information of La Linea to promote and offer tourist packages which will include visits to both Gibraltar and La Linea together?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Government have no knowledge of this, except what has been reported in the press.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 150 OF 2002

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is this something which the Government will be pursuing given the same report which I have seen and the Minister himself has seen and that those indicate that Gibraltar used to be sold exclusively as a tourist package by these associations who would then offer it to 150 major agencies and now that exclusivity will now be lost and they will offer the same tourist spending time in Gibraltar and in La Linea as well which means that they will gain some tourists and we will lose tourist time spent here.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I do not think that we should worry too much about losing tourists to La Linea. There may have been contact between the Association of Tourist Information and private sector operators in Gibraltar but there has definitely not been any official approach to the Gibraltar Tourist Board or the Ministry for Tourism in respect of this. If they do, well obviously we will consider what the details entail and we will then take a view.

NO. 151 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TRANSPORT – NUMBER OF GOODS VEHICLES IMPORTED

What was the value and number of goods vehicles imported by:

- (a) individuals;
- (b) licensed dealers;

since November 2001 inclusive on a monthly basis?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question No 152 of 2002.

NO. 152 OF 2002**THE HON DR J J GARCIA****TRANSPORT – NUMBER OF PRIVATE MOTOR VEHICLES IMPORTED**

What was the value and number of private motor vehicles imported by:-

- (a) individuals;
- (b) licensed dealers;
- (c) since November 2001 inclusive on a monthly basis?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT**

The information requested by the hon Member is set out in the written schedule that I hand to him.

GOODS VEHICLES				
	Imported By Individuals		Imported By Licensed Dealers	
Month	Quantity	(£ thousands)	Quantity	(£ thousands)
Nov 2001	-	-	6	20
Dec 2001	-	-	4	14

PRIVATE MOTOR VEHICLES				
	Imported By Individuals		Imported By Licensed Dealers	
Month	Quantity	(£ thousands)	Quantity	(£ millions)
Nov 2001	17	25	517	5.0
Dec 2001	19	53	311	3.3

The figures for January 2002 are not yet available.

NO. 153 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

NUMBER OF PORT OPERATORS

Are Government now in a position to tell the House how many port operators there are under the new licensing regime that the House was told in November 2001 would be put in place by January this year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

There are 33 port operators registered under the new licensing regime.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 153 OF 2002

HON DR J J GARCIA:

These 33 operators are all existing ones or are there any new persons that have applied to be registered?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

All these are existing operators that have automatically been awarded the licence under the new regime and there are no new licences even though there are currently applications for new operators that are being given consideration.

NO. 154 OF 2002

THE HON S E LINARES

THEATRE ROYAL

Can Government state what is the final capacity that the Theatre Royal will have?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question No 155 of 2002.

NO. 155 OF 2002

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

THEATRE ROYAL

Can Government state whether the refurbishment of the Theatre Royal will be completed by early 2003?

ANSWER

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

It is expected that refurbishment works on the Theatre Royal will be completed by January 2004. The total seating capacity is designed to be around 520 or 530.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 154 AND 155 OF 2002

HON DR R G VALARINO:

Could the Minister explain why the delay, because he mentioned in his budget speech if I remember correctly that by summer 2003 shows will be held at the Theatre Royal?

HON DR B A LINARES:

It is a problem of the design process which has taken longer, there have been revisions of the original proposals in consultation with users. The original seating capacity was deemed to be too low by users and therefore the designers went back to the drawing-board and that of course involves a certain delay in time.

HON S E LINARES:

Is the Minister satisfied with the number since it is not a major increase to venues that we already have?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I am told that logistically and physically architecturally it is impossible to have a modern theatre with all the requirements of safety et cetera and what is expected today in a modern theatre in terms of foyer and in areas for leisure, meetings, and nevertheless as I say, the users who have been extensively consulted appear to be quite satisfied.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Have Government taken a view in terms of the seating arrangement whether this will also be used as a conference centre or not?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Yes, it is still intended that the theatre may have the potential for conferences as well.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Does the change in completion date have any effect on the EU Funding?

HON DR B A LINARES:

No because we are now relying on the forthcoming allocation of the EU Funds.

NO. 156 OF 2002

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – GOVERNOR’S MEADOW SCHOOL

Can Government state whether the accommodation in Governor’s Meadow School is of a permanent or temporary nature?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos 162 to 175 and 183 of 2002.

NO. 157 OF 2002

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – REFURBISHMENT WORKS

Can Government give a breakdown of the refurbishment or maintenance programme being conducted in Bishop Fitzgerald, Governor's Meadow, Sacred Heart, Notre Dame and St Paul's?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos 158 to 161 of 2002.

NO. 158 OF 2002

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – ST MARTIN’S SCHOOL

Can Government state whether the promised refurbishment of St Martin’s playground has commenced or is scheduled for this financial year?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos 157 and 159 to 161 of 2002.

NO. 159 OF 2002

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – WESTSIDE SCHOOL

Can Government confirm that the works in Westside to build a hall will be completed by the end of February?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos 157, 158, 160 and 161 of 2002.

NO. 160 OF 2002

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – ST MARY’S SCHOOL

Can Government state what progress or plans have been made to move St Mary’s School to another location?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos 157 to 159 and 161 of 2002.

NO. 161 OF 2002

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – BAYSIDE SCHOOL

Can Government state whether the works which include the conversion of showers, two classrooms, new toilet facilities, upgrading of library, new computer area, expansion of Art/Craft area and expansion of the technology area have been completed?

ANSWER

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

Answer to Question No 157 of 2002

The maintenance programme to tackle essential repairs in Bishop Fitzgerald, Governor's Meadow, Sacred Heart, Notre Dame and St Paul's Schools have carried on as usual.

Answer to Question No 158 of 2002

The refurbishment of St Martin's School playground has not commenced. Although the intention was to have scheduled it for the current financial year, it was impossible to tackle this project this year.

Answer to Question No 159 of 2002

The Hall in Westside School is expected to be ready by the end of March 2002.

Answer to Question No 160 of 2002

It is the Government's intention to move St Mary's School to a location near the Westside area. Various options are being considered by Government.

Answer to Question No 161 of 2002

I assume the hon Member refers to Bayside School which is not mentioned in his question. The answer is that the works in question will be carried out over a period of years so as not to cause too much disruption to the School.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 157 TO 161 OF 2002

HON S E LINARES:

In relation to St Martin's playground can the Minister state when he intends to start the refurbishment of the playground since he told us in the last Question Time that he had it scheduled for this financial year and now it seems to have moved?

HON DR B A LINARES:

There are a number of factors involved in the delay. One is that the construction company was highly engaged in the construction facilities for school lunches, another factor was that the Headteacher preferred to wait until we could purchase all the equipment that she needed at the same time for the playground and hence she preferred to wait rather than stage the works and we wanted to buy the equipment the following year.

HON S E LINARES:

In relation to the Westside hall which now is going to be hopefully completed by the end of March, can the Minister state whether this hall was always intended to accommodate pupils for lunch breaks or did it have another function?

HON DR B A LINARES:

The intentional decision to build the hall actually predates the whole debate of school lunches, it goes back a number of years. The main purpose of the hall intentionally at the time was to provide something that Westside did not have. They had to use the gymnasium for examinations, assemblies, for large meetings, parents, and they felt that they needed a hall suitable for these purposes but of course it has now been agreed that apart from these purposes it should also be used to accommodate school lunches.

HON S E LINARES:

The obvious question is what will happen when the exams are going on and children need to eat?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Alternative facilities will be found throughout the school.

HON S E LINARES:

In relation to St Mary's School can the Minister state what locations have been looked at to date to move St Mary's?

HON DR B A LINARES:

It is not appropriate to mention any specific location at this stage.

HON S E LINARES:

But the Minister stated in answer to that question that he was looking at the area of the reclamation, the westside area to move, is that correct?

HON DR B A LINARES:

It is correct that I did mention in response to earlier questions that this was one of the options but now we are talking about a number of options and we would not like to comment on any specific location.

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Minister state then if and when St Mary's move wherever it moves, were the children of the existing catchment area from St Mary's will be going to?

HON DR B A LINARES:

The existing catchment area of St Mary's is the town area and that of course is very much in the proximity of the westside area that we are looking at.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

May the hon Member bear in mind that my hon Colleague said was not that the school was going to the westside area but near to the westside area. The hon Member should not assume that the school would be on the reclamation itself, near to the westside area is not necessarily in the westside area.

NO. 162 OF 2002

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – ST PAUL’S SCHOOL

Can Government state whether the works in St Paul’s School to permanently accommodate children for the lunch break as promised to parents have started?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos 156, 163 to 175 and 183 of 2002.

NO. 163 OF 2002

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – SCHOOL MEALS

Can Government state what evidence they have to show that children are eating better?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos 156, 162, 164 to 175 and 183 of 2002.

NO. 164 OF 2002

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – SCHOOL MEALS

Can Government state how many parents have opted their children out of staying in school for the lunch break giving a breakdown per school during:

- (a) First week;
- (b) Second week;
- (c) First month?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos 156, 162, 163, 165 to 175 and 183 of 2002.

NO. 165 OF 2002

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – SCHOOL MEALS

Can Government state how long on average do children have to actually eat their lunches?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos 156,162 to 164, 166 to 175 and 183 of 2002.

NO. 166 OF 2002

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – SUPERVISOR/PUPIL RATIO

What is the supervisor/pupil ratio in:

- (a) First Schools;
- (b) Middle Schools;
- (c) Secondary Schools?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos 156, 162 to 165, 167 to 175 and 183 of 2002.

NO. 167 OF 2002

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – SCHOOL MEALS

Can Government state up to what age are children in secondary schools being supervised during the lunch break?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos 156, 162 to 166, 168 to 175 and 183 of 2002.

NO. 168 OF 2002

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – SCHOOL MEALS

Can Government state how many letters have been received at the Department of Education complaining about the lunch break arrangements put in place by this Government?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos 156, 162 to 167, 169 to 175 and 183 of 2002.

NO. 169 OF 2002

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – SCHOOL MEALS

Can Government state what toilet facilities have been made available during the lunch break at Westside?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos 156, 162 to 168, 170 to 175 and 183 of 2002.

NO. 170 OF 2002

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – SCHOOL MEALS

Can Government state how many persons have been contracted by Serviceall Ltd to supervise the lunch break giving a breakdown per school?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos 156, 162 to 169, 171 to 175 and 183 of 2002.

NO. 171 OF 2002

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – SCHOOL MEALS

What is the hourly rate of pay for lunch break Supervisors?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos 156, 162 to 170, 172 to 175 and 183 of 2002.

NO. 172 OF 2002

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – SCHOOL MEALS

Can the Minister for Education state whether any private catering firm has approached him, any other Government Minister or any Government Official in relation to school meals?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos 156, 162 to 171, 173 to 175 and 183 of 2002.

NO. 173 OF 2002

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – SCHOOL MEALS

Can Government state whether children are using wipes as a substitute to washing their hands?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos 156, 162 to 172, 174 to 175 and 183 of 2002.

NO. 174 OF 2002

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – SCHOOL MEALS

What co-ordination has been taking place between the Health Authority and the Department of Education in relation to the content of the lunch box?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos 156, 162 to 173, 175 and 183 of 2002.

NO. 175 OF 2002

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – CHANGE OF SCHOOL HOURS

Can Government state what procedure is in place in relation to first school children not being collected by parents after school at 3.15 pm?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos 156, 162 to 174 and 183 of 2002.

NO. 176 OF 2002

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – MAINTENANCE GRANTS

Can Government state how many parents have been investigated in relation to their application for this academic year for maintenance grant for their children?

ANSWER

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

Thirty-eight parents have been investigated.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 176 OF 2002

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Minister state whether the maintenance grants are assessed every year or are assessed at the beginning of the course and that dictates the parental contribution for three or four years whilst they are studying? When one applies for parental contribution for ones child at the beginning is it good enough for the four years or are parents assessed every year whilst they are out to reassess their parental contribution?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I will check that I cannot answer it with certainty.

HON S E LINARES:

Will the Minister take action against those parents who he thinks are not declaring the right amount of income?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Well this is what we mean by an investigation, the action that we take and I have explained in earlier replies to questions of this matter is that we refer the declared income to the department to the Income Tax Office and the Income Tax Office have now agreed to carry out their more expert investigation into the declared income and then formally confirm to us whether the declared income to the department is accepted by them, or not accepted by them, or it is open still to further investigation. On that basis of a formal confirmation from the Income Tax Office the department determines whether a minimum grant, a maximum grant or a grant in-between using the formula that you are asking me for in a while is given

.

HON S E LINARES:

The action taken is a unilateral action by the department to decrease the parental contribution if the case is necessary, what I am asking is, is there any further action that other departments might take in view of the fact that what they have presented is false?

HON DR B A LINARES:

We leave that entirely to the Income Tax Office to decide what course of action is legally open to them. We are simply limited to our remit to establish what grant, what parental contribution in relation to that grant is merited.

HON J J BOSSANO:

How can the Income Tax Department take any action against a tax payer when he is not making a tax return. The Minister is talking about the information the person gives to the Education Department, was it not always the case that the system operated on the basis that the person had to give his consent to the department for the department to pass that information on to the Tax Office and that that was always part of the grants system, so what is different now?

HON DR B A LINARES:

It is not largely different except that the whole thing is now more systematic and more finalised and also it actually relates to declarations which we feel have not been vetted yet by the Income Tax Office and are open to question.

HON J J BOSSANO:

When the Minister announced that he was going to sort of tackle this problem area did he not say in fact that the department would be taking into account criteria that are not relevant under the Income Tax Ordinance to Income Tax returns and that that is why they might come to a different assessment notwithstanding the fact that the income declared in the form to the department was the same as the income declared to the Tax Office?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well, how can the Tax Office help in that?

HON DR B A LINARES:

They cannot help with that, but we found that that good intention initially in trying to establish our own means of investigation was well beyond the resources and facilities and expertise of the Department of Education and therefore we are now relying on the advice of the Income Tax Office in as much as they formally, I say formally, with a particular written assurance as to whether the income declared to us is acceptable to them whether it is not acceptable, and I can say that out of the 38 parents I mentioned before being investigated 12 have been accepted by the Income Tax Office from the start and so we have granted the maximum grant, six were accepted only after they declared a higher income that was originally declared to us in response to the enquiries by the Income Tax Office, 14 have not been accepted by the Income Tax Office, they feel that those declarations are not acceptable to them and therefore they are still on a minimum grant and seven are pending further investigation. The Income Tax Office says that they are still looking into the matter, and that is the system that we have adopted as the most viable one, we had attempted and I am being very honest to institute ourselves but found that it was beyond our resources and expertise.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Fair enough if they have tried something and it has not worked it does not work but effectively really we are much closer back to the original system because as I recall if the Income Tax did not certify that the income declared was the income which that person had had accepted for tax purposes then in fact the minimum grant was given and that was it.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The main conceptual difference is, whereas before in the administration of the system the Education Department would automatically go on tax declarations, they now reserve the right to take a different view to that which is revealed by a tax return.

HON S E LINARES:

Just one last point nothing to do with the Income Tax itself but to do with the question definitely, will the Minister guarantee that these investigations will not take as long as it took with certain investigations last year since this causes hardship to the student rather than to the parents obviously?

HON DR B A LINARES:

What does the hon Member mean by guarantee, the course of action takes whatever the course of action needs.

HON S E LINARES:

Well there was a case last year where a student suffered hardship because the parents were being investigated and therefore the parents stated that they did not have the money to send to the student, the student was not receiving any money from the department and therefore the student was in UK without the money and it took a very long time for those investigations to complete.

HON DR B A LINARES:

I know that case particularly and I personally intervened in that and using my discretion I explained to the parents that should they provide genuine evidence from tutors, teachers, University authorities, social workers, genuine evidence that this student was undergoing real hardship to meet the maintenance and other costs then I would use my discretion in reviewing the grant that was being given but no evidence was given to me to that effect.

NO. 177 OF 2002

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – MEANS TEST

Can Government state what is the set criteria being used to means test parents in order to ascertain their contribution towards their children's studies?

ANSWER

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

The process is as follows:- The highest salary of either parent is taken as the starting point and from this salary is deducted the tax allowances (as stated by the Income Tax Office) and then a further allowance is made by the department. This further allowance as was announced and reviewed by the Government last year is £12,000 if the combined salary of both parents exceeds £20,000 and £15,000 if it does not. That operation establishes a residual income. One-tenth of this residual income is the amount parents should contribute. The Government then awards the student the difference between the maximum allowance which I think is reaching a figure of £4,000 at this stage and the so-called "parental contribution" which is deducted from the maximum allowance.

NO. 178 OF 2002

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – MAINTENANCE GRANTS

Can Government give a breakdown of the students not getting a grant, getting minimum grant, and those getting between the minimum and maximum?

ANSWER

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

All students sponsored by the Government obtain some form of maintenance grant. For the present academic year, there are 55 students in receipt of a minimum grant, 261 students in receipt of a maximum grant and 386 in receipt of a grant between minimum and maximum.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 178 OF 2002

HON S E LINARES:

Is it possible for the Minister to give us a breakdown, since I have asked for it, between the minimum and the maximum?

HON DR B A LINARES:

That would actually enter into the sphere of giving individual names.

HON S E LINARES:

There is no need to give me the names.

HON DR B A LINARES:

A whole variety of grants.....

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is the Minister not aware that the names and the amounts used to be contained in the Estimates many years ago, so I do not think there is anything preventing it other than space?.....Well it used to be standard practice.

HON S E LINARES:

Well, I assume he is not willing to do so.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, what it means is that it is just a question of administrative effort, what may be possible is to have a few categories. All we are saying to the hon Member is that because it is worked on the salary of the individual each of which will be different, there will be possibly 386 different figures. Those 386 individuals may each be receiving a different amount of grant. All he is going to get is a list of 386 numbers, another thing is for him to say "*Well can he give us the numbers in 25 per cent chunks, between the minimum and the maximum*" and then he might know that 100 are in each of the four categories but otherwise all he gets is a long list of numbers. Administratively it is not impossible to give him the information but it just seems unnecessarily detailed.

HON S E LINARES:

Since the Chief Minister has offered to give me, that the Minister might be able to give me the categories every 25 or whatever, I would appreciate that.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

If the hon Member really does want the list of 386 so long as it does not have names attached he is welcome to have that as well.

HON S E LINARES:

Since the Chief Minister is offering that and I have asked for it could I have it?

NO. 179 OF 2002

THE HON S E LINARES

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

Can Government state what progress has been made in relation to the review that he stated his department do regularly on Special Educational Needs?

ANSWER

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

My Department regularly monitors educational provisions in all our schools. This includes provision for children with special educational needs. Any areas identified as needing further development are tackled as a matter of priority.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 179 OF 2002

HON S E LINARES:

What I am trying to ascertain from the Minister is if there is a sort of criteria that they are using in their review that for example, provisions of educational psychologist, provisions of occupational therapists, all these provisions, they have reviewed them and what I would like is an outline of what the review is?

HON DR B A LINARES:

This is an on-going review of the provision by the department, the hon Member can obtain the latest booklet produced by the Department of Education issuing guidelines for teachers and schools on the provision of special educational needs and there of course there are indicators for evaluation which may be along the lines that he is suggesting in terms of what he calls the criteria, these are indicators like the expenditure on pupils that are placed outside Gibraltar, the number of pupils in St Martin's, the number of pupils in the special unit, the assessment of these pupils, the

support assistance required, this is an on-going exercise that we are reviewing and the indicators in each school are evaluated as part of the general run of the administration and the work of the department.

HON S E LINARES:

I would appreciate if the Minister could send me a copy of the booklet.

NO. 180 OF 2002

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – TRUANT CHILDREN

Can Government state whether the Council of Ministers have considered the draft legislation on truant children?

ANSWER

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

No.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 180 OF 2002

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Minister state when it is intended to present this legislation either to the House or it might be through regulations, but does he have a time scale because I have been asking this question since I came into this House and I all the time get the same answer that it is in the Council of Ministers that the drafting has already been ended. So, if the drafting has ended and it is in the Council of Ministers like he says, what is the problem?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I never said that the legislation on Truant Children had been completed, the drafting had been completed, I said that the drafting for the regulation of nurseries had been completed but this one I actually said last time had not even started. In answer to Question No 1036 of 2001 and before that Question No 647 of 2001 I said the

drafting had not been completed and it is still therefore in the ambit of the Legislation Unit which is the drafting, the thinking that has been passed on to them from the Department of Education which is essentially the philosophy of UK legislation in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, Chapter 37. What this means is that the police may now upon observation of a child who is likely to be playing truant from the school can actually deliver the child to an agreed place perhaps social services et cetera, it is a complicated thing and that is what is being actually put into shape legally for the consideration of the Council of Ministers and I am sorry that the process of drafting is very often slower than I certainly would like.

NO. 181 OF 2002

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – COUNSELLING

Can the Minister for Education state how many times his department has contracted or asked other visiting Psychologists to do counselling at all levels?

ANSWER

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

Mrs Jan Cappi who has a Masters Degree in Psychology has been contracted by the department to offer regular counselling and support sessions at St Martin's Special School for parents of pupils with special needs. Her work started on 25th January 2000 and has been on-going ever since. She offers weekly sessions and counselling "blocks" as the need arises.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 181 OF 2002

HON S E LINARES:

Will the Minister consider that there is a need for that psychologist to be on a permanent basis rather than on a contractual basis?

HON DR B A LINARES:

When I say on a contractual basis it is that she has been contracted to do this work on an on-going basis, it is not part-time, I did not use the word part-time I said that she is on contract, she is not part of the compliment, she is not part of the permanent and pensionable compliment.

NO. 182 OF 2002**THE HON S E LINARES****EDUCATION – NUMBER OF CLEANERS**

Can Government state how many cleaners are employed in each school giving a breakdown per school?

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

The information requested by the hon Member is set out in the written schedule that I hand to him.

School	No of Cleaners
Bayside	25
Westside	23
College of Further Education	6
Bishop Fitzgerald	7
St Joseph's Middle	9
Sacred Heart	7
St Anne's Middle	11
Notre Dame	8
St Paul's	7
Governor's Meadow	7
St Joseph's First	9
St Bernard's	5
St Mary's	6
Hebrew Primary	2
St Martin's	2

NO. 183 OF 2002

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – NUMBER OF CLEANERS

Can the Minister state how many cleaners are being employed as supervisors?

ANSWER

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

Answer to Question No 156 of 2002

There are no plans at this time to further upgrade the facilities in Governor's Meadow School.

Answer to Question No 162 of 2002

The work in St Paul's School to permanently accommodate children for the lunch break have not yet commenced.

Answer to Question No 163 of 2002

We have not carried out scientific research to establish whether there is any improvement in children's eating habits as a result of school lunches but many parents have casually remarked that their children seem to be eating better – I would not, however, draw any hard and fast conclusions from these casual remarks, neither would I conclude the contrary (if that is what the hon Member is leading up to) these are judgements for parents, which is exactly why the Government wished to change school hours in a way which gave parents the option to have children have lunch at home. That option would not have been available under the hours scheme, preferred and promoted by the hon Member.

Answer to Question No 164 of 2002

I will hand the hon Member a table with the information requested. May I point out in relation to that schedule that the total number of children opting out in the periods he cites was 35 in the first month and that 84 additional admissions were accepted after the initial date. We are talking about 35 children opting out of a total of 3,755 children who avail themselves of the facilities for lunching in schools.

TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN STAYING FOR LUNCH IN ALL SCHOOLS

School	Pre-Xmas	1 st Day of Term	End of 1 st Week	End of 2 nd Week	End of 1 st Month	Total Leaving
Bayside	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bishop Fitzgerald	0	0	0	2	0	2
Governor's Meadow	0	0	2	1	0	3
Hebrew	0	0	1	0	2	3
Notre Dame	0	0	1	1	3	5
Sacred Heart	0	0	0	0	0	0
St Anne's	0	0	0	0	3	3
St Bernard's First	0	0	0	0	2	2
St Joseph's First	0	0	0	0	0	0
St Joseph's Middle	0	0	3	0	0	3
St Mary's	0	0	0	1	0	1
St Paul's	0	0	0	1	1	2
Westside	0	0	11	0	0	11

Answer to Question No 165 of 2002

In most schools lunch takes place in 2 sittings allowing roughly 30 minutes for each child to have lunch.

Answer to Question No 166 of 2002

The supervisor/pupil ratio in First Schools ranges from 1:20 to 1:25. In Middle schools from 1:35 to 1:38, in Bayside School 1:35, and in Westside School 1:30.

Answer to Question No 167 of 2002

All pupils in secondary schools are being supervised during the lunch break.

Answer to Question No 168 of 2002

Three letters have been received at the Department from parents complaining about lunch-break arrangements in specific schools. This, coupled with the very high level of uptake of the option to stay at school for lunch amply demonstrates the success of this Government's policy in relation to the change of school hours, despite the hon Members lone crusade to pretend the contrary.

Answer to Question No 169 of 2002

The pupils can avail themselves of existing toilets – these are sufficient to meet the demands of the school. The new Hall extension (for lunch and exams) will provide extra toilets (including one for the disabled).

Answer to Question No 170 of 2002

A total of 128 persons have been contracted by Serviceall Ltd as supervisors. The breakdown requested is as follows:

Governor's Meadow	11
St Paul's	9
St Bernard's	5
Notre Dame	9
St Joseph's First	12
St Mary's	7
Hebrew Primary	2
St Anne's	11
Sacred Heart	7
St Joseph's Middle	8
Bishop Fitzgerald	11
Bayside	18
Westside	18

Answer to Question No 171 of 2002

The hourly rates of pay for supervisors are £6 for head supervisors, £5 for supervisors.

Answer to Question No 172 of 2002

The Government are not willing to account to the hon Member for approaches made by any other party, making proposals to Government . Any arrangements entered into by Government will of course be subject to the Government's now well established policy of maximum openness and accountability.

Answer to Question No 173 of 2002

Ample facilities in the way of wash basins have been provided in all schools for children to wash their hands.

Answer to Question No 174 of 2002

The Department requested advice from the Health Promotion Group (GHA) as to the type of healthy food to be included in lunch boxes. The HPG have produced a most informative and attractive leaflet which has been distributed to all parents of primary school children in Gibraltar.

Answer to Question No 175 of 2002

The procedure adopted by schools for first school children not being collected by parents after school at 3.15 pm is the same as when school finished at 4.15 pm. The Headteacher stays behind for a reasonable time (about ½ hr) and if the child is not collected, an attempt is made to contact parents. If this fails the arrangement is that the child is taken to the RGP station who in turn contact the social worker on duty.

Answer to Question No 183 of 2002

Five cleaners have also been employed as lunch-time supervisors. May I take this opportunity of congratulating all those who have been engaged and have worked very hard in this huge task of providing lunch facilities in our schools for nearly 4,000 children in schools which were not physically ready for this and it has been a huge success on all counts. A month after starting pretty well everything is in place to the manifest satisfaction of pretty well every parent in Gibraltar. I would like therefore and I would hope that the hon Member would join with me to congratulate the Director and his officers in the department and the Headteachers and Deputy Headteachers and of course the supervisors who are doing an excellent job and Service all the agency.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 156, 162 TO 175 AND 183 OF 2002

HON S E LINARES:

The Minister has answered many questions all in one and I am therefore going to go one by one asking supplementaries for each one that he answered. Will the Minister state whether this structure that was built to accommodate children for the lunch break is the same as the one built in St Paul's?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I do not understand what the hon Member means to say, same structure, same size?

HON S E LINARES:

I have just said structure, can the Minister state whether this structure which was built to accommodate children for the lunch break is the same or similar to the one built in St Paul's school?

HON DR B A LINARES:

In my own layman's observations it seems to be similar in the sense that it is a covered area and sheltered to prevent air currents being too obnoxious.

HON S E LINARES:

In Question No 162 of 2002 I asked the Minister whether the works in St Paul's which would permanently accommodate children for the lunch break as promised to the parents had started, and I ask this question because if both structures are the same and the Minister has allowed the parents of St Paul's to get another accommodation because they were not happy at the fact that the structure in St Paul's was of a temporary nature and the Minister has promised them another accommodation, why is this not done for Governor's Meadow School in which the structure is similar?

HON DR B A LINARES:

The situation in which St Paul's is is that the original plan was to build a building similar to that in Notre Dame in the open area adjacent to the school which is used now by the children in Varyl Begg Estate for a play area. That is really what I promised the parents because the parents knew about this as this was planned and they were geared to that and are expectant of that, what happened is that tenants said "Well we will not yield the open play area until the Housing Department can provide us with an alternative for children to play," and that is why we then had to build the present structure which in any case as it is quite adequate as Governor's Meadow is, quite suitable and adequate the only difference there is that we had promised if the hon Member wants to use that word but the parents were expectant from the start that a different structure would be built in the open area adjacent to the school. This has not been possible but I am told by my Colleague the Hon Mr Netto that works are now either in hand or about to be commenced in the construction of an alternative play area somewhere in the area of Varyl Begg and that would then allow that area to be opened to construction.

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Minister confirm that this accommodation will be ready as promised by September 2002?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I have had occasion before to say that this question of deadlines is rather difficult for me, I cannot at this moment of time say this is going to be ready by September. We will certainly try, this is what I have mentioned to parents the intention is there, the will is there, but of course we are so reliant on so many factors in this area of construction that to hold me to ransom and say "by September you will have the building" I am afraid I would not like to go into that.

HON S E LINARES:

It is not me who commits him to the 2002 deadline he has committed himself to the parents that it will be ready by 2002 so he is holding himself down because it was he who promised this to the parents.

HON DR B A LINARES:

The spirit of my conversation with the parents was that this was my intention, this was my desire, this was what I wanted to do, but I have explained as honestly as possible that we are dependent on so many factors that to say now in this House “Yes by the 1st September 2002 you are going to have this building “ I do not think this is the point.

HON S E LINARES:

I can allow the Minister leeway as in when the building starts that there are problems of construction one thing and another but the fact that he committed himself to having it by September 2002 when he has not even started it is the point in hand.

HON DR B A LINARES:

I thank the hon Member very much for allowing me that leeway.

HON S E LINARES:

On Question No 162 of 2002 can the Minister state what location the building will be built or have they not thought the location of the building at St Paul’s?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I have said that, in the area which is now used as a play area which is adjacent to the school.

HON S E LINARES:

Question No 163 of 2002. The Minister said that he did not have any real evidence that the children are eating better first hearsay and it is just that, and then the Minister said “ Well we cannot be quoted as in whether they are eating better or not” I am quoting him from a television interview in which he actually said “may I daresay that the children are eating better.” So, I am quoting him as in how they are eating better, now we find out that he does not really have any evidence to say whether they are eating better, is that the case?

HON DR B A LINARES:

That is very naïve, in that interview I was giving a broad brush account of what the situation was and I said that we were getting comments from parents, I almost had tongue in cheek to some extent. Many parents do casually remark “my child is eating better because of this sort of status between them “ this is very broad brush thing to say “he said that the children are eating better what is the evidence?” I accepted the evidence, there is no scientific evidence except that they are impressions and they should be taken as such.

HON S E LINARES:

May I then suggest that when he does a television interview that he says these are suggestions rather than stating it as if they were facts and therefore the impression given it seems that when he is doing the interview that it is rather fact than a view, a judgement. In answer to Question No 165 of 2002 the Minister said that on average children have half an hour to have their lunch break, does the Minister consider this to be enough time for children to eat?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I said roughly 30 minutes and in all evidence that is reaching us it seems to be perfectly adequate. May I remind the hon Member that initially the teachers actually wanted a 20 minutes break.

HON S E LINARES:

I mention this because in some schools although he says I ask for the average there are other schools in which children are being given 15 minutes to eat and therefore some of the children are going back home with their lunch boxes full and therefore because they have not had enough time to eat and that is why I have posed the question.

HON DR B A LINARES:

May I say as the hon Member said before what is his evidence to say these broad brush statements?

HON S E LINARES:

The same as he has said the parents come to me complaining about their children not having enough time to eat and therefore that is why I pose the question. If parents come to me complaining that my child is not had enough time to eat and anyway the policy of the Government was to give one hour lunch break and one hour lunch break not a half hour lunch break and a half hour playing time which is what is happening. The Minister had confirmed it by the half an hour the children are having for eating.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It was not very long ago that the hon Member when it suited him was arguing that a 20 minute lunch break was sufficient. He was supporting the teachers in their resistance to the one hour lunch break on the basis that it was too long for what was necessary that children did not spend an hour eating their lunches. Half an hour is longer than my children spend at the lunch table when they eat at home, never mind about when they eat on the playground. I do not know whether he sends his children to school with a hamper to sit down for an hour to have their lunch. I cannot imagine that any child takes more than half an hour to eat but the main point I want to make to him is this, precisely the reason why the Government insisted on the hour break was so that the parents who had the primary responsibility to make these judgements

on behalf of their own children had the option of whether to take their children home to lunch or not, 3,600 odd parents are choosing to leave their children at school for lunch notwithstanding that they could have the option to take them home. Parents are voting with their feet and I do not see that there is any basis for the hon Member to continue to criticise this arrangement. If parents preferred to take their children home to lunch they could in the judgement of those dealing with these matters, half an hour is long enough but if it were not long enough and there was more than one complaint that the hon Member thinks that he has well I suppose that the school authorities would look at it but that is not the evidence of schools, the School Authorities are receiving. The hon Member cannot stand up on the basis of what he calls one complaint or more than one complaint, he has not said quite how many reach him and then make that the generality. I believe that the vast majority of parents consider the present arrangements better for them, better for their children than the previous arrangements. Government are entirely satisfied, Government are not going to be dissuaded from that view by the hon Member standing up trying to make a case on the basis of a few complaints.

HON S E LINARES:

Just on the point the Chief Minister has mentioned about giving options may I inform the Chief Minister that parents who have children in First Schools and at the same time have children in Middle Schools do not have that option for the simple reason that First Schools lunch break is different to Middle Schools and Secondary Schools lunch break so therefore the Chief Minister is already cutting down the option of those parents who have two children one in each sector of education. So, it is virtually impossible to give the wide option that the Chief Minister is talking about. I would just like to mention that as a point of fact as an observation, the fact that it is no longer an hour break it is two half hour slots or should I say an hour and an hour in which they do not both combine so one knows exactly how parents might feel when the Chief Minister says that they have the option. Does the Minister not agree that these are not the options given to those parents?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No I do not, and let me remind the hon Member that he has occupied both camps in the argument depending on when the moment has suited him, that he also wanted the one hour break and then when he thought it would ingratiate with a cross section of the teaching profession he switched camp to the 20 minute break. I do not know whether he has any of his own children well they are not old enough for school, but what my children complain of, what my sons complain of at school is actually the opposite of what he is saying. Apparently they are made to stay in for the full half hour and that they have finished their lunch and still have to sit wherever they are made to sit until the half hour slot is finished before they are allowed to go out into the playground. So, I do not know whether my children are very particularly unhealthy eaters and whether I am a particularly irresponsible parent but what my children complain of is that they actually have to stay in the dining-hall for longer than they need rather than being allowed to go out and play after they finish their lunch in 16 or 17 minutes. So, we just have not had the experience that the hon Member has had from alleged complainers that half an hour is not enough for a child to eat a packed lunch and therefore it should not surprise him that the Government do not take the same view as him because we are just not getting the same message as he claims to be getting from any significant number of people. We just do not accept the premise upon which he is making his case. If there were complaints that half an hour

were not enough and this was reaching the Government well of course we would have to consider whether it was a good case that needed to be accommodated into the arrangements but we are not and in those circumstances he has to understand that the Government do not act because they do not share the view of the facts that he is projecting.

HON S E LINARES:

The Chief Minister has stated a number of things that I have not said and I would like to correct him. For a start I have not said that half an hour or that I have complaints from parents that half an hour is not enough, I have said and I will say it again is that some parents have come to us complaining that their children have been given 15 minutes to eat not half an hour, 15 minutes in certain sectors of the education system in which the children have been allowed to go into a classroom, let alone an accommodation or elsewhere to eat their lunches for 15 minutes and then chucked out that is the message that I have been getting so I would like to correct the Chief Minister that I have never said that half an hour was a short time and the second point is that the Chief Minister seems to try to want to confuse people about what I say rather than what I have actually said is that I was never ever, I have never said that I was in favour of the teaching profession's 20 minutes what I have said and I have argued is that in the department's questionnaire, when they did the questionnaire, they did not put the teachers' option that does not say on which side of the fence I am. I just said that they conveniently omitted the 20 minutes break in the first questionnaire rather than in the second one so therefore I would just like to clarify that.

In Question No 166 of 2002 I asked what was the supervisor pupil ratio in Secondary Schools which is the one I am concentrating on, he said that there was 1:35 and 1:30 respectfully. If we do a quick calculation there must be some children who are not supervised if the ratio is 1:35 maximum.

HON DR B A LINARES:

In Westside 450 pupils stay for lunch, not the total complement, we are talking about the ones that stay for lunch. These supervisor's responsibilities are supervising the lunch not to supervise the whole school.

HON S E LINARES:

In Question No 168 of 2002, can the Minister state how many letters have been received by the Department praising the lunch break?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I am not sure whether the Department or the Director has received any explicit praise written on paper for the lunch breaks but our feedback is that there is extreme satisfaction amongst the vast majority of parents with the arrangements and they are delighted from every point of view not only because of the facilities provided but also because of the relief and respite that has come their way now in their working lives

and which is really what they aimed from the beginning and it is a good way from diverting from the fact that only three letters of complaints have been received which is.....

HON S E LINARES:

.....officially in writing may I add which is more than the praise, but never mind.

HON J C PEREZ:

We have a situation where the Minister says that the non-receipt of letters of praise is a perception of how good things are going but the receipt of three different complaints is not a perception that something might be going wrong.

HON DR B A LINARES:

This is a naïve argument issue.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, absolutely right because people who have a complaint are much more inclined to write than people who are going to give compliments. The Government do not do this to get compliments the Government have done this change of policy in response to a variety of social and other needs of Gibraltar. Most people in Gibraltar believe that on balance the change in school hours has been beneficial except the hon Member who appears to have an obsession with this matter, and who jumps around from one aspect of it to the other, let me give him an example, he is too subtle for the electorate in Gibraltar because he has just told us five minutes ago in this House that all that campaign that he conducted, booklets, leaflets that he demonstrated, all those interviews that he gave about how the change was being mismanaged, that the only point that he was trying to make it now transpires is some sense of grievance that the teachers' preferred option was not included in the ballot paper. Now that very fine point has gone straight over the heads of the electorate all of whom he should take my word for it had thought that he was opposed to the hour in favour of the 20 minutes and it now transpires that all this enormous air-time that he wasted on GBC and column inches that he wasted in the Gibraltar Chronicle was simply as a crusade because we did not include in the ballot paper the teachers' option which in any event is not the option that he had in his manifesto which was of a one hour as well and he continues to criticise the implementation of a policy which the vast majority of parents are choosing to benefit from in circumstances where it is optional for them and if they were unhappy with it they could choose to take their children home. He insists on pursuing this sort of one man crusade on behalf of, it is not quite clear who and what the Government would certainly welcome are comments, debates and views about whether in the light of experience and in the light of teething problems and in the light of what is a revolution in the way of life of many people here in Gibraltar with the benefit of a few months of hindsight, whether the system is not capable of being improved. I am certain that it is capable of being tweaked instead of harping on about structural complaints about whether the policy was right or wrong in the first place and about whether the children are using wipes or whether the children are not using wipes. Therefore, I would ask the hon Member to accept that the policy has been implemented, people will form their own view

about whether it has been successful or not, those who feel very strongly that it has been terribly unsuccessful will presumably vote for him and not for us at the next election but the debate now needs to move on. The thing has happened it is not going to be reviewed by the Government, the clock is not going to be put back, we think it has been a policy success and we would welcome the Opposition contributing to an improvement of the system. Some of his questions are in the right vein but the thrust of the whole of the question still harps on to the old days which nobody else harps back to. Most people in Gibraltar think that this has been a successful policy implemented in difficult circumstances both as to resources, physical facilities and cost. This has not been a cheap policy to implement and I think that most people accept that it has been a success.

HON S E LINARES:

In Question No 169 of 2002, the Minister said that all the toilet facilities in Westside are available to the girls, I would like to inform the Minister that I have had complaints from parents of girls in Westside who are saying that only the toilets in certain areas in the school are open during the lunch break and therefore that some girls are not able to use that facility because of so many of them using it. So, does the Minister think that the facilities of the Girls Comprehensive are adequate?

HON DR B A LINARES:

My answer is based on the information given to me by the Headteacher, the pupils can avail themselves of the existing toilets and these are sufficient to meet the demands of the school. When the new hall extension is built there will be additional toilets including one for the disabled. This comes straight from the Headteacher who appears to be satisfied with the present arrangements and at no time has he received any complaints along the lines that the hon Member has suggested.

HON S E LINARES:

Question No 170 of 2002 – Can the Minister state how many applied?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I think it was about 200 applications that were received and these were short-listed to 170 so that there is a pool of supervisors to fill in when those 120 who were selected are absent.

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Minister state who interviewed them was it just Serviceall?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I think I answered that in one of the previous questions. They were interviewed by a representation of a Headteacher from Secondary, Middle and First Schools and by

an Educational Advisor and by the Administrator of the Department of Education together with a representative of Serviceall.

HON S E LINARES:

Question No 171 of 2002 – Can the Minister state which grade they are analogued to, what criteria has he used to ascertain the £5 or £6?

HON DR B A LINARES:

They are not Government employees, they are employees of Serviceall and that was the offer that they made and they have had a very good response, 200 applied for that offer.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is the contract, the payment to Serviceall based on the fact that they are paying those wages. That is to say do they get an amount of money which is based on this hourly rate plus something else or is there a sum of money that they bid for this contract and therefore it is irrelevant of what they pay their employees?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

There is an element of administration/fee they do not pocket any saving in salary cost.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So in fact what we have just been told that these are not Government employees and this has nothing to do with it is not quite accurate because presumably the Government was consulted on the £6 and the £5?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I have said that they are not analogued to any Government employee.

HON J J BOSSANO:

When Serviceall bid for this work presumably it was on the basis that they will be paying £5 and £6 were there other people offering to provide this service but with different wage rates?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

My recollection is that they were not offering a more generous wage structure than that.

HON S E LINARES:

Question No 172 of 2002 – I understand there has been a private firm which has approached Government in order to supply lunches, hot meals for children, can the Minister confirm this?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Minister has already said that Government are not willing to account to the hon Member for approaches which are made on a speculative basis to the Government. It is just not appropriate to reveal proposes. The Government are answerable in this House and accountable to this House for what the Government do, not for suggestions put to them by others that come to nothing and therefore it is not appropriate for the Government, at least in our judgement it is not appropriate for the Government to reveal whether or not there has been an approach of the sort that the hon Member describes in this question.

HON S E LINARES:

Question No 173 of 2002 – Can the Minister state whether the Health Authority has been asked to comment on this practice, we are talking about the wipes?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Yes, there was an element of confusion there because the Health Authority, the Department of Public Health, thought the wipes were substituting wash basins not knowledgeable that there were ample facilities for wash basins for the children. The essential element that the Health Authority insisted was that before the meal they should wash their hands properly in wash basins to be provided. The Headteachers are perfectly satisfied with the facilities provided, the only element of wipes that has come into the picture is that some Headteachers feel that during the meal instead of using the type of kitchen tissue that I use at home, they prefer wet wipes, but in no way to substitute the washing of hands before the meal which is the essential element of hygiene.

HON S E LINARES:

Question No 174 of 2002 – Is the Minister aware that some schools have contradicted the leaflet the Health Authority issued advising parents to which I must compliment, that leaflet is a good leaflet, it is a positive leaflet but there has been contradictions with the leaflet given out from the Health Authority by the schools to parents and letters or notifications from the school directly to parents as in what they can take and have, for example, one that is very obvious is in the leaflet the Health Authority, prepared it put that the children can have in their pack lunch peanuts and some schools have banned peanuts from their lunch boxes. *[Interruption]* Well, the Chief Minister might laugh but here I am trying to be positive and it seems that he finds it funny now. Whatever I try to do positively it seems that he takes in jest. I think it is important because there might be confusion. Some parents might be confused, and say “well what do I do, these people tell me that my child can have peanuts in their lunch box and then this one says they are banned from school.” I am just bringing it to the notice of the Minister and could he investigate it please?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I have heard about this but I think that the matter has been quite simply resolved between the Headteachers and the parents.

NO. 184 OF 2002

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – PURCHASE OF STATIONERY

Can Government state whether they have now reverted to the traditional system of buying stationery for schools as stated in Question No 651 of 2001?

ANSWER

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

Yes.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 184 OF 2002

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Minister state why they have now reverted back to the one that they stated that there were delays in the delivery of books, is it that the local companies can now assure the Government that the stationery will be there on time or why the change?

HON DR B A LINARES:

We have reverted to the previous system where we could actually buy directly from UK suppliers by tender what we are establishing now is that we will go to tender but the tender will be opened up to UK suppliers as well.

HON S E LINARES:

If I am correct then the Minister is saying that this is the third system, they had the first system where they asked the teachers or the school used to directly ask for supplies from UK via catalogues, then they changed the system which tendered out to local companies and that is where the problem arose where the companies were taking too long to do the stationery, and now they are implementing a third system which is tendering out but including what the companies of the catalogue?

HON DR B A LINARES:

The school.

HON S E LINARES:

The school. No, no, the thing is it is important to clarify whether it is the school or the department that does it, because as I understand it before the school used to directly order things from catalogues via the Headteacher and then through the department rather than the way it was done the second time or the second option.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The new proposed system is supposed to be a half-way house between the school's desire to be able to procure from the United Kingdom with the Government's desire not to exempt the educational establishment from the tendering process and therefore what we have done is we are continuing with the tender process but allowing UK suppliers to participate in the tender process and I understand that the Department or the schools will bring to the attention of the suppliers in the UK the existence of this tender and then the companies of the UK will decide whether they wish to participate or not. So, whether they do participate or not depends whether they get to hear about the tender. It is not going to be advertised in the UK but I understand that arrangements will be made for favourite suppliers or suppliers who are thought are good and may be interested to bring to their attention the fact that this tender has been published are they interested in participating.

NO. 185 OF 2002

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – NURSERIES

Can Government state whether the Council of Ministers have now considered the draft legislation to regulate nurseries?

ANSWER

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

No, the draft legislation has now been referred back by the Department to the Legislation Unit for further amendments before it can be considered by the Council of Ministers.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 185 OF 2002

HON S E LINARES:

So, there has been a regression rather than a progression here?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Yes.

HON S E LINARES:

Last time when I asked this question the Minister said that it was in the agenda of the Council of Ministers?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Yes, that is almost correct but the legislation coming to us from the Legislation Unit was now ready to be presented in the agenda of the Council of Ministers but the department has found areas that they are not satisfied meet their requirements and therefore they have referred back to the Legislation Unit for further amendments.

NO. 186 OF 2002

THE HON S E LINARES

CAMMELL LAIRD

Can Government state how many persons have registered in the Cammell Laird apprenticeship scheme this academic year, that is, 2001/2002 giving a break down by trade?

ANSWER

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

For Intake 4, that is, starting date September 2001, up to 10 people have initially registered, of which nine remain on the Scheme. These comprise:

Four in Electrical trades;
Three in Mechanical trades;
Two in Fabrication/Welding Disciplines

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 186 OF 2002

HON J J BOSSANO:

If this is the 4th intake does that mean that we now have people who completed four years and are now fully fledged craftsmen?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Not quite, they will be completing in November of this year. The 1st Intake which came in in 1998 will be completing their qualifications in November 2002 when they will graduate after their apprenticeship programme reaching up to NVQ Level 3 qualifications.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Do Government have an indication whether the companies are likely to be in a position to offer employment to those coming out?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Cammell Laird?

HON J J BOSSANO:

Cammell Laird.

HON DR B A LINARES:

No clear indication, formal guarantee but by indications does the hon Member mean the sort of things that one hears and one negotiates and one pushes along, well yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Am I right in thinking these are partly funded by the European Union Fund?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Indeed.

NO. 187 OF 2002

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

Can Government state whether any student from Gibraltar studying in any UK University and spending a year in Spain as part of their degree in Spanish, have been advised by their UK University to seek a place elsewhere to go, on account of bad treatment by the Spanish Institution?

ANSWER

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

No cases of this sort have come to our notice.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 187 OF 2002

HON S E LINARES:

I bring this question because it is obvious that it has come to my notice and therefore in a positive note again I would like the Minister to look into what I have asked because there have been cases in which some local students, and I can tell him a little bit more about it, it is to do with the fact that because we are bilinguals and we tend to have more knowledge of the Spanish language what has happened is that students who have been doing Spanish in Spanish Institutions and know Spanish well, the institution have decided that they are not to take the course of a year as a foreign language but rather as a year intern in that college as if they were Spaniards. Therefore, some might have objected and then the treatment has been bad. This is the message that I am getting and I would like the Minister to look into it please.

HON DR B A LINARES:

By all means if he gives me the identity of the person and the situation and exactly what is meant by bad treatment . It is a bit nebulous but.....

HON S E LINARES:

For a start the fact that they are changing their course is already bad treatment because they should not. The second one is that they start harassing, in some cases there has been harassment and in fact I can tell him that the University has decided with certain students not to send them to an institution in Spain but rather to send them elsewhere because they have complained to the University and their tutors in University and said "Look I have not been treated well in the Spanish institution" and they have said "Well we will send you elsewhere" but there have been cases and I am willing to pass it on to the Minister.

HON DR B A LINARES:

I am grateful for that because I would certainly want to pursue an inquiry into that. There are currently three students who we have identified in Spanish Universities but as far as the Department and the Director knows, none of these students have come up with any complaints along these lines so I would like to know exactly.

HON S E LINARES:

When the Minister says three students in Spanish institutions is he talking about actually doing a UK degree and doing the year abroad?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Yes.

NO. 188 OF 2002

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – GIBRALTAR COLLEGE OF FURTHER EDUCATION

Can Government give a breakdown of the number of students that started attending the Educational programme of the GCFE in the year 2000/2001, 2001/2002 by subject and how many have not completed in each year to date?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos 189 and 190 of 2002.

NO. 189 OF 2002

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – GIBRALTAR COLLEGE OF FURTHER EDUCATION

Can Government state the number of students who have started attending courses offered this academic year in the GCFE and further give us a breakdown of the subjects chosen?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos 188 and 190 of 2002.

NO. 190 OF 2002**THE HON S E LINARES****EDUCATION – GIBRALTAR COLLEGE OF FURTHER EDUCATION**

Can Government give a breakdown of the number of students that are in the Educational programme of the GCFE who started in the year 2000/2001 by subject and how many did not complete the year?

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

I hand the hon Member the information requested.

Answer to Question No 190 of 2002

Year 2000/2001 (Full time Students)			
Department	Started	Finished	Left
Construction & The Built Environment	26	21	5
Information & Communication Technology	91	87	4
Business Studies	67	56	11
Foundation Course	34	24	10
Total	218	188	30

Year 2001/2002 (Full time Students)			
Department	Started	On Course	Left
Construction & The Built Environment	24	22	2
Information & Communication Technology	99	96	3
Business Studies	52	48	4
Foundation Course	26	22	4
Single Awards – 2 or 3 GCE AS/A2 + Single AVCE	20	20	0
Total	221	208	13

The figures above are up to and including 6th February 2002.

The figures in the “Left” column are students who in the main have discontinued their course because they have found suitable employment or remunerated training opportunities.

NO. 191 OF 2002

THE HON S E LINARES

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

Will Government state how many children are registered in stages 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 as set out in the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice at the beginning of this academic year 2001/2002?

ANSWER

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

Stage 1	-	433
Stage 2	-	178
Stage 3	-	77
Stage 4	-	23
Stage 5	-	35

NO. 192 OF 2002

THE HON S E LINARES

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

Can the Minister for Education state when he intends to commission another Special Educational Needs audit report?

ANSWER

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

I have no intention of commissioning another Special Educational Needs audit.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 192 of 2002

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Minister state if there is a period of time he feels another report might be commissioned?

HON DR B A LINARES:

At this stage the department feels that there is no need for a comprehensive audit of the nature that we carried out in 1997 by the University of Hull. The 24 recommendations that were made by the report have now largely been implemented and the progress made since 1997 in the provision of Special Needs Education in Gibraltar has been quite dramatic. As I say, we have now published a booklet which captures these recommendations in terms of defining clearly as guidelines the provision of schools and teachers of children with special needs.

NO. 193 OF 2002

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – GCSE AND ‘A’ LEVEL SUBJECTS

Can the Minister for Education state what steps he has taken to date to address the inequality in subjects offered by Bayside and Westside both at GCSE and ‘A’ Level?

ANSWER

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

The GCSE IT course at Westside is currently being offered to students as part of the options programme for Year 9 pupils. Those students who opt to study IT at GCSE level will commence the course in September 2002. An AS/A level course will be offered as from September 2004. The Department is satisfied that there are no major dissimilarities with the curriculum provision of Bayside and Westside at this stage that could be termed in any way or interpreted as representing inequalities.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION 193 OF 2002

HON S E LINARES:

When I say inequalities I do not mean it as in negative terms I mean it in a positive way. As the Minister well knows there are the ‘A’ Levels that are offered in different schools, not too different but there are slight differences, and therefore can the Minister instruct both comprehensives to allow both girls and boys to one or another school to do the subject that is not offered in one or the other as of right rather than depending on numbers.

HON DR B A LINARES:

The right has to be limited and restricted to what is viable, and the hon Member must know the time-tabling problems, logistical, the difference very often in being able to provide these exchanges between one school and the other. The intention is always to enable the schools to provide for Bayside for girls and Westside for boys when it is viable, when it is logistically possible within the restraints and the constraints of the time-table and of course the availability of teachers specialised in those particular subjects.

HON S E LINARES:

I understand this but what I am trying to do is that if, for example, from the top of my head, a subject like economics is offered at Bayside and some girls want to do economics at 'A' Level and it is not offered at Westside why should the girl not be able to do economics because there are more, the numbers in Bayside are already complete and certain girls want to do it they should also have the opportunity of being able to do it even though the boys all have the opportunity. This is again a question which I ask because I was surprised that the Chief Minister actually in the last House agreed that both comprehensives should compliment one another and I am of that view as well that I certainly at GCSE level and AS Level were the two schools, and resources is important as well, where one has teachers who need to double-up and that could well be the beginning of a hypothetical 6th form college or something of the sort. I think it is a positive development that we should be looking into and the department should be pursuing more prominently.

HON DR B A LINARES:

The intention is there in principle but as I say we have to look at the resources, the availability of teachers, the size of groupings, take for instance the example of, economics, and there are so many boys already entered for that particular subject with only one teacher perhaps who is available for that subject and then a number of girls wanting to join that would make that group perhaps in size totally unviable. There are restraints but I can assure the hon Member that the in principle intention of the Department and of the Headteachers is to make both schools as supportive of each other as possible.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Can I just add and I am expressing now a personal view not wishing to cut across the Department on this but I have a lot of sympathy with the view expressed by the hon Member that there should not be subjects that one can do if one is a boy but not if one is a girl, and I think that the Government will at some point address that issue more seriously with a view to remedying that.

HON S E LINARES:

I appreciate that.

NO. 194 OF 2002

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – EU INSTITUTIONS

Can Government state whether EU nationals who meet the academic requirements are entitled to study in any EU institution as of right?

ANSWER

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

The hon Member should know that any EU national is entitled to apply and if accepted study in any academic institution within the EU.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 194 OF 2002

HON S E LINARES:

Then the Minister can confirm that there is no need to have a special agreement in order for students from Gibraltar who are EU nationals to study elsewhere in the EU if they meet the academic requirements, no special agreement is needed correct?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Indeed no special agreement within the total context of European Union Conventions and Regulations.

NO. 195 OF 2002

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – E-COMMERCE TRAINING

Can Government state what progress has been made in relation to E-Commerce training?

ANSWER

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

The College of Further Education continues to provide an excellent ICT programme of training, for the civil service, whereby 356 have completed training in particular modules. The Government are further planning to provide a recognised apprenticeship programme that will equip local people with modern skills within the E-Commerce field.

NO. 196 OF 2002

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – EMPLOYMENT AGENCY

Can the Minister for Education confirm whether his department is satisfied with the Employment Agency's statistical information in relation to the impact the training scheme for the unemployed has had in order to ascertain its effectiveness?

ANSWER

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

The Department of Education and Training through the College of Further Education provides the training for unemployed persons registered with the Employment Agency, there are some basic courses in numeracy, literacy and IT being offered. The impact of these courses in terms of employment statistics or unemployment statistics is evaluated by the Employment Agency itself not by the Department of Education, we just provide the service where it leads to is evaluated by the Employment Agency.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 196 OF 2002

HON S E LINARES:

I ask this question because the last time I asked what co-ordination there was between the Agency and the Department and there did not seem to be a clear criteria certainly from the Employment Agency as to how to ascertain the effectiveness so I posed this question to see whether the Department has had any input from the Employment Agency?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Input and the co-ordination lies in the fact that the Employment Agency as experts in the needs geared to employment of these unemployed persons will tell the Education Department the substance of the courses that are mostly required and are most relevant and in that sense there is co-ordination and then we provide the service and hopefully the Employment Agency will see its effectiveness.

NO. 197 OF 2002

THE HON S E LINARES

POST- 16 EDUCATION

Can the Minister for Education give this House a rundown of the progress made by the committee he formed to look into the provision of Post-16 Education in Gibraltar?

ANSWER

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

The committee set up to look into the provision of post-16 education in Gibraltar has met on a number of occasions. At this stage general issues have been discussed and there has been agreement in principle that there is a need to rationalise the existing provision to enable students to access a wider choice of educational programmes.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 197 OF 2002

HON S E LINARES:

In those meetings is the Minister aware of any courses that might have been identified to suit the post-16 education, qualifications that might be useful for people who do not go on to GCSE, I posed this question on Westside and Bayside specifically but I am worried now because post-16 as the Minister well knows the pupil does not have to be in school. I am concerned about the post-16 like he is obviously and could the Minister state whether the Committee has already identified some courses to do in order to again bridge, and the bridge here would be leaving school having some training and employment?

HON DR B A LINARES:

The Committee is an Advisory Body, advisory to Government, to me, and as yet no specific advice, no specific proposals along the line suggested by the hon Member have been formally put to me.

HON S E LINARES:

Is this Advisory Council statutory or just an Advisory Council that the Minister has seen fit to bring together?

HON DR B A LINARES:

It is a working committee.

NO. 198 OF 2002

THE HON S E LINARES

TRAINING – EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND

Can Government state how many meetings have taken place between the DTI and the Education Department in relation to training and re-training of the workforce in order to be able to use the objective 3 programme?

ANSWER

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

Meetings between DTI and Education Department with regards to objective 3, in relation to the European Social Fund (ESF) are conducted regularly and on an on-going basis. This has resulted in training schemes which are partly subsidised by ESF to meet the needs of our community.

NO. 199 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – PRESCRIPTION CHARGES

Can Government now give the complete figures for periods 5-8 in relation to Question No 1054 of 2001?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question No 202 of 2002.

NO. 200 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – NUMBER OF PRESCRIPTIONS

Can Government now provide the figures for periods 6 and 7 in relation to Question No 1056 of 2001?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos 204 and 205 of 2002.

NO. 201 OF 2002**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO****GHA –DISPENSING FEES**

Can Government now provide the full details in relation to Question No 1057 of 2001?

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

I hand the hon Member a schedule with the information requested.

Amounts Paid to the Pharmacist	
Date	£
1 st – 30 th April 2001 (inclusive)	418,227.88
1 st – 31 st May 2001 (inclusive)	347,076.34
1 st – 30 th June 2001 (inclusive)	571,032.30
1 st – 31 st July 2001 (inclusive)	409,228.69
1 st – 31 st August 2001 (inclusive)	407,198.82
1 st – 30 th September 2001 (inclusive)	637,242.21
1 st - 31 st October 2001 (inclusive)	348,084.72
Total	£3,138,090.96

Amounts Paid Each Month Due To Prescriptions Dispensed In That Month	
Date	£
1 st – 30 th April 2001 (inclusive)	18,252.80
1 st – 31 st May 2001 (inclusive)	-
1 st – 30 th June 2001 (inclusive)	52,548.46
1 st – 31 st July 2001 (inclusive)	89,336.31
1 st – 31 st August 2001 (inclusive)	64,880.43
1 st – 30 th September 2001 (inclusive)	186,278.70
1 st - 31 st October 2001 (inclusive)	88,439.60
Total	£499,736.30

The yield of the 15 per cent on cost of the basic price of medicines and of the dispensing fee per item cannot be determined from the amounts paid as part payments are made on a 95 per cent basis when the accounts are submitted. After the accounts are thoroughly checked the outstanding sum is paid to the pharmacist when again there will be no knowledge on the breakdown of the on-cost dispensing fee.

NO. 202 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – REVENUE

Can Government state how much extra revenue the Gibraltar Health Authority has raised from 1st November 2001 to end of January 2002, as a result of their policy to increase prescription charges?

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 hand to her.

Answer to Question No 199 of 2002

Period 1 starts at week ending 1st April and Period 8 ends with week ending 28th October 2001.

The total revenue raised during this period was	£199,675.00
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The revenue that would have been raised under previous system in respect of £1.20's and the 20p levied to pensioners would have been	£142,246.80

The notional additional revenue raised is	£ 57,428.20

Answer to Question No 202 of 2002

Period 9 starts at week ending 11th November 2001 and period 11 ends at week ending 27th January 2002.

The total revenue raised during this period was	£63,410.00
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The revenue that would have been raised under previous system in respect of £1.20's and the 20p levied to pensioners would have been	£45,639.60
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The notional additional revenue raised is	£17,770.40
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I should add that these figures are subject to change because some accounts are yet to be submitted by Pharmacists.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 199 AND 202 OF 2002

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Is the Minister able to confirm in relation to Question No 202 of 2002 whether in fact the revenue that is being raised is on the increase?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I am not able to confirm this here and now because I do not have the previous statements to this effect but I will check on that.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

I think the Minister will find that there is an increase but I would be grateful if he could confirm it at a later stage in the House.

NO. 203 OF 2002**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO****GHA – AMOUNTS PAID TO PHARMACISTS**

Can Government say what was the amount paid to Pharmacists from 1st November 2001 to end of January 2002, specifying each month, and how much of this was due to prescriptions dispensed during this period and give a breakdown of the yield of 15 per cent on-cost of the basic price of medicines and of the £2.35 and then £1.80 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**

I hand the hon Member a schedule with the information requested.

Answer to Question No 203 of 2002

Amounts Paid to the Pharmacists	
Date	£
1 st – 30 th November 2001 (inclusive)	565,520.19
1 st – 31 st December 2001 (inclusive)	378,060.60
1 st – 31 st January 2002 (inclusive)	512,845.29
Total	£1,456,426.08

Amounts Paid Each Month Due To The Prescriptions Dispensed In That Month	
Date	£
1 st – 30 th November 2001 (inclusive)	191,308.97
1 st – 31 st December 2001 (inclusive)	371,807.22
1 st – 31 st January 2002 (inclusive)	353,644.48
Total	£916,760.67

The yield of the 15 per cent on cost of the basic price of medicines and of the dispensing fee per item cannot be determined from the amounts paid as part payments are made on a 95 per cent basis when the accounts are submitted. After the accounts are thoroughly checked the outstanding sum is paid to the pharmacist when again there will be no knowledge on the breakdown of the on-cost or dispensing fee.

NO. 204 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – NUMBER OF PRESCRIPTIONS ISSUED

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 period 8, 9 and 10 of 2001/2002, 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 200 and 205 of 2002.

NO. 205 OF 2002**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO****GHA – NUMBER OF PRESCRIPTIONS ISSUED**

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 8, 9, and 10 of 2001/2002?

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 hand her. I have to point out again as I have done before, her Question No 204 of 2002 is really impossible to answer as it stands because she relates the cost to the £2.50 charge and as I have explained on previous occasions £2.50 is charged on only three items in many prescriptions, many scripts will have more than three items with different prices and it is impossible therefore to relate the cost to any of these particular charges of £2.50. However, what I have done is give her the total cost in the answer to Question No 204 of 2002 both for the periods of 2001 and 2000. What I have given is the total sums, the scripts the items and the costs of the white prescriptions of the paying prescriptions I hope the hon Lady understands what I mean. In Question No 205 of 2002 it is all right because she is asking the cost of all prescriptions but in Question No 204 of 2002 she asks for the costs of prescriptions related to £2.50 and that is mathematically impossible to give as it stands.

Answer to Question No 200 of 2002

Period	6	7
Scripts	5132	5443
Items	11,352	12,274
Cost	£140,208.24	£151,949.95

Answer to Question No 204 of 2002

2001/2002

Period	8	9	10
Scripts	5,633	5,528	4,002
Items	12,706	12,229	9,120
Cost	£152,118.15	£149,646.64	£114,260.19

Periods 9 and 10 are incomplete and are subject to change because some accounts are yet to be submitted by Pharmacists.

2000/2001

Period	8	9	10
Scripts	5,803	5,464	5,276
Items	12,350	11,767	11,636
Cost	£129,865.27	£123,519.78	£123,701.69

Answer to Question No 205 of 2002

Period	8	9	10
Scripts	12,420	12,267	9,030
Items	38,844	38,284	29,246
Cost	£416,689.23	416,761.77	£318,833.31

Periods 9 and 10 are incomplete and are subject to change because some accounts are yet to be submitted by Pharmacists.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 200, 204 AND 205 OF 2002**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

I have now understood what the Minister has said and perhaps it is because when we look back to what has transpired in the previous House it is not possible to actually identify what the Minister says because we have not had yet the Questions and Answers printed but I definitely have taken the meaning of what he has said now and I will remember in future but as I have been provided with four tables I will need some time to digest the information that I have been given.

NO. 206 OF 2002**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO****GHA – NUMBER OF OUT-PATIENT ATTENDANCES**

Can Government state what was the total number of out-patient attendances at St Bernard's Hospital from 1st November 2001 to the end of January 2002?

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

I hand the hon Member a schedule with the information requested.

Answer to Question No 206 of 2002

Month	Out Patient Attendances At Casualty Department	Out Patients Attendances At Clinics
November 2001	2058	1732
December 2001	1777	1278
January 2002	1912	1579
Total	5747	4589

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 206 OF 2002

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

In answer to Question No 706 of 2001 the figure from January to March which is a period of three months has a total of 12,338 out-patient attendances at St Bernard's, here we are talking about November, December and January, which is three months as well and we have a figure of 5,747 out-patient attendances at casualty and at clinics. It seems to me that the figure is coming down, can the Minister confirm that now?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I cannot confirm that now but the figures she has just been quoting do not tally with the one that I have here. In answer to Question 1083 of 2001 from April to October 2001, is that what she is talking about? The total was 24,242 out-patients attendances both in casualty and clinics and this is to be compared with a total of 10,336 in the last three months. Our figures do not tally.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

No. I am quoting the figures that I have just been handed by the Minister and he is quoting November, December, and January.

HON DR B A LINARES:

Yes.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Three months.

HON DR B A LINARES:

That is right.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Therefore, I am referring to those three months compared to the last question that I put to him which was in fact in April

HON DR B A LINARES:

Question No 1083 of 2001.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Question No 705 of 2001.

HON DR B A LINARES:

There was a later one. There was April to October 2001.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

No, I am referring to Question No 706 of 2001 which relates to the same amount of months. Three months, I understand what the Minister is saying but it seems to me that my question of today No 206 of 2002 does not relate to the information that I have been given. I think the Minister has provided me with the wrong figures.

HON DR B A LINARES:

No, I have provided the hon Lady with the figures she asked for. That is, the out-patients attendances in St Bernard's Hospital from November 2001, December 2001 and the last month January 2002, and the total of out-Patients attendances for these three months was 10,336. Now, the figures for the previous seven months was a total of 24,242 that is from April 2001 to October 2001. It seems to me that just at a cursory glance that the three months, with 10,000 and seven months with 24,000 more or less show the same trend and average.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Yes, only that I was comparing the three months in April with the three months that he has just given me.

HON DR B A LINARES:

I would have to do some adding up to find that out but I think that the relevant comparison is the total figure for three months, the last three months with the total figure for the previous seven months and then see whether the general trend, the averages for these periods compare or show an increase or a decrease or whatever which is really what the hon Lady is getting at.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Just looking at the figures I think the Minister will find out that there seems to be a slight decrease but more or less the picture is static.

HON DR B A LINARES:

That is my impression too that it is more or less static.

NO. 207 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – NUMBER OF 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 November 2001 to the end of January 2002?

ANSWER

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

I hand the hon Member a schedule with the information requested.

Month	In-Patient Admissions	Average of patients per day
November 2001	444	142
December 2001	340	134
January 2002	332	139

NO. 208 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – NUMBER OF OUT-PATIENT ATTENDANCES

Can Government state what was the total number of out-patient attendances at the Health Centre from 1st November 2001 to the end of January 2002?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question No 209 of 2002.

NO. 209 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – NUMBER OF HOUSE CALLS

Can Government state how many house-calls were attended to by Health Centre doctors from 1st November 2001 to end of January 2002?

ANSWER

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

The number of out-patient attendances at the Primary Care Centre from 1st November 2001 to the end of January 2002 was 31,454. The number of House-Calls attended by Health Centre Doctors for the period 1st November 2001 to end of January 2002 was 1,362 (House-Calls recorded during emergency clinic hours – 9.00 am to 4.00 pm).

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 208 AND 209 OF 2002

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

I know that the Minister has said before that no record is kept for calls between 4 and 9 and if I remember rightly he said in one of the last meetings of the House of Assembly that the Health Authority was looking at a situation where they could record these calls, is this still the case?

HON DR B A LINARES:

As the hon Member knows, these calls outside the emergency hours have never been recorded but as I said before there is always a possibility of looking whether it is a feasible proposition to carry out some form of records.

NO. 210 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – ELDERLY CARE PATIENTS

Can Government state how many Long Stay Elderly care patients there were at St Bernard's Hospital in November, December 2001 and January 2002?

ANSWER

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

The breakdown of Long Stay Elderly patients at St Bernard's Hospital is as follows:-

November 2001	-	55
December 2001	-	58
January 2002	-	61

NO. 211 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – PATIENT REFERRALS

Can Government state since the 1st November 2001 to the end of January 2002, 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 212, 213 and 223 of 2002.

NO. 212 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – SPONSORED PATIENTS

Can Government state what was the number of Sponsored Patients treated in the UK from 1st November 2001 to end of January 2002, 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

Answered together with Question Nos 211, 213 and 223 of 2002.

NO. 213 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – SPONSORED PATIENTS

Can Government state what was the total number of Sponsored Patients treated in the UK for the period 1st November 2001 to end of January 2002 with the costs being met by the UK Government and what was this cost?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos 211, 212 and 223 of 2002.

NO. 214 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – SOCIAL SECURITY PENSIONERS

Can Government now state how many UK Social Security Pensioners, who were not also in receipt of Gibraltar Social Security Pension, were resident in 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 215 to 220 of 2002.

NO. 215 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – UK SOCIAL SECURITY PENSIONERS

Can Government now state how many UK Social Security Pensioners, who were not also in receipt of a Gibraltar Social Security Pension, were resident in 2000, and registered with the Group Practice Medical Scheme?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos 214 and 216 to 220 of 2002.

NO. 216 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – SOCIAL SECURITY PENSIONERS

Can Government now 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 214 to 215 and 217 to 220 of 2002.

NO. 217 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – SOCIAL SECURITY PENSIONERS

Can Government now 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 214 to 216 and 218 to 220 of 2002.

NO. 218 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – SOCIAL SECURITY PENSIONERS

Can Government now state how many Gibraltar Social Security Pensioners, who were not also in receipt of a UK Social Security Pension, were resident in UK 1999?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos 214 to 217 and 219 to 220 of 2002.

NO. 219 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – SOCIAL SECURITY PENSIONERS

Can Government now state how many Gibraltar Social Security Pensioners, who were not also in receipt of a UK Social Security Pension, were resident in UK in the year 2000?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos 214 to 218 and 220 of 2002.

NO. 220 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – SOCIAL SECURITY PENSIONERS

Can Government now state how many Gibraltar Social Security Pensioners who were not also in receipt of a UK Social Security Pension, were resident in UK in 2001?

ANSWER

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

The number of pensioners referred to in Question Nos 216 and 217 of 2002 are 24 for 1997 and 33 for 1998. These questions have been answered in response to questions in the past (612/99, 466 and 467/01). With regard to the other questions, there have been no developments since I answered these questions at the last session of the House (1072/2001). I also explained at the time that the UK Department of Health will be meeting GHA officials in the near future and I hope to be able to furnish the hon Member with all this information shortly thereafter.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 214 TO 220 OF 2002

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

I remember that in the last House of Assembly Meeting or in the previous one to that, I asked the Minister whether the UK had given an indication as to when the balancing between what Gibraltar owes and the UK owes would be resolved, I think it was for the year 1999/2000. I know that they have now changed the system that they have gone from financial years to calendar years but can the Minister confirm whether the UK has indicated when this will occur?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Yes apparently they have indicated that at the forthcoming meeting which is expected to take place in the near future they will be able to sort out these statistical elements.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Can the Minister confirm whether in fact the Gibraltar Health Authority have an idea whether they will be in fact receiving a payment from the UK as has happened in the past?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I cannot really confirm that until the figures are established I am afraid but I do hope and trust that it will be as in the past. We are the winners, we gain on the whole transaction.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

I am glad to hear, for once we are being winners. When the Minister said it is in the near future is it referring to this financial year?

HON DR B A LINARES:

This financial year ends at the end of March, it may not be before April but it will be within the next few months so it may encroach into the next financial year.

NO. 221 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – 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

Answered together with Question Nos 222 and 232 of 2002.

NO. 222 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – COST OF TREATING PENSIONERS IN UK

Can Government state what was the latest average annual cost of treating a pensioner in the UK in 2001?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos 221 and 232 of 2002.

NO. 223 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – SPONSORED PATIENTS

Have the costs for the total number of Sponsored Patients treated in the UK for the period 1st April 2001 to the end of October 2001 being met by the UK Government now been received?

ANSWER

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

Answer to Question No 211 of 2002

The total number of patient referrals to the UK from 1st November 2001 to the end of January 2002 was 241.

Answer to Question No 212 of 2002

A total of 178 patients were treated at Gibraltar Health Authority expense. The medical costs invoiced to date is £7,931.42.

Answer to Question No 213 of 2002

Thirty-two quota patients were treated in UK during the same period.

Answer to Question No 223 of 2002

The costs of the quota patients treated in the UK for the period 1st April to 31st October 2001 have not been provided by the UK.

NO. 224 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – SPONSORED PATIENTS

Can Government state how many patients have been given a choice of being treated in Spain as opposed to the UK, as Sponsored Patients, and have elected to go to Spain since August 2001 to date?

ANSWER

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

Of the patients who have been given the choice to obtain treatment in Spain, since August 2001 to 6 February 2002 nine have elected to do so.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 224 OF 2002

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

The last time we dealt with this question the Minister informed the House that there had been nothing signed on the question of the agreement, is he therefore saying that what appeared in the Gibraltar Chronicle as a historical breakthrough in relations with Spain which quoted him as saying that Gibraltar Government and Junta de Andalucia

MR SPEAKER:

You cannot ask that, you cannot ask if a newspaper report is true or not you have to use your ingenuity and do it some other way.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Can the Government confirm whether in fact reports that have been emanating from other sources are correct when they have actually quoted him as signing a deal with the Junta de Andalucia on medical co-operation?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Yes. In as much as they report a signing of an agreement those reports are not true. There was no signed formal agreement, there were meetings, discussions, meeting of minds, looking at strategies, looking at procedures and ways of co-operating within the established content of European Union conventions and regulations but there was no need actually for a signed convention in as much as the media reported the signing of an agreement they are incorrect but of course many of the aspects of that report are correct. The fact that there have been meetings between myself as Minister of the Gibraltar Government and the Minister or the Consejero of the Andalusian Government with other officials of our own GHA and the SAS to see how we can actually co-operate further to making medical facilities in Spain available to our patients, identifying for instance credible centres for different specialists, that sort of practical operational aspects which were reported in the press, those were substantially correct but not as I say in as much as there was a signed agreement between the two Governments.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

In view of what was reported within these sources which actually appeared as if there had been practically a joint declaration from the Government of Gibraltar and the Junta de Andalucia, would the Minister not agree that in view of comments made by a certain journalist from a daily local newspaper who will not be patting him on the back anymore can he confirm that it would have been prudent for the Minister to come out public and deny these reports.

HON DR B A LINARES:

I did so actually I did so at the last House of Assembly when the hon Member asked me the same question.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

I was thinking about denying it in public not in the House of Assembly before or after it was brought to his attention. When the Minister says that some of these reports, some of the things that they said were correct.....

MR SPEAKER:

No I cannot allow it.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

I will rephrase the question. Can the Minister confirm whether Gibraltar will be included in the Andalusia's region organ transplant system both for donation and reception purposes as has been reported?

HON DR B A LINARES:

That was one of the areas which we discussed at that meeting which I explained before. One of the areas was the possibility of Gibraltarian patients being included in the waiting lists for transplant organs in Spain.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Does the transplant organ system in Spain include heart transplants? And I know that he will know that I am referring to a specific patient.

HON DR B A LINARES:

Yes indeed we talked about transplant of organs renal, heart transplants, we did not specify any particular form of transplant.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

When the Minister spoke about this subject where any conclusions reached at all?

HON DR B A LINARES:

The conclusion reached at that meeting was that officials "technicos" on our side and theirs would now look together at legal aspects because the question of transplants is not covered under the E112 convention and therefore it meant that other procedural and legal aspects had to be studied in order to make it viable.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Since we are talking about an incident that I am sure the Minister is aware of were a patient was told by the authorities in Gibraltar that they had been informed by authorities in Spain that in view of the fact that he was not a resident in Spain he would not be eligible what will happen to this specific case?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I am not aware of this case.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Yes I have spoken to the Minister on many occasions and so has the Hon Mr Perez. In view of the fact that there is a Gibraltar patient requiring a heart transplant he was told in Spain some months ago that because he was not a resident in Spain he would not be eligible for a transplant in Spain. Can the Minister confirm what has happened to this specific case then as a result of that?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I will have to pursue further enquiry into this particular case as to what has been the outcome?

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

I spoke to the Minister about the patient who had been told by the consultant in the Gibraltar Health Authority that there was a possibility that because he needed a heart transplant as a result of the Minister having meetings with the Junta de Andalucia, whether he could actually be eligible for the transplant in Spain. In view of what the Minister has said that it is being looked at by officials can he confirm that this person will be eligible or not?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Not at this moment of time as I explained a moment ago, no definite conclusion was arrived so that it would make it a reality the possibility as regards this patient that I now recall he is now in the waiting list for heart transplant in UK.

HON J C PEREZ:

As regards the original reply that the Minister gave he said that nine persons had chosen to go to Spain but out of a total of how many that were given the choice he has not said the total number?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I have not got the figure with me, the only figure that was given to me was that nine patients actually chose to go to Spain.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In terms of the discussions that the Minister held with people in the Junta de Andalucia about the possibility of accessing their services I think he has confirmed that this was on the basis of what is already provided for under European Law and it was just a question of the logistics. Does he know what if any is the relationship between that and the supposed offer made by Señor Piqué to Jack Straw in Barcelona?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I know what the Leader of the Opposition is getting at but I have no solid information as to the interaction there is between the thinking of Madrid in terms of the offer within the Brussels process and the initiatives taken by the Junta which as the hon Member is aware is an autonomous government and is not reliant in domestic matters such as the health services on the Government of Madrid but I do not know what there has been transpiring between the two Governments.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is it therefore the case that post that meeting the United Kingdom has made no attempt to communicate to the Health Authority what supposedly was on offer from Spain?

HON DR B A LINARES:

No we have not had any information from the United Kingdom as he puts it now about their discussions on this matter.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Is the Minster aware as the Opposition is that there are a number of patients who have gone recently to Spanish medical institutions and they have been criticised for going there and they have been told that how come they are so British and they are going to Spain for medical attention. Has he received such complaints?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I have not heard any myself, I have not heard any stories along these lines.

NO. 225 OF 2002

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – PRIMARY CARE CENTRE

Are general practitioners based at the Health Centre able to refer patients directly to Spanish Medical Institutions?

ANSWER

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

General practitioners have never referred patients directly to Spanish medical institutions but this is currently under review by the Authority as part of a general review of the policy.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 225 OF 2002

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

If it is currently under review I ask the Minister will he take into account that a possibility could occur that GP's when they refer patients they refer them to consultants rather than referring them directly for specialised treatment, could a situation then not develop where GP's at the Health Centre might decide to refer our patients to Spanish medical institutions just to see medical consultants?

HON DR B A LINARES:

General practitioners have made representations that they should have the possibility of referring patients for certain investigations in Spain within a protocol which will be actually monitored by our own consultants and for instance there has been quite a lot of progress in enabling them to send patients for eco-cardiography to Spanish institutions because those are investigations which are then received and interpreted

and analysed locally by our own consultants and those are the matters that we are now reviewing in trying to meet the aspirations of the GP's but within the constraints and the safeguards and monitoring process by our own consultants.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Does the Minister not agree that it could happen that a GP decides that in order for the patient to be seen perhaps quicker and faster by a consultant that that patient is referred to a medical institution in Spain?

HON DR B A LINARES:

That is not on the cards at the moment. That is not part of either the representations made by the GPs formally or the review which is taking place.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Is the Minister when he quoted the investigations, eco-cardiography, surely have we not got an eco-cardiography in Gibraltar?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I do not think so.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

If the Minister would check that for me I would be grateful.

HON DR B A LINARES:

There is some provision but consultants have used a great deal of the facilities for eco-cardiography and investigations in Algeciras and the neighbouring parts of Spain.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Is the Minister then saying that because of lack of certain equipment for investigation purposes patients might be referred to Spain by GP's?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I would not generalise like that, no.

NO. 226 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – PATIENT REFERRALS TO SPAIN

As promised by the Minister for Health at the last meeting of the House of Assembly, can he confirm how much money was spent by the Gibraltar Health Authority with regard to patients being sent to the Malaga Clinic for Scans in the Financial Year 2000/2001?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question No 227 of 2002.

NO. 227 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – PATIENT REFERRALS TO SPAIN

As promised by the Minister for Health at the last meeting of the House of Assembly, can he confirm how much money was spent by the Gibraltar Health Authority with regard to patients being sent to the Algeciras Clinic for Scans in the Financial Year 2000/2001?

ANSWER

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

The amount spent in 2000/2001 in respect of scans in Malaga and Algeciras was £141.49 in Malaga and £104,555.83 in Algeciras.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 226 AND 227 OF 2002

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Are Government in view of the costs that have been incurred and also to facilitate patients here in Gibraltar further, are they contemplating the possibility of purchasing a CT Scan for Gibraltar?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I would not like to commit myself here and now.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

I have not asked the Minister to commit himself I have said “are they contemplating” are they looking at figures, are they looking at the possibility. I am not asking the Minister to say yes or no.

HON DR B A LINARES:

We look at everything but what I repeat is that I have, that I do not imply by that that there is any commitment.

NO. 228 OF 2002**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO****GHA – PRIVATE PATIENTS**

Can the Minister for Health confirm, as he promised in the last Question and Answer session of the House of Assembly, how many private patients are being seen to or treated at St Bernard's Hospital as Out-Patients and as In-Patients on a monthly basis since they introduced private practice?

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

The Government did not introduce private practice. The principles of private practice which were agreed with the doctors and implemented in January 2000 were aimed at regulating the practice which already existed. I will hand to the hon Member the details of patients seen as in-patients at St Bernard's Hospital privately. We do not, as a matter of routine, collect out-patient statistics from the doctors.

Month (2000)	Total No of Patients Seen
January	9
February	8
March	12
April	14
May	7
June	12
July	12
August	11
September	8
October	11
November	14
December	10

Month (2001)	Total No of Patients Seen
January	11
February	16
March	15
April	12
May	11
June	12
July	17
August	15
September	11
October	13
November	13
December	11
Month (2002)	Total No of Patients Seen
January	9
Grand Total	292

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 228 OF 2002

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

The Minister keeps referring to the regulation of private practice but certainly they have regulated it to the extent that private practice even though the Minister has previously said in answer to questions in this House that it is not prejudicing the public patient will he not agree that the waiting times for public patients to be seen compared to private patients has gone up from 200 to 400 per cent as an increase.

HON DR B A LINARES:

I will not agree and I will need an analysis of where the hon Lady gets these figures.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

When I quote figures in the House I have my sources and I can confirm to the Minister that the source came from him. The source is in answer to Question No 700 of 2001. If we look at the routine waiting times and the routine surgical interventions for private and public patients he will see there that there has been an increase for the public patients of 200 to 400 per cent. Will the Minister not agree after having received the information from him that it is prejudicing the public patients?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I will have to analyse those figures because I do not accept that the interpretation or conclusions that the hon Member is coming to is acceptable to me.

HON K AZOPARDI:

Can I just add that one of the principles that was agreed with the doctors was that there were maximum waiting times for public patients in the principles themselves and so the Government would firstly have to look at the previous questions and answers that have been given because we do not share necessarily the interpretation that has been given. Secondly what I would say to the hon Lady is that there are maximum waiting times agreed, we would expect those to be complied with and there are mechanisms and controls and the principles of private practice to ensure that indeed there are the disciplinary procedures put into place to make sure that those indeed are complied with and we would expect that they are.

HON DR B A LINARES:

The hon Member is working on maximum ceilings, those are not necessary the real waiting times in practice.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

I am just doing very simple mathematics, I am extracting information of routine appointments compared to those of private patients and surgical waiting time compared for surgical waiting time for private patients. From the figures that I have been provided so I would hope that the Minister looks at it and if he monitors the situation so that when he comes to the House and he is asked whether the system is not prejudicing public patients he has his information correct that is all I am telling the Minister.

HON DR B A LINARES:

This is where interpretation comes in, the hon Member is working on the premise of maximum ceiling figures that were given in the agreement as permissible but not necessarily on the real waiting times as they stand routinely.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

I am just going to give the Minister one example I do not want to waste the time of the House. If the.....

HON K AZOPARDI:

If the hon Member will give way I will clarify exactly as he got to the maximum waiting time then maybe it facilitates the debate.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

I will oblige.

HON K AZOPARDI:

I am very grateful. When we set maximum waiting times and built them into the principles what we did was we looked at answers that had been given which is our source of information, answers that had been given previously the number of years we went back to answers that had been given in the House as to maximum waiting times in different disciplines within our term of office and that of the hon Member. We wanted to take quite a comprehensive look. We then worked out averages and compared it to the NHS waiting times. We noted that in doing so the average in Gibraltar was well below the NHS average waiting time historically and we then built into the principles of private practice that average or lower figures which were agreed with the doctors to make sure that there was a controlled mechanism built into the principles of private practice by which we could control this issue of waiting times and ensure that there was no prejudice caused to public patients. If those are the maximums that the hon Lady is looking at they are based on the historic averages that go back a long way and are better than the NHS averages anyway. We would seek to ensure that those averages are indeed complied with which is our policy. If the hon Member then says "Well there may be different waiting times for private patients" well of course there may be if one goes private by necessity, the whole ethos is that one only pays because one is going quicker but the point is that let us make sure that the system which has existed for many, many years uncontrolled in the Health Service and which we controlled in 2000 did not prejudice the public patient and we are keen to ensure that but we are confident that indeed the regulations do that.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

The Minister has compared the waiting list to the NHS, I know that this Government defend the concept of private practice otherwise they would not have regulated it but if I am able to give just one example because this is information that has been provided by the Government and all that I want the Minister for Health is to tell me whether he is satisfied with this situation. If one goes publicly to the Ophthalmologist the average waiting time is 22 weeks, if one goes privately it is one week. If, for example, we are talking about surgical waiting times again I can give the Ophthalmology, it can take from three to 12 months for a public patient and then if one goes privately from 3 to 4 weeks. If one looks at all the specialties there is an incredible difference already which I honestly believe that either the Minister is not aware of or can he tell the House if he is happy with that situation?

HON K AZOPARDI:

Rather than having a controlled mechanism that says "there is this yardstick which you have to comply with for public patients above that you may see your private patients in these times regulated to these numbers and you must give me the figures and you must account to me." Rather than that the hon Member would hope to have the system that she had when she was in office which was a completely wild west, unregulated, unaccountable, intransparent system which was plainly prejudicial to the public patient.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

I do not agree but this Government seem that everytime that they are cornered they go back in history and even if the Minister was correct does he not think that two wrongs do not make a right, even if he were correct which he is not but let me say that when he mentions the yardstick is he happy that his yardstick is producing these results for the public patient?

HON K AZOPARDI:

The hon Member can pretend that the Wild West of private practice did not exist in her time but everyone in Gibraltar knows that.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

Can the Minister state if he is happy with the system that is in place today and that there is no abuse on the system as it exists today is he happy because there are people out there that are listening to him?

HON DR B A LINARES:

We are not happy with waiting times, our aim and objective is to reduce waiting times as much as possible for public patients. In that sense we would be happier to reduce the waiting times, in fact that is our aim and objective. We look at all the factors that lead to waiting times in order to be able to reduce them but that does not mean that there should be no distinction and opportunity given to patients who may wish quicker service to go privately so long as it is not at the expense of public patients.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

The Minister has missed the point of the question I have asked. He has not answered my question, I am referring to the Hon Mr Azopardi when he said that he it is now under control and what I am referring is are the Government now satisfied that the system is now under control and there is no abuse under the private practice scheme because there are people out there listening to him?

HON K AZOPARDI:

The system is under vastly greater control than it was in the uncontrolled term of office that the hon Members had and so we are confident that that is the case but we are keen to ensure that the standards and principles are adhered to and we will certainly look at any instances of abuse because there are now, not before, but there are now disciplinary procedures to make sure that these principles are adhered to.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Mr Speaker a point of order, I take offence to what the Minister has said because he has actually stated in this House that the situation today is far better than when we were in Government. I can confirm to the hon Member now and I have done this

before in the House Assembly that my waiting lists for public patients were far better than this Government and I can prove it to him any day.

MR SPEAKER:

It is not a point of order.

HON K AZOPARDI:

It is not a point of order what I said was a statement of fact.

NO. 229 OF 2002**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO****GHA – NUMBER OF NURSES**

Can Government state what was the number of Nurses in post as at the end of January 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 extensive, factual and statistical information requested by the Hon Member is set in the written schedule that I hand to her. I should add that I am giving the hon Member the details of January 2001 and January 2002 in case what she wanted was the latter figure.

The number of nurses in post as at the end of January is as follows:-

	2001	2002
Director of Nursing Services	1	1
Deputy Director of Nursing Services	1	1
Clinical Nurse Manager	6	6
Education Development Officer	1	1
Senior Nurse Tutor	1	1
Charge Nurses	32	33
Staff Nurses	103	103.5
Senior Enrolled Nurses	10	8
Enrolled Nurses	85	83
Nursing Auxiliaries	94	97
Nursing Assistants		
<hr/>		
Total	334	334.5
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The number of nurses in post as at the end of January 2002 is as follows:

Charge Nurses	33
Staff Nurses	
92 Full-timers	
7 Part-timers (3.5 full-time equivalent)	
Midwives	
8 Full-timers	103.5
Senior Enrolled Nurses	8
Enrolled Nurses	
72 Full-timers	
22 Part-timers (11 full-time equivalent)	83
Nursing auxiliaries	
12 Full-timers	
3 Part-timers (1.5 Full-time equivalent)	
Nursing Assistants	
70 Full-timers	
15 Part-timers (7.5 Full-time equivalent)	
8 (28 hours) (6 Full-time equivalent)	97

NO. 230 OF 2002**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO****GHA – ENROLLED NURSES**

Can Government state how many Enrolled Nurses have applied to be able to train up to the level of Staff Nurse?

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

No enrolled nurse to date has applied to follow the distance learning conversion course being offered by the GHA through the School of Health Studies.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 230 OF 2002**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Can the Minister give an indication to the House why they have not applied?

HON DR B A LINARES:

No I have not enquired I have the information from the Principal of the School of Health Studies but he has not developed the issue further.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

This was a matter that the Minister said the offer had already been put to the Enrolled Nurses, have Government actually informed the Nurses that the conditions for GCSEs will not be required in this instance for example.

HON DR B A LINARES:

Government have informed the Enrolled Nurses of what conditions have been placed by Sheffield University who are validating this course and that means being registered by the UKCC.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Is the Minister confirming that GCSEs will not be required?

HON DR B A LINARES:

That is being discussed with Sheffield University because at the last meeting of the validating body we were trying to see whether we could have equivalent experience comparing with academic qualifications but any applications will be seen on its own merits.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

So if none have applied does the Minister not think that this could be one of the reasons because the nurses are still not clear what is going to happen?

HON DR B A LINARES:

It might be and we will look into it.

NO. 231 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – PSYCHO-GERIATRIC PATIENTS

Can Government state how many Psycho-Geriatric patients have been admitted in KGV from 1st November 2001 to end of January 2002?

ANSWER

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

Seven Psycho-Geriatric patients were admitted in KGV from 1st November 2001 to the end of January 2002.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 231 OF 2002

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Can the Minister confirm whether in fact in-patient beds in KGV will be reduced?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I cannot confirm this but certainly one of the strategies that is being suggested by the recently appointed consultant psychiatrist is that we should look at means of actually placing some patients who may actually be cared for medically in the community and that of course would actually entail a reduction of beds in the KGV.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

It appears that it is the intention of the Gibraltar Health Authority to reduce the beds because they say in their latest annual report. They say that it is planned that the number of in-patient beds at KGV will be reduced. Can the Minister confirm whether if they are reduced that will mean that more beds will be made available for the latter category of patients which are more long stay patients?

HON DR B A LINARES:

What the annual report states is what I have just explained to the hon Member and if she bears with me I will actually quote from page 31 of the annual report which is no doubt what she is referring to "Hospital Beds - It is planned of the number of in-patient beds in the KGV will be reduced because a substantial number of these beds have through the years been taken up by what are considered to be inappropriately placed patients perhaps to the detriment of mentally ill patients. The aim is to place these patients appropriately thereby reducing the number of psychiatric beds in the lower floor of the unit." This is exactly what I said I do not see why she is making an issue with me on that one.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

No I am not making an issue I have asked the Minister a very simple question. If it is planned in the KGV to reduce the numbers as he has quoted and I quoted previously, all I am asking is if the number of in-patient beds are going to be reduced will the number for other more long-term patients be increased otherwise there would be a problem?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I do not know what the strategy will be in that situation what I do know and that is the main thrust and intention of the service is to make sure that some of our patients who are now in KGV be more appropriately cared for medically in a different context de-institutionalise them from the KGV and place them in a community with necessary of course therapy accompanied. That is of course for the good of the patients what the logistical repercussions of that will be within the institution remains to be worked out.

HON J C PEREZ:

Can the Minister state whether of the seven patients that were taken in to KGV some of them vacated beds in St Bernard's Hospital?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I will have to check on that, I do not know whether specifically any of these seven patients have been transferred from St Bernard's Hospital to the KGV I have no detailed information about that.

HON J C PEREZ:

Does the Minister not realise that what my Colleague is getting at that if indeed there is a demand for beds in the area for psycho-geriatric patients however much those that can be placed in the community if one reduces the number of beds then those beds are not available for those that seem to be needing it now in the psycho-geriatric category? I think that is what my Colleague is getting at. Whereas if one leaves the same number of beds available then there might be more room for people that might need it who are not in the category of those that can live better deinstitutionalised in the community.

HON DR B A LINARES:

Yes the strategic logistical operation once we have actually brought out into the community some of the patients now occupying beds in the KGV that is one of the possibilities that we will certainly operationally look at.

NO. 232 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – COST OF TREATING PENSIONERS IN UK

Can Government state what was the latest available cost to the UK of treating temporary visitors from Gibraltar in respect of 2001/2002?

ANSWER

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

Answer to Question No 221 and 222 of 2002

The average annual costs of treating pensioners in the UK for the year 2000 and 2001 are not yet available. These costs are audited by EU officials and apparently they have not done so as yet. The provisional figure for 1999 which I gave to the House in answer to Question No 1069 of 2001 I quoted a figure of £2,266.19 has now been confirmed by the auditors and was published in the Official Journal of the EU on 23rd January 2002.

Answer to Question No 232 of 2002

The costs to the UK of treating temporary visitors from Gibraltar in respect of 2001/2002 are not yet available.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 221, 222, AND 232 OF 2002

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Can I ask the Minister with regard to the question of the actual settlement that the UK has indicated is that in relation to the year that I have indicated?

HON DR B A LINARES:

The hon Member has indicated two periods, the period of 1999, and the period of 2000/2001.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

No, what I am referring to is the actual settlement that the UK have indicated that they are expected to provide Gibraltar with, that the Minister said that we expect to win. Can he refer to what year the UK will settle for?

HON DR B A LINARES:

That is referring back to the previous question. We are talking now about EU officials establishing statistics, of treating pensioners and temporary visitors to the UK. The previous question referred to the number of patients which are payable by the UK and the number of patients which are payable by ourselves. It is a different question altogether.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Everything about sponsored patients that I am asking refers globally to the actual agreement and therefore everything is taken into account as far as the agreement specifies. Therefore, it is a question that I think that I can ask because the Minister has already referred to a settlement being indicated by the UK and all that I am trying to establish is for what year is he referring that will apply.

HON DR B A LINARES:

I am sure the officials from the Department of Health as I explained who will be coming shortly to make a global settlement will try to settle to a year as updated as possible.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Since the GSD have been in Government have they received a settlement from the UK and then we can establish the year?

HON DR B A LINARES:

In 1996 there was a settlement and that figure has been extended to 1998 with a quota of 120 patients. The quota now stands at 120 and the last time it was agreed was 1998 so presumably we are hoping that at this forthcoming meeting those periods from 1998 to the end of this financial year will also be settled.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

If the Minister says, I hope he will understand my question, that the GHA received a payment in 1996 is he saying that the payment refers to that year or is the payment referring to previous years?

HON DR B A LINARES:

The payment will be referring to the previous year to the established statistics and sums that were established and agreed upon basing themselves on the quota system and the formula during the previous year.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

So, what the Minister is saying is that the UK have settled for 1995/1996, the financial year is that correct?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Yes.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

And since then there have been no other payments?

HON DR B A LINARES:

No settlement, there have been payments on the basis of a quota of 120.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

When I talk about the settlement I am not talking about the quota figure, I am talking about the balancing act.

HON DR B A LINARES:

Yes.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

What the Minister is saying that there was a payment received after the balancing act in 1996 which referred to 1995/96 and since then no other payments have been received, is that correct?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Payments have been made but on the basis of a quota which was established in 1996 which as I say is a figure of 120. That would have to be reconciled, if that quota does not fit, does not tally with the situation from 1996 to-date it would have to be reconciled at the forthcoming meeting but payments have been made, transactions of payments have been made and on the agreed notional figure of 120 quota patients.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I think the Minister said earlier that in 1998 the quota figure established in 1996 had been extended to 1998, does it mean then that the re-evaluation for want of a better word, will be from 1998 onwards or from 1996 onwards?

HON DR B A LINARES:

It has to be from 1996 onwards because from 1996 to 1998 we have been working on a notional figure. Once all the real figures are established based on the formula which the hon Member I am sure is familiar with, in real terms it will have to be the element of a reconciliation in real terms from 1996 to 1998 because at the moment we are working on a notional quota figure dating back to 1996.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So therefore, that formula was used in 1996 based on the movement of our patients to the United Kingdom and the services provided by us and that is what produced 120 figure but surely that figure has not been used just between 1996 and 1998 if that is the last figure available it must also have been used in 1999 or is it that we have only had payments up to 1998?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I am not sure whether there have been payments after 1998 but what I am saying, I think there may have been but again based on the agreed formula of 1998, the 120 quota patients.

NO. 233 OF 2002**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO****GHA – EXPENDITURE**

Can Government confirm of the amount budgetted for the Gibraltar Health Authority for this Financial Year, how much has been spent by the end of January 2002, giving a breakdown by Head of Expenditure?

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 hand to her. May I point out that this is the spend to the end of January 2002 not the actual forecast out-turn which will be issued when we put on the table the Estimates for this forthcoming financial year.

SPEND TO END OF JANUARY 2002

<u>SUBHEAD</u>	<u>SPEND £</u>
1. PE Basic	8,673,057.69
2. PE Overtime	1,156,507.77
3. PE Allowances	1,722,666.31
4. PE Gratuities	346,11.50
5. Wages: Basic	698,014.61
6. Wages: Overtime	321,827.69
7. Wages: Allowances	6,994.55
8. Relief Cover	421,778.21
9. Social Insurance	645,680.65
10. GPMS	4,802,061.76
11. Drugs & Pharmaceuticals	715,032.61
12. Medical Departments	165,057.24
13. Medical & Surgical Appliances	384,628.54
14. Hardware, Uniforms & Linen	209,617.74
15. Patients Appliances	52,197.64

16.	Dressings & Medical Gases	623,455.36
17.	Provisions	193,273.38
18.	Laundry	264,215.80
19.	Cleaning Expenses	69,097.83
20.	Health Centre Lease	160,980.91
21.	Expense of visiting Consultants	65,690.59
22.	Recruitment/Contractual & Rented Accommodation	467,004.32
23.	Motor Vehicles & Fuel	33,295.79
24.	General Office Expenses	49,760.73
25.	Electricity & Water	200,274.18
26.	Telephone Service	149,318.68
27.	Printing & Stationery	58,669.01
28.	Legal Fees	69,829.10
29.	Official Visits Abroad	11,463.49
30.	School of Health Studies	85,190.29
32.	Sponsored Patients	2,028,533.55
33.	General Miscellaneous	91,908.85
34.	Contingency Fund	11,401.85
35.	Ambulance Service	340,000.00
37.	Repairs & Maintenance	53,419.54
38.	New Equipment (I & DF)	193,964.07
39.	Major Works (I & DF)	51,555.13
40.	Computerisation (I & DF)	20,026.65
43.	Claims	16,267.31
44.	Ex-Gratia Payments	4,710.82

Total

£25,634,539.74

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 233 OF 2002

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Can the Minister confirm whether the Health Centre lease is a recurring expenditure?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Yes of course.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

If it is recurring we are talking about that figure being paid until the lease expires is that correct?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Yes.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Is the Minister able to say how many more years the lease has?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I am not sure of the actual contractual time span which is now agreed on the lease but I can check it out for the hon Lady.

NO. 234 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – COMPLAINTS

Can Government state the number of complaints that are being received through the GHA's Complaint Procedure, from 1st November 2001 to end of January 2002?

ANSWER

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

There have been 10 complaints received by the Gibraltar Health Authority Board between 1st November 2001 to end of January 2002.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 234 OF 2002

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

I am sure that the Minister has had a look at the report of the Ombudsman the second time round which says that really the question of the GHA Complaints Procedure has a situation again which is inadmissible. If one looks at the figures the relevant avenue is not exhausted, we are 50 for 2000 and 22 for 2001. If one looks at the cases resolved through informal action, 4 for 2000 and 6 for 2001, and if one looks at the formal investigations carried out there was 2 for 2000 and 2 for 2001. Will the Minister not agree therefore, that the concerns that we have had all this time in relation to the Complaints Procedure when looking at the second report of the Ombudsman confirms everything that we have been saying?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I do not agree with that assessment of the situation because the Ombudsman also in his report admits that where the present Complaints Procedure is deficient and in that sense unacceptable as it stands, he also admits that steps have been taken in terms

of resourcing of the designated officer and of the consultants who need secretarial time and resources that steps in that direction have been taken by the authority and that matters have improved in that respect and that is the aim of the Authority actually to look up the difficulties being encountered both by consultants and by practitioners and by the administrators in trying to process the Complaints Procedure effectively and in a timely manner by providing the necessary resources. Meetings are held between the management and the Complaints Board precisely to look at logistical and solutions, practical solutions to try to improve and smoothen the operation of the Complaints Procedures. That is my assessment and these have been discussed with the Ombudsman and hon Members will also find him quoting those meetings with me and the management of the GHA in his report.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

I am sorry but I definitely do not agree with the Minister as far as the improvements that he says that the Ombudsman is agreeing with because in fact if he reads what the Ombudsman says I quote, "The Ombudsman expressed the view that these were steps in the right direction but that regretfully these measures had not significantly improved the performance of the Complaints Procedure and that much more was needed to set up the kind of Complaints Procedure which would meet the reasonable expectations of patients in Gibraltar." Furthermore, he also says, "*..that the Board,*" the GHA Complaints Procedure Board, "has been dissatisfied with sometime with the efficacy of the Procedure." That is precisely our very words so is the Minister saying that the Ombudsman is wrong, the complainants are wrong, the Opposition is wrong, and that the Board is wrong and that he is right?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I am not saying that the Ombudsman is wrong, or that the complainants are wrong. I am saying that I am not wrong either but what I have said to this House is that the situation is not acceptable as it stands. The Complaints Procedure still needs improvement, the Ombudsman stated that there had been no significant improvement but he accepts that there has been some improvement and I agree entirely what the Ombudsman was saying, there is much more that needs to be done and the Health Authority is committed to do much more to ensure that the Complaints Procedure, that the consultants, the practitioners, the administrators who put their efforts and their goodwill in making it work are given the necessary support and the necessary resources to make it work and that is the aim, that is the objective and in that sense I agree with the Ombudsman that much more needs to be done but that already steps have been taken and the hon Lady quoted "In the right direction ." If the hon Lady wants to look only at the negative side she may be free to do so but I have to look at the positive side as well with the goodwill and support of all my people both at the level of practitioners and at the level of those who every day meet the avalanche of complaints which were met initially but as she conveniently now diverts from has considerably and dramatically been reduced.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

The Minister chooses the phrases in the Complaints Procedures as he wishes. I quote the whole of the sentence and it is just a question that the Chief Minister does not want to say for the past three years it has not worked. All he has to say is have the political courage to say the Complaints Procedure is not working, everybody is

complaining about the efficacy of it and if he cares to look again at the report the Ombudsman actually says that the incidents of complaints are reducing simply because the public have been exhausted by the actual procedure. He says it in the report.

HON DR B A LINARES:

He also says that there may be other factors leading to that which he discussed with me and I tackled him on this one, and I said, "On what evidence can you say that the reason why the complaints are being reduced is because the people are exhausted." He said it was in the evidence of one or two. One or two people who had turned to him and said that. That is not scientific evidence, that is not general evidence there could be other factors too which I pointed out to him and he accepts and which the Ombudsman also accepts so it is only the hon Member who is quoting partially and not fully from the Ombudsman Report. The Ombudsman also accepts that there may be other factors which I have pointed out to him for instance the fact that there was a rush, an avalanche initially because of the novelty of the complaints procedure and I will now end by pointing out to the hon Member that with all its faults and with all its defects we now have a Complaints Procedure which is much more than they had at the previous administration.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

The Minister might be happy to learn that the cases resolved with us were far more than the cases that are being resolved by him. The Minister talks about an avalanche, he talks about me quoting what is convenient, I could quote the whole section but one which is pertinent to what the Minister has just said is what the Ombudsman says. The Ombudsman expressed the view that it could be attributed to the public being disenchanted with the Complaints Procedure that is what the Ombudsman says and it is black upon white.

HON DR B A LINARES:

The Ombudsman says it could be hypothetically, it is pure speculation and I discussed this issue with him and said, "how do you base on evidence the speculation" and that was and I take issue with the Ombudsman on that one not on any other thing that it could be as a form of speculation that it was due to exhaustion by the persons, "what evidence have you got" and the evidence he told me was one or two people who turned to him and when he referred them to the Complaints Procedure they said "well there is no point in doing that." One or two is not evidence for an Ombudsman to make general observations of that nature except that he qualifies it and puts it in the subjunctive by saying that it could be as a possibility and not as a certainty.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

If we look at the report of the Ombudsman globally and after all the information I have passed to the Minister and the concerns of the complainants that we have been alighting in the House, can the Minister confirm to the House that he is satisfied with the Complaints Procedure?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I am being thoroughly honest in saying I am not satisfied with the way the Complaints Procedure is operated. I am very satisfied that there is a Complaints Procedure that we have genuinely opened up opportunities to patients to lodge their complaints and make their representations in order that our practitioners can look at themselves and reassess themselves and their practices I am very satisfied with that, it is a very challenging enterprise. I am not satisfied that we have reached entirely the level of operational efficiency that we would like and I have very honestly said that I am committed and the GHA is committed to making sure that all the logistical resources and support that our practitioners need and our administrators need to make it work. In that sense I am very satisfied.

NO. 235 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – EUROPORT BUILDING

Can Government state whether a review has been commissioned by them with regard to the housing of the new hospital in the Europort Building?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question No 236 of 2002.

NO. 236 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – EUROPORT BUILDING

Can Government state whether the company they engaged to draw up the plans for the conversion of the Europort Building into a hospital, has now completed its work?

ANSWER

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

Answer to Question No 235 of 2002

The Government have not recently commissioned any review of the housing of the new hospital to Europort.

Answer to Question No 236 of 2002

The Design Team appointed by the Government for the conversion of the Europort Building into a hospital has completed its work to the tender stage for contractors. We are now awaiting tender prices from competing contractors. They will retain monitoring and on-going responsibility throughout the construction period and beyond for a total of 12 years.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 235 AND 236 OF 2002

HON J C PEREZ:

The Minister has said that no report has been commissioned recently, is it that the Government decided to move St Bernard's Hospital into the new Europort Building without having an expert report without knowing whether that was suitable or not or is it that he is referring to recent reports rather than past reports.

HON DR B A LINARES:

The Government commissioned the feasibility study which is what he was asking in 1999 and once decision was taken to proceed with the conversion works a team was then appointed to assist the Government to take the plans as I explained to stage 'D' to the pre-tender stage of the design but the Government did commission a feasibility study of the building in 1999, I thought the hon Member was aware of that.

HON J C PEREZ:

Can the Minister say whether the stage of the drawing up of the plans is one were up till now there have been no companies involved it has all been Government officers preparing the tender documents is that the case?

HON DR B A LINARES:

No that is not the case. In 1999 we went to tender to appoint a design team which was selected among different bidders. There are different firms forming a multi-disciplinary team which has been involved in the design stage and now that building design will be put to constructors.

HON J C PEREZ:

Can the Minister state what the total cost of the plans have been to the Government?

HON DR B A LINARES:

This design?

HON J C PEREZ:

Of those plans yes.

HON K AZOPARDI:

I cannot remember but it is substantial. Dealing about probably hundreds of thousands I think.

HON J C PEREZ:

We are talking about hundreds of thousands and not millions?

HON DR B A LINARES:

That is the design, we are talking about the design team but obviously the construction.....

HON J C PEREZ:

I am asking about the design as a drawing?

HON DR B A LINARES:

As my hon Colleague has stated reaches into hundreds of thousands and we will check the exact figure but certainly not into millions what will go into millions of course will be the full construction.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Can the Minister provide the full figure of the works or the studies that have been carried out as far as the report of the GHA is concerned that would facilitate the information we are seeking. There it says "General Architects from the UK are the projects lead consultants. Nick Allen and Rosemary Jensen are the projects lead architects, David Baird from Holigauld of Hills is the project Director, Tony Troup, Bywaters and Anders provide a reviewing support to the team on the mechanical and electrical side while Ross and Partners oversee the structural aspects. E C Harris and Partners are the projects quantity surveyors, John McDonald of Churchburn Estates represents the Government of Gibraltar, we are talking about all these companies being involved and therefore perhaps the Minister might at some later stage give us an indication of the monies that are being expended by the Government of Gibraltar on these studies and designs.

HON DR B A LINARES:

I said a moment ago that I would do so.

NO. 237 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA - AVAILABILITY OF HOSPITAL BEDS

Can Government confirm whether there is still a problem with the situation relating to the availability of beds St Bernard's Hospital?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos 239 and 240 to 244 of 2002.

NO. 238 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – COST PER BED

As promised in the last meeting of the House, can the Minister for Health confirm the average daily cost of a bed at St Bernard's Hospital?

ANSWER

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

As I have explained in previous sessions of this House, we do not carry out notional ledgers to apportion costs. However, I asked management to conduct a one-off exercise to arrive at a notional figure. As the hon Member may realise, the apportionment of costs has to be very arbitrary. The figure arrived at was £260 per day.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 238 OF 2002

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

I am glad that the exercise has been undertaken where as before I was being led to believe or to understand by the management that it could not be done.

HON DR B A LINARES:

What we have said in the past is that it is a very notional exercise that it was complicated to do so but it has been done with the best will in the world simply by actually extracting all the items of expenditure that are related to the services in the hospital and simply dividing by the number of beds. As I say it is a notional figure and I am grateful to management for carrying out the required exercise.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Is the figure more or less coincides with the exercise I kept mentioning to the Government that the management had carried out when we were looking at the possibility of entering an agreement with the Royal Naval Hospital it is more or less that figure.

NO. 239 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – NON-AVAILABILITY OF BEDS

As promised in the last House of Assembly meeting, can the Minister for Health confirm how many routine operations were cancelled at St Bernard's Hospital due to the non-availability of beds for the Financial Year 2000/2001 giving a breakdown for each month?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos 237 and 240 to 244 of 2002.

NO. 240 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – NON-AVAILABILITY OF BEDS

As promised in the last House of Assembly meeting, can the Minister for Health confirm how many routine operations have been cancelled at St Bernard's Hospital due to the non-availability of beds from 1st April 2001 to the end of January 2002, giving a breakdown for each month as he committed himself to do during the last House of Assembly meeting?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos 237, 239 and 241 to 244 of 2002.

NO. 241 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – MOUNT ALVERNIA

Can Government state how many elderly citizens are awaiting a place at Mount Alvernia, and how many of these are occupying a bed at St Bernard's Hospital as at the end of January 2002?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos 237, 239, 240 and 242 to 244 of 2002.

NO. 242 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – ELDERLY PERSONS

Can Government state of the 45 beds which they recently claimed were occupied by elderly persons who have been formally discharged, but refused to leave, how many fell into each of the 3 categories identified by the Government:

1. Elderly persons living alone;
2. Elderly persons needing support;
3. Others able to be looked after?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos 237, 239 to 241, 243 and 244 of 2002.

NO. 243 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – ELDERLY PERSONS

Can Government state whether there are any cases of patients, other than elderly persons, refusing to leave hospital when formally discharged?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos 237, and 239 to 242 and 244 of 2002.

NO. 244 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – MEDICAL DISCHARGES

After the recent official announcement that patients will now require to sign a commitment that they will leave St Bernard's when asked by the Gibraltar Health Authority, can the Government confirm that patients who refuse to sign, will not be admitted?

ANSWER

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

Answer to Question No 237 of 2002

There is a continuing problem with bed blocking and the Government have recently announced a series of measures to ameliorate the situation.

Answer to Question Nos 239 and 240 of 2002

The statistical information requested by the hon Member is contained in the schedule that I hand to her. The breakdown is as follows:

2000

April	5
May	17
June	0
July	0
August	4
September	3
October	0
November	3
December	0

2001

January	4
February	0
March	0
April	0
May	1
June	5
July	0
August	0
September	4
October	0
November	7
December	0

2002

January	17
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Answer to Question No 241 of 2002

The number of elderly citizens awaiting a place at Mount Alvernia stands at 56. Of these 19 are occupying a bed at St Bernard's Hospital.

Answer to Question No 242 of 2002

The numbers have now increased from 45 to 49. The breakdown is as follows:-

1.	Elderly persons living alone	-	9
2.	Elderly persons needing support	-	22
3.	Able to be looked after	-	18

Answer to Question No 243 of 2002

Over the years there has always been the odd occasion when patients, other than the elderly, have refused to leave hospital when formally discharged but there is no one of this category at the moment.

Answer to Question No 244 of 2002

At no time have the Gibraltar Health Authority announced that it will require patients to actually sign a commitment when discharged. Any patient requiring acute medical/surgical care will be admitted and any problems arising will be subsequently resolved. In cases of elective non-life-threatening treatment, what the hospital management will seek is a verbal assurance requested from elderly patients as to their ability or otherwise to return to the community after medical discharge. This is intended to enable the established Elderology Discharge Team from the start to assess the physical domestic and social needs of the patients once medically discharged. The team is made up of the Consultant Elderologist, the Hospital Bed Manager, an Occupational Therapist and a Physiotherapist. They will adopt a

positive approach and liaise with the Social Services Department who will be implementing the Government's pilot scheme to provide domiciliary care and an expansion of facilities and resources in Mount Alvernia.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 237, 239 AND 240 TO 244 OF 2002

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Can the Minister confirm whether he is satisfied or whether he is concerned as regards the non-availability of beds. Will he confirm that there is a problem with beds?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I answered the question in a straightforward way. There is a continuing problem with the bed blocking and accordingly the Government are taking measures and have announced these measures and I have repeated them a moment ago a scheme for providing domiciliary homecare to patients who are unable to leave the hospital simply because they cannot look after them and I have given figures of those patients and we are establishing a scheme under the steering auspices of the social services department to provide this care to both the patients and their families and again a short term and a long term expansion of services and provision in Mount Alvernia. We hope that these strategic measures will dislodge the continuing problem which I have accepted of bed blockage in the hospital which as the hon Lady has realised is not unique of St Bernard's Hospital or Gibraltar it is a problem, universal problem today which is quite evident in many hospitals in UK and in Spain.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

I am glad that the Minister has said that there is a shortage of beds although I do not agree with the terminology he uses of the blocking of beds because the amount of elderly patients that are today in St Bernard's are the same amount of patients that were there before the Minister took office. I would like to say that perhaps he can convince the Chief Minister that there is a problem with beds because in fact he only quoted a few months ago in this House on several occasions there was no shortage of beds, "Mr Speaker, there is no acute shortages of beds," those were the words of the Chief Minister. As regards the question of the operations surely the Minister can not be satisfied with the situation when in the last Annual Report of the Gibraltar Health Authority there is a figure of 37.5 per cent of beds being cancelled due to operations. Again we have misleading information given to us in this House by the Chief Minister who also said a few months ago, "No surgical operation has been cancelled to-date because of a shortage of beds." At the same time that he was saying that the Health Authority report gives in Table 34 page 58, the number of operations that were cancelled due to beds not being available. So, really the Government are trying all sorts, are trying to put forward all sorts of excuses and all sorts of reasons why they have this acute problem. Will the Minister for Health not agree in the first instance that we have been mislead in this House and that the situation today should not be acceptable in view of the number of operations that are being cancelled and the figures that have been provide to us?

HON K AZOPARDI:

The Chief Minister mentioned in the quote “that there are no bed shortages” and then he has made some assertions as to cancellations. The position of the Government is that there is bed blocking, if the hon Member may not like the terminology, it is not terminology that the Government of Gibraltar have invented, this is the terminology any health expert in the United Kingdom and they will say that the concept of someone staying in a hospital when they do not require acute care is called bed blocking. There are sufficient number of beds in Gibraltar the problem is that we have a system where there are people in St Bernard’s Hospital that do not require acute care, they require residential elderly care which has never really been provided to the standard that it should have been provided. Indeed it was never provided during the Hon Member’s term of office either and that is why we inherited a situation where Mount Alvernia needed substantial investment to be brought up to the standards where we could transfer the patients that do not require acute care but merely residential care into a facility that does provide residential care. We are moving towards that by putting in substantial investment in Mount Alvernia that will sort out hopefully, dramatically the situation at St Bernard’s which my Colleague has inherited but not created. This has been going on for a long time and the hon Member will remember that the pressure has been building. It has been a slow process over a long period of time, there has not been a significant investment in places like Mount Alvernia for the last 20 or 30 years and therefore the pressure as the demography process has gone on and there are more elderly citizens in our community has built up to a point where the Government clearly have to take steps which we are taking to ensure that there is residential care provision in other places so that we can transfer those patients into the care that they need which is not the care that they are supposed to be at St Bernard’s for because they do not require acute care and that is the situation.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Will the Minister not agree because I take the point that he is trying to make as completely out of order Mr Speaker, never in the eight years of the GSLP Government did we have the situation that exists today and he has the audacity to say that he has inherited it when that was not the case. Never and the proof is

MR SPEAKER:

What is the question?

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

The question is does the Minister then not agree that if he inherited the situation that when we were in Government we would have had questions put by them because there were no problems then like there are now, is that not the case?

HON DR B A LINARES:

There is one point that I would like to add to my hon Colleague’s explanation and that is a matter of statistical fact that the hon Member may be interested in. She

mentioned that the fact that the number of long-stay elderly patients has remained static. That is not the case in answer to Question No 210 earlier on today I mentioned in response to her question the breakdown of long-stay elderly patients at St Bernard's Hospital from November 2001 to January 2002 and I said November was 55, December was 58 and January was 61. That is an average over those three months of 58 long-stay elderly patients at St Bernard's Hospital and that is a very sharp increase on the average from April to October last year when the average was 45. Now there has been an intensive progression in recent months, the factors leading to that are very wide and as I say universal. There is a pattern throughout the world today, I suppose one can name longevity, improvements in medical care, even sociological factors of young families and relatives living in conditions that the extended family of old is now something of the past, one can go into a sociological analysis of the different factors that lead to a situation that none of us want and that therefore the responsibility of Government that she keeps on demanding from me which I accept, is to find practical, objective, viable measures to solve the problem and that is exactly I assure the hon Member what we are doing with the goodwill and every effort and every resource that we can put into the effort.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

When the Minister says that the figures of the elderly have increased and I referred to them as static what I meant to say and I have said this before in the House is that in fact the situation when we were in Government was practically the same. The same number of elderly people, the same number of in-patients, the same number of beds and the Minister goes on about the problems being about blocking beds. Is the Minister saying then that the problems have been caused by elderly patients the figures of which were exactly the same years and years ago, and will he not agree that Government did make the situation worse by converting the kitchen into a rehabilitation centre and in effect that produced the Health Authority having one ward less?

HON K AZOPARDI:

The only thing that was lost in the hospital as a result of the closure of the kitchen was private corridor and given that the hon Member was so intent on abolishing private practice I am sure she should be happy about it. None of what the hon Member has said is in fact the case statistically. What I said before was that there had been a slow build up of pressure to the point that we are at today. It is not true that there were the same number of elderly patients and the same number of in-patients admissions and so on. I remember when I used to stand to answer questions as to in-patient admissions and I remember when sometimes I would give that statistics as to the average number of patients at St Bernard's Hospital hovered around 100 to 105 patients. The hon Member is now talking about statistics of 130 to 140 and the number of elderly patients, I remember when I used to give answers to questions hovered around 35 to 40 we are now talking 55 to 60 and if one goes back there has been a slow build up of pressure to the point that we are at today where substantial investment needs to be made, substantial investment should have been made many, many, years ago but we are committed to do that and we will and we are.

HON J C PEREZ:

With your indulgence the question might need a follow up but can the Government confirm that there are 21 beds empty in Mount Alvernia and the reason given to in-patients at St Bernard's Hospital as to why those 21 beds cannot be filled is because the lift does not reach the top floor of Mount Alvernia, can the Government confirm this?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

No. Government will not confirm this because it is not the case. There are not 21 beds in Mount Alvernia vacant, in fact there about 12 beds vacant not on the 4th floor. The 4th floor is currently being used as an administration wing for offices. The information that he has is incorrect.

HON J C PEREZ:

What I would like to tell the hon Lady is that certainly this is information which has been passed to two elderly patients in St Bernard's Hospital by the hospital administration as being the reason why they are waiting there for a bed in Mount Alvernia. I shall find out the details and I shall raise the matter with the Minister when I have got the details.

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Minister state whether patients have to sign a document to say that once they are cured they have to leave?

HON DR B A LINARES:

The hon Member does not listen to my answers. My answer was quite explicit in that respect. At no time has the Gibraltar Health Authority required patients to sign any documented commitment, what they are asked is in a positive sense to explain what their domestic social problems might be so that the Elderology Discharge Team can then assess the situation and be able to provide within the measures that the Government have announced but why ask again about this signed document which does not exist.

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Minister then say what it means by entering into a commitment, how can a person enter into a commitment without signing a piece of paper?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Commitment means an assurance by the patient that should it be possible either by fending for themselves or by being provided with the care and support from the Social Services they will agree to the discharge notice and return to the community.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

If the elderly person does not give their commitment what happens next?

HON DR B A LINARES:

The commitment is intended in a positive sense so that preparations, assessments and support can be planned by the hospital management and also in liaison with the Social Services. What happens then is that the responsibility for providing and insuring that this patient can safely and positively return to the community is made available.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The impression the Minister has just given is that this commitment , this verbal commitment, is limited to what elderly persons or is it irrespective of age?

HON DR B A LINARES:

It is limited to non-life threatening emergency elderly persons normally because it is the elderly patients who need that sort of provision, that sort of service once they return. What the Elderology Team tries to assess and determine is exactly what is the social domestic and personal situation of this patient with regard to family support in regard to type of accommodation that they are in, in order to be able to see what provision and planning can be made.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is this policy already in place or is.....

HON DR B A LINARES:

The policy is already in place yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So what happens now is, what do people have to do, they go there and they show their pensioner's book and if they are over pensionable age they are asked to give an assurance that they will leave the hospital when they are told to leave and if they are under pensionable age they do not have to give an assurance which presumably means that even if they are discharged medically if they feel that they are not ready to go home they can say no.

HON DR B A LINARES:

I do not think the demarcation line is the question of pensionable age, I think it is persons who are assessed by the Elderology Discharge Team to be requiring that type of assessment and provision.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I understood from the Government press release that the commitment was when people were going into hospital not when they were coming out of hospital. That when they were going in they would be asked to give this assurance now my first supplementary is will this apply to everybody when they go to hospital and the Minister's answer was no it applies to non-emergency or non-life threatening persons who are elderly. If a 20 year old guy arrives in hospital for treatment which is not life-threatening he does not have to give the assurance?

HON DR B A LINARES:

The objective of the assurance is to ensure that persons when they are discharged can return to the community in a way that is amenable and that they can live with and that they have no problems then of course in most cases it is not a question of age or it is a question of an assessment to those who are likely to be in that position that when discharged they will be unable to return to the community because they as I actually explained in answer to another Question, No 242 of 2002, nine elderly persons were assessed to be living alone and therefore they have to be assessed as to what resources, what support, what care domicilliary care they may need or whether they can be transferred to the expanded provisions in Mount Alvernia. Twenty –two elderly persons were assessed to be needing different levels of support because the support that can be provided or should be provided is not the same for everybody and 18 are able to look after themselves so that is the assessment that is made up on entry to the hospital by those who are likely to fit into these categories. A 20 year old who has had no problems in terms of living by himself or with his family it is totally irrelevant to seek that type of assurance from him.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am just trying to establish the facts, what the judgement of the Minister and mine may be or not be and whether they coincide or do not coincide is a different issue. Whether it is reasonable or it is wrong I am just trying to establish what is the precise nature of the policy which is now going to be the way that people using the Health Service are going to be treated as a result of a Government policy decision now, the reference to the 45 beds and the breakdown of the 45 beds has nothing to do with this because in fact this is after they have been medically discharged these 45 beds have been identified and we are talking about what happens when the guy or the lady arrives at the hospital which is when the assurance is sought. Is it that nobody other than elderly persons have refused to go when discharged because my information is that not just elderly persons there have been other cases of people who have been told "you have got to go because we need the bed for somebody else" and they have said "no I am not going" I suppose there is a reason why a psychiatrist was roped in on a Sunday because they could not find anybody else and they were not all elderly people who were at the receiving end of the discharges and some of them said "no". So in those cases what happens it seems to me all the users of the service surely are entitled to equal treatment I do not see how one can have some rules for some and another one for others.

HON DR B A LINARES:

The Leader of the Opposition is missing the point of the thrust of the procedure of the policy. The thrust of the policy is a positive one it is a way of assessing right from the start very early upon these hospital services taking responsibility for this particular person to assess right from the start and it is done with a multidisciplinary team as I have explained a moment ago involving the Consultant Geriatrician, the Hospital Bed Manager, Occupational Therapist, Physiotherapist, Social Services, a multidisciplinary team the thrust is positively to ensure that that person right from the very beginning that is the concept of the assurance will be able to return home and if not what support is needed so that this is established and with all the goodwill in the world and in spite of limited resources but the Government are taking measures now as I have explained repeatedly today to be able to provide for these persons in order to support these patients because we accept that in many cases the reason why they do not leave the hospital is because really they cannot do so because of social circumstances and not medical circumstances.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can the Minister give us the date on which this system became operational so that we can then pursue an exercise of what has been happening from that date onwards?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I cannot give a precise date but Government have been working on this for the last couple of months, discussing with the social services, discussing with the Elderologist a positive approach of counselling but I cannot give a date of when the whole thing started.

HON J J BOSSANO:

When the Government issued a press release saying this it gave the impression that it was something that was being instituted as from the date of that press release what I want to know is if it was already working then somebody ought to be able to tell the Minister, I do not expect him to have the information readily available now, having discussed it with all these people and having had all these meetings and everything the first time with the first patient that this was put into effect was on such and such a date and then we will see how effective the policy is.

HON DR B A LINARES:

I will find out the date.

NO. 245 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – TEMPORARY NON-PENSIONABLE OFFICERS

Can Government say how many of the employees of the Gibraltar Health Authority are engaged on temporary non-pensionable terms, giving a breakdown by grade?

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 hand to her.

Clinical Nurse Manager Midwifery Services	1
Education Development Officer	1
Staff Nurses	22
Midwives	6
Enrolled Nurses	3
Clerks	7
Typists	2
Ward Clerks	4
Senior House Officers	11
Clinical Psychologist	1
Consultants	7
Physiotherapists (Senior II)	3
General Practitioners	4
Occupational Therapist (Senior I)	1
Occupational Therapist (Senior II)	1
Ward Pharmacist	1
Speech & Language Therapist	1
Orthoptist (Senior I)	1
Medical Librarian	1
Cooks	6
Cooks (Part-time)	1
Labourer	1

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 245 OF 2002

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Is the Minister able to inform the House how many of these employees have been on a temporary non-pensionable basis for over a year?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I would need notice of that question I have not got it with me.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I take it that a lot of this like Midwives and 22 Staff Nurses and so on are persons who are contract workers and that therefore the explanation is that since they are contract workers and they have got a finite term they are obviously not permanent and pensionable. Can the Minister explain what other category would be there because that seems to account for quite a lot of it like physiotherapists and senior house officers and so forth but when one comes to cooks and labourers presumably we do not have contract cooks and labourers?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Yes the interpretation given by the Leader of the Opposition is correct. It applies for instance 22 Staff Nurses are recruited from abroad similarly with consultants et cetera but there are other local employees who have been contracted pending possibly future incorporation into the compliment permanent and pensionable employees.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I can understand the explanation that accounts for the bulk of it , my question is what is the nature of the contract for example for a cook or a labourer who are the only industrial workers in this list, the rest are monthly paid non-industrial staff, we have got here a very small proportion of the total who are weekly paid industrial workers who would normally be recruited for the Health Service on Government terms the same as everybody else is, what is the explanation in their case?

HON DR B A LINARES:

These are transitional contracts that are made until the management feels that they can be established as permanent employees, this has been the practice for many years I believe.

HON J J BOSSANO:

No, no, no it certainly has not been the practice for many years for people to be taken on temporary terms other than on a probationary period which they get told on engagement is that all that this is then?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Some of it is that it is a probationary period before they are actually appointed on a permanent basis.

HON J J BOSSANO:

We are talking about a very small number of people. One Part-time cook, one Labourer and six cooks because all the rest appear to be white-collar workers were the explanation probably is that they are people from the outside and not people from within at least the big chunk of them must be but in the case of the manual workers is there any possible explanation other than people are given a job they have a trial period at the end of which they get confirmed or not is there some other explanation?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I cannot think of any other possible explanation except that it is a trial probationary period until the management is satisfied that they can be taken on permanently.

NO. 246 OF 2002**THE HON J L BALDACHINO****TRAINING-VOCATIONAL CADETS**

Can Government state how many Vocational Cadets were placed with employers in the Private Sector for training from January 2001 to December 2001, the amount of employers and the age, sex and trade of the trainees giving a breakdown for each month?

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

Up to 119 trainees have been placed with 119 employers taking up the opportunity of training and of these the age spans from 15 to 32 with 62 males and 57 females. The further information requested by the hon Member is shown in a written schedule I hand to him.

Month	No	Male	Female	Age	Occupation (Training)
January	5	4	1	15-25	2 Welding & Fabrication, 1 Plumber, 1 Nursery Aid, 1 Waiter
February	12	5	7	15-25	1 Waiter, 1 Chambermaid, 1 Messenger, 1 Reception, 4 Office Junior, 1 Luggage Loader, 1 Hairdresser, 2 Nursery Aids
March	14	7	7	15-25	1 Hairdresser, 1 Shop Assistant, 1 Salesman, 2 Carpenters, 6 Office Juniors, 1 Animal Care, 2 Signmakers
April	10	6	4	15-25	1 Careworker, 1 Receptionist, 2 Office Junior, 1 Shop Assistant, 2 Storeman, 1 Computer Tech, 1 Elec Technician, 1 Mechanic

May	5	3	2	15-25	1 Careworker, 1 Receptionist, 3 Office Juniors
June	11	4	7	(1-32) 15-25	1 Librarian, 1 Quantity Surveyor 1 Receptionist, 1 Welding & Fabrication, 1 ACU Tech, 1 Hall Porter, 4 Office Juniors, 1 Chef
July	12	5	7	15-25	5 Office Juniors, 1 Hairdresser, 1 Technician, 3 Mechanics, 1 ACU Tech, 1 Chambermaid
August	9	7	2	15-25	1 Hairdresser, 1 Embroidery, 1 Careworker, 1 Storeman, 3 Office Juniors, 1 Comp Tech, 1 Chef
September	11	6	5	15-25	1 Nursery Aid, 1 Handyman, 2 Shop Assistants, 1 Courier, 1 Hairdresser, 2 Careworkers, 3 Office Juniors
October	9	5	4	15-25	1 Butcher, 1 Mechanic, 1 Comp Tech, 6 Office Juniors
November	14	8	6	15-25	1 Comp Tech, 1 Electrical, 1 Nursery Aid, 2 Careworkers, 2 Mechanics, 1 Waiter, 6 Office Juniors
December	7	2	5	15-25	2 Shop Assistants, 1 Gardener, 1 Fire Security Tech, 2 Office Juniors, 1 Mechanic
Total	119	62	57	-	-

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 246 OF 2002

HON J L BALDACHINO:

Can the Minister clarify what age range was it?

HON DR B A LINARES:

15-32

HON J L BALDACHINO:

I thought that the vocational cadets were for people under 25 has there been a change on that?

HON DR B A LINARES:

The Vocational cadets scheme has always been intended for trainees within the ages of 15 to 25.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

Are these people paid by Government?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Yes that is correct.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

Therefore there must be a structure according to the age how much allowance he gets.

HON DR B A LINARES:

Yes, there is I had it with me the last time we discussed the question on vocational cadets. Ages 15-16 is £227 per month, Age 17 is £254.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

These are people who are actually placed with the private sector?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Private employers.

NO. 247 OF 2002

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

TRAINING – VOCATIONAL CADETS

Can Government state how much has been spent to date out of the £910,000 Vocational Cadets Expenditure?

ANSWER

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

From 1st April 2001 to 1st February 2002, up to £750,155.21 has been paid to vocational training schemes which includes others than just the vocational cadets. That includes the school of tourism, apprentices, the business administration scheme trainees and the construction trades, the apprentices in the construction training centre.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 247 OF 2002

HON J L BALDACHINO:

So the £910,000 originally voted for is not only for wages it includes the wages and expenses in other training centres is that correct?

HON DR B A LINARES:

No it is just for allowances to trainees, to apprentices, the running costs of the construction training centre, for example, are taken from another head in the estimates and it is in Appendix B of the estimates which covers construction training centre, running costs, materials, rent, uniforms et cetera. This money is allocated for allowances, wages of trainees in the different schemes.

NO. 248 OF 2002

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

TRAINING – VOCATIONAL CADETS

Is the Minister for Education now in the position to give answers to my Supplementaries to Question No 1095 of 2001 which were:

- (a) How many cadets had been placed with employers;
- (b) How many employers had taken up the offer under the cadet scheme;
- (c) If any of the cadets that had been paid out of £511,000 spent had finished the course and if so how many had been employed in the trade that they had been trained for;
- (d) The type of qualifications they would be getting at the end of the course?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE & HEALTH

I hand the hon Member the information required in a written schedule.

- (a) From 1st May 2000 to 31st April 2001, up to 147 vocational trainees were placed with employers. (Similarly, from 1st May 2001 to date, up to 134 have been placed.)
- (b) The answer is 131 companies.
- (c) Up to 56 had completed the Vocational Training Scheme, with 48 achieving employment through respective employers and relevant trained occupations. Of these, eight have gone to further education and training (eg UK, School of Tourism and other schemes.)
- (d) The vocational trainees would have achieved (1) St John's Ambulance First Aid Certificate, (2) Basic Health & Safety Certificate from Environmental Agency, and (3) Welcome Host Certificate (Validated by AQA Consultants and Trainers).

1 st May 2000 (Intake 1) to 31 st April 2001	1 st May 2001 (Intake 2) to 31 st April 2002
147 Applications	134 Applications
25 Still in Training (passed to Intake 2)	104 Still in Training
48 Employed	0 Employed (Will finish training in May 2002).
27 Further Education & Training	12 Further Education & Training
47 Left or found alternative work	18 Left or found alternative work.
	104 Remaining at present

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 248 OF 2002

HON J L BALDACHINO:

May I ask the Minister if the information I am getting will tally with my question and is it a policy by looking at the previous figures that each employer will have one cadet only so it will be a one to one?

HON DR B A LINARES:

A couple of questions there the first one which is not correct he asks whether the information he is getting now will tally with his question, not quite because his question referring to a previous question referred to the period 1st May 2000 to 31st April 2001 (Intake 1) and he has got that information there in the written schedule whereas the information that I have given him a moment ago refers to the situation to (Intake 2) which is the present situation from 1st May 2001 to 31st April 2002. The second question was whether it was a lay down policy that employers may only take one trainee, no it is not. Employers normally just take one trainee, but an employer may if assessed to be able to cope with this may take on two or three trainees if he so desires.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

In the answer to (c) which the Minister has just given me were there are some of the trainees who have gone to further education is it a case that they could have gone to further education without having been placed in a vocational cadet scheme or what qualification did they get at the end for them to get a place in further education?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Of course they could have gone into further education perhaps before entering into a cadet scheme, the choice is theirs it is different routes that young people take upon leaving school and very often they change routes in the middle of the road so there is a whole variety of options and paths taken by different individuals.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

The answer which the Minister has given me which says (1) St John's Ambulance First Aid Certificate we shall presume Basic Health and Safety certificate from the Environment Agency and (3) Welcome Host Certificate valid by the AQA Consultants and Trainers, I do not see any of them being trained to NVQ Levels is that correct they are not being trained to NVQ Levels?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Vocational cadets are not being trained to NVQ levels, NVQ level qualifications are validated either by the City and Guilds at the ETB for Construction Centre apprentices or by the (EMTA) Engineering Mechanical Trades Association for the apprentices in Cammell Laird. Vocational Cadets scheme I thought the hon Member was aware is a placement of young people who choose that path in places of work to gain experience and to gain skills in different areas and which lead to qualifications as is the First Aid, the Basic Health and Safety certificate from the Environmental Agency and the Welcome Host certificate which is actually validated by a recognised body the AQA Consultants and Trainees but they do not get any NVQs. Usually it is a one year placement.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

I thought, for example, if somebody wanted to be trained as a shop assistant he will not get any qualifications at the end he will only get what the Minister said that he will get a Welcome Host Certificate is that correct?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Yes.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

But there are NVQ qualifications for shop assistants are there not?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Not locally we have not catered for this type of qualification locally, maybe that would have to be explored and structured.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

Can the Minister accept that the old scheme, the one we had that there was so much criticized by the then Opposition that there were people being trained as shop assistants and there were actually persons who had the D32 and the D33 so that the people at the end of the course would get an NVQ certificate so this one is inferior to the one that we had before is that what the Minister is saying?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I am not saying that it is inferior at all I am just saying that at the moment NVQs are limited to apprentices in the construction trades and to the apprentices in the engineering and the mechanical trades, we have not extended NVQ qualifications but we have other qualifications for more practical, the whole thrust, the whole philosophy and aim of these courses is to give young people who may feel that they are not academically geared or interested in pursuing academic qualifications which are more relevant to NVQs but they want a placement in a particular place of employment to gain the skills to adapt to the world of work, it is a much broader type of training and I believe that this was always the case.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

I agree with what the Minister is saying but what I am asking is that if the vocational cadets at the end have an NVQ qualification, which they do not have now, is that a better scheme than this one or will it not be a better scheme than this one that is what I am asking because the previous scheme prior to them coming into Government that was what vocational cadets in shop assisting area had at the end they could get an NVQ qualification, today they do not get an NVQ qualification does he not consider that this one is inferior to the one that we had before?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I do not doubt the veracity of what the hon Member is saying but I would like to look into the scheme as it stood at that time that he refers to to see exactly what type of qualifications shop assistants obtained. I have never been aware of shop assistants actually developing qualifications at the level of NVQ grade 2 or 3 but I will look into it to see if that is an avenue that can be pursued but certainly it was not an extensive or significant expansion of a service of training at the time that the hon Member is referring to. In any case I do not believe that it is either better or worse I think that the development of skills does not depend on a paper qualification at the end but in practical development of the personality and skills of the individual in the real world of work.

HON S E LINARES:

Could the Minister not look into these vocational cadets because I think the thrust of what my Colleague has just said is that at the end they ended up with an NVQ qualification which is recognised as a qualification elsewhere whilst now and I am not trying to diminish the vocational cadet scheme that they have in place but what he is trying to say is that now the qualifications most of those qualifications if any are recognised globally.

HON DR B A LINARES:

I have been trying to avoid being blunt about this but I have been pushed to saying really that what the hon Member is saying about the old scheme leading to qualifications and all that is really fiction. It is well known that the placements at the vocational cadet scheme that was operated then was really totally unstructured it was emplacement of young people in places of work used more often than not as cheap

labour and without any form of monitored training in the structured processes whereby employers would be guided along, that is what exists now, we are very proud of the vocational scheme that has been built up in recent years I think it is a success story all the way and any attempt to say that it is inferior to the sham that existed before is really as I say to put it as mildly as possible just sheer fiction.

NO. 249 OF 2002

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

TRAINING – CONSTRUCTION COURSE

Can Government state how many persons completed the construction training course and obtained craftsman level and of these how many obtained employment in their trade with:

- (a) Government of Gibraltar;
- (b) Government companies or Joint Venture Companies;
- (c) Private Sector?

ANSWER

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

A total of 32 trainees have obtained NVQ Level 2, which is the Craftsman level , of these:-

- (a) Up to six have obtained employment within the Government of Gibraltar.
- (b) Another six have obtained employment within Government owned companies and
- (c) Two have found employment within the Private Sector.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 249 OF 2002

HON J L BALDACHINO:

The others I suppose we do not know if they have found employment elsewhere?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I do not have the information with me.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

Has the Minister got a breakdown because the question also asks how many of these may have obtained employment in their trade, in what trade they were employed in the Government of Gibraltar and the Government companies or joint venture companies and what was the breakdown of the six and six and the two if he has got that?

HON DR B A LINARES:

May I refer back to the previous question about the others, we do not know where they found employment, many of them still remain actually in training they are carrying on training up to Level 3 NVQ so some of them, there are 14 who have found employment out of the 32 some of the others have continued with their training aiming at Level 3. Now the next question I have not got the detailed breakdown of the different trades but I can easily procure that.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

Does the Minister know how many of the remaining 18 have remained carrying on to Level 3?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I think most of them actually but I will give him a detailed answer to that.

NO. 250 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE TO CONFERENCES

Can Government say how many conferences they have assisted with, sponsored or co-sponsored since November 2001 to date, giving the dates, the venue, the number of participants and the subject matter of each conference?

ANSWER

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

Government assisted with one conference since November 2001. This was a SEDECK Conference. SEDECK is the Sociedad Española de Ciencias del Karst and this was held under the auspices of the Trans-border Institute. This took place from Friday 7th to Sunday 9th December 2001 and was held at the John Mackintosh Hall and St Michael's Cave. There were 103 participants from different parts of the world and the subject was "Karstic (that is limestone) landscapes with special references to Gibraltar" with lectures given by the Gibraltar Museum staff and researchers from Spanish Universities.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 250 OF 2002

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Do I take it this is the answer in respect of all Government Departments and not just the Minister's?

HON DR B A LINARES:

That is the case.

NO. 251 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TRAINING – CATERING AND HOSPITALITY SERVICES COURSE

How many of the 15 persons who commenced the hotel catering and hospitality services course in October 2001 have continued with the course?

ANSWER

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

All 15 trainees that initially registered, are continuing with the course.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 251 OF 2002

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Minister say when the course is due to finish?

HON DR B A LINARES:

They started the course in September 2001 I reckon since it is a one year course I believe, they will complete the course in September 2002.

NO. 252 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TRAINING – BUSINESS MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

How many persons have started the 5th course leading towards a certificate/diploma in Business Management organised by the University of Durham which was due to commence in January 2002?

ANSWER

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

I think there is some confusion may I respectfully say in the mind of the hon Member. Should the question be referring to the “5th” Business Management programme, commencing May 2001, then up to 20 people have registered on the Diploma Course which is delivered by the University of Durham, though organised by the Department of Education and Training. However, should the question be referring to the January 2002 commencement, namely the “Post Graduate Diploma in Strategic Management”, then up to 18 people from the private sector have registered on the course. In addition, 27 senior civil servants who achieved Diploma stage, have progressed onto the same Post Graduate course. Therefore, the corresponding number of beneficiaries is 35.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 252 OF 2002

HON DR J J GARCIA:

When they are not Civil Servants do the private companies contribute to the costs of the course?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I believe so yes.

NO. 253 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GARRISON LIBRARY

Can Government say whether there have been any developments in relation to their negotiations with the Ministry of Defence for the transfer of the Garrison Library further to the last Question Time in the House?

ANSWER

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

No.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 253 OF 2002

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Are we at the stage where the Government are waiting for the MOD to make counter proposals or is it the other way around?

HON DR B A LINARES:

No the stage in the process of negotiation in inverted commas at the moment is very informal, just discussions non-committal discussions being held between myself and up to now it was Colonel Moorby who was the Chief of Staff but he has just retired and this has brought again a certain hiccup in the process. Colonel Camp I have met who is now the new Chief of Staff, we have actually mentioned the conceptual discussions that we have held up to now with the MOD but he is new in the job and he has asked for some time to familiarise himself with all the intricacies involved. It is a complex matter, there are legal aspects, there are heritage aspects, there are logistical aspects involved in the question of the Garrison Library and of course I have tried to brief him and so has Colonel Moorby but we are waiting for the man to

actually come to grips with the different situation meet the Library Committee and again to find out what they are thinking and what their feelings and their thoughts are about the matter. So, at the moment it is a bit nebulous but nevertheless fruitful because it involves a meeting of minds.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The impression that the Minister gives is that this is actually quite a long term discussion, negotiations, it is not something that is going to happen imminently, is that the case?

HON DR B A LINARES:

It is long in the sense that obviously the Garrison Library is a historical institution. It has been there for many, many years any developments in regards to the future use of the library and any actual transference of property, the ordinance that governs the trust, those are as I say historical things that cannot be shifted overnight. I am sensitive to the fact that it involves a sensitive thinking on the part of the MOD as well as a challenging demand from our part.

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Minister tell us what is the Government's intention once hopefully it is in Government's possession what the use of the Garrison Library, would it be a library as it used to be or are there other plans for the Garrison Library and also if I may, if it is not going to be a library which might not be, will the books and all the resources, rich resources some of them of which the Garrison Library have be transferred to another public library, that is, the John Mackintosh Hall. If possible could that transfer already happen, could we not get the books and the resources transferred so that we disconnect the actual resources from the building?

HON DR B A LINARES:

As I have said the MOD may have its own process of thinking but Government too, ourselves, are also in a process of thinking we have not reached very specific conclusions about those very specific questions that he has asked me except in a very generic sense that we believe that the library and its contents, historical resources are very much one and the same thing to disassociate one with the other but that is a bit of a personal thinking on my part in terms of Government decisions we are not there yet.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Just to clarify, when this issue has been raised in the House previously the impression which at least I perceived is that this were more formal negotiations and that in fact proposals were made and counter-proposals were made by the Government and so forth. The way the Minister is describing it now is that they are at a level of being more informal discussions. Can the Minister clarify?

HON DR B A LINARES:

These are the way things have developed whereas initially there was more of a negotiating strategy with letters written with proposals we have found in the process of dialogue that it is better at this stage to deal with these things conceptually, sharing minds, aspirations of the people in the MOD, the Library Committee and ourselves rather than actually sort of committing ourselves to very deep end legalistic proposals.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

The Minister has just given a personal opinion, is it a Government policy on the question of the Garrison Library that the context and the building is one and the same thing, that it is not two separate things.

HON DR B A LINARES:

I have said that personally I do believe they are one and the same thing I would not like a disassociation of the contents of the library which is very much the flesh, the ethos of the library and just turn it into a shell, a building. That is my personal thinking but there is no Government policy as such in terms of a decision it is not something that the Government have spelt out but the Ministers steering the negotiations at the moment who are the Minister for Culture and the Minister with responsibility for heritage, are thinking along those lines.

NO. 254 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Can Government list the parties that have applied for Gibraltar Government funding since the answer given in the last Question Time in this House, indicating the amount of funding that was requested and the purposes for which it was intended, listing those applications that have been successful, those that have been unsuccessful and those applications that are still pending?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

There have been no new applications submitted for Government funding under the Gibraltar Enterprise Scheme since the answer given at the last Question Time in the House.

NO. 255 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

COMMERCIAL/DOMESTIC UNITS

Can Government say who has been allocated the five small commercial/domestic units advertised in an official notice published on 21 November 2001, giving the amount bid by the successful tenderer in each case and by those tenderers who were not successful?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The Government are in the process of finalising the allocation of these units. Until this is finalised we are unable to provide the details requested. We will be happy to do so if the hon Member writes in to the department in about a month.

NO. 256 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PROTECTED CELL COMPANIES

Have many of the enquiries by parties interested in creating a protected cell company in Gibraltar, which the House was told had been made at the last Question Time, actually materialised into formal applications?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question No 257 of 2002.

NO. 257 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PROTECTED CELL COMPANIES

How many applications have been received to create a protected cell company since the law was commenced on 1st November 2001 either outright or by converting an existing company?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

No applications have been received since the new law was commenced.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION 257 OF 2002

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Then obviously the original enquiries that were made have not materialised into anything further or are they still at the level of the enquiries?

HON K AZOPARDI:

They are still at the level of the enquiries, we think that one of them will definitely not proceed there may be one that will and others are still in the decision making process.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Minister say how many there are altogether?

HON K AZOPARDI:

I do not have a specific number but I am talking about a handful of enquiries, four or five.

NO. 258 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

FIBRE OPTIC LINK – GIBRALTAR/LISBON

Can Government say whether the certain consents and licenses that needed to be given to establish a fibre optic link between Gibraltar and Lisbon are now in place?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The Government continue in discussion with one international carrier. The Government are not at the stage at which the public announcements can be made on this matter.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 258 OF 2002

HON J C PEREZ:

Can I ask the Minister whether this is being done by the Government or through one of the telecommunications company?

HON K AZOPARDI:

The hon Member will recall that this project went out to tender or rather for expressions of interest, so we had been doing it through one of the parties that had expressed an interest who had brought to Gibraltar two international carriers to discuss matters with the Government. That party has now received an order to be wound-up by the courts so the Government are in direct discussions with the international carrier itself.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

I think originally there was a tender or an article which came out in respect of a fibre optic cable link between Gibraltar and Morocco, the question refers to the one in Lisbon I do not know whether the two subsequently merged into one or what has happened?

HON K AZOPARDI:

I offered to brief the hon Member confidentially last time, that offer still stands, I would rather not discuss the details of that because there are political sensitivities but they stem from the same expressions of interest. The idea came from the same process. I am happy to discuss it with him as confidentially.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

I am grateful to the Minister I will be taking up the opportunity of a briefing on the subject.

NO. 259 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Has the one party that was asked to remove display advertisements under the re-enacted Town Planning Regulations and had not done so at the time of the last Question and Answer session in this House, now complied with the instructions to remove them?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question No 260 of 2002.

NO. 260 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Have any new parties been asked to remove display advertisements under the re-enacted Town Planning Regulations to date since the last Question – Time in this House?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The one party referred to in Question No 259 of 2002 continues in discussions with the Department on acceptable alternatives. It has not been necessary to formally order any other party to remove a sign since the last meeting.

NO. 261 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

NEW BANKING LICENCES

How many applications for new banking licences have been received since November 2001, giving the date that the application was made and the name of the bank concerned?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question No 262 of 2002.

NO. 262 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

NEW BANKING LICENCES

At what stage is the application for a banking licence which the Government said had been made in answer at the last Question Time in this House?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

No applications have been received since November 2001. The banking licence application referred to during the last Question Time has been granted.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 261 AND 262 OF 2002

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Minister give the name of the entity that was granted the licence?

HON K AZOPARDI:

No. The bank in question want to remain confidential for the moment or would not like their to be public disclosure of information because they are indeed reviewing options. They were eager to come to Gibraltar, they have been in long discussions with the Government, they processed an application which took some months on the basis that they wanted to set up before the end of the year but in the interim as the Commission launched an investigation into issues concerning the tax exempt companies and so on they wanted to monitor the effect of that, the judgement is now

issued it is clear that the Government will be restructuring the tax base and those consequences mean that there will be consequences for the business itself and so they want to be able to now take a final decision in the context of whatever the final tax restructure package the Government announce and until that is finally decided I think that they would rather keep the matter in abeyance, I certainly hope that they will come to Gibraltar but they are reviewing their decision in the light of the tax restructure and this is why I think the hon Member will appreciate it is so important for the matter to be dealt with sensitively for us to be able to continue to issue tax exempt certificates as an interim measure and to be able to reach the right level of tax rates and the right level of tax restructure which will maintain a competitive finance centre.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is it correct to assume that this was going to be an exempt company or a qualifying company and not a bank with an established trading presence in Gibraltar?

HON K AZOPARDI:

The policy of the Government is no longer to provide exempt status to companies that are physically setting up in Gibraltar with a trading presence but the bank in question would have been a qualifying company at a certain rate of tax negotiated with the Government as that is one of the schemes that is going to fall away under the new systems that are coming into place in the context of international initiatives of fiscal harmonisation there will be a clear cut rate of tax obvious in the new legislation and it is that which the bank are now waiting for to be able to decide whether they still wish to proceed.

NO. 263 OF 2002**THE HON DR J J GARCIA****EU FUNDING**

Can Government list the parties that have applied for EU funding since the answer given in the last Question Time in this House, indicating the amount of funding that was requested and the purposes for which it was intended, listing those applications that have been successful, those that have been unsuccessful, and those applications that are still pending?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

I hand the hon Member a schedule with the information requested.

Four applicants have applied for EU funding since the answer given at the last Question Time in the House. They are listed as follows:

Objective 2 Programme 2000-2006				
Project Number	EU Grant	Sponsor	Purpose of Grant	Status
010	£50,000	Department of Trade, Industry and Telecommunications	A feasibility study investigating the viability of carrying out land reclamation within the harbour	Under consideration
011	£23,938	Panorama Ltd T/A Prontopress	Purchase of printing equipment	Under Consideration
012	£4,486	Gomez and Orfila	Purchase of printing equipment	Under Consideration
013	£19,241	Everleigh Ltd T/A The Piazza Grill	Purchase of equipment, fit-out costs of new unit and advertising	Under Consideration

NO. 264 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING COMMISSION

At what stage is the application for the change of use from a hotel to residential of the building originally intended to house a hotel at Europort?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The Development and Planning Commission have considered the application. As its decision has not been formally communicated to the applicant it would be inappropriate to make this information public until then.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 264 OF 2002

HON J C PEREZ:

Does the Minister not find it strange that without knowing whether there has been a change of use that there should be adverts in the local media selling the hotel furniture?

HON K AZOPARDI:

I have not noticed those adverts.

HON J C PEREZ:

Well, they are in the press since last Saturday.

HON K AZOPARDI:

Well, I note that they may be in the press all I can tell the hon Member is that they have not been formally given the decision, I do not know if anyone in the department has informally discussed the matter.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Minister say, in the event of change of use being granted, if this will apply to the whole building or to sections of it or is it the whole block?

HON K AZOPARDI:

The application was in relation to a change of use if I remember rightly which was of a mixed nature partly residential and partly for office space I think which covered the entire building. That is what the application is for.

NO. 265 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

REGISTER OF COMPANIES

Can Government say how many companies have been struck off on a monthly basis since the new section 203A of the Companies Ordinance was commenced on 19 September 2001?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

To date, 9,845 companies have been struck off the Register of Companies. The full listing of these companies can be viewed at www.companieshouse.gi (by clicking on 'Noticeboard'). The monthly breakdown provided by Companies House is as follows:

October 2001	6
January 2002	9,839

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 265 OF 2002

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Was it the case that the owners of the companies had to be notified individually as well or did it simply have to be advertised in relation to the new procedure under 203A?

HON K AZOPARDI:

The companies are struck off after three months have expired from the date of the final notice published in the Gibraltar Gazette unless cause is shown to the contrary. So I do not believe that the procedure is, I think we discussed the procedure last time but I do not believe that the procedure requires personal notice but just advertisements. At the end of it these are only companies that are advertised having made default in submitting annual returns for many years so it is unlikely that they are trading.

NO. 266 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

NEW HARBOURS

What is the total amount of rent owed by tenants in the New Harbours as at 31st December 2001?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos 267 and 268 of 2002.

NO. 267 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

NEW HARBOURS

Of the total number of tenants in the New Harbours as at 31st December 2001, how many have rent outstanding as follows:

- (a) current month only;
- (b) over three months;
- (c) over six months;
- (d) over twelve months?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos 266 and 268 of 2002 .

NO. 268 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

NEW HARBOURS

What is the total number of tenants at the New Harbours as at:

- (a) 31st December 2001;
- (b) 31st January 2002?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The total amount of rent owned by tenants at New Harbours as at 31st December 2001 stood as follows:

<u>Current Tenants</u>	<u>Ex Tenants</u>	<u>Total</u>
£323,263.39	£263,183.16	£586,446.55

The outstanding rents by number of tenants at New Harbours as at 31st December 2001 stood as follows:

	<u>Tenants</u>	<u>Ex-Tenants</u>
(a) Current month only	19 (£11,142.36)	
(b) Over three months	30 (£290,874.66)	18 (£263,183.16)
(c) Over six months	19 (£252,749.35)	12 (£235,560.72)
(d) Over twelve months	11 (£193,059.40)	7 (£202,014.04)

- (a) The total number of tenants at New Harbours as at 31st December 2001 was 91; and
- (b) as at 31st January 2002 it remained at 91.

ORAL

NO. 269 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

EUROPA BUSINESS CENTRE

What is the total amount of rent owed by Government tenants in the Europa Business Centre as at 31st December 2001?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos 270 and 271 of 2002.

NO. 270 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

EUROPA BUSINESS CENTRE

Of the total number of tenants in the Europa Business Centre as at 31st December 2001, how many have rent outstanding as follows:

- (a) current month only;
- (b) over three months;
- (c) over six months;
- (d) over twelve months?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos 269 and 271 of 2002.

NO. 271 OF 2002**THE HON DR J J GARCIA****EUROPORT BUSINESS CENTRE**

What is the total number of tenants in the Europa Business Centre as at:

- (a) 31st December 2001;
- (b) 31st January 2002?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

The total amount of rent owed by tenants at Europa Business Centre as at 31st December 2001 stood as follows:

<u>Current Tenants</u>	<u>Ex-Tenants</u>	<u>Total</u>
£65,138.00	£73,007.90	£138,145.90

The outstanding rents by number of tenants at New Harbours as at 31st December 2001 stood as follows:

	<u>Tenants</u>	<u>Ex-Tenants</u>
(a) Current month only	14 (£7,486.95)	
(b) Over three months	9 (£48,007.79)	10 (£32,671.53)
(c) Over six months	3 (£40,242.13)	7 (£27,780.42)
(d) Over twelve months	3 (£40,242.13)	7 (£27,780.42)

- (e) The total number of tenants at Europa Business Centre as at 31st December 2001 was 32; and
- (f) as at 31st January 2002 it remained at 32.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 269, 270 AND 271 OF 2002

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Minister explain how the monies are recovered from people who are ex-tenants who are no longer there, both in this case and in the previous one in relation to New Harbours a considerable amount was due by ex-tenants?

HON K AZOPARDI:

In the case of tenants and ex-tenants the matter is referred to the Treasury and they invoke the recovery procedures. They first write to them to ask them to repay the amount if there is a response they sometimes enter into arrears agreements, often the enter into arrears agreements, and if not then they pursue the matter by legal action by court proceedings or by winding up the company seizing its assets or otherwise.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

And that applies to ex-tenants as well who are no longer.....

HON K AZOPARDI:

Yes I believe it applies to everyone until such time as Treasury take the view that it will recover nothing. I am told that they pursue these matters.

NO. 272 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR IN EUROPE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

How many (a) full-time (b) part-time jobs have been created by the Gibraltar in Europe Business Development Scheme to 31 January 2002?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Up to 31st January 2002, the Gibraltar in Europe Business Development Scheme has created 35 full-time jobs and four part-time jobs.

NO. 273 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

CERTIFICATION SERVICE PROVIDERS

How many applications for certification service providers have been received by the Government since the last Question Time in this House, 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 AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

No applications have been received to date.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 273 OF 2002

HON DR J J GARCIA:

To what does the Minister attribute if possible the lack of interest in this particular field?

HON K AZOPARDI:

I think the fact that we have a small jurisdiction and companies providing this provide it internationally and those services are accessible very easily and I think that is the issue. The eye contact with one major international certification service provider and we are having discussions with them but we are not sure whether they would formally want to apply or not but we will see in the coming months but I guess it is something like that. It is a bit like getting a domain name, because one can get it so easily on the internet from a central registry in Virginia sometimes a dot.com registry it is difficult to get people interested in setting up things in Gibraltar. They do not need to access the service necessarily in Gibraltar but as I say we are in discussions with a leading CSB.

NO. 274 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

E-COMMERCE SURVEY

Can Government say whether they have received any more replies to their e-commerce survey other than the 176 out of 1501 completed forms that had been returned at the time of the last Question Time in this House?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question No 275 of 2002.

NO. 275 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

E-COMMERCE SURVEY

Can Government inform the House of the feedback received on the current use of e-commerce in Gibraltar from the various business sectors as a result of the survey that was conducted last year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Three completed forms have been received since the last Question Time in this House. Final statistics are not yet available and a report will be available shortly.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 274 AND 275 OF 2002

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Do the 179 total respondents all come from the same sector or can the Minister distinguish different sectors from the information he has?

HON K AZOPARDI:

The last figures not taking into account the three that have just come in but 115 came from the retail wholesale sector, 44 from financial services, 11 from the maritime sector and six from tourism related services.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Are Government happy with the response and with the level of representation of the different sectors in the survey?

HON K AZOPARDI:

This time we sent out 1500 and we got nearly 180 back, last time we sent 1200 and got 346 it is worse than last time but it might be because we carried that exercise out last year and people felt it was too soon. We originally had felt that we would do annual exercises I think we will probably do exercises every two years now. I would like there to be more response but on the other hand one has got to take into account that there is a lot of duplication in the 1200 or 1500 that is sent out in this sense. For example in the finance centre it might be sent out to a company manager and a legal firm both of which are the same people so there is some duplication, so I do not think that there are really 1200 or so real entities out there. As to the verdict on do we have enough response as I say I would like some more response but I would say though that in the context of things to try to extrapolate some sort of strategy from a 12 per cent response is still quite significant. If one looks at any figures and any studies conducted in the United Kingdom usually on a sample of .01 per cent of anything so ultimately we still have enough information to plan but clearly the Government would like more response in future.

NO. 276 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

E-COMMERCE SURVEY

Can Government say what employment opportunities for local graduates have arisen as a result of e-commerce, how many and where?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

A total of 96 vacancies were advertised by the Department of Employment from the period of January 2001 to January 2002 in IT and related fields. An individual analysis of each job profile would have to be done to establish to what extent these individuals are involved in or have been employed as a result of a desire to boost e-commerce possibilities of those businesses.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 276 OF 2002

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Other than that or perhaps by doing that how do Government measure the impact of their policy objective, is that the only way that it can be done and if so will it be done or not?

HON K AZOPARDI:

We are trying to measure the success of e-commerce and the impact and the consequences on employment and other consequences of business by things like a survey so it is better that people respond. Other than the survey itself the direct question to businesses, it is very difficult for us to actually know unless people tell us because if we go to the statistics at the ETB clearly sometimes they may file an advert for an IT related company but it is a bit of a guessing game to decide whether companies have employed them as a result of e-commerce or not. Some of them look like they would have been but some of them are in "traditional" businesses so

we are not really sure whether employments of an IT person in a bank is as a result of e-commerce or not. Some banks have put forward internet banking processes and services so it might be but it might not so it is very difficult unless people respond to direct questions. Other cases are clearer.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Were any of the 96 related to things like offshore betting for example?

HON K AZOPARDI:

Yes some of them.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

How many?

HON K AZOPARDI:

Well I have not counted them but just flicking through the list I would say that it is a significant proportion. It looks like 25 to 30 per cent.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

So the original 96 when they were advertised in IT related fields could actually be as the Minister said anybody using a computer or anything not necessarily for any commerce activity, could be banking or offshore betting or other types of businesses where a computer is used?

HON K AZOPARDI:

Well because the ETB categorise things under job title and not under purpose of the job. One might be a lawyer but the purpose of ones employment as a lawyer might be to provide advice within a bank to customers but that is the problem and they categorise people under IT we are talking about operations technicians, user support, communications, computer engineer, software professionals, data analysts I mean it could be telecommunications engineers and that type of thing, the hon Member will appreciate the difficulty in trying to assess what is what.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Would it be possible for the Minister to supply a copy of that information?

HON K AZOPARDI:

Yes I do not see why not it has names of companies it does not have names of individuals so I can certainly give the hon Member that list.

NO. 277 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

E-BUSINESS

Can Government say whether there have been any instances of a relaxation of immigration laws in Gibraltar in order to foster e-business, giving details of the cases if any?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Government policy is to foster e-Business by being responsive to the needs of business in securing skills migration to Gibraltar of individuals that may not have automatic residence or work rights. This does not entail a “relaxation” of immigration laws. It merely means that Government need to deal with each case on its individual merits and decide whether to exercise their discretion to grant work permits to particular individuals.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 277 OF 2002

HON DR J J GARCIA:

I think the use of the term “relaxation” of immigration laws was actually used by the Minister if I remember correctly in the E-Com press conference but be that as it may have there been any instances or not?

HON K AZOPARDI:

There have been instances when non-EU nationals have been employed in companies to provide services related to e-business in the context of the Government’s general policy which is to apply the immigration rules flexibly so that we attract expertise to Gibraltar. I do not think I ever used the word “relaxation” in the

form of strategy document we issued, we talked about flexible application but what we are talking about is individual case assessment so that if a company comes to Gibraltar and says “ look I want to establish a data business in Gibraltar but I want to bring 20 Americans to Gibraltar” that we do not say “no they are not EU nationals and therefore you cannot bring them.” That is what I am talking about.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

I am grateful to the Minister for the explanation but does he have a record of how many instances there have actually been, how many persons have been involved in those instances?

HON K AZOPARDI:

No because in most of the matters formal Government intervention is not necessary. An application is made to the ETB and the matter is discussed with the department and is processed. It is only when someone is intending to establish a major presence in Gibraltar were they are talking hypothetically it is not about people who are in Gibraltar who may want to recruit someone who is a non-EU national that usually is processed through the system what I am talking about is someone coming in and saying they want to come to Gibraltar on the back of Government consent to allow a certain number of non-EU nationals to be brought in as part of the business. That is where there are more direct talks with the Government at a more senior level. That has happened in a couple of cases where we have said that in principle we do not have difficulty but we do not keep quantifiable statistics. All we can do is apply the policy in a case by case basis as I have indicated.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Does the Minister confirm that this has already actually happened that there have been cases of companies who want to bring in a non-EU nationals and have discussed it with the Government and the Government have agreed to that actually taking place, is that the case?

HON K AZOPARDI:

Yes, not only in relation to e-business, I mean in relation, for example, the finance centre, that happens as a matter of course it happens a lot because there is a major Swiss presence in the finance centre and until recently they had not signed an agreement with the European Union on establishment of workers rights et cetera.

NO. 278 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

E-BIZ EXHIBITION

What was the cost of attending the E-biz exhibition in November 2001 and how many people from Gibraltar took part?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question No 279 of 2002.

NO. 279 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

E-BIZ EXHIBITION

Can Government say how many other exhibitors took part in the E-biz exhibition and who they were?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Three local companies and the Government of Gibraltar took part. The cost was £13,225.43.

E-business	-	Total Exhibitors	36
M-business	-	Total Exhibitors	35

The list of exhibitors is as follows:

e-business Expo A-Z Listings

Ascertus Limited	D111
Bowstreet	Demo Hub
CI-Host	Demo Hub
CODEL	D112
DHMS Limited	D110
DTI-Security at Work	Infosecurity Village
e-centre	E60
EBIZZ	D113
Ecom Ltd	Gibraltar Pavilion
EEMA	E20
EC World	G10
GNC Networks	Gibraltar Pavilion

Government of Gibraltar	Gibraltar Pavilion
Guernsey Telecoms	F30
12B	D123
IBM Business Partner Event Programme	D112
Inland Revenue-Electronic Business	D105
Intel & Dell	F68
Internet Security Systems Ltd	E10
Mediafish Ltd	D122
Miracel e-Solutions Limited	Demo hub
Ncorp Ltd	E52
Perwill PLC	G40
Projectplace Ltd	F52
QED IT Group Ltd	E40
SAP(UK) Ltd	D30
Shopcreator PLC	G30
SITPRO	E62
Software AG (UK) Ltd	D112
SSr Personnel Services	Infosecurity village
StreamServe Ltd	F60
SwanBayley Purchasing Ltd	F40
Systech Ltd	Gibraltar Pavillion
UK Online Business	F64
University Of Westminster	D121
Williams Lea	D111

m-business Expo A-Z Listings

APD Communications Ltd	M1
Brown's Operating System Services Ltd	M3
BT Cellnet	M180
Business Systems UK	M124
Casio electronics Co Ltd	Demo area
Communicate	M5
Control Force Ltd	M56
Dialogue communications	M122
Equisys UK Ltd	M128
Extended Systems Ltd	480
Flying SPARK Ltd	M172
IN Car Technologies	M174
Intermec Technologies	M129
IOra Ltd	M140
Itronix (UK) Ltd	M126
Langdale Systems Ltd	M46
Live Devices	Telematics Pavilion
Managers & Developers Ltd	M176
Maxon-Sewon Europe Ltd	M160
MCUG	M6
Orange	M120
Panasonic UK Ltd	M124
Paradigm Technology Limited	M168
Peramon Technology	M48

Priori Media	M212
Rdtower	M164
RGI Mobile solutions	M70
Rocking Frog	M166
Sales Director	M212
Siemens	M10
Siemens VDO Trading Ltd	Telematics Pavilion
Telematics & In Car Business Magazine	Telematics Pavilion
Technological Business solutions (TBS)	M200
ThreeX	M71
WapMX	M127

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 278 AND 279 OF 2002

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is it possible for the Government to indicate whether the interest which was expressed by people visiting the stand et cetera materialised into any formal applications or enquiries to come to Gibraltar?

HON K AZOPARDI:

This is very unquantifiable in the sense that marketing, I have indicated before to the hon members my view on marketing that while it is easy to know and understand and appreciate when one has a one to one meeting with an institution whether they then come to Gibraltar or not, one can assess that, it is very difficult to assess going to an exhibition or a conference centre, setting up a stand, handing out 200 brochures and then deciding whether there is any impact or not. There is word of mouth, there is direct and indirect impact, I think it is a useful exercise to do it is probably more easier to quantify and more useful to have one to one presentations set up and that is where our emphasis lies in the finance centre and in other types of marketing but in e-business itself there are major exhibitions and conferences were to a large extent everyone is exhibiting and we feel obliged to also be there. If we are not the hon Member will look at the list and will see in this case in fact the words many other competitor governments there but Guernsey was there. In others that we have been to Guernsey, Jersey, and Bermuda are usually there and they are the people that we look to as our peer group not only financial services but telecomms and we feel that we should be at these conferences to attract business to Gibraltar because if we are not there people do not talk about us at all and while it may be less quantifiable than direct meetings it is none the less deemed to be a useful exercise or at least a necessary one.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The reason for mentioning whether it was quantifiable or not because the Government in their own press release mentioned that it attracted interest in the Gibraltar pavilion was one of the main exhibitors and it attracted interest from the UK and European companies. We were wondering from the Opposition benches

whether actually interest from those UK and European companies materialised into anything further?

HON K AZOPARDI:

It is an on-going thing some people give their business card and say that they want to be kept abreast of information so we put them on our database and send them information from time to time on a monthly or quarterly basis and some people actually have a formal enquiry, some people go away and then they introduce someone to us and this is what I am saying how do I then explain to the hon Member or quantify or list what degree of success there is. This is an on-going matter which renders long term and indirect success but it is a necessary matter.

HON S E LINARES:

Just as a matter of interest this is similar to a previous question my Colleague has just asked before to the Minister of Tourism and it is to basically monitor the impact of any fairs, e-biz, exhibitions or anything. Is it not possible to have within the computer base or within interviews or even within the application formally where, because I have seen it before, where the company has initially seen the fact that Gibraltar is marketing whatever and therefore that although not scientific and not first time evidence it gives an indication to whether one exhibition or another has more impact one from the other.

HON K AZOPARDI:

I think it is much easier to do in tourism because they conduct a lot of advertising and I have said to the House before and the hon Members that they will not see a lot of advertising, one sees some, but one will not see a lot of advertising from my department in finance centre or telecommunications because I do not believe that that renders success in my areas. In my experience one does not get banks coming to Gibraltar because they have seen an advert. People know whether they want to come and they will want to come if they understand the tax system, the political stability and they have an interview with the Government and they understand whether we will facilitate it for them and tourism is a different market and I think that in our case we tend to approach the matter while I am grateful for the suggestion we tend to approach it in a different way.

NO. 280 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

ELECTRONIC COMMERCE DIRECTIVE

Can Government say whether the United Kingdom has now notified the European commission of the following:

- (a) the designation of a Gibraltar "Contact Point" under Article 19 of the Electronic Commerce Directive;
- (b) the transposition by Gibraltar of the Electronic Signatures Directive;
- (c) the transposition by Gibraltar of the Electronic Commerce Directive?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The UK have informed the Government that they will notify for Gibraltar when the UK notifies for itself. The UK is still passing the necessary legislation; when it is passed in the UK then all necessary notifications (for Gibraltar and the UK) will be made at the same time.

NO. 281 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

REVIEW OF LICENSING HOURS

At what stage is the Government's review of licensing hours which was expected in the autumn of 2001?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The relevant department collated and assessed the responses received and submitted its recommendations on the changes that should flow from the consultative exercise. Ministers are currently considering the matter.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 281 OF 2002

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Minister tell the House the reason for the delay?

HON K AZOPARDI:

The recommendations included I think there was some urgency as to recommendations, so at least consensus on urgency because our people wanted to have some systems in place for the summer period last year so what we decided was to strip out certain measures and apply a pilot scheme somewhat now controversially in the marinas and Casemates areas, on the basis that we would monitor how things go and then review the effect of the rest of the consultative exercise and implement other measures as necessary. So firstly what we tried to do is deal with what was in our view urgent by introducing this pilot scheme and then secondly keep in abeyance the implementation or consideration of the rest of it until

Ministers had properly been able to understand the effect of the pilot scheme and the rest of the recommendations. It is also true that there has been additional delay because of the other more pressing matters that have hit Gibraltar since the summer and I am talking there about obviously the Anglo-Spanish situation and the tax restructure which has at least concentrated the resources of my department to a very large extent. So Ministers have been engaged in other matters, people will understand that but we intend to review this as soon as practicable.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is the report of the document which is being considered by the Council of Ministers gone actually further than only the question of licensing hours, does it cover other areas as well?

HON K AZOPARDI:

Yes, it covers areas such as the Trade Licensing System itself, the administration of the system, opening hours in music and entertainment and the definition, it covers the legal age for drinking and purchase of alcohol and other matters relating to intoxicating liquor, the tightening and review of legislation the historic legislation in those provisions and it also covers clubs and sub-letting.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is the Minister in a position to tell the House when this report or these recommendations are expected to see the light of day?

HON K AZOPARDI:

No, I would like the consideration process to take its course sooner rather than later but I cannot give the hon Member an indication at this stage.

NO. 282 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

INDUSTRIAL PARK – LATHBURY BARRACKS

Can Government say whether the business units at Phase 1 of the industrial park at Lathbury Barracks will be completed on schedule by March 2002?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question No 283 of 2002.

NO. 283 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

INDUSTRIAL PARK – LATHBURY BARRACKS

Can Government say whether the rent in respect of the business units at Phase 1 of the industrial park at Lathbury Barracks have now been set, and if so at what level?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The industrial park at Lathbury Barracks is now expected to be completed by the end of June 2002. The level of rent to be set for the business units at Lathbury Barracks has not yet been established.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 282 AND 283 OF 2002

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Minister explain the reason for the delay from March to June?

HON K AZOPARDI:

I am told it is a combination of two things, one that it was a late submission of details in the design and secondly the very bad weather conditions slowed down the construction phase.

NO. 284 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

ECOM LTD

Can Government explain the state of affairs of the Ecom Ltd project at Lathbury Barracks following the announcement that the company was being wound up by a creditor in January?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

An Order to wind-up Ecom was granted by the Supreme Court on the 25th January 2002. The liquidators are gathering information on the company and a report will be submitted by them to the Official Receiver shortly.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 284 OF 2002

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Minister then clarify what happens to the project and what happens also to the land?

HON K AZOPARDI:

The land is Crown Land because the development licence has yet not been formalised they had planning permission but not development licence so, we do not need to do anything there I am told that there is no need for a formal repossession because the land is still within the Crown. As to the project they were before the winding-up in talks to try to sell the company and the project to another entity whether that continues through the liquidators or not I cannot tell at this stage but as

far as the Government are concerned the information that we have to hand today I will have to say that the ECOM project is no more.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Had any payments been made by ECOM to the Government?

HON K AZOPARDI:

No I do not think so.

HON J C PEREZ:

Can the Minister say whether at the stage of granting the building licence to this company the Government made the necessary investigations as to the financial viability of the company before engaging them in such an important project which was described by the Minister on television as obviously a breakthrough and one that would create employment for people in Gibraltar?

HON K AZOPARDI:

We did not get to the stage of signing a development licence, they did have planning permission as I indicated what we agreed in principle was that this project would take place and that we would use our best endeavours to get planning permission and enter into a development licence for the land and so on but to answer the hon Member's question we were indeed in discussions with their financial backers. I remember perhaps two anecdotes if I can put it that way but the hon Member will understand the point that I am going to make. I went to a meeting when I was in London on other matters they wanted to demonstrate to the Government that they had substantial financial backing and they organised the meeting with one of the leading directors of Golden Sachs, Golden Sachs do not back a company unless there is substance in the project and so on. It is true that I think this had contributed to it or before I come to that let me highlight the second issue. The shareholding of ECOM is a whole long list of people who have shareholding in ECOM, some of them are very well known American companies in particular I seem to recall Computer Associates, the huge multinational have a holding in ECOM and so as a result of all of that the Government were of the view that there was funding available and we did receive assurances, it was clear to us that the shareholdings represented substantial contributors, it is also true that when we discussed the principle of these arrangements there was still a lot of money to be had in this field. Since that time there has been a marked downturn in telecommunications financing and so on in particular the last 12 to 15 months and technology media and telecommunications stocks have crashed world-wide, they are at a tenth of their value in the case of many leading companies and that has meant that financiers have backed off and I am told that the basic reason here because actually ECOM started the demolition process up at Lathbury Barracks of the area that they had and they had awarded the tender for demolition and were on the process of awarding the tender for construction. Now what happened here was that they became affected by the drying up of the reservoir of financing of telecommunications projects as a result of the global downturn and it is unfortunate but I think that was the basic reason.

HON J C PEREZ:

Would the Minister agree with me that given the reputable backers and shareholders that it might have been more opportune for the company to have withdrawn from the project rather than have a small local contractor sending it into liquidation by winding up order?

HON K AZOPARDI:

Yes I think it is a very unfortunate matter and we would have wanted that matter to be resolved so that if there was going to be a withdrawal it should be a withdrawal without losses. It is a regrettable incidence and consequence of this and I hope that the liquidators locate some assets to be able to at least partly satisfy that debt.

NO. 285 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

APPLICATION FOR SMALL LOANS AND GRANTS

Do Government have any plans to simplify and expedite the applications and the process for the approval of small loans or grants to the business community?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The Government, through the Department of Trade, Industry and Telecommunications are looking at ways and means of simplifying and expediting the application process in relation to Schemes that offer assistance in the form of grants or loans to the Business Community. The hon Member should note that the Government are constrained by European Regulations governing the application process.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 285 OF 2002

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Do those constraints apply only in respect of EU funding or do they apply in respect of Gibraltar Government funding as well?

HON K AZOPARDI:

No the constraints that I am talking about now only apply to European funding.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Do Government not agree that it could be one of the reasons for the low uptake on EU funding and could be related specifically to the complicated and bureaucratic application method and are Government aware of the complaints made by the Federation of Small Businesses in its last annual report in this respect?

HON K AZOPARDI:

We are trying as much as we can to simplify the process. I think that people who want funding do apply, I do not think that they will not apply because the process is somewhat complicated if they do genuinely want to apply. The business advisors are there indeed to assist them to formulate their application but we recognise that we could and should do something about simplifying the process and we are trying to do that within the constraint of the regulation and so we are trying to relax the extent of information that is being requested in relation to small projects but unfortunately there are EU minimum requirements that constrain us from simply finding a process the way that we would like. We raised the matter with the European Commission directly at a meeting that was held of the monitoring Committee because the Commission sent the representative to that group and the Commission told us that this was a European wide issue affecting small businesses and confirmed that the Commission was working towards simplifying the assessment procedure with a view to cutting down on the information required to be submitted with each application. Clearly that is the solution, we in Gibraltar are constrained by the EU regulations, if the EU regulations can be reviewed at source as the Commission recognised needs to be done because this is an EU problem, then I think it would follow that we would be allowed to do what we want to do which is to simplify the process.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In relation to a Gibraltar Government grant or funding under the Gibraltar Enterprise Scheme or any other scheme that the Government set up, would it not be possible to simplify those without involving the European Commission or not?

HON K AZOPARDI:

Yes one can do whatever one wants if one is providing the funding and I think that they are markedly different already, it is much easier as a process and we will do what we can when the matter is within our control.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

I do not know whether the Minister has had the opportunity of examining the GFSB report but it mentions the system operated in the United Kingdom which is operated by business links where the grants are allocated within a week. Whether allocated or not they are allocated within a week from the company making the application, is that something which perhaps the Government shall consider locally?

HON K AZOPARDI:

I mentioned that to the department and there is some dispute as to whether in fact reference to the FSB report is inaccurate. The department contacted people in DTI UK and they do not believe that that is the case that there is a system where one can get a grant within a week. There is a system where one can get determination of a grant within a few weeks maybe 3, 4 or 5 and that replicates the system that we are trying to put into place here in relation to small grants under a level of I think £10,000.

NO. 286 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

60 DEVIL'S TOWER ROAD – GARAGE

Can Government list the parties who submitted a tender for a garage at 60 Devil's Tower Road indicating the sum bid by the successful and the unsuccessful tenderers?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The advert appeared for garage use only. As interest had been expressed for the use of the premises for storage it has been decided to re-advertise for store and/or garage use to give an opportunity to persons interested.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 286 OF 2002

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Has anybody actually submitted a tender in respect of the original tender advert as it appeared?

HON K AZOPARDI:

Yes there were eight proposed tenderers for a garage and one for a store, there may be others for a store, one who put it in anyway although we had not advertised for a store but I will just make a point. Firstly we had other people interested and therefore we have decided to re-advertise, secondly people applying for a garage there, well there was no one who lived in the vicinity unfortunately.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Minister list the eight proposed tenderers and the one for the store which was the original question?

HON K AZOPARDI:

Well because we have decided to re-advertise I would rather not at this stage because that is not the proper tender process that will see adjudication.

HON J C PEREZ:

Is it that the Minister thinks that the Government will be able to obtain more rent if it is tendered as a store than as a garage?

HON K AZOPARDI:

No, not necessarily it is just a question of giving people an opportunity because there was a demand for storage but we did not actually allow them to do that publicly in the advertisements. A consideration that we take into account of course is when people apply for a garage whether they live anywhere in the immediate environment.

HON J C PEREZ:

But does the Minister not consider that since originally it came out for garage use and there are eight applicants that it is not that there has not been any applicants that those applicants by now feel that it is unfair that it should be re-tendered because their chances of obtaining it are much less given that the original tender was for garage only?

HON K AZOPARDI:

I do not know if it is much less the Government's view would be not to require them to re-tender, they can if they want to but they will be considered in the context of the applications that are received and I do not think it necessarily follows that they will have less of a chance we will see what happens when the process comes out and if we adjudicate it to someone who did not apply this time then the hon Member may have been right but I do not think we can assume it yet.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Was it the case that these premises had been used as a store before? We are trying to establish why the Government have changed their minds after issuing the tender and receiving the submissions on the basis of one person being interested in converting it into a store?

HON K AZOPARDI:

It is a small thing, it is either a garage or a tender. At first instance there were people firstly interested in a store, we did not allow them an opportunity. Secondly had there been a large demand from people living in say Laguna Estate then we would have adjudicated it as a garage for anyone who lives in Laguna Estate but the applications that we received were quite distant from the area we had not given an opportunity to people we knew were interested for storage use really and because those provisions anyway when we advertised that the Government do not bind themselves to accept any or the lowest tenderer we took the view that it would be fairer for everyone concerned to take the list of people who had submitted this time and allow an opportunity to people to come forward next time.

NO. 287 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

ROSIA BAY

Can Government say how many tenderers had submitted a tender for the development of Rosia Bay and the Victualling Yard before the original closing date of 18th January 2002 giving names of the tenderers in question?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question No 288 of 2002.

NO. 288 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

ROSIA BAY

Can Government say how many tenderers had submitted a tender for the development of Rosia Bay and the Victualling Yard before the original closing date of 18th January 2002 giving the names of the tenderers in question?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

No tenders have as yet been received. In any event, none are expected prior to the 15th February 2002 which is the extended closing date.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 287 AND 288 OF 2002

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Why was the tender extended until the 15th February 2002?

HON K AZOPARDI:

Because the original closing date was just after Christmas and it was felt that we really should extend it and to give people a little bit more time. Land Property Services wrote to everyone who had collected a document and gazetted the information.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

We ask because the original tender advert appeared on the 30th November 2001 with a closing date of the 18th January 2002 which gave the whole of December and half

of January and then on the 3rd January 2002 two weeks before the closing date the second advert appeared extending it to February so when the second advert appeared the first had not even closed, is there any other reason why this took place?

HON K AZOPARDI:

No as I have explained the advert appeared, it had been drafted and then appeared 30th November 2001 and I had a conversation with one of the officials who work at Land Property Services who suggested to me that it might be too short a period round about the third week of December we had this discussion that it might be too short a period because we were going to have Christmas and the New Year and we would loose three weeks effectively and I said well all right if that is a genuine consideration write to everyone who has collected the tender notice and gazette an extension of a month and that is what happened that is why they did that after we spoke in early January.

NO. 289 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Can Government say whether any objections have been received by the Development and Planning Commission in respect of the proposed developments at:

- (a) North Block Royal Naval Hospital;
- (b) Former Garrison Medical Centre, Royal Naval Hospital?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

- (a) One letter of representation has been received that supports the development in principle, but raises an objection in relation to the proposed access, parking provision and loss of public parking spaces.
- (b) One objection has been received.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 289 OF 2002

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Minister confirm whether that objection is to do with an institution that is near the Naval Hospital?

HON K AZOPARDI:

The second one?

HON S E LINARES:

Yes, an institution I do not want to mention names.

HON K AZOPARDI:

An educational institution. The nature of their objection is not that they object to the development I think all they say in their letter is that if the development would happen they will have to be relocated which seems like common sense to me.

NO. 290 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GUN WHARF

Can Government say with respect to the Gun Wharf development:

- (a) on what date was the conditional outline permit 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 developer and if so what amount and when?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

- (a) The Outline Planning Permission was granted in April 2001.
- (b) No Building Application has been submitted to the Development and Planning Commission.
- (c) The Development Licence has not yet been issued. There are on-going discussions with the MOD and the adjoining developer that will affect the extent of the development area. When these are resolved the Licence will issue.
- (d) The developer effected a part payment of £110,886.68 on 11th October 2001.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 290 OF 2002

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Do the discussions related with the MOD relate to the finger jetty?

HON K AZOPARDI:

No they relate to MOD consent is needed so that there can be some reclamation near the slipway by Gun Wharf.

NO. 291 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING COMMISSION

At what stage is the Development and Planning Commission's consideration of:-

- (a) the construction of a residential development of 71 apartments in five blocks at the Rock Hotel?
- (b) the proposed development to erect an apartment block on six floors at the staff quarters of the Rock Hotel?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

An Environmental Impact Assessment has been ordered by the Minister pursuant to the Environmental Impact Regulations. The Commission will continue its consideration of the matter once this is received.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 291 OF 2002

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Minister say who conducts the environmental impact assessments?

HON K AZOPARDI:

Whoever the developer instructs in that field, clearly it will have to be a company that are qualified in that area.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is there no independent assessment conducted by the Government?

HON K AZOPARDI:

It is funded by the developer it is supposed to be an independent environmental impact assessment. I think that there have discussions as to the party that will be appointed other than that the legislation does not require another assessment.

HON J C PEREZ:

Have Government taken a decision in principle to renegotiate the terms of the lease given that it needs the Government renegotiation of the use of the lease prior to the Development and Planning Commission granting any planning permission?

HON K AZOPARDI:

Not yet, the Government also want to await the environmental impact assessment to review their position as landlords in relation to the matter.

HON J C PEREZ:

Would it not be opportune that before the environmental report is ready that that should be the basis on which a decision is taken before the Development and Planning Commission take the project any further?

HON K AZOPARDI:

I am not sure if I follow the hon Member.

HON J C PEREZ:

The Minister is saying that there is an environmental study being undertaken to see the impact of it, I am saying should the decision of the Government not be taken at the stage when that environmental report is with it and should the Development and Planning Commission not proceed any further until there is a decision by the Government in principle on whether they will be in a position to renegotiate the terms of the lease and the financial aspects of it?

HON K AZOPARDI:

I think the processes have to run in parallel, the Commission is entitled to take into account when determining an application whether the developer, the applicant, has landlords consent which at the moment it does not. So, we can take that into account but the DPC needs to commence the process required by law and order of the assessment and so on. In parallel the Government will consider their position in the light of the environmental impact as well. I think to a large extent the thrust of what the hon Member is saying will be achieved even though the processes will run in parallel.

HON J C PEREZ:

Will the Minister give this House a commitment that none of the things that were said on television by the holder of the lease in respect of this helping him to pay back loans given by the Government to the hotel should be a consideration in looking at the feasibility or otherwise of this project?

HON K AZOPARDI:

Firstly, I did not see that interview, secondly I am trying to answer the question with two hats one because I have had supplementaries on two different lines if, one in relation to Government as landlord and one in relation to the planning process. It is certainly and I can give the hon Member a wholehearted assurance that it will have no bearing whatsoever in the planning process. The Government as landlords will consider the environmental impact and will consider other general issues of relevance and of perceived benefit to the community at large and that is the context in which it will decide that application.

HON J C PEREZ:

I take the point, my point is that consideration of the change of use of the lease should not have anything to do with the separate issue of the Government having given loans to the Rock Hotel and the possibility of those loans having to be repaid which was linked by the leaseholder in his television interview. One thing is for the Government to give a loan to a hotel and that hotel has to pay the loans regardless of whether the project goes ahead or not as we see it and that the payment or non-payment of that loan should not have an influence over looking at this project which in our view should be totally separate and unconnected with the scheme for hotels which the Government initiated in giving loans to hotels.

HON K AZOPARDI:

I certainly agree that if people have entered into financial arrangements they need to comply with them irrespective of the success or otherwise of their planning or Landlords Applications.

NO. 292 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

INDUSTRIAL PARK – NORTH MOLE

Were the units at the North Mole industrial park handed over to the Government at the end of last year as planned?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

No. The hand over is expected to take place by the end of February 2002.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 292 OF 2002

HON DR J J GARCIA:

What was the reason for the delay in this handover?

HON K AZOPARDI:

There were some additional works that were commissioned and monitoring of waterproofing elements of the roof as some leaks had been detected during the excessive rainfalls.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Are Government already in negotiation for allocations of part of that complex?

HON K AZOPARDI:

I said last time that the units will go out to tender and they will. I expect that they will go out to tender in the next couple of weeks, the tender notice is ready. The only direct allocation that the Government are considering is an allocation in a strategic location which will enable the Government to proceed with what they consider to be an important project of public interest and that is the only one that we were considering. I said that to the House last time.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is the Minister in a position to say what the project entails without revealing who the person is?

HON K AZOPARDI:

The opening of a new road.

NO. 293 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Can Government say how many meetings the Development and Planning Commission has had since 1st November 2001 giving the dates when such meetings took place?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Two meetings have been held since 1st November 2002. These were held on the 5th December 2001 and on the 24th January 2002.

NO. 294 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

INTERREG IIIB 2000 - 2006

Can Government say what funds will be destined to Gibraltar from 66.2 million euros available for south-western Europe as announced by the European Commission on 13 December 2001?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The sum of 425,000 euros (approximately £272,780) has been allocated to Gibraltar under the Interreg IIIB 2000 – 2006 for the South West Europe Programme.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 294 OF 2002

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Minister say whether this is in respect of a project which the Government has earmarked funds for or is it simply an allocation for which they now have to find a project to fill?

HON K AZOPARDI:

This is a general figure not in relation to specifics. To make use of the funds though we need to develop partnerships with other regions within the geographical area of south west Europe, with people around Gibraltar more or less, at present we are liaising with other departments to see whether projects will be put forward in areas such as heritage planning, environment and the port and representatives of those departments have been urged to discuss the matter with representatives in other countries so that we take forward possible projects.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Minister say what the role of the Managing Authority for these particular funds is giving that the Managing Authority is I think Cantabria in Spain and how are they selected for this role?

HON K AZOPARDI:

Sorry the Managing Authority is what?

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The Managing Authority, the press release issued by the European Commission says it is the Dirección General de Economía of Cantabria in Santander.

HON K AZOPARDI:

The hon Member is asking me to express a view as to how the Managing Authority is selected I do not know.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

What role do they have to play?

HON K AZOPARDI:

I do not know I think that what they might do is centrally discuss projects with other entities but if the hon Member wants some more information I would invite him to write in to the Department, I will certainly facilitate any information he wants on any specific issue in relation to this programme. What is not going to happen is what is being suggested by the Mayor of the adjoining town that there are huge sums available to build technology parks and all that, I am not sure where he gets that information.

HON J C PEREZ:

The president of the European

HON K AZOPARDI:

Well yes but I think Buck Cox's reference in the papers was in relation to a possible positive outcome to the referendum which is I would say next to zero but there have been comments made as to the prospects of using these funds for the building of massive infrastructure but as the hon Member will appreciate with this type of contribution we are not doing anything more than feasibility studies probably.

NO. 295 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

TAX EXEMPT AND QUALIFYING COMPANIES

Can Government confirm that they have not and will not issue any additional tax exempt or qualifying certificates in respect of tax exempt or qualifying companies respectively after 1st January 2002?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The Tax Exempt Unit of the Department of Trade, Industry and Telecommunications continues to process the demand for exempt and qualifying companies certificates, knowing that local management companies in the private sector are fully aware of the current situation facing these two fiscal vehicles.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION 295 OF 2002

HON J J BOSSANO:

So in fact the statements in the judgement of the court which claimed that there was a commitment by the Government of Gibraltar to discontinue the creation of new qualifying and exempt companies after the 1st January this year is not true?

HON K AZOPARDI:

When we launched the litigation at Brussels on this matter we had been advised by lawyers that the effect of the investigation process that was launched in July was to suspend the measures immediately and that we should therefore not be granting

certificates and so on. That gave rise to the interim application as a result of the judgement it has become clear that the case itself raises new jurisprudence in Brussels by which investigations launched under article 88 do not necessarily have suspense of effect and the judges made clear that this is not the case here and so we continue on that basis subsequent to what transpired in court given the court's ruling now we continue on the basis that everyone knows, all the company managers know who are making these applications what the current situation is. It may not have suspense of effect, the investigation continues and the Government are embarked on a tax restructure process that will take place to replace those vehicles.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am afraid that is not correct the judgement does not say that and there is no connection with the suspense of effect or otherwise, what the judgement said was in answer to the Government's case about the cataclysmic effect of ending exempt and qualifying companies is that they had already given a commitment to the Primorolo Group that there would be an ending of structure in the year 2005 and that no new additions would be permitted after December 2001 and according to my reading of the text of the judgement that was a commitment given by the Government to the European Commission long before the court case was launched.

HON K AZOPARDI:

No. I think the hon Member with respect has misread the judgement I will just read him one sentence in the judgement of the President of the Court of First Instance in the European Court of Justice and it just says in paragraph 100 "...as stated above" paragraph 98 "the contested decisions" the decision of July, "do not oblige the applicant immediately to suspend the legislation on exempt companies and qualifying companies." Irrespective of that the legal advice that we have is that the terms of the judgements make clear that we do not have to suspend, we can continue with the legislation until we restructure the tax system on the basis that company managers make applications with their eyes opened.

HON J J BOSSANO:

It is not a question of whether I am reading it or not reading it correctly, is it not a fact that these are not judgements or opinions of the court that I am bringing to the Government's attention. What I am bringing to their attention is what the court claims were the facts before it including the fact provided by the Gibraltar Government not by anybody else that they had given a commitment that they would not be allowing any new companies after the end of December 2001, was such a commitment given to the Commission or not?

HON K AZOPARDI:

I do not believe a commitment was given, what the Commission was told in evidence was that we had been advised that the investigation in July had this effect and this is why we were making an interim application for an injunction to the courts. Under the paragraph that says ".....findings of the president," the president himself of the court says after having recited all the facts et cetera makes the point in paragraph 98 that

the applicant is under no obligation to suspend the legislation and confirms that in paragraph 100 as a result of the judgement and the clear urging of the court that we do not have to suspend it we are continuing processing those applications so as not to undermine the finance centre on the basis that we will have a restructure shortly.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Yes, I know the Minister keeps on quoting that but I am not talking about suspending the legislation or the court action, is it factually true as it says in paragraph 103 that the legislation identified by the Primorolo Group must be rolled back not later than 2005, this is independent of the investigation under state aid and that no new companies are able to take advantage of the legislation on exempt and qualifying companies after the end of 2001 and then if that is factually what is required independent of the suspension or otherwise on state aid rules, and a commitment has been given, then that is what the judgement says happened if no such commitment was given by the Government to the Commission. I think in fact what the judgement said at one stage was that it was given both by the UK Government and subsequently by the Gibraltar Government.

HON K AZOPARDI:

Paragraph 103 states factually what the Primorolo Group requires. The Primorolo Group is the code of conduct reports. The code of conduct is a non-legally binding report and the Government do not recognise that it has obligations stemming from the code of conducts reports. It may be that the tax restructure that we intend to announce complies also coincidentally with that report but we do not recognise that we have a legally binding obligation to comply with the code of conduct report and that has been confirmed also in the House of Commons where Ministers in the UK have answered that. All I am saying is paragraph 103 was introduced as an extraneous consideration by the judge that had no legally binding bearing on this case, the effect of the judgement is that we do not need to suspend the legislation and it follows therefore that we do not need to suspend the issue certificates. That is helpful to the finance centre in that the finance centre does not grind to a halt. We will continue issuing those in the knowledge that people know that those physical vehicles will be replaced by the tax restructure that we intend to announce and we have not given a commitment to do anything else.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So, the court is wrong when it says that the United Kingdom gave a commitment of compliance with what let us call it the Primorolo Group Code of Conduct and that the Government's position on that has not changed which is today has been expressed by the Minister as it has always been expressed from the first day it appeared. That this was not a legally binding thing that it was a political agreement and that therefore we were free to choose whether we adopted it or whether we do not?

HON K AZOPARDI:

The court is not wrong in saying that the United Kingdom have said that they want to comply with this. The United Kingdom's position is different to the Government of Gibraltar, we have made our position clear it is not a legally binding one and we do

not intend to comply with it because we do not have to. It may be that the tax restructure measures comply with it as a coincidence but not because we are setting out to comply with it.

HON J J BOSSANO:

When the Minister says that the United Kingdom Government have given a commitment to the Commission which is what it says here to comply with it it is a commitment ostensibly made by the Member State responsible for our external affairs made on our behalf am I correct?

HON K AZOPARDI:

I do not know what nature of discussions have been on-going, clearly the United Kingdom in our view cannot properly enter into commitments when they know that the position of the Gibraltar Government is very different to that stated in any possible commitment.

NO. 296 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO COMPANIES

As at 31st January 2002 had any of the companies that have received financial assistance from the Government failed to meet interests or repayment requirements on their loans and if so which companies?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & TELECOMMUNICATIONS

As at 31st January 2002 three companies have failed to meet their interest and capital repayments on their respective loans. J & B Enterprises, Carlton Design, and Zenith Printers.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 296 OF 2002

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is there in the loan agreements a consequence to default, does it trigger on any action on the part of the Government in those agreements?

HON K AZOPARDI:

I have not seen those loan agreements I would imagine so, I would imagine it gives the Government rights to pursue the debt if there is default. If they are properly drafted.

HON J J BOSSANO:

How much in default are they?

HON K AZOPARDI:

I do not have that information I have information as to the loan amounts but I do not have information as to the extent of default.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The loan amounts would be the amounts that should have been paid by now?

HON K AZOPARDI:

No, the loan amounts is what was given in the first place.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Does the Minister have information as to, for example, in the three cases have they paid any interest at all or nothing?

HON K AZOPARDI:

I do not have that information, I have information that in one of the cases we moved to take possession of assets so there must be some provision under the loan agreement that allows that to happen after court proceedings.

HON J J BOSSANO:

After court proceedings, well other than that one case is anything else being done to make people comply with the terms of the loans or not?

HON K AZOPARDI:

Anticipate that there are provisions in the loan agreement that allow recovery and that Treasury is reviewing. What usually happens is that these loan agreements are entered into by Treasury who then monitor through the Central Arrears Unit what default there is and what recovery proceedings and what course of action is followed in each case. I believe that they have done so in relation to all three cases.

HON J J BOSSANO:

To all three?

HON K AZOPARDI:

Yes, that they have reviewed it I do not know what specific action they are taking in relation to all of them. I know that in one they have taken court proceedings.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can the Minister say which of the three has gone to court proceedings?

HON K AZOPARDI:

In relation to the loan to J & B Enterprises there have been court proceedings because an order was entered by the Supreme Court for possession of the assets in September.

HON J J BOSSANO:

What was the amount in the case of J & B Enterprises?

HON K AZOPARDI:

£39,457.00.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Would the court proceedings be on the basis that because they have defaulted they have to repay the loan in full, does he know whether that is the nature?

HON K AZOPARDI:

I would imagine so and that I would imagine that there must be provision in the loan agreement that if someone defaults and one takes court action one goes for recovery of the whole amount or for at ones election one can decide to pursue presumably just what is in default and if people do not pay then, which must have been the case in that situation, the court can order possession of the assets.

HON J J BOSSANO:

But the Minister does not know in this particular case what it is that has transpired, whether the Government have sought an order from the court to recover the full amount that was left, presumably he can obtain that information and let us have it.

HON K AZOPARDI:

Yes.

NO. 297 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

COMMON LAW IMMUNITY

Can Government state whether they intend to take any action in respect of the comments made by Lord Justice Neill, the President of the Court of Appeal, over the common law immunity the Crown enjoys in respect of accidents on the highway?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Government have this issue under review.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 297 OF 2002

HON J C PEREZ:

Could the Chief Minister indicate to us whether they intend to move quickly on this subject or whether it is not a priority?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Government take seriously any structural criticism of the law coming from such a judiciary eminent source in this matter as indeed they have done and intend to do in the case of the Landlords and Tenants Ordinance were the Court of Appeal has made a similar observation I think we have conveyed the Government's views to the hon Members in the past in the House in which I recall saying to them that the Government were minded to modernise the law in this regard but wished to wait until their Highways Refurbishment Programme was more advanced in order that if the tax payer is to start assuming liability for accidents on the highway that at least we

should start that new scenario from the position of maximum good condition of the highway rather than start to incur those liabilities at a time when the highway suffers from many decades of under investment. So, the answer is yes we do intend to act on the indication from the President of the Court of Appeal, it is not a priority in the sense that the legislation is not imminent but it will be done when the Highways Refurbishment Programme is more advanced. Basically that means not that roads have all been fixed but that the infrastructure for Government to react to dangerous situations on the highway has been upgraded, I am thinking, for example, of the restructure of the highways department which will put the Government in a position to be able to maintain the highway as I am sure both he and I will both like to see it maintained.

NO. 298 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

GIBTEL/NYNEX

Have steps now been taken to initiate legal proceedings against the European Commission for failure to act over the six year old complaints made by Gibtel and Nynex, over Spain's refusal to recognise the 350 International telephone code?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

By letters dated 5th December 2001 and 22nd January 2002, Gibtel and GNC have requested a meeting with the Commission in order to seek its view on the Spanish "offer" to grant further numbers to Gibraltar. As is known, the Spanish "offer", as it currently stands, is unacceptable to the Government of Gibraltar, Gibtel, GNC and Verizon, the Government of Gibraltar's partner in the companies and indeed to the independent Gibraltar Telecoms Regulator. Legal action cannot be taken by the Government. It is a matter for the two telephone companies. If they decide to take legal action the Government would warmly support their decision.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 298 OF 2002

HON J J BOSSANO:

But presumably it is open to the Government as shareholder in the meetings of the Board to propose such a step. It would be a question whether the Government's partner agrees with the Government or not even though the Government warmly supports the decision if they take it.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I would have thought that what I had said would be sufficient for the Leader of the Opposition to read between the lines because he must understand that it would be

completely unhelpful for Gibraltar if there was any degree of politically motivated decision making behind the decision of the companies to proceed and therefore I would limit myself to what I have already said in answer to the first question.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am surprised that the Chief Minister should say that because at one stage he said what he has just said and then he subsequently said that that was no longer a constraint because it had been made clear that the Spanish side was acting politically and therefore we were then free from that constraint I certainly recall him saying that in the House. In any case is it not up to the companies to take it and the Government as shareholder to press them on it and I do not see how that has got any question other than that the Government would be protecting their investment as a shareholder.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I have answered the question to the extent that I propose to.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Has any thought been given to taking action against the commission's failure to act?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Since I have given no answer there cannot possibly be a supplementary on it.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The original answer was that they were seeking a meeting with the Commission on the question of the Spanish offer of 70,000 numbers in the Cadiz numbering plan does that not imply that that is an alternative recognition of the 350 if the companies take that position with the Commission?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So the companies even if they sort out the technicalities which make the present offer unacceptable would continue to press for the recognition of the 350?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

That is a matter for the companies.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well would the Government welcome the companies doing it?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I have answered that in my original question.

HON J J BOSSANO:

No he has not answered that, I am asking if the 70,000 numbers which have been on offer and which are unacceptable to everybody as a result of the matter being taken up by the Commission which is the original answer is satisfactorily resolved, would the Government welcome the 350 issue still being pursued by the companies?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Government's position on that has been made repeatedly clear in this House and indeed recently in a public statement that was made on this very issue and that is that the Government even if an acceptable offer of 70,000 numbers were made would not accept it as a final resolution of the telephone issue between Gibraltar and Spain.

NO. 299 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

TELEPHONE NUMBERING PROBLEM

Have Government informed the European commission of the aspects of the offer made by Spain of extra telephone numbers which run contrary to EU Law?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No 300 of 2002.

NO. 300 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

TELEPHONE NUMBERING PROBLEM

Do Government feel that the aspects of the Spanish offer of extra telephone numbers which run contrary to EU Law will have any effect in pushing the European Commission to initiate legal proceedings against Spain?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Yes, I cannot speculate on what effect the aspects of the Spanish offer to which he refers will have on the EU Commission, in the Government's view, however, the offer is, on the face of it, a breach of Competition Rules and principles.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 299 AND 300 OF 2002

HON J C PEREZ:

What the Chief Minister is saying is that that has been made clear to the commission now, that has been put forward to the Commission?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It has been made clear to both the Commission and to the British Government and the hon Member may have detected a slightly less warm reference from the British side to the telephone offer in the London Straw/Piqué Communique than was present in the Barcelona Straw/ Piqué Communique and the Government believe that the reason for that difference in attitude on the part of the British Government is that they have now absorbed the analysis that has been provided to them from Gibraltar of that offer.

HON J C PEREZ:

Is it the Government that have informed the European Commission or the companies?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The hon Member knows that independently of the legal complaints made by the two companies, the Government have separately been pursuing a governmental representation to the Commission throughout this. Indeed to that effect I met briefly with the Commissioner responsible during my recent visits to Strasbourg but the answer is that the Government have informed the Commission directly of this by providing to the Commission under cover of letter a copy of all the papers that we have sent to the UK including three separate independent analysis of the effect of the Spanish offer competition licensing and regulatory principles.

HON J C PEREZ:

Has the Chief Minister any idea when they expect to receive the reply from the Commission on that aspect?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is not unusual for the Commission not to reply to the Gibraltar Government on the basis that they take the view that from whichever part of a Member State they receive letters that the substance of the reply they channel through their established Member State communication channels which invariably takes via the UK. I usually however or I have in the past received some holding or courteous minimalist acknowledgement or response without actually dealing with the subject with the substance of the complaint in any detail, whether that will be the case on this occasion or not remains to be seen but I am certainly happy to let the House know how things develop on that front.

NO. 301 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

OMBUDSMAN'S REPORT

Of the cases investigated by the Ombudsman after his December 2000 report, where the conclusion is that either a Government Department or a Government Agency has acted wrongly, can Government state whether they have taken any action to correct this, and in this respect of which cases?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

After his December 2000 report the Ombudsman has identified a total of 46 cases where he has concluded that a complaint against a Government department or agency has been sustained. The recommendations made in respect of 26 cases have been accepted. In respect of 10 cases the recommendations were refused, 10 cases are pending resolution. I hand the hon Member a list summarising the cases and their current status as to the action taken.

Answer to Question 301 of 2002

Recommendations made throughout 2001

Attorney General's Chambers

CS/175	Not having been granted a goodwill payment.	- Case sustained.	Recommendation refused.
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Buildings & Works

CS/231	Refurbishment works at block of flats without taking the necessary safety precautions.	- Case sustained.	Recommendation pending.
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Civil Status and Registration Office

CS/192	Not granting passports.	- Case sustained.	Recommendation accepted.
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Education and Training

CS/258	Failure to treat complainant as a mature and independent student entitling her to exemption from parental contributing in her final year of her degree course.	- Case sustained.	Recommendation accepted.
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CS/64	Grant and tuition fees.	- Case sustained.	Recommendation accepted.
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Employment Service

CS/226	Refusing to issue a work permit.	- Case sustained.	Recommendation pending.
CS/248	Alleged breach of agreement.	- Case sustained.	Recommendation accepted.

Environmental Agency Ltd.

CS/57	Failure to properly address the Complainant's grievances.	- Case sustained.	Recommendation pending.
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Gibraltar Health Authority

CS/3	Alleged clinical malpractice and delay in obtaining a reply from the administration.	- Case sustained.	Recommendation pending.
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Housing Agency

CS/196	Delay in re-housing.	- Case not sustained.	Recommendation accepted.
CS/232	Inordinate delays in answering letters and tackling a housing problem.	- Case sustained.	Recommendation refused.
CS/234	Delay in re-housing.	- Case not sustained.	Recommendation refused.
CS/205	Allegedly not keeping agreement.	- Case not sustained.	Recommendation pending.
CS/244	Failing to decant.	- Case not sustained.	Recommendation accepted.
CS/191	Delay in re-housing.	- Case not sustained.	Recommendation accepted.
CS/286	Alleged lack of interest in resolving a housing problem.	- Case sustained.	Recommendation accepted.
CS/153	Failure to adequately address re-housing requirement.	- Case sustained.	Recommendation accepted.
CS/159	Failure to check the rent account for confirmation of husband's payment and then requesting sum of £1815.10 in arrears from complainant.	- Case sustained.	Recommendation accepted.
CS/177	Failure to request the payment of rent arrears on termination of tenancy and failure to inform.	- Case sustained.	Recommendation accepted.
CS/182	An eviction and the way it was handled.	- Case not sustained.	Recommendation accepted.
CS/201	Delay in re-housing and for having been taken off the waiting list.	- Case sustained.	Recommendation accepted.
CS/203	Delay in answering letter and because of the Agency's refusal in allowing a further extension.	- Case sustained.	Recommendation accepted.
CS/213	Delay in the payment of compensation and in re-housing.	- Case sustained.	Recommendation accepted.
CS/219	Alleged inadequate manner the complainant was treated involved a dispute with a neighbour.	- Case sustained.	Recommendation refused.
CS/274	Problems with the complainant's flat.	- Case sustained.	Recommendation accepted.
CS/282	Refusal to make a second offer of accommodation.	- Case sustained.	Recommendation refused.

Income Tax

CS/183	Failure to grant tax relief in respect of payments.	- Case not sustained.	Recommendation refused.
CS/202	Tax relief.	- Case sustained.	Recommendation accepted.

Contd.

Contd...Answer to Question 301 of 2002

Land Property Services Ltd.

CS/134	Negligently demarcating a boundary between residential property.	- Case sustained.	Recommendation refused.
CS/17	Loss of opportunity to purchase a property that had been in the family since the 1950's.	- Case sustained.	Recommendation refused.

Royal Gibraltar Police

CS/260	Ignoring calls for assistance.	- Case not sustained.	Recommendation accepted.
CS/173	Loss of personal belongings.	- Case sustained.	Recommendation accepted.
CS/253	No parking sign which allegedly was not gazetted.	- Case sustained.	Recommendation accepted.
CS/200	Removal and disposal of a motorbike.	- Case sustained.	Recommendation accepted.

Social Security

CS/97	For failure to review and update the Schedule to the Social Security.	- Case sustained.	Recommendation pending.
CS/125	Failure to notify the Complainant upon her enquiry of a statutory time-limit within which unemployment benefit may be claimed and collected.	- Case sustained.	Recommendation pending.
CS/209	Withdrawing the Complainant's Social Assistance Benefit ('SAB') of £29.10 per week given her refusal to seek a Maintenance Order against her former partner.	- Case sustained.	Recommendation pending.
CS/250	Suspending the complainant's unemployment benefit.	- Case not sustained.	Recommendation accepted.

Technical Services

CS/131	Not using material specifically imported for the performance of a Government contract.	- Case sustained.	Recommendation accepted.
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Trade, Industry and Telecommunications

CS/240	Not having been granted development aid.	- Case sustained.	Recommendation pending.
CS/217	Alleged failure to inform complainant of the anticipated Increase in import duty.	- Case not sustained.	Recommendation refused.

Contd.

Contd... Answer to Question 301 of 2002

Traffic Commission

CS/254 Delay in issuing a parking permit for the disabled.

- Case sustained.

Recommendation refused.

CS/256 Delay in issuing a parking permit for the disabled.

- Case sustained.

Recommendation accepted.

Treasury

CS/197 Failure to make arrangements for payment for respite care for handicapped child.

- Case sustained.

Recommendation accepted.

Tourism and Transport

CS/224 Requesting that the Dock Labour Board ('DLB') discontinue with the re-registration of dock workers.

- Case sustained.

Recommendation accepted.

Others

CS/208 Alleged failure in advertising a vacancy for Pilots' Administrative Fees Collector.

- Case sustained.

Recommendation pending.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 301 OF 2002

HON J C PEREZ:

Clearly of the cases not accepted were a decision has already been taken, Government take a different view from that of the Ombudsman, of those 10 cases has any legal action been initiated against the Government in respect of those particular cases that have been rejected?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I am not presently aware that any legal action has been started many of the complaints may not give way to a legal course of action anyway, some of them might but many of them will not.

NO. 302 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

POST OF COLLECTOR OF CUSTOMS

Has the vacancy of Collector of Customs now been advertised?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

No.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 302 OF 2002

HON J C PEREZ:

The last time I raised the matter in the House the Chief Minister said that there were two people acting and that the vacancy would be open because the question of acting was so that both persons could get enough experience obviously in order to be able to apply, has that position changed or is it the same position at the moment?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I understand there is one acting Collector as such and I expect the position will change shortly in the sense that the matter will be proceeded with and the post will be advertised.

HON J C PEREZ:

Is the Chief Minister intending that the vacancy should be opened internally or is he thinking that it should be opened out of the Government Service?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No the Government have no intentions of advertising it outside the Government Service.

NO. 303 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

RESTRUCTURE OF PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT

Is the restructure into the Personnel Department now completed, and if so, are Government now in a position to open the vacancy of Personnel Manager?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Chief Secretary has completed his review of the structure of the Personnel Department and his recommendations are now being considered. These involve a number of changes in staffing and working practices, including a redefinition of the role of Personnel Manager.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 303 OF 2002

HON J C PEREZ:

I ask the Chief Minister the same thing whether the intention is that the vacancy will be opened internally or is it the thinking that someone from outside the service should be recruited?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The hon Member should not assume that it involves any recruitment but certainly if it did involve recruitment it would not be from outside the service but the restructure does not necessarily involve the creation of a vacancy.

HON J C PEREZ:

I am only asking that because of what the Chief Minister has said previously to this so, what the Chief Minister is saying is that as a result of the restructure there might not be a need to open up the post of Personnel Manager and that that post will be lost?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Chief Minister does not mean that at all, the fact that a restructure does not result in the opening of a vacancy does not necessarily mean that a post is going to be lost it may continue to be held by the person who holds it but with redefined responsibilities as I said in my original answer.

HON J C PEREZ:

What the Chief Minister is saying is that there might be a reassessment of the post so that the individual that is now acting, for example, in the reassessment might be made Personnel Manager without the vacancy having been advertised is that the situation?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The hon Member is talking about the difference about acting and substantive I am talking about the incumbent rather than about the post. No what would be redefined are the responsibilities attaching to the existing post, the post will remain the same and it will be filled from within and not from outside the service so, there may be a redefinition of the functions of the Personnel Manager in the sense that some of the existing functions may be moved elsewhere.

HON J C PEREZ:

I accept what the Chief Minister is saying but he says then that it should not follow that the post needs necessarily to be advertised.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I beg your pardon on the basis that the incumbent is acting it would need to be filled in the usual way, yes.

NO. 304 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

LAND PROPERTY SERVICES

Have Government now finalised the review of the contract with Land Property Services?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

No, a review of the current contractual arrangements has been looked into by Baker Tilley on behalf of the Government. The proposals are still being looked into by Treasury in consultation with Land Property Services Ltd.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 304 OF 2002

HON J C PEREZ:

When was it decided to involve Baker Tilley in the matter?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not know.

HON J C PEREZ:

So the situation at the moment is that Baker Tilley has done a report and the recommendations of that report have been discussed between Land Property Services and the Treasury and I presume an input from Convent Place will have to come at some stage after that discussion, is that the case?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, the Government will of course have to make policy decisions on the question of the alterations to the Land Property Services contract, I can only assume that the hon Members share the Government's desire to arrive at a solution which is both value for money for the taxpayers and also fair to the shareholders and employees of Land Property Services and I assume that the hon Member's interests in this matter is in the same vein as is the Government's in this matter.

HON J C PEREZ:

May I ask the Chief Minister whether the report of the contractorisation of Baker Tilley was something that was proposed by the Government and if so who is paying the cost of the report whether it is Government only or jointly the Government and Land Property Services.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not but nor do the Government feel it appropriate necessarily to go into too much detail of what is an on-going contractual negotiation but the answer to his question is that I do not know, I assume it is a Government commissioned report and therefore, I assume although he should not take that on its face unless I have had an opportunity to check it that therefore the Government will be paying the fee.

NO. 305 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY

Is it the intention of Government to proceed with the setting up of an Electricity Authority?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Yes.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 305 OF 2002

HON J C PEREZ:

Can the Chief Minister explain how he intends to do this given that the information that is in the public domain is that there is a chunk of the workforce that has accepted the offer and quite a substantial number of the workers in the Electricity Department that have not accepted the offer of the Government, can the Chief Minister state how the Government intend to proceed in that situation?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No I think it would be inappropriate for the Government to say how they intend to proceed in this situation precisely for the very reason that he has highlighted in his question and in any event discussions continue.

NO. 306 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

GGCA/PROSPECT

Can Government state whether the Association representing clerical and technical grades, Prospect, have taken up the offer made by the Chief Minister at their Christmas party, which is to put to arbitration their differences with Government over the 1999 and 2000 Pay Reviews?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Yes.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 306 OF 2002

HON J C PEREZ:

At what stage are we can the Chief Minister say whether the position is that we are now looking for an independent acceptable arbitrator or whether that has already been done?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Again subject to the caveat that it is neither conventional nor indeed helpful to conduct matters of industrial relations in the sort of public way that the hon Member's questioning requires I can say this, the Government and Prospect have agreed in principle to submit the remaining differences to arbitration and discussions will now take place about the detail of how that arbitration is conducted. They have not actually yet commenced those discussions.

HON J C PEREZ:

Will the result of that arbitration have any bearing on the pay of the Customs and the Port Department who at one stage were linked with the clerical grades in respect of those two reviews?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Customs and the Port remain analogued as they have always been, there has not been any change to that analogue there are on-going discussions but they have not yet been concluded.

NO. 307 of 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR CHRONICLE

Further to Question No 1176 of 2001 why was the £35,000 for an in-depth study of the Gibraltar Chronicle Ltd paid for by the Government?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Government decided to make a grant to the Gibraltar Chronicle Ltd in order to find an independent assessment of its problems and needs.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 307 OF 2002

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can Government say whether the grant was made to the Chronicle itself or to the experts that carried it out and if so who was it that chose the experts, the Government or the Chronicle itself?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The experts were selected by the Chronicle and the Government had no difficulty with the experts that they had selected. I cannot tell him whether the payment was made directly to the experts or made to the Chronicle and they actually passed it on to the experts, in either case it was by way of grant to the Chronicle.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Were these funds available under the Gibraltar Enterprise Scheme or the Gibraltar In Europe Business Development Scheme or from any other source?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, they are not from that area at all. They are from the Government's vote for studies and assessments and reports.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Were Government given a report of the conclusions that the experts reached?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

How long ago is it since the Government have had the report?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I cannot remember, I would have thought over a year ago or around a year ago. I cannot say from memory.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Have the discussions on providing assistance to the Chronicle then been based on the recommendations in that report?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes that is the case.

NO. 308 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

REFORM OF COMPANY TAX

When do the Government expect to be in a position to make public their reform of company tax?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Government do not consider it appropriate to speculate publicly on this very sensitive issue. The reform package will be published when it is ready, and it is appropriate to do so, that is to say even when it is ready it may be withheld for an appropriate timing but I repeat it is not ready yet.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 308 OF 2002

HON J J BOSSANO:

In terms of being confident that the reform will achieve the desired result of overcoming the problems created by the new scenario of State Aid and all the rest of it, is it the approach of the Government to test this with either the UK or the Commission or to take their own technical and legal advice and proceed?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, there is an element of both and that is to say that the Government on the one hand will not concede to the UK a lack of fiscal autonomy on the part of Gibraltar, indeed the Leader of the Opposition may be aware that to stop the EU tax code the chancellor is himself saying to the Commission that because the overseas territories fiscal autonomy all he can do is try to persuade them to fall into line while our Constitutional Status is the same as all the other overseas territories in that respect. So, we have the same degree of fiscal autonomy which we do not wish to

compromise or prejudice in the current situation, on the other hand the State Aid challenge is a legalistic challenge to Gibraltar State Aid. Therefore, the United Kingdom has a legitimate entitlement to be satisfied that we are properly resolving that issue if and when it becomes a legal obligation to do so which is not yet because the hon Member will recall the investigation has only just started. There is not yet a legally binding obligation so at the moment we are in a sort of limbo where the Government may move sooner than they strictly need to for reasons of finance centre confidence et cetera et cetera therefore is not under any compulsion to consult the UK as to the proposed reform but the Government do intend to refer the proposed tax reform both to the UK and to the EU Commission because in the former case because the legislation will in any case require royal ascent and in the latter case because we need to be satisfied that it will put to an end to the State Aids challenge by the EU code. So there is no value to Gibraltar and particularly given that it is such a sensitive area for the finance centre and therefore to the economy there is no point in launching a proposal which then does not work and the finance centre just gets plunged back into uncertainty.

NO. 309 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

LEGAL ACTION AGAINST THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

What was the total cost, giving a breakdown, of the Government's legal action against the European Commission following the latter's decision to open a State Aid investigation against the Gibraltar Qualifying Company and the Gibraltar Tax Exempt Company?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The cost to date is as follows:

White & Case	£155,837.00
Michael Llamas	£ 67,150.00
Professor J Fletcher	£ 4,000.00
Triay, Stagnetto & Neish	£ 3,000.00

£229,987.00

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 309 OF 2002

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Chief Minister explain what the £4,000 paid to Professor Fletcher were in aid of?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, Professor Fletcher was a professional witness and as the hon Member knows it is both customary and indeed acceptable for professional witnesses to charge a professional fee.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is it not the case that he did not turn up according to my recollection of the report of the courts there was originally an objection to him appearing and then the objection was removed but he did not turn up because he was unable to turn up for some personal reason did he still charge the fee?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not know whether he turned up or not, I had not heard that. He may not have turned up for oral examination but I am certain that he submitted an affidavit and a report to the court of the work involved in doing that presumably to what he charged the fee to. I am sure that Professor Fletcher would not charge a fee for work that he did not do and he is not a lawyer he is a University Professor.

NO. 310 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TAXATION OF SAVINGS INCOME DIRECTIVE

Can Government say at what stage are the negotiations to persuade the United Kingdom to allow Gibraltar to enjoy transitional provisions from the application of the future directive on the taxation of savings income?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

No such negotiations are taking place. The UK Government have refused to promote amendments to the draft directive that would have the effect described in the question.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 310 OF 2002

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Chief Minister say whether the Government are aware as to whether the UK has adopted the same position in relation to the crown dependencies or other territories which they are responsible for?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

This requires a detailed understanding of the nature of the directive itself which I think we have debated in the House before at Question Time. The starting point is that the position of Gibraltar is different in the context of directives to the rest of the overseas territories because we unlike they are part of the European Community and therefore the directive has legal effect on us but on this occasion and whereas usually directives do not apply to those overseas territories and crown dependencies that are not in the EU for these purposes, none of the crown dependencies even are

part of the Single Marketing Services capital. On this occasion this directive is subject to what is called sequencing provisions, in other words at Feira a year or so ago the Member States agreed that they would not adopt this directive for the community as a whole unless certain third countries and certain dependent territories of Member States agreed to do certain things. In the case of the third country and I think there were six, they had to take what were called equivalent measures. The overseas and dependent territories and other associated territories of Member States and they were listed had to agree to take the same measures so the requirement was equivalent measures in the case of non-Member independent countries and the same measures in the case of associated territories of Member States. All that is called in community jargon in case the hon Member wants to use the phrase "sequencing provisions" it remains moot whether all those places are going to give the undertaking that they seek, the difficulty for Gibraltar which is the basis upon which we were making our submissions to the United Kingdom namely the level playing field is that given that three Member States have now been given a transition period of seven years were they can choose between exchanging information or withholding the tax, given that three Member States are in that position it is going to be jolly difficult not to say completely immoral for anyone to expect a third country or even an overseas territory of a Member State to be worse off than the three Member States of the Community that have the transition. So what I think is going to happen at the very least is that the same measures or equivalent measures are going to mean the same or equivalent as the three transition states not as the twelve states that get no transition and we are according to the terms of the directive are in the category of the twelve states without transition, result is that at least for the seven year transition period all are competitors, at least the European ones will have the choice between withholding tax or exchanging information whereas theoretically Gibraltar will not have that choice.

NO. 311 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

OECD TAX INCENTIVES

Has there been any more contact between the Government and the OECD in relation to their initiative on harmful tax competition, since the last Question Time in this House?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No 312 of 2002.

NO. 312 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

OECD TAX INCENTIVES

Can Government say whether the letter of commitment to the OECD will be given by the United Kingdom or by the Gibraltar Government and when they expect this to happen?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answer to Question No 311 of 2002

Yes the Government have made contact with the OECD since the last Question Time in the House.

Answer to Question No 312 of 2002

The letter of commitment will be given by and issued by the Government of Gibraltar. The Government of Gibraltar expect this to happen by the 28th February 2002 deadline.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 311 AND 312 OF 2002

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Did contact with the OECD take the form of officials actually travelling here or Gibraltar Government officials going there or was it simply correspondence?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Not it has been both correspondence and a meeting that took place between finance centre that is DTI officials and representatives of my office visiting Paris to meet the OECD directly.

NO. 313 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

INVESTOR COMPENSATION SCHEME DIRECTIVE

Can Government say at what stage is the European Commission's action against the United Kingdom over the implementation of the Investor Compensation Scheme Directive in Gibraltar?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Infraction proceedings were commenced on 24th July 2000 which was the date that an Article 226 letter was issued. The UK replied on Gibraltar's behalf on 24th October 2000. The Commission issued its Reasoned opinion on 2nd February 2001 to which UK replied on 2nd April 2001. The Commission decided to refer the matter to the European Court of Justice on 12th July 2001 and the relevant application was lodged at the Court on 10th December 2001. The defence was due in Court by 10th February 2002, however we understand the UK is seeking a six week extension of time.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 313 OF 2002

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The Investor Compensation Scheme Ordinance has since been published as a Bill what bearing does that have in this House adopting this and all the infraction proceedings?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Incalculable.

NO. 314 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

OFFSHORE BETTING LICENCES

Can Government say whether there have been any new applications for a licence to conduct offshore betting from Gibraltar since the last Question Time in this House, and whether any other applications remain under consideration since then?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Four enquiries have been received since the information provided in answer to Question No 1119 of 2001 in October 2001, of which only one is being pursued. There are five other applications being processed. Of these three are from existing operators seeking to expand their gaming operations in Gibraltar and have been approved in principle. Of the remaining two, one has been approved in principle and the other is under consideration.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 314 OF 2002

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Chief Minister say what the three existing operators were seeking to expand, is that to expand the offshore betting or to expand into something else that is linked to it like, for example, casino or the type?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The latter.

NO. 315 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

OFFSHORE BETTING

Can Government say how many people are employed in the offshore betting industry, indicating how many are part-time and how many are full-time as at 31st December 2001 and 31st January 2002, 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

Based on returns received from licensed operators as at 31st January 2002 a total of 412 persons were employed by eight operators. I hand the hon Member the employment information he has requested.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 315 OF 2002

HON J J BOSSANO:

The source of the information is what the people registered with the ETB?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No as I said in the answer to the question these are based on returns received from licensed operators as at the 31st January 2002. We are monitoring this, the quickest way to monitor this is to ask them to submit a return of their employees, there are only eight operators.

OFFSHORE GAMING COMPANIES - EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS AS AT 31 JANUARY 2002

Licensed Operators

	<u>Gibraltar</u>	<u>Other British</u>	<u>Spanish</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Total</u>
Ladbroke (Gibraltar) Limited - Full Time	6	14	0	4	24
- Part Time	0	0	0	0	0
Sub-Total	6	14	0	4	24
Victor Chandler (Int) Limited - Full Time	37	105	6	31	179
- Part Time	33	20	9	3	65
Sub-Total	70	125	15	34	244
Simon Bold (Gibraltar) Limited - Full Time	13	17	0	10	40
- Part Time	0	0	0	2	2
Sub-Total	13	17	0	12	42
Stan James (Gibraltar) Limited - Full Time	23	43	0	2	68
- Part Time	6	0	0	1	7
Sub-Total	29	43	0	3	75
Netgame Limited)					
Rock Game)	7	1	3	3	14
Eurobet (Gibraltar) Limited	2	0	1	3	6
Demmysportsbet.com Limited	4	3	0	0	7
Totals:-					
Full Time	92	183	10	53	338
Part Time	39	20	9	6	74
Overall Total	131	203	19	59	412

Source: Office of the Financial & Development Secretary

NO. 316 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

VISAS FOR NON-EU NATIONALS

What is the total number of visas issued in British Consular offices in Morocco for non-EU nationals wishing to travel to Gibraltar on a monthly basis since November 2001 inclusive, providing a breakdown showing those issued in Tangier and Casablanca?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The total number of visas for Gibraltar issued in Morocco since 1st November 2001 up to and including 5th February 2002 on a monthly basis is as follows:-

November 2001	-	85
December 2001	-	74
January 2002	-	76
February 2002	-	10
Total No of visas issued	-	245

The number of visas issued by Tangier and Casablanca is :

		<u>Tangier</u>	<u>Casablanca</u>
November 2001	-	71	5
December 2001	-	52	16
January 2002	-	61	5
February 2002	-	8	0

ORAL

NO. 317 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

NUMBER OF LICENSED RESTAURANTS

Can Government supply a list of all licensed restaurants and bars in Gibraltar as on 31st January 2002?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos 318 and 320 of 2002.

NO. 318 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

NUMBER OF TAVERN LICENCES

How many premises have a tavern licence with extended hours as on 31st January 2002 and can Government provide a list?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos 317 and 320 of 2002.

NO. 319 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

“ALL HOURS” LICENSING

Can Government say whether their initiative to allow bars, restaurants and discos in designated areas to open all hours has had the intended effect of deterring our youth from going to Spain for their leisure activities?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Government are delighted with the effect that Casemates and the “all hours” licensing has had on day and night-time leisure in Gibraltar. It has provided local young people with an alternative to going to Spain.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 319 OF 2002

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Given that the idea is to offer an alternative and people then make a choice, given that one of the intentions of the Government was precisely to encourage people to stay here, can the Chief Minister say whether in fact it is possible to monitor that or whether that intended effect of the legislation is being monitored in any way?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I am glad that the hon Member picked up the distinction between the words used in his question and the words used in my answer. The Government do not do things like these to deter people from going to Spain, people should feel perfectly free to go to Spain as indeed I do when I get the opportunity. The Government did not

introduce Casemates to deter people from going to Spain, it introduced Casemates so that people would have a choice and not feel obliged to go to Spain in pursuit of their leisure. The Government do not have available any scientific means of testing the position, I understand from the owners of the various restaurants in Casemates that they do a very intense trade on Friday and Saturday nights, of course some of that business may have been almost certainly will have been dislocated from existing establishments elsewhere in Gibraltar but my understanding is that much of it is not dislocated to the extent that I have available to me a source of information, it is my daughter who is a regular user of Casemates who tells me people are exercising their choice indeed they are staying in Gibraltar for longer hours and for more of the days and they sometimes do go to Spain and frankly that is fine. As I said in my answer the Government consider the Casemates project to have been a resounding success.

NO. 320 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

LEISURE AREAS (LICENSING) ORDINANCE

Have any restaurants or bars in Gibraltar been refused a licence further to the list of licensed restaurants and bars supplied at the last Question Time in this House?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answer to Question Nos 317 and 318 of 2002

The information requested by the hon Member is set out in the schedules that I hand to him.

Answer to Question No 320 of 2002

Since the last Question Time in November 2001, neither the Magistrates Court sitting as the Licensing Authority nor the Licensing Authority pursuant to the Leisure Areas (Licensing) Ordinance have refused any licences to restaurants or bars for which they have respective jurisdictions.

Answer to Question No 317 of 2002

LIST OF BARS AND RESTAURANTS AS AT 31ST JANUARY 2002 - *UNDER THE LICENSING AND FEES ORDINANCE*

Name & Address of Premises
007 Bar -- 3 Eastern Beach
Al Andaluz - 23 Cornwall's Lane
Anchor Bar - Watergardens
Anglo Hispano _Sandpits Vault
Ark Royal Bar - 36 Irish Town
Bacchus Wine Bistro - 30 John Mc Square
Bahia Restaurant Bar - 2 Queensway
Bahia Restaurant Disco Bar
Barbary Ape Cafeteria - Grand Parade
Beach Bar - Both Worlds
Bourbon Street - 150 Main Street
Bristol Hotel - Cathedral Square
Buddies - 15 Cannon Lane
Bunters - 1 College Lane
Cable Car Top Station Bar/Café - Cable Car Top Station
Café Cyberworld - Unit 14/16 Ocean Heights
Café Roma - Unit G1 Cornwall's Centre
Café Roxy - 15 Cooperage Lane
Calpe Hounds - 22 Cornwall's Lane
Cannon Hotel - 7/9 Cannon Lane
Captains Cabin - 5 John Mc Square
Catholic community Centre - Line Wall Road
Chicago - 10 cannon Lane
Chimney Corner Club - 1 & 2 Fish Market Road
Coach and Horses - 1 South Sheds Place
Cool Blues Café - 310 Main Street
Copacabana - 242 Main Street
Corks Wine Bar - 79 Irish Town
Curro Jimenez - Maidstone House
Departure Lounge Bar - Air Terminal
Devil's Bar - 59 Devil's Tower Road
Eastern Beach Kiosk (Chringuito)
El Burlaero - 5 Governor's Parade
El Cortijo - 12 Town Range
El Rincon - unit 19 Block 3 Watergardens
Elliott Hotel - Governor's Parade
Frontier Club - 126 Devils Tower Camp
funky Monkey - 1 Eastern Beach
Gatsby's Eating House - Units 1, 2 & 3 Watergardens
Golden Gate - 15 Cooperage Lane
Hole in T'Wall - 5K Castle Road
Hong Kong Chinese Restaurant - 13 Market Lane
Horseshoe Bar - 193 Main Street
Il Piccolo Mondo - 9 Governor's Parade
Jola Café - Unit No 5A - 1 Old Chubb Store
Jumpers Wheel - 20 Rosia Road
Just A Nibble - Unit F15 ICC
Kafe Kuby - 45 Main Street
Kerry's - G5 Cornwall Centre

Answer to Question No 317 of 2002

Kowloons Unit - 20 Waterdanes
La Bayuca - 21 Turnbull's Lane
La Mamela - 15 Catalan Bay
Laguna Bar - 14 Laguna Estate
Le Coq D'OR - Unit 9 & 10 Watergardens
Leanse Kosher Restaurant - 7 Bomb House Lane
Maharaja Restaurant - 5 Tuckeys Lane
McAuto - Europort
McDonalds - Europort
Milk & Honey - 238 A Main Street
Ministers - 310 Main Street
Monbar Café Restaurant - Unit G4D ICC
Murphys Bar - 8 City Mill Lane
Naafi XI Ultrabowl - building 77/001 Europa Estate
Nelson's Bar - Both Worlds
Norddin Takeaway - 25 Prince Edwards Road
Norma Jeans Roadside Dinner
Peralta - Checkout Cafeteria - 104-107 New Harbours
Piazza Grill - 156/3 Main Street
Picassos Café - Restaurant
Piccadilly Gardens - Rosia Road
Pickwicks - 17 Governors' Parade
Pig & Whistle - Unit 18 Watergardens
Pizzaland - 1 Bedlam Court
Queens Hotel - Boyd Street
Rock Hotel - 3 Europa Road
Roosters - Saluting Battery Bar
Royal Oak - 59 C Irish Town
Roy's 2 Fish & Chips - 1A Convent Place
Rumours on the Rock - Block 6 Watergardens
Safeway - Westside Reclamation
Salsa Café Restaurant - 4 Cornwalls Parade
Silk Cut Lounge Bar - Air Terminal
Simons Restaurant - 44 Cornwalls Lane
Splendid Bar - 1 George's Lane
St Michael's Cabin - Cave Branch Road
Stakis Casino (Gib) Ltd - 7 Europa Road
Sunflower Shop - Europa Point
Taste of India - Unit 12, Block 5 Watergardens
The Angry Friar - 287 Main Street
The Aragon - 15 Bell Lane
The Black Kat - 104/6 Irish Town
The Britannia Bar - Cruise Terminal
The Cannon Bar - 27 Cannon Lane
The Clipper - 78 Irish Town
The Continental Hotel - 3 Engineers Lane
The duck & Firkin - Building 6 , Europort
The Edinburgh Arms - 37 Naval Hospital Road
The Gibraltar Arms - 184 Main Street
The Hackney Carriage - 19 Waterport Wharf
The Killick - Europort

Answer to Question No 317 of 2002

The London Bar - 76/78 Governor's Street
The Market Restaurant - The Public Market Waterport
The Matchbox Inn - 46 South Barrack Road
The Mermaid - 96 Catalan Bay
The Quaterdeck - Unit 26 Watergardens
The Red Lion - Unit 24 Watergardens
The Rock Bar - 16 City Mill Lane
The Rock Café (ICC) - ICC 2a Main Street
The Royal Calpe - 176 Main Street
The Sea Wave - 60 Catalan Bay & 15 Catalan Bay
The Star Bar - 12 Parliament Lane
The Three Owls - 102 Irish Town
The Three Roses - 60 Governor's Street
The Venture Inn - 2 and 2A Lynch's Lane
The Viceroy of India - 9/4 A Horse Barrack Lane
Tiffany's Cafeteria - 2 Queensway
Toby Bar - 11/13 Cannon Lane
Tony's Restaurant - 194 Main Street
Trafalgar Tavern - 1A Rosia Road
Victoria Stadium Bar - Bayside
Village Inn - Catalan Bay
Wembley Bar - 10 South Barrack Ramp
Ye Olde Rock

**LIST OF BARS AND RESTAURANTS AS AT 31-01-02 – UNDER THE
LEISURE AREAS (LICENSING) ORDINANCE**

<u>PREMISES</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
Yvey's	1YZ Casemates Square
Pizza Hut	Unit G4X, 65 & G6 ICC
Burger King	24 Casemates Square
Cafè Solo	1/3 Casemates Square
All's Well	1/4 Casemates Square
The Tunnel	Unit 8, Casemates
La Barcina	2/1 Casemates Square
Little Rock Cafè	Unit 5 Casemates Square
Latino's	Unit 9 Casemates Square
Lord Nelson	10 Casemates Square
El Patio	1/11 Casemates Square
The New Buccaneer	1 Reclamation Road
Chimney Corner Club & Watergate Restaurant	2 Fish Market Road
The Underground	7/8 West Place of Arms
Sax II	Unit F6, ICC
Cool Blues Cafè	310 Main Street
Da Paolo	Unit B, The Tower, Admiral's Walk, Marina Bay
Charlie's Tavern	Unit ½, Admiral's Walk, Marina Bay
Schooners Restaurant	Unit A, The Tower, Marina Bay
The Little Mermaid	Units 4 & 5 Britannia House, Marina Bay
Meson Jabugo	Unit C, The Tower, Marina Bay
Claus on the Rocks	Commercial Unit 14, Queensway Quay
Café Paradiso	Unit 17B, Ragged Staff Wharf, Queensway
Waterfront Restaurant	Units R4 & R5, Ragged Staff Wharf, Queensway
Casa Pepe	Unit R18, Ragged Staff Wharf, Queensway

PREMISES WITH EXTENDED HOURS

Name & Address of Premises	Nature of Licence
Chicago - 10 Cannon Lane	Tavern Licence
Beach Bar - Both Worlds	Tavern Licence
Nelson's Bar - Both Worlds	Tavern Licence
Copacabana - 242 Main Street	Tavern Licence
Calpe Hounds - 22 Cornwall's Lane	Tavern Licence
Trafalgar Tavern - 1A Rosia Road	Tavern Licence
Anglo Hispano _Sandpits Vault	Tavern Licence
Al Andaluz - 23 Cornwall's Lane	Tavern Licence
The Market Restaurant - The Public Market Waterport	Tavern Licence
The Continental Hotel - 3 Engineers Lane	Hotel Licence
Bahia Restaurant Bar - 2 Queensway	Tavern Licence
Bahia Restaurant Disco Bar	Tavern Licence
Tiffany;s Cafeteria - 2 Queensway	Tavern Licence
The Mermaid - 96 Catalan Bay	Tavern Licence
Elliott Hotel - Governor's Parade	Hotel Licence
Bristol Hotel - Cathedral Square	Hotel Licence
El Burlaero - 5 Governor's Parade	Tavern Licence
Cannon Hotel - 7/9 Cannon Lane	Hotel Licence
Café Roma - Unit G1 Cornwall's Centre	Tavern Licence
Chimney Corner Club - 1 & 2 Fish Market Road	Tavern Licence
Corks Wine Bar - 79 Irish Town	Tavern Licence
The Black Kat - 104/6 Irish Town	Tavern Licence
Kowloons Unit - 20 Waterdanes	Tavern Licence
Leanse Kosher Restaurant - 7 Bomb House Lane	Tavern Licence
Devil's Bar - 59 Devil's Tower Road	Tavern Licence
The Sea Wave - 60 Catalan Bay & 15 Catalan Bay	Tavern Licence
Royal Oak - 59 C Irish Town	Tavern Licence
The Red Lion - Unit 24 Watergardens	Tavern Licence
Piazza Grill - 156/3 Main Street	Tavern Licence
El Cortijo - 12 Town Range	Tavern Licence
The Gibraltar Arms - 184 Main Street	Tavern Licence
Bunters - 1 College Lane	Tavern Licence
Queens Hotel - Boyd Street	Hotel Licence
Jumpers Wheel - 20 Rosia Road	Tavern Licence
Pig & Whistle - Unit 18 Watergardens	Tavern Licence
Il Piccolo Mondo - 9 Governor's Parade	Tavern Licence
Maharaja Restaurant - 5 Tuckeys Lane	Tavern Licence
Roosters - Saluting Battery Bar	Tavern Licence
Piccadilly Gardens - Rosia Road	Tavern Licence
Captains Cabin - 5 John Mc Square	Tavern Licence
Milk & Honey - 238 A Main Street	Tavern Licence
McDonalds - Europort	Tavern Licence
McAuto - Europort	Tavern Licence
Barbary Ape Cafeteria - Grand Parade	Tavern Licence
Anchor Bar - Watergardens	Tavern Licence
El Rincon - unit 19 Block 3 Watergardens	Tavern Licence
Bacchus Wine Bistro - 30 John Mc Square	Tavern Licence
St Michael's Cabin - Cave Branch Road	Tavern Licence
Hong Kong Chinese Restaurant - 13 Market Lane	Tavern Licence

Answer to Question No 318 of 2002

Norma Jeans Roadside Dinner	Tavern Licence
Cool Blues Café - 310 Main Street	Tavern Licence
Ministers - 310 Main Street	Tavern Licence
Picassos Café - Restaurant	Tavern Licence
The Quaterdeck - Unit 26 Watergardens	Tavern Licence
Rock Hotel - 3 Europa Road	Hotel Licence
Taste of India - Unit 12, Block 5 Watergardens	Tavern Licence
La Bayuca - 21 Turnbull's Lane	Tavern Licence
Safeway - Westside Reclamation	Tavern Licence
Salsa Café Restaurant - 4 Cornwalls Parade	Tavern Licence
Catholic community Centre - Line Wall Road	Tavern Licence
Simons Restaurant - 44 Cornwalls Lane	Tavern Licence
Stakis Casino (Gib) Ltd - 7 Europa Road	Tavern Licence
La Mamela - 15 Catalan Bay	Tavern Licence
The Killick - Europort	Tavern Licence
The Viceroy of India - 9/4 A Horse Barrack Lane	Tavern Licence
Ye Olde Rock	Tavern Licence
Kerry's - G5 Cornwall Centre	Tavern Licence
Tony's Restaurant - 194 Main Street	Tavern Licence
Buddies - 15 Cannon Lane	Tavern Licence
TOTAL	69

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 317, 318 AND 320 OF 2002

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In respect to Question No 320 of 2002 is it the case that nobody has actually been refused a Tavern Licence?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

That is the case, since November 2001 when last we discussed this question here in the House neither the Magistrates Court in respect of their area of jurisdiction nor the Licensing Authority under the Leisure Areas (Licensing) Ordinance in respect of its area of jurisdiction have either of them refused any licences to restaurants or bars in their respective jurisdictions.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The Chief Minister mentioned jurisdiction and their respective jurisdictions of the Magistrates Court and of the Chief Secretary under the Ordinance to issue licences, are the Government aware of the confusion which was created at this year's Brewster Session in the Magistrates' Court precisely between the two jurisdictions when it came to certain licences for establishments?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I am not aware of such confusion nor can I imagine why any such confusion might have been caused. The Ordinance is perfectly simple, perfectly clear and perfectly explicit as to the areas within which establishments fall within the Casemates Licensing Authority. I am not aware that there was any difficulty, I am not aware of the nature of the difficulty and certainly no one has approached the Government suggesting that the Leisure Areas (Licensing) Ordinance may need amending to eliminate any alleged lack of clarity so it may be that people were just unfamiliar with the terms of the Bill and hopefully those problems will not reoccur.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In terms of these confusions one of the arrests for example was the distinction between a discotheque and an establishment with a tavern licence for extended hours for dancing. A second area referred to the question of daytime cafés within the ICC given that the ICC is included as part of the Casemates area and would come under the Chief Secretary but I understand that was resolved by the Magistrates giving the licence themselves and the third one was in relation to some establishments applying for a Tavern Licence with extended hours, would the Government be happy to look into the cases to see whether there was in fact there is anything which can be done to improve the legislation or make it clearer if it is lacking?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well of course it is always for the judiciary to interpret legislation to the extent that it requires interpretation. If the difficulty of judicial interpretation of legislation derives from lack of clarity in the legislation then of course it is incumbent on the Government and on this Legislature to amend the legislation to clarify it, as I said to the hon Member, no one has made such a request to the Government but if they do make it of course the Government will consider bringing amending legislation because the Government strongly believe that laws should be clear as to who they apply to and to who they do not apply to. As to the discotheque point the hon Member included in supplementary there is a detailed definition of what is a discotheque in the Bill and that does not depend on geographical location, as I recall it it was a very explicit definition which did not leave very much to the imagination.

NO. 321 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

CASEMATES DEVELOPMENT

Can Government say how many parties have applied for each of the three vacant units at Casemates Square, following the publication of an official notice on 27th November 2001?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

A total of five tenders have been received by the Government for the three vacant retail units at Casemates Square. Of these, three applications for Unit 6E Casemates Arcade, and one each for units 18B and 21B on the first floor of Casemates Barracks building.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 321 OF 2002

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Government say whether these units were actually vacant and have never been allocated to anybody or whether they have in fact been vacated by the previous tenants and they are now out to tender as a result of that?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I am not 100 per cent certain of this but I am almost 100 per cent certain of this that these are units that were never occupied. I am almost completely certain that that is true although I would like to have the opportunity to confirm it to the hon Member. I am not aware of any business opening and closing except, yes, I do not know if it is included in this, not it is not, but there is one place the ice cream parlour I think is

closed in the old Health Centre Building but it cannot be included here because none of these relate to the ex-Health Centre Building.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The original advert that came out mentions that it enjoys development aid in relation to rates and also to trade licences can the Chief Minister explain the reference to trade licence and development aid in this context?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well although I am very happy it is not usual for hon Members to seek legal advice across the floor of the House but as the hon Member knows there is a general requirement in Gibraltar for businesses opening to obtain a trade licence under the Trade Licensing Ordinance from the Trade Licensing Committee. One of the benefits of enjoying development aid in this and in any other development subject to development aid whether public or private is that these licences are given automatically without the usual procedure of allowing people to object and then there being a termination to the Committee themselves. That is one of the facets generally of development aid so, for example, if the hon Member thinks of any of the developments that have been built in Gibraltar, the commercial units in them do not have to go through the usual contest that I understand it has become to obtain their trade licences, they are given automatically.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In terms of whether the units have been vacant or not, the Chief Minister can confirm at a later stage, can he say what the procedure would be if in fact a unit is vacant and somebody decides to give it up?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is sometime since I last looked at them, my recollection of the lease documents is that they do allow assignment albeit with the Government's consent I believe that is what they say in respect of all of them but certainly in respect of the bars where large amounts of investment have been required with Government consent they can assign.

NO. 322 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Can Government give a total number of persons employed by the Gibraltar Development Corporation as at 31st December 2001 and 31st January 2002 and indicate in each case how many of these are employed in tourism?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The total number of persons employed by the Gibraltar Development Corporation as at 31st December 2001 was 161 of which 65 were employed by the Gibraltar Tourist Board a division of the Gibraltar Development corporation. As at 31st January 2002 the figure stood at 160 of which 64 were assigned to the GTB.

NO. 323 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

HEAD 8A SUBHEAD 13

Further to the answer to Question No 1175 of 2001 in respect of private sector fees for legal advice, can the Government provide a breakdown of the £506,853.80 paid to one legal firm on 9th June 2000 and tell the House in respect of what matter this advice was given?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

On the assumption that the hon Member is focusing not on the total but on the figure of £203,380.10 which forms part of the total figure that was paid to L W Triay and partners for professional services rendered between the 30th December 1996 and 3rd February 2000 in connection with the incinerator dispute arbitration.

NO. 324 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

IMPORT DUTY

What is the amount of import duty paid on building materials on a monthly basis since October 2001 inclusive?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The amount of import duty paid on building materials on a monthly basis since October 2001 is as follows:

October 2001	-	£28,173.36
November 2001	-	£28,738.75
December 2001	-	£29,824.24

NO. 325 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

RGP – COMPLAINT BY MR D SANTOS

Can Her Majesty's Attorney General state whether a decision has now been taken to institute criminal proceedings in respect of the complaint made to the RGP by Mr Douglas Santos of 78 Rosia Dale?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The decision to initiate prosecutions is one for the Royal Gibraltar Police. No Member of the Government is responsible or accountable for such matters in this House. To the extent that the learned Attorney General has constitutional or statutory functions as prosecuting authority he is not accountable therefore in this House.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 325 OF 2002

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can the Government explain why the Attorney General is not answering the question?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Questions are put to the Government, who on the Government's side chooses to answer a question as indeed has always been the case is a matter for me.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am afraid the Chief Minister is wrong, this question is not addressed to the Government it is addressed to the Attorney General particularly given the number of times we are being told by the Government that questions related to the Police or what the police do or do not do are not a matter for them to answer because the Police do not come under them.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Attorney General's presence in this House is and indeed can only be as a Member of the Government. In this House one either sits as the Speaker, as a Member of the Government or as a Member of the Opposition. The suggestion by the Leader of the Opposition therefore that the learned Attorney General has some status in this House separate from the status as a part of the Government is a Constitutional nonsense.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am not suggesting anything and I am sure that the Chief Minister seeks to avoid giving straight answers by diverting attention and saying something is a nonsense or not a nonsense. My question is quite simple as far as I am concerned there have been innumerable occasions when questions have been addressed in this House to the Attorney General and the Attorney General has never had any difficulty in answering them, including some put by the Chief Minister when he was on the Opposition side. So, is it that the Government preferred that he should not answer?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Leader of the Opposition may have noticed that during all the years that we have been in Government it has been the Government's preference that the non-elected Members of the House do not answer questions since they are not accountable to the electorate of Gibraltar, the non-elected members for the information that they give. This case falls into exactly the same category, the hon Member will have noticed that I answer lots of questions of a legal nature that might historically and when Gibraltar was differently governed have been answered by non-elected Members of this House. That is no longer the practice and this is simply a further instance of that same practice. The answer to his question is that individual prosecuting decisions are not a matter for discussion in this House. Indeed my view is that the question ought never to have been allowed to get on to the Order Paper but of course that is a matter for the Speaker and not for me. I do not believe that there is any precedent in this House for a particular case of prosecution identified by name of complainant has resulted in a question being allowed on the floor of this House as to whether Police have or have not made a decision to prosecute. It is not for me to decide what questions are allowed onto the order paper but it is certainly for me to decide which are answered and which are not and we have exercised that option.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I accept that the Government have exercised the option not to answer and they can do that about any question they want that has always been the case but presumably a citizen who is told that a complaint has been referred to the Attorney General for a decision is entitled to approach a Member of the House to find out whether the decision has been taken or not or is that a right that the citizen does not have?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, I believe that in Gibraltar given the Constitution that we have a citizen is not entitled to seek the help of a Member of Parliament to extract a decision from the independent prosecuting authority as to whether or not that independent prosecuting authority has decided to prosecute or not. The answer is that I do not think that that is a right that ordinary citizens have, his right I would have thought is to pursue the matter with the Police, if he is not satisfied with the response he gets from the Police I would have thought that his right was to make a complaint to the Police Complaints Authority and if he is not satisfied with the Police Complaints Authority then his right is thanks to the enlightened transparency policies of this Government to make a further complaint to the Ombudsman. Those are the rights which citizens have in this community and not to have individual prosecuting decisions bandied across the floor of this House as the Leader of the Opposition has in my opinion quite improperly done.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I know that the Chief Minister is clearly quite incensed about this for reasons that I am sure will not be lost on the listening public but nonetheless since I do not agree with his interpretation of what we are permitted or not permitted to do presumably there would be nothing to stop me seeking after six months to raise the matter again?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Leader of the Opposition will get exactly the same answer that he has got now.

NO. 326 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX – SELF-EMPLOYED PERSONS

As at 31st January 2002 what were the amounts assessed in respect of self-employed persons for each tax year from 1995/96 to 2000/2001 giving the amounts discharged, confirmed and paid and the number of tax payers involved and can it further show in respect of each year whether this was based on returns provided by the taxpayer or estimates by the department?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I regret to inform the hon Member that the statistical information sought is still not available. Despite his department's best efforts, I am advised by the Commissioner of Income Tax that the relevant available data requires further scrutiny before it can be released.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 326 OF 2002

HON J J BOSSANO:

Will the Government be able to provide it to me if it becomes available before the next Question Time?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes should the Commissioner of Income Tax make it available to the Government we will certainly pass it on to him and I will ask him to do so.

NO. 327 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX – PAYE

How much was collected in PAYE each month since October 2001?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The figures (net of refunds) and subject to possible adjustments when reconciled with the Treasury Books are as follows:

	£M
October 2001	4.4
November 2001	4.2
December 2001	4.0

NO. 328 OF 2002**THE HON J J BOSSANO****EMPLOYERS' DECLARATION AND PAYE CERTIFICATES**

As at 31st January 2002 how many of the employers, who had returned the Employers' Declaration and PAYE Certificates for the tax years 1996/97 to 2000/2001, had not yet paid the full amount of the tax deducted and what was the amount of tax deducted and the number of employees affected in respect of each year?

ANSWER**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

From the Question, as phrased, it is not clear if the hon Member wants to know the total amount of tax deducted on those PAYE returns that have an amount outstanding or the total amount outstanding. The answer assumes that the information sought is the amount outstanding. The hon Member will note that this answer does not provide the number of employees affected. He should recall that I have on numerous occasions in the past advised him that it is not possible to identify the number of employees affected as there is no way that it can be established to which specific employees the PAYE tax outstanding refers. PAYE tax deducted is paid in by an employer and credited to that employer's account. It is not identified as the PAYE tax of this or that employee.

Year	Amount Outstanding (£)	No of Employers
1996 – 1997	336,773	125
1997 – 1998	470,988	161
1998 – 1999	785,007	212
1999 – 2000	1,069,634	218
2000 – 2001	2,738,014	254

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 328 OF 2002

HON J J BOSSANO:

On the basis of the introduction to the answer, the amounts outstanding is in fact the total that has been deducted from employees and not handed over. Is it not the case that, for example, if we go back to 1996/1997 the employees affected would have had their final assessments made by the tax office?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The employees affected, yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

.....and therefore there would be £336,773, for example, for 1996/1997 which by now we assume has been sort of gone through the system which would have involved in some instances refunds. How does the department deal with that if they do not in the answer that is given that they know who the employer is but they do not know who the employee is to whom the specific tax outstanding belongs?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I am not an expert in the techniques of the administration of the Income Tax Ordinance but I understand and subject to the caveat that I make I understand that the way that that works is that the employee is not prejudiced by the fact that an employer owes money. It is treated as a debt to the employer and the employee gets credit as if the tax due had been paid over. So it is not a question of a need to recalculate later he gets the benefit in his original assessment but just in case that I am not right in that understanding I will check that information and have it confirmed. My understanding is that the employee gets the credit for the tax deducted whether or not it has actually and by that stage been paid over by the employer or not.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I was making an even more specific point. If a tax payer in 1996/1997 had tax over deducted but the Government have not received the money, would they still make the refund to the person even though they have not received the money?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes my understanding is that that is exactly how it works, the debtor is always the Government and not the employees affected.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can the Government say in respect of the amounts that have been outstanding longest would that be something that by now would be with the Treasury with a view to taking action to recover the money?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes after this length of time this matter then gets passed across to the Central Arrears Unit within the Treasury and it gets dealt with as do all other debts to Government?

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is there a sort of an established mechanism triggering that off after a certain number of years. I can understand, for example, that the £2.7 million which is as recent as last year employers may be still given leeway to pay up but does the tax office wait two years or three years or four years and then pass it on to the Treasury or is there not such a rule?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

There are guidelines internal between the Treasury and the Income Tax and indeed other Government departments that generate debts to the Government. I do not know whether they pass them on within six months or so but certainly it is not three years I think that the definition of arrears is much more current than that. I think debts are treated as arrears much sooner than three or four years, again I do not wish to be held to this answer but I think almost immediately they get passed over.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Would the Chief Minister know whether in fact we are talking about different employers or is it likely that there will be a big proportion of the same employer appearing year after year?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I cannot speculate as to that it would not surprise me if there were regular defaulters.

NO. 329 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYERS' DECLARATION AND PAYE CERTIFICATES

As at 31st January 2002 how many employers had returned the 2000/2001 Employers' Declaration and PAYE Certificates and what was the total amount of tax deducted and the number of employees affected?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

As at 31st January 2002, a total of 1535 employers had lodged their 2000/2001 Employers' Declaration and PAYE Certificates. The total amount of PAYE tax deducted is £42million and the number of employees is 19,705.

NO. 330 OF 2002**THE HON J J BOSSANO****EMPLOYERS' DECLARATION AND PAYE CERTIFICATES**

As at the end of January 2002 how many employers had not yet returned the Employers' Declaration and PAYE Certificates for the tax years 1996/1997, 1997/1998, 1998/1999, 1999/2000 and 2000/2001 and what is the number of employees affected in each year?

ANSWER**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

I hand the hon Member a schedule giving the information.

Year	No Employers	No of Employees (approx)
1996/1997	124	100
1997/1998	117	100
1998/1999	135	300
1999/2000	204	400
2000/2001	396	3500

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 330 OF 2002**HON J J BOSSANO:**

In respect of the 2000/2001 figure do I take it that the estimated number of employees, 3,500 includes a substantial number from Government as has been the case in previous years?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes that is the case.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Does the Chief Minister have an idea of the Government component of that?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not except that I think I am remembering from past answers that the figure usually hovers at around 2,800, is that not the last answer that I gave him, it is usually something like that?

HON J J BOSSANO:

In this case were in fact we are not talking about arrears that have been identified because no return has been made, what does the tax office do to get the employers consent for example, the 124 employers who still have not returned the 1996/1997 PAYE certificates that presumably cannot go through the arrears unit because there is no arrears there to collect?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

That is absolutely correct this is dealt with within the Income Tax Office as part of their ordinary chasing up enforcement mechanism I cannot tell the hon Member what they are it is a series of reminders with escalating threatening terms.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Apart from escalating the threats do the threats ever get converted into something more solid?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not know whether the Commissioner of Income Tax actually takes the threat of legal action, I suspect he does not and indeed one of the areas that the Government are looking at generally is of strengthening the Income Tax Office's investigative and enforcement mechanisms and that is presently under consideration but as we speak I suspect the system is the one that has always prevailed and that we inherited from the hon Member.

HON J J BOSSANO:

And the hon Member inherited from somebody else and somebody else inherited from somebody else. Is no attempt even made to find out whether, for example, we are talking as far back as 1996/1997 whether these people are still trading?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes note is taken of such things as the filing of notices of discontinuing of business regulations, note is taken of liquidations that are published in the Gazette but of course the fact that employers do not comply with their PAYE requirements is not in itself an indication that they are out of trading and therefore I suppose the level of suspicion that might be the reason, it does not start to generate until two or three years later because traders often delay that long. If the hon Member is asking whether the Income Tax Department has any proactive system in place to send people out, to ring up on the telephone directory to find out if this company still exists I cannot tell him, I do not know it is a pretty obvious thing to do and since it seems such a pretty obvious thing to do I presume that it is done but certainly I will suggest it just in case it is not being done.

NO. 331 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX – CORPORATION TAX

What was the total amount collected in Corporation Tax in each month since October 2001?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Corporation Tax collected in each month since October 2001 (net of refunds) was as follows:

	£M
October 2001	0.2
November 2001	0.2
December 2001	1.0
January 2002	0.4

These figures are subject to Treasury books reconciliation.

NO. 332 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX – CORPORATION TAX

As at 31st January 2002 how many companies had been assessed by the Commissioner of Income Tax, without having made a return of taxable profit, (a) above and (b) below £35,000 in taxable profit for the years 1998/99 to 2000/2001, what was the tax assessed and paid in each case and for each category and each year and what were the amounts of tax assessed and paid by qualifying companies?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I hand the hon Member a schedule giving the information requested.

Answer to Question 332 of 2002

**COMPANIES OTHER THAN QUALIFYING
COMPANIES**

	Year of Assessment		
	1998/1999 £	1999/2000 £	2000/2001 £
<u>Under £35,000</u>			
No of Companies assessed	967	883	715
Total assessed (i.e. total tax payable)	1.9M	1.5M	1.4M
Total paid under	1.2M	0.8M	0.4M
<u>Over £35,000</u>			
No of Companies assessed	58	55	39
Total assessed (i.e. total tax payable)	3.4M	3.3M	2.4M
Total paid over	3.2M	2.8M	1.5M

QUALIFYING COMPANIES

<u>Under £35,000</u>			
No of Companies assessed	27	32	6
Total assessed (i.e. total tax payable)	25K	28K	1K
Total paid	2K	Nil	Nil
<u>Over £35,000</u>			
No of Companies assessed	4	10	18
Total assessed (i.e. total tax payable)	57K	0.4M	1.2M
Total paid	37K	0.4M	0.2M

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION 332 OF 2002

HON J J BOSSANO:

In my question I was asking for the distinction between those who had actually made a tax return and those who had not made a tax return and the department had made the assessment. In the light of the answer that I was given to the question the last time which was No 1221 of 2001, for example, says under £35,000 there were 154 for 1999/2000 and here we have got 283 for that same year. I was told the last time that this was because the 154 were people who had actually made tax returns and therefore on this occasion I was asking for the figure to show which had been the ones that had made tax returns so that if possible to compare it with the previous answer which were the ones that had not, that is in my original question?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, I suppose that the question has been misread and I am not sure if it is as clear as the hon Member thinks. I had not read it myself to mean that he was asking for a comparison, the question asks how many companies had been assessed by the Commissioner of Income Tax without having made a return and therefore the information given I assume is that, in other words the ones given without a return but I am sure that I can have it converted into a comparative table for the hon Member to look at, I will have to ask the Commissioner of Income Tax to do that.

NO. 333 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX – CORPORATION TAX

As at 31st January 2002 how many companies had declared a taxable profit (a) above £35,000 and (b) below £35,000 for the tax years 1998/1999 to 2000/2001, what was the tax assessed and paid in each category and can Government state in each category and for each year how many were qualifying companies and what were the amounts of tax assessed and paid by such companies?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I hand the hon Member a schedule giving the information requested.

Answer to Question 333 of 2002

COMPANIES OTHER THAN
QUALIFYING COMPANIES

	Year of Assessment		
	1998/1999 £	1999/2000 £	2000/2001 £
<u>Under £35,000</u>			
No of Companies assessed	139	164	192
Total assessed (i.e. total tax payable)	331K	333K	419K
Total paid under	309K	321K	389K
<u>Over £35,000</u>			
No of Companies assessed	51	44	55
Total assessed (i.e. total tax payable)	6.2M	6.1M	5.9M
Total paid over	6.2M	6.1M	5.7M
<u>QUALIFYING COMPANIES</u>			
<u>Under £35,000</u>			
No of Companies assessed	5	3	Nil
Total assessed (i.e. total tax payable)	3K	3K	Nil
Total paid	3K	3K	Nil
<u>Over £35,000</u>			
No of Companies assessed	9	12	2
Total assessed (i.e. total tax payable)	440K	1.2M	106K
Total paid	425K	1.2M	106K

NO. 334 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX – CORPORATION TAX

As at 31st January 2002 how many companies had been assessed for company tax for the tax years 1995/1996 to 2000/2001, the amounts of tax payable and the amounts paid in respect of each year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I hand the hon Member a schedule giving the information requested. The number of companies assessed is in the region of 1300/1400 each year.

	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/2000	2000/01
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Assessed	15.7	15.2	17.8	23.6	84.5	18.3
Discharged	5.1	4.1	6.6	10.0	70.4	6.0
	10.6	11.1	11.2	13.6	14.1	12.3
Paid	9.5	10.2	10.2	12.5	12.7	9.0
Outstanding	1.1	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.4	3.3

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 334 OF 2002

HON J J BOSSANO:

When the information was provided the last time there was a figure of companies shown for each year, is it that it is not available on this occasion?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No it is available I do not know why it is not included in the main answer but moving from 1995 /1996 onwards the numbers are 1435, 1450, 1447, 1416, 1445, and 1326 the last figure relating to 2000/2001. The first figure relating to 1995/1996.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I believe these are different figures from the ones provided last time which in turn were different from the ones provided on the previous occasion. One would expect the differences to be in the recent years as more companies are assessed but I am talking of going back to 1995/1996, the question has been asked three times and I have been given three different figures for the number of companies.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I would hope that the number of companies, the differences simply relate to the fact, I hope they are smallish type differences that relate to the fact only that some companies are eventually reached in respect of years long gone by and I have not got previous answers, he says that they are different I do not know what the extent of difference is.

HON J J BOSSANO:

If I may Question No 1222 of 2001 I was told that 1995/96 was 1363 as opposed to 1435, that 1996/97 was 1338 as opposed to 1450, that 1997/98 was 1367 as opposed to 1447, 1998/99 is the same 1414 as it was so it is the figures for 1995/96, 1996/97 which have now gone up by about 100 and in fact the last time in Question No 1222 of 2001 they had come down from the answer given a year earlier and I was told in the supplementary by the Chief Minister that they had come down because the figure given a year before had been a mistake because some companies had been counted twice. I do not know if they have gone up now because they have been counted twice again but I think it would be useful to know which of the three figures we have been given on three different dates are the right ones?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I will still find out whether the figures are correct or they are a mistake but the fact that they altered does not necessarily mean that there is some degree of mistake, some increase in the figures would be justified by the fact that the Commissioner may get round to assessing a company of which he was not aware if he becomes

aware of a company now he may assess it going back a few years that would result in the number for that year going up by one whether there are 100 of such cases whether that is realistic or not I do not know but I will find out the answer to the hon Member's question. In order for there to be no mistake it is not essential that there is no increase in figures, some increase in the figures is entirely explicable by reference to the fact that the number of companies assessed even in respect of years as long ago as 1995/96 may occur but I will find out into which category this latest batch correspond.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Would the Chief Minister not agree that that explanation is unlikely to be correct given that the amount assessed has not changed that is to say if in 1996/97, 1338 tax payers were assessed at having a liability of £15.2 million in answer to Question No 1222 of 2001 and now 1450 which is 112 more are assessed at £15.2 million then if there were new people one would expect that the assessment would also show a change I do not see how the assessment can be the same and the tax payers be 100 more?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

We are in the realms of speculation and I do not think this is a very constructive conversation, even what the hon Member says is possible there could be more companies making less profit I do not know whether assessment to tax means that one is making a profit at all where one may be assessed to tax and even if the results show zero I do not know, certainly the fact that there are more tax payers does not necessarily mean that there are more tax would be expected although I could tell the hon Member that throughout all of these years the tax yield from corporation tax has risen each year and therefore there is no evidence that profitability is falling which tends to confirm his own assessment. I will find out from the Commissioner what is the explanation for the variation in the figures and I will come back.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The point is of course that I am not talking about movement from one year to the other what I am saying is if we take the column of the information he has just passed over to me and take as an example 1996/97 which is where the biggest disparity exists, the assessment is £15.2 million, the amount discharged is £4.1 million, the amount liable is £11.1 million, the amount paid is £10.2 million and the balance outstanding is £0.9 million and those figures each and every one of them is identical with the answer to question No 1222 of 2001 so the only figure that is different in the entire column is the number of taxpayers?

NO. 335 OF 2002**THE HON J J BOSSANO****IMPORTS**

What was the value of goods imported by land and sea, other than petroleum products, since October 2001?

ANSWER**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

The information requested is as follows:

Month	Land (£)	Sea (£)
October	20,132,000	1,706,000
November	23,915,000	3,627,000
December	17,795,000	1,859,000
Total	61,842,000	7,192,000

NO. 336 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INPUT/OUTPUT STUDY

Can Government say what was the estimated value of the GDP provided to the Court of First Instance by Professor Fletcher, in respect of what year and how was it calculated?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos 337 and 348 of 2002.

NO. 337 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INPUT/OUTPUT STUDY

Are Government in a position to say now when they expect to make public the findings of the Input/Output Study conducted by Professor Fletcher?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos 336 and 348 of 2002.

NO. 338 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CENSUS OF GIBRALTAR

Can Government say how Mr T G Evans was selected as Commissioner to take the Census of Gibraltar?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Mr T G Evans was selected from a short-list of two suitable candidates after both had been invited to submit their proposals for the assignment in December 2000.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 338 OF 2002

HON J J BOSSANO:

Was he recruited from the UK Office of Census or Statistics or something like that or how did the Government get to know about Mr T G Evans?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It was suggested by the Head of Statistics in Gibraltar, the Chief Statistician. If the hon Member could just hold I am reading a letter, there is some suggestion in this letter in front of me that Mr Evans would have some connection with Harry Fell going back a long time some contact of the Gibraltar Statistics Office people.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So we are not talking about some sort of specific skills or qualifications relating to conducting a Census?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes that is laid at the root of the choice of this gentleman.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Was he contracted for a specific period of time and how was he paid?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not know how he was paid there is a vote for the conduct of the Census in the estimates of this year I do not know what the contractual arrangements are I suppose he was contracted to conduct the Census. There is an indication here that the Commissioner's fees are £30,000 and then there are different figures here for enumerators, Census team, coders et cetera. His own fees would appear to be £30,000.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am trying to establish whether in fact Government paid him to do it and he gets on with it and brings us the results or whether he was sort of acting as it were as a contract officer of the Government with a salary?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Census is conducted by the Government of Gibraltar's Statistics Office and through this gentleman the Government provide the enumerators of which there have been 80. I do not think it is a case of here is a contract do the Census and bring us the results, I believe the control of it is much more in-house than that.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So the actual processing of the information in the returns is not something that is fanned out to the Commissioner it is done here?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, I think that that is part I see there are four Senior Census Officers, 80 enumerators, a number of coders to input the data, a number of programmers, I think it is a team most of which is provided by them.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Here provided by them?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I think the enumerators are provided locally, I think the Census team is provided by the Commissioner.

HON J J BOSSANO:

What is the time-scale for the completion of this work?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not know I cannot tell the hon Member what the estimated completion date of the Census is. I would have thought it would take very much longer than a year to do. I will find out if there is an estimated time?

NO. 339 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBTEL

Can Government state how much they received from the sale of their shares in Gibtel and whether this has been credited to the Consolidated Fund?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Gibraltar Nynex Communications Limited acquired 100 per cent of the shares in Gibtel for a consideration of £7.5 million. The payment to each shareholder is being made in two instalments, the first amount of £1,500,000 receivable by the Government in the current Financial Year and the second of £2,250,000 in 2002-2003. A decision has not yet been made as to whether the funds are to be paid into Consolidated Fund Reserve, or the improvement and Development Fund.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 339 OF 2002

HON J J BOSSANO:

Has the £1.5 million already been received?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No.

NO. 340 OF 2002

HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR SAVINGS BANK

What has been the rate of interest payable by the Gibraltar Savings Bank On-Call Investment Accounts since 1st April 1999?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The rate of interest payable by the Gibraltar Savings Bank On-Call Investment Accounts since 1st April 1999 is as follows:

1 st April 1999	-	3.50 per cent
1 st May 1999	-	3.25 per cent
1 st July 1999	-	3.00 per cent
1 st October 1999	-	3.25 per cent
1 st December 1999	-	3.50 per cent
1 st February 2000	-	3.75 per cent
1 st March 2000	-	4.00 per cent
1 st March 2001	-	3.75 per cent
1 st May 2001	-	3.50 per cent
1 st June 2001	-	3.25 per cent
1 st September 2001	-	3.00 per cent
1 st October 2001	-	2.75 per cent
1 st November 2001	-	2.50 per cent
1 st December 2001	-	2.00 per cent

NO. 341 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GOVERNMENT DEBENTURES

As at 31st January 2002 what was the value of Monthly Income Debentures and Pensioners Monthly Income Debentures issued by the Gibraltar Savings Bank?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The value as at 31st January 2002, of Monthly Income Debentures and the Pensioners Monthly Income Debentures is as follows:

Monthly Income Debentures	£18,908,100
Pensioners Monthly Income Debentures	£17,374,900

NO. 342 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CONSOLIDATED FUND

Can Government say what are the current forecast revenue and expenditure totals for the Consolidated Fund in the financial year ending March?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The current forecast outturn for revenue and expenditure for the Consolidated Fund for the current financial year is not available at this moment in time. The Government are in the process of preparing their Estimates for the next financial year (2002-2003), which will include departmental projections of the forecast outturn for the current financial year.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 342 OF 2002

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is it no longer the practice then in the Treasury to do this at the beginning of January?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The forecast outturn, and even then it remains only a forecast, had to be struck as of the 31st March which is the figure that has to be included in the estimates for the next financial year. I am not aware that it was ever done in January I am almost certain it has never been done in January the figure is struck as at March. Yes, it has been confirmed to me that what the hon Member is referring to is the figure of the forecast is as at January but they are being revisited because of pay settlement issues and they are not ready yet.

NO. 343 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

I & D FUND

Have Government drawn the £10 million loan for the Improvement and Development Fund in the current financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

No, the £10 million is expected to be drawn towards the end of this financial year.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 343 OF 2002

HON J J BOSSANO:

.....but they still expect them to draw on it at the end of March?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes whether it will all need to be drawn I do not know because there is a projected slippage of I think of £5 million in the Improvement and Development Fund expenditure and whether that materialises or not will be a determining factor.

NO. 344 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

PUBLIC FINANCE (CONTROL AND AUDIT) ORDINANCE

Can Government list the companies whom the Principal Auditor is empowered to audit under Part IX of the Public Finance (Control and Audit) Ordinance because it has received a contribution from public monies?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

No, the Government do not have a list of such companies. The Principal Auditor has very wide powers, under Part IX of the Public Finance (Control and Audit) Ordinance, to audit any company that is in receipt of a contribution from any public monies or whose operations may impose or create a liability on any public monies. Although the Principal Auditor has no obligation to carry out such audits, he may do so at his discretion.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 344 OF 2002

HON J J BOSSANO:

So it is a matter for his initiative whether he decides to do it?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Absolutely so and I am not sure it is limited to companies, I believe he is powered to audit anybody that is in receipt of public monies not necessarily any company. He will see from the Auditor's Report each year those public bodies that he chooses to audit for that reason and the ones that are not included in the list are presumably the ones that he has chosen not to audit on that year. There is not set out anywhere in

the law a list of such bodies that are auditable by the Principal Auditor the law simply provides for a generic description of bodies that are subject to audit by the Principal Auditor and that is anyone who is in receipt of public funds.

HON J J BOSSANO:

But the Government are saying that this is happening in some cases and that they are listed in the Principal Auditor's Report?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, in the Principal Auditor's Report if my memory does not fail me there is a list of bodies that he has chosen to audit in exercise of his discretion under these sections but that is nothing new by the way.

HON J J BOSSANO:

My understanding is that the entities he audits are the entities where in specific legislation it is required to audit them every year, for example, GBC not using this discretionary element?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Auditor's Report is a report of all the people that he has chosen to audit to the extent that there is or there is not anyone that he chooses to on that list to whom he has chosen to audit under this particular section that is entirely his decision but if the hon Member looks at pages 56 to 57 of the report this year, for example, he will see the audits that he has chosen to do usually they are GBC, Health Authority, Police Reward Fund, Gibraltar Heritage Trust, Magistrates' Poor Fund, Gibraltar Magistrates' Association and then a whole list of liquidators accounts from compulsory liquidation appears to be the audits that he has done, for example, this year but this is a matter entirely for him.

HON J J BOSSANO:

This is in fact what I am questioning the accuracy of that answer that is to say that what has been listed are not things which he has chosen to do but which he is required to do and therefore it is not under this discretionary, he has no choice about auditing GBC or the Health Authority, or the Elderly Care Agency because in the Ordinance setting those up it says "that the Principal Auditor will carry out the audits." This is not because they receive money from the Government, the people he has mentioned?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well I do not know since the heading is "Statutory Audits" whether the reference there to statutory is to some other statute or to this one I do not know he may be right. The hon Member asked whether there was a list of companies under part 10 that the Auditor is entitled, empowered to audit, the answer is that there is no such

list he simply chooses from year to year which he does whether there is any in this year's list which falls under this power I do not know it is not a matter for the Government it is a matter for him.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well I accept that the Chief Minister does not know but he was telling me that he knew five minutes ago and inviting me to look at page 56 and 57 where I would find the list of companies that it shows him to do it. Fair enough if it is the case.....

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, I have not said that that was not the purpose of the reference, the purpose of the reference to pages 56 and 57 was so that he could see the list of entities that he has audited necessarily anyone that is not on that list he has not audited so if he wants to know how many he has audited under this power he can go to the list of things that he has audited and if there are none on that list for which there is no other statutory compulsion then the answer to his question is that he has audited none under this, that was the purpose of pointing out.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well if he listens to the way he has formulated his answer the Chief Minister will see that he has told me he chooses and that if I want to know which he has chosen I would find it under that list.....

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Which if any.....

HON J J BOSSANO:

.....which if any, and it would appear that there are not any from my recollection of the names of the list. So in fact are the Government then not aware if the Government have given money to an entity and do not get the money that they should, would there be steps that the Principal Auditor might be expected to take under these powers?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I think the hon Member misunderstands the function of audit. The Principal Auditor is not regarded by the Government as part of the internal Government machinery indeed we have gone to some trouble to establish him as an increasingly independent authority from the Government but the Government have their own machine they call the Treasury to monitor the payment of monies due to the Government and I would expect the Treasury to pick it up long before the Auditor has to pick it up. I believe that the principle function of the Auditor in relation to public funds going into these vehicles is to ensure the funds are used for the purpose for

which they were paid to the body rather than to check whether they have been paid back if they were only a loan.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Even if the purpose of the section is the one described by the Chief Minister even though it is like that, that is not happening surely?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No the hon Member seems to be in a mischievous mood on this issue it is not the function, the Principal Auditor is not the policeman of whether the Government are being paid the money that they are due to being paid. That function as an internal management control vests in the Treasury which is the manager of the Government's financial affairs. The Principal Auditor's job is to audit and he has other value for money functions as well but he is principally to audit the use of public funds. I believe to ensure that they are being properly spent and whether or not to suggest that unless the Principal Auditor does an audit of any of these companies or that if he does not therefore there is no way of checking whether monies due to the Government are being paid is incorrect because the function to establish that is not the Principal Auditor's but the Accountant General's.

HON J J BOSSANO:

That lengthy reply was the reply to the previous supplementary which the Chief Minister had already given and my last supplementary was hypothetically accepting his argument if he sees the role as making sure that the recipients of the money are using the money for what it was intended then if no audits are done of the recipient's how is that achieved?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I had not realised that the hon Member's supplementary was quite so poor because he must know the answer to that question he cannot possibly have spent eight years in office without knowing the answer to that question. The answer to that question is that each Government department that administers policies that involve the payment of public monies to companies, for example, the DTI in respect of EU programmes or Government funding programmes have their own mechanisms to ensure that the monies are being used for the purposes for which they are intended that is the answer to the hon Member's question.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I know that the Chief Minister needs to qualify his answers by whether I am being mischievous or weak and I do not need to speculate as to his changing moods in supplying answers I am limiting myself to the content of information and then of course if he has argued that he considers that the purpose for which these powers exist which do not seem to be being used is so that the purpose for which the public money has been provided the Principal Auditor in his audit function, not as a policeman of the Government, but in his audit function is satisfying himself that the

money is being spent as intended by the House when the money was voted, I do not see why he finds it so offensive that I should ask a supplementary like that. If he considers that that is the proper role for the Principal Auditor to be undertaking and that is the proper interpretation of the provisions that are contained in the law and referred to in the Auditor's Report then if no audits ever take place how does that happen?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I think that the question is based on a false premise there is no need for audits to take place for that to happen because each of the companies are themselves audited and to the extent that they are in receipt of public funds for some specific purpose the Government department sponsoring that particular policy and administering that particular policy does the checking but the hon Member's interest in this area is interesting. Let me tell him that the time of need for auditing the use of public funds in unaccountable companies ended when he was voted out of office because those were the days in which tens of millions of pounds of public funds were swashing around companies without any explanation to this House without accounts being laid or prepared, those were the days when we all wished that the Principal Auditor had used his powers under this ordinance more frequently than he is doing now. Frankly now the need does not exist.

NO. 345 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR TAX STATUS

Can Government explain what is the change to Gibraltar's tax status that the Secretary of State was referring to in the context of getting Spain's support in the EU for transitional assistance as part of the comprehensive agreement on Gibraltar's future?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos 346 and 347 of 2001.

ORAL

NO. 346 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR TAX STATUS

Have Government accepted that it is an EU obligation to make changes to Gibraltar's tax laws, and if so, when and why was this accepted and what are the required changes?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos 345 and 347 of 2001.

NO. 347 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR TAX STATUS

Can Government explain what is the nature of the commitment given by the UK in the European Union that Gibraltar's tax system would be changed by 2005?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answer to Question No 345 of 2002

I cannot give the hon Member the explanation that he seeks because I do not know it. I would speculate that he is referring to the EU Code of Conduct on Business Taxation which is the only initiative that is political and therefore open to the negotiation of transitions. But in any case, compliance with OECD and State Aid requirements will deliver compliance with that Code. Transitions under the Code would prevent compliance with State Aid Regulations (if required) and with the OECD. It is therefore a meaningless point in practice.

Answer to Question No 346 of 2002

Government have not accepted that they are under any EU obligation to change Gibraltar's tax laws.

Answer to Question No 347 of 2002

Under the Tax Code of Conduct the UK has, together with other EU Countries, made a political commitment to eliminate 66 tax measures that have been identified as harmful. These include the Gibraltar Tax exempt and qualifying company. The Tax Code is a political agreement and has no legal standing under EU or international law. It is not therefore an international obligation. The UK has recognised this by

conceding that it cannot therefore impose it on its Overseas Territories or Crown Dependencies. Since we have the same Constitutional framework as the other Overseas Territories, that concession must necessarily and in law also apply to us.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 345, 346 AND 347 OF 2002

HON J J BOSSANO:

In respect of Question No 347 of 2002 what is the exact commitment being guided by the United Kingdom which is referred to in the judgement of the court?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Sorry that is referred to where?

HON J J BOSSANO:

In the judgement of the court of first instance in the report it talks about a commitment having been given by the United Kingdom to roll back the system by the year 2005?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

And that is the subject matter of my answer I cannot give the hon Member the explanation because I do not know what the court may have had in mind, I can speculate that they meant the EU Code of Conduct which is the only document initiative to which the UK is a party and which includes roll back and standstill and I have gone on to give an explanation that that is not an international legal obligation, that is a mere political commitment the details of which, if he is interested, he can find in the Government's April 2001 Consultation Document of the Finance Centre.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is the Chief Minister saying then that given that he is speculating that this is what he meant that the United Kingdom did not inform him that such a commitment was given when it was being given?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Government of Gibraltar are aware as is almost everybody else that I know that the United Kingdom signed up to the EU Code of Conduct on business taxation. That is the document that we believe the court was referring to it is the only document that they could be referring to, it is the only document to which the United Kingdom has made a commitment in relation to taxation matters.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In the way that the conclusions are phrased the impression is given that this was a specific commitment given to the Commission and that in fact the Government of Gibraltar were on board in that commitment.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Leader of the Opposition can spin as many webs of circumstances on the basis of his own suppositions as he pleases, there is no such specific Gibraltar related commitment given by the UK Government with or without the Gibraltar Government being on board, the only one that it could be referring to and I am not accountable for the court's judgement although words of the judge, the only one he could be referring to is the EU Code of Conduct on business taxation and I have gone to the trouble of explaining once again to the hon Member what the nature of that document is.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am seeking information because this is a document that is public and which appears to suggest something different to what we have been told in the past. I do not know why the Government seem to find it so offensive that I should ask questions and accuse me of spinning and of everything else. I am lousy at spinning the Chief Minister should know that by now. So in the judgement the court was referring to it seems there were questions of fact that were not in dispute in looking at the effect of having to eliminate qualifying companies the court says that the standstill was operating as from the end of last year and that the Gibraltar Government had confirmed this it says so at one stage in the report.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It does not say anything of the sort as to the last bit, the first bit it does say it is true that the EU Code of Conduct on business taxation has those standstill and roll by dates in it that is the basis upon which the Government speculate that this is the commitment to which the court may have been referring.

NO. 348 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INPUT/OUTPUT STUDY

Will Government make public the report of Professor Fletcher on the economic impact of the application of State Aid Rules, to exempt and qualifying companies which has been provided to the Court of First Instance and the EU Commission and is referred to in the judgement?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Input/Output Study is expected to be finalised at the end of this month. Professor Fletcher will be visiting Gibraltar shortly to complete final validation of data. No figure for GDP was provided by Professor Fletcher to the European Court of First Instance. GDP estimates will be available once the Input/Output model has been completed. The Government do not consider that it would be either helpful or productive at this stage to make public Professor Fletcher's evidence to the European Court of First Instance. The matter is currently the subject of expedited investigative procedures by the Commission and a decision is expected to be reached sometime in the autumn.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 336, 337 AND 348 OF 2002

HON J J BOSSANO:

How did Professor Fletcher come to the conclusion that the GDP could fall to the level of 1988 without calculating what the GDP was which is what he said in the court or what the written submissions said in the court according to the court report?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I have not indicated to the hon Member that Professor Fletcher has not made his own assessment already of what the GDP is I have simply informed him that he did not provide it to the court. I have said no figure for GDP was provided by Professor Fletcher to the court, in other words he did not say "GDP is x" he may have it in his own mind an assessment already.

HON J J BOSSANO:

My reading of the judgement is that he said " *the GDP will fall from x to the 1988 figure*" that is what the summary indicates, it is difficult to see how Professor Fletcher could say to a court if the damage to Gibraltar is that we can fall from the level we are to the 1988 level but I am not saying at what level we are. If that is the nature of the argument then that is not what is reflected in the court's summary.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The hon Member is assuming that Professor Fletcher's stance was that he would not tell the court what GDP was, it was not, in fact he did not tell the court what it was but it was not in the circumstances implied by the hon Member in his supplementary it is just that it is not the form that his evidence took. His assessment is and I suppose that one could almost arrive at that conclusion without reference to GDP figures, one just looks at the economic activity and there are other indicators one can look at jobs and many things and one can have a rough and ready reckoner. The hon Member is interested to know what GDP is now, we are all interested to know what GDP is now and we will find out when the economic model is available that is why the economic model was commissioned by the Government.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Are Government prepared to make available a copy of the report on a confidential basis because quite independent of the State Aid issue, obviously the consequences of possible changes to the economy of Gibraltar are a matter which are of interest in the assessment that we will make when we come to look at things like the estimates of expenditure of this House. If there is information available then I can understand the Government may think now is not the time to make it public until after the State Aid business is finished but it is information surely that is important to know in making a judgement of what is happening?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, the Government have not yet addressed their minds to the degree of publicity to be given to the economic model indeed it may be made public we may make it available to the Members of the House on a confidential basis. I think the hon Member should proceed on the basis that the Government are going to be willing to do one of those two and are not going to restrict the document to themselves but I am not yet in a position to tell the hon Member because we just have not addressed our minds to it but I would have thought it would be either one or the other, either we simply make it a public or at least we will make it available to the hon Members privately and confidential.

HON J J BOSSANO:

To what extent the information that Professor Fletcher provided for the court, which is what he got paid the £4,000 for, to what extent is that confidential in the court, who else has access to it?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I am not an expert on European court procedures but my understanding is that interim applications and this was an interim application are in private and therefore the evidence tendered by one side or the other are not publicly available documents indeed that might be the position even in Gibraltar I do not know but my understanding is that they are not publicly available documents whether that will be different if the matter comes before the full court in the main actions I do not know.

NO. 349 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EXEMPT AND QUALIFYING COMPANIES

Will Government explain what is the next stage in the court case in the European Court of First Instance regarding the application of state aid rules to Gibraltar exempt and qualifying companies?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The next stage in the court case is for the hearing to take place in the main actions. The Court has not yet set the date for such a hearing. As the Government of Gibraltar have already indicated, the Court will be applying the expedited procedure in the main actions. We therefore expect the hearing to take place shortly (possibly April/May 2002).

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 349 OF 2002

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is this main action designed to stop the Commission investigation proceeding on the basis that the State Aid Rules do not apply to our case?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes it is based on the complaint that the investigation should not proceed under the new aid as opposed to the existing aid procedures and it also makes submissions

about the non applicability of the State Aid Regulations to Gibraltar's tax laws on a number of grounds, the alternative.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So in fact if we were to win that argument there would be no need to reform anything and the qualifying companies and the exempt companies would carry on?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

If we were to win the actions that would be true. Theoretically the exempt status companies would not be in breach of State Aid Regulations there is a residual question of whether the marketplace can wait that long to find out the answer.

NO. 350 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SUPREME COURT OF GIBRALTAR – JUDGEMENTS

Since the answer to Question No 1241 of 2001, has there been any instance of a Supreme Court judgement being accepted for enforcement in Spain?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I can confirm that since the answer to Question No 1241 of 2001 the Government have received no request for the transmission to Spain of a Supreme Court judgement.

NO. 351 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

FRONTIER DELAYS

Has the European Commission now made a decision on the matter of frontier delays by Spain?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

None that have been communicated to the Government of Gibraltar.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 351 OF 2002

HON J J BOSSANO:

I think there was something in the news this morning suggesting that a decision had been announced by somebody that Spain was permitted to have controls that whether the controls were disproportionate or not was what was being looked at, has that been communicated to the Government?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I have not heard that news but certainly that news is perfect if it exists it is entirely consistent with the Government's understanding of the position as they have explained it in this House on numerous occasions. Obviously Spain is entitled to exercise immigration controls, passport controls because we are not part of Schengen and customs control because we are not part of the Common Customs

Union. The question therefore is whether those controls are being disproportionately applied in a way which in an unwarranted manner amounts to interference with the overriding right of free movement in the European Community. Spain's entitlement to exercise passport checks at the border are limited to Schengen reasons, Schengen does not override the Community principle of free movement of community nationals within the community territory. Therefore Spain's entitlement to exercise passport controls are limited to establishing whether the traveller is or is not a community national. Once it has established that the traveller is a community national they are not entitled to exercise anymore controls or checks. Spain is entitled to exercise normal customs control at the border but unless she does so conventionally in accordance with generally accepted national control regimes and deploys sufficient resources for the purpose then it is suggested, it is submitted and I think accepted by the Commission that if she did not do it in the proper way it would be a device in which she would disproportionately be interfering with the right of freedom of movement. So, I have not seen the report to which the hon Member refers but if it says as he has described it then it strikes me as being spot on on the issue the Commission is supposed to be forming a judgement of .

NO. 352 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR'S EU STATUS

Can Government state whether they have now received a reply from the Secretary of State in respect of the motion of this House regarding any possible re-negotiation of Gibraltar's EU Status?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

No.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 352 OF 2002

HON J J BOSSANO:

Have Government taken any action to get a reply?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The only action open to me that I can think of is to send him a reminder, I can confirm that I have not yet sent him a reminder.

HON J J BOSSANO:

When Mr Bevan visited Gibraltar did he say anything to the Government on this matter and are the Government aware that in fact we raised it in the meeting he had

with the Opposition and we made public his reply which appeared to be the answer we are seeking from the Foreign Secretary. Did the Government get any indication from him as we did?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Government's position in relation to EU status and the relevance of them in Anglo-Spanish bilateral discussions is well known to the British Government, I do not recall it arising specifically in my conversation with Mr Bevan which focused on other issues but I am aware of what is in the public domain about his conversation.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Given the fact that what is in the public domain about the meeting we had is what we are asking from the Foreign Secretary in relation to the motion of the House, that is, that it is not a matter for the Government to pursue with Spain unless they are being asked by the Government of Gibraltar to do it, and that this has been confirmed, would the Government not think it worthwhile to include in the reminder to the Foreign Secretary that his emissary here at least has confirmed it to the Opposition and we will stand by that.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

If Mr Bevan has said to the Opposition what the Opposition claims he has said to them then I do not suppose that Mr Straw would have any difficulty putting it in his response. There are a lot of if's in that and it remains to be seen whether Mr Bevan's interpretation of what he said to the Opposition is the same as his but if it is then I think it is good news if Mr Bevan has confirmed to the Leader of the Opposition that HMG accept that this is a matter which should be seen in the terms of the motion then that is the position that we want the UK Government to accept. It seems to me that there is something of an anomaly between Mr Bevan having said so with the clarity that the hon Members suggest and any disinclination by Mr Straw to say the same thing.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Precisely because there appears to be an anomaly that I decided to raise the matter in the House, he was very clear there were no if's about it.

NO. 353 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EUROPEAN OPEN SKIES

Since the answer to Question No 1250 of 2001 have Government been able to establish the steps that need to be taken to challenge Gibraltar's exclusion from the European Open Skies?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Government of Gibraltar have now received a preliminary legal opinion on this matter. The Government of Gibraltar expect to receive the final opinion shortly.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 353 OF 2002

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is this a legal opinion that has been obtained from people in Gibraltar or from people who are specialists in this area in the European Union?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Not of people in Gibraltar.

GIBRALTAR

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

30th April, 2nd, 3rd, 7th and 8th May 2002

No. 354 to No. 706



The Speaker

- **The Hon Judge J E Alcantara CBE**

GOVERNMENT (GSD):

The Hon P R Caruana QC

- **Chief Minister**

The Hon K Azopardi

- **Minister for Trade, Industry and
Telecommunications**

The Hon Dr B A Linares

- **Minister for Education, Training, Culture and
Health**

The Hon J J Holliday

- **Minister for Tourism and Transport**

The Hon Lt-Col E M Britto OBE , ED

- **Minister for Public Services, the Environment,
Sport and Youth**

The Hon H A Corby

- **Minister for Employment and Consumer Affairs**

The Hon J J Netto

- **Minister for Housing**

The Hon Mrs Y Del Agua

- **Minister for Social Affairs**

The Hon R Rhoda QC

- **Attorney General**

The Hon T J Bristow

- **Financial and Development Secretary**

OPPOSITION (GSLP/ Liberals):

The Hon J J Bossano

- **Leader of the Opposition**

The Hon Dr J J Garcia

The Hon J L Baldachino

The Hon Miss M I Montegriffo

The Hon Dr R G Valarino

The Hon J C Perez

The Hon S E Linares

D J Reyes Esq, ED

- **Clerk of the House of Assembly**

30th April, 2nd, 3rd, 7th and 8th May 2002

No. 354 to No. 706

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Number of Unemployed	370	24-25
Number of Unemployed	391	58
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ORAL

NO. 354 OF 2002

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

SOCIAL INSURANCE SCHEDULES

Can Government state as at 31st March 2002 how many employers had returned the social insurance schedules and in respect of how many employees for each of the four quarters of 2001, giving a breakdown between the official and private sector?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos 355 to 359 of 2002.

NO. 355 OF 2002

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

SOCIAL INSURANCE SCHEDULES

How many employers have returned the social insurance schedules for the 1st quarter of 2002 so far, giving a breakdown between official and private sector and the number of employees involved?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos 354 and 356 to 359 of 2002.

NO. 356 OF 2002

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

SOCIAL INSURANCE SCHEDULES

Can Government state as at 31st March 2002 how many social insurance schedules for self-employed persons had been returned for each of the four quarters of 2001?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos 354, 355 and 357 to 359 of 2002.

NO. 357 OF 2002

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

SOCIAL INSURANCE SCHEDULES

Can Government state how many social insurance schedules for self-employed persons have finally been issued in respect of the 1st quarter of 2002?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos 354 to 356 and 358 to 359 of 2002.

NO. 358 OF 2002

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

SOCIAL INSURANCE SCHEDULES

How many social insurance schedules for self-employed persons have been returned so far in respect of the 1st quarter of 2002?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos 354 to 357 and 359 of 2002.

NO. 359 OF 2002

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

SOCIAL INSURANCE SCHEDULES

Can Government state how many social insurance schedules have finally been issued to employers, the number of employers and in respect of how many employees for the 1st quarter of 2002?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Further to the recent written explanation given to the Leader of the Opposition of how the new computer system operates, I now hand the hon Member a list giving the information requested based on actual returns and non returns.

Answer to Question 359 of 2002

	All				Private				Official			Self Employed		
	Number of Employers all	Returns	Non-Return	Pending	Number of Employers returned	Returns	Non-Return	Pending	Returns	Non-Return	Pending	Returns	Non-Return	Pending
Qtr.1/01	1326	13446	1529	2623	983	9693	1216	1588	3182	269	819	571	44	216
Qtr.2/01	1356	13277	2321	2667	932	9545	1933	1627	3175	317	822	557	71	218
Qtr.3/01	1373	12670	3684	2709	907	9044	3154	1664	3091	423	824	535	107	221
Qtr.4/01	1385	8162	8219	2748	395	5435	6831	1695	2598	868	829	129	520	224
Qtr.1/02	1392	1093	616	17686	215	976	570	12706	nil	38	4287	117	8	693
<p align="center"><u>Note:-</u></p> <p>Those classified under pending are in respect of contribution records for which no notification of termination has been provided and no contribution return has been recorded since the introduction of the new system or in the 1st Quarter of 2002.</p>														

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 354 TO 359 OF 2002

HON J J BOSSANO:

Let me say that I am grateful for the very detailed written explanation of how the system works. We are quite happy to get clarification by going directly to the department without the need to put it as a question in the House. In terms of the non-returns presumably at some stage the catching up of this will have to be reflected in the original figures to the extent that there is an assumption that these numbers are pending and will eventually materialise. Would the Minister agree that when that happens we will get revised figures and then we do not need to keep on putting questions everytime to get updates.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

That is correct that will happen. The information will be passed on.

NO. 360 OF 2002

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE FUND

Can Government state what was the estimated balance of the Social Assistance Fund as at 31st March 2001?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

The actual balance in the Social Assistance Fund as at 31st March 2001 was £273,252.11.

NO. 361 OF 2002

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE FUND

Can Government state what was the estimated balance of the Social Assistance Fund as at 31st March 2002?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

The actual closing balance in the Social Assistance Fund as at 31st March 2002 was £119,288.52.

NO. 362 OF 2002

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

Can Government state the number of persons receiving Social Assistance for the months of February and March 2002 giving a breakdown by age and sex?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

I hand the hon Member a list giving the information requested.

Persons in receipt of Social Assistance for the months of February and March 2002 by age and sex.

Month	Males	Females	Total	18/25	26/35	36/45	46/60
February	117	209	326	52	111	97	66
March	115	197	312	57	100	92	63

NO. 363 OF 2002

HON J L BALDACHINO

EMPLOYMENT INJURIES INSURANCE FUND

Can Government state what was the estimated balance of the Employment Injuries Insurance Fund as at 31st March 2001?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

The actual closing balance in the Employment Injuries Insurance Fund as at 31st March 2001 was £6,027,906.96.

NO. 364 OF 2002

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

EMPLOYMENT INJURIES INSURANCE FUND

Can Government state what was the estimated balance of the Employment Injuries Insurance Fund as at 31st March 2002?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

The estimated balance in the Employment Injuries Insurance Fund as at 31st March 2002 was £5,901,527.65.

NO. 365 OF 2002

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

SOCIAL INSURANCE (SHORT-TERM BENEFITS) FUND

Can Government state what was the estimated balance of the Social Insurance (Short-Term Benefits) Fund as at 31st March 2001?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

The actual closing balance in the Social Insurance (Short-Term Benefits) Fund as at 31st March 2001 was £11,137,094.96.

NO. 366 OF 2002

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

SOCIAL INSURANCE (SHORT-TERM BENEFITS) FUND

Can Government state what was the estimated balance of the Social Insurance (Short-Term Benefits) Fund as at 31st March 2002?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

The estimated balance in the Social Insurance (Short-Term Benefits) Fund as at 31st March 2002 was £6,415,545.09.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 366 OF 2002

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can I ask about the £5 million reduction in the balance during the course of the year, can the Minister say when the £5 million was transferred out?

HON K AZOPARDI:

I understand that the transfer was made towards the turn of the year. I am not sure if we have got the exact month for him.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Was the transfer made in pursuance of the amendment which gave the Financial and Development Secretary the power to take money out of the Short-Term Benefits Fund and put it in the Consolidated Fund?

HON K AZOPARDI:

Yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I believe the provisions said that if the transfer that was permissible by that amendment which as the House knows we do not agree with and did not support was based on an assessment having to be made as to the money not being needed. How was it arrived at that £5 million was not needed as opposed to any other figure?

HON K AZOPARDI:

I understand that Treasury made an assessment of how much money was needed to cover the payments that needed to be made from the fund and on that basis going forward it made that determination and hence the rest of the money was transferred out.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So does that imply that the £6 million that has been retained is needed and that there is therefore no further intention of transferring out any further sums?

HON K AZOPARDI:

Yes that is my understanding.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is that on the basis of the level of Short-Term benefits as they are at the moment?

HON K AZOPARDI:

Yes it is based on projections going forwards for several years and on the current level of contributions.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Projections coming forward on the basis of their current expenditure from the fund?

HON K AZOPARDI:

Yes, expenditure and current level of contributions.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Assuming that both the income and the expenditure continues at the level that they are at the moment.

HON K AZOPARDI:

Yes.

NO. 367 OF 2002**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 in February and March 2002 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**

I hand the hon Member a list giving the information requested.

The following pensioners were in receipt of payments from the Closed Long-Term Benefits Fund from February 2002 – March 2002.

	February 2002	March 2002
Pre-1969 Spanish Pensioners	7080	7067
British Pensioners (Gib/UK Nat)	4627	4625
Moroccan Pensioners	1244	1255
Other Nationalities	359	354
Total	13310	13301

NO. 368 OF 2002

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 of the months of February and March 2002 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

I hand the hon Member a statement giving the information requested.

	28-Feb-02	31-Mar-02
	£	£
Fund Account- Opening Balance	424,874	422,009
<u>"Local Account"</u>		
Opening Balance	34,982	147,031
<u>Add</u>		
Transfers from the Open Long-Term Benefits Fund	970,000	930,000
Other Receipts	2,262	3,179
	1,007,244	1,080,210
<u>Less</u>		
Pension Payments	(860,213)	(914,667)
Closing Balance	147,031	165,543
<u>"Spanish Account"</u>		
Opening Balance	389,892	274,978
<u>Add</u>		
Receipts from DFID	330,000	930,000
	719,892	1,204,978
<u>Less</u>		
Pension Payments	(444,914)	(952,753)
Closing Balance	274,978	252,225
<u>Fund Account – Closing Balance</u>	422,009	417,768

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 368 OF 2002

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can Government confirm that they are able to maintain the funding from the Closed Long-Term Benefits Fund by transfers from the Open Fund on present levels of revenue and expenditure?

HON K AZOPARDI:

Yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Have Government made any calculation of what the financial implications would be for the fund or the revaluation of the payments that have been made by reference to the index of retail prices since 1989?

HON K AZOPARDI:

I am not sure what the question is intended to get, if the hon Member is talking about the long standing position of successive Governments that Gibraltar is not liable for those rights.....

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am not questioning whose liability it is or suggesting that it is ours for one moment, what I am saying is have the Government made a calculation because given that the figures we have been given distinguishes between the local account which is Gibraltar's liability and the Spanish account which is UK's liability presumably if there was a revaluation it would apply to both accounts, have the Government made any attempt to get a ballpark figure of what we are talking about?

HON K AZOPARDI:

As to the local account?

HON J J BOSSANO:

As to the local account yes of course.

HON K AZOPARDI:

Only because any revaluation conducted as to the Spanish Account is a revaluation done on an ex-gratia basis by others not by us and therefore what the hon Member is asking assuming that there were to be a revaluation which the Government would

then wish also conducted in Gibraltar as to the local account have we estimated what that would be worth, is that right?

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well not quite I am not assuming that it is a question of whether there will be choice, the point that I am making is if we look at the argument that is being put that frozen pensions are unsustainable and that consequently the real value of those pensions have to be maintained, if that argument deems to be legitimate then presumably it is legitimate for both the Spanish account and the local account and the Government would then have to address the liability that falls on the local account. I am not talking about ex-gratia payments or negotiated deals or anything else. I am talking about the question of whether the pensions that have been frozen since 1988 need to be retrospectively revalued in accordance with the index of retail prices.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

So that our pensioners do not loose out.

HON K AZOPARDI:

No such specific assessment has been done, I note the hon Members' point and obviously if that hypothesis is ever arrived at there would be a need to do some calculations but I do not want to tread into sensitive waters as to other payments being conducted and therefore I note the hon Members' point. It is a valid one and the Government will consider it.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So the Government have not actually looked at that possibility materialising and done some sort of exercise to get at least an idea of magnitude, that has not been done?

HON K AZOPARDI:

Well not as to the local account.

NO. 369 OF 2002

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 for January, February and March 2002?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

I hand the hon Member a list giving the information requested.

The transfers made from the Open/Long Term Benefits Fund to the Closed Long-Term Benefits Fund for the months of January, February and March 2002 are as follows:

January 2002	-	£115,000
February 2002	-	£970,000
March 2002	-	£930,000
		<hr/>
		£2,015,000
		<hr/>

NO. 370 OF 2002

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED

Can Government give a breakdown of male and female unemployed Gibraltarians aged 18 and over for the months of January, February and March 2002 receiving:-

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

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

I hand the hon Member a list giving the information requested.

The following is a breakdown by month, sex and age of male and female unemployed Gibraltarians aged 18 and over from 1st January 2002 to 31st March 2002.

A. Unemployment Benefits

2002	Males	Females	Total	18/25	26/35	36/45	46/60
January	46	40	86	34	20	9	23
February	43	30	73	35	15	9	14
March	33	25	58	27	12	8	11

B. Social Assistance

2002	Males	Females	Total	18/25	26/35	36/45	46/60
January	68	28	96	24	28	30	14
February	65	24	89	22	29	27	11
March	62	21	83	25	20	25	13

C. No Payments

2002	Males	Females	Total	18/24	25+
January	76	73	149	60	89
February	82	81	163	64	99
March	74	70	144	41	103

NO. 371 OF 2002**THE HON J L BALDACHINO****DISABILITY ALLOWANCE**

Can Government give a breakdown by age and sex of the 90 persons receiving disability allowance as stated in Question No 13 of 2002?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS**

I hand the hon Member a list giving the information requested.

PERSONS RECEIVING DISABILITY ALLOWANCE BY AGE AND SEX			
AGE	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
0-10	18	2	20
11-20	18	7	25
21-30	11	5	16
31-40	4	7	11
41-50	5	7	12
51-60	1	4	5
61-70	1	-	1

NO. 372 OF 2002

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

DISABILITY ALLOWANCE

Can Government state how many persons applied for disability allowance under the Social Assistance Arrangements in the 1st quarter of 2002 and how many of these applications were not successful, giving a breakdown for each month?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

In the 1st quarter of 2002 only one person applied for Disability Allowance under the Social Assistance Arrangements. This application was successful.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 372 OF 2002

HON J L BALDACHINO:

The person that was successful was it somebody who had a disability from birth or otherwise?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

It was a permanent disability which obviously meets the criteria but it was not from birth.

NO. 373 OF 2002

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

WAIVER OF IMPORT DUTY

In the last financial year how many persons have applied for the waiver of import duty on vehicles in relation to disability and how many have been granted?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

In the last financial year five persons applied for the waiver of import duty on vehicles in relation to disability. Four were successful and one was not approved as it did not meet the set criteria.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 373 OF 2002

HON J L BALDACHINO:

For clarification purposes in a similar question to this one I think it was the Chief Minister that said that persons had to apply to the Collector of Customs, is it that he has to apply to the Collector of Customs or is it that they have to apply to the hon Lady's department?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

The hon Member must be aware that only Customs has the legal right to exempt a vehicle coming into Gibraltar from import duty when that vehicle is for the use of a disabled person and has been specially adapted for the use of such. When those legal requirements are not met that is when the person makes representations to my

department and then the Minister can make in turn representations for an ex-gratia payment to be made. The set criteria in those cases is that the vehicle does not necessarily require to be used by the person as long as it is adapted for the use of such a person.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

Therefore the four persons that have been approved have been approved under her department by ex-gratia payments and they have not had waived their import duty, is that it?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

The applications were not made to the Customs because obviously the people who were importing the vehicles knew for a fact that the import duty would not be waived because it did not meet the set criteria, the legal requirements. The five applications were made to my department.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

So no waiver of import duty has been made?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Not made legally by Customs no.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

One thing is that the Customs waive the import duty and therefore the money does not come in under the import duty system and another thing is that they pay duty and then the hon Member makes an ex-gratia payment which comes out of her budget, is that correct?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I am not too sure whether it does come out of my budget or it comes out of the Treasury budget but the other part of his assumption is correct.

HON K AZOPARDI:

Is the hon Member clear, I was not sure whether he had got the answer. What we are saying is that had they met the criteria and applied through Customs they would have had a waiver of import duty, in this case they did not and those that were granted were taken out not as a formal waiver of import duty and therefore at source but it would be reimbursed presumably from some head of expenditure.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

I fully understood what the hon Lady has said what I wanted was clarification because on the previous question we were told that people had to apply to Customs for the waiver of Import Duty and therefore if somebody comes to the Opposition and asks "what shall I do" normally we say "you have to go to the Collector of Customs to apply." In this case we can either say "you can go to the Collector of Customs or you can go to the hon Member's department."

HON K AZOPARDI:

My understanding is that all applications are referred and should be made to Customs in the first instance and it is only those applications that really they feel will not meet the criteria that then as a second tier should go to the department. The applications that have gone to my hon Colleague will have got there because they would not have met the Customs criteria but at first instance if there is a possibility of meeting a criteria they should be made to Customs, and that is the proper procedure if the hon Member wants to know it, if he wants to advice people which I think is what he said he wanted to know.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

Therefore the criteria for the waiver of import duty by the Customs is different to the criteria used by the hon Lady's department, what is the difference?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

That is correct, the legal requirements under the customs regulations as I have explained before is that the vehicle has to be for the use of a disabled person and be specially adapted for such a use. The criteria set by my department whereby the Minister can make representations for an ex-gratia payment to be made is that we can make that ex-gratia payment even if the vehicle is not going to be used by the disabled person. As long as the vehicle is adapted for the carriage of such a person then the ex-gratia payment is granted.

NO. 374 OF 2002

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

MILBURY CARE SERVICE

What management structure is intended to replace the Milbury contract later this year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

The Government have not taken a final decision on the future management structure once the Milbury contract expires later this year.

SUPPLMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 374 OF 2002

HON J L BALDACHINO:

When will Government be in a position to know what management structure they intend to put in place to replace the Milbury structure?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I can say that it is envisaged that the structure will be similar to what exists at present but we will be in a position to confirm that and to make an announcement very shortly.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

I suppose that people who need the training for those posts are now being trained?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

The people who will take over or who will be able to apply for posts within the management structure will have to be suitably qualified. I am not able to say whether every single person in Milbury has been trained to that standard.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

One of the conditions Milbury have in their contract is that they have to train local people, has Milbury not fulfilled that contractual obligation?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Within the structure let alone the management structure there are many levels of training required for the different personnel within what we say is the Milbury staff, many people have been trained at a certain level and others although they have been trained it might be the case that they have not been able to achieve the qualifications required. I am not saying that that is the case but it could happen.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

I understand that but the original contract that Government signed with Milbury was that the Milbury UK staff I think it was in three or two years time those posts would have been taken up by locals and they had to train those local people to take those posts which was the managerial staff of Milbury. That has not happened has it?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

As far as I am aware the training has been afforded whether the people have acquired the qualifications needed at the end of the day to take over the management structure I would not be able to say.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Has a decision been taken on whether after the Milbury contract those persons assuming these responsibilities will be direct employees of the Government or are we talking about an alternative contractual situation?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I am not in a position to confirm that at this moment in time but an announcement will be made shortly.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So the Government have not yet decided which of the two it is?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

We are still considering the possibilities.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Surely if the Government came down on the side of contracting it out, would that not have to be advertised and go to tender and all the rest of it?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I can give an indication that one of the options that is before us is to have a similar structure to the Elderly Care Agency and as far as I am concerned or I am aware that did not need to go out to tender.

HON J J BOSSANO:

But that is a statutory body it is not a private contractor, is that the alternative that they are looking at, a statutory body as opposed to a private contractor?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I think that we could discard the private contractor and it would be more in line of a statutory body.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I take it that whoever takes over would have to take on the existing staff?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

That is the case.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

We are talking about all that Milbury manages it is not just the Dr Giraldi Home, is it all where Milbury has a contractual obligation with the Government?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Social Services comprises a lot more than the Dr Giraldi Home.

NO. 375 OF 2002**THE HON J L BALDACHINO****SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY**

Can Government state how many children are held in care giving a breakdown by age and sex at the end of March 2002?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS**

As at the 31st March 2002, 25 children and young persons were in care with the Social Services Agency.

The following statistical analysis gives details of age band and gender:-

Age Group	Male	Female	Total
0-4 yrs	2	2	4
5-9 yrs	4	-	4
10-14 yrs	1	7	8
15-18 yrs	3	6	9

NO. 376 OF 2002

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

DR GIRALDI HOME

Can Government state how many individuals applied for respite facilities at Dr Giraldi Home and how many were accommodated giving a breakdown for the months of February and March 2002?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

In the month of February 2002 nine individuals applied for respite facilities at Dr Giraldi Home and eight applications were met. In the month of March 2002 eight individuals applied and the eight applications were met.

NO. 377 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SOCIAL INSURANCE FUND

Can Government say what was the balance of the Social Insurance Fund as at 31st March 1988 and how much of this was attributable to the funds provided by UK for the payment of pre-1969 Spanish Pensions?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

The balance in the Social Insurance Fund as at 31st March 1988 was £16.5 million. The notional Spanish Pensions sub-fund reflects that as at 31st March 1988, a sum of £0.9 million was due by HM Government in respect of Spanish Pensions.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 377 OF 2002

HON J J BOSSANO:

The fact that the Minister has said “was due” means that the UK contribution at that time was in deficit and that Gibraltar had advanced £0.9 million, is that what it implies?

HON K AZOPARDI:

I think the way the answer is phrased, I have not compiled it but I imagine Treasury has, the way that it is phrased implies that the answer to the hon Member's question must be that there was a sum due of £900,000 by the UK Government in relation to Spanish pensions. There is no account in tabular form that I could compare so that I

could give him the answer as a 100 per cent accurate answer but that I am sure we can do but the way that the answer has been given certainly implies that yes there was a sum of £900,000 due by Her Majesty's Government at that time. What I can say to the hon Member was that subsequently in May of that year 1988, £2.5 million of ODA Funds were received from the UK to cover liabilities up until the end of May and I imagine and that can be confirmed as well that that may have incorporated the £900,000 due at the end of March 1988.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I was there in May 1988 but I certainly do not recall that at the start of the financial year the local fund had dispersed money to Spanish pensioners in anticipation of receiving money from UK, this is why I interpret the answer because that is the way it seems to be drafted but I am surprised that that should be the case. I was under the impression that the balance at the end of the 1987/1988 financial year in fact included some of the ODA Funding which had been provided earlier.

HON K AZOPARDI:

I do not think that we have said that the fund actually dispersed funds in anticipation of a receipt of payment. All that the hon Member has said is that the sum of £900,000 was due, the point that the hon Member has just made is whether we have dispersed it in anticipation. I do not think we have given that.

HON J J BOSSANO:

If the Minister were as familiar with the way this thing works as I am, he would know that it only becomes due if it has been paid so if the payment had not been made to the Spaniards it would not be due from UK. The normal practice was that the UK provided the funds before payment was made so there was no question of them becoming due. They were topped up as they are today as the balance in the Spanish account which we have been given in answer to a previous question runs down, the UK provides more money. In theory it is conceivable that a delay in receiving the payment from UK would lead to a point where the Gibraltar Government would not suddenly stop paying Spanish pensioners if they knew that the money was on its way and it is only in those circumstances that I can think of how money can be due from UK. The importance of clarifying that is that if it means that the £16.5 million was all local money and on top of that at that point there should have been £0.9 million then we are talking about the local money being £17.4 million whereas if the £16.5 million includes then we are talking about the sum of local money available for local pensions being less. So it is a question of getting an accurate figure for what was the balance on that date.

HON K AZOPARDI:

I take the hon Member's point. We can certainly clarify to him whether in fact the £2.5 million that we received from ODA in 1988 incorporated a payment of £900,000 in respect of March 1988 or whether in fact this is just clumsy phraseology and the hon Member's assessment is correct. That can certainly be clarified by the Treasury and the information given to him.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The figure that was previously given in the House that the balance on that date was £55 million is then totally inaccurate.

HON K AZOPARDI:

I cannot recall that anyone has given that figure but certainly all that I have today is the figure that we have given him, the balance of £16.5 million and I certainly imagine that this one is far more accurate than any other prior figure even if it was stated before but again if he wants us to confirm that to him we will certainly do so, that is part of the previous answer that we are going to check anyway, we are going to tell him specifically the balance of £16.5 million and whether it stands in relation to the possible impact of the previous question.

HON J J BOSSANO:

If I can refresh the Minister's memory that was the figure that was provided in the House at the time of the restoration of the fund. When the fund was restored after the agreement with UK we were told in this House that initially the balance had been £55 million, and that it had been reduced over the years and that that meant that it was in a precarious position to meet future liabilities. Obviously the difference between £55 million and £16.5 million is so massive that one wonders how the calculations could have been made so it is something that we want clarified.

HON K AZOPARDI:

Yes it certainly can be checked as I have said and I think that the proper figure and more accurate figure is certainly around £16 million but as the hon Member has said himself he was in Government at the time and maybe with his golden memory he could remember the figure himself.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I certainly would have known if we had £55 million. I can tell the Minister that.

NO. 378 OF 2002**HON J L BALDACHINO****CAMMELL LAIRD**

Can Government state how many persons were employed by Cammell Laird or alternatively in the Shipping Industry as at the end of January, February and March 2002 and how many of these were Gibraltarians?

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 hand to him.

The number of persons employed in the Shipping Industry in the 1st Quarter 2002 is as follows:-

	January	February	March
Gib	124	125	130
Other	129	132	134
Total	253	257	264

NO. 379 OF 2002

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

CAMMELL LAIRD

Can Government give a monthly breakdown of the vacancies for casual workers opened with the Employment Agency by Cammell Laird or alternatively in the Shipping Industry in the 1st quarter of 2002, and of these how many have been taken by Gibraltarians?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

There were no vacancies for Casual Workers in the shipping industry in the 1st quarter of 2002.

NO. 380 OF 2002**THE HON J L BALDACHINO****EMPLOYMENT - NUMBER OF GIBRALTARIANS**

Can Government state of the Gibraltarians employed in the 1st quarter of 2002 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 hand to him.

Registered Gibraltarians employed during the 1st quarter of 2002.

January	Males	Females	Total
<18	2	3	5
18 to 24	18	16	34
25+	14	21	35
Total	34	40	74

February	Males	Females	Total
<18	3	5	8
18 to 24	11	14	25
25+	10	15	25
Total	24	34	58

March	Males	Females	Total
<18	2	0	2
18 to 24	19	13	32
25+	14	17	31
Total	35	30	65

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 380 OF 2002

HON J L BALDACHINO:

Can the Minister say, that if I were to deduct this from the vacancies filled, the jobs that have been filled in the 1st quarter, for example in January, the other jobs that have been filled have been filled by people that were in employment, moving employment is that correct?

HON H A CORBY:

I cannot say, what I have here are the people who have been employed during the months of January, February and March, I do not know if they are moving from one to the other, I do not have that information.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

So these ones are only people who found employment during that month and were registered as unemployed?

HON H A CORBY:

That is correct.

NO. 381 OF 2002**THE HON J L BALDACHINO****UNEMPLOYMENT REGISTER**

How many Gibraltarians joined the Unemployment register during each month of the 1st quarter of 2002 giving a breakdown 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 hand to him.

Gibraltarians who joined the Unemployment Register during the 1st quarter of 2002.

January	Males	Females	Total
<18	10	8	18
18 to 24	41	27	68
25+	45	38	83
Total	96	73	169

February	Males	Females	Total
<18	8	7	15
18 to 24	22	16	38
25+	31	28	59
Total	61	51	112

March	Males	Females	Total
<18	11	8	19
18 to 24	18	15	33
25+	25	23	48
Total	54	46	100

NO. 382 OF 2002

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

BRITISH NATIONALS EMPLOYED

Can Government state of the 312 other British employed in the 1st quarter of 2002 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 383 to 385 of 2002.

NO. 383 OF 2002

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

SPANISH NATIONALS EMPLOYED

Can Government state of the 349 Spanish nationals employed in the 1st quarter 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 382, 384 and 385 of 2002.

NO. 384 OF 2002

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

MOROCCAN NATIONALS EMPLOYED

Can Government state how many Moroccan nationals employed in the 1st quarter of 2002 were new entrants to the Local Labour Market giving a breakdown for each month and job title?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Answered together with Questions Nos 382, 383 and 385 of 2002.

NO. 385 OF 2002**THE HON J L BALDACHINO****NON-EEC NATIONALS EMPLOYED**

Can Government state how many non-EEC nationals employed in the 1st quarter of 2002 were new entrants to the Local Labour Market giving a breakdown by nationality and job title, 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 hand to him.

British Nationals

	January	February	March	Total
New Entrants	24	60	48	132

Spanish Nationals

	January	February	March	Total
New Entrants	55	75	63	193

Moroccans

	January	February	March	Total
New Entrants	0	0	0	0

Other Non-EEC Nationals

January	Korean	Greek/ Cypriot	Totals
Managerial	-	-	-
Professional	-	-	-
Medical	-	-	-
Clerical	1	-	1
Semi-skilled	-	1	1
Domestic	-	-	-
Catering	-	-	-
Skilled	-	-	-
Director	-	-	-
Total	1	1	2

February	USA	Greek/ Cypriot	Can	Slovak	New Zealand	South Africa	Aus	Estonia	Malaysian	Total
Managerial	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Professional	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Medical	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Clerical	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	3	5
Semi-skilled	-	6	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	9
Domestic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Catering	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Skilled	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Director	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	1	6	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	16

March	New Zealand	Malaysia	Chilean	Greek/Cypriot	Chinese	Totals
Managerial	1	-	-	-	-	1
Professional	-	-	-	-	-	-
Medical	-	-	-	-	-	-
Clerical	-	1	-	-	-	1
Semi-skilled	-	-	1	2	1	4
Domestic	-	-	-	-	-	-
Catering	-	-	-	-	-	-
Skilled	-	-	-	-	-	-
Director	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	1	1	1	2	1	6

NO. 386 OF 2002**HON J L BALDACHINO****TERMS OF ENGAGEMENT**

Can Government state how many Terms of Engagement were registered with the Employment Agency on 31st January, 28th February and 31st March 2002:

- (a) including directors;
- (b) excluding directors?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

The number of Terms of Employment registered with the Employment Service as at the end of January, February and March 2002 is as follows:

	January	February	March
Including directors & self-employed	18309	18461	18597
Excluding directors & self-employed	15546	15698	15834

NO. 387 OF 2002**THE HON J L BALDACHINO****EMPLOYMENT - VACANCIES FILLED**

Can Government state of the vacancies filled in the 1st quarter of 2002 how many were for part-time employment giving a breakdown by sex and age for each month as follows:

- (a) Gibraltarians;
- (b) Other nationals?

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 hand to him.

Part-time vacancies filled in the first quarter of 2002.

January	Gibraltarians		Other		Total	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
<18	2	1	2	0	4	1
18 to 24	2	8	7	10	9	18
25+	5	91	14	21	19	112
Total	9	100	23	31	32	131

February	Gibraltarians		Other		Total	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
<18	0	1	0	0	0	1
18 to 24	1	11	5	9	6	20
25+	2	25	12	23	14	48
Total	3	37	17	32	20	69

March	Gibraltarians		Other		Total	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
<18	1	1	0	0	1	1
18 to 24	4	6	4	12	8	18
25+	2	27	14	26	16	53
Total	7	34	18	38	25	72

NO. 388 OF 2002

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

EMPLOYMENT - CONTRACTS TERMINATED

Can Government give a breakdown by nationality and industry giving the total for each month for the 1st quarter of 2002 in respect of employment contracts terminated?

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 hand to him.

Answer to Question 388 of 2002

Employment Contracts Terminated by Nationality & Industry for January – March 2002																		
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.	4	1	5				1	2	7		1	1	2		2		1	
M/f of food, & tobacco			1	1					1								1	
Printing & publishing	2				1				2					1	1			1
M/f n.e.c.(clothing etc)																	2	
Blding & construction	9	18	11	1			8	21	20	6	1		14	10	39	5		
Electricity supply																		
Water supply							1											
Sea transport/shipping	6	1		1			2						1		1			
Port & services	1	1					1											
Road transport			1								1							
Post & telecomm.																		
Air transport & related													1					
W/sale food, drink	2	1	6				6		1				2	1			1	
W/sale fuel							1	1										
W/sale n.e.c.	4	1	1	1			2	1						1				1
Retail –food	4	5	11				3	5	3		1	1	4	1	2			1
Retail-drink & tobacco	1						1						2					
Ret.-clothing, footwear	6	4	1				5		2				1					
Retail – h/hold goods	2	2			1		3	2			2							
Retail – n.e.c.	8	3	4	1			7	2	7				6	1	3		1	1
Hotels,hostels,g/houses	1	2	1					2	1				1		5			
Restaurants, cafes etc	7	9	9	1	1	2	7	12	11	3	2		13	6	1			
Bars(lic to sell alcohol)	3	5	3	2	2		4	8	8	1	1				2			
Tourist svcs n.e.c.	1		1				5	1					4		1			
Banking & finance	5	1	1				5	1					4	1	1			1
Insurance & real estate	5	4			2		6	2	1				1	2		1		1
Legal,account,other svc	10	3	3	2	2	1	15	4	2				6		1		5	
Public admin	20						11	1					21					
Education services	1								1				1					
Medical/health services	2	6	1			1		3					2	1				
Welfare,charity,rel svcs	1	1	1										2					
Entertainment & sport	5	6	1		1		7	10	1				2	1				
Repairs-consumer good	2	3	2		1	1	2	1					1		1			
Police/fire services	4	4					4	1	1		1		4		1			
Defence	1	1		1			1						6	4				
Sanitary services						1											1	
Services n.e.c.	23	9	3	3	4		19	9	9			1	12	3	3		1	1

NO. 389 OF 2002

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

WORK PERMITS

Can Government state the number of Work Permits issued in the 1st quarter of 2002 giving a breakdown by occupation, sex and nationality 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 hand to him.

Answer to Question No 389 of 2002

February	New Zealand		Malaysian		Chilean		Greek/Cypriot		Chinese		Totals
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Managerial	1										1
Professional											
Medical											
Clerical			1								1
Semi-skilled						1	2			1	4
Domestic											0
Catering											
Skilled											
Director											
Total	1	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	6

Answer to Question No 389 of 2002

Work Permits issued in the 1st Quarter of 2002.

January	Korean		Greek/Cypriot		Totals
	M	F	M	F	
Managerial					
Professional					
Medical					
Clerical		1			1
Semi-skilled			1		1
Domestic					
Catering					
Skilled					
Director			1		1
Total	0	1	2	0	3

February	American		Greek/Cypriot		Can		Malaysian		Slovak		New Zealand		South Africa		Australia		Estonian		Totals
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Managerial											1								1
Professional		1																	1
Medical																			0
Clerical					1		1	2	1				1						6
Semi-skilled			6												1	1			8
Domestic																			0
Catering																			0
Skilled																			0
Director																			0
Total	0	1	6	0	1	0	1	2	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	16

NO. 390 OF 2002**THE HON J L BALDACHINO****DETACHED WORKERS**

Can Government state the number of workers that were registered with the Employment Agency as "Detached Workers" in the 1st quarter of 2002, 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 schedule that I hand to him.

January 2002

Nationality	Professional	Semi-skilled	Skilled	Manual	Total
Spanish	1	2	54	-	57
British	1	-	5	-	6
Other EEC	-	-	3	-	3
Other Non EEC	-	-	-	-	-
Total	2	2	62	-	66

February 2002

Nationality	Professional	Semi-skilled	Skilled	Manual	Total
Spanish	1	2	27	-	30
British	1	-	7	-	8
Other EEC	-	-	-	-	-
Other Non EEC	1	-	-	-	1
Total	3	2	34	-	39

March 2002

Nationality	Professional	Semi-skilled	Skilled	Manual	Total
Spanish	-	1	21	-	22
British	-	-	5	-	5
Other EEC	-	-	-	-	-
Other Non EEC	1	-	-	-	1
Total	1	1	26	-	28

NO. 391 OF 2002**THE HON J L BALDACHINO****NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED**

Can Government state how many Gibraltarians registered unemployed with the Employment Agency as at the 1st quarter of 2002 were registered as looking for part-time jobs 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 hand to him.

Unemployed Gibraltarians registering for part-time in the 1st quarter of 2002.

January	Males	Females	Total
<18	0	0	0
18 to 24	0	2	2
25+	0	15	15
Total	0	17	17

February	Males	Females	Total
<18	0	0	0
18 to 24	0	1	1
25+	0	17	17
Total	0	18	18

March	Males	Females	Total
<18	0	0	0
18 to 24	0	1	1
25+	0	16	16
Total	0	17	17

NO. 392 OF 2002

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 for the month of January, February and March 2002 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 that I hand to him.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 392 OF 2002

HON J L BALDACHINO:

The information that the Minister has given me shows that there are no longer people employing illegal labour in Gibraltar, is that correct?

HON H A CORBY:

Well, the legislation seems to be very effective but I have to tell the hon Member that there is one at the end of March which will be reflected in the next quarter, April, May and June so there has been. Although people are now registering the workers there are at times some that have illegal workers with them and this was found out at the end of March and will be reflected in April.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

I presume that when the inspectors carry out the inspection are they are at random, who decides which area of employment in our economy they go to, they do it themselves or....?

HON H A CORBY:

Sometimes at random, sometimes in sectors and industry groups so it is a mixture of both.

January 2002

Number of inspections carried out was 21.
No Fixed Penalty Notices were issued.
No Fixed Penalty Notices were paid.
No pending cases with the Attorney General.

February 2002

Number of inspections carried out was 12.
No Fixed Penalty Notices were issued.
No Fixed Penalty Notices were paid.
No pending cases with the Attorney General.

March 2002

Number of inspections carried out was 11.
No Fixed Penalty Notices were issued.
No Fixed Penalty Notice were paid.
No pending case with the Attorney General.

The provisions are as follows:

- 1) Regulation 8(2A) of the Income Tax (Pay As You Earn) Regulations 1989 (Duty to Register).
- 2) Regulation 3 of the Employment Injuries (Contributions) Regulations (Duty to Register).
- 3) Regulation 3 of the Employment Injuries (Contributions) Regulations as applied by Regulation 4(1) of the Social Security (Contributions) Regulations (Duty to Register).
- 4) 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).
- 5) Regulation 7 of the Employment Regulations 1994 (Duty to apply to the Director for a permit in relation to a non-entitled worker).
- 6) Regulation 13 of the Employment Regulations 1994 (Duty to notify Director of Termination).
- 7) Section 3 of the Business Trades and Professions (Registration) Ordinance 1989 (Duty to Register).

NO. 393 OF 2002

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

JOB CLUB

Can Government state in respect of each month since January 2001 when the persons that used the Job Club facilities found employment, giving a monthly breakdown by reference to month attendance?

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 hand to him which includes:

1. Table attendance date (month) is that on which the person first made use of the Job Club facilities.
2. Table shows only those users who have found employment, not all users.
3. It must be noted that many other persons other than the Job Club users call at the Job Club for general enquiries and information, but do not necessarily register as users of the Job Club facilities, (that is do not more formally embark on a set Job Club Workshop or individual modules.)
4. Job Club facilities and workshops include set modules in:
 - Career Guidance
 - Jobsearch Skills
 - CV Writing
 - Interview Skills
 - Telephone Skills
 - Customer Care

Answer to Question 393 of 2002

NUMBER OF PERSONS THAT USED THE JOB CLUB FACILITIES AND FOUND EMPLOYMENT

(By month of first attendance and month in which they found employment)

January 2001 - March 2002

2001	Users Employed	2001												2002		
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Jan	8		4	2			1								1	
Feb	5		1	2	1	1										
Mar	10			1	5	1		1	1	1						
Apr	3				1		2									
May	8						2	3		2						1
Jun	6						1	3	1			1				
Jul	4								1	1	2					
Aug	9								1	3	2	1	1		1	
Sep	12										5	3		3		1
Oct	4										2	1			1	
Nov	3												1	1	1	
Dec	4												1	2	1	
2002																
Jan	9													3	4	2
Feb	4														1	3
Mar	1															1
TOTALS	90		0	5	5	7	2	6	7	4	7	11	6	3	9	8

- Behaviour At Work
- Assertiveness at Work
- Motivation and Self-esteem
- Life Skills
- Computer Interactive Packages and Videos
- Numeracy and Literacy Enhancement.

Answer to Question 393 of 2002

NUMBER OF PERSONS THAT USED THE JOB CLUB FACILITIES AND FOUND EMPLOYMENT

(By month of first attendance and month in which they found employment)

January 2001 - March 2002

	Users	2001												2002		
2001	Employed	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Jan	8		4	2			1								1	
Feb	5		1	2	1	1										
Mar	10			1	5	1		1	1	1						
Apr	3				1		2									
May	8						2	3		2						1
Jun	6						1	3	1			1				
Jul	4								1	1	2					
Aug	9								1	3	2	1	1		1	
Sep	12										5	3		3		1
Oct	4										2	1			1	
Nov	3												1	1	1	
Dec	4												1	2	1	
2002																
Jan	9													3	4	2
Feb	4														1	3
Mar	1															1
TOTALS	90		0	5	6	7	2	6	7	4	7	11	6	3	9	8

NO. 394 OF 2002

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

JOB CLUB

Can Government state how many persons have used the facilities provided at the Job Club in the 1st quarter of 2002, giving a breakdown of each month, by sex and age?

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 hand to him.

It must be noted that many other persons call at the Job Club for general enquiries and information but do not necessarily register as users of the Job Club facilities (that is do not more formally embark on a set Job Club Workshop or individual modules).

The numbers reflected in the tables represent persons who are registered users of the Job Club facilities.

The increase in the numbers for the 1st quarter of 2002 in comparison with the numbers provided in respect of the period of February 2001 to December 2001 (that is in respect of Question No 46 of 2002) is due to the fact that the new numbers include any person who has embarked on any individual Job Club module and not necessarily a set Job Club workshop. The numbers in respect of Question No 46 of 2002 only included those persons who had completed a set Job Club Workshop composed of a number of modules.

Total number of persons using the Job Club facilities for the 1st quarter of 2002 by month and sex.

Month	No of Persons	Males	Females
January 2002	45	20	25
February 2002	47	24	23
March 2002	58	42	16

Total number of persons using Job Club Facilities for the 1st quarter of 2002 by month and age.

Month	Under 18 Years	18-24 Years	25 Years & Over
January 2002	9	14	22
February 2002	8	16	23
March 2002	20	20	18

NO. 395 OF 2002**THE HON J L BALDACHINO****BRUCE'S FARM**

Can Government state how many persons have been admitted as in-patients and how many persons have been given help as out-patients at Bruce's Farm Drug Rehabilitation Centre since 1st January 2002 giving a breakdown by age and sex 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 hand to him.

Admissions for in-patients treatment as from 1st January 2002 - 31st March 2002.

	January 2002			February 2002			March 2002		
Age Groups	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Under 18	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
18 to 24	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
25 and Over	3	1	4	1	0	1	1	0	1

Out-patients seen from 1st January 2002 - 31st March 2002

	January 2002			February 2002			March 2002		
Age Groups	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Under 18	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
18 to 24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25 and Over	4	6	10	5	8	13	8	2	10

NO. 396 OF 2002

HON J C PEREZ

BUILDINGS AND WORKS DEPARTMENT

Can Government state whether they are any nearer to concluding negotiations with the industrial employees of the Buildings and Works Department in their attempt at creating an Authority to replace the Department?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question No 397 of 2002.

NO. 397 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

BUILDINGS AND WORKS DEPARTMENT

Have Government opened up the supervisory posts in the Buildings and Works Department arising out of the recommendations of the consultancy into the department, in anticipation of concluding an agreement with the relevant union/staff association, or has the new managerial structure now been agreed?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

There are a number of assumptions in both Questions that may or may not materialise. With regard to industrial employees of the TGWU concluding negotiations with the Government, the situation remains as answered in Question No 50 of 2002. The new posts advertised for both the Ministry for Housing and Buildings and Works are managerial and of various disciplines within the construction industry. However, whilst Government would wish to have a full and final agreement with the unions, it remains for the unions to decide if they wish to resume the negotiations or not. Nonetheless, given the public perception of the department, and the level of criticism by the Ombudsman, the Government believe that the interests of the tenants are paramount and have therefore started to reform the Buildings and Works in a manner in which it is our prerogative, as an employer, to do so.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 396 AND 397 OF 2002

HON J C PEREZ:

Does that mean then that if the authority does not see the light of day as a result of there being no agreement with the relevant union/staff associations, that these posts

that have been advertised become Government posts and that they become civil servants, the people that are being recruited?

HON J J NETTO:

The hon Member would have seen when we were here last and we laid down the Estimates for Revenue and Expenditure, they will see there that there has been an increase in the establishment for both the Ministry of Housing and Buildings and Works and for which obviously we will have a proper debate when the time comes to discuss that. The hon Member has to understand that he is right when he says that they will form part of the establishment, most of the posts obviously as advertised he may recall were permanent and pensionable with the exception of three in Buildings and Works which were through contract.

HON J C PEREZ:

Given that it has been normal practice until today that no reference is made to the Estimates given that they have been given to the Opposition on a confidential basis until the time of the budget I could hardly refer to the Estimates as the Minister has done. Can the Minister tell me whether the practice of opening non-industrial posts in Government service internally first has now been discontinued given that all the posts have been advertised outside the Government service?

HON J J NETTO:

No, there are proper procedures for recruitment but the hon Member has to take into account various factors in relation to the recruitment of this particular post. The hon Member will probably recall, I think it was last year, when the consultant report in Buildings and Works was published. The recommendations by the consultant was that all posts should be recruited on the basis of merit and open competition. The Government did not go completely along that line, the Government took a half-way house view as to the way it preferred to open up the recruitment process. Many of the posts were therefore advertised internally within the Government service, other posts were opened simultaneously both in the Government service and outside and this was done because everybody knows that particularly some of the jobs advertised which are specific disciplines within the construction industry there is hardly much stock within the Government for those particular posts, and the Government do want to continue as I have said before with reforming Buildings and Works because there is much work to do there for the benefit of the tenants and obviously we would want to do this in the shortest possible time in order to get on with this job.

HON J C PEREZ:

Just to remind the Minister, that the Government have refused to give us a copy of the recommendations so I could hardly refer to the recommendations as the Minister says but let me ask him whether given that these posts have been advertised in anticipation of a possible agreement of the management structure whether the practical employment of these people will be upheld until and if a management structure is agreed given that if the negotiations go a different way with the unions the Minister might find himself with two managerial structures instead of one.

HON J J NETTO:

With regards to the first point it is not that the Government refused to give the Opposition the consultants report. The Government made it public on the Government website and any Member who would have wanted the report could have got it a year ago. With regards to the second point as I said in my original answer the Government would wish at the end of the day and I think the Chief Minister has said this on many occasions in this Chamber, would rather wish to have a full and final agreement with the Unions, an agreement that we can all win, the tenants, the staff, and the Government. Unfortunately I am neither in the position nor are Government in the position to be able to tell the unions "come back to the negotiating table" much as we would prefer to do so. Therefore it remains a matter for the unions to decide for themselves but in the light and in the time whether they decide to come or not to come, the Government have said repeatedly in this Chamber and we will continue to say so that the interest of the tenants are paramount because there is a lot to reform in Buildings and Works in order to upgrade its services and what it means and I do not want to predetermine today the proper discussion that we will have when we have the budget and the hon Member does have a point on what he said before but the fact of the matter is that we are getting on with the job in terms of doing some of the reforms now.

HON J C PEREZ:

What the Minister is saying is that hypothetically as the situation stands now we could have a situation where there is stalemate with the union, they remain within the Buildings and Works Department with the managerial structure as it is but with new managers employed by the Minister or by the Government.

HON J J NETTO:

I want to draw a very thin line between some of the statements made by the hon Member in the sense that we will not have two structures as far as management is concerned, we will have one structure but what I am not going to enter into today with the hon Member here is as to the roles and responsibilities of the existing management.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can Government say who holds the negotiating rights, that is which union holds the negotiating rights for the new posts?

HON J J NETTO:

Prospect.

HON J J BOSSANO:

It does not sound like a union but anyway is Prospect then the union that has been consulted in order to agree the creation of these posts?

HON J J NETTO:

I do not agree with the Leader of the Opposition's view that the Government should seek to have permission by the union as to Government's intention to restructure their department at all. I think that it is an employer's prerogative to restructure their department as they see fit quite frankly, that is something which we have said in the past. We have taken the view from the very beginning of the negotiations to impart information to the unions in both verbally and written form as to the structure that we wanted to implement for Buildings and Works and the Ministry for Housing. We have not shied away from passing that information but at the end of the day it is not for the Government to negotiate their willingness to restructure Housing and Buildings and Works and the kind of management that it will have in its place.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The Minister then no longer subscribes to the view that he held before when he was a union official, that the negotiating rights of the union includes an agreed complement and structure, that is no longer the case?

HON J J NETTO:

The hon Member is confusing two different issues. This Government as opposed to the previous Government have made a money level agreement with regard to the industrials which has never existed in the past and that would not be affected in anyway within the negotiations or within the resumption of the new negotiations but this is not what we are discussing about what we are discussing and he has raised up is a question of an agreement with the union in relation to the management post that the Government intend to do. It is a matter for the Government to restructure Housing and Buildings and Works as they see fit in the interests of their tenants.

HON J J BOSSANO:

No, the Minister either has forgotten everything he ever preached or believed in or is deliberately being economical with the truth. Is it the policy or is it not whether it is in the Buildings and Works or in any other Government department that if one is going to reduce EO's and increase AO's or reduce PTO's and increase HPTO's from what it was in the previous financial year there is a negotiation with the union as to the changes in the post in that structure, is that still something that happens or has that now been abandoned?

HON J J NETTO:

With regards to getting things in the past the Leader of the Opposition has got to think for himself because he has done more damage to the union and to the working class than anyone else in the past, so that is in regards to that and with regards to our aim all his concern is about equating EO's or AO's or PTO's or HPTO's he will see for himself as a good mathematician that he is, that the union will win hands down in relation to an enormous amount of new jobs. So this is not a question that the union will see a deterioration in the numbers of the establishment, what they will see is a massive gain for people that we are employing in the department.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am not asking whether he was a better or worse Branch Officer than me, I think the members of the union are in a better position to judge whether it was him or me, he certainly seemed to think that he needed my support before he took the plunge to become a union official as I remember, nor am I asking whether the number of posts are going up or coming down. I am asking a simple question to my knowledge until this point in history, it has always been the accepted position of the Government and the union holding the negotiating rights, that the negotiating rights included the need for a negotiation to take place in order to provide different posts whether it is in the Port Department, in the Generating Station or in the Buildings and Works, are Government saying that in the Buildings and Works that rule does not apply or are Government saying that that rule no longer applies throughout the public service, that is my question, the Minister should not keep on avoiding it. He should say yes or no.

HON K AZOPARDI:

There is a time and a place for everything and the hon Member will also recognise that there are some individual posts where clearly there are negotiations and then there is information and sometimes there is not a need to negotiate especially where one creates a post where there is a crying need and certainly no one in the public service to fill it. In this case I can certainly tell the hon Member that as part of the discussions that we held with both unions, until we reached the point of where the unions had withdrawn, T&G had withdrawn from the negotiations, they are perfectly aware of precisely what we wanted to do as to the restructure of Buildings and Works, the posts that we wanted to take in and the adjustments that we wanted to make as to the management. The view we took though subsequently is that while they withdrew from the negotiations, it was clear that they had withdrawn because they did not want to accept the package that we had put together, or at least that was the communication that they gave to us, in relation to terms and conditions of the offices, men and so on. There was in the first place no issue as far as we are aware as to recruitment of staff, no additional staff. Secondly, this is not about reduction of posts it is about increases of posts and then thirdly while of course the Government inform and consult unions as a matter of industrial practice and that is proper and appropriate and that will continue into the future, when the Government decide as a matter of practice to increase complements I do not think it is a matter of negotiations, I think the union should be happy that we have increased the workforce.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am not talking about the industrial workforce and the TGWU which is presumably the reference to withdrawing from the negotiations, I am talking about the fact that I have been informed in a previous answer by the Minister that the negotiating rights for the new posts are held by Prospect and I can tell the Minister that until today, it may have been happening before, but until today the union holding the negotiating rights for a particular grade agrees and is minuted as agreeing to the creation of a post. It has nothing to do with the happiness or unhappiness, it is that that is the procedure that has always existed. I want to know whether that procedure has now been abandoned, is it such a difficult thing to find out?

HON K AZOPARDI:

I do not know if the hon Member is hinging something on some technical definition of holding negotiating rights, what I understand the situation to be is that when these posts are created and filled, a lot of them are new posts, those members will be entitled to join Prospect but there is no such negotiation going on as to whether the post should be created or not and as to whether Prospect agree that they should be created, these are new posts and I do not believe there is a general policy. I recall when we created the Chief Executive of the Health Authority, there was no such negotiation with any union and no union was minuted as having agreed to the creation of posts, as a matter of practice the Government can create new posts and they can be filled.

NO. 398 OF 2002

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

HOUSING ALLOCATION COMMITTEE

Can Government state on how many occasions since the 1st February 2002 the Housing Allocation Committee has met to date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos 399 and 400 of 2002.

NO. 399 OF 2002

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

HOUSING MEDICAL ADVISORY BOARD

Can Government state on how many occasions since the 1st February 2002 the Housing Medical Advisory Board has met to date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos 398 and 400 of 2002.

NO. 400 OF 2002

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

SOCIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Can Government state on how many occasions since the 1st February 2002 the Social Advisory Committee has met to date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answer to Question No 398 of 2002

The Housing Allocation Committee has met on three occasions since the 1st February 2002.

Answer to Question No 399 of 2002

The Housing Medical Advisory Board has met on three occasions since the 1st February 2002.

Answer to Question No 400 of 2002

The Social Advisory Committee has met on three occasions since the 1st February 2002.

NO. 401 OF 2002

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

HOUSING - TERMINATED TENANCIES

Can Government state what is the procedure followed by the Housing Department when a housing applicant has his tenancy terminated and becomes homeless?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

The hon Member has asked a question, which is a non sequitur. In other words, he has drawn conclusions from a premise, which is not logically connected with it. A housing applicant cannot have his tenancy terminated simply because by virtue of being an applicant he/she has not got a tenancy to be terminated in the first place.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 401 OF 2002

HON J J BOSSANO:

It may have escaped the analytical philosophical mind displayed by the Minister that an applicant lives somewhere and has a tenancy agreement with his landlord.

HON J J NETTO:

No, that is not the case as far as I am aware.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So when somebody applies to the Housing department he has no landlord and no tenancy agreement, where do they live up the rock with the rock apes?

HON J J NETTO:

There are many circumstances but any person who makes an application may be living either in the private sector or within Government but not living as a result of being authorised to reside in a tenancy but that is a different issue.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is the Minister not aware that the word "tenancy" is not limited to Government tenants, that a tenancy is occupation of a residential property which has a landlord and therefore every housing applicant who is living somewhere has a tenancy and becomes homeless if that is terminated.

HON J J NETTO:

Not if he is living with the family.

HON J J BOSSANO:

If he has a tenancy then he is not living with a family. We are talking about a housing applicant who is occupying a property goes to the Housing Department, applies for a house and then is chucked out by his landlord, what is the problem with the Minister being able to answer the question?

HON J J NETTO:

I still maintain the view that the applicant is not a tenant. He is living in another tenancy with a family probably but obviously there is not a procedure in place because he cannot have a tenancy and then apply for a house.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I see, so the rules have been altered now so that persons who are not existing tenants of the Government but are tenants of another landlord cannot apply for housing anymore unless they are living with their families, is that the position?

HON J J NETTO:

If they are properly housed no.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The question does not say anything about whether they are properly housed or improperly housed, we are talking about somebody who is a housing applicant, that assumes that he has been admitted as eligible to be an applicant and who lives in a private dwelling and has his tenancy terminated by his landlord what is the procedure when that happens?

HON J J NETTO:

If he is in the private sector?

HON J J BOSSANO:

I want to know if he is in the waiting list and gets kicked out what does he do?

HON J J NETTO:

Well if he happens to be in the private sector of course he will fill in an application form and it will be considered according to the rules of the allocation scheme.

HON J J BOSSANO:

For example, there is somebody in the housing list that is living in an existing property and is waiting on the waiting list to be re-housed by the Government. That applicant has his tenancy terminated by the landlord and finds himself now homeless as a result of the landlord terminating his tenancy, what then is the procedure that is followed in dealing with that person's situation as opposed to the position that would have been followed if he had not had the tenancy terminated which means obviously he would then have had to take his turn on the waiting list with points and so forth, how does the circumstances of that applicant change?

HON J J NETTO:

Presumably by implication of that scenario I should imagine that the kind of example that the hon Member has in mind is the person that becomes homeless, I presume that is the case now.

HON J J BOSSANO:

That is the case?

HON J J NETTO:

No, that is not what the question says, he has made a different case there. If he becomes homeless obviously that would have to be looked into by the Social Advisory Committee as to the circumstances of his homelessness.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can I draw the attention of the Minister to the fact that the last two words of the sentence of the original question says , "has the tenancy terminated and becomes homeless" so I am not introducing anything new. That is what the original question asks, now the only explanation then that he can give is that it is looked into by the Housing Department. We would like to know more specifically, what happens does that person then get put on a different list, what is the criteria for re-housing somebody that has lost their residence that they occupied previously because we know what the normal circumstances are if he does not loose his existing home then he takes his turn based on the pointage scheme. If he looses his existing home he then gets looked at by the Social Department to establish what, whether the homelessness is genuine or what?

HON J J NETTO:

Well in a way yes it is the Housing Allocation Committee that looks as to the level of hardship or genuineness of that particular person. Normally the Housing Allocation Committee, the members there will try to find out that it is a genuine case, that the person is actually on the streets because he has been thrown out by the landlord because we do find, not just now but historically speaking many cases were people do allege to have been thrown out by the landlord when in fact it has not been the case or perhaps they are not genuinely homeless in the manner that we are speaking of out in the streets but they are actually living with somebody else. So, to the degree and to the extent of the hardship caused by that particular person those are the merits of the case which are looked at by the Social Advisory Committee and then they will determine as we have discussed on many occasions before within that level of hardship whether it is an 'A' category, a 'B' category or 'C' category. As we know in the past if it is an 'A' category then obviously it poses more of a priority to try and find as soon as possible an adequate house for that particular person but of course a house that has to equate to the room composition of that particular family and whether that particular flat is available or not available. That is broadly speaking what members of the Social Advisory Committee will do.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The Minister has mentioned that it is looked at by the Housing Allocation Committee and by the Social Advisory Committee, is it looked at by both?

HON J J NETTO:

It is the same.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In terms of housing somebody that is out in the streets as a result of finding himself in these circumstances would they become eligible only to pre-war housing or would they become eligible to post-war housing and in terms of the 'A', 'B' or 'C' categories presumably given that these categories will determine how quickly accommodation is provided how can somebody, for example, on the 'C' category ever get housing in those circumstances and then what is it he stays on the streets for ever?

HON J J NETTO:

The hon Member will know from experience that we have discussed this in the past in this Chamber as to the categorisation of 'B's and 'C's and people in the committee will know that if they do categorise 'B' and 'C' it does not carry the weight as I said before of an 'A' and of really imposing upon themselves to look as urgently as possible something to accommodate that particular person. In fact I think that in previous debate in this Chamber we have said that we ought to really re-examine the validity of classifying not just in the social context but even in the medical context as well those historical categories of 'B's and 'C's and as to what extent there has been those particular cases. I think that is something that we really would need to look into further to review those particular concepts in the past. The other part of his question was as to whether they would be allocated pre-war or post-war. Normally they are allocated pre-war that has always been the tradition what we have done now for some time but there have been cases where there has been a bit of lee-way and we have interpreted the rules in a more liberal sense as to not necessarily imposing a pre-war all the time because Government are trying to avoid the situation as far as possible of trying to put all social cases within a particular sector of Gibraltar but of course in giving a post-war accommodation to these cases due account has to be taken that in that particular week or that particular month in the sense how many houses do Housing Department have available to allocate. A lot of factors come into it so the answer is that predominantly it is pre-war but there have been exceptions to that and a few have been given post-war.

NO. 402 OF 2002

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

HOUSING UNITS FOR THE ELDERLY

Can Government state whether they have now identified a site in order to build further housing units for the elderly?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Government have identified a site for the purpose of building housing units for the elderly. Details of this, and other sites for use in connection with Government's intended housing building programme will be announced shortly.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 402 OF 2002

HON DR R G VALARINO:

Will they be announced during the budget session of the House?

HON J J NETTO:

It is difficult to tell. I can say it is shortly but a few details are still being discussed, it might and it might not be.

HON DR R G VALARINO:

I note that the other question on housing generally is probably going to be answered by the Chief Minister and I wonder whether he intends to kill two birds with one stone?

HON J J NETTO:

I do not know what birds the Chief Minister may or may not wish to kill.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is provision being made in this year's Improvement and Development Fund for this?

HON K AZOPARDI:

My understanding is that there is no provision specifically for housing units for the elderly in this budget. It is clearly a project that the Government wish to do and we will make an announcement and make funds available in due course when we make such an announcement.

NO. 403 OF 2002

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

POST OF HOUSING MANAGER

Can Government state whether the post of Housing Manager is expected to be filled in the near future as promised by the Housing Minister?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Departmental instructions have been issued for the purpose of having the post filled. I am informed that the vacancy will be announced amongst other HEO posts elsewhere to be recruited.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 403 OF 2002

HON DR R G VALARINO:

How long has the post been vacant for?

HON J J NETTO:

I could not say exactly but I would daresay just over a year.

HON DR R G VALARINO:

Yes it was vacant since the 11th January 2001 so it is well over a year.

NO. 404 OF 2002

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

HOUSING WAITING LIST

Can Government state how many applicants are in the Housing Waiting List, giving a breakdown of their flat requirements?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

A total of 238 applicants are on the Housing Waiting List. Their flat requirements are:-

1 RKB	-	113
2 RKB	-	34
3 RKB	-	53
4 RKB	-	32
5 RKB	-	6

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 404 OF 2002

HON DR R G VALARINO:

On that one and on the pre-waiting list, most of them seem to be on the 1 RKB I hope the Government take this into account when they decide what new houses they will build.

HON J J NETTO:

Yes.

NO. 405 OF 2002

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

HOUSING WAITING LIST

Can Government state whether they will publish the Housing Waiting Lists on a quarterly basis during the year 2002?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question No 406 of 2002.

NO. 406 OF 2002

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

HOUSING WAITING LIST

Can Government state whether the Housing Waiting Lists have been published since the 7th September 2001?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answer to Question No 405 of 2002

It is the intention to publish the Waiting Lists on a quarterly basis during the year 2002.

Answer to Question No 406 of 2002

The Waiting Lists were last published on 2nd February 2002.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 405 AND 406 OF 2002

HON J J BOSSANO:

The breakdown that we have been given in answer to the previous question is what as at today or as at the last time that it was published?

HON J J NETTO:

At the date of the question.

NO. 407 OF 2002

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

HOUSING - VARYL BEGG ESTATE

Can Government state when they intend to provide new pitched roofs to all buildings at Varyl Begg Estate together with modifications to the rain water disposal installation giving the date of commencement of these works and the date of completion?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question No 408 of 2002.

NO. 408 OF 2002

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

HOUSING - VARYL BEGG ESTATE

Can Government state whether they have taken any action on the points raised in their letter to Varyl Begg tenants dated the 11th December 2001?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answer to Question No 407 of 2002

As stated on numerous occasions, pitched roofs will be provided to all blocks in the Estate. With regard to modifications to the rain water disposal installation, the hon Member needs to be more specific as to which water disposal installation he is referring to, to enable me to give him an answer.

Answer to Question No 408 of 2002

Finally, with regard to the letter sent to tenants in the Estate, Government officials have been carrying out design and tender documents in order to initiate refurbishment of the Estate. This is expected to start soon.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 407 AND 408 OF 2002

HON DR R G VALARINO:

If I may refer to the letter in question of the 11th December 2001, the Minister talks about *"(1) refurbishment of the estate - The nature of the works in each block will be to install new pitched roofs and installation of lifts in every block. Along with the new roofs there will be gutters and down pipes on the external façade of buildings thereby addressing the historical collection of water within the building"*, this is basically what I meant and it continues to say, *"....already officials are working on tender documents and designs so as to be in a position to invite tenders hopefully by April 2002."*

HON J J NETTO:

I know what is in the letter which is the letter that I sent out but obviously I did not know whether he was referring to that particular one in terms of the water rain disposal system or some others which there are. So this is the reason why I was trying to make that clarification. That particular issue which he now raises is something that will be tackled in the latter part of the programme because as he rightly pointed out there we are firstly going to concentrate with doing the pitched roofs and the lifts. In other words we will probably be doing segmenting the estate and most probably we will be starting with the big blocks on the far end of the estate and doing that, precisely the roofs and the lifts. The hon Member also asks in what state are we, yes as I said before officials at the time were working on that, they are quite in an advanced stage I am told and I hope to have the tenders soon out so that they can start the works as soon as possible.

HON DR R G VALARINO:

As far as Question No 408 of 2002 on the points raised in the letter there were other things, parking, lighting, electricity of the garages, cleanliness of the estate, dog fouling and other things. As far as the cleanliness of the state and the dog fouling this is becoming increasingly worse, can the Minister reassure me that both of these will be monitored so that people tend to live in a better condition than they are at present?

HON J J NETTO:

I agree, it is monitored and of course we are always looking at different ways and different methodologies to try and improve. One of the things given that he is depicting some of the problems there with regards specifically to dog fouling it is a problem particularly on the road adjacent to St Paul's School and I think there is a clear need for more enforcement with regards to that. Obviously Housing Department is curtailed because as I understand the enforcement authority is either the Police or the Environmental Agency, we do not have enforcing powers to be able to control that but it is something that we discuss and not only with the Association but we discuss both with the Police and with other agencies and work towards that.

HON DR R G VALARINO:

I thank the Minister but could he inform the RGP and the Environmental Agency that since the 11th December 2001 little or nothing has been done as far as dog fouling is concerned and the reporting of offenders?

HON J L BALDACHINO:

The problem in Varyl Begg is not the actual roof but how the water disposal is situated because they run along what used to be the terrace before. May I then ask the Minister if they are doing a new pitched roof it is precisely to remove the rain water disposal that is there which creates the problem when it overflows, is it also true seeing that they are now embarking in those works the most logical thing is that when they do the pitched roofs they take into consideration the lifts that they are going to install, is that correct?

HON J J NETTO:

It is correct.

NO. 409 OF 2002

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

HOUSING - BISHOP CANILLA HOUSE

Can Government state whether any repairs are presently being carried out to flats at Bishop Canilla House on account of the re-occurrence of dampness?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos 410 and 411 of 2002.

NO. 410 OF 2002

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

HOUSING - BISHOP CANILLA HOUSE

Can Government state whether the contractor at Bishop Canilla House has now terminated their investigation into the re-occurrence of dampness in some flats at Bishop Canilla House?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos 409 and 411 of 2002.

NO. 411 OF 2002

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

HOUSING - BISHOP CANILLA HOUSE

Can Government state whether the permanent repairs to the lead flashing in some of the valley gutters on the roof at Bishop Canilla House have now been effected?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answer to Question No 409 of 2002

Only cosmetic repairs have been undertaken within some of the flats affected by the dampness problem. The possibility of having such repairs undertaken was offered to all the affected tenants but only some accepted the offer. Permanent repairs to all such flats will not be undertaken until the results of the investigation into the root cause of the problems are made available and the corresponding permanent repair works necessary have been identified.

Answer to Question No 410 of 2002

I can confirm that the contractor has now completed his investigation into the cause of the dampness problem affecting some of the flats at Bishop Canilla House. Government currently await a report on the findings with recommendations for the rectification of this problem.

Answer to Question No 411 of 2002

Although only a small number of flats were affected by water ingress problems as a consequence of a tear in some of the valley gutters lead flashing, repairs have now practically been completed on all the valley gutters. The contractor is currently working on the last of these and I understand since this information was provided for me I believe that they have finished that part of the repairs in the valley gutters.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 409 TO 411 OF 2002

HON DR R G VALARINO:

When will the results of the investigation be to hand so that we can find out what was the cause in these flats, unfortunately every winter tends to have problems with rain and water penetration and dampness?

HON J J NETTO:

The Government engaged two separate consultants to actually see independently of each other what they came up with as to what were the problems of water penetration at Bishop Canilla. My understanding is that although we have not got the report yet, that they have finalised the report and that they both seem to coincide as to the root causes of the water penetration. It is obviously very good to see that the two consultants agree with the reasons for that particular problem. So, we are hoping to have it any time now and obviously then start to work accordingly.

HON DR R G VALARINO:

I thank the Minister. On what he has said I would be grateful if he could let me know who is paying for these consultants and would he make the final report available to the Opposition?

HON J J NETTO:

As I have said before it is the contractor who is paying for this, this question has been asked before and we have answered to that effect. The results of the report, well I am not in a position to tell the hon Member whether we can or we cannot, I will consider it once I have the report with me.

HON DR R G VALARINO:

On the repairs that are being done, since the Minister says that everything is being paid by the contractors I imagine there is still a bind on the contractors to pay for any such repairs and for any future such repairs because we do not know whether the problem will have been eliminated until next winter.

HON J J NETTO:

Generally speaking and I am not a technical professional man in the field of construction myself but obviously first of all there is a liability period and even then when the liability period which is normally 12 months after the completion of a contract there is also an obligation on the contractor that anything which has been spotted which is wrong as a result of the contractor he has to put right, that is my understanding generally speaking and obviously the Government are adhering to that and pointing the finger to the contractor to put right.

HON DR R G VALARINO:

And the last one which is the tear in the lead flashing which the Minister has said has practically just been completed, we may or may not have further rains this year to see whether the work carried out is successful or not?

HON J J NETTO:

As the Government have said many times before, one would hope that the repair works are successful but as the hon Member says one can only know when further rains come along and they are tested so we will have to wait and see and hope for the better.

NO. 412 OF 2002

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

HOUSING - NUMBER OF APPLICANTS

Can Government state what is the number of housing applicants who are socially recommended, their requirements and how many are classified as homeless?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos 413 to 416 of 2002.

NO. 413 OF 2002

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

HOUSING - NUMBER OF APPLICANTS

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

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos 412 and 414 to 416 of 2002.

NO. 414 OF 2002

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

HOUSING - PENSIONER EXCHANGE LIST

Can Government state how many housing applicants are at present in the Housing Pensioner Exchange List giving a breakdown of those who are Government tenants and private sector?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos 412, 413, 415 and 416 of 2002.

NO. 415 OF 2002

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

HOUSING - NUMBER OF APPLICANTS

Can Government state how many applicants are in the pre-list for housing, giving a breakdown of their flat requirements?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos 412 to 414, and 416 of 2002.

NO. 416 OF 2002

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

HOUSING - PRE/POST WAR HOUSES

Can Government state how many pre and post-war housing units which have been allocated since the 1st February 2002 have been on a do-it-yourself basis?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answer to Question No 412 of 2002

There are a total of 15 housing applicants socially recommended as follows:

A - 10; B - 1; C - 4.

The housing requirement of these 15 applicants is as follows:

1 RKB - 7; 2 RKB - 2; 3 RKB - 3; 4 RKB - 3.

Two are classified as homeless.

Answer to Question No 413 of 2002

There are a total of 14 applicants medically categorised as follows:

A - 4; B - 5; C - 5.

The housing requirement of these 14 applicants is as follows:

1 RKB - 6; 2 RKB - 4; 3 RKB - 4.

Answer to Question No 414 of 2002

The number of housing applicants in the Housing Pensioner Exchange List is 282 of which 220 are Government tenants and 62 are private sector tenants.

Answer to Question No 415 of 2002

The number of applicants in the pre-list for housing is 309 broken down as follows:

1 RKB	-	177
2 RKB	-	24
3 RKB	-	67
4 RKB	-	32
5 RKB	-	8
6 RKB	-	1

Answer to Question No 416 of 2002

Pre-war housing units allocated since the 1st February 2002 on a do-it-yourself basis - 2.

Post-war housing units allocated since the 1st February 2002 on a do-it-yourself basis - 11.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 412 TO 416 OF 2002

HON J L BALDACHINO:

I understand there can be classification on medical grounds, but classification as regards homeless how is that arrived at?

HON J J NETTO:

Sometimes some people are classified as homeless as we understand the concept of being homeless but they are not truly in the sense of being homeless out in the streets. In other words that they are living with other family, other friends whatever it is and they are classified as homeless but without being homeless on the street and therefore probably the Committee has viewed this as saying this is not as urgent as someone on the street.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

Would the Minister not agree with me then that if somebody who for a particular reason has found himself homeless yet somebody, his friend, gives him shelter rather than have people on the streets because by definition what the Minister is saying is that and I do not think that is what the Minister is advocating that we are telling people *"you have a better chance of getting a Government flat if you are in the street rather than if somebody is giving you shelter."* Obviously, even with family one gives shelter to people up to a limited period because after that the person becomes a burden on that family and therefore what I am asking the Minister is could he not reconsider that homelessness immaterial of whether somebody has given one shelter or not, is still homeless and therefore there should not be a category because if people might be listening to us now and they must say *"Well I have a better chance of moving into the church than if I move with my friend for a limited period of time."* Obviously we are creating a burden for the Housing Agency that probably they would not have if they considered everybody who is homeless as homeless.

HON J J NETTO:

I think that there are many, many cases which differ in circumstances and one cannot just make a generalisation in the manner that the hon member has made without allowing the merits of the case being discussed thoroughly by the people who are appointed to do so under the Ordinance and the rules.

HON DR R G VALARINO:

I notice from the answer that the Minister has given me that the numbers of housing applicants who are socially and medically categorised have gone up in the last three months especially on the medical side. There is four on the 'A' list and five on the 'B' list and which is sad to say because medical cases and social cases are always very important to re-house. The last thing I would like to ask the Minister is, the two are classified as homeless he said at the beginning of the year, the answer now is again that two are classified as homeless, are these the same two?

HON J J NETTO:

I do not have that information available with me but if the hon Member wants me to I can look into that and provide him the answer at a later stage. Does the hon Member want me to do that?

HON DR R G VALARINO:

Yes please.

NO. 417 OF 2002

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

HOUSING - PRE-WAR FLATS

Can Government state how many pre-war flats are vacant giving the area, room composition and the date they became vacant?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question No 418 of 2002.

NO. 418 OF 2002

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

HOUSING - POST-WAR FLATS

Can Government state how many post-war flats are vacant giving the area, room composition and the date they became vacant?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

I hand the hon Member a table with the data sought.

Answer to Question 418 of 2002

Answer to Question 417

There are 43 pre-war flats currently vacant; 40 in the Town and 3 in the South area as follows:-

5 x 1RKB -	14.03.98 x 2 22.01.01 15.08.01 09.04.02
16 x 2RKB -	11.05.98 01.12.00 22.01.01 29.01.01 05.02.01 04.04.01 12.06.01 20.06.01 28.08.01 01.10.01 04.11.01 26.11.01 x 4 04.02.02
13 x 3RKB -	18.10.00 05.11.00 15.11.00 13.02.01 27.02.01 17.07.01 01.10.01 25.01.02 01.02.02 15.02.02 07.03.02 12.03.02 02.04.02
7 X 4RKB -	11.06.01 01.10.01 12.02.02 X 3 05.04.02 20.04.02
2 X 5RKB -	19.03.01 09.04.02

Cont

Contd Answer to Question 418 of 2002

Answer to Question 418

There are 89 post-war flats currently vacant; 41 in the North, 21 in the South and 27 in the Town area as follows:-

8 x 1RKB	-	10.05.01
		15.01.02
		05.02.02
		12.02.02
		09.04.02 x 2
		20.04.02
		23.04.02
22 x 2RKB	-	19.02.01
		08.05.01 x 2
		14.09.01
		04.11.01
		08.11.01
		12.11.01
		22.01.02
		03.12.01
		22.01.02
		29.01.02 X 3
		05.02.02
		15.02.02
		19.02.02
		21.02.02
		04.03.02 x 2
		12.03.02
		19.03.02
		20.04.02 x 2
42 x 3RKB		15.03.99
		12.05.00
		14.06.00
		12.01.01
		04.04.01
		14.05.01
		12.06.01
		03.07.01
		11.10.01
		17.10.01
		23.10.01
		04.11.01
		26.11.01
		30.11.01
		07.12.01

Cont...

Contd Answer to Question 418 of 2002

07.01.02 x 2
15.01.01
28.01.02
12.02.02 x 3
15.02.02
16.02.02
07.03.02
15.03.02
18.03.02
19.03.02
23.03.02 x 3
02.04.02 x 3
03.04.02 x 2
15.04.02
18.04.02 x 2
20.04.02 x 2
23.04.02

15 x 4RKB

12.08.00
14.09.01
03.12.01
17.01.02
12.02.02
18.02.02
25.02.02
18.03.02
23.03.02
02.04.02
11.04.02
12.04.02
18.04.02 x 3

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 417 AND 418 OF 2002

HON DR R G VALARINO:

I can see that the numbers are about the same give or take a few to the answer the Minister gave me at the beginning of the year. There are now more pre-war flats currently vacant, the Minister has given me an answer of 43 to 38 at the beginning of the year, are these flats habitable, can they be made into habitable accommodation?

HON J J NETTO:

To give a proper answer to the hon Member requires much of the work that I have said that I would like to do that has never been done in the past. The hon Member has to bear in mind that not in the last 50 years has an asset of properties of Government ever been done. We have never had conditioned services of Government properties, this is very much the kind of work with a new infrastructure that I want to introduce in Housing to start doing and even then I am told that it would probably take four to five years to have a complete register of all the assets of all the properties and to the state it happens to be in order that not only we know in what conditions they are but also more importantly to be able to do a proper strategic planned programme of maintenance not just for the first six months but probably for the next 10 years.

HON DR R G VALARINO:

Since post and pre-war flats are given out on a do-it-yourself basis what is the response as far as pre-war flats, I know that the number of post-war flats, is greater obviously but some people if one gives them a shell they will convert it into a house, what is the response as far as pre-war?

HON J J NETTO:

It depends sometimes we make this sort of distinction between post and pre-war when really some pre-war are in a very good condition and they are very pretty houses, but it is also fair to mention the fact that probably the majority of the pre-war stock are in a worse condition than the post-war, so obviously it requires more refurbishment to be carried out to make them habitable. Sometimes the other aggravated problem with pre-war flats just to answer the hon member's question is that even on a do-it-yourself basis sometimes people say "*well look it is too much work to be carried out physically*" and they just do not avail themselves to that offer. There are sometimes as my Colleague says social cases who have not got the expertise or the time or a number of reasons but the reality is that sometimes as far as the refurbishment programmes of flats it is not as good as it ought to be as far as Buildings and Works, we have discussed this in the past and whether they are post-war or pre-war needs to be improved dramatically.

HON DR R G VALARINO:

Does the Housing Agency help these people in any way like providing certain materials for making these places habitable?

HON J J NETTO:

When it is on a do-it-yourself basis yes indeed.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

My hon Colleague asked whether they were habitable may I ask the Minister if there has been any survey done on the flats whether they are suitable for people living

there because one might have some of the flats, I think the Minister has got 43 pre-war flats, some of them might become fit for human habitation whilst others will never no matter how much money one spends become fit for human habitation. Have they done that survey and another thing is, seeing that there are 43 and they are only 15 persons recommended as homeless is it that none of the 43 can house any of the 15 people that are considered homeless?

HON J J NETTO:

On the first part of his question as to what extent a survey has been carried out to determine the condition of the flat in terms of being habitable or not I do not know to what extent Buildings and Works in the past has done it. It all depends what kind of service we are talking about, are we talking about an in-depth survey which is probably done by a Building Surveyor or are we talking about a superficial survey to determine a number of things that may need to be repaired without really going beyond the scope of what is definitive in terms of the state of that particular property. I do not think that Buildings and Works would have gone to the extreme extent of doing an in-depth survey of the conditions of those properties. This is what I meant before when I gave the answer that in the last 50 years of the Housing Department has never had a proper inventory of all the properties of the Government and in which state those particular properties happen to be. This is what I intend to initiate with the recruitment that I will obviously be doing for the Ministry of Housing but yet again I have to say very clearly that I am told by the professionals in the field that it will probably take four to five years to build up completely that register of Government properties to the extent that the hon Member is saying.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

Therefore what the Minister is saying is that the 43 flats are shown vacant under the Housing Department and they still should be collecting rent is that how it is shown?

HON J J NETTO:

Yes that is correct.

NO. 419 OF 2002

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

HOUSING – ALAMEDA ESTATE

Can Government state whether the two housing units at Alameda Estate mentioned at the last Question Time have now been allocated?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Yes.

NO. 420 OF 2002

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

HOUSING - POST-WAR FLATS

Can Government state whether any post-war Government housing unit has been allocated to an applicant 18 years of age or more and the head of a family, since the 1st April 1999?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question No 421 of 2002.

NO. 421 OF 2002

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

HOUSING - POST-WAR FLATS

Can Government state whether any post-war Government housing unit has been allocated to an applicant under the age of 21 years since the 1st April 1999?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answer to Question No 420 of 2002

Yes, 509 post-war Government units have been allocated since the 1st April 1999 where the tenant is the head of a family and is 18 years of age or more.

Answer to Question No 421 of 2002

No.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 420 AND 421 OF 2002

HON J L BALDACHINO:

On the question of 18 years of age or more how can this be the case, a person if he is single under the Housing Allocation scheme can only apply if he is 21, in the case where he is married he can only apply if he is 18. Two years waiting time that would bring one to 20 years and the other to 23 years, how is it that somebody who is 18 has been allocated a flat without meeting the criteria as set down by the Housing Allocation Scheme?

HON J J NETTO:

The question as understood by the department has been 18 years of age or more and head of a family and what they have done presumably is to bring out all the information of all those people who were allocated a house being 18 years of age or more and head of a family since the 1st April 1999. The figure that they have come up with is 509.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

How many of those are 18 years of age?

HON J J NETTO:

That is a separate question.

HON DR R G VALARINO:

I wonder if the Minister has not got the answer whether he can provide me a year by year breakdown of the 509 units since the 1st April 1999?

HON J J NETTO:

I think that the hon Member is asking too much, really, what I could reasonably do for him, if this is what he wants, is how many houses have been allocated to people who are 18 years of age. That would be a reasonable question to ask but to give him a year by year breakdown I think that the hon Member will understand that the staff there have a lot of work to do to try and get out all these printouts and start looking at every single age.

HON DR R G VALARINO:

If he does not want to give me a breakdown I will then ask at the next Question Time for a breakdown but I would have thought with the extra number of people he says he has now it would be quite easy for them to work out. If he has been able to work out 509 surely he has been adding yearly numbers.

ORAL

NO. 422 OF 2002

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

HOUSING – 5 RKB FLATS

Can Government state how many housing units of 5 RKB have been allocated since the 1st April 1999?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos 423 and 424 of 2002.

NO. 423 OF 2002

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

HOUSING - PRE-WAR FLATS

Can Government state how many pre-war housing units have been allocated since the 1st February 2002, broken down by month to date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos 422 and 424 of 2002.

NO. 424 OF 2002

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

HOUSING - POST-WAR FLATS

Can Government state how many post-war housing units have been allocated since the 1st February 2002, broken down by month to date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answer to Question No 422 of 2002

The number of housing units allocated since the 1st April 1999 is as follows:

4/5 RKB - 16; 5 RKB - 8.

All post-war flats.

Answer to Question No 423 of 2002

The number of pre-war housing units allocated since the 1st February 2002, broken down by month to date is as follows:

February - 1; March - 2; April - 1.

Answer to Question No 424 of 2002

The number of post-war housing units allocated since the 1st February 2002, broken down by month to date is as follows:

February - 13; March - 11; April - 7.

NO. 425 OF 2002**THE HON DR R G VALARINO****HEAD 101 – SUBHEAD (1)**

Can Government state what amount of Head 101, subhead (1) has been spent to date and on what projects?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING**

The total amount of £2,226,997 has been incurred for the financial year 2001/02 under Head 101 of Subhead 1. The analysis is as follows:-

Miscellaneous Works	£129,758
Window Replacements	£209,883
Scaffolding	£251,695
Laguna Estate	£341,311
Heathfield House	£387,262
Anderson House	£274,831
Glacis Estate	£155,930
MacMillan House	£252,147
Re-conversion works for disability purposes/Edinburgh House and Bishop Canilla House	£117,448
Demolition and construction of retaining wall – Tankerville and Prison Quarters:	£146,732
Total	£2,266,997

The total amount incurred in Financial Year 2002/2003 is as follows:-

Window Replacements	£19,539
Private Estate Loans`	£ 6,494
	<hr/>
Total	£26,033
	<hr/>

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 425 OF 2002

HON DR R G VALARINO:

If one compares this with the figure that the Minister gave me at the beginning of the year there are a few items which show a surprising increase. Scaffolding £155,000 almost three months ago and the figure now is over £250,000 and some of the others are static, does that mean completion has now been taken as far as Anderson House is concerned?

HON J J NETTO:

Whether the works are completed in Anderson House to the best of my knowledge it should be finished. Perhaps it is some of the last payments which have been made after the completion of the works but I would need to check it out and I will pass that information to the hon Member.

HON DR R G VALARINO:

As regards to the scaffolding, the increase from £155,000 to £250,000?

HON J J NETTO:

Well it is just an increase in the use of scaffolding in different places. As I have said on previous occasions it is a measured term contract we have it for the whole year and obviously we make use of it throughout Gibraltar.

NO. 426 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

HOUSING – KING’S BASTION

Can Government say whether the scaffolding at King’s Bastion is on hire and if so for how long, at what cost and from whom is it hired?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

The Government can confirm that this scaffolding has been on hire from Haymills since June 1999. The cost for the hire is £750.40 per month.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 426 OF 2002

HON J J BOSSANO:

If I am saying for how long and at what cost, then obviously I can get a calculator and work it out but I want the Minister to tell me what is the cost to-date?

HON J J NETTO:

Indeed that is actually why I paused in the middle of the answer, to-date the total cost of this hire inclusive of the initial installation and monthly inspection specification is £31,304.84.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Would Government not agree that for that sum of money they could have bought several times the amount of scaffolding that there is in King's Bastion?

HON J J NETTO:

I agree to that statement because when I actually saw these figures myself even though we all understand that the erection of the scaffolding is for safety reasons as we have discussed previously, that for that particular price we might as well buy it at the beginning and stop incurring monthly instalments towards hiring this particular scaffolding. Yes, I think that what we will be doing is to draw this attention of the other department which is actually incurring this financial cost which is not the Housing Department and tell them that this is indeed a more logical and sensible thing to do which is for that price to actually purchase it rather than continue with the hiring.

HON K AZOPARDI:

Can I just add that although at the time it was set up for safety reasons some time ago now I do not think it was envisaged that it was going to take that long and that this cost would accrue because it was a safety measure but in the context that we expected that the refurbishment works for a development to take place near or on that site soon and that that would address the issues. What has transpired subsequently is that there has been some delay clearly and it needs to be there for safety reasons and the matter will be looked at as my hon Colleague has indicated.

HON J J BOSSANO:

What is the nature of the contractual arrangement with Haymills, for example, if the Government come to the conclusion that £750 a month is something that they do not want to continue paying, do they give notice to Haymills and then Haymills removes the existing scaffolding or what?

HON J J NETTO:

I really could not possibly answer that question because as I have said before in the previous answer this is not something which is coming out of the Housing vote. There are a number of issues which arise from there, do we buy it? If we buy it that is the end of the story that is scenario one, scenario two is, do we sort of dismantle it just to erect later on scaffolding that the Government may own in various Government departments. The important thing is as the Leader of the Opposition rightly pointed out, is that we have a continuing recurrent expenditure there from the taxpayers point of view and that is what needs to be addressed. How we address this within the various scenarios is something that Government will have to take back within the relevant department and take a decision.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Since we do not choose who should answer the question presumably the Minister whose department's budget is paying for this must know what the contract says?

HON K AZOPARDI:

We do not have that information with us today indeed that was not really the Question that was asked, fine, we take on board the hon Member's point. My hon Colleague has said that we will assess the issue with a view to see whether this matter can be rectified not from a safety point of view but from an expenditure point of view and we will do that. We are grateful for the hon Member raising that question and we will look into the matter.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Presumably when they look into the matter they will be able to then answer what is the nature of the contract which they do not seem to know now and we will be told?

HON K AZOPARDI:

It follows that when we look into the matter we will be told whether we are bound into a particular contract whether we have the right to get out of it or whether we have an option to purchase it, clearly all that will come out in the wash.

HON J J BOSSANO:

No, but the Minister is not able to provide the information now because he does not know it himself, I take it that he will provide it when he knows it.

HON K AZOPARDI:

Yes if the hon Member is really interested in whether we are going to buy the scaffolding or not certainly the information can and will be made available to him when we look into the matter.

NO. 427 OF 2002

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

DANGEROUS DOGS LEGISLATION

Can Government state when they propose to introduce legislation to prohibit persons in relation to dogs which present a serious danger to the public and having in their possession or custody dogs belonging to types bred for fighting?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question No 428 of 2002.

NO. 428 OF 2002

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

DANGEROUS DOGS LEGISLATION

Can Government state who is drafting legislation as regards the proposed Dangerous Dogs Ordinance?

ANSWER

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

The Government have no intention of introducing legislation to prohibit persons for any reason, be it in relation to dogs or otherwise. However, the Dangerous Dogs legislation, which is being produced by Government legal resources, is currently in its final stages of preparation and it is intended to introduce this when this process is finalised.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 427 AND 428 OF 2002

HON DR R G VALARINO:

As to Question No 428 of 2002 I asked who was drafting the legislation. I do not think that the Minister has answered, is it somebody in his department or is it the AG's Chambers?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO :

I have said Government legal resources which is the Legislation Unit.

HON DR R G VALARINO:

Does anybody who is not legally trained helping to draft this legislation?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

I do not understand the question, the Government have handed the legislation for preparation to the Legislation Unit who are people who are legally trained. I do not know who is actually presumably a secretary is helping in typing I do not understand the question. It is being prepared by people who are legally qualified.

HON J C PEREZ:

May I take it from the original answer that the Minister gave that the basis of the legislation is more putting impediments on conditions of the ownership of a dog rather than banning the type of dogs or banning persons from owning types of dogs?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

It would be inappropriate for me to answer that question because the legislation has not yet been approved at ministerial level so until other colleagues have been consulted it would be inappropriate for me to disclose details of what that drafting is.

HON J C PEREZ:

I accept that the drafting of the legislation is not ready but the Government have already taken a policy decision and have already taken their policy to the Legislation Unit. Obviously Government know which way they have told the Legislation Unit to draft it whether it is banning dogs from being in Gibraltar or banning the ownership of certain dogs or whether it is putting conditions of dangerous dogs or owners of dangerous dogs. I cannot see why the Minister cannot answer that because the legislation is not yet ready.

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

Obviously the hon Member did not appreciate what I said. The Government through me has given instructions to the Legislation Unit in consultation with some of the Ministers but the final draft has not yet been seen never mind being given formal approval by Ministers as a whole and therefore it is subject to change so it would be inappropriate for me to make any comment on what the legislation is until such formal approval has been given at ministerial level.

HON J C PEREZ:

So what the Minister is saying is that he has told the Legislation Unit to draft it on the basis of the instructions that he has given and when the Legislation Unit finish he goes back to his colleagues and it might all have to be changed and it might all have to be brought back to the Legislation Unit because someone has a different idea, should the discussion on policy not be taken first before the instructions are given to the Legislation Unit?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

We are where we are. The discussion on policy has been taken and the instructions have been given and until such time as there is formal approval by Ministers I am not prepared to disclose the contents of the legislation.

HON DR R G VALARINO:

Since the Minister does not wish to give any information regarding the legislation, I hope that this legislation will encompass not only specific dogs but dogs which have been crossbred for fighting and are likely to be dangerous to the public.

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

Yes, I take on board what the hon Member is saying and I can assure him that we will do exactly that.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

Has the Minister consulted anybody other than his colleagues?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

Yes, there has been a relative wide process of consultation which has included the RSPCA in the UK, the GSPCA in Gibraltar, the Animal Welfare Clinic and the Kennel Club of Gibraltar as well as individuals.

NO. 429 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY

Can Government confirm that they have agreed with the Union a retrospective date for the application of new pay rates in anticipation of setting up an Electricity Authority?

ANSWER

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

The Government have informed the TGWU of their decision to proceed with the Authority as from 1st April 2002. Since the legislative and other implementation structures are yet not in place, the Government have indicated that they would backdate any arrangements to the 1st April 2002.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 429 OF 2002

HON J C PEREZ:

Has the union agreed already the setting up of the Electricity Authority?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

Yes, with some reservations about certain sections of the Electricity Department.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is it the position of the Government that all sections need to move for the Authority to go ahead?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

The Government would prefer all sections to move but it is not the position of the Government that the Authority cannot go ahead unless everybody moves.

NO. 430 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY

Are Government now in a position to state how many employees in the Electricity Department have indicated their unwillingness to move into the proposed Electricity Authority?

ANSWER

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

The number of employees who have unreservedly indicated their unwillingness is two. Following a consultation process, which was organised by the TGWU, a majority of technical and industrial employees indicated a willingness, in principle, to consider the introduction of an Electricity Authority. There was a negative response from those in shift work at Waterport Power Station. Subsequently, the TGWU have advised the Government that the shift workers "have decided to accept in principle the negotiations to see if a satisfactory agreement can be reached to move to the Authority".

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 430 OF 2002

HON J C PEREZ:

So the position is that the shift workers did not say no unreservedly but are now negotiating to see the possibility of coming into the Electricity Authority and there are two who have adamantly said that they will stay out of the Authority, is that the situation?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

Yes with a slight adjustment to that. Two unreservedly said “no”, the shift workers have not agreed to what is being proposed up to now and that is why I quoted from the TGWU’s letter because I am not sure that I understand what they mean but my interpretation is that they are prepared to come back to the table and continue negotiating. That is my understanding.

HON J C PEREZ:

In the event that some of the staff do not want to move what would be the status in the structure, would they remain imposed as they are and would there be different salary scales between people who are in the Authority and people who are not in the Authority and what would be the status in the new structure.?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

That is almost a hypothetical question and I honestly do not think that I can answer that because we have not addressed that situation yet. We are still hopeful of bringing the negotiations to a conclusion by which all employees transfer. If they do not they will remain in Government, what the difference will be would still need to be worked out.

HON J C PEREZ:

Surely it is not a hypothetical question to those that have unreservedly said “no” which are two. Will they remain in Government, will they remain doing the work that they are doing now or would they be moved out of the department?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

I do not know the answer to that question. It would have to be considered once the position is clarified whether they move out of the Electricity Department altogether or whether they stay in place and if they stay in place under what conditions.

NO. 431 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

WATERPORT POWER STATION

Can Government state whether they have plans to extend Waterport Power Station and install more engines?

ANSWER

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

Yes. Although the details have not yet been worked out it would be the Government's intention to proceed swiftly in this direction once the generating division is within the proposed New Electricity Authority.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 431 OF 2002

HON J C PEREZ:

Can the Minister say what is the expected capacity that the extended generating station can take and what is the proposed capacity in generating capacity?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

No. I would need separate notice of that question, there is in-process a study of the technical needs taking place but I do not have that information with me.

HON J C PEREZ

Would the capacity to be installed be replacing the OESCO contract once it expires or would there be a need for extra capacity once the extension is complete and there would be a need to look up OESCO or another contract for extra supply of electricity?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

As the hon Member knows because he is aware of the contents of the OESCO contract, OESCO would have to be consulted in whatever changes are made and therefore again it would be inappropriate for me to anticipate what changes would be required to be made.

HON J C PEREZ:

The Minister should know that OESCO would have to be consulted only if they are still operational and the contract of OESCO comes up for expiry in one or two years time according to the Minister's answer to me in the previous House, 2004, when is it then?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

The contract with OESCO comes up to an option point at 2004 but that option point is not an option point for termination.

HON J C PEREZ:

The option is whether the Government take over the installations themselves or renews the contract for them to operate it so it is the end of the contract. The Government can take the option of taking over the engines and running the station themselves or renewing the contract for OESCO. What I am saying is whether it is one thing or the other or both, I am asking whether the option of renewing the contract of OESCO would still be open even if they extend the capacity which will not be ready for two or three years at least anyway?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

I am telling the hon Member in my previous answer that that situation has not yet been addressed and therefore a decision has not yet been taken by Government.

HON J J BOSSANO:

When the possibility of extending Waterport Power Station was last looked at, a study presumably which is still around identified that there would be a substantial

requirement for new reclamation in that area for extra engines, is that still on the basis upon which the extension is being looked at?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

No the hon Members are far ahead of where the Government are on this issue but again speaking purely from memory I do not know what report the hon Member is referring to.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Pre 1988 before we were in Government.

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

I am not aware of the contents of that report but I am aware that there is land set aside in the proximity of the generating station with a view to possible expansion of the station. Land which was set aside in the original planning when the station was first built, I am advised, but we are nowhere near this situation the hon Members are painting. The situation is still at the consideration stage.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is it that the extension is conditional on the successful launching of the Authority and would not happen if that did not come about?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

Government have not crystallised the situation that clearly but it would be fair to say that it is an option, it is a possibility but again I stress what I am saying, in principle the decision has been taken to accept that Gibraltar needs greater generation capacity. How that decision is put into place I am not in a position to say, not because I do not want to but because the full consideration of all the factors have not yet been made and therefore the decisions have not been taken.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I think the Minister's original answer said something about a technical study taking place, is that something that Government have contracted somebody to do?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

Not the original answer but I did mention technical study in one of the supplementaries. In answer to the question from the other hon Member on how much generation capacity was being estimated and what I said was that there are people from within the Electricity Department who have studied and are studying how much extra generation capacity is necessary, but there is no formal consultancy in place.

NO. 432 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

WATERPORT DISTILLER

Can Government state what is the life of the equipment at the Waterport Distiller?

ANSWER

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

The design life of the Multi Stage Flash Desalination Plants situated at Waterport expires during the Financial Year ending 2005.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 432 OF 2002

HON J C PEREZ:

Is this the initial expected lifespan or have the distillers undergone major repairs to extend the initial lifespan when they were installed?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

I think that I am right in saying that it is the end of the initial lifespan as it were of the machinery but it does not follow that it is at the end of its useful life, there are a number of factors that need to be taken into account one of the them being reverse osmosis is more cost effective but it is also an effect on jobs in reverse osmosis plants. There is at the moment a study being undertaken by consultants for Lyonnaise into the future of the plant and a number of factors are being examined. The report is expected before the end of the year.

NO. 433 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

WATERPORT DISTILLER

Can Government make available to the Opposition the figure showing the cost per ton of water produced by the new reverse osmosis plants recently commissioned by Lyonnaise Des Eaux and the comparative figure for water produced by the Waterport Distiller?

ANSWER

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

No. This information is commercially sensitive and therefore cannot be made public.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 433 OF 2002

HON J C PEREZ:

In a previous question in supplementaries the Minister said that it could be that it is commercial-in-confidence and that is why I am asking the Minister to make it available to the Opposition on a confidential basis on the basis that we can ourselves do our comparison in order to have the information available and look towards the future.

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

I will not give that undertaking at this moment because as much as anything else it needs the agreement of our partners, Northumbrian Water who are obviously in a majority shareholding in the company. What I will do is I will ask the company to take this up with our partners and follow it up. Is the information the hon Member seeks only as enshrined in that question or would the hon Member like to write to me specifying further information?

HON J C PEREZ:

The more information we can get the better, I am specifically asking the lowest common denominator given that the Minister said that there might be difficulties in getting. Obviously if the company in a confidential basis is prepared to offer more information we would gladly have it.

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

As I said I will consult our commercial partners I have to say that the company is being particularly cagey at this moment in time because there are prospects of a competitor entering the market and therefore it is obviously guarding its commercial information very jealously. I undertake to follow that up and I would let the hon Member know eventually what the result is.

HON J C PEREZ:

Would any competitor need licensing from the Government?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

We are talking about the MOD water supply and the MOD moving ahead and although they have been negotiating with the company for a very long time, I am not sure if back to the hon Member's time or not, but certainly for a long time in my case. There are more than indications that we know that a competitor of Lyonnaise has a bid in competition with Lyonnaise to take over the MOD water supply so that is why the information is particularly sensitive at this moment in time.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I can understand the nature of the argument but this is not like telecommunications that the distribution system has to be made available to a competitor, there are no such requirements under EU law are there? That is to say that if a competitor comes in he can only supply the homes or the businesses that are connected to its own which is what happens with MOD now presumably.

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

Yes, the hon Member is right, MOD as the hon Members know have their own desalination plant which is at the end or very near the end of its life and MOD is

looking at a number of options to continue having water for its own resources. It has been negotiating with Lyonnaise for some time, it has been a little bit of a tennis match but the playing fields or the goal posts have been changed by the MOD over the years several times but in the current process where Lyonnaise are now at an advanced stage of bidding, a competitor has entered the market, but entirely for the MOD water supply not for any clients outside.

NO. 434 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

WATER SUPPLY

Can Government state what is the standard level of chlorine in the potable water supplied by Lyonnaise Des Eaux nowadays, and what is the comparative level prior to the events of the 11th September 2001 in the United States?

ANSWER

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

The chlorine dose given to potable water pumped into service reservoirs on supply is currently set so as not to exceed 0.03 mg/litre, which is identical to the level set prior to 11th September 2001. Immediately after the 11th September 2001 and for the time taken for the additional security measures to be brought into effect, the dose was set so as not to exceed 0.3 mg/litre.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 434 OF 2002

HON J C PEREZ:

Well I am glad to hear that the level is back to what it used to be because the Minister said at the last time that we raised it that although the level would come down it would not come down to the level that we were accustomed to and I am glad to hear that this has been possible. This is what the Minister said in supplementaries when I raised the issue of the very high level of chlorine in the water supplied by Lyonnaise at the last meeting of the House. Can the Minister state what are those exceptional

circumstances when the level of chlorine has to go up in a normal situation quite apart from when security precautions are taken?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

No that is a technical matter and I would need notice of that question and ask for advice. Common sense and nothing else tells me that if for some reason it was suspected that the water was not in the pure condition that it is required to be that that might require chlorination but I cannot give an authoritative answer without advice. I cannot remember having said that it would not go down to the previous levels because that information was never given to me. What I may have said is that chlorination levels would be reduced slowly and that at the first drop it would not come down to what it was prior to the 11th September 2001 which is in fact what has happened, the reduction started in early March and I do not know how long it took but it was spread out over a number of weeks. I am told there were technical reasons why they could not just cut it by ten times down to the normal level immediately but that is what

HON J C PEREZ:

It is not important but if the Minister cares to check back it was said that although it would decrease the level of chlorine in our water supply would remain just a little bit higher than what we were accustomed to.

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

Fine. I will check that out of academic interest, if I did say that it would have been on the strength of the advice I was given at the time which is obviously different to what I have been told now.

NO. 435 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

WELLINGTON FRONT

Can Government state whether they have received claims for damages from affected parties following the flooding of Wellington Front?

ANSWER

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

Government have received a number of claims from affected third parties following the recent flooding of Wellington Front.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 435 OF 2002

HON J C PEREZ:

Have Government accepted liability?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

These claims are covered by insurance which the Government have and it is therefore a matter for the insurance company and not for the Government to accept or not accept liability. There are a number of claims I understand which are being rejected, there are a number of claims which I understand are still in the pipeline and the whole matter is if not technically sub-judice but certainly on-going and therefore not one on which I would care to comment too much at this stage. Certainly not in identifying claims or amounts.

NO. 436 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

GENERAL POST OFFICE

Can Government say when it is now expected that the works at the General Post Office in Main Street will be completed given that the scheduled completion date of January 2002 has now come and gone?

ANSWER

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

The estimated new completion date is the end of October. The works on the top floors of the Central Post Office are now complete. The works on the General Counters have been delayed for various reasons. Some of the workforce had to be redeployed to other more urgent works especially schools in the summer months and unexpected works during the winter months. During delay periods, opportunity was taken to improve the layout with clearer access and queuing areas and at the same time include better provisions for the elderly and persons with special needs. In so far as the counters themselves are concerned, it was decided to await new counter developments and designs that are being introduced in the UK and worldwide in 2002 prior to making any purchases. Over the last month the staff have also been consulted and involved in the development of the new counters and the new Electronic Point of Sale system. Although original plans only envisaged the provision of postal services we now plan to provide a more convenient one-stop shop for many Government services.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 436 OF 2002

HON J C PEREZ:

Can the Minister say whether the lower part of the Post Office is expected to remain there and whether that part will be refurbished in parallel to what is being refurbished now or whether the Government expect to open the Main Street Post Office and then decant the lower part and repair that?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

I presume by the lower part the hon Member means the Sorting Office and the Postman's Room. The plan is subject to agreement with the workforce and the unions. The plan is to move out the Sorting Office and the Postman's Room from Main Street into a new location. The PO Boxes are expected to remain there but that is subject to negotiations that are still continuing with the union on the whole matter of the Post Office.

NO. 437 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

DIRECTOR OF POSTAL SERVICES

Can Government state what is the latest position in the negotiations with the employees of the Post Office and whether they intend to fill the post of Director of Postal Services?

ANSWER

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

The situation remains as given in answers to Question Nos 923, 924 and 925 of 2001 and 89 and 90 of 2002.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 437 OF 2002

HON J C PEREZ:

Given that there seems to be no progress at all in the negotiations, then what do Government intend to do?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

That question is based on a false premise that there is no progress in negotiations.

HON J C PEREZ:

The Minister says that the situation is the same as it was in the previous questions I put and in the previous questions to the previous questions I put let the Minister explain what is the progress?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

I do not have to explain what is the progress I have to take the hon Member back to the answers that I have given which are basically that as long as the negotiations are on-going, I am not prepared to discuss industrial relations publicly in this House whilst they are being discussed privately with the workforce. It has to be agreed with them, it has to be agreed with the unions and then we will make a statement saying what the situation is.

HON J C PEREZ:

I am glad that the Minister subscribes to that position because the Chief Minister seems to prefer to conduct industrial relations on the Post Office in the annual general meeting of the Chamber of Commerce and I do not think it is very helpful to the negotiations but let me ask the Minister given that the negotiations he says are on-going and he does not want to discuss them here, when does he expect the on-going negotiations to come to a satisfactory conclusion?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

That is the \$64,000 question.

NO. 438 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

SCADA CONTROLLER LINK PROJECT

Can Government state whether the Electricity Department have now finalised discussions with the suppliers of the equipment of the SCADA Controller Link Project, and if so, are they now in a position to give a firm completion date for the project which was first announced by the Government in 1996?

ANSWER

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

Following the damage caused to all the SCADA's software and control equipment due to the flooding that occurred last year and which was the subject of Question No 1095 of 2001, there has been a need to renegotiate the supply and testing of the replacement equipment. Negotiations are on-going.

Part of the equipment has to be returned to the UK for factory works testing. The delivery period quoted is 12 to 14 weeks from receipt of the returned equipment and the placing of the order for testing and reprogramming works. It is estimated that subject to manpower resources being available to the Department, the control side of the SCADA could be ready in February 2003.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 438 OF 2002

HON J C PEREZ:

Can the Minister state whether there are any clauses in the contract with the suppliers of the equipment that will allow the Government to, because the Minister said the last time that although the flooding had taken place that there had been problems with the supply of the equipment and that the specific design for Gibraltar was one which had been planned by the suppliers, have we got a recourse to claim from the supplier because of the mistakes that they might have done?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

No. I think we are beyond that stage whether we have had in the past or not I do not know because I have certainly never been advised that we have been in a situation of trying to obtain financial recourse from the supplier but at the moment the situation is different. At the moment the situation is that the equipment that was here, supplied, finished, tested and ready to be installed was held up for a number of reasons mainly because of the electricity department restructure and extra personnel that needed to be employed but now after the flooding we have gone back three steps, now I understand the problem is mainly with the software although other items were involved as well and we have had people in the UK as recently as last month. The problem seems to be, that a decision has to be made whether to update the software but if we had updated the software it would have meant going back not three steps but another ten steps and delaying the whole project by much more. So that has not been done but the software that needs to be replaced now needs to be tested and the point that I am making is that it is not really the fault of the supplier anymore, it is an act of God.

NO. 439 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

ROSIA ROAD-SEWERS

Can Government state what is the cost of the consultancy by Entec UK Ltd in preparing the documents and specifications for works on the sewer at Rosia Road, and can they also state whether this company is still engaged by Government and in what capacity?

ANSWER

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

Entec UK Ltd were appointed by Government to prepare the tender documents and specifications for works on the Rosia Road sewer. The fee cost for this commission was £7,731. Entec UK will continue to be involved during the construction stage providing the services of the 'Engineer' under the contract.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 439 OF 2002

HON J C PEREZ:

The services of the "Engineer" are not covered by the £7,000, has the Minister got a figure?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

No because until such time as the tender is awarded and we know where we are then we cannot really negotiate with anything.

NO. 440 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

ROSIA ROAD - SEWERS

Can Government confirm that the contract for the works on the sewer in Rosia Road has now been awarded and can they say which contractor has been chosen, what is the estimated cost of the works and when are they scheduled to be completed?

ANSWER

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

This tender has not yet been awarded and consequently I am not presently in a position to release any of the requested information.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 440 OF 2002

HON J C PEREZ:

I presume from the replies to the other question I presume that the matter of awarding the contract is in its final stages, am I right?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

I hope so. I say I hope so because there have been a number of unexpected complications that have led to the delay but I will try to summarise it by saying that the initial conditions of the tender as specified by the Government were not met by the six people who were supposed to tender and only two actually tendered and the conditions of the tender were not met exactly by either. This needed coming back to them and discussing the specifications. The problem is that the collapse of the sewer is different to anything that people had dealt with elsewhere and the two

tenderers were saying, “we can do it this way but we would rather do it another way,” and they both came back with different answers. So there has been a process of on-going negotiations which is now hopefully I am told at its end and we are now I think at a stage of, nothing to do with me, but I understand we are at a stage of trying to decide who the successful tenderer will be if no further complications and I have no indications that there are further complications.

NO. 441 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

INCINERATOR

Can Government state whether the independent consultants engaged by them to assess the proposals over the incinerator have now concluded their work, and if so, what has been the cost of the consultancy and is Government now in a position to decide over which is the preferred proposal?

ANSWER

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

The consultants engaged by Government, to advise them on the two proposals received for the incinerator, have already completed the work that they were commissioned to undertake. The total cost of this commission was £18,792.52. Government are currently assessing all their options for the future disposal of their domestic refuse taking into consideration the two proposals in their possession together with the consultant's comments in respect of each of these.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 441 OF 2002

HON J C PEREZ:

So the Government are not limiting their options to the two proposals, they are open to other proposals or to other options?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

Over the time that the incinerator has been closed, there have been a number of other options that have come forward but invariably Government have always returned to the two that we are talking about because the others were not really of the same scale or importance. So, although technically or theoretically we are still in a position where we could discard both and go for a third one I think that is extremely unlikely in view of the amount of money that has already been spent and the length of time that has passed and that it would mean starting the whole process again.

NO. 442 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTS

Can Government state what is the total number of public works contracts awarded since they came into office in 1996, and how many of these did not meet their original completion dates listing the company involved and the length and reason for the delay?

ANSWER

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

A total of 110 public works related contracts have been awarded since 1996 by the Government's Technical Services Department. Of these, 40 such contracts were completed after the originally stipulated contract completion date with such delayed completion being for any one, or several, of a variety of reasons. The remaining extensive and factual information requested by the hon Member is set out in the written schedule that I hand to him.

Answer to Question 442 of 2002

<u>Contract Name</u>	<u>Contractor</u>	<u>Period Delayed</u>	<u>Reasons for Delay</u>
Beautification Winston Churchill Avenue	Amco Ltd	5 weeks	Difficulties caused by traffic also additional works to Car Park and difficulties in sourcing of specified materials.
Promenade North Mole	Amco	5 weeks	General interference caused by passenger liner and traffic generally and also additional works required by others.
Conversion Buena Vista Barracks to Hostel	H L Wilkie		Request for extra work by Client & Moroccan Works Association – Electrical Sub-Contract.
Road Widening Sir Herbert Miles Road Phase 2	Sharrock Shand	22 weeks	The main cause of the delay was dealing with unforeseen ground conditions. Excavation into the sand slopes progressed at a much slower pace than anticipated because, contrary to expectations based on the geological data available, cemented sands were not found along all the site. Other contributing factors to the delay were dealing with existing utility services.
Road Widening Sir Herbert Miles Road Phase 1A	Profield	26 weeks	The main cause of the delay was dealing with unforeseen ground conditions in that excavations for new services encountered solid bed rock along most of the length of the new road.
Road Widening Sir Herbert Miles Road Phase 1B	Sharrock Shand	32 weeks	Delays mainly caused in having to work around existing services in order to lay new services and dealing with an increased scope of temporary works to stabilize the sand slopes as a result of variable ground conditions. Further delays were caused by late possession of part of the site pending relocation of an existing business and by the need to divert existing services.
Residential Development for the Elderly	Profield	22 weeks	Lack of available labour was the major issue. Poor design liaison.
External refurbishment Edinburgh House Est.	Mackley/Cubiertas	20 months	Increase in the scope of works to include internal repairs, drainage and External works.
Promenade Harbour Views	Amco	2 weeks	Vandalism of work constructed. Materials rejected due to poor quality.
Casemates Beautification	Sharrock Shand	33 weeks	Substantial additional works requested. Archeological excavation liaison. Relocation of residents.
Extension to MVTC	Shelly	-	Financial difficulties which led to eventual liquidation of company.
Desilting of Main Sewer	MetroRod	Contract rescinded	Inadequate equipment and poor organisation.

Answer to Question 442 of 2002

<u>Contract Name</u>	<u>Contractor</u>	<u>Period Delayed</u>	<u>Reasons for delay</u>
Replacement of Balconies MacFarlane Hse	JBS (Home Care Contractor)	11 months	Adequate resources were not deployed by the original contractor. Financial difficulties were encountered.
Replacement of Balconies Willis's House	Home Care Contractors	.	Finally JBS took over.
Road Widening and ancillary works Line Wall Road	Sharrock Shand	8 weeks	Extra works were instructed including the provision of new cover slabs for the main sewer and changes in client requirements.
Proposed entrance to Botanic Gardens	Budget Tradesmen	40 weeks	Contractors lack of resources also inefficiency and financial difficulties.
Resurfacing works and footpath and Drainage Coach Park Phase 2	Mackley Tricon	8 weeks	Stoppage due to inclement weather. Delay in procurement and resurfacing area left by contractor working in adjacent site who went into liquidated.
Refurbishment Frontier Building	Sharrock Shand	30 weeks	Delays due to unchartered services. Lack of available design details.
RGP/Customs Marine Section	H L Wilkie	2 weeks	Additional works and inclement weather.
Extension St Annes School	Profield	10 weeks	Completing stipulated works to Sports Hall and undertaking additional resurfacing works to playground
Road Widening and Associated Works North Mole	Amco	32 weeks	Original scope of work extended considerably. Removal of Porta Cabins delayed.
Construction Coach Terminus	Whatley & Fosdike/ JBS	26 weeks	Original Contractor went into liquidation. New Contractor needed to complete the works.
MOT Extension	Amco	20 weeks	Original Contractor went into liquidated. New Contractor had to be appointed. Additional works required.
Construction Security Cabin Western Arm	Fitzpatrick	21 weeks	Contractor's inefficiency to complete in time.
Stabilisation Retaining Wall Road to the Lines	Profield	8 months	Heritage concern at the use of buttresses to retain wall. Contractor encountered access problems to transport materials.
Skate Park Coaling Island	Amco	2 weeks	Inclement weather mainly.

Answer to Question 442 of 2002

<u>Contract Name</u>	<u>Contractor</u>	<u>Period Delayed</u>	<u>Reasons for delay</u>
Terrace Extension Schomberg	Calpe Construction Services	10 weeks	Delay caused by contractor's lack of resources and poor management.
Ferry Terminal	H L Wilkie	8 weeks	Extra works required by client.
Road Widening Waterport Road	Blacktop	56 weeks	Underground obstacles contractor's lack of resources and poor organisation.
Infrastructure & Resurfacing Works Rosia Road	Blacktop	30 weeks	Contractor's lack of resources and lack of organisation to proceed with the works.
Repaving & Refurbishing Rosia Steps	Calpe Construction	10 weeks – still to Complete	Contractor's lack of resources and initially employing unsuitable and incompetent personnel – additional works for Gib Elec./Nynex and Lyonnaise
Realignment of the Black Spot	Blacktop	19 weeks	Delays to this contract have been caused by the Contractor not deploying sufficient resources on site to allow the works to progress at the required rate, also inclement weather.
Electrical Installation Workers Hostel Devils Tower Road	Calpe Construction Services		Decanting of residents to allow electrical contractor to proceed with the works. Difficulty in obtaining demolition permit.
Demolition 10 Fish Market Lane	Rock Haulage	6 months	Considerable problems experienced in obtaining demolition permit. RGP request closure of roads and for works to be executed during weekends.
Retaining Wall Loreto Convent/The Mount	Profield	26 weeks	The configuration of the existing retaining wall was different to that anticipated at design stage. Revised method of working.
Road Widening Europa Road	Amco	15 weeks	Delays in obtaining demolition permit unchartered services. Considerable extra work to stabilize existing retaining wall adjacent to The Mount.
Demolition of Building Naval Hospital	Rock Haulage	8 weeks	Contractors inefficiency to organise and proceed with the works.
Industrial Park North Mole	Fitzpatrick	26 weeks	Extra works requested, inclement weather. Materials delay.
Industrial Park Lathbury Barracks	Amco/Profield	8 weeks- still to Complete	Inclement weather, delay in transportation of materials due to tunnel closure. Additional works required.
Construction of Lay-By at 35 Devils Tower Rd	Profield	1 week	Increase in the scope of the works resulting from additional unforeseen deterioration of adjoining areas occasioned from works to services and since the time the initial survey was undertaken to the start of Contract.

NO. 443 OF 2002**THE HON J C PEREZ****ELECTRICITY – POWER FAILURES**

Can Government state the number of power cuts experienced since 1st January 2002, their duration, the areas affected and the reason why they occurred?

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

Since 1st January 2002 there have been eight power failures which have affected whole districts. I hand the hon Member a written schedule providing all the information he has requested.

Incident No	Date	Duration	Areas Affected	Reason
1.	5 th January	4 – 21 mins	All the eight districts supplied from Waterport Power Station	Fault in generator set No 4 at OESCO
2.	12 th January	14 mins	As above	Fault in generator set No 2 at Waterport Station
3.	21 st January	5 mins	Five districts supplied from Waterport Power Station	Fault in generator set No 5 at OESCO
4.	18 th March	1 hr 20 mins	Cornwall's Lane district supplied by King's Bastion Distribution Centre 6600V	Circuit breaker found tripped at the 6600 V Switchboard at Kings' Bastion - cause unknown as yet.
5.	28 th March	1 – 6 mins	All the eight districts supplied from Waterport Power Station	Fault in generator set No 4 at OESCO

6.	29 th March	5-9 mins	As above and Bayside district supplied from Kings Bastion Distribution Centre 11000V.	Fault in generator set No 2 Waterport Power Station.
7.	3 rd April	2hrs 52 mins	All the four districts supplied from Kings Bastion Distribution Centre 6600V	660 Volt feeder cable damaged by contractor at Devil's Tower Road.
8.	16 th April	1 to 19 mins	All the eight districts supplied from Waterport Power Station	Fault in generator set No 2 at Waterport Power Station

NO. 444 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

RADIATION

Can Government state whether radiation readings from transmissions of aerals and mastheads around Gibraltar are being taken, and if so, how is this being done and who does it?

ANSWER

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

Gibtel has carried out initial tests at its GSM and TETRA base stations and the emission levels were found to be well within the thresholds set by the International Commission on Non-ionising Radiation Protection (ICNIRP). It should be noted that emission levels are a licensing matter under Part IV of the Telecommunications Ordinance and as such, a representative of the Gibraltar Regulatory Authority observed one of the tests carried out on 22 February 2002. A further programme of tests are to be carried out. Government are in the process of appointing independent consultants to carry out full surveys of selected sites and to report and make recommendations on their findings. The consultants will also be required to undertake a review of all licensed electromagnetic field emissions and advise on any possible areas of concern, monitoring, corrective procedures et cetera.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 444 OF 2002

HON J C PEREZ:

Is this consultancy a Government consultancy which is going to be independent to what the Regulatory Authority of Telecommunications does or which department is going to carry that consultancy, the Public Health?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

I am not sure what the Regulatory Authority has done whether they have done anything at all, what has been done so far has been done by Gibtel in consultation with the Regulatory Authority but the initiative and the cost have been met by Gibtel following letters in the press and concerns that are normally expressed on these matters. What the Government are doing now is in reaction to I think I am right in saying because it is not directly my department or any of my departments doing it, it is handled from No 6, but I understand that the Government are reacting to concerns expressed by staff at The Haven mainly and therefore although Government are aware of what Gibtel has done Government are appointing through the Environmental Agency and in consultation with the Regulatory Authority I think are appointing independent consultants to carry out their own tests and in fact Gibtel welcoming that has offered complete co-operation to whoever is appointed because they are obviously interested in having an independent assessment.

HON J C PEREZ:

Would the Minister ensure that the consultancy includes training for someone in the Environmental Office to be able to do this on a regular basis so that we do not have to fall back on consultancies if we are going to monitor these things on a regular basis which is how it is done everywhere else in the world?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

I understand that the Gibraltar Regulatory Authority is planning to purchase radio emissions and audit equipment to carry out its own independent testing in a routine basis. I have just noticed supplementary information given to me here I was not aware of it, so presumably if the GRA are going to be in a position to do their own testing and I understand that it is their statutory duty to monitor this as well, then no doubt we will have trained people to do it.

HON J C PEREZ:

I think that the Government have to take a decision on whether the monitoring of this is a health matter or it is not, perhaps the Regulatory Authority has the obligation of doing this but surely the readings that they take must then be passed on to the Environmental Health or to a similar body so that the public interest is protected in some way. Can the Minister tell us whether this is so or whether the readings that the Regulatory Authority will take are kept confidential by the Regulator or whether those readings are made public or who makes sense of those readings?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

There was a difficulty in identifying who would answer this question because it covers three different fields, it covers Gibtel itself which was obviously pointed in my direction, it covers the GRA which points at my Colleague the Hon Mr Azopardi but there is also a third element in that at the moment, the initiative to appoint these independent consultants has been taken by the office of the Chief Minister. I have given what information I have regularly available from a Gibtel point of view, I can only give the No 6 viewpoint and the GRA viewpoint from hearsay and from the

information that I have been given but what I can certainly say is that the Government's main concern is not just regulatory but health and that the primary thrust behind the appointment of consultants is to make sure that there are no health concerns to members of staff at The Haven or anybody else living in any building that has aereals near them or on them. So the answer in principal to the hon Member's question is yes, the Government will seek to obtain the information from the GRA which I am sure will be shared if there are health reasons then there is no reason why it should be kept confidential to the GRA and the company itself will be very interested in learning if an independent consultant carries out tests different to its own which proves anything different to what they have already assessed. I should also add, I am reading just now another piece of information that Gibtel itself are acquiring more sophisticated equipment. I have said that they have already carried out tests but they themselves are carrying out more sophisticated equipment in order to avoid the problem rather than have to cure it subsequently. I have given a long answer but in a nutshell the Government's main concern is the health aspects of this and we will do whatever is necessary to make sure that health is safeguarded. The company is interested in avoiding the creation of a problem and eliminating any problem which may exist which at the moment I stress no problem has been identified. Levels of radiation are well below the thresholds that are set. There is no concern within the company at the moment and thirdly I cannot speak for the GRA but I have no doubt that my Colleague will ensure that any information that reaches the GRA that is of concern will be passed to the Government for action if necessary.

HON J C PEREZ:

I understand everything that the Minister has said but he does not seem to have understood the gist of my former supplementary which was if we are going to have a consultancy let us widen the scope of that consultancy so that the monitoring of this can be done on a regular basis from a health point of view and that is, let us wait in the scope of the consultancy to be able to cover future monitoring or training for future monitoring in my view within the environmental health department or authority or whatever because the continued monitoring of this has to be done from a health point of view in pursuance of protection in the public interest. Now, if the Minister has said that there is an obligation in the Regulatory Authority to take these readings obviously someone in the Environmental Health Department must either make use and sense of those readings or must make sure that those readings are being taken in accordance with what the health requirements are in respect of that area. I am asking the Minister that if we are now going to go for a consultancy to look at the problem specifically of The Haven which is what I understand is being looked at, is it not desirable to widen the scope of the consultancy so that we cover all these aspects and we have got a clear picture of what is going to happen in the future with monitoring radiation levels?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

Yes, but let me clear one thing first. The independent consultancy that is being appointed by the Government as I said in my original reply will carry out a full survey of selected sights and make recommendations on the findings not just The Haven. It will look at all the sights where there are aereals. The scope of the consultancy covers the whole spectrum of frequencies that are being transmitted from Gibraltar. What I would certainly do is pass on the hon Member's comments to the people who are organising the consultancy from within No 6 Convent Place and make the suggestions because the hon Member refers to the Environmental Agency but again my understanding is that this is not strictly speaking an Environmental Agency's concern

or responsibility or an area where they have little or no expertise. So if there is a need I will put the suggestion to No 6 Convent Place that the scope be widened to look at the feasibility of continuing monitoring or as against periodic monitoring by people from outside, because at the moment there are no concerns and my understanding is that concerns only arise when there are changes in transmission levels or changes of frequency or installation of new aerals. Once an aerial is working and in place and it is established to be okay one does not need to monitor it on a daily basis, but I am subject to correction from technical sources on that.

NO. 445 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

NYNEX – PAY-PHONES

Are Government aware that many of the Nynex public pay-phones are out of order?

ANSWER

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

No.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 445 OF 2002

HON J C PEREZ:

Would the Minister check with the company given that certainly we have received complaints very recently, about a week ago that most of the coin boxes in the centre of town that is the public ones not the ones inside establishments, the ones open to the public from the Convent down to Casemates and in the area of Marina Bay were said to be out of order and I would like the Minister to check with the company to see whether this is so and whether it can be corrected and see whether there can be a regular check of coin boxes so that we can continue to give a public service.

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

Obviously I did consult the company in preparation of this answer and the company tells me that there are no at this moment in time there are no significant problems with the pay-phones other than the normal occasional faults which they tell me are repaired as a matter of routine. What has been identified and it may or may not have

been what has been reported to the hon Member is that there has been an increase in I do not know whether it is a new form but I had not heard of it before, a new form of pay-phone vandalism and that is mainly in the Main Street area. Vandals or thieves have discovered a novel method of stealing which is basically to block the chute through which the return coins are sent so if one makes a phone call and one is supposed to get money back one does not because it is blocked. When the person who has blocked it comes later and unblocks it, a whole stream of coins comes down. I am told that the incidents of these thefts have been reported to the Royal Gibraltar Police and that it is being investigated. If this is what the hon Member is referring to it is because of the blocking that the phones themselves have not been working properly but the company is not aware of any significant or out of the ordinary faults in pay-phones.

HON J C PEREZ:

The information we get is not from one source alone is that for whatever reason whether it is vandalism or whatever that particularly the coin boxes are not operational in the middle of town. It could be the reason given by the Minister but be as it may people need the service.

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

Let me put it this way, either the hon Member is right and there are lots of pay-phones that do not work or the company is right and there are only a few that do not work. Like in all these things the answer probably lies somewhere in the middle. I will certainly go back to the company after this session and ask them to ensure that whatever system they have in place for checking these phones is working.

NO. 446 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

PABX SYSTEM

Do Government have any plans to re-introduce PABX's in Government departments in order to release more telephone lines?

ANSWER

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

Government are currently considering various options in an on-going re-assessment of their own telephony systems. One such option under consideration, which would release a very high percentage of their existing telephone numbers, is the introduction of a PABX system.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 446 OF 2001

HON J C PEREZ:

But Government have not yet taken a decision to do this as suggested in the Chamber of Commerce bulletin that was published recently?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

No. It is implicit in my answer that the decision has not been made, releasing numbers desirable as it is for the companies is obviously only one of the factors from the Government's point of view. There are a number of other factors, costs, sufficiency, the disturbance if any of needing to put in the PABX systems, the staffing of those PABX's and once again I am answering this question because of the telephony aspect but the Government decision on whether to change or not change is entirely a matter for No 6 Convent Place and one in which I am not involved because

obviously there would be a conflict because I am obviously aware of what Nynex has proposed and I understand there is another proposal from somewhere else and that is being assessed elsewhere so I cannot really give much information on that.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Have we got enough spare capacity to say, "well we can still look at the options for x number of months before a decision has to be taken of something like this to release more numbers."

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

The decision on the shortage of numbers can be put off for a few more months and there are a number of numbers, there are some other solutions of a technical nature that are being considered of which the hon Members are probably already aware. So it is not urgent for the Government to make a decision it would help the company if we delayed the introduction of such measures if these numbers were released and also to be honest I do not know how long it would take to make any changes that were used to put this into place because obviously equipment has to be purchased, installed, tested, et cetera. In answer it is not urgent from the company's point of view at this stage.

NO. 447 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

COMPANY ACCOUNTS

Can Government state when the company accounts of Gibtel, Nynex and Lyonnaise Des Eaux will be made public?

ANSWER

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

Company accounts are filed at Companies House, where they are available for public inspection. Gibraltar International Telecommunications Limited and Lyonnaise des Eaux (Gibraltar) Ltd have filed their accounts for the year 1st April – 31st March 2001 with the Registrar of Companies, in compliance with their statutory obligations. Gibraltar Nynex Communications Ltd is expected to file its accounts for the year ending 31st December 2001 at Companies House later this year following completion of their annual audit.

NO. 448 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

NYNEX

Can Government state what is the revenue derived by Nynex each month, since 1st December 2001, in respect of internet calls?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos 449 to 453 of 2002.

NO. 449 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

NYNEX

Can Government state what is the revenue derived by Nynex each month, since 1st December 2001, in respect of local traffic excluding internet calls?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos 448, 450, 451, 452 and 453 of 2002.

NO. 450 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

NYNEX

Can Government state what is the revenue derived by Nynex each month, since 1st December 2001, in respect of Nynex's share of international calls?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos 448, 449, 451, 452 and 453 of 2002.

NO. 451 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

NYNEX

Can Government confirm that the revenue derived by Nynex from calls made from fixed telephones to Gibtel mobile phones produces a profit, and to what extent this is used to subsidise the cost of local telephone services?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos 448, 449, 450, 452 and 453 of 2002.

NO. 452 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

NYNEX

Is it the position that as a result of the increase in local charges by Gibraltar Nynex, the cost of local telephone calls are no longer subsidised by the profits made on international calls?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos 448, 449, 450, 451, and 453 of 2002.

NO. 453 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

GIBTEL/NYNEX

Can Government state whether there has been a large increase in 0034 originating telephone traffic, and if so, when did this occur?

ANSWER

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

In November last year, in answer to Question No 918 of 2001, I pointed out that the Government no longer consider it appropriate to provide information that could be commercially sensitive in answers to questions in this House. The Telecommunications Ordinance was brought into operation on 19th July 2001 and the Gibraltar Regulatory Authority has been appointed to regulate the telecommunications industry. In a liberalised market providing information on particular traffic volumes, or profits of particular business streams for selected companies could give commercial advantage to their competitors and thereby be detrimental to the interests of the Companies concerned. However, the hon member is free to approach the Companies themselves, or the Regulator, on these matters and it would be for them to decide whether they are prepared to release any information.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 448 TO 453 OF 2002

HON J C PEREZ:

The Regulator has already told us it is not matters that he can release to us and then we are expected to accept the arguments of increases in local charges at face value without the information available to us. I must say that there is one question which is over the 0034 originating telephone traffic which has been answered in this House on a previous occasion and where indeed the Chamber of Commerce bulletin says that thanks to the increase in 0034 originating traffic they have been able to cope quite well with telecommunications, that is why I am asking the Minister whether given that the answer that we got in the last House was that there had not been any change in the balance of calls from one source and from the other whether this has changed and and this is why the Chamber of Commerce was saying this or whether the Government thought the Chamber was inventing this but certainly in that area the Government have answered questions before.

NO. 454 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

GOVERNMENT LOTTERY

Can Government state what is the number of unsold lottery tickets in the last Financial Year ending 31st March 2002?

ANSWER

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

The number of returned tickets during the year ended 31st March 2002 was 174,000 out of a total of 515,000, that is, 33.8 per cent.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 454 OF 2002

HON J C PEREZ:

Would the Minister know off hand how this reflects with the year previously because I think there have been more tickets sold in fact?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

No in fact I can give him the figures for the last four years, the current one is 33.8 per cent, last year it was 34.1 per cent, the previous year 33.7 per cent and the previous year to that which was 1998/1999, 34.3 per cent.

NO. 455 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

GOVERNMENT LOTTERY

Can Government state whether they have now completed their review of the structure of the Gibraltar Government Lottery?

ANSWER

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

No, but to be clear it is not that we will not state but that it is not finished.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 455 OF 2002

HON J C PEREZ:

Can the Minister state whether he is consulting any specific party even that he said that he would welcome participation or ideas from the public the last time he mentioned the matter.

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

What is happening is that the Treasury are leading on this and they have consulted the Lottery Committee, they have consulted the Lottery Agents, I am not sure whether they have gone further afield but they are carrying out their own assessment and they have not presented me with any concrete findings or proposals or through me to the Government, so, that is what I am waiting for, for them to produce such proposals.

NO. 456 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

VICTORIA STADIUM

Can the Minister for Sport confirm whether or not there has been any water ingress to the squash courts at the Victoria Stadium after the recent rains?

ANSWER

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

There were no visible signs of water ingress to the squash court after the recent rains, despite the fact that the repair works had not been fully completed at the time.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 456 OF 2002

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Could the Minister then be in a better position to confirm when the actual works are due to finish or when the squash courts will be up and running?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

Yes, JBS have now been instructed to carry on and complete the internal works that need to be done, the replastering of the internal walls which is the one of obvious concern to the hon Member. I cannot give her a date for the completion because I do not have it but obviously we want to do it as quickly as possible but the problem as the hon Member knows with JBS is that they are overcommitted in works and invariably other things come along that play precedence like for example the schools, hospitals and they may be committed to do a work and then they have to put it off but we are certainly now moving down the path of finishing the work and it will be done as soon as JBS are able to do it.

NO. 457 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DEVELOPMENT APPEALS TRIBUNAL

Can Government say when and on what dates the Development Appeals Tribunal has met in February and March 2002 and whether any decision has been taken on the cases pending before it?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question No 458 of 2002.

NO. 458 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DEVELOPMENT APPEALS TRIBUNAL

Can Government list whether there are any new appeals before the Development Appeals Tribunal in February, March and April 2002 to date?

ANSWER

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

Three new appeals have been received since the answer to Question No 296 of 2002.

1. On 18th February 2002, for an appeal against refusal to grant permission for re-roofing works.
2. On 26th February 2002, for an appeal against refusal to grant permission for the construction of a residential development.
3. On 8th March 2002, for an appeal against refusal to grant permission for the construction of a toilet building.

As explained in answer to Question No 296 of 2002, the Tribunal met on Wednesday 6th February 2002 to consider one of the original five appeals listed in answer to Question No 1140 of 2001. The Tribunal deferred its final decision pending receipt of further and better particulars from one of the parties. To date this has not been received. None of the other nine appeals have at the date this answer was written yet reached the stage at which the Tribunal can be convened for a hearing.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 457 AND 458 OF 2002

HON DR J J GARCIA:

What is it that the various appeals have to do in order to reach that stage or the various applicants before it is ready to come to the Tribunal?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

I will list the reasons, there are 10 pending appeals, one is the one I have mentioned waiting further where the appeals board has already met and is waiting the receipt of those inverted particulars in order to reach its final position, three others are pending responses from the appellants to the Development and Planning Commissions Conference. Five are pending receipt of comments by the Tribunal from the Development and Planning Commission and one is caught up in bilateral discussions and presumably negotiations being held between the legal representatives of either side.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

At the last Question Time we heard that there were seven appeals and that the Tribunal had met only to consider one of them for various reasons, and that two of these appeals dated back to December of 2001 and five came from before, is the Government satisfied with the way in which this procedure is working.

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

Well so far no one has complained so I suppose that that must indicate that no one is unhappy. I must say that I am not comfortable to put it mildly that appeals that date back I cannot remember the date of the first one but certainly back to September, October are still pending but I stress they are not pending because the Tribunal has not met. They are pending because the Tribunal cannot meet because what the appellant and the "defendant" in this case DPC either one or both of them have not completed what they have to do and until they sort themselves out between themselves and all the information is before the Tribunal I cannot call a meeting of the Tribunal to hear the appeal.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

I notice that since tabling the two questions a couple of legal notices appeared in the Gazette, one appointing the secretary to the Tribunal and the other appointing the actual Members of the Tribunal, is this the case that the people that were there before are simply being reappointed or are these new appointments to the two bodies as Secretary and to the Tribunal itself?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

I do not think I have quite understood the question could the hon member repeat?

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Yes. I am referring to the two legal notices which appeared in the Gazette, one appoints the Secretary to the Tribunal, this was on the 11th April, the other one appoints the members of the Tribunal on the 18th April, are these the same people who are sitting before at the meeting in February?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

Yes, I thank the hon Member for repeating the question. This is a statutory requirement to reappoint both the Secretary and the Members but I can confirm that there has been no change in the composition, it is the same people.

NO. 459 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

SEA OUTFALL STUDY

Can Government say when they expect the first and second phases of the Wastewater Treatment Works Sea Outfall Study to be completed?

ANSWER

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

The first phase of the Wastewater Treatment Works Sea Outfall Study is due for completion by mid September 2002. The timescales for Phase II negotiations will depend on the outcome of Phase I and extent of discussions required to reach an agreement. An indicative timescale of two months, which could overlap with Phase I, is currently envisaged.

NO. 460 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBTEL/ NYNEX

What was the price/earnings ratio at which the shares in Gibtel were sold to Gibraltar Nynex Communications Ltd?

ANSWER

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

The Government believe it is inappropriate to apply the historical price/earnings ratio normally used for listed companies to the sale of a private company, Gibtel, to another, GNC. Nevertheless, as the hon Member wishes to know the ratio it is approximately 2.6.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 460 OF 2002

HON J J BOSSANO:

When the Minister has said historic would that be on the accounts that are about to be published, the 2001 accounts?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

I profess complete ignorance on the subject and therefore I do not know the answer to that question.

HON J J BOSSANO :

Well the price and its ratio is basically the multiple by which the price of the share is in excess of the profits per share so obviously the 2.6 must be based on the profits of a particular year, does the Minister have the year on which it is based?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

Looking at my initial notes here the price of the sale of shares was reached obviously after the extensive negotiations and before making the offer KPMG who were commissioned by GNC to carry out the pricing analysis and determine a valuation range based on the discounted cash flow methodology, all of which does not tell me the date but speaking now from memory the original valuations that have been done on both companies were updated roundabout November/December 2000 and those valuations must have been the ones used to carry out this. I assume we are talking of that year, the sale was subsequent to that so it must have been the trading years that encompass the year 2000.

HON J J BOSSANO:

From the reply given before the trading year for Gibtel is earlier than December I take it because the Minister said that the accounts had already been Tabled.

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

The trading year for Gibtel has traditionally ended and may already have changed but has traditionally ended in December. The financial accounts for GNC ends in December that is why we have not presented the accounts yet and Gibtel ended in March last year. So these have now been brought into line.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I accept that, but in order to establish the year that we are talking about, presumably then we are talking about the year ending March 2001 for Gibtel.

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

I do not know, if the hon Member is interested I can find out the answer for him and let him know but I do not have that information.

NO. 461 OF 2002

THE HON S E LINARES

YOUTH SERVICE

Can Government state at what pay scale are the part-time youth workers analogued to?

ANSWER

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

The part-time youth workers engaged by the Gibraltar Youth Service have since 1979 been analogued to the Soulbury Scale applicable to such workers.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 461 OF 2002

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Minister then confirm that the part-time youth workers who are currently being enrolled by the Youth Office are being paid at this scale at the moment?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

Yes.

HON S E LINARES:

Is the job description of the part-time youth worker the same as the full-time youth worker, obviously not the same hours?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

I would need notice of that question.

HON S E LINARES:

Is the Minister aware of how many hours more or less the part-time workers do in relation to the full-time workers?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

No, I know that they work in what are called sessions and they are paid for each session worked, each session consists of three hours and that they earn £22.92 per session but how many sessions they work in a week or a month I cannot say at this moment.

HON S E LINARES:

Then I presume that the £22.92 that they are getting per session is the price that has been worked out via the scale that the Minister has just stated, is that correct?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

Yes, the hourly rate is calculated by dividing the annual salary of the grade by the number of annual hours of the grade's full-time workers, whatever that means.

NO. 462 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

SHIP TO SHORE RADIO SERVICE

Do Government have any plans for restoring the Ship to Shore Radio Service?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

The Government have never operated a Ship to Shore Radio Service, so the question of restoring such a service does not arise.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 462 OF 2002

HON J C PEREZ:

Although the Government have not operated one it is common knowledge that Gibtel used to operate it and can the Minister state whether the report commissioned by the Government into the Port Department did not mention the restoration of the Ship to Shore Service to be carried out instead of by Gibtel by the Port Department or whatever replaces it?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

The operation of the Ship to Shore service is no longer a major issue in the sense that going back three years when Gibtel used to operate the service they decided that it would discontinue the service as the result of the fact that they did not make commercial sense to them in that the service was incurring losses. Obviously the use of mobile phones and the difficulties in collecting funds from those that use the service basically brought the system into question and therefore Gibtel decided to discontinue the service and approached the Government with a view of the Government taking on the service as part of the new Port Authority services. At the time the Government approached the staff side of the then Port Department and they agreed that they would accept to operate the Gibraltar Radio Services as part of their duties and as a diversification of their role. Subsequent to that the transfer of equipment was made from Gibtel to the Government on a free of charge basis, in fact Gibtel offered to train personnel as well, however when it came to the crunch Port Staff refused the training and the system was never operational. The equipment as it stands today we are informed by Gibtel is now obsolete in any case so Government have taken a view that it is no longer a service which is a requirement, in any case we would only have been using the service to conduct Ship to Shore of local calls and not international calls. With the use of mobile phones now that becomes rather impractical and so therefore there is no longer a service which we really wish to restore at this stage.

HON J C PEREZ:

Is the Minister aware that shipping agents would like it restored notwithstanding the fact that he says that the service is nearly obsolete and is he not aware that it was not two years ago that Gibtel took the decision that it was losing money it was many years ago and I insisted with the shareholders of Gibtel that the service should continue and that they continued it at a loss until the time that the Minister has mentioned, and could the Minister not say whether the restoration of the service is or is not part of the negotiations that he is currently involved in in relation to the conversion of the Port Department to a Port Authority?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I believe that answering some of the questions that have been made in order. The fact that Ship to Shore Service has been discontinued became an issue initially with Ship Agents, they have subsequently adopted other means of communication and as I say the use of mobile phones has basically questioned whether the system is worth operating. It is still on the agenda as part of the diversification programme of the Port Authority to include that in the service but in actual fact whether the service is restored or not will not be a major issue and if it can be restored without any major setbacks then it will be restored but it is not something that is at the forefront of negotiations at this moment in time.

NO. 463 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

PORT AUTHORITY

Have Government now put their final proposals to the staff association representing Port employees for the creation of the proposed Port Authority?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Yes.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 463 OF 2002

HON J C PEREZ:

Has the Minister had a reply from the Staff Association to the final proposals?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

The latest proposals or the final proposals were given to the Staff Side on the 20th March 2002 and this consisted of conditions of pay and conditions of service not just for matters of conditions of service but of change of structure, job descriptions and the fact that we wanted to see employees join the Port Authority. The staff side rejected the proposal and therefore the Government have been left with a number of options.

One is for us to leave the Port Department as it stands today the other is to obviously introduce the type of Port Authority to fall in line with modern practices but at the end of the day leaving the Port Department as it is to-date with certain changes in order to meet today's requirements and then the transfer to the Port Authority which was the Government's preferred option. There has been an exchange of correspondence with the Union as a result and after the latest final proposals that were turned down and we have agreed to meet again on the 9th May to reconsider the whole package. Government wish to be flexible but at the same time there are certain parameters which the Government want the staff side to agree to in order for them to proceed with the full implementation of the Port Authority. I am still hopeful that the meeting on the 9th May 2002 which is the day after tomorrow subject to House of Assembly requirement will pave the way for us to reopen negotiations in this respect.

HON J C PEREZ:

If I understand the Minister correctly the situation is that the final offer has been rejected but there is now scope for the Government to move somewhat further in new negotiations and that the bottom line is that if there is no resolution of the issues at hand then the Government would be prepared to continue with the Port Department as it is and separately a Port Authority without including the Port Department in it, is that the position?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No that is not the position. What has happened is that up to recently the implementation of the Port Authority was basically being achieved by the Chief Secretary was handling the actual pay and conditions in order to ensure that they were in line with other areas within the civil service and general statutory bodies within the Government and my Ministry was basically handling negotiations in terms of job descriptions, structure, the commercial aspect of it, pay and conditions. What we realised after a while was that it was better to bring both together and try and bring a package of conditions together which would address all the issues and therefore I have subsequently taken over that role of bringing both things together and therefore we are still hopeful that the Port Authority will eventually come to fruition and that the staff side will accept the conditions that have been offered by the Government. I think subsequent to our last offer or our final offer certain representations were made by the staff side to my Ministry and I believe that there is some mileage in exploring some of the points that have been made and therefore this is why we have decided that we ought to meet on the 9th May 2002 and consider those in a positive and pro-active way.

HON J C PEREZ:

But if I did not understand the Minister wrongly he did say that the options open to the Government were that if those negotiations failed they would keep the Port Department and they might proceed with the Port Authority in parallel with the Port Department and independently of the Port Department, is that not what he said in his original answer?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No but if I did I will clarify it for the record. There are basically three options open to the Government at the moment, one is to remain as the Port Department and leave things as they stand today, the other was to introduce the title of Port Authority following the line of modern practices but substantially what it would mean is that there would be another Port Department by another name and the third option was to obviously adopt the transfer of Port Department into Port Authority. So the second option which may have been confusing was mainly a cosmetic one because I feel that in order for us to portray ourselves as a commercially minded sector within the maritime world I think that we need to move away from the Gibraltar Government Port Department brand to a more Port Authority brand.

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HON J C PEREZ:

Surely the second option that the Minister says the Government have which would come into being if the negotiations were to fail, and I hope he succeeds, is one where the Port Department and the Port Authority would have a division of responsibilities, is that not the case? The Port Department would continue without having come into the Authority. It would be the Port Department for all intents and purposes. The only aspect of the Port Department that would actually be outside or possibly in parallel to that would be the Chief Executive who would be running a commercial one man operation basically as it stands today in order to adopt a more proactive commercial stand on the Port but nothing else.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I take it that the Government accept that there is no way the conditions of the employees can be changed without their agreement?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Absolutely that is why the negotiations have been taking place. That is how we are hoping that the new package of measures will be attractive enough for them to consider the change.

NO. 464 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

PORT DEPARTMENT

Can Government confirm that there are five vacant posts in the complement of the Port Department grades, and if so, what are the grades?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

No the Government cannot confirm that there are five vacant posts.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 464 OF 2002

HON J C PEREZ:

Does the Minister not recall that he suggested this to me in the budget last year when I looked at the complement and he said that some of those posts were pending the creation of the Authority and if the Authority was created they would not exist but if the Authority would not be created they would continue in the complement of the Port Department, can the Minister recall that he said that in the budget last year?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I cannot recall having said that but it would have been the sort of answer that I would have been able to give assuming what the hon Member is saying.

HON J C PEREZ:

What is the Minister saying that none of the five posts exist or that some of the five posts exist if it is not five?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

There has been some recruitment in some of the posts that he is referring to at last year's budget session, also the fact that one of the posts of Senior Boarding Officer has now been renamed as Marine Officer in order to be able to recruit a senior officer with a Masters ticket and be a Master Mariner in this respect and therefore there are obviously some developments that have taken place and therefore five vacancies as he puts it do not exist today.

HON J C PEREZ:

Can the Minister say how many exist and what are they?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Well there is a vacancy at the moment which I believe was advertised for one Marine Officer which hopefully will be filled and then there is one Port Maintenance Supervisor which is the post that would be abolished under the new structure as would the post of Department Shipwright and one Port Department Fitter. These are posts that will no longer form part of the new Port Authority complement and therefore the Government are unwilling to recruit these whilst negotiations are taking place.

HON J C PEREZ:

The point being that the vacancies still exist in the complement and if the negotiations are not successful these posts still exist and would need to be recruited?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I really cannot confirm to the hon Member whether these posts will be recruited even though the posts may in theory be available as obviously the department has moved on from the days when we had a maintenance crew which no longer would form part of the new Port Department or Port Authority, obviously there would be negotiations with the staff side in order to reconsider the requirements in this area.

HON J J BOSSANO:

What the Minister is saying in terms of the final bit is that the posts would be there unless and until as part of the negotiations with the Union they were replaced by something else even if unfilled?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I do not want to refer back to the estimates which are confidential at this stage but these posts are there subject to the final details as to whether we go one way or the other.

NO. 465 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

PORT AREA – SECURITY

When did the contract for the security of the Port area commence and what is the cost of the contract per week?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Consequent on the award of a tender for the provision of security in the Port, a contractor was appointed in the sum of £10,000 per month with effect from 18th March 2002. The contract sum is not calculated on a weekly/basis.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 465 OF 2002

HON J C PEREZ:

Does the Minister know how many employees were expected to cover the security of the Port area in the contract?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I do not have the details here with me but if my memory does not deceive me I believe it covers two security guards 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 52 weeks a year.

HON J C PEREZ:

Was this not something that was being negotiated with the Port Department as part of the negotiations for the Port Authority?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

This issue has been raised in the negotiating process, however the Government's view is that the security of the Port is not an existing operation and so therefore it is a management decision as to the implementation which is now an international requirement in order to safeguard some of the commercial activities which are undertaken in the Port.

HON J C PEREZ:

Can the Minister say whether the contract is being enforced?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Can you repeat that?

HON J C PEREZ:

Whether the contract is being enforced, whether the security of the Port is being undertaken by the contractor at the moment?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No. It is not at the moment.

HON J C PEREZ:

The Minister is saying that we have given a tender, we are spending £10,000 a month for the security of the Port but the security of the Port is not being carried out and we are still expending the money I presume?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

That is correct.

HON J C PEREZ:

Can the Minister explain why that is so?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

The contract was awarded and came into effect on the 18th March 2002 when we were right in the middle of the final stages of negotiations with the Union and we thought that because we were reaching the end of this that we would not implement the security measures because in any case the security company needed to carry out certain basic training and requirements in the area because this is not ordinary security, it needed an element of training within different spheres that needed to be undertaken. Because the negotiations have been postponed for a meeting on the 9th May 2002 we thought that it was prudent that we would not encounter any setbacks because the Union's position is that security is part of the negotiating process even though we do not agree with this. I can say that if by the 9th May 2002 we come to no headways in this respect security will be implemented irrespective.

HON J C PEREZ:

Irrespective of the training that the Minister says that the company has to do, since the 18th March 2002 we have been paying £10,000 to a company and we have asked them not to effect the contract, basically the Government have asked them, have given them a tender and since the 18th March 2002 is telling them, "You have got a tender but do not execute it and you are being paid," is that the situation?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

That is the situation, I have already said so.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Would it not have been wiser for the Government not to put a commencement date on the tender until they knew they were in a position to overcome the problem with the Union, rather than say "we will pay you." Did the Minister say they were being paid from 18th March which is when it was awarded?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

That is correct the tender was awarded to commence on the 18th March 2002.

HON J J BOSSANO:

There was nothing to have stopped the Government awarding the tender without a commencement date surely?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

The Leader of the Opposition may be right but it was not done in that way and the tender was awarded and a date was set for commencement.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The two security guards employed 24 hours a day for which the Government are paying, are they actually being provided to the Government to use somewhere else or not?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I could not say I do not know. They may well be but I would have to check that.

HON J J BOSSANO:

It may be that the Minister himself may not be the person that can answer but I do not know. It strikes me that there may be something to do with things like Treasury instructions or rules or whatever that one cannot pay public money over to somebody for nothing I would have thought, would he look into the legality of this, the terms of paying and not getting any kind of service back?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I will definitely look into that. I would not like to make a statement and mislead the House, I am just trying to recall whether there may have been the case that the company concerned was asked to provide services elsewhere within the requirements of the Government but to be honest I cannot really confirm this. I have to check this out and let the hon Member know because I would see it totally unacceptable that a contractor be paid without actually providing any service especially at the beginning of its contract. I really would not be able to confirm one way or another at this moment.

NO. 466 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

WATERPORT ROAD

Can Government state whether the works related to the renewal of pavements at Devil's Tower Road and Waterport Road have been passed over to Government by the contractor, and if so, when?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Yes, on 22nd December 2000.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 466 OF 2002

HON J C PEREZ:

Does that mean that the Government are now fully responsible for the state of the works or is there a contractual obligation on the part of the contractor for a period of time to cover any deficiencies in the work?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I assume that the contractors will have some form of responsibility to rectify any sort of faults in the works but I cannot actually give a categorical answer in respect of this particular project. I can say that some of the works that have yet not been completed

in respect of the zebra crossing in Devil's Tongue is to do with the availability of staff to do the works by the Electricity Department.

HON J C PEREZ:

Is the Minister aware of the large amount of loose tiles that there are in both works in the Waterport side and in the Devil's Tongue side and can he state whether he thinks the responsibility of repairing that lies now with the Government or the contractor?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I am not aware of the number of loose tiles in the area of Waterport but obviously if that is the case I would say it is the responsibility of the contractor as in practice this contract was only terminated a few months ago unless obviously the tiles have become loose as a result of some other reason and not actual workmanship.

HON J C PEREZ:

Could the Minister please check?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Absolutely, I will go down there myself.

HON J C PEREZ:

It is not only that we have received complaints, it is an area which I pass every day and there are a lot of loose tiles and people are tripping over them, elderly ladies are tripping over them and a lot of this has been like that since the works were finalised.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I have said I will have a look at this myself because it is something that I enjoy doing, to ensure that works have been carried out properly but obviously I will report it to the relevant officers in the department to ensure that this is looked at with immediate effect.

NO. 467 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

MAIN STREET

Will Government consider converting into two way traffic the upper part of Main Street, from the Convent to Referendum Gate, whenever there is a need to close Lover's Lane to vehicular traffic?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

This has been considered but found to be too disruptive because it would also require the diversion of traffic from the Upper Town which presently exits via Convent Place.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 467 OF 2002

HON J C PEREZ:

Does the Minister not consider given that we are talking about the area being closed to vehicular traffic as a result of works and normally at night time that someone that needs to drive to say Red Sands Road from Hospital Hill needs to go all the way to Winston Churchill Avenue and come round, that there is no way to get to the South District unless one goes right to the North district if one is in the Upper Town and two way traffic in that area would not impede the convergence of traffic from the south into the areas the Minister says.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

That may be possible when the area of Cathedral Square has undertaken its beautification programme but unfortunately with the closure of the end of George's Lane the exit of Library Street into Cathedral Square makes it impossible for that to be considered as an option.

HON J C PEREZ:

I do not understand the Minister's objection to it. If one opens it to two-way traffic so that traffic converging down Convent Place can travel southwards to Referendum Gate, then the works at Cathedral Square have nothing to with it because there would only be one line of traffic coming down to Cathedral Square which is the line of traffic that comes down from the south. It is converging two-way traffic from the Convent to Referendum Gate only.

NO. 468 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

EUROPA ROAD

Can Government confirm that the three month delay to the completion of works at Europa Road will now not be further delayed and that the road will be open to vehicluar traffic by the end of April as scheduled?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

No. It is now anticipated that Europa Road will be open to one way traffic by 10th May 2002 followed by a full reopening two weeks later thereafter.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION 468 OF 2002

HON J C PEREZ:

Does the Minister not think that it is unacceptable to first announce that the works will be ready by the end of February and then to say that there have been complications and that we are now sure that if they are going to be opened by the end of March and then issue a press release saying "well now it is not going to be the end of March it is going to be the end of April," and now come to the House and say that one-way traffic will be on the 8th or 10th May 2002 and the road opened two weeks later. Even if there are complications like the Minister said there were at the beginning, clearly they are not being told by the contractor the true picture given that in short instances of time the opening of the road has been changed from one month to another to another. Does the Minister not think that this is unacceptable?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes I think it is unacceptable and let me say that I am one of the affected parties seeing that I live about 50 metres away from it and my mother is probably the worst critic that I have of the delay but unfortunately circumstances have led to delays after delay as a result of structural problems that there had been with the retaining wall and the wall both to the east and to the west of the road and unfortunately that is the explanation that I am given.

NO. 469 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

SIGNAL STATION ROAD

Can Government confirm that part of Signal Station Road in the Upper Rock has been closed to vehicular traffic due to the collapse of a section of the road and if so, can they state when they expect repairs to be effected?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

No section of Signal Station Road has been closed due to a collapse of any section of this road.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 469 OF 2002

HON J C PEREZ:

Can we then say that the Minister is not aware that any section of this road has been closed?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

The question has asked whether the Signal Station Road in the Upper Rock has been closed to vehicular traffic due to the collapse of a section. There has been no collapse but the road has been closed, what has actually happened is that following a routine inspection of this road there was visual evidence of settlement of a section of

the road pavement which was then identified at a location near 'Poca Roca' area and this prompted the Government Highway Section to consider the closure and carry out investigations.

HON J C PEREZ:

Can the Minister say whether those investigations have now been completed and when is it expected that the repairs will be effective so that the road can be opened again.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

The investigations have shown that there has not been any further significant movement apart from the initial movement that was detected and so the Highway Section has decided to leave the road closed for a further period of time to see if there is any further movement before the road is opened again.

HON J C PEREZ:

So the only investigation that is being undertaken is to see if there is any further movement and if there is any further movement then repairs will be effected and if there is not it will be deemed to be safe, is that what the Minister is saying?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

In a simplistic way "yes" but I am sure that there are some technical investigations that are being carried out at the same time. It is not a matter of just going up to see whether the cracks are opening or not, there has been some technical investigations being carried and that will show whether to open the road or not.

HON J C PEREZ:

When the Minister says that it will be closed for a further month, I think I heard him right....

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

For a further period.

HON J C PEREZ:

For a further period, he does not know for how long it is expected that the road should continue closed?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No because in addition to the sort of normal possible movements it also depends on weather conditions, rain et cetera which can have a factor on the time that it needs to be under examination.

NO. 470 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

NUMBER OF VEHICLES REGISTERED

Can Government state how many new vehicles have been registered in the last financial year ending 31st March 2002?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question No 471 of 2002.

NO. 471 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

NUMBER OF VEHICLES REGISTERED

Can Government give a breakdown of total vehicle registrations as at 31st March 2002, giving a breakdown between commercial vehicles, public service vehicles, private vehicles and motor cycles?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

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

Answer to Question No 470 of 2002

The number of new vehicles registered in the year ended 31st March 2002 was 2768.

Answer to Question No 471 of 2002

A breakdown of the total active vehicles on the register as at 31st March 2002 is as follows:-

Private	-	12,311
Motorcycle	-	5,575
Goods	-	1,180
PSV	-	203
Special	-	44
Self Drive	-	99

19,412

NO. 472 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

TRANSPORT – DISABILITY DISCS

Are Government aware that the Traffic Commission have decided to temporarily refrain from considering applications for disability discs in respect of non-drivers and is currently conducting a review into such applications?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Yes.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 472 OF 2002

HON J C PEREZ:

Is the Minister aware that there are people who have recently become paralysed and that they have a need to be considered particularly since their whole lives have changed and that there is a great need for them to be able to acquire a disc and can the Minister state whether the review will take a very long time or the Commission will be in a position to be able to look at applications shortly?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

The disc system that was operational until recently was stopped by the Traffic Commission because they felt that there was an element of abuse in the system and obviously like in everything when one tries to tackle a problem because of abuse there

are some innocent parties that suffer the consequences of that. However the Commission has not laid idle and subsequently the Commission had been looking at reforming the system and introducing the 'Orange Card' system which has been used within the European Union and the UK and this will be introduced together with enabling EU regulations. I am aware that there are a number of serious cases and I have asked them to give me the relevant information available so that I can make representations to the Chairman of the Traffic Commission so that an interim system can be put in place in order to take care of these cases which unfortunately have sort of fallen through at the time when the system is being reviewed.

HON J C PEREZ:

Would the Minister explain what the 'Orange System' is all about?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

It is a European Union system for the disabled in order for them to standardise the requirements and criteria in order for affected parties to form part of the system. It is a system that is operated throughout the European Union and there is reciprocity in recognition as to the use of disabled parkings, tickets, there is an orange badge which gives them certain privilege use of the badge in certain areas and therefore those that are issued with the badge in Gibraltar should theoretically be able to enjoy the same privileges if they go into Spain and those in Spain with the orange badge should be able to enjoy and will probably enjoy the system in Gibraltar, it is a far more extended system than we have had here in the past and I think that in the long term those that come under this category will see the advantages of being able to operate under the system.

HON J C PEREZ:

But how does that do away with the supposed abuse that there has been and how does that solve the problem of those having a disc who are disabled themselves and drive and those that are relatives of disabled who have the disc because they drive a disabled person to different locations and this is what the Commission was reviewing which they term none drivers. How does this new system solve or ease that problem for the Commission?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I do not think that the problem will be solved, it will probably be eased, I am told that the criteria under which these 'Orange Card system' are made available makes it far more difficult for abuse. Whether in practice that will be the case I really do not know, it is something that I have asked the Chairman of the Traffic Commission that once they have undertaken a complete review of the system to meet me because I would personally like to make sure that the concerns of the Government are taken care of when that system is implemented.

HON J C PEREZ:

Finally, I would ask the Minister that I have a particular case of a person who recently suffered an accident or recently became paralysed as a result of an incident and I would like to if possible contact his office and send him the details to see whether he could find an exception to be done for this case.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I am very happy for that but the hon Member is probably talking about the same case who I met only a few days ago and I have asked for all the information because obviously I need to make representations to the Traffic Commission with the relevant documentation but I would appreciate if the hon Member would do so because if there are two cases then they can be sorted out at the same time.

NO. 473 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

UPPER ROCK FIREBREAKS

Have Government now ascertained from the Emergency Services what is the preferred month in which to clear the firebreaks in the Upper Rock, and if so, can they state when this is scheduled to commence?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

The Government do not consult the Emergency Services in this regard. The primary matter on which consultation is required is in respect of environmental issues which impact on the flora which grows on the firebreaks. Accordingly GONHS were consulted and their advice in respect of the timing for clearing firebreaks has been accepted by the Government. The clearing of the firebreaks is scheduled for the second week of June 2002.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 473 OF 2002

HON J C PEREZ:

I am glad to hear that but the Minister should recall that the last time that GONHS said this I told the Minister that there was an exigency from the Fire Brigade that the best months to do this from a fire safety point of view was May/June and the Minister said that he was going to check with the Emergency Services that is why I have asked. In fact if I recall the Minister said that the tender had been issued last year but since it was now the autumn it was the same tender that would be doing the work this year because they would have not been able to carry it out last year.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

The hon Member is correct, there has not been any consultation with the Emergency Services for the matter of on-going practice but after this particular exchange the Fire Brigade in respect of other issues to do with the Upper Rock and other Emergency Service there was a co-ordinating meeting in order to address a number of issues and this matter was touched on but I wanted to clarify that because there has not been any formal consultation in an on-going basis but the matter was addressed at the time and the hon Member is perfectly right the tender was awarded last year and it is actually going to be undertaking the works this year as the hon Member clearly pointed out.

NO. 474 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

BUNKERING CODE OF PRACTICE

Can Government list the parties who were consulted and when they were consulted over the decision to draw up a Bunkering Code of Practice for Gibraltar's Port?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

The Government felt that there was a need to regulate the industry and thus decided to implement a Bunkering Code of Practice. All bunkering operators have been consulted on this policy decision.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 474 OF 2002

HON DR J J GARCIA:

When do Government foresee the code being in place?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

The Government did not wish to introduce this code of practice until all bunkering operators had signalled their agreement in writing before doing so and it was only a few days ago that the last of the bunker operators confirmed in writing that they would be able to confirm with their requirements. The hon Member should remember that there is an element of not just code of practice in terms of actual practical implications today but there is also a number of issues in terms of standard which will have to be reached over a period of time and one particular operator wanted to be sure that it

could meet those requirements within the specified time before confirming the acceptance of this to the Government. This has now happened and so we will soon see the implementation of this applied.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is the code an EU or an International requirement of some kind?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No not at all, not as we speak today this might be something of the future, we are led by the fact that Gibraltar has increased its importance as a bunkering port, the level of bunkers supplied has been increased significantly over the last few years and therefore we felt that there was a need now to set certain standards and certain code of practices in order to ensure that we are shown to be proactive in health/safety issues. We have based our code of practice on the Singapore code of Practice which is renowned world-wide to being the bench mark for this sort of operation. However, our code of practice has been very much tailor made to Gibraltar's requirements but using the Singapore rules as a benchmark and as a reference point.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

As I understand this one of the things this code would do is transfer liability in terms of an accident from the bunker operator to the Government, if it is not an EU or international requirement why would the Government want it?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I think that the hon Member has misunderstood, that is not the case, far from it. The Government will never accept responsibility and it is always the operator that has to negotiate with the affected party or the affected party between them commercially as to who the honours fall on. The Government definitely are not a party at all.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

I am glad the Minister has clarified that point because in an interview which was given to the Shipping Newspaper, the Lloyd's List the current Chief Executive of the Port says that once the code is implemented and I quote, ".....liabilities when accidents take place would transfer from the bunker operator to the Port Authority so we want to ensure that the risks on the part of the Port are if not eliminated certainly minimised as much as possible." Is it that this was the case at that time but now it has changed?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

This has never been the case and the hon Member is probably referring to an article in the Lloyd's List, was it? I have missed that but it is incorrect, the liability is always with the party and the operator itself and in fact the culprit always pays and then we will try and investigate who the culprit of an incident may be.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is the Minister going to establish whether in fact the Chief Executive of the Port Authority does not know this and thinks that it will be the Port Authority's liability because it is a direct quote?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Absolutely I have taken a note already to take it up with him but I can assure the House that that is not the case. It is the Chief Executive of the Port Authority who has actually been at the forefront of seeing this code of practice to fruition and he has been the one involved with getting the details and putting all this together. He would have not been in his job for very much longer if he would have come up with this suggestion.

NO. 475 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

SHIP AGENTS REGISTRATION BOARD

At what stage is the application for a port operator licence from a new party that was being considered in February and have any new applications been submitted since?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

I presume that the application in question is that of an entity seeking a ship agent operator licence. The application was considered by the Ship Agents Registration Board and refused, and is now the subject of an appeal. There are two further applications for operator licences and these are under consideration.

NO. 476 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

NUMBER OF PRIVATE MOTOR VEHICLES IMPORTED

What was the value and number of private motor vehicles imported by:

- (a) Individuals;
- (b) licensed dealers;
- (c)

on a monthly basis since January 2002 inclusive?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question No 477 of 2002.

NO. 477 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

NUMBER OF GOODS VEHICLES IMPORTED

What was the value and number of goods vehicles imported by :

- (a) Individuals;
- (b) licensed dealers;

on a monthly basis since January 2002 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 written schedule that I hand to him.

Answer to Question No 477 of 2002

THE VALUE AND NUMBER OF VEHICLES IMPORTED INTO GIBRALTAR SINCE JANUARY 2002

	PRIVATE MOTOR VEHICLES			
	Imported by Individuals		Imported by Dealers	
	Number	Value (£ thousands)	Number	Value (£ millions)
January	25	51	622	7.5
February	22	52	408	3.7
March	19	58	673	8.9

	GOODS VEHICLES			
	Imported by Individuals		Imported by Dealers	
	Number	Value	Number	Value (£ Thousands)
January	-	-	3	23
February	-	-	1	0.03
March	-	-	-	-

NO. 478 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

UPPER ROCK ADMISSION FEES

Can Government say how much revenue has been raised in admission fees to the Upper Rock in February and March 2002?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question No 479 of 2002.

NO. 479 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

COACH PARK CHARGES

Can Government say how much revenue has been raised by charging coaches that used the coach park in February and March 2002?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Upper Rock revenue for the period in question was £281,407.90. Coach park revenue was £14,210.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 478 AND 479 OF 2002

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Minister supply those figures as for February and March separately?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes. Coach park in February was £5,865 and March £8,670. For the Upper Rock in February 2002, £106,447.50 and in March £174,960.

NO. 480 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

AIRLINE ASSISTANCE SCHEME

How much has been paid from the airline assistance scheme and to what airlines since March 2002, giving the amounts and dates when the payments were made?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

The only payment made is £63,780 paid to GB Airways on 13th March 2002.

NO. 481 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

FLIGHTS – GIBRALTAR/LONDON HEATHROW

Can Government say whether there is any prospect of flights between Gibraltar and Heathrow airport being restarted by the same airline or taken on by a new one after GB Airways ceased to operate from there at the end of March?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question Nos 482 to 485 of 2002.

NO. 482 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

AIRLINES

Can Government say whether any of the four new airlines who were interested in flying to Gibraltar in February intend to do so from outside the London area or from outside the United Kingdom?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question Nos 481 and 483 to 485 of 2002.

NO. 483 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

AIRLINES

Are any new airlines interested in operating from Gibraltar having discussions with the Government other than the four who were interested in February?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question Nos 481, 482, 484 and 485 of 2002.

NO. 484 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

AIRLINES

What is the reason for the delay in the statement from Fly Europa?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question Nos 481 to 483 and 485 of 2002.

NO. 485 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

AIRLINES

What steps are Government taking to renew air links between Gibraltar and Morocco?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

The Government are always hopeful that a Heathrow-Gibraltar service will be resumed. However, the decision whether or not to do so in the future is a purely commercial decision which only the airlines can take. Of the four new airlines with whom the Government continues in discussions, three are interested in commencing routes from outside the UK and two non-London UK routes. Two further entities have since made very initial enquiries, but they have not yet formally entered into discussion with the Government. Insofar as Morocco air links are concerned, the Government is in discussion with one airline and is aware of interest in the provision of a Gibraltar-Tangier service by another entity. The Government would welcome a resumption of air links with Morocco, but ultimately it is a commercial decision on the part of the operator. With regard to Fly Europa, it is not for the Government to explain why the airline should choose to delay making a statement.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 481 TO 485 OF 2002

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Government then say whether the CAA has granted the licence to Fly Europa to be able to start a licence in Gibraltar?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

The CAA has not granted a licence for Fly Europa to operate the UK/Gibraltar route but this has not been the fault of the CAA, I believe that Fly Europa has still to provide certain documentary evidence required by the CAA for them to consider their application. Fly Europa has been in discussions with me recently and it is not for the CAA to be blamed for any delay in this however they were waiting for certain new regulations that were going to be issued sometime in mid April which made and facilitated their position in respect of this application and Fly Europa are now optimistic that as a result of this they can now meet the requirements set up by the CAA and the latest information that is available but without any commitment on the Government's part because I am fed up of saying when this is going to start and does not start is that they want to start at the beginning of July. I am hoping to have a meeting with them in the next fortnight when hopefully they will be making a formal announcement but whether this happens or not will remain to be seen as has happened in the past and not materialised.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The reason why this was brought to the House was because of what the Minister has just said. He made certain announcements and gave certain dates as to when this would start, I believe this was March 2001, but is it the case then that Fly Europa has not even submitted an application to the CAA at this stage?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

My understanding is that they have submitted an application and that the CAA has asked for certain documentary evidence or information that was required which Fly Europa was not able or not willing to supply at the time. The new set of rules if I can loosely call them that which were announced in mid-April by the CAA make those requirements slightly more relaxed for them and therefore they were waiting for that to happen for them to process and supply the relevant information. I believe that they have already done so and are now awaiting confirmation of the application.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The Minister said that discussions continued with the four new airlines and that there are also two new ones making a total of six, three would be from outside the UK and two would be from the UK but not the London area which leaves us with one more where is this one intending to have flights to?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

The extra one is from a particular party who I believe we have even discussed in the House before as having made an application for European Union funding and then withdrew as a result of the 11th September, they have now come back and said that they wish to review the negotiations and look at the possibilities of operating a Tangier/Gibraltar flight. However, we are in negotiations with another operator who is looking at that particular route as well and we are at an advanced stage of those negotiations so whether one or the other will come on route, I do not think there is a

big enough market for both but I think whoever reaches there first will operate the route.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

With respect to Question No 485 of 2002 which was to do with the Gibraltar/Morocco route which the Minister has just alluded to, is there any further information as to when the memorandum of understanding with Regional Airlines will be signed?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I can tell the hon Member that one thing that the Government are not willing to do is to sign a memorandum of understanding covering the Casablanca/Gibraltar route because we do not feel that there is sufficient market there considering the level of subsidy the airline expects in this respect. We felt that in order to open up links with Morocco that Tangiers was a more appropriate point of entry into Morocco and negotiations are very much at an advanced stage. They definitely have an aircraft available now and so they could start very quickly but we are talking pounds, shillings and pence at the moment and negotiations are not that easy.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The Minister has said that negotiations are now at an advanced stage, in November of last year he said that it was close to being agreed, is there any reason to be more hopeful this time than last time?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes I would say so considering the time that has elapsed but with all due respect to Regional if the hon Member knew them he would not be too surprised of the delay.

NO. 486 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

NUMBER OF HOTEL BEDS

Can Government indicate with how many parties interested in increasing the number of hotel beds in Gibraltar it is currently in discussions, and:

- (a) what star rating of hotel does each of the parties have in mind;
- (b) what location for the hotel is each of the parties looking at?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

As stated in reply to Question Nos 135 and 136 of 2002, the Government continue in discussions with eight parties who have expressed an interest in new hotel developments in Gibraltar. These discussions have not progressed to the point where the potential operator of the new hotel has firmly stated the star rating the new property aims to achieve. Insofar as locations for new hotels are concerned, some are in the public domain, such as the East Side, but other locations are presently being discussed on a confidential basis with the developers and I am unable to give the information openly in this House. In some cases, more than one developer is looking at the same site.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 486 OF 2002

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In relation to these potential hotel developments, is the Minister aware of the comments made by the Gibraltar Hotel Association in relation to this and particularly they felt that with a 33 per cent capacity of hotel beds currently unsold it was perhaps unwise to proceed down this route?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I assume as in the same way as the hon Member has probably read the comments made by the Hotel Association I presume that he has also read in my opinion as to what the realities of life is all about and really the Government take a medium to long term view in this matter. One cannot supply and promote bringing new hotels into Gibraltar once the need is there. One has to look forward and if the hon Member looks at the way hotel occupancy has been rising and the prospects of increases in the next two to three years, we realise that there is a need for additional accommodation in that sort of lifespan and if he actually talked to tour operators in the UK and in other places in Spain he would find out that they are looking for larger number of hotel beds for them to really seriously consider Gibraltar as a destination that they can promote. Therefore the Government are quite confident that the idea of bringing in new hotels in the medium to long term is the answer and so therefore it needs to create a scenario which, the last thing that I want to do is to undermine the present hotels where the Government have actually provided the hotel assistance scheme which has been at the same time a vote of confidence on behalf of the hoteliers themselves because these loans have to be repaid in years to come and therefore one would not want to create a scenario where this situation would undermine the present hotels in Gibraltar. However I think looking forward and looking openly one has to realise that we need to attract new hotels to come in and that is Government policy and will continue to be so.

NO. 487 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM – PERSONS INTERVIEWED

Can Government say how many interviews with persons who said that they had stayed at a hotel have been carried out since 1 January 2002, inclusive, on a monthly basis, stating where they were interviewed and the number interviewed at each location?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question Nos 488 and 489 of 2002.

NO. 488 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM – PERSONS INTERVIEWED

Can Government state of the number of persons who have been interviewed since January 2002 inclusive, who said that they had stayed at a hotel, how many were interviewed at the airport, how many were interviewed at the land frontier, and 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 487 and 489 of 2002.

NO. 489 OF 2002**THE HON DR J J GARCIA****TOURISM – 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 1 January 2002 inclusive, on a monthly basis, stating where they were interviewed and the numbers interviewed at each location?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT**

The information sought in this question is too voluminous to be read out in this House, nor would the hon Member be able to note the information given for the purposes of formulating supplementaries if it were read out. I hand the hon Member a table giving the information requested.

INTERVIEWS WITH PERSONS WHO STAYED AT HOTELS

Month	No of Interviews	Place of Interview				Average Length of Stay
		Airport	Frontier	Coach Park	Waterport	
January 2002	12	12	-	-	-	4.8
February 2002	10	10	-	-	-	3.8

INTERVIEWS WITH PERSONS WHO DID NOT STAY AT HOTELS

Month	No of Interviews	Place of Interview			
		Airport	Port	Frontier	Coach Park
January 2002	1,222	20	-	777	425
February 2002	1,240	20	8	705	507

The information for March 2002 is not yet available.

NO. 490 OF 2002

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 period these monies become due as at the end of March 2002?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

The arrears due by hotels stood at £498,000 as at 31st March 2002. These arrears are in respect of amounts due over a number of years, dating back as far as 1991.

The breakdown is as follows:

Social Insurance	-	£ 78,000
PAYE Tax	-	£177,000
Electricity	-	£204,000
Rates	-	£ 38,000
Rent	-	£ 1,000
		<hr/>
		£498,000
		<hr/>

These figures include amounts due in the current billing period. The historical arrears now stand at £429,000.

NO. 491 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM ADVISORY COUNCIL

How often and on what dates has the Tourism Advisory Council met since 7th February 2002?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

The Council has met once, on Thursday 18th April 2002.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 491 OF 2002

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The previous meetings were on the 7th February 2002 and the 19th November 2001, are Government satisfied that the frequency of meetings are enough for the Council to perform its function?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

The contention of the Tourism Advisory Council is that it should meet four or five times a year depending on requirements, so far we have met twice this year, last year we met on I believe four occasions and so therefore we feel satisfied with the level of meetings that we have been undertaking.

NO. 492 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

MINISTER'S OVERSEAS VISITS

Can the Minister for Tourism give the dates when he has been away from Gibraltar on Government business from 1st February 2002 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 only once, on 4 and 5 March to attend a UKGTA, meeting in London together with other meetings on that day.

NO. 493 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR OFFICE IN MADRID

How many persons applied for the post of administrator at the Gibraltar Office in Madrid which was advertised on 2nd February 2002?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Sixteen persons applied.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 493 OF 2002

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Minister say whether anybody has been selected for the job at this stage?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Seven people were interviewed and no appointment has been made as yet.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Minister say of the 16 persons who applied and the seven who were interviewed how many were from Gibraltar?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I am afraid I do not have this information with me at the moment but I think that there may have been one that was not Gibraltarian, and may have been a person who has had connections with Gibraltar before in the media, I believe he was a junior journalist or something to that effect but I would not be so sure because I do not get involved in the selection of candidates but I think I heard that one of them had been somebody who had interviewed me before. I stand to be corrected but I think the rest were all Gibraltarian?

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is that one of the 16 or one of the final seven?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I would not know whether he was actually given an interview or not. I can let the hon Member know if he wishes but I am not sure.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

I would be grateful for that information if the Minister could supply it and finally can he explain what the job description of an administrator in this case is and what the functions and duties would be.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I do not have a copy of the job description here but the post of administrator is to administer the office. I am happy to provide him with a copy of the job description if he so wishes.

NO. 494 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

FITUR

How many persons made up the Gibraltar Tourist Board Delegation to FITUR this year and who were they?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question Nos 495 to 497 of 2002.

ORAL

NO. 495 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

FITUR

Did persons other than Government employees attend FITUR this year at public expense and if so who were they?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question Nos 494, 496 and 497 of 2002.

NO. 496 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

FITUR

What meetings and with whom were held in FITUR by the GTB with a view of exploiting new business potential, and what does this new business potential entail?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question Nos 494, 495 and 497 of 2002.

NO. 497 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

FITUR

Can Government give the total cost with a breakdown of attending FITUR earlier this year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

The information sought in this question is too voluminous to be read out in this House, nor would the hon Member be able to note the information given for the purposes of formulating supplementaries if it were read out. I hand the hon Member a table giving the information requested.

Answer to Question 497 of 2002

Answer to Question 494

- (a) The GTB delegation at FITUR:

Hon J J Holliday, Minister for Tourism
Mr P R Canessa, GTB Chief Executive
Mr M Sanguinetti, GTB Sales and Marketing Manager
Mr D Ferrar
Ms M G Macedo

Answer to Question 495

- (b) Non-Government employee who attended FITUR at Government expense:

Miss Luann Richardson, Miss Gibraltar 2001

Answer to Question 496

- (c) Meetings held at FITUR:

Mas Viajes	Fernando Valmaseda	Advertising and PR
RV Edipress	Eva San Pablo	PR
Power Comunicacion	Maria Asenjo	PR
Aero Club	Pedro Sanchez Pacheco	Flying Club
Mancomunidad President	Sr Manuel Manella	Mancomunidad
Winner Premio Periodistico	Ms Pilar Galan Trenado	
Economia 3	Juan Ignacio Company	Advertising
Cemedia	Eckart May	Advertising
Ocean 2002	Alvaro Navarra	Jet Ski challenge
Paisajes desde el tren	Mila Vazquez Vallejo	Editorial and advertising
Lo Mejor de las Autonomias	Jose Carlos Duque	Editorial and advertising
Viajeros	Conchita Arregui	Editorial and advertising
Nomadas	Nieves Torres	Editorial and advertising
Expo Turismo	Virtudes Rodrigo	Editorial and advertising
Business Week	Melinda Snider	Editorial and advertising
La Linea	Tourism councillors	Joint promotions
La Razon	Jose Ma Cano	Editorial and advertising
Latitud 4	Antonio Wanguemert	Cruising
Transporte Aereo y Turismo	Ma Fernanda Fernandez	Editorial and advertising
Economia y Turismo	Paloma Aviles Martinez	Editorial and advertising
Open comunicacion	Enrique Sancho	PR
De Jong	Leon Staallekker	Tours
Localia TV	Celso Bustos	TV
Fira de Barcelona	Viviane Salsas	Trade Fair organizer
Luxury Travel Market	Ronan McCarthy	Tours
Diving a Fondo	Eduardo Salette	Editorial and advertising
Turismo y Aventura	Oscar San Martin	Editorial and advertising
Telecinco	Angel Marco	TV
Alcala Media/Newsweek	Monica Van der Eb	Editorial and advertising
Dialogo Mediterraneo	Pedro Martinez Seiquer	Editorial and advertising
Ocean Ventures	Fraser Cairns	Media Reps
Interdeco	Dolores Zorrilla	Editorial and advertising
Infotrade	Paul Leahu	Editorial and advertising

Contd Answer to Question 497 of 2002

Answer to Question 497

FITUR Costs.

The costs are as follows:

	£
<i>Stand Costs:</i>	
Hire of space	2,661.53
Stand construction	11,666.00
<i>Literature and Promotional Costs:</i>	
Promotional material	1,385.78
Literature specifically for FITUR	720.00
Freight	342.20
Stand animation (including ape costume)	2,165.53
Uniform sweatshirts	152.00
<i>Travel Expenses:</i>	
Air Tickets	756.00
Travel Expenses (including tolls and Parking)	227.65
Travel insurance	53.50
Hotel and Subsistence	4,570.86
	<hr/>
	£24,701.05
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SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 494 TO 497 OF 2002

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The latter part of Question No 496 of 2002 which asks what the new business potential entails, the reason for that is because in its own promotion of the event here it was announced that the GTB would be meeting other travel trade professionals with a view to exploiting new business potentials, we are trying to identify what the new potential is as opposed to the existing one?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Whenever we have meetings in trade fairs or anywhere else we always exploit and try to look for new opportunities and some of the meetings which are listed in the answer that I have given were held not just by me but by Gibraltar Tourist Board personnel. I was only in Madrid for a day, some of my colleagues like the sales and marketing manager was actually in Madrid for the duration of three or four days and

therefore he was able to exploit some of the meetings but I can tell the hon Member that, for example, one of the meetings that I had was with a tour operator. That same tour operator today has now included Gibraltar in its itinerary and has actually started to bring in because they have the 'Circuito' around Spain and was able to do that. That is a possible business potential that was developed as a result of our meeting in Madrid but I think it is the company known as "De Jong" the Scandinavian tour operator. They are now calling at Gibraltar as a result of the meeting we had in Madrid, but we had had previous communications before, the fact that we had met in Madrid may or may not have been the meeting that actually convinced them to come to Gibraltar but it happened to be that that was one of the meetings that I had at the fair but we could go down the list and the hon Member will probably find that it was quite an extensive list covering a wide cross section of activity both in the area of advertising, tour operators, editorials, interviews with the media et cetera. I can guarantee that my staff do not give me an easy time when I go away.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

One of the meetings the Minister refers to, is the question of joint promotion and it is a meeting with the Tourism Counsellors from La Linea, can the Minister tell the House what exactly that entails?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

That meeting was not with La Linea but with the President of the Mancomunidad de Municipios. I had a meeting with the President which he requested and basically we discussed the possibility of joint promotion for the area and I agreed to pursue the issue and explore opportunities and in fact I believe that some of the management in the Gibraltar Tourist Board have held meetings at official level with them in order to explore opportunities but nothing has ever come back to me in a tangible way for me to consider.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In terms of the actual business that it attracts, are the Government aware of the criticism again made by the Hotel Association in reference to FITUR that no hotelier attending FITUR for the past five years has ever come back with any business except for one meeting room for four people in those five years, are Government aware of that and is there any way in which this is actually monitored?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Government are aware of the statement but do not agree with it and neither do I think that it is right or true.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Whether Government were aware of the statement made by the Hotel Association and secondly whether there is any way in which the Government monitors which of these meetings actually produce any results and which of them do not.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I am aware of the statement, I do not think it is correct and to the best of my knowledge and memory the Hotel Association or the Members of the Hotel Association have attended FITUR on a number of occasions. However if no business has come their way as a result of FITUR there is no need to make a judgement on that. The only thing that I can say is that when we decide whether we are going to exhibit or not in a particular event and let me say that if the hon Member asks the Hotel Association whether they would be willing to support the Gibraltar Tourist Board's attendance in FITUR they would probably turn round today and say, "no we do not want you to." I have to take a wider view and there are a lot of other interested parties and not just the hoteliers that benefit from our presence at FITUR. The hon Member can ask the Chairman of the Gibraltar Licensed Victuallers and he will realise that he thought that FITUR was very productive. If the hon Member talks to the Taxi Association they came back with very fruitful business from FITUR as well. So, the feedback does not have to be negative and the reality is that Gibraltar Tourist Board has to promote Gibraltar at an event looking after the interests of a wide cross-section of the tourism community and not just specifically at the hotels. It may not be for the benefit of a hotel but it is for the benefit of many others and so Gibraltar will continue to be at FITUR.

NO. 498 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

SEATRADE CRUISE CONVENTION

What did the major promotional campaign conducted by Gibraltar at the Seatrade Cruise Convention in Miami consist of?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question No 499 of 2002.

NO. 499 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

SEATRADE CRUISE CONVENTION

What was the total cost, with a breakdown, of attending the Seatrade Cruise Convention in Miami?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

I hand the hon Member a table giving the information requested

.

Answer to Question No 499 of 2002

The campaign conducted at the Seatrade Cruise Convention in Miami consisted of

1. The dedicated Gibraltar stand in the Seatrade exhibition hall;
2. the launch of the new Gibraltar Port information pack; and
3. the participation of Gibraltar as a delegate in the cruise convention.

The total cost of attendance was £25,122.94 made up as follows:-

Cost of stand	£14,094.82	
Conference passes	£ 828.93	
Air fares	£ 4,348.45	
Hotel	£ 3,490.72	
Subsistence	£ 1,694.21	
Incidentals	£ 665.81	(inc Taxi fares)
	<hr/>	
	£ 25,122.94	
	<hr/>	

NO. 500 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURIST SITES

Can Government say what the procedure is with regard to the opening of the tourist sites when a large cruise liner arrives after the normal site closing hours?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

When a cruise ship's Shore Excursion agent advises the Gibraltar Tourist Board of the pre-booked tours for a cruise call, the GTB arranges if necessary for the late closing of the Government's visitor attractions.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 500 OF 2002

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can Government then explain why on the 11th April when the cruise liner 'Norwegian Dream' arrived at eight in the evening with 1700 passengers on board, the tourist sites were closed?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

The information that I have on this particular incident was that this was not an expected call, it was a last minute call at Gibraltar and the fact was that the shore excursion agent confirmed to the Tourist Board that there were no tours pre-booked. Therefore the Government took the view that at such short notice it was difficult or in fact I was told that it was impossible to get staff to man the sites on the odd chance that passengers would make their way up to the Upper Rock. Therefore the sites were not opened. This is not common practice as the hon Member can well imagine but it did happen on that particular day basically due to short notice and the fact that no tours had been pre-booked by the ship itself.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Even if there was no pre-booked tours is there not an option for passengers in the ship to take a non pre-booked tour in a taxi or whatever up to the sites?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Absolutely and the sites would have been opened if there had been more time given but the notice of time that we were given made it absolutely impossible for the staff at the Upper Rock to remain open but under normal circumstances that is not the case.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is it possible for the Minister to say what notice they had of this cruise call?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

The information I have available does not state so but I do remember the incident on that particular day and we are talking of maybe not even a few hours it was less than that it was sometime during the course of the afternoon when the ship was arriving at 7.00 pm or 7.45 pm and leaving at midnight and therefore the notice that we were given may have been less than a couple of hours but that was just the recollection of the day and not based on notes that I have here on the incident.

NO. 501 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

CRUISE SHIP 'ODYSSEUS'

Can Government say whether any Government or EU assistance has been sought or given in respect of the cruise venture from Gibraltar by the cruise ship 'Odysseus' ?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

None has been sought or given.

NO. 502 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

BUNKERING SALES

Can Government say with which other Mediterranean port Gibraltar's oil bunkering sales have been compared and the source of the information in respect of these other ports?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question No 503 of 2002.

NO. 503 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

BUNKERING SALES

Can Government state in respect of which year they have calculated that Gibraltar became the largest oil bunkering port in the Mediterranean and was this based on the value or the volume of oil bunkering sales?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Gibraltar is regarded by the industry as the largest bunkering port in the Mediterranean based on the volume of bunkers sold. It is not a claim which Gibraltar has created for itself but one which the industry media coined. The Government are not aware when this accolade was first given to Gibraltar by the media. The Government do not compare Gibraltar's bunkering sales with other Mediterranean ports, and are unaware of the source of information in respect of other bunkering ports.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 502 AND 503 OF 2002

HON J J BOSSANO:

I do not know what media the Minister is talking about, all I have seen is quoted in speeches by the Chief Minister and they were made recently in London and I think if

in a speech made by the Chief Minister of Gibraltar which talks about the gross domestic product, the number of visitors and so on, one would expect it to be based on something more scientific than an accolade by the media, I suppose that if it is in the media the accolade may be directly related to the number of adverts that the media has obtained from the Government. Do Government know whether in fact we are the largest or the smallest supplier of oil bunkers in the Mediterranean?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Let me clarify, the Government do keep tab of supplies of bunkers with neighbouring ports, that is something that is available, information is available and therefore we keep tabs with the port of Algeciras and the port of Ceuta which are our direct competitors in this side of the Mediterranean. There is no official source of information where port supplies of bunkers in the Mediterranean are actually collated for comparison but I can tell the House that it is known in the industry that the leading ports in the western Mediterranean are probably Pareos and Genoa and these fluctuate between 2.5 - 2.8 million tonnes a year, Gibraltar in the year 2001 was just short of 3 million tonnes and so although we tend to be able to classify ourselves as the leading port in the Mediterranean when I am interviewed by a number of leading journalists and I actually give them figures of what we have done in Gibraltar and try and sell our wares, that normally results in them reporting that Gibraltar is the leading port in the Mediterranean. I can understand his point but I can assure the hon Member that it is something that I have wanted to try and see whether there was anything I could put myself into in order to try and compare our performance with other ports in the Mediterranean and see what the trend is in the Mediterranean whether the trend is up for everybody or down or whether we are up and they are down, but that information they tend to keep very much to themselves. It is only as a result of personal contacts that we have in the leading ports that I have mentioned, that we have been able to find out for the sake of supplementary for this question as to see where we lie and therefore I think that we are comfortable in being able to make that sort of statement in that we can compare ourselves with that sort of port. If we actually compare ourselves with the port of Singapore one would actually get a figure of something like 20 million and so therefore we are outside that league but Singapore in itself is way up any other port in the world, it is the leading port in the world by far but definitely within the Mediterranean and definitely in the western Mediterranean we are the leading port and that is how our cliché has come about. If there is any other information that comes about because I have tried to generate quite a number of enquiries, I will be very happy to let the hon Member have it because it is something that I think interests all of us without wanting to shout it from the rooftops for obvious reasons, but we do keep tabs on our friends around the bay of Gibraltar because obviously they are our main competitors and it is something that would concern us if we see that there was a trend that did not follow our own.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I think that the Minister said that Ceuta and Algeciras publish figures, am I correct?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No I do not believe that they do publish it but there is a website which compares the port of Algeciras, Ceuta and Gibraltar exclusively and the figures are available going back to 1980 and they make interesting reading and one can see how the trends have

developed over the years in the three ports where we have it right and they have it wrong. I can let the hon Member have that information .

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am grateful for that offer.

NO. 504 OF 2002

THE HON S E LINARES

CULTURAL GRANTS

Can Government state why they take so long after Cultural Grants are approved for the sums of monies to reach the different entities it has been awarded to?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question No 505 of 2002.

NO. 505 OF 2002

THE HON S E LINARES

CULTURAL GRANTS COMMITTEE

Can Government state who forms part of the Cultural Grants Committee and in what capacity they are in the said Committee?

ANSWER

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

Answer to Question No 504 of 2002

During the last Financial Year, the Cultural Grants committee met on 4th October in order to consider requests for cultural grants. Successful applicants were informed by letter on 18th October 2001. Consequently, there was no delay, apart from the time lapse in preparing letters and making the necessary arrangements for payments with the Treasury Department.

Answer to Question No 505 of 2002

The members of the Cultural Grants Committee are as follows:

The Minister for Education & Culture -	Chairman
Director of Culture -	Secretary
Mr C Chiappe -	Representing the Arts Advisory Council
Mr S Levy -	" " "
Mrs O Valverde -	" " "
Dr L Zammit -	" " "
Mr P Lyon -	Representing the Education Department

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 504 AND 505 OF 2002

HON S E LINARES:

In relation to Question No 504 of 2002 I have had complaints from certain groups about the delay of the monies going to them, I would suggest that the Minister looks into after the letter is written to them because there might be complications or something from Treasury. I think maybe the delay is coming from Treasury rather than from the Culture Grants Committee or the Ministry of Culture because the monies although approved on the 4th and written to the groups on the 18th are not getting to them and this is what I would like the Minister to look into.

HON DR B A LINARES:

I will look into that but as the hon Member has acknowledged there is certainly no delay in processing the matter by the Ministry of Culture and the Cultural Grants Committee.

HON S E LINARES:

In the question I asked why the Cultural Grants are taking long not that it was the fault of the Ministry of Culture.

NO. 506 OF 2002

THE HON S E LINARES

ARTS ADVISORY COUNCIL

Can Government state who forms part of the Arts Advisory Council and in what capacity they are in the said Council?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question No 507 of 2002.

NO. 507 OF 2002

THE HON S E LINARES

ARTS ADVISORY COUNCIL

Can Government state how many times the Arts Advisory Council met in the years 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002 to date?

ANSWER

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

Answer to Question No 506 of 2002

The Members of the Arts Advisory Council are as follows:-

The Minister for Education & Culture – Chairman
Director of Culture – Secretary
Senior Education Adviser
Senior Youth & Community Officer
Mr C Chiappe
Mrs M Chiappe
Mrs G Finlayson
Mr M Finlayson
Mrs P Napoli
Mr C Gomez
Mrs G Henshaw
Mr S Levy
Mr J Rosado
Mrs O Valverde
Mrs W Vasquez
Dr L Zammit

The above members have been appointed, not as representing specific organisations or institutions, but based on their experience in the different fields of the Arts in Gibraltar.

Answer to Question No 507 of 2002

The Arts Advisory Council met on four occasions in 1998 and once in 1999. It has not met formally in 2000 and 2001. It is due to meet by September this year.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 506 AND 507 OF 2002

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Minister give an explanation why in two years they have not met?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Yes, the Arts Advisory Council in its constitution does not specify the regularity of meetings. We have revived the Arts Advisory Council in 1998 after the eight fallow years of the previous administration when it never met. It was intended to boost the Arts generally in Gibraltar that we found at a very low ebb and the aim was actually to encourage and promote and foster the creation of individual associations and societies in each of the particular fields of the Arts. Having succeeded in doing this in 1999 with the creation of the Gibraltar Dance Organisation and the Arts and Crafts Association, the Philharmonic Society, the Fine Arts Association and lately the Drama Association, the Live Music Association it was felt by the members of the Council and by the Ministry of Culture that it was now possible to deal directly with these representative bodies and I can put on record my appreciation especially of the offices of the Ministry of Culture who have been instrumental with the associations of giving a tremendous boost to the Arts generally in Gibraltar and showing a vibrancy which has not been witnessed for many years before. Since then now the Ministry of Culture and the different associations have made representations that what we should now do is to reconstitute the Arts Advisory Council, this time representing the different associations with elected representatives of the different associations as opposed to the original thrust which was to pretty well scout around and appoint people who have shown commitment and experience in the Arts. I think I have given the hon Member a general view of the thrust, policy and the strategies which are now carried by the Ministry of Culture with respect to the Arts Advisory Council.

HON S E LINARES:

In reference to the swipe the Minister has given to my Colleagues of the GSLP it is sad to hear the Minister standing up and saying that it is being revised when they have only met five times in the past five years. An Arts Advisory Council that the Minister constitutes meets in 1998 four times, in 1999 once and does not meet after. I am glad that the Minister is reviving all this, I am glad that the Minister is doing all this but it goes to show that it is all hot air, all hot air.

HON DR B A LINARES:

That is five times that the Council has met during the last few years, five times more than it met during the eight years of the previous administration.

HON S E LINARES:

They did not even meet once it was not even constituted.

HON DR B A LINARES:

It shows the lack of knowledge that the hon Member has in that respect, the Arts Advisory Council was constituted in 1986 it was chaired by the Minister for Education at the time, it ceased and became well and truly defunct after 1988.

NO. 508 OF 2002

THE HON S E LINARES

MINISTRY OF CULTURE

Do Government envisage any staff increases in the Ministry of Culture once the Theatre Royal is functioning?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos 509 and 510 of 2002.

NO. 509 OF 2002

THE HON S E LINARES

THEATRE ROYAL

Can Government state what fee arrangements will be put in place for the use of the Theatre Royal to :

- (a) Professionals
- (b) Amateurs?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos 508 and 510 of 2002.

NO. 510 OF 2002

THE HON S E LINARES

THEATRE ROYAL

Can Government state whether the works at the Theatre Royal are on schedule or will it be delayed in any way?

ANSWER

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

Answer to Question No 508 of 2002

This matter is presently being examined. Obviously it is envisaged that there will be a need to employ more staff in order to run the Theatre Royal. The Government have not yet decided how, what structure, or by whom the theatre will be operated. We have not reached that point in our structuring exercise.

Answer to Question No 509 of 2002

The matter will be considered by Government in due course.

Answer to Question No 510 of 2002

As I informed the House in reply to the Hon Dr R Valarino's Question No 155 of 2002, it is expected that refurbishment works on the Theatre Royal will be completed by January 2004. This will be followed by a period of 2/3 months in which essential commissioning of the theatre's facilities and equipment will be undertaken, with the proposed official opening scheduled to take place in April 2004.

NO. 511 OF 2002

THE HON S E LINARES

HEALTH PROMOTION GROUP

Can Government state whether the anomalies that appeared in the information leaflet relating to healthy eating have been rectified?

ANSWER

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

There are no anomalies in the leaflet produced by the Health Promotion Group.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 511 OF 2002

HON S E LINARES:

In the last House I actually stated what the anomaly was, there was one that I can remember of the top of my head and it was that the "Healthy Eating" leaflet had suggested to parents to put in peanuts for children whilst the school were not allowing the children to carry the peanuts, that is the anomaly.

HON DR B A LINARES:

It is quite amazing, the school lunches were started in January just about three months ago, everything is now settled, everything has fallen into place, everything is running smoothly to the general satisfaction of parents, children and teachers, where are all those prophecies of doom once uttered by the hon Member.....

HON S E LINARES:

Mr Speaker a point of order.

MR SPEAKER:

Yes, that is not really relevant.

HON S E LINARES:

There is no relevance to the question of rectifying.

HON DR B A LINARES:

It is relevant Mr Speaker in that.....

HON S E LINARES:

It is a point of Order.

MR SPEAKER:

He has pointed it out. I have already said that do you wish to continue?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I can point out what the relevance is Mr Speaker but after all those prophecies of doom it appears that it has all been reduced to a question of peanuts.

HON S E LINARES:

What is the answer on the peanuts?

HON DR B A LINARES:

The answer on the peanuts is that peanuts according to the Director of Health is dangerous only from the point of choking for children under three years, so that is before they come into school. It is not considered generally dangerous in terms of choking after that age. In terms of allergies to peanuts it is actually one of the minor allergies there are more important allergies bread, dairy products et cetera, and indeed parents are usually quite conscious of these situations and inform the school accordingly. In any case it is the parents who prepare the packed lunches so they can avoid whatever they think is dangerous.

HON S E LINARES:

It is neither to do with allergies or the danger of children under three years old. The Minister does not seem to have realised and I am telling him that it is that the Heads have written to parents of children over the age of three who, the relevance of the allergies is not there it is that they have written saying that the children are not allowed to bring peanuts into school. This is the point, why has this not been rectified? The Heads have written to the parents saying, "This is what your child is allowed to bring and this is what your child is not allowed to bring," this is what I am saying and we are on the peanuts but there are a few more but let us carry on on the peanuts and the Heads tell the parents do not bring peanuts and the leaflet says that one can put peanuts in the lunch box, that is all that I am asking for.

HON DR B A LINARES:

The question was referring to the leaflet and anomalies in the leaflet. To say that there are anomalies in the leaflet in the context of what the hon Member is now explaining is really an exaggeration in extremist. In terms of the Heads having told parents whatever they think is wise within the context and the guidance that they offer to parents it is still irrelevant to the question that the ideas leaflets, it is an ideas, it is a guideline concerning healthy diets that the Department of Health has issued. It is absolutely nonsense really to try to create an issue, a mountain out of a molehill in the issue of peanuts.

NO. 512 OF 2002

THE HON S E LINARES

MEETING SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS - BOOKLET

Can Government state who were the printers of the "Meeting Special Educational Needs: Guidelines for Gibraltar" booklet?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question No 537 of 2002.

NO. 513 OF 2002

THE HON S E LINARES

INDIVIDUAL EDUCATIONAL PLANS

Are Individual Educational Plans (IEP) prepared with parents of children who are suspended from school during the time the child does not attend school?

ANSWER

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

I think the hon Member is confused about the nature and purpose of Individual Educational Plans. Individual Educational Plans are prepared for children with special educational needs while they are attending school and not necessarily to pupils who are excluded or suspended. If the hon Member is seeking to know what provision is made in collaboration with parents for pupils who are suspended or excluded then the answer was given to him in September 2000 in answer to Question No 472 of 2000.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 513 OF 2002

HON S E LINARES:

A child who is suspended from school could well be a special needs child, usually they are, and that is why I have asked the question I do understand the nature of Individual Educational Plans myself since I have worked for 12 years on them, what I am stating is that children with special educational needs are usually children who

have behavioural problems and therefore because they have behavioural problems they need an individual educational plan sorted out. If an Individual Educational Plan is sorted out in school and whilst they are suspended does that plan continue or is it revised, evaluated again so that the parents are brought in because the suspension is supposed to be bringing in parents or getting the involvement of parents for the child's misbehaviour.

HON DR B A LINARES:

Again the hon Member is confusing the issue further that is why in my answer I said that Individual Educational Plans are not necessarily given to pupils who are suspended, the pupil could be suspended and he could be a high-flyer. He would not have an Individual Educational Plan as is intended for special academic needs, he will be given nevertheless if the child is suspended who is already taking with him an Individual Educational Plan prepared whilst he was attending in school then of course he will take that IEP with him and it will be monitored as I said in collaboration with parents in setting a work programme that that pupil will have to carry out whilst away from school.

NO. 514 OF 2002

THE HON S E LINARES

BEHAVIOUR SUPPORT TEAM

Can Government state whether they are currently considering the setting up of a Pupil Referral Unit?

ANSWER

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

The Department has already set up a Behaviour Support Team made up of three peripatetic teachers highly qualified in supporting children with emotional and behavioural problems. These teachers work in mainstream closely with special needs co-ordinators in each school and are supported by the Special Needs Adviser in the Department and by the Principal Educational Psychologist as a team effort, a collaborative team effort and in the case of pupils who may be suspended or excluded from school the headteachers will also attend to them on the basis of off-site arrangements.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 514 OF 2002

HON S E LINARES:

So the Minister is not intending to put a Pupil Referral Unit as such, not a behavioural team, I know he has a Behavioural Team I have been campaigning for an extra peripatetic teacher which fortunately has been employed. I am saying a Pupil Referral

Unit and has there been any request from that team that he is saying that a Pupil Referral Unit should be set up?

HON DR B A LINARES:

We have had this debate before. I have tried previously to explain an enlightened positive approach to the problems of children with behavioural difficulties which is certainly a far cry from the sin bin concept that the hon Member seems to have and the Pupil Referral Unit segregated away from the ambience and from the spirit of the school. In that sense I have no hesitation in saying that it is not the intention of the Government to create a Pupil Referral Unit in that context.

HON S E LINARES:

It is not me who has been enlightened it must have been the Minister who has been enlightened himself. He as a Headteacher was campaigning for a Pupil Referral Unit he must have been enlightened since he became a Minister.

HON DR B A LINARES:

That is not true I never campaigned in any way of

HON S E LINARES:

The Minister did campaign I was the GTA President and he used to campaign with his Deputy Head for a Pupil Referral Unit and now he has changed track he does not want a Pupil Referral Unit fine, he does not believe in it now but do not say that I have been enlightened, he has been enlightened because he has changed his mind.

NO. 515 OF 2002

THE HON S E LINARES

NURSERIES

Can Government state whether the Legislation Unit has incorporated the amendments suggested by the department in relation to legislation to regulate nurseries, to be presented and considered by the Council of Ministers?

ANSWER

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

Yes.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 515 OF 2002

HON S E LINARES:

Does that mean yes it will be presented and considered by the Council of Ministers and when?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Yes, I cannot say when, it will be part of the prioritised agenda of the Council of Ministers.

HON S E LINARES:

Does the Minister see it as a priority?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I see it as a priority but it has to be put in the context I hope the hon Member understands when they talk about prioritising it has to be placed and balanced against other priorities.

NO. 516 OF 2002

THE HON S E LINARES

TRUANT CHILDREN

Can Government state when they envisage the legislation on truant children will be presented to this House?

ANSWER

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

The first draft of the legislation on truant children has recently been received by the Department. Some amendments will be submitted shortly to the Legislation Support Unit to better reflect the aims and objectives of the Department's intentions in legal form.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 516 OF 2002

HON S E LINARES:

Will this legislation take more or less the form that it has in UK?

HON DR B A LINARES:

It is inspired and it is modelled on the legislation in UK if the hon Member is referring to the Crime and Disorder Act of 1998 on power of the police to remove truants. It

has been modelled on that but it is one of the points that we are trying to actually work out with the Legislation Unit that we do not just sort of plonk the legislation in the UK on our own very different cultural and social circumstances in terms of what truancy is in Gibraltar which is a far cry to what is the problem of truancy in the UK.

NO. 517 OF 2002

THE HON S E LINARES

NUMBER OF PUPILS SUSPENDED

Can Government state how many pupils have been suspended from each school giving a break down by the name of the school and the number in that school?

ANSWER

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

The number of pupils suspended during the current academic year is as follows:-

Bayside	-	6
Westside	-	10
St Paul's	-	1
Notre Dame	-	1
Bishop Fitzgerald	-	1

A total of 19 short term suspensions so far this year.

NO. 518 OF 2002**THE HON S E LINARES****NUMBER OF SCHOOL SECRETARIES**

Can Government state what is the complement of secretaries in each school giving a break down by school and how many mornings and afternoons they do in each school?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE & HEALTH**

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

Answer to Question No 518 of 2002

Full timers	-	4
Part timers	-	7
Bayside	-	Two full-timers all day 5 days per week
Westside	-	Two full-timers all day 5 days per week
Bishop Fitzgerald	-	One part-timer 5 mornings per week
St Anne's Middle	-	One part-timer 5 mornings per week
Sacred Heart middle	-	Shared part-timer 2 mornings per week

St Joseph's Middle	-	Shared part-timer 3 mornings per week
Hebrew Primary	-	Shared part-timer 1 morning per week
St Martin's School	-	Shared part-timer 3 mornings per week
St Mary's First	-	Shared part-timer 2 mornings per week
Notre Dame First	-	Shared part-timer 3 mornings per week
St Paul's first	-	Shared part-timer 3 mornings per week
Governor's Meadow	-	Shared part-timer 2 mornings per week
St Joseph's first	-	Shared part-timer 2 mornings per week
St Bernard's First	-	Shared part-timer 2 mornings per week

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 518 OF 2002

HON S E LINARES:

Is the Minister satisfied with the level of secretarial work in schools generally?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I am satisfied with the level of the work produced by the present complement of typists. In terms of whether the complement itself is adequate or not at this moment of time I am neutral. Headteachers are requesting additional provision on the grounds that in recent years administration chores have increased as a result of all this curricular development, reports and records et cetera and therefore they are making a case that the complement should be reviewed and the matter is under consideration. So as he can understand I cannot say here and now that I am satisfied or not satisfied.

HON S E LINARES:

Is it possible in the reviewing if the Minister takes the decision that there is an increase in secretarial work, is it possible that the secretaries who are employed are not purely typists which traditionally they have been, no offence to the secretaries now, they are quite good and very efficient but it is a case where they need to be competent in other areas which sometimes takes the teaching staff together with the Heads time to teach the secretaries how to handle, for example, a PC. So would the Minister in his consideration if he needs to consider employing more secretaries that these secretaries are well trained in the things that they would have to perform in schools.

HON DR B A LINARES:

A number of questions if I understand rightly, on the one hand whether the work being done by the "typists" extends further into other secretarial chores, then that is due to be put also under a job evaluation exercise. The other question is whether they will be trained to take on these other responsibilities and I think there was a hidden question as well whether they will be trained, I do not have that under consideration. I think the training they receive at the moment is adequate.

HON S E LINARES:

I am not talking about the ones who are currently there, let us talk about the new ones. If in the review the Minister needs to employ more, say six more, that those six become competent in the areas that I have just said rather than the ones that are there. The ones that are there it is difficult to try and retrain and all that, it is a completely different thing. What I am saying is the new ones employed.

HON DR B A LINARES:

If we increase the complement under the guise of also a job evaluation with a new job description, that job description will be put to the applicants and of course they will be selected on merits if they come up to the requirements of the job description.

NO. 519 OF 2002

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – NUMBER OF CLEANERS

Can Government state what should be the complement of cleaners giving a breakdown by school?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question No 520 of 2002.

NO. 520 OF 2002

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – NUMBER OF CLEANERS

Can Government state whether all schools have a full complement of cleaners?

ANSWER

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

Answer to Question No 519 of 2002

The complement of cleaners in schools is based on an agreement with the Unions based on floor area. The information I now hand over to the hon Member is based on this agreement.

Bayside School	2 x 39 hrs	24 x 20 hrs
Westside School	1 x 39 hrs	21 x 20 hrs
Hebrew Primary	2 x 20 hrs	
St Martin's School	1 x 39 hrs	1 x 30 hrs
St Joseph's Middle	2 x 39 hrs	5 x 20 hrs
Sacred Heart Middle	6 x 20 hrs	
Bishop Fitzgerald Middle	8 x 20 hrs	

St Anne's Middle	1 x 39 hrs	9 x 20 hrs
St Joseph's First	1 x 39 hrs	7 x 20 hrs
St Mary's First	6 x 20 hrs	
St Bernard's First	4 x 20 hrs	
Governor's Meadow	6 x 20 hrs	
Notre Dame First	7 x 20 hrs	
St Paul's First	6 x 20 hrs	
Gibraltar College of FE	1 x 39 hrs	6 x 20 hrs

There are 9 – 39 hr cleaners, 1 – 30 hr cleaner, 117 – 20 hr cleaners.

Answer to Question No 520 of 2002

Yes.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 519 AND 520 OF 2002

HON J C PEREZ:

The Minister is saying that there are no vacancies, one understands that there is always a full complement because of the supply list. If there is someone missing that is the supply by the Personnel Manager to cover the post, the question is whether there are vacancies unfilled being covered from the supply list?

HON DR B A LINARES:

It is possible that the vacancies will be filled following the normal process, advertising, application and selection but it is certainly possible that while the vacancy is there on an interim basis certainly the work will be supplied from the supply group.

HON J C PEREZ:

Could the Minister check whether some of these vacancies are taking a very long time to be filled given that it is generally felt by those who are permanent there that the ones who come in for some supply are there for two or three days or for one day only

and the work that is done is not followed up in the same way as the permanent staff because they know that they have to clean the following day.?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I will check on the current situation.

NO. 521 OF 2002

THE HON S E LINARES

SCHOOL ATTENDANTS

Can Government state whether the school attendants who took selective industrial action were paid the day that they were deemed to be on full strike action and therefore locked out by the Government?

ANSWER

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

I presume that the hon Member is referring to the action which occurred in May 2000. The department's records show lost time in respect of school attendants for the week ending 12th May 2000. On the day in question the school attendants who were taking selective industrial action were deemed to be on strike since they had refused to do work which was on their job description and hence they received no pay. The department has no other record of any other incident of this type. I am pleased to say that this particular dispute was satisfactorily settled with the Union and the attendants as explained to the hon Member in Question No 1039 of 2001.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 521 OF 2002

HON S E LINARES:

Is it still Government policy not to agree with selective industrial action?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I answer on questions related to education and to my ministerial responsibilities, I am not prepared to answer for general issues affecting Government's policies generally.

HON J C PEREZ:

So we have it that within the same Government structure we might have one department saying that they do not accept selective industrial action whilst other departments accept selective industrial action, is that what the Minister is saying or is there an agreed policy of industrial relations across the board in Government?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Yes and it is applied generally across the board by the Government. I am answering questions with respect to a particular situation at a particular time and I have explained in detail how my department in the context of general policy of the Government dealt with it.

HON J C PEREZ:

What we are saying is that given that there have been other groups of workers that have taken selective industrial action and have not been treated as the School Attendants, has this policy now been rescinded for all Government employees or are Government choosing to pick on workers they think they can deny the right of selective industrial action and not others elsewhere?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I have said that those are general issues that are not included within the particularity of this question and I am not in any way fending to answer.

HON S E LINARES:

So then because these caretakers were deducted their wages for being locked out, what the Minister is saying is that his Ministry or his Ministries will follow what the Chief Minister said that was the Government policy of not agreeing with selective industrial action. His department, his ministry, education.

HON DR B A LINARES:

The advise from Personnel in the case of these workers is that they have withdrawn labour in matters which were well within their job descriptions and as such they were deemed to be on strike and therefore money was withdrawn, not locked out, but simply money was withdrawn.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is the Minister saying then that it is possible to have industrial action which does not involve withdrawing labour from what is one's job? Surely by definition industrial action is the withdrawal of labour which people are required to do otherwise it would not be industrial action it would be something they could not be required to do and that would be the end of it.

HON DR B A LINARES:

I can understand selective industrial action as meaning withdrawing of goodwill, work to rule, sticking to certain parameters in the performance of their work but actually refusing to do specific and defined work which is included in their job description which is at least, I still limit myself to this particular case, that is the criteria used by Personnel in establishing that they were not to be paid.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is there then a guideline of what the Government consider to be selective industrial action which is tolerated and selective industrial action which leads to people being put off pay which the Minister today does not call a lockout but which might have called a lockout in another year?

HON DR B A LINARES:

The hon Member was referring to the question of the guidelines. The guidelines that we have in this particular case was that because these attendants were refusing to do work which was clearly well defined within their terms of reference and their job description it was equivalent to strike action, it was equivalent to the withdrawal of labour and therefore subject to the withdrawal of pay. That is the guideline and I take it that if it came from Personnel it must be a guideline established by Government across the board.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I understand the distinction, but surely there is a difference between refusing to do anything were it would be difficult to say that is selective industrial action and one is on strike and refusing to do a specific part of the job description which might be an area in dispute.

HON DR B A LINARES:

I do not agree with that particular distinction, I think to refuse something which is an integrated part of ones total contract so to speak in terms of terms of employment in ones job description, it is an integrated element in ones total commitment and therefore to withdraw that bit cannot be said, "well we have withdrawn that bit only but not the rest so therefore it is not strike action." I cannot accept that as honest to goodness distinction, I think it is a bit of a quip.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So opposition now means that anybody that refuses to do any part of their work because they have got a dispute over it is deemed to be on strike and treated as being on strike and therefore not paid? Therefore the conclusion from that answer then is that anybody that is in dispute over part of their schedule of duties and refuses to do it.....

HON DR B A LINARES:

If they are in dispute with regard to one particular duty in "dispute" meaning that they do not think it is part of their duty or that they

HON J J BOSSANO:

Or that they want to be paid more for it.

HON DR B A LINARES:

.....that is a different matter that is an intrinsic dispute on their duties but if it is accepted by the employee that this is definitely an agreed duty and yet declares that he is not willing to do it, especially in this particular case where these were very fundamental operations that were refused to be done, that then in all honest to goodness assessment of the situation it was deemed to be the equivalent of strike action.

HON J C PEREZ:

I think that the Minister will recall that at the time of the dispute with the clerical grades over pay, clerical grades took selective industrial action, for example, one of the things that they did was not answer the telephone which is an intrinsic part of their duties. I am not suggesting that the Government should have put them off pay but given that they did not put them off pay what I am asking is why is it that they took a different view with the School Attendants to the one that they took there. What we are trying to ascertain is whether the Government pick and choose which people they decide for a particular treatment in industrial relations or whether there is a general policy applied across the board to everybody?

HON K AZOPARDI:

In principle there is a general policy that applies across the board to everyone although I am not sure exactly which dispute the hon Members are alluding to and specifically as to when that occurred itself, perhaps if they can clarify that I will be able to answer the question more specifically.

HON J C PEREZ:

If the Minister wants an example we have heard in the press that the Fire Brigade are taking industrial action, the Minister can remember that I am sure, I am not suggesting that they should be put off pay, what I am suggesting is if there is one policy for one group of workers the same employer treatment should have been afforded to the School Attendants.

HON K AZOPARDI:

In first place the hon Member should not assess the industrial relations situation by media reports. The Government have to evaluate the situation as it arises in the circumstances. We have discussed the matter with Personnel, the Government have a general policy that when people are on strike and have withdrawn labour which is fundamental and central to their duties we take the view that they are on strike and hence on no pay. This situation was examined on this basis. It was discussed and that determination was reached and other situations that arise may be different and so while there is a general policy, the policy has to be applied in accordance to the circumstances of the cases they arise at the time which needs evaluation in each particular case.

NO. 522 OF 2002

THE HON S E LINARES

ST MARY'S SCHOOL

Can Government state whether there has been any progress on the intention of Government to move St Mary's School to the Westside area?

ANSWER

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

No.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 522 OF 2002

HON S E LINARES:

Does the Minister mean in the intention of moving or "no" to moving to Westside area?

HON DR B A LINARES:

It has been the Government's aspiration rather than intention and it is very much under serious consideration moving St Mary's School to the Westside area or thereabouts because in the logistical analysis we have of the population movements and the requirements for the school places particularly for First Schools and Middle Schools it is the Government's aspiration to establish a schooling provision in the Westside area but as to the details in terms of location and timing no firm decision has been taken as yet.

HON S E LINARES:

Is the Minister looking at any specific area within the Westside area, any building or area specifically?

HON DR B A LINARES:

We are looking at a whole variety of possible locations.

NO. 523 OF 2002

THE HON S E LINARES

WESTSIDE SCHOOL

Can Government state explain why the Hall in Westside is till not complete?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question No 524 of 2002.

NO. 524 OF 2002

THE HON S E LINARES

WESTSIDE SCHOOL

Can Government tell this House what is the new expected date for completion for the Westside School Hall?

ANSWER

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

The inclement weather conditions have delayed the works. At one time we were “tools down” for just over a month when we were about to start on the roof. The strong winds did not allow us to work with the crane which was necessary for the completion of the roof. Without the completion of the roof it was impossible to continue with the works. It is expected that the hall will be completed by mid June weather permitting.

NO. 525 OF 2002

THE HON S E LINARES

ST PAUL'S SCHOOL

Can Government state whether GJBS has been given instructions to build the dining hall at St Paul's School as promised by the Minister for Education to parents to permanently accommodate children for the lunch break?

ANSWER

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

GJBS have not been as yet issued instructions to build the dining hall at St Paul's School. The preparatory study to determine whether there are any underground services which hamper construction will commence shortly.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 525 OF 2002

HON S E LINARES:

Has the Minister made any financial provision this year in the budget to actually do this project?

HON DR B A LINARES:

There is general provision in the budget for construction works in connection with the school lunches.

HON S E LINARES:

So what the Minister is saying is that within the estimates of the budget that amount of money that is provisioned will be used for St Paul's dining hall?

HON DR B A LINARES:

There is provision, we have not got costings as yet so it is impossible to be actually, terribly specific about this but certainly we are committed to the construction of the hall in the area adjacent to the nursery end of the school. This was part of the original plan, I have given explanations previously why it has been impossible to carry through this work because the area was being used by the tenants.

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Minister give us any indication as to when more or less the works will start and complete?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I cannot give the hon Member any indication as yet. May I add that we are satisfied nevertheless, I do not want to give the wrong impression, we are committed to this construction but I do not want to give the impression that there is any inadequacy in the present provision, in the present facilities, there is an existing hall. The present facilities built on the playground is quite adequate especially since the school has an existing hall which can be used also in the case of very inclement weather.

HON S E LINARES:

In view of that statement is there still the guarantee that the dining hall will be built?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I have said that by saying that it was just simply to give the right impression and not necessarily to contradict the fact that there is a commitment as there was from the very start in the general plans.

NO. 526 OF 2002

THE HON S E LINARES

GOVERNMENT TRAINING SCHEMES

Can Government state how they monitor the fact that students who have discontinued their course in the GCFE have found suitable employment or remunerated training opportunities?

ANSWER

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

Employment matters are monitored by the Employment Services. The Employment Service has advised us that no distinction is made by them between students and any other persons using their facilities. Essentially, the person's record will be initiated at the point when contact is made with them. No data prior to this contact is kept by them. With regards to the second part of the question, the Training Unit informs the Employment Service of all new trainees undertaking Government Training Schemes. The Training Unit will keep in liason with employment services an exchange of information as to students who are under Government Training Schemes, whichever they are, apprentices, vocational trainees et cetera.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 526 OF 2002

HON S E LINARES:

The Minister in Question No 190 of 2001 he gave me a written schedule because I asked about the full-time students in the Gibraltar College of Further Education. At the bottom there is a footnote which says, "Please note that the figures in the left

column are students who in the main have discontinued their course because they have found suitable employment or remunerated training opportunities." How is the employment part monitored?

HON DR B A LINARES:

The hon Member's question went much further, he wanted to know whether the Government, the Department of Education presumably, monitor the fact that the students who have discontinued the course have found suitable employment. That is not monitored closely, we know so many have left because they have found employment but the actual monitoring of that employment as to the suitability, remuneration et cetera is well beyond the remit of the Education Department.

HON S E LINARES:

It is not I who is saying the suitable employment it is the actual paper that he gave me which says "found suitable employment" I am not saying it, it is the footnote that says it is a suitable employment. There are further questions about employment which I have posed but in this specific one it is the College of Further Education who is stating that the students who have left have got suitable employment and this is what I am asking, how do they monitor that it is suitable or not if they do not data it?

HON DR B A LINARES:

They probably got the information from the Employment Services.

NO. 527 OF 2002

THE HON S E LINARES

NUMBER OF STUDENTS GRADUATING

Can Government state how many of the students who graduated last year, (a) stayed in UK (b) returned to Gibraltar, and of the latter how many obtained employment on their return and the comparable figure for the previous year?

ANSWER

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

The Department sends questionnaires to terminating students every October to seek information relating to their position after graduating. The factual and statistical information requested by the hon Member is set out in the written schedule that I hand to him.

Students graduating in 2000

150	questionnaires were sent out in October 2000	
90	questionnaires were returned	(60% response)

The position was as follows:-

28	students remained to work in UK
36	students found employment in Gibraltar
13	students were furthering their studies
10	students were seeking employment in Gibraltar
1	student was working in Mozambique
1	student was working in Singapore
1	student was working in the USA.

Students graduating in 2001

148	questionnaires were sent out in October 2001	
58	questionnaires were returned	(39% response)
10	students remained to work in UK	
23	students found employment in Gibraltar	
9	students were furthering their studies	
12	students were seeking employment in Gibraltar	
1	student was working in Japan	
1	student was working in China	
2	students were seeking employment in UK.	

NO. 528 OF 2002

THE HON S E LINARES

CAMMELL LAIRD

Can Government state how many students who have completed their apprenticeship with Cammell Laird obtained employment with Cammell Laird?

ANSWER

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

No apprentices have completed their four year training programme with Cammell Laird and, therefore, it follows that none have yet obtained employment. They will be completing their four year apprenticeship in November this year.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 528 OF 2002

HON S E LINARES:

Has there been any job offers for those who are completing the course in November?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Not to my knowledge, I am just answering the question which was how many have found employment and I have answered straight that they have not got employment because they have not finished their training.

NO. 529 OF 2002

THE HON S E LINARES

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Can Government state how many candidates completing their Vocational Training obtained employment at the end of the said training in the year 1999, 2000 and 2001?

ANSWER

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

I presume the hon Member is referring to the Vocational Training Scheme. The trainees completing their vocational training who were employed are as follows:

End of May 1999	-	9
End of May 2000	-	24
End of April 2001	-	46

NO. 530 OF 2002**THE HON S E LINARES****SCHOOL OF TOURISM**

Can Government state how many students who have completed their course in the School of Tourism have obtained employment in the field of tourism in the years 1999, 2000 and 2001?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE & HEALTH**

I hand the hon Member the information requested.

SCHOOL OF TOURISM

Year	No of Trainees who completed the course	Trainees who on completion were employed in Tourism Industry	Additional Information
1999	9	5	3 others went to UK to further their studies
2000	21	14	1 other left Gibraltar
2001	16	11	1 other went to UK to further his studies

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION 530 OF 2002

HON S E LINARES:

Does the Minister have an indication of what happened to the shortfalls, the ones that are missing, in 2000 which is the largest figure, 21 completed, 14 found employment in the Tourism Industry and one left Gibraltar, does the Minister know what happened to the other six?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I have no information.

HON S E LINARES:

Is it possible to get that information?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Somehow after they leave the ambience of the educational system or the training system and they go to register with the Employment Services, it is they who then take over.

NO. 531 OF 2002

THE HON S E LINARES

SCHOOL OF HEALTH

Can Government state how many students completing their course in the School of Health have obtained employment in the field of health in the year 1999, 2000 and 2001?

ANSWER

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

For the years in question nine first level, that is, staff nurses, and 11 second level, that is, enrolled nurses have completed the respective courses and are currently employed by the Gibraltar Health Authority.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 531 OF 2002

HON S E LINARES:

Are there any students in the School of Health who are not employed by the Health Authority?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Not to my knowledge, those who are students following the established courses especially those now in the Diploma course which is validated by Sheffield, in fact a

great part of the training is actually in practical terms in the wards as work experience and as far as I know they are all taken up by the GHA into their complement. Particularly at the level of first level as staff nurses we still have to recruit a great number of staff nurses from UK so the intention and aim of these courses is to actually replace the recruited nurses with our own locally trained nurses with courses validated by the University.

HON S E LINARES:

Is there any provision within the School of Health to accommodate students who are young school leavers who are not employed by the GHA who go through the School of Health and then later on employed by the Health Authority if they qualify or whatever the case may be?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Once they complete and graduate and qualify, particularly at the level of staff nurses they are immediately taken up into employment by the Gibraltar Health Authority as I have explained because they minimise our need to recruit officers from abroad.

NO. 532 OF 2002

THE HON S E LINARES

NVQ COURSES

Can Government state how many students who completed NVQ courses at the Construction and Training Centre have obtained employment in the trades they have trained for?

ANSWER

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

A total of 52 people have achieved NVQ's in construction related disciplines, at various levels, 30 of whom have reached craftsman level that is level 2 and level 3. Up to 21 of these trainees have secured employment in their respective trades.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 532 OF 2002

HON J J BOSSANO:

Of the 21 that have secured employment, have the Government or GJBS been responsible for providing this employment in any of those 21?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I would say quite a few but there are others in the private sector as well.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Does the Minister know whether it is predominantly the public sector taking that GJBS in fact is working entirely on Government contracts, does the Minister know whether the private sector has taken many of these 21?

HON DR B A LINARES:

My personal feeling is that the main employers are still Buildings and Works and GJBS but I would not like to put it down on record as something that I know firmly, I can follow it up.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I would be grateful. I think it would be useful to know whether we are talking about a 50/50 split or sort of 20 on one side and one on the other.

HON DR B A LINARES:

Particularly since one of the aims and intentions of these courses is precisely to replace foreign labour in the private sector.

NO. 533 OF 2002

THE HON S E LINARES

E-COMMERCE TRAINING

Can Government state when the apprenticeship programme to equip local people with modern skills within the E-commerce field will commence?

ANSWER

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

The Government are presently 'considering' an apprenticeship framework and will shortly announce further details.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 533 OF 2002

HON S E LINARES:

Does the Minister have an indication as to the time-scale of the initiation of this apprenticeship?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I have said shortly.

NO. 534 OF 2002

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – MAINTENANCE GRANTS

Is there any provision for the Education Department to give additional financial help to students on a full grant in cases when the parental income is social assistance?

ANSWER

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

Students on a full grant should have enough funds to live comfortably at University. The Department, however, in cases where students live in expensive non-University accommodation, supports students further on production of relevant documentation. The Department must be satisfied that no alternative, less expensive, accommodation is available. The extra funds made available are means tested so that students of parents who are on social assistance are sure to benefit.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 534 OF 2002

HON S E LINARES:

Do the Government accept that although on a full grant most parents need to help out students because students do pass a lot of hardship even with the help of parents and it is even worse in the case where parents cannot even send any money at all, does the Minister accept that?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I accept that there may be cases of hardship but I do not accept that this is a generalised situation. I think generally students on full grants are very generously provided by the Government, these funds are being reviewed every year, the travel allowances are being reviewed every year and certainly we are not aware that there is a grave discontent about the provision made by the Government in terms of support. There are cases perhaps further down who are not on the maximum grant, maybe they need reviewing. I know only too well because I have two boys in University.

NO. 535 OF 2002

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – PURCHASE OF STATIONERY

Can Government state whether the same procedure will be used to purchase stationery for schools, that is, local buying?

ANSWER

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

We have gone out to tender. Tenders were invited from both local and UK suppliers. Only local suppliers have shown any interest. The tender is presently still with the Treasury Tender Board and therefore I cannot disclose any further information.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 535 OF 2002

HON S E LINARES:

Are Government satisfied at the fact that they are not going to take long before the schools get the stationery and are Government then saying that they are going to be at an extra cost the fact that we are buying locally?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Extra to what? We actually tendered to UK suppliers and local suppliers and those are the tenders that we have received. So whether it is going to be more expensive

than in previous years when we actually have bought straight from the UK suppliers then the hon Member will understand also that it was not quite a fair system as regards the opportunities for local suppliers.

HON S E LINARES:

I say this because there was a system which they changed into which was this tender system and then they realised and I quote from Question No 651 of 2001 in which the Minister answered, "...the Government are now taking a decision to revert to the previous, that is, what we had before, since the delivery time of some items were unacceptably long leading to shortages and also because of further reasons to save costs." So because of the costs and delays the Government reverted back to the old system and now it seems that Government have either been satisfied that these things will not happen because Government have gone back again now through the tender system, so which one is it?

HON DR B A LINARES:

That is the case, yes.

HON S E LINARES:

The case of what, that it is not going to take long and it is going to be an extra cost or that it is going to take long?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Yes the last time I announced that there would be about a 3 per cent extra cost in the samples that we have taken. Whether it takes long or not will depend on many factors and I do not think that there will be much of a difference if the local suppliers, there is one of the conditions in the selection process with the tender will be assurances also as to the efficiency and the expeditiousness of the local suppliers in obtaining the goods.

HON S E LINARES:

So the Minister is actually saying that he is satisfied with the delivery because it is in the contract but then it is going to be an extra cost to the Department of Education?

HON DR B A LINARES:

That is the sample that we took last time about 3 per cent extra cost but there is nothing that we can do in any case as things stand because none of the UK suppliers have actually bid for the tenders so this is the case that we just have to accept.

NO. 536 OF 2002

HON S E LINARES

ST MARTIN'S SCHOOL

Can Government state whether financial provision will be made this year to repair St Martin's playground as promised for the last four years?

ANSWER

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

It is one of our priority works for this financial year, the hon Member will be pleased to hear and we plan to resurface the playground and install the playground equipment during this financial year.

NO. 537 OF 2002

THE HON S E LINARES

MEETING SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS – BOOKLET

Can Government state what was the cost of the “Meeting Special Educational Needs: Guidelines for Gibraltar” booklet?

ANSWER

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

123 Printers of 36 Harbours Deck, The New Harbours was tasked with the printing of the “Meeting Special Education Needs : Guidelines for Gibraltar” booklet. The cost was £1,580.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 512 AND 537 OF 2002

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Minister state when it was put out to tender?

HON DR B A LINARES:

This leaflet was part of a series of leaflets which offered similar guidelines and advice on numeracy, literacy, science et cetera which preceded this particular booklet on special needs. I am informed that the first leaflet which was to be produced, the department sought allowance for quotes from different suppliers and 123 Printers was

the favourite supplier from the point of view of price and from the point of view of presentation and production and since then the department have stuck to them for the simple reason that they now have the logo, the format ready and of course it is all online and therefore more cost effective to produce subsequent booklets. I have to say that they are excellent booklets both in terms of presentation and of substance.

HON S E LINARES:

Does that mean now that the Department of Education will not go through the Procurement Office to tender out for printing and other works?

HON DR B A LINARES:

It does not mean that at all.

HON S E LINARES:

Why then did it not follow the Procurement Office in this case?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I have given an explanation for that.

HON S E LINARES:

The Minister has not given an explanation why it has not gone through the Procurement Office, the Minister has said that if they sorted out, well any department can sort out how much the prices are, I am saying that it has jumped over the tender system. The tender system has to go through the Procurement Office, is it the case now that the Department of Education will now not go through the Procurement Office to acquire these works?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I have explained that it is not the policy of the department to avoid the Procurement Office.

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Minister confirm that it did so in this case?

HON DR B A LINARES:

There was an element of Procurement which no doubt was consulted with the Procurement Officers in that we sought on our own for prices and quotes and a decision was made on the favoured printer.

NO. 538 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – DIALYSIS PATIENTS

Can the Minister for Health now confirm what facilities will be provided in the Hospital at Europort Building for Dialysis patients?

ANSWER

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

No.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 538 OF 2002

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

In answer to Question No 1052 of 2001 in November, the Minister said that the Government were currently studying a report from Professor Terry Feast and that they were being put for consideration by the Minister, has this happened already?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Yes the report from Professor Terry Feast who is the Chairman of the UK Renal Registry has been considered by the Government and the report has now been made available to the Dialysis Patients and Friends Association for their consideration and we are awaiting a response.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Can the Minister confirm whether in view that they are going to invest a considerable amount of money would it not be prudent at this stage to provide facilities in order to make Gibraltar as self sufficient as possible so that our patients do not require to go to La Linea.

HON DR B A LINARES:

All these outcomes are very much part and parcel of the conclusions and considerations and outcomes which have been considered within the context of the report and which as I have explained has now been put to the Dialysis Association.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

In view of that reply does it mean that the Government of Gibraltar are willing to invest so that patients do not require to go to La Linea.

HON DR B A LINARES:

We are going round in circles, it is all dependant on the conclusions which are precisely the outcome of the report.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

But surely the Minister has said that the report has been handed already to the Government, what are the conclusions of that report can the Minister say?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I cannot say what are the conclusions of that report as I have explained we are awaiting a response from the Dialysis Patients and Friends Association.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

If the Dialysis Association were to request the Government to invest in facilities so that they no longer require to go to La Linea would the Government be amenable to that request?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I do not deal in hypothesis.

NO. 539 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – ELDERLY CARE PATIENTS

Can Government state during the months of February and March of 2002, of the beds occupied by elderly persons who have been formally discharged, but refused to leave, how many fit into each of the three categories identified by the Government:

- (1) Elderly persons living alone;
- (2) Elderly persons needing support;
- (3) Others able to be looked after?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos 540 to 542 of 2002.

NO. 540 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – COMMITMENT FROM PATIENTS

As promised in the last meeting of the House of Assembly, can the Minister for Health provide the date on which the Gibraltar Health Authority instituted a procedure seeking a commitment from the patients admitted into hospital, that they will return to the community following discharge?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos 539, 541 and 542 of 2002.

NO. 541 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – SHORTAGES OF BEDS

Can Government confirm what exactly are the measures they have recently introduced and on what dates, in order to ameliorate the situation relating to the acute shortages of beds at St Bernard's Hospital?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos 539, 540 and 542 of 2002.

NO. 542 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – NUMBER OF OPERATIONS CANCELLED

Can Government confirm how many routine operations were cancelled at St Bernard's Hospital due to the non-availability of beds for the Financial Year 2001/2002 giving a breakdown for each month?

ANSWER

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

Answer to Question No 539 of 2002

The persons who fall under the stated categories are as follows:

1.	Elderly persons living alone	-	9
2.	Elderly persons needing support	-	13
3	Others able to be looked after	-	4

Answer to Question No 540 of 2002

The Health Authority has not instituted any specific procedure, except that the bed manager/clinicians concerned explain the clinical process leading to a discharge, and support which will be available for them in the community following discharge.

Answer to Question No 541 of 2002

The Gibraltar Health Authority, in collaboration with the Elderly Care Agency, has been able to transfer 12 patients to Mount Alvernia over the March/April period. In addition, there has been increase in bed management activity, with extra personnel assisting the bed manager in the management of this role. There has also been a continuation in the development of an Elderly Care strategy by the Consultant Elderologist with the support of Professions Allied to Medicine, that is, occupational therapy, physiotherapy. Care in this area has been also enhanced by the commencement of a domiciliary service by the Elderly Care Agency and I am pleased to report that as a result of all these measures there has been a considerable improvement in the availability of beds in St Bernard's Hospital. The hon Lady will be pleased to hear that an average of about 15 beds daily have been available excluding Maternity and Rainbow Ward.

Answer to Question No 542 of 2002

The number of routine operations that were cancelled at St Bernard's due to the non-availability of beds for the Financial year 2001/2002 is as follows:

April 2001	-	0
May	-	1
June	-	5
July	-	0
August	-	0
September	-	4
October	-	0
November	-	7
December	-	0
January 2002	-	17
February	-	15
March	-	0
April	-	0

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 539 AND 540 TO 542 OF 2002

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

If I can go back to Question No 540 of 2002 I am not too sure whether the Minister gave me the reply because I was asking for the date on which the Gibraltar Health Authority instituted the procedure seeking a commitment. Can the Minister confirm when it was that the Health Authority started asking patients to give a commitment that they would return to the community following discharge?

HON DR B A LINARES:

It was about a couple of months ago.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

That was the answer that the Minister gave a few months ago in February. Can the Minister actually pinpoint the month and the year?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I do apologise, I do not have the date, I missed that bit of the question but I will find the date for the hon Member.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

We would appreciate that because it was in fact in February when we asked him and he promised the information and in this question it was quite clear that we are seeking exactly the dates. Can the Minister confirm whether this procedure seeking a commitment is solely for the elderly?

HON DR B A LINARES:

It is really an exaggerated version to say that we seek a commitment in any formal way. There is a counselling process as I have explained we went through this debate last time, there is a counselling process in which the patients, all patients, but very specially those who have been in hospital for some time without the specific need for acute care are explained the different options which are available and which I have explained in answer to Question No 541 of 2002.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Has the Minister actually replied to my question, is this procedure solely for the elderly or is it for everybody else because our understanding was in the last meeting of the House that the Minister said that he thought that it was just for the elderly and we are seeking that confirmation now?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I think that it is obviously focused on the elderly because that is where the problem lies. The problem of bed blockages mainly with elderly patients actually remaining in hospital after discharge. There could be some exceptional circumstances when a non-elderly person might be found in that situation, I think there have been one or two cases but the whole procedure is geared in terms of a counselling process with a team that I have described here led by the Consultant Elderologist counselling process, a dialogue with the individual patients to facilitate the passage from the hospital either to Mount Alvernia or to the community.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Does the Minister not accept that the Gibraltar Health Authority should actually be more lenient towards the elderly in view that they do require more social support

rather than put them in a situation before they are actually being treated or before they are actually going to have an operation of putting pressure on them?

HON DR B A LINARES:

It is no question of putting pressure. I have spoken of counselling, dialogue, certainly not of pressure and the Health Authority is being very lenient indeed with the now reduced, but last time we spoke of this, 49 elderly patients who were occupying beds in St Bernard's Hospital some of them with very good reasons, some of them with not such good reasons but the Health Authority is being extremely lenient and understanding.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

In that case if the Health Authority is so lenient and understanding why do they not abandon the commitment, why do they not just ask patients whether they have problems?

HON DR B A LINARES:

That is exactly what we do.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

So the Minister is saying that the commitment is not only there, they are not asking patients to give the commitment that he said was actually started a few months ago?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I have already explained that the word commitment is not exactly the correct version of the procedure of the process of counselling, of discussion, of attendance, of help and encouragement and support that the Discharge Team give to individual patients.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

I do not want to dwell too much on the question but surely the Opposition has a right to ask it if there is a communiqué issued publicly by the Gibraltar Health Authority which actually says that they have instituted a procedure can the Minister now say in view of his answer that he will ask the Health Authority to say that that procedure is no longer there?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I have explained that there is a procedure, a positive procedure of counselling of dialogue and that is certainly there.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can the Minister say when he finds out when it was started which he does not seem to know, what did the Health Authority do before that, did they not counsel, have dialogue or were concerned about their patients, what happened before the new procedure?

HON DR B A LINARES:

The procedure was already there but what we did was to focus and fine tune that procedure as I have explained in answer to Question No 541 of 2002 in view of the increasing pressure and problem of long stay elderly patients. So we had to focus, we had to fine tune the team effort by the Consultant Elderologist, the Physiotherapist, there was always an element of counselling, of support and of encouragement but now the situation became acute and we had to fine tune and look and in fact as I have explained increase the personnel resources to the Bed Manager so that a more efficient procedure could be instituted.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So therefore the press release that was issued which did not give any indication of counselling, help, support, sympathy or anything else, it simply came out saying "there are people who are being as it were anti-social in that they are blocking beds when they should be at home and the Government cannot allow this to carry on and therefore they will now be asked to give a commitment that they will leave the hospital when they are told they are fit to leave." That in fact gave no indication of the things the Minister says is what actually is being happening, was wrong, that has not happened that was never implemented.

HON DR B A LINARES:

The communiqué targeted precisely on a problematic area at the time in the hospital. That does not mean that it excluded all other approaches and methods and rather cynically as the Leader of the Opposition says about encouragement, counselling which are facts. Those are the ways that the clinicians operate but the communiqué focused on a particular pocket of patients who were certainly abusing the system but that does not mean that others were not abusing the system were not offered the assistance that I have described in detail in answer to the question.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well then the Minister has deliberately chosen not to answer the question because we are not asking him about the others. We want to know precisely what was it that the Government instituted at a particular point in time to deal with a particular problem, not what was happening before which was fine tuned, we have not asked about that if it was there already and people were already being counselled and people were already being asked how they would go back home when they left hospital, that is fine, the problem arises because of the identified pocket of people and the question comes out of a public statement made by the Government on which we are seeking clarification. So, will the Minister address the action instituted at a particular point in

time to deal with that particular pocket, how was that put into effect that is what we want to know?

HON DR B A LINARES:

The question was, “ Can Government confirm what exactly are the measures they have recently introduced in order to ameliorate the situation relating to the acute shortage of beds.....” *[Interruption]* what do you mean Question No 541 of 2002 which the hon Member read a moment ago actually asks “.....what measures were instituted to ameliorate....” It is a broad generalised question and it is that question that I have been trying to explain for some time now.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can the Minister answer Question No 540 of 2002 and not Question No 541 of 2002 which says “As promised at the last meeting of the House of Assembly can the Minister for Health provide the dates.....” that could not be more specific “.....on which the Health Authority instituted a procedure seeking a commitment.....” we are not talking about all the other measures it is the commitment that the Minister announced in a press statement was being required of this small pocket of people he has now identified.

HON DR B A LINARES:

I will give a date, which I apologised earlier I did not have in hand, in due course.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

In relation to the other questions that the Minister has answered reference the measures that have been introduced in order for the Government to try and ameliorate the situation relating to the acute shortages of beds, is the Minister now saying that he is satisfied that the measures are enough to solve all the problems?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I am very satisfied indeed as I explained in my initial answer to the question that as a result of these measures there has been a considerable, dramatical improvement in the availability of beds in St Bernard's with an average of around 15 daily beds available in different wards excluding Maternity and Rainbow.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

So is the Minister saying that the problem has been completely eradicated?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I am not saying that the problem has been completely eradicated, I am saying what I am going to say once again that I am very pleased that there has been a considerable

and almost dramatic improvement in the availability of beds and I have given figures to demonstrate and evidence to demonstrate that, that over the months of March and April we have had continuously an average of 15 beds available on a daily basis.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

In view that the Gibraltar Health Authority Report of the year 2000/2001 confirms that there has been 37 per cent cancellations due to the non-availability of beds and here we have an astronomical figure as well how can the Minister say that he is so satisfied when in fact the number of beds being cancelled are quite dramatic?

HON DR B A LINARES:

The number of beds, or the number of operations you mean?

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

The number of operations being cancelled are quite dramatic, will he not confirm that it is correct?

HON DR B A LINARES:

The number of operations rose to an unacceptable level, I have given the figures in January and February this year, what I have said is that I am very pleased that during the months of March and April there have been no more cancellations because there has been a dramatic improvement in the number of beds available as a result of measures taken by the department. An average of 15 beds have been available on a daily basis I think I have repeated this answer up to ten times and consequently there have been no cancellations of elective surgery operations. I am very pleased about that which is not to deny that I was not very pleased with the situation in January and February for reasons which I also debated in this House with the hon Lady.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

The answer talks about the financial year giving a breakdown for each month, so the Minister is saying that in the financial year 2001 up to the end of March there were 49 cancellations and now the Minister is saying that because there are no cancellations in two months that he is satisfied, will he not require a few more months to see whether the situation has been ameliorated or not?

HON K AZOPARDI:

With all due respects and I know that Mr Speaker called the last supplementary six supplementaries ago I think that the Minister has given the answers to the question. He thought it was unacceptable before, he has instituted measures, there has now been a significant improvement and his view is that there has been an improvement which he considers is significant enough for him to have answered the question on several occasions now. How many times does the hon Member want to hear the answer to the same question?

HON J J BOSSANO:

But would the Minister not agree that since there were no cancellations last year before anything was being done about beds, the fact that there are no cancellations in March this year does not prove that the problem has disappeared?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I have not said that the problem has disappeared, I have said that I am very pleased that the number of beds available in St Bernard's Hospital during the last two months has improved dramatically and considerably given the fact that there are now an average of 15 beds available on a daily basis. That is what I have said, I have not said that I have brought a panacea, that I have worked a miracle, I am not in the business of miracles the hon Member may be surprised to hear but I am satisfied, very pleased and I have also said that I thought the hon Lady and hon Members would also be very pleased but apparently they are not.

MR SPEAKER:

One more.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Mr Speaker, there are a number of questions.

MR SPEAKER:

One more on this issue on Question No 542 of 2002.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Mr Speaker the question to which I am addressing the Government is Question No 542 of 2002.

MR SPEAKER:

That is right only one more.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The Minister has not talked about cancellations, he has talked about being pleased because there are more beds available. We are all very pleased that there are more beds available.

HON DR B A LINARES:

I have given figures about the number of cancellations over the last year. I have quoted all figures from April last year to April this year, what does the hon Member mean that I have not given an answer for that question?

HON J J BOSSANO:

The Minister has not given me an answer to the question that I have just asked and the question that I have just asked in reply to the contribution by the Hon Mr Azopardi was that in fact if there are no cancellations of operations in March or in April this year and there were none in April 2001 it does not mean that the position of more beds has now resulted in zero cancellations because there were not 15 beds last April and no cancellations last April. Would he not agree that the fact that there has been no cancellation now does not of itself for one month, which is the point that my Colleague was making, demonstrate that it has been solved. The Minister may find that in a couple of months down the road there may be more cancellations once again, after all when one goes back to the figure for last year in May there was one cancellation and the 15 beds were not there last May because the Minister says that this is a new development. Can I ask, this assistance that was provided to the Bed Manager that he mentioned in his original question which he says had helped to bring about the improvement, can he explain, is it that there is now an additional body involved in the exercise and that this is in fact resulting in better bed management?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Exactly what I mean yes, an additional body helping the Bed Manager to be more on top of the situation to help in this counselling process which is often very laborious.

HON K AZOPARDI:

As to the Leader of the Opposition's question, of course, if he picks out arithmetically one month here and one month there he stands to have a very distorted picture of events. We have to see things globally, there was a build up which was reflected in the statistics that were included in the 2000/2001 financial year report and in the annual report of the Health Authority, the situation has exacerbated substantially leading to the situation which was confronted by the Minister in January/February which was this rather marked increase in cancellations of elective surgery and the reason for the cancellation in elective surgery was clearly as a result of non-availability of beds. The Minister has taken measures which he considers and the Government consider have been a significant improvement in the situation, not that it has to be compared and evaluated globally and holistically and not in relation to one particular month picked out at random to produce a distorted figure from last year's financial year. The Government's position has been made clear and has been reiterated by the Minister on several occasions now in this question and we are not going to make a further statement on this matter.

NO. 543 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – PATIENT REFERRALS

Can Government state since the 1st February to end of March 2002, what was the total number of patient referrals to the UK?

ANSWER

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

The total number of patient referrals for the period in question was 217.

NO. 544 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – SPONSORED PATIENTS

Can Government state what was the total number of Sponsored Patients treated in the UK for the period 1st February to end of March 2002 with the costs being met by the UK Government and what was this cost?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos 545 to 547, 551, 552, 574 and 576 to 581 of 2002.

NO. 545 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – COST OF TREATING PENSIONERS IN UK

Can Government now state what was the largest average annual cost of treating a pensioner in the UK in 2000?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos 544, 546, 547, 551, 552, 574, 576 to 581 of 2002.

NO. 546 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – SPONSORED PATIENTS

Can Government state how many patients have been given a choice of being treated in Spain as opposed to the UK, as Sponsored Patients, and have elected to go to Spain since 7th February 2002 to date?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos 544, 545, 547, 551, 552, 574 and 576 to 581 of 2002.

NO. 547 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – SPONSORED PATIENTS

Can Government state what was the number of Sponsored Patients treated in the UK from 1st February to end of March 2002, 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 & HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos 544 to 546, 551, 552, 574 and 576 to 581 of 2002.

NO. 548 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – MALAGA CLINIC

Can the Minister for Health state how much money was spent by the Gibraltar Health Authority with regard to patients being sent to the Malaga Clinic for Scans in the Financial Year 2001/2002?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question No 549 of 2002.

NO. 549 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – ALGECIRAS CLINIC

Can the Minister for Health confirm how much money was spent by the Gibraltar Health Authority with regard to patients being sent to the Algeciras Clinic for Scans in the Financial year 2001/2002?

ANSWER

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

The costs incurred by the Gibraltar Health Authority in 2001/2002 with regard to patients being sent for scans to Algeciras and Malaga are as follows:

Algeciras Clinics	-	£132,362.88
Malaga Clinics	-	£1,989.06

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 548 AND 549 OF 2002

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Can the Minister therefore refer back whenever he is able to to Question No 227 of 2002 in February of this year when he actually told me that in relation to the previous financial year 2000/2001 in respect of scans in Malaga the figure was £141.00 is that an error, can the Minister confirm it now or does he need time to confirm it?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I have the question in front of me Question No 227 of 2002 and the answer given to the hon Lady then for the Malaga Clinic was £141.49 which is a bit odd but I am sorry that I cannot confirm whether this figure is accurate or if it is a misprint. I will check it out.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

It seems odd because for this financial year we are talking about a figure of just over £100,000 for Malaga.

HON DR B A LINARES:

No £1,000 for Malaga.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

£1,000 sorry.

HON DR B A LINARES:

£1,989.06.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

I see, so if we are talking about £141.00 I suspect we are talking about a patient, one patient. It is just that I would like.....

HON DR B A LINARES:

Malaga is rare, I can tell the hon Lady. I think that the bulk of the patients for scanning treatment is sent to Algeciras. It could have been that this year it was exceptional in that it was seen by the clinicians that there was some clinical advantage in sending to Malaga and that is why the figure rose I accept well above the figure for the previous year but I would have to investigate that.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

When the Minister investigates can he also confirm whether patients have been sent for the MRI Scan?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I will confirm that.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Are these private clinics and therefore not covered by the arrangements with the UK?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Indeed the clinic in Algeciras is a private clinic not covered by the E112.

NO. 550 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – PATIENT REFERRALS TO SPAIN

Can Government confirm whether a decision has now been taken that General Practitioners based at the Health Centre, are able to refer patients directly to Spanish Medical Institutions for diagnosis or for treatment?

ANSWER

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

I can confirm that General Practitioners are allowed to refer patients to Spain for echocardiography. As I mentioned in answer to Question No 226 of 2002, this follows from representations made by the General Practitioners that were accepted by the Authority.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 550 OF 2002

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Seeing that the Minister did mention that they were looking at it the last time I asked the question can he actually confirm the date on which patients were being sent for echocardiography and in which part of Spain?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I have some figures which might be helpful, six patients have been referred from the 1st April 2002. So it seems that the date when this direct access commenced was on the 1st April. Three patients have already been to Spain and three are pending.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Has the Minister investigated the possibility of actually purchasing an echocardiography for the Gibraltar Health Authority so that patients do not require to go to Spain?

HON DR B A LINARES:

The question of general equipment, development of resources is being considered in the broad context of the development of the new hospital but I cannot give any particular conclusions at this stage.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Does the Minister not agree then that the less dependent that we become on Spain the better?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Dependent is not quite the word it is a question of accessibility of resources and I would neither agree nor disagree with that sort of broad general statement.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

If we are talking about an echocardiography is the Minister already aware how much it would cost the Health Authority to purchase this equipment, does he know the cost?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I do not know personally the cost of this equipment but I am sure that the officials in the Gibraltar Health Authority would have no problem in finding out the cost.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Surely is the Minister not interested in knowing?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I have not said that I was not interested, I have said that I have not got myself personally knowledge of the cost but I can use the phone in a moment and find out from the officials who run these things what the actual cost is but that does not mean,

the hon Member cannot imply or deduce from that that I am not interested. That is the type of demagogic sort of response that we normally get from the hon Lady which is totally within her style but certainly not conducive to an objective discussion of sensitive issues.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

The only interest that I have is in Gibraltar patients and therefore I would have thought that the Minister would have been as interested as I am in order to see whether the Government can afford to buy this piece of equipment rather than sending our patients elsewhere for the treatment that could actually be afforded here that is my only interest.

HON DR B A LINARES:

I am glad to hear that that is the sole interest as mine is in the patients of Gibraltar.

NO. 551 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – SPONSORED PATIENTS

Have the costs for the total number of Sponsored Patients treated in the UK for the period 1st April 2001 to the end of October 2001 being met by the UK Government now been received?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos 544 to 547, 552, 574 and 576 to 581 of 2002.

NO. 552 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – COST OF TREATING PENSIONERS IN UK

Can Government now state what was the latest average annual cost of treating a pensioner in the UK in 2001?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos 544 to 547, 551, 574 and 576 to 581 of 2002.

NO. 553 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – PSYCHO-GERIATRIC PATIENTS

Can Government state how many Psycho-Geriatric patients have been admitted in KGV from 1st February to end of March 2002?

ANSWER

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

Five Psycho-geriatric patients were admitted to KGV between 1st February 2002 and 31st March 2002.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 553 OF 2002

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

I admit that this question might or might not be relevant, if the Minister is not able to answer now could he answer me at a later stage. Is it that the Consultant Psychiatrist employed by the Gibraltar Health Authority has decided not to engage in private practice?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I cannot answer this question right now.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Will he do so when he finds out if it is true or not?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In terms of a figure of five can the Minister say in arriving at that would a person being admitted, discharged and readmitted be treated in that statistic as another admission or are we talking about five separate cases?

HON DR B A LINARES:

We are talking about five distinct separate patients.

NO. 554 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – DIABETIC PATIENTS

Will the Minister for Health consider, that due to the nature of their illness, diabetic patients should be given three monthly prescriptions, instead of monthly ones?

ANSWER

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

To issue prescriptions for more than one month has not been the policy of any Government since the GPMS started. However, I had already considered extending the monthly prescriptions in respect of this category of patients and I have sought advice on the matter from the Formulary Committee.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 554 OF 2002

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Does the Minister know more or less when he will be receiving that advice, are we talking about a month, two months, three months?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I am talking about days really.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Would the Minister accept that he communicates the results to me?

HON DR B A LINARES:

By all means it will be public knowledge once the policy is set out.

NO. 555 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – PRESCRIPTION CHARGES

Can Government confirm as recently stated in the House of Assembly, that the estimated expenditure of GPMS Prescriptions is £900,000 higher than the amount budgetted at the beginning of the Financial Year 2001/2002?

ANSWER

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

Yes, I can confirm that.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 555 OF 2002

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Therefore can the Minister provide me with a breakdown of this extra expenditure relating to the prescriptions so that we know more or less how much money it relates to prescriptions and also the reason for the increase?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I can give the hon Lady a broad reason for the increase which has been supplied by the Pricing Authority which has established that there was a 7.3 per cent increase in volume the year in question plus a 10 per cent increase in cost so that amounts to

17.3 per cent increase which over the spend for 2000/2001 which was £4.9 million would bring it to £5.7 million which is roughly £900,000 higher than the amount budgetted at the beginning of the financial year. As to the exact financial details I do not have them all here except in this generalised form.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The 10 per cent increase in cost has been calculated what on the basis of averaging the higher cost over the previous level or is it that the, I am trying to establish whether it could be that some items have gone up very high and therefore they converted that into a 10 per cent increase or whether in fact it is the case that most things have gone up 10 per cent, which of the two is it?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I would have thought that an averaging process went into play here but I would not know what mechanics the Pricing Authority has used to establish the information which they have now given me. That is that there has been a 10 per cent increase in cost, that is the conclusion that they have come to as to how they have worked out I would have thought it must be an average given that some medicines would have gone much higher than 10 per cent increase and others less. They have also given me some information which may also be relevant and that is that we are offering treatments which actually are not being provided in UK which have recently and which are quite high cost treatment that is Aids treatment, a new anti-rheumatic treatment, growth hormone treatment, and organ transplant patients treatment to some of our recently transplanted patients and they state that these treatments have also added to the additional costs over the budget figure.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Yes, but the Minister is not suggesting that these things are being done for the first time in the year 2001/2002?

HON DR B A LINARES:

No perhaps these have been done before but nevertheless what the Pricing Authority is saying is that the cost of these treatments given the fact that they are not being offered by the NHS may have actually within the commercial market in UK have increased considerably but I am actually speculating.

HON J J BOSSANO:

When we raised this question in the Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance we were told in fact that the increase of £900,000 included other items, that is part of the reason for the question being here, when the Minister brought this Supplementary Appropriation Bill to the last House and we questioned it said "primarily GPMS" but we were told it was other items "mainly GPMS prescriptions being higher than anticipated" that is an increase in the number, that is what the explanation said "mainly" but if the whole of it is GPMS then in fact nothing else has gone up is that correct?

HON DR B A LINARES:

It would be logically correct.

NO. 556 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – NUMBER OF PRESCRIPTIONS

Can Government state how many prescriptions have been issued since the 13th December 1999 with more than three items and paying a total of £7.50 for such prescriptions giving a breakdown per month up to March 2002?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos 558 and 559 of 2002.

NO. 557 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – 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 accounting periods 11 and 12 of 2002, 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 & HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos 560 and 561 of 2002.

NO. 558 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – NUMBER OF PRESCRIPTIONS

Can Government now confirm whether the number of prescriptions with three or more items have increased since they introduced the maximum fee of £7.50?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos 556 and 559 of 2002.

NO. 559 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – AMOUNTS PAID TO PHARMACISTS

Can Government say what was the amount paid to Pharmacists for periods 1 to 13 2001/2002 and the comparable figure for the periods in the previous financial year in respect of the £2.35 and then £1.80 per item prescription charged in respect of the medicines to which the sum applied?

ANSWER

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

Answer to Question No 556 and No 558 of 2002

In answer to Question No 282 of 2001, I already informed the hon Member that I could not confirm the number of prescriptions with three or more items had increased since the maximum fee of £7.50 was introduced because these statistics are not collated.

Answer to Question No 559 of 2002

The net amount paid to pharmacists in respect of the dispensing fees of £2.35 which was reduced to £1.80 for the prescriptions claimed for the financial year 2000/2001 was £750,000. The net value of the amount for the financial year 2001/2002 will remain set at £750,000.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 556, 558 AND 559 OF 2002

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

In relation to Question No 558 of 2002 where the Minister has said that the information is not collated I want to remind him that in April of last year an exact question was put to him by me and the answer given was, “ that no that the number of prescriptions with three or more items had not increased,” how is it that he was able to answer it then and not now?

HON DR B A LINARES:

That is the information that I have before me from the Pricing Authority that the statistics which the hon Lady is seeking are not collated. I can look back on the question that the hon Lady is referring to, what was the number of the question No 202 of 2002?

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

If the Minister is interested I will give him the exact number of the question.

HON DR B A LINARES:

I am looking back at copies of my previous questions which I keep copies of here and I cannot really find having stated that the number had increased and it is very significant that the Pricing Authority in answer to Question No 558 of 2002 tell me that these statistics which she seeks are not collated.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

No the answer was the opposite by the Minister, he said in answer to the same question.....

HON DR B A LINARES:

Had not increased.....

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

That had not increased and therefore I will look and I will give him the actual number of the question because I know that he actually said it but I am looking through Hansard and I will definitely give the number of the question to the Minister because they have replied that they have not increased and it means that the GHA must have known how to come to that conclusion.

HON DR B A LINARES:

That is correct if certainly there is a statement to that effect but as I say I also have previous questions in front of me and I cannot find a statement to that effect that the number of prescriptions had not increased but by all means if she finds evidence we will try to sort this one out.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

I will do that.

NO. 560 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – 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 11 and 12 of 2002?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos 557 and 561 of 2002.

NO. 561 OF 2002**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO****GHA – NUMBER OF PRESCRIPTIONS**

Can Government state how much extra revenue the Gibraltar Health Authority has raised from 1st February to end of March 2002, as a result of their policy to increase prescription charges?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE & HEALTH**

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

Answer to Question No 557 of 2002**Year 2001 – 2002**

Period	Prescriptions	Items	No Pay Items	Cost (£)
11	5701	10631	2078	150,797.75
12	6129	11335	2328	160,001.15

Year 2000 – 2001

Period	Prescriptions	Items	No Pay Items	Cost (£)
11	5897	10649	1859	129,588.06
12	6144	11001	1892	135,565.31

Answer to Question No 560 of 2002

Year 2002

Period	Prescriptions	Items	Cost (£)
11	12,600	39,717	426,480.20
12	13,161	40,895	437,091.95

Answer to Question No 561 of 2002

Year 2001 –2002

Period 12 starts with w/e 3rd February
Period 13 ends with w/e 31st March

Revenue raised for periods 12 and 13 inclusive

22421 Items paid @ £2.50 = £56,052.50

Revenue under the old rates would have been

27099 items @ £1.20 = £32,518.80

Also approx 66% of 54,240 items would have paid 20p = £ 7,159.00

Total revenue that would have been raised = £39,677.80

Additional revenue = £16,374.70

NB: Accounts for period 13 are incomplete

I have to make a couple of points which I think are relevant. One, I appreciate that in relation to Question No 561 of 2002 the hon Lady has now avoided the usual slight snipe of the past of our 100 per cent increase in charges which I demonstrated to her in the past is not mathematically accurate and that at last she has taken the point, but she still persists in respect of Question No 567 of 2002 in asking a question which I have explained before is unanswerable as it stands. It is not possible to give the cost of medicines as she asked, the cost of medicines in respect of which £2.50 was paid by the patient, for the simple reason that in any single prescription may include more than three items on which the charge is made. Which three it is impossible to say and the cost will vary as some items are more expensive than others. I thought that I had explained this last time and the hon Lady did appear to be agreeing with that so what I have done actually as I have done in previous occasions is to give the total cost of prescriptions in the handout that I have just given.

NO. 562 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – HEALTH SERVICE AUDITS

Can the Minister for Health confirm whether official organisations in the UK have now carried out the series of Audits of all areas in the Health Service as he announced in November of last year?

ANSWER

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

No.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 562 OF 2002

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Is the Minister intending that these official organisations of the UK will actually carry out the audit as he stated publicly?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Yes, indeed the answer is yes. The audit has not yet commenced. I visited a number of organisations last September in order to determine which one would best suit our requirements for our purposes and what the Government had in mind and we decided to embark on this course. The Government decided that the National Clinical Governance Support Team (NCGST), under the direction of Professor Aidan Halligan, should conduct this extensive exercise. It is intended to be a comprehensive audit of

all our Health Services at all levels managerial, administrative, clinical. Professor Halligan came on a familiarisation visit last month and we expect that arrangements for the next stage will be made in the very near future.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Is it then that the Audit Commission in the UK and the Commission for Health Improvement and the National Clinical Governance Support team (NCGST) will they not be consulted as the Minister said or engaged as the Minister initially announced?

HON DR B A LINARES:

My visit to UK was precisely to meet those various organisations, the Audit Commission, the CHI, the Commission for Health Improvement and the National Clinic. They are separate organisations and the idea was to scout around and talk to them to see which one could have the sort of methodology and the approach that we thought would suit the culture and ethos of our own services and a decision has been taken to commission and to engage the NCGST under the steering directorship of Professor Halligan. We have now opted for this organisation as opposed to the others.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Is this not in effect an attempt by the Minister to actually be seen to be doing something because things are definitely not well within the Health Authority?

HON DR B A LINARES:

No.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Does the Minister therefore accept that therefore things are not well in the Health Authority?

HON DR B A LINARES:

No.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

I think that what the Minister is saying that things are well and that he is engaging audits because there is no reason for it to happen but even though there is no reason because that is what the Minister is implying he will carry them out anyway, is that the situation?

HON DR B A LINARES:

All organisations, all enterprises, all bodies particularly in public service are always open to review and to improvement and that is exactly the thrust and the thinking behind this exercise that we intend to carry out.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

So when the exercise is carried out will the Minister agree to make the findings public?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I should expect so.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is it the case then that no audit of any type other than the one of the Principal Auditor of the accounts has taken place in any part of the Health Service to-date?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Yes there has been an audit in one particular department but this was not an isolated and separate issue not related to this general audit that we are now planning.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Who carried out that particular audit in that particular department?

HON DR B A LINARES:

The audit was carried out by well known auditors in that particular type of service in UK.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is it a state secret?

HON DR B A LINARES:

It is not a state secret but it was an internal matter that we have opted to keep it within the internal forum of the GHA. It is not for the public domain.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am not sure what the Minister means when he says it is not in the public domain because I am not asking what the audit established, I am asking who carried it out, why should that not be.....?

HON DR B A LINARES:

It was carried out by Dr Hugh Griffiths with a psychiatrist consultant very often engaged in this type of audit of mental health services.

HON J J BOSSANO:

As a result of that audit have any changes been introduced to the psychiatric service, presumably that was the purpose of the audit?

HON DR B A LINARES:

As the result of that audit no changes have been introduced as yet.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So does that mean that changes have been recommended following the audit but the Government have not taken a policy decision on it?

HON DR B A LINARES:

The hon Member is now seeking what he precisely said that he was avoiding which is actually to go into the contents of substance and conclusions of the report which I explained we at this stage prefer to keep within the internal forum of the authority. That is within the relevant persons involved in this exercise.

HON J J BOSSANO:

It is not that I am seeking anything but if the Minister says not yet he implies that a decision has not been taken, I just do not want to jump to conclusions, I am assuming that the "not yet" means that and I am asking for confirmation that it means what it seems to mean, does it mean that there is a recommendation and the "not yet" means that the Government are still considering that recommendation I do not see that I am asking him to reveal anything.

HON DR B A LINARES:

Obviously the report leads to recommendations and the recommendations are being considered by the Government but as yet no practical implementation of those recommendations have come into play.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

In November the Minister I remember said publicly that a plan of action as a far reaching protocol would be adopted by the Authority for the operation of the new hospital, does that mean that whatever recommendations are now handed over to the Government would not mean that it will apply to St Bernard's but rather to the hospital when it is housed in another building?

HON DR B A LINARES:

What I did say in public is really very much in line with the question that the hon Lady was seeking a moment ago about whether things were well or not well, whether the audit meant that things were not well, what I did say in public is that the general audit from which we hope is comprehensive will emerge a plan of action, a developmental plan of action is very much geared precisely with a view to the new hospital and the operation of the new hospital. The audit programme involved will take about nine months to carry out because it is a developmental programme I do not want to go into all the details, developmental means that it is a high challenge, there is an element of auditing, element of inspection but then it is followed up with an element of planning, training, assistance, encouragement, of structuring. That is the approach of this type of audit it is not just a negative inspectorial type of approach, it is a high challenge, high support and is all highly structured and as I say what I said in public coming back to the supplementary question is of course we have at the back of our minds the need to gear ourselves and to look at our services and review them and improve them with a view to the opening of the new hospital. I think that is the responsible way to go about it, it is not just a question of having a physical design done by the architects and by the design team, it is also looking at procedures and structures and protocols and practices and this is what it is all about which does not necessarily mean that it will also permeate as we go along into all the current practices within the ambience as the hon Lady puts it in the ambient of St Bernard's Hospital. I hope that gives the hon Lady an idea of the type of approach and thinking that I have in mind. I cannot be more explanatory than that.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I would like to know the cost of the audit assuming that that has been negotiated and the cost of the Dr Hugh Griffiths audit?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I will be able to give the hon Member the costs of the Dr Hugh Griffiths audit, I have not got it at hand but as yet we have not clinched so to speak the exact cost of the much wider, broader, comprehensive body that we are now actually engaged in making the practical arrangements, timing, costing et cetera.

NO. 563 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – VALUE FOR MONEY AUDIT

Can the Government confirm when the Principal Auditor completed his value for money audit into the overall cost of meals provided at the Gibraltar Health Authority Hospitals, which assessed the arrangements in place for controlling such costs and identified opportunities to secure cost savings?

ANSWER

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

The Audit Report was completed in May 1999 and forwarded by the Principal Auditor to the Authority on 29th October 2001.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 563 OF 2002

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Have Government taken a decision on the recommendations?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Yes, some decisions have been taken but certainly some of the recommendations have not been accepted by the, recommendations not of a strict financial import but

simply recommendations on practices which are not really seen to be appropriate by the Authority.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Can the Minister confirm whether the recommendations that have been implemented are such that they actually secure cost savings as the auditor was recommending?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I cannot confirm here and now.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Can the Minister confirm during the course of this meeting?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Not during the course of this meeting but certainly as soon as I can because I would have to get the Chief Executive to look into the recommendations indeed to see what extent some have actually come into operation and what the cost effectiveness resulting from it means.

HON J J BOSSANO:

This would be reflected in the auditor's accounts eventually so presumably it is not something that cannot be revealed. The purpose of the exercise by the Principal Auditor in his value for money audits is for the matter eventually to be reflected in this House I take it.

HON DR B A LINARES:

Yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can the Minister say when it was completed, is there a date?

HON DR B A LINARES:

It was completed in May 1999 and then was forwarded by the Principal Auditor to the Authority on the 29th October 2001.

NO. 564 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – PRIVATE PATIENTS

Can the Minister for Health state how many private patients were seen to or treated at St Bernard's Hospital (a) as out-patients and (b) as in-patients during the months of February and March 2002?

ANSWER

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

The number of private in-patients treated in St Bernard's Hospital during February and March were 12 and 11 respectively. As the hon Member already knows, we do not as a matter of routine collect out-patient statistics.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 564 OF 2002

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

If the Minister says that he does not collect out-patient statistics we are talking about patients who actually go as well to see consultants as out-patients, am I not correct?

HON DR B A LINARES:

The hon Lady is correct.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Therefore why was I afforded with that precise information in April of last year, waiting time for private patients as out-patients?

HON DR B A LINARES:

The hon lady is shifting to the question of waiting time. The question here was about the number of, how many private patients were seen as out-patients and as a matter of routine although the information can be sought by the Authority as a matter of routine we do not collect the out-patients statistics.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Why is it then that the Minister promised me with this precise information in the last Questions and Answers in the House when he said that he would look and provide me with the information.

HON DR B A LINARES:

I promised that I would look into providing the information.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

It means that he has looked, but what he has looked at he is not willing to provide to me?

HON DR B A LINARES:

No. The process of looking is actually underway at the moment.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Will the Minister accept that patients are being coerced by medical practitioners as regards the question of going private because they have to wait longer than if they go public?

HON DR B A LINARES:

No.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

If the Minister does not agree then I will remind him that the Chief Minister agrees and this is what the Chief Minister said, he agreed with us that he is not entirely satisfied and they are looking at a new system. He said, "...the hon Member is absolutely

right, they use the public list as a marketing tool for their private practice, that is absolutely correct.” So who is right the Minister for Health or the Chief Minister?

HON DR B A LINARES:

The Minister for Health has been asked to confirm that and the Minister for Health is not in a position to confirm what the hon Lady is seeking.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

I know that the Chief Minister is not here but the Minister will accept that there are two interpretations, am I correct?

HON K AZOPARDI:

There are not two interpretations. I do not know when the Chief Minister said that presumably it is somewhat dated. Well, last year in the context of answers when we were saying that we wanted to review the workability of the system that we had introduced to control private practice to ensure that it was working indeed well. The hon Member has answered the question which is do we think that the private practice system is being abused, are there sufficient controls in place? The answers to those questions is yes there are sufficient controls in place we want to ensure that the private practice arrangements do work well. The controls in the system are there to ensure that they do work well. If we do have information that they do not work well then we will ensure that those mechanisms are enforced so that they indeed produce the result that they were intended to produce which is an efficient and private practice arrangement that works well for the consumer.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

So it means that a few months ago last year the Chief Minister was not satisfied. The Chief Minister said that we were correct and now in a few months after that the Minister for Health is saying that the Chief Minister’s statement is no longer relevant because he is satisfied that it is not happening, can the Minister confirm how he knows that?

HON DR B A LINARES:

The question as put to me by the hon Lady in one of her earlier supplementaries was, “Can the Minister for Health confirm that patients are being coerced by consultants to go on to the private practice.” “Coerced” is a very strong word. I am sure that the Chief Minister has never accepted that version of the situation.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Perhaps I can refresh the memory of the Minister because I will read out what the Chief Minister said in the supplementary he said, “.....the Leader of the Opposition does put his finger on one aspect of the new system with which the Government are not satisfied and are looking at. The hon Member is absolutely right they use the

public list as a marketing tool for their private practice that is absolutely correct.....". Now is that something that the Minister agrees with or not?

HON DR B A LINARES:

That boils down to the idea of patients, individual patients being actually coerced which is the way the hon Lady.....

HON J J BOSSANO:

A marketing tool.....

HON K AZOPARDI:

The point about the private practice arrangements was that we were trying to deal with the situation where indeed there was that likelihood and that fear that a lot of people were saying to us as indeed they presumably said to the hon Member when she was in Government, when she said in her initial Budget Speech back in 1988 that she wanted to act against private practice but then did nothing about it for eight years, presumably she was also being told that patients were being pressurised to use the private practice system instead of the public system because there was an element of lack of transparency . People did not know whether the waiting times that they were being told by practitioners were in fact correct. The whole system of private practice that were put in place in December 1999 and introduced in 2000 was intended to precisely address the whole issue of the suspected pressurising that people were enduring as a result of a lack of control of private practice that Gibraltar had seen for many, many years. Now the objective is clear to enforce private practice arrangements that are fair to the consultants and fair to the public consumer and that removes any element of coercion and any supposition and perception of coercion that existed for many, many years. We have committed ourselves not only to introduce it but to review those arrangements from time to time to ensure that they work well. That continues to be our position and that there is no conflict therefore between what the Chief Minister said which was to highlight an unsatisfactory element that we were trying to address and the Minister for Health's position which is merely to confirm that the Government continue to be committed to those principles and we will continue to review the arrangements to see whether they work as they intended it to work.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is it the case that is no longer happening, what the Chief Minister admitted was happening and which was happening before, that is no longer happening, people are no longer being told, "if you come private you will get the operation tomorrow but if you do not come private you will wait six months, " is that it?

HON K AZOPARDI:

The whole point about private practice arrangements was to say and to put into place clear and harsh disciplinary procedures which could tackle information made available to the Gibraltar Health Authority on that basis. I am not saying that instances do not occur because we cannot ever give 100 per cent guarantee as to the inter-

relationship between a patient and a practitioner on any basis and no Government could do that. What I am saying is that now Gibraltar has a clear disciplinary process and clear arrangements and mechanisms that can be enforced against any consultant who uses the private practice arrangements to coerce, to use that word that I do not usually like to use to pressurise the patient in going private when it is unnecessary for them to do so. Those mechanisms are available and the Gibraltar Health Authority will not shirk from using them.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

I think that the Ministers are trying to cloud the issue because as they are saying that they are satisfied that they have implemented procedures and that according to them that the whole thing is being reviewed, well they had better review it very quickly because the Minister should agree that the public patients' waiting lists have increased from 200 to 400 per cent since he took office and since he introduced private practice.

HON DR B A LINARES:

I do not accept that statement, I am satisfied that we have the mechanism, that we have a controlled mechanism precisely to monitor and to control the adherence of consultants to the agreed private practice procedures and there is a sub-committee which is chaired by the Deputy Chief Executive and the Director of Operations who report to me and I can assure the hon Lady that precisely to avoid the type of abuse that as my hon Colleague has pointed out may crop up in individual cases, precisely I insist on this Controlling Committee to be absolutely watchful and to not hesitate to take strong disciplinary action against any incident of abuse in respect of the private practice agreement.

NO. 565 OF 2002

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – ELDERLY CARE PATIENTS

Can Government state how many Long Stay Elderly Care Patients there were at St Bernard's Hospital in February and March 2002?

ANSWER

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

The number of Long Stay Elderly Patients at St Bernard's Hospital for the months of February and March were 56 and 54 respectively.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 565 OF 2002

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Can the Minister confirm whether these figures are going down?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Earlier on today I had occasion to explain that as a result of the measures being taken the bed availability in St Bernard's Hospital has considerably improved and one of the reasons is that 12 patients have been recently transferred to Mount Alvernia and this will have reduced the number for April and May.

NO. 566 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – NUMBER OF HOUSE CALLS

Can Government state how many house-calls were attended to by Health Centre doctors from 1st February to end of March 2002?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question No 567 of 2002.

NO. 567 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – OUT-PATIENT ATTENDANCES

Can Government state what was the total number of out-patient attendances at the Health Centre from 1st February to the end of March 2002?

ANSWER

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

Answer to Question No 566 of 2002

The number of house calls attended to by Health Centre doctors from 1st February to the end of march 2002 was 1381. These are house calls recorded during emergency clinic hours 9am to 4pm.

Answer to Question No 567 of 2002

The number of out-patient attendances at the Primary Care Centre from 1st February 2002 to 31st March 2002 was 30,992.

NO. 568 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – OUT-PATIENT ATTENDANCES

Can Government state what was the total number of out-patient attendances at St Bernard's Hospital from the 1st February to the end of March 2002?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question No 569 of 2002.

NO. 569 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – IN-PATIENT ADMISSIONS

Can Government state what was the total number of in-patient admissions and the average number of patients per day at St Bernard's Hospital from 1st February to the end of March 2002?

ANSWER

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

Answer to Question No 568 of 2002

The total number of out-patient attendances at St Bernard's Hospital from 1st February to the end of March 2002 was:

	<u>Clinics</u>	<u>Casualty</u>
February	1188	1600
March	1166	1424

Answer to Question No 569 of 2002

The total number of admissions for February and March was 522 and 473 respectively. The average patients per day for the month of February and March was 142 and 135 respectively.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 568 AND 569 OF 2002

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Can the Minister confirm whether in fact these figures are static, they are decreasing or they are on the increase, is he able to confirm that now?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I have the figures for previous months but I have not worked out the calculations required to make a categorical statement in that respect but I suspect that the situation is pretty static.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Will the Minister provide the information at a future date?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Yes but that is a question of putting together the figures that I have answered today with the figures that the hon Lady also has but nevertheless I will work things out for her.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

It is just that it is difficult to work them out because he has given them individually, clinics and out-patients but just in adding a few I detect that they could be in the decrease but I will leave that for the Minister to confirm it at a later stage.

NO. 570 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – BLOOD SAMPLES

Can Government confirm what is the policy of the Gibraltar Health Authority in respect of taking blood samples and having them analysed at the hospital in La Linea?

ANSWER

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

Arrangements were in place prior to Dr Kay's retirement in September 2000 for patients requiring testing for Thrombophilia to be attended to at the La Linea Hospital. A Thrombophilia Profile consists of a group of about 12 to 14 tests (depending on the centre involved). Some of the analytes measured are very labile and deteriorate rapidly once blood is taken from the patient. Plasma from these samples has to be separated without delay and kept frozen until immediately before testing. We have had problems with transportation of these frozen samples to UK because they could deteriorate and it was impossible to give any meaningful result. In the course of the last few days we have been able to make alternative arrangements with another centre in Spain that is prepared to accept our samples without the need of the patient being present and the blood samples can then be taken by our phlebotomists and plasma separated and frozen by us. I have a lot of more clinical and detailed explanation of what these tests are involved and why it has been seen necessary to have them for the good of the patients taken directly and quickly in the hospital in La Linea and now in a special private clinic which I am prepared to share and discuss with the hon Lady since I am sure that both of us are more interested than anything else in obtaining accurate and adequate results for this type of testing.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 570 OF 2002

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

One of my supplementaries was precisely that perhaps I am glad that I have put the question in because there were a lot of patients concerned that they were having to go to the hospital to get an appointment, that they were having to return to St Bernard's to be given official documentation that they return for the blood sample and they were finding themselves going backwards and forwards and I am glad that this is now going to be discontinued if that is what I have understood from the Minister, but can he confirm then that he is saying that the results in the past have not been very accurate?

HON DR B A LINARES:

There have been problems in the past with the transportation of frozen samples to UK because of the reason that I have just explained. That plasma is very labile and deteriorates very easily and very often when the couriers took longer than the normal time delivering our samples the ice would thaw and immediately the blood sample would deteriorate to the point that this very sensitive and very specific testing for 14 parameters as they are called in determining exactly the level of risk of thrombosis which is what Thrombophilia testing is all about could easily deteriorate and therefore to the detriment to the patient who would have to have new samples taken and sent to UK. So the system of transportation to UK was having difficulties and therefore it was decided to make use of the vicinity where a patient could be tested there and immediately within hours the patient would have the wanted results. At first the authorities in La Linea wanted the patient to make an appointment then go back. We sorted that one out when they agreed that the appointment could be made by the Sponsored Patients Department here directly but they still insisted on the patient being present with a good intention in that certainly it is the most effective way, the most efficient way of achieving a quick sample and a quick test taken because the blood sample the quicker it is tested in this particular case the better, but since they insisted on not accepting frozen samples delivered to them we have now found as I explained an alternative service in Spain.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

I assume that these tests have in the past as the Minister has confirmed been taken in the UK and it has been done for years, is it that now something has occurred which has prompted the Government to change the system so that it goes to La Linea because it has been happening for years and another thing is can the Minister confirm what other arrangements they have put in place, is it that the patients are being asked to go to another hospital in Spain?

HON DR B A LINARES:

These samples sent to UK have been done for years and for years there have been problems and difficulties for the simple reason that it is not a question of maladministration it is just simply the clinical and scientific explanation that I have given. They have to be frozen and if the courier or the flight is suspended or whatever

there have been problems. Let me say that for years is not quite correct, I think it was Dr Kay who was the pathologist who in 1998 if I am not mistaken actually turned to Spain precisely for this reason and for this particular purpose. After the retirement of Dr Kay in September 2000 for some reason the laboratory turned again to the traditional practice of sending samples to UK again meeting the same problems that had been encountered before and which Dr Kay precisely tried to overcome by sending patients and samples to Spain.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

The second part of my question needs to be answered is it that now having made the new arrangements and going elsewhere can the Minister confirm what other hospital patients are now required to go to?

HON DR B A LINARES:

It is not a hospital they will be going to it is a clinic, this alternative clinic has accepted that it is not the patient who will have to go now to this clinic it is the frozen sample which because it is in Spain, in Barcelona it is much quicker, easier and effective to transport.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

Can the Minister say when these measures started and how many persons have used these facilities in La Linea since it started?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I cannot say this, I do not have the information in front of me so I think it is a recent development and it is limited I insist again it is limited to a very small number of patients for a very specific type of test which I am told is an average of one patient every two to three weeks. The bulk of blood testing is still being carried out in St Bernard's Hospital but I think it was a recent development taken by the management in the laboratory given the fact that they were meeting problems with the results from UK.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Is the Minister satisfied that a flight to London and back or the results being given to Gibraltar are going to be much faster than a flight to Barcelona transporting the blood there?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I am assured that the arrangements which have been made ensure a much more efficient delivery and transportation. The alternative would be to have the sample taken in La Linea and within a matter of two hours the result would be there with all the accuracy in the world because the key of success in this particular type of testing is the quick process which takes place before the blood can deteriorate.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

So really what the Minister is saying that they are shifting to Barcelona because the hospital authorities in La Linea do not accept that the patient should not go there for an appoint, is that correct?

HON DR B A LINARES:

That is correct.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can the Minister say if use has been made already of the new Barcelona facilities?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I cannot say it is a very recent development as a result of some complaints recently which came to the hon Lady by some patients who objected to the La Linea arrangement.

NO. 571 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – TEMPORARY NON-PENSIONABLE OFFICERS

Can the Minister for Health provide the information promised in the last House of Assembly meeting in relation to Question No 245 of 2002 as to how long persons have been employed in the Gibraltar Health Authority on temporary and unpensionable terms, in the different categories?

ANSWER

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

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

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 571 OF 2002

HON J J BOSSANO:

In relation to the cooks who are industrial workers is there a particular reason why their appointment has not been confirmed? The normal thing is that people are on probation for a certain period of time and then either they are found suitable or not suitable.

HON DR B A LINARES:

I am still seeking detailed information about these particular cases from the Chief Executive and the management so at this moment of time the only explanations I have are very generic and the Authority as a separate authority has always had flexibility in this type of contractual employment apart from the recruited officers from abroad and that in certain services which are tentatively instituted, for instance, ward clerks on an experimental level it is preferred to employ persons on a temporary contractual basis until these services are well consolidated but there are other individual cases which do not fit that particular explanation and I am awaiting a reply.

HON J J BOSSANO:

By saying that the Health Authority as a separate authority has got flexibility seems to imply that the people in the Health Authority are not covered by the same rules as everybody else in the civil service and surely that is not the case. Civil service rules apply in the Health Authority like they apply in any Government Department, do they not?

HON K AZOPARDI:

They do in respect of permanent and pensionable staff that are engaged by the Government.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So what is it then, that the people on these lists are not civil servants because they are not permanent and pensionable?

HON K AZOPARDI:

I do not have information as to who has engaged those members of staff, as the hon Member knows the Ordinance allows the Authority to recruit and employ people and to have codes of discipline for its members of staff. I do not know whether they have been engaged by the GHA and whether the GHA as a result of that is formulating its own processes. To date that has not been the case.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Given the fact that some of these go back to 1998 I am not sure whether the Minister was still the Minister in 1998 but I would expect that a Minister would know what is happening in the Authority for which he is responsible to this House and would know whether the Authority is actually employing people outside of the civil service or not.

HON K AZOPARDI:

What I am aware of is that whether or not they have been employed by GHA they have been subjected to the same rules as far as I am aware unless there are professional rules of discipline which overlap with the relevant civil service rules which

need to be enacted in the relevant case, for example, if there is a nurse and they are subjected not only to the civil service disciplinary procedures but also to the Nurses, Midwives and Health Visitors Registration Board then clearly there are disciplinary processes that overlap there and there needs to be a decision taken by management. If the Leader of the Opposition is asking as to the clericals themselves they may be engaged by the GHA but as far as I am aware the GHA does not have a separate code to cover these individuals in which case they would be assimilated within the normal processes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Yes, but there is an important policy issue and one would have thought that it was a matter for the Government as opposed to the Health Authority to decide as a matter of policy whether the theoretical power that the Authority has in the Ordinance which has been there since the day that the Ordinance was passed, is actually going to be exercised for the first time and although this has never happened I would have thought that the Authority would need to get Government clearance in order to be able to engage people directly without them being engaged as being in the service of the crown as Government employees.

HON K AZOPARDI:

It really depends how one defines the Crown because there is a lot of argument as to whether if one were to set up a Statutory Authority the employees of the Statutory Authority in any event may be subject to different codes but in principle are still Government employees and there is a whole argument about whether that is the case or not, there have been numerous cases in the UK for example on that point. Certainly the Leader of the Opposition is correct that if the Government decide that the Gibraltar Health Authority can pursue recruitment and thereafter disciplinary action on a different basis then of course the Government would be sanctioning that process and that power has been there since 1987 when the Ordinance was voted in with a unanimous support of the House at that point presumably with their support.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The Minister knows full well that in 1988 the first thing we did was in fact to discontinue the creation of separate employment outside the civil service which was not something that the employees wanted and which we did not think made sense and therefore the Minister knows full well that this was stopped in 1988 and to our knowledge it has not been reinstated post 1996. The Government have not gone back to the 1987 position where people were told, "if you work for the Health Authority you are no longer part of the Government sector and for example, you are not even interchangeable you are no longer part of the whole service." At that time what was intended before 1988 did not happen in 1988 and to our knowledge has not happened since. If it is the case what we want to know is, has the policy decision been taken by the Government telling the Health Authority "you can recruit people directly" without them being Government employees. I take the point that that may still make them Crown employees but I think that is a separate issue, certainly it is an issue in which we are interested if they are still Government employees or not even if they are employed by the Authority but we want to establish the first one because it has been suggested that that may be the reason for the original answer that we have been given.

HON DR B A LINARES:

The level of the Government policy I can tell the hon Member at that level of policy the matter is being presently reviewed by myself in relation to the individual cases which are there and it will come under the broad review of policy which my Colleague has explained has been established for some time and that I am now reviewing.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Let me try and get a clear answer, what is being reviewed the policy not to have direct employment which has been the position until now as we have understood it or is it that the position has not been done until now?

HON DR B A LINARES:

What is being reviewed is the present position as has been evidenced in this debate, that is, that employees have been taken on directly under contract on a temporary basis and some employees for particular reasons which have been explained to me but I am now in the process of actually reviewing that policy.

HON J J BOSSANO:

If the Minister is saying that he is reviewing that policy, is he saying then that that was a policy previously introduced by the Government and sanctioned by the Government because this is what I am trying to establish. I am trying to establish, did the Government, did the Council of Ministers or the Minister at one point in time say "as from today the Health Authority may engage people directly" which was not something that was happening previously and is not something that we are aware of, we did not know that this was happening?

HON K AZOPARDI:

Before I give way to my hon Colleague to answer this specific point can I just say that as a matter of fact the vast majority of people working within the Health Authority consider themselves to be GHA employed people whether in fact they are not is a different matter. The nurses, doctors there are 600 people working in the Health Authority, the vast majority, over 300 nurses, 30-40 doctors and the vast majority consider themselves to be GHA employees. This is only a sensitive question in relation to the clerical grades that aspire or may have views of getting promoted and be transferred to other departments but for the vast majority that do not aspire to that and have no prospect of being transferred, a nurse is not going to work in the Income Tax Department, this is not an issue for them and in fact the view of people at ground level is that they see that the GHA Ordinance as passed in 1987 should indeed be pursued in all its glory.

When I was Minister I can tell the hon Member that there were different schools of thought. The school of thought that the GHA should continue in a very centralised fashion to be an integral part of the core Government and the civil servants and the view which I happen to share this personal view not the Government policy let me stress, the view that the GHA is a public service which has been set up as a Statutory Authority under the 1987 Ordinance which requires flexibility and requires a degree of

manoeuvre to be able to respond to the patient need that it should be allowed to distance itself a bit from the core Government so that it can perform its function in the most efficient way. What that means is that it should be allowed that flexibility to recruit staff and engage them and discipline them in accordance with its professional rules which are appropriate in the circumstances of each case and therefore if something is alleged against a nurse they should be disciplined by the Nurses' Board not by a Civil Service Board, those are my views but I highlight them simply to emphasise that there is a markedly different views as to how the GHA can perform its functions which was the subject after all of the 1986 review that led to the 1987 Ordinance. Even back then 15 years ago people were tussling with these questions of how the GHA was properly and best going to perform its functions. Fifteen years later we have seen different reviews, we have still not reached a categorical answer on that but let me be quite clear I stand firmly in the school of thought that beliefs that one cannot deal with the Health Service in an efficient manner as if it was just another Government department staffed by core civil servants. These are employees, public sector employees, that does not mean that they cease to be public sector employees, but these are public sector employees, to a very large extent of a different ilk subject to different professional rules and guidance notes and we need to be in touch with that and in touch with the fact that this is a far more interactive service with the consumer and the patient, that there are vastly increasing expectations and needs and that the only way that we are really going to deal with that is if we take a more radical approach to the structural questions that not only this Health Service but all Health Services around the world are battling with.

HON J J BOSSANO:

That is all very interesting and I am interested in the personal thoughts of the Minister but what I am trying to establish is the facts, what is happening, are these people employed by the Health Authority or by the Government I would have thought that the Government would know which of the two it is because I would have thought that if it is employment by the Health Authority a policy decision has been taken at some time consonant with the philosophy of the Minister that if that has happened it has happened unannounced, we did not know that it was happening, is it that the Government are not sure whether it has happened or not and cannot give me a straightforward reply "yes" or "no".

HON DR B A LINARES:

It has obviously happened because the evidence is there and it is consonant with the philosophy and the thinking that my hon Colleague has put across but as I say at this moment in time at the level of policy decisions by the Government the Authority is reviewing that practice.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So in fact what we are being told is that even though, for example, there are cooks from June 1998, it has happened as far back as 1998 without a conscious, positive policy decision by the Government that it should.

HON K AZOPARDI:

All I can tell the Leader of the Opposition is again I do not have the facts or circumstance of each individual case as to who has employed these people all I have been saying to the hon Member is that when I was Minister I thought that the priority was that if we were going to meet patients' needs and expectations we needed to provide an element of structural flexibility and so I was driving for four years when I was Health Minister to try to achieve a greater degree of devolution to the Gibraltar Health Authority if not independence. On this specific question we would need to examine the contracts that each of these individual have signed. I do not believe that the cooks have signed contracts with anyone other than the Government of Gibraltar, I stand to be corrected and therefore I do not believe that we have taken massive steps or inroads into these policy questions that the hon Member is suggesting. Maybe a different matter if we examine whether I would have wished to have done so but that is a different issue. On the facts of the question have we in fact taken the specific policy decision to make the inroad here this will probably be no even though we may have been advised by different quarters to do so.

HON J J BOSSANO:

An explanation has been given, for example, in the case of the Ward Clerks that date from a year ago 2001 and if we have got four Ward Clerks employed in January last year and in October last year and no final decision has been taken on the permanence of what is a new post, that is an explanation that makes sense but if we have got six cooks and presumably this is not a temporarily phenomenon, people will still have to eat why does one want a cook on ones books temporary since 1998, are Government still deciding whether they are going to need to cook or not to cook? Is it that if the Government said "look we are considering contracting out the facility and that is why we do not want to make them permanent" that would be an explanation but if that is not the case can the Minister explain why there are still cooks not confirmed in their position since 1998 because the explanation for the Ward Clerks makes sense but these ones we do not seem to be able to get an answer.

HON DR B A LINARES:

My hon Colleague has given honestly his own personal thinking and philosophy which has led to this and I am sure has inspired or influenced this situation that we find here and now. As I have explained before I am actually reviewing the situation generally as a matter of policy and in that context looking at particular cases such as those of the cooks.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Do Government not accept that in fact under the provisions of the legislation against dismissal people are entitled to continued employment if they have got open contracts lasting more than 12 months therefore they cannot be temporary long, is that not the case?

HON K AZOPARDI:

The Crown is bound by the Employment Ordinance and therefore any consequence that gives rise under Employment Legislation would obviously have to be adhered to by the Crown.

NO. 572 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – ENROLLED NURSES

Can Government now state whether any Enrolled Nurses have applied to be able to train up to the level of Staff Nurse?

ANSWER

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

No Enrolled Nurse has applied to follow the distance learning conversion course being offered by the GHA through the School of Health Studies.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 572 OF 2002

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Can the Minister give the reasons why?

HON DR B A LINARES:

One reason of course would be the decision by the persons involved in entering into this process, another, and I am speculating, may well be that they do not come up to the entry requirements that Sheffield University is requesting as the validating body and that is at least five GCSEs to enter the course.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

I remember asking about the Enrolled Nurses a similar question to this where the Minister said that he would be looking at this problem of the GCSEs in view of the fact that many of the Enrolled Nurses that were there already previously had not been required to have these entry qualifications, has he pursued the line that he said he was going to?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Yes, I have pursued it, it is a matter that I have under constant discussion with Sheffield University, the hon Lady has to understand that the validating authority is Sheffield University so in that respect we are reliant on the acceptance of Sheffield University for any course of action here, I did say more than that actually which I will offer to the hon Lady, I said that it is my personal feeling is that equivalent experience on a par with academic qualifications should also be considered as a point of entry for any particular course which is accessible to a particular Enrolled Nurse.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

I cannot understand, if it was the Government who introduced the minimum requirements for GCSEs how come that when we were in Government we did not require those entry requirements and Sheffield did not insist on GCSEs for untrained nurses to actually train as staff nurses, how come they are insisting on it now?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Because there was no school of Health Studies locally and the School of Health Studies which was validated by Sheffield University insisted and I am glad that they did to require certain entry academic qualifications for a Diploma Course which takes three years.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

The Minister is not really answering my question because I have actually told him that when we had Sheffield, we contracted Sheffield in the first place, they were looking at this question of whether Enrolled Nurses should continue in Gibraltar or not, they came to Gibraltar, they validated the school, they validated the whole question of studies in relation to nurses and they never told us that untrained nurses would be requiring a minimum of GCSEs to train up to Staff Nurse level.

HON DR B A LINARES:

I am not sure of the relationship that existed during the previous administration with Sheffield but certainly it is Sheffield and no one but Sheffield which insists that in order to enter for a diploma course which is actually qualified and validated by them this is the minimum requirement. Five GCSEs for Staff Nurses and three GCSEs for Enrolled Nurse.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In UK there is no Enrolled Nurse training and therefore there cannot be any requirement in Sheffield because Sheffield does not do it, we do it here, so how come?

HON DR B A LINARES:

That is the requirement that Sheffield imposes on the School of Health Studies locally because we maintain the course of studies for Enrolled Nurses and that is their requirement. It is irrelevant whether the Enrolled Nurse exist in UK or not. They exist here, they have to be trained, that course of training is structured and validated by Sheffield and that is one of the requirements that Sheffield has put to us.

HON J J BOSSANO:

How can Sheffield put requirements to us for a qualification which is in existence exclusively in Gibraltar and not something that can be used in the United Kingdom. Is it that the Government asked Sheffield whether they would agree that the course could be taken by people who did not have two GCSEs and Sheffield said no?

HON DR B A LINARES:

As the Leader of the Opposition will know Universities all have their own entry requirements to their own courses, it happens with all other degree courses and some universities will have higher or demanding entry requirements than others. It is their own degree, it is their own badge and therefore they have the right to impose their own structure for the course including their level of qualifications that they need for entry. That is Sheffield perhaps if we marketed around for another University we might find that another University, but nevertheless the Government are very happy with the relationship with Sheffield, with the assistance that they have given us in structuring and continue with these excellent courses and that I think it is important and I am sure that the management of the GHA that we should be much more demanding for the good of the professional development of our staff of demanding proper academic qualifications for anyone wishing to pursue a course which at the end of the day carries tremendous responsibility in the care of patients.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Yes but the fact that somebody has got a GCSE in a language or in mathematics does not necessarily mean that they are going to be a better nurse when it comes to caring for patients or more or less professional because if the theory of the Minister was correct then according to him we will have to wait for the new Enrolled Nurses to go through because none of the existing Enrolled Nurses would have met his requirements and I think it is wrong to suggest that they are any inferior to the new crop coming in. All the people there now do not have two GCSEs, all the ones that are doing it, all the ones that are looking after the patients and surely the Minister is well aware from his own background in Education that, for example, the Open University pioneered it but many Universities have subsequently demonstrated that there are many people quite capable of developing academically and of benefiting from being given the opportunity which would not get that chance if one adheres to

the sort of strict and in my judgement inadequate view that if one gets through two GCSEs one is okay. This is going back to the mentality of the 11-plus.

HON DR B A LINARES:

The Leader of the Opposition has said a lot of things and one would have difficulty in answering each of the different facets of his position. I would agree with some of the points raised that for instance an academic qualification does not guarantee particularly in the field of nursing were other aspects of care and relationships and all that does not necessarily guarantee that but nevertheless there is one aspect on which I with my background as an educator must also insist that academic qualifications not necessarily in that particular course or in that particular career but nevertheless academic qualifications in language for instance or in mathematics establishes the academic potential of a particular student which actually would warrant the possibility of pursuing a course with professional thrust and importance. That is something that must also be maintained, there has to be a balance but in any case in recognition of another aspect that he has put before us with regard to the Enrolled Nurses which we have and that never were required to have these academic qualifications I have already stated that I am very seriously discussing with Sheffield the possibility of recognising what is called equivalent experience as a possibility of launching a person who may so wish but would nevertheless also have to be assessed as to the potential for following and for coming up to the demands that professions demand in that course. I am open to that scenario of knowing that Enrolled Nurses have the opportunity of coming into the service with particular GCSEs, there have been particular instances where they have actually within employment bothered to catch up with their academic qualifications in terms of GCSEs. I know of particular cases in order to be able to progress and all that has to be recognised.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Will the Minister remind Sheffield that when we contracted them and they accepted the grade of Enrolled Nurse they never actually insisted that the Enrolled Nurse should have a minimum of GCSE qualifications, will the Minister remind them of that?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I am not familiar with what arrangements were made by the previous administration with Sheffield, all I know that the arrangements that we made when we established on a proper footing which I do not think quite frankly with respect was exactly the situation before during the previous administration, when we established the proper footing the School of Health Studies and negotiated with Sheffield to have a proper professional structure to the courses available there that certainly what I am telling the hon Lady today about entry requirements was very much the requirement of Sheffield to us.

NO. 573 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – 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 & HEALTH

No.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 573 OF 2002

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Is the Minister in a position to say when he expects this claim to be solved or whether in view that so many years have gone by it is a question of having a dormant claim for evermore?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I am not in a position to state when or wherefore.

HON J C PEREZ:

Am I right in saying that the individual concerned is acting in the post at the rate of the previous Chief Executive that passed away, is that the situation?

HON DR B A LINARES:

He is not acting in the post, he has been appointed as the Chief Executive. How it compares with the level of the previous Chief Executive, I ask my hon Colleague.

HON K AZOPARDI:

I think he is on the Senior Officer salary as substantive Chief Executive, hence the claim.

HON J C PEREZ:

Was it not the case that when he was acting whilst the individual in post was away his salary was higher than now that he has got the substantive post?

HON DR B A LINARES:

That is the case, that is the ground for the present claim.

HON J C PEREZ:

Do Government not agree that such a key figure in the structure of the Health Authority that a solution should not have been arrived at yet given the anomaly that has existed in the past of the individual concerned having been earning more than when he got the substantive post, is this not something that should have been settled some time now?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I agree that this is an important key figure in the service as Chief Executive and that whatever anomalies exist in the present position should be obviously resolved in consideration of that fact with which I agree.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is the post of Chief Executive one where employment is by the Health Authority or by the Government?

HON K AZOPARDI:

This officer is plainly employed by the Government of Gibraltar.

NO. 574 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – COST OF TREATING TEMPORARY VISITORS IN UK

Can Government now state what was the latest available cost to the UK treating temporary visitors from Gibraltar in respect of 2001/2002?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos 544 to 547, 551, 552 and 576 to 581 of 2002.

NO. 575 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – ELDERLY PATIENTS

How many elderly citizens are awaiting a place at Mount Alvernia and how many of these are occupying a bed at St Bernard's Hospital as at the end of March 2002?

ANSWER

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

There were 53 patients awaiting a place at Mount Alvernia as at the end of March and 12 of these patients were occupying a bed at St Bernard's as at the end of March 2002.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 575 OF 2002

HON J J BOSSANO:

Does that therefore mean that the reason for moving 12 was because there were not more people in St Bernard's waiting to go?

HON DR B A LINARES:

No there were more than 12 patients in St Bernard's waiting to go, the reason why 12 transferred is because 12 additional beds in Mount Alvernia were made available to us.

HON J J BOSSANO:

If the Minister has said that there were 53 people waiting for a place and 12 were in St Bernard's it means that now there are none in St Bernard's because the 12 that were are gone.

HON DR B A LINARES:

With respect I did not say that of the 53 patients generally awaiting for a bed in Mount Alvernia 12 were in St Bernard's. There may be more than 12 in St Bernard's among those 53. What I have said is that 12 of these patients were actually de facto transferred to Mount Alvernia as at the end of March 2002 but that does not necessarily mean that there are no other patients in St Bernard's who are also on the waiting list for Mount Alvernia.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Then the Minister has not answered the question that was put because the question says, "How many are awaiting a place and out of these how many are in St Bernard's" and the Minister said 12.

HON DR B A LINARES:

I agree. I have answered that 53 are on the waiting list for Mount Alvernia and obviously the question wanted to know of these 53 how many were in St Bernard's but the way the answer has been given to me is that only 12 have been moved but not strictly the point of the question which is how many others there could be, I agree.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So it means in fact that of the 41 waiting there could be some who are in St Bernard's that is correct is it?

HON DR B A LINARES:

That is correct.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I assume that we have left it that the Minister is going to go back and get the information?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

If I could just expand on that, in Mount Alvernia there exists an Admission Criteria Board and there is a waiting list for Mount Alvernia. It just so happens that at the period on which the question is based there were 12 patients in St Bernard's Hospital who were in the waiting list for Mount Alvernia, they had applied for Mount Alvernia it just so happens that we made 12 beds available at Mount Alvernia and those 12 patients who were in St Bernard's were within the waiting list of Mount Alvernia, the general waiting list, and they just so happened to be within the 12 (a) priority cases and that is why they were transferred. So the answer to the question is that those 12 patients were in the waiting list because they had applied. Since then it might be the case that there have been more applications or there are patients there who would require full-time residential care at Mount Alvernia.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Yes but the information that we have been given is that at the end of March, that waiting list consisted of 53 persons and 12 as we understood the answer of those 53 were in St Bernard's but it turns out that there could be more than 12 on the March list.

HON K AZOPARDI:

We think there are more, the answer has not been framed correctly and we will find out and provide the hon Member this information.

NO. 576 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – SOCIAL SECURITY PENSIONERS

Can Government now state how many Gibraltar Social Security Pensioners, who were not also in receipt of a UK Social Security Pension, were resident in UK in 1999?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos 544 to 547, 551, 552, 574 and 577 to 581 of 2002.

NO. 577 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – SOCIAL SECURITY PENSIONERS

Can Government now state how many Gibraltar Social Security Pensioners who were not also in receipt of a UK Social Security Pension, were resident in the UK in 2001?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos 544 to 547, 551, 552, 574, 576 and 578 to 581 of 2002.

NO. 578 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – SOCIAL SECURITY PENSIONERS

Can Government now state how many Gibraltar Social Security Pensioners who were not also in receipt of a UK Social Security Pension, were resident in the UK in 2002?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos 544 to 547, 551, 552, 574, 576, 577 and 579 to 581 of 2002.

NO. 579 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – UK SOCIAL SECURITY PENSIONERS

Can Government now state how many UK Social Security Pensioners, who were not also in receipt of a Gibraltar Social Security Pension, were resident in 2001, and registered with the Group Practice Medical Scheme?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos 544 to 547, 551, 552, 574, 576 to 578, 580 and 581 of 2002.

NO. 580 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – UK SOCIAL SECURITY PENSIONERS

Can Government now state how many UK Social Security Pensioners, who were not also in receipt of a Gibraltar Social Security Pension, were resident in 2002, and registered with the Group Practice Medical Scheme?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Nos 544 to 547, 551, 552, 574, 576, to 579 and 581 of 2002.

NO. 581 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – UK SOCIAL SECURITY PENSIONERS

Can Government now state how many UK Social Security Pensioners, who were not also in receipt of a Gibraltar Social Security Pension, were resident in 1999 and registered with the Group Practice Medical Scheme?

ANSWER

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

Answer to Question No 544

Twenty -six quota patients were treated in the UK during the period 1st February 2002 and 31st March 2002. The UK has not given us details of costs.

Answer to Question Nos 545, 552 and 574 of 2002

The average cost of treating pensioners in the UK for the years 2000 and 2001 and the cost to the UK of treating temporary visitors from Gibraltar in respect of 2001/2002 are not yet available.

Answer to Question No 546 of 2002

Of the patients who have been given a choice to obtain treatment in Spain from 7th February 2002 to 24th April 2002, 39 elected to do so.

Answer to Question No 547 of 2002

A total of 123 non-quota patients were treated in the UK between 1st February 2002 and 31st March 2002. The cost invoiced to date is £589.

Answer to Question No 551 of 2002

The costs for the quota patients treated in the UK from 1st April 2001 to 31st October 2001 have not been submitted by the UK.

Answer to Questions 576 to 581 of 2002

There have been no developments since I answered these questions in the last session of the House. The question about how many UK Pensioners resident in Gibraltar in 1999 registered with the GPMS and not in receipt of a Gibraltar pension that is what we have more recent information, that is 57. The question of UK Pensioners resident in Gibraltar in 2000 registered with the GPMS and not in receipt of a Gibraltar pension the figure is 92 but that includes the 57 from the previous question and the question about the UK pensioners resident in Gibraltar in 2001 registered with the GPMS and not in receipt of a Gibraltar pension is 128 which of course also includes the 92 which I have already quoted.

I think I owe the House an explanation why I have clustered all these questions together. At this stage it is very difficult as we are still relying, as I have explained in other meetings of the House, we are still relying on the latest reconciliation. The latest working out of the formula with exact figures was done I believe in 1988 and the figure then was established at 120.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 544, TO 547, 551, 552, 574, AND 576 TO 581 OF 2002

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

It is very difficult to follow the Minister when we are talking about so many questions, I will need time to look at the figures in order to be able to react but I think that I have detected if I am not mistaken that he has not answered Question No 576 of 2002, is that correct?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I have answered and I have not answered, I have answered in the sense that I have answered the hon Lady that we do not have the information. Yes, that is the information I have or rather the lack of information that I have.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Since we are talking about years that the Gibraltar Health Authority is not receiving the information that they require in order to actually implement the, as the Minister referred to it in the last meeting of the House of Assembly, the notorious formula, are Government looking at the possibility of changing that formula and can the Minister at the same time also confirm when it was that they received a settlement in relation to the Sponsored Patients as being sent to the UK and the UK Visitors and Pensioners in Gibraltar, when was the last time there was a settlement as far as the reciprocal agreement is concerned?

HON DR B A LINARES:

In 1998/1999, I have mentioned that a moment ago, that was the last time that there was a reconciliation, there was a proper in-depth examination of the quota, of the formula with the detailed information which was brought by UK. I am told by the Chief Executive that he is expecting or that it has been promised a further working visit from officials in the UK from the Department of Health precisely to review the formula. When I say to review the formula I do not know whether it means reviewing the structure or the nature of the formula or just simply to flesh it out with available information which at the moment is not available.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Can the Minister confirm what was the nature of the settlement in 1998/99?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Yes also with respect I have mentioned that, the established quota was 120 and that is the notional figure which we are actually working on at the moment. A quota of 120 Gibraltar patients for whose treatment in UK, the cost, the UK Government makes itself responsible. That is patients not referrals. One patient can have quite a number of referrals.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

No I was referring to the actual net effect, was there a surplus for the Gibraltar Health Authority or did they expend any monies, I am talking about the nature of the actual settlement?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I would not be able to answer that question across the floor I would need more detailed figures to be provided by the finance section of the Gibraltar Health Authority.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

In Question No 546 of 2002 the Minister has not answered the question as posed by my hon Colleague because the Minister has given the answer as 39 elected to do so

but the question asks how patients are being given the choice of being treated in Spain as opposed to UK as Sponsored Patients and have elected to go to Spain since February 2002, he has not answered how many patients were asked he has given the answer of 39 that decided to do so.

HON DR B A LINARES:

Well I thought the intent of the question was to find out how many patients have actually chosen given the option and that was 39.

HON J J BOSSANO:

How can Government make a judgement as to what is the intention and decide to provide an answer based not on what they are being asked but on what they think that we want to know, is that a new approach to answering questions?

HON DR B A LINARES:

The Leader of the Opposition is twisting my reply, it is an honest to goodness reply. How many patients have been given a choice of being treated in Spain as opposed to the UK, they all have the option in general terms pending of course particular circumstances and 39 of the patients have opted for this.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Patients were going before to Spain anyway and therefore this is not an issue of whether 39 have gone in a particular period, presumably 39 might have gone the previous year when that policy decision was not announced. What we want to know is that if as a result of a statement of policy by the Government a patient tomorrow is told "would you like to go to UK or would you like to go to Spain," we want to know how popular the Spanish option is and we cannot know if it is 39 out of 39 or 39 out of 390, surely the Minister could have assumed that that was the reason why my Colleague was asking how many were given the choice and how many picked the Spanish option because we want to see to what extent the option is one that meets consumer demand.

HON DR B A LINARES:

We have not made that analysis exactly but certainly the number of patients opting to go to Spain has increased and I was looking for the figure for the previous questions but I do not have it at hand but it has increased in recent months. There are patients for instance who would normally be referred to UK for heart treatment, angiograms, angioplasty surgery and they are now themselves of their own initiative asking and requesting to be sent to hospitals in Spain. To actually gauge the trend and the tendency of patients in seeking this provision, this facility, I would have to carry out and I would have to ask the Chief Executive to carry out an analysis of the figures in comparison with the figures that we had even before that option was announced and made public.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Can the Minister confirm if I have heard him correctly that of the 39 that he has actually mentioned today these also include patients that would normally have been going previously to Algeciras for scans, dialysis, et cetera?

HON DR B A LINARES:

This is in line with the question that the Leader of the Opposition has just asked and I told him that I would have to actually carry out an analysis to see how many would be the normal run of patients who go to Spain and were going to Spain before this option was offered and how many are really just taking up now the expanded facility that we have offered.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Surely if the Minister does not know whether the 39 includes people going for scans to Algeciras as my Colleague has asked, he ought to know that because in fact if that is included then the answer to the question totally misrepresents the information being sought because if we are asking how many people have chosen to go to Spain as opposed to UK and one is including somebody going for a scan to Algeciras what is being said is that before they would have gone to England for a scan, now we are not talking about people who would not have gone to the UK.

HON DR B A LINARES:

This figure does not include patients who go for scans to Algeciras. We are talking about those who are given a choice so the 39 would be those who have had a choice as to where, what the destination is. Those going for investigations and scans in Spain as they have always done are not given a choice, that is an automatic procedure.

NO. 582 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

Can Government state the number of complaints that are being received through the GHA's Complaints Procedure from 1st February to end of March 2002?

ANSWER

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

Three complaints were received through the Complaints Procedure from 1st February 2002 to the end of March 2002.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 582 OF 2002

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Has the Minister taken note and has he spoken to the Ombudsman as he said in my last question in this House over the same matter whether in fact he is looking at the recommendations made by the Ombudsman that the Government should in view of all the complaints and the long time it takes where patients are really being put off to make a complaint whether they should institute an independent body looking at the complaints as the Ombudsman recommends rather than the GHA looking at their own complaints?

HON DR B A LINARES:

The question as to whether I have discussed the matter with the Ombudsman is yes it is a matter that has been discussed with him. It is a very tentative suggestion that was made by the Ombudsman in his report more as a suggestion than a proposal. That suggestion is not being at presently considered by the Authority, what we are doing is looking at the actual Complaints Procedure as it stands in order to ensure as I had explained before, we have had this debate before, that it is made more effective in terms of particularly resources available to process and to expedite the Complaints Procedure and certainly we also have this arms length provision which adds an independent dimension to the whole system with a Complaints Procedure Board which is totally independent of the practitioners in the Health Authority and which monitors and watches over the operation of the Complaints Procedure. They too have pointed out, I will be frank and honest, deficiencies in the operation of the procedure and we are taking it to heart and again discussing with them as well as with the Ombudsman ways of improving the system as intended by the Government which is to offer transparency and a medium to patients which they never enjoyed before.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

The Minister is going back I think referring to our time and does he not accept or is he unaware that we did in fact have a Complaints Procedure the only thing is that we did not pass it by law and does he not accept that we never had as many complaints as he has got now?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Hardly had less complaints than three in one month that is really the sub-total of the complaints that we have had from February to the end of March and I am certainly not aware that they had any formal or structured Complaints Procedure. I am just saying that I am not aware I will not doubt the hon Lady's declaration to that effect but I have certainly never come across any information about that.

HON J C PEREZ:

Perhaps the Minister should not take comfort in the official figure, in the official Complaints Procedure and try and understand that out there there are a lot of people with a lot of complaints and that the procedure is not adequate to take into account the complaints and the needs of the users and this is what the Ombudsman pointed out and this is what we are pointing out. The fact that the Minister stands up in the House and says I have only received three complaints in the procedure is in fact saying that the procedure is not working because anyone in Gibraltar walking up and down Main Street can tell the House that the talk of the town today is the complaints about the Health Authority.

HON DR B A LINARES:

That is of course the image which the Opposition in their holier than thou attitude are portraying, as if during their time there were no complaints and everything was marvellous and rosy and perfect. Every Health Authority in Gibraltar throughout the years and in other parts of the world are subject, it is a sensitive area, to complaints.

There are also “out there” as the hon Member puts it many people who are entirely satisfied with the service that the practitioners in the Health Authority give to them and of course that is not what the Opposition will get on to.

NO. 583 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GARRISON LIBRARY

Can Government say whether the Ministry of Defence are now asking for any payment before the Garrison Library is handed over to the Gibraltar Government?

ANSWER

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

The Ministry of Defence are not now asking for any payment before the Garrison Library is handed over to the Gibraltar Government.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 583 OF 2002

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Given that that is the case can the Minister say at what stage the negotiations are because there never seems to be an end in sight?

HON DR B A LINARES:

As I explained in a previous question we had this debate and I was very frank and open as to saying that there are no strict formal negotiations going on. There are discussions, meeting of minds as to the different approaches and philosophies and particularly in the context of the heritage value of the Garrison Library and ensuring that this is preserved and maintained. The problem now is that there is a new Chief of

Staff, most of our discussions were carried with Colonel Moorby who was the Chief of Staff until quite recently and the new Chief of Staff has asked that he wants to become familiar with all the correspondence and all the discussions that have gone before before he can pick up the threads.

HON J C PEREZ:

Is it that the Ministry of Defence would want to know what use will be made of the Garrison Library by the Government before they agree to transfer it, is that the matter that is being discussed?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Yes that of course is a matter that is being discussed. It is natural that they would want to know what the aims and objectives and what is the mind of the Government as to its future use. That is one of the matters that has been in an exploratory manner discussed and of course it is also a concern of the Library Committee as the hon Member knows there is a Library Committee which has in Trust the running of the Garrison Library and they too are interested.

NO. 584 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

HOTEL, CATERING AND HOSPITALITY SERVICES COURSE

Can Government say how many persons have registered for the Hotel, Catering and Hospitality Services course due to commence in April?

ANSWER

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

Eleven persons have registered for the Hotel, Catering and Hospitality Services course run by the School of Tourism and which actually started last week.

NO. 585 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

HARBOUR VIEWS PROMENADE

Can Government state whether the issues surrounding the tender award for a cafeteria and other facilities at the Harbour Views Promenade have now been resolved, and if so, when is it now intended that the project will be realised.

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The issues remain unresolved and neither the Government nor any parties are pursuing the award of this tender at present.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 585 OF 2002

HON J C PEREZ:

Neither the Government nor any party is pursuing the award of the tender, that is to say, that neither the Government are intending to put it out to tender nor in the Government's view is anyone interested in tendering for it, is that the case?

HON K AZOPARDI:

No what I have said is that the position stands where it was when we have answered previous questions, the Government had a general intention, it went out to tender and then issues needed resolution which were discussed last time in the House but today as the hon Member asks the question again there has been no progress from the point where we were at when we last discussed this and it is not an issue of great priority to the Government where we have decided that if we needed to revive the tender or, and nor is it the case, that the person who was awarded the tender has been pursuing the matter with the Government to resolve any issues. The matter has seen no progress in the last few months and therefore that is where it lies and the Government have been distracted by other issues and that is where we are at.

NO. 586 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GRAND MAGAZINE

Can Government say what organisations were consulted and when, over their decision to include a low rise residential complex near the Grand Magazine site?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos 587 and 588 of 2002.

NO. 587 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

ROSIA BAY/ VICTUALLING YARD

Can Government give the grounds why the only tender for the development of the Rosia Bay/Victualling Yard area was rejected?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question No 586 and 588 of 2002.

NO. 588 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

ROSIA BAY

Given that there was more than one expression of interest for the development of the Rosia Bay area, can Government say whether they attached any conditions to the development of the site which led to only one tender being submitted?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The tender in respect of Rosia Bay and the Victualling Yard required the sites to be used for leisure and entertainment use. No special conditions above that were placed on the development proposals. Only one tender was received and it did not comply with the required invitation to tender. Government have been of the view for some time that the Grand Magazine site should be put out for a low rise residential development. In reaching their decision the Government have not formally consulted any external organisation. While Government had initially decided to proceed with this invitation separately given the lack of interest in the Rosia Bay/Victualling Yard tender, it was decided to combine these development possibilities with a view to maximising their commercial viability and ensuring that the Rosia Bay project comes to fruition.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 586, 587 AND 588 OF 2002

HON DR J J GARCIA:

When the Minister says in his reply that the one tenderer did not comply with the conditions of the tender, does that mean that he made provision for a residential development when it should have been a leisure and entertainment area?

HON K AZOPARDI:

It goes beyond that actually, the hon Member is correct, there were four expressions of interest when we went out last year and this matter was being driven by my Colleague the Minister for Tourism. We received ideas that the Government felt were unacceptable in principle and so that we did not drive or mislead people in a future tender process we decided instead of producing a design brief and advising people of the type of project that we really wanted to see in the Rosia Bay/ Victualling Yard area. Because of its heritage sensitivity we do not want to see in particular residential development on the Rosia Bay and Victualling Yard site. When I say no special conditions about that were included that is precisely the case but of course the containment of the Rosia Bay/Victualling Yard project for leisure and entertainment only was in itself the special condition that perhaps some people did not find attractive. The tender that was received complied with that aspect of the invitation to tender but did not comply with the invitation to tender in the sense that it was clear from the submissions to tender that the applicants for the tender wanted to receive an allocation of a plot of land for residential development outside Rosia Bay and the Victualling Yard as a precondition to the tender acceptance. I was not too clear what they meant by their offer when it was received and I asked my department to get confirmation from them whether they were saying that they would not be able to pursue the Rosia Bay/Victualling Yard project unless they obtained this direct allocation of land for residential development. The answer I got is that indeed that was the case because they felt that Rosia Bay/Victualling Yard was commercially unviable by itself and so therefore they did not comply with the invitation to tender as we had originally envisaged which was that this project should be a self-standing project able to be pursued in its own right. As I say, at the time also, and going back three or four months before the tender invitation was issued when we came to the point where we wanted to produce a design brief for Rosia Bay/Victualling Yard the department also came up with a holistic view of the entire site including the Grand Magazine site and suggested and recommended to Government that this was a prime area for low rise residential development which Government should consider to put out to tender in due course and we decided that that was a good recommendation that we would pursue separately but in view that we have not been able to attract tenderers for the Rosia Bay/Victualling Yard, and this is now the second time effectively that we have gone out for public interest we have decided to combine it because we think that in combining it we would probably attract more people to pursue the leisure/entertainment regeneration of Rosia Bay which is I think in all our interests, and that would be backed up by the commercial viability paid for by the low rising residential project. I hope that clarifies the situation.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

I am grateful for the explanation, that clarifies that point but there are a number of issues which arise from the three or four questions which are being answered together and one of them is, the Minister rightly refers to the various expressions of interest a process which commenced in December 1999 were prospective tenderers were asked to submit their expressions of interest. There then followed a very long process of consultation from December 1999 all the way through to January 2002 which is when the original tender closed, that was then extended to the 15th February of this year and then it has been retendered now in April. Given that the actual consultation process itself took so long and I am assuming in asking the question that the tenderer was one of the four original, the case is that the original four who had expressed interest in the project dropped that interest and that the tenderer who was not successful is actually somebody else. So, given that the consultation process took so long is there any reason why the prospective tenderer did not participate in that process and get to understand what ideas the Government had in mind for the area?

HON K AZOPARDI:

I am not sure if the hon Member has understood what I have been saying as being the process. There was a process being driven by my Colleague the Minister for Tourism by which expressions of interest were sought, obtained and then we saw that they included ideas that the Government did not like generally and so we produced a design brief within the Government which then formed the basis of the tender process that flows in February or March as a result of which no tender complied with the invitation to tender. We have now gone out, the basis of adding the commercially viable site, the Grand Magazine, I am not sure what process of consultation the hon Member is getting at.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Was it a particular reason why this unsuccessful tenderer was not involved in the process that took place from December 1999 were expressions of interest were invited?

HON K AZOPARDI:

I do not know why he did not express his interest at that stage and decided to express his interest at this stage. It is a matter for him but certainly from my recollection this particular applicant was not one of the four entities that had then decided to express an interest.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

One other aspect which is the heritage considerations, can the Minister say why the heritage trust was not consulted prior to the decision to have a low rise development on the Grand Magazine site and can the Minister clarify to the House what exactly is low rise in this context?

HON K AZOPARDI:

I said that they had not been formally consulted, I say formally consulted because in fact they had been informed by me and I remember in a couple of meetings I told them that this is the type of idea that we want to contemplate in particular the most basic reason why that is the case is because the Heritage Trust hold the lease to the Victualling Yard and they have been trying to dispose of it and return it back to the Government. I think that they obtained the Victualling Yard from the last administration back in 1994 or 1995 and they have been trying to return it to the Government because they consider it a huge liability to hold. It is in that context that clearly anything done in the Victualling Yard would have to be done with their agreement and they have agreed to surrender it to us so that it is included in the tender process for a certain usage and so I have discussed the type of usage that we wanted it to go out to tender for with the Trust in that connection I did give them a copy of the design ideas for the entire area, not just for Rosia Bay/Victualling Yard that the department had produced several months ago which included marking the Grand Magazine site for low rise residentials so they have been aware of that idea for some time and as to their input on the specific ideas that I have brought forward I have undertaken to discuss with him the tenders received on Rosia Bay and Victualling Yard and we will no doubt discuss also any heritage sensitivities that may arise on the Grand Magazine site especially because of the Trust's involvement in the Planning Commission.

NO. 589 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

SHEPPARD'S MARINA

Can Government say how many representations, if any, have been received in respect of the proposed development by Monaco Ocean Village Ltd at Sheppard's Marina?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

A total of three representations were received.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 589 OF 2002

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is it possible for the Minister to say whether these were favourable to the development or were they unfavourable to the development?

HON K AZOPARDI:

Basically there were two letters from individuals making specific design and architectural points, one person who lived nowhere near the development, the other

person lived in Marina Court. There is also a letter that is basically a petition signed by Marina Court owners , the majority of the owners signed a petition about 40 of them I think, and this one essentially objects to the developments on several grounds. It is quite a long letter, one is the perceived depreciation of value in their apartments, issues of natural light, hazards to residents and children of the block because of increased traffic, the threats to their building by development on the adjacent plot of land which is on reclaimed land and then they make several points generally on the development. They think that the commercial units that would be included in the development would remain empty, that there are no indications on the plans of access for services, services meaning sewage and things like that and some aesthetic concerns. Some of those representations the hon Member will see are really not objections of a planning nature.

NO. 590 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

INTERREG PROGRAMME

Have Government identified any projects for the 425,000 euros allocated to Gibraltar under the Interreg Programme announced in December?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

At present Government Departments and Agencies are in contact with other participating regions of the Community Initiative Interreg IIIB to identify and develop joint projects which may be of benefit to Gibraltar. Once these projects are substantially developed these will be referred to Government for endorsement, prior to submitting a formal application.

NO. 591 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

ROCK HOTEL – PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

Has the environmental impact assessment ordered into the proposed two projects at the Rock Hotel now been submitted to the Government?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

No.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 591 OF 2002

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Do Government know when the impact assessment report is going to be submitted?

HON K AZOPARDI:

No.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Minister say who is producing the report?

HON K AZOPARDI:

Yes but I do not have the information with me. I will supply the information to the hon Member.

NO. 592 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Can Government say at what stage is the Development and Planning Commission's consideration of the following proposed projects:

- (a) North Block Naval Hospital;
- (b) Former Garrison Medical Centre, Royal Naval Hospital;
- (c) Gun Wharf?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

North Gorge Naval Hospital - Former Garrison Medical Centre, Royal Naval Hospital
In respect of these the DPC has signalled informally that Outline Planning Permission will be granted and the formal issue of the permits are now awaiting minor issues being cleared at interdepartmental level.

Gun Wharf – Outline Planning Permission was granted on 30th April 2001. An application to extend validity of the certificate will be considered by the DPC on the 9th May 2002.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 592 OF 2002

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Does the application to extend the validity of the certificates relate to any delay in the projects?

HON K AZOPARDI:

It is a standard thing because the outline planning permissions are granted. The statute says that they are granted for three years unless the DPC says so otherwise and as a matter of standard practice we have granted certificates for 12 months on the basis that we grant renewals as an automatic process. We just want to keep a closer hand of developments to monitor them.

NO. 593 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Can Government say how many meetings of the Development and Planning Commission have taken place and on what dates in January, February, March, and April 2002 to date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Three meetings of the Development and Planning Commission have taken place since January to date.

24th January 2002; 28th February 2002; and 4th April 2002.

There is another scheduled for the 9th May 2002.

NO. 594 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

ECOM LIMITED

Can Government say whether the collapsed Ecom Project will be taken over by another company?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Government do not have any indications that this will be the case.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 594 OF 2002

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Minister say what will happen to the land which was granted under this project?

HON K AZOPARDI:

The Government are reviewing the uses to which that land can be put and the matter is currently under consideration.

HON J C PEREZ:

Could I ask the Minister whether he thinks that the prospects of E-commerce are still there as a potential growth to the economy or whether he thinks that we might have lost the boat in terms of the timing of it, if he can understand the gist of my question?

HON K AZOPARDI:

I think so, I think I can understand what the hon Member is asking. I do think that e-commerce and telecommunications technology has still got a lot of potential for Gibraltar in the context of diversification into new industries and new business and there is a lot of potential for job creation in these industries. The Government see that as a potential fourth pillar to the economy as I like to describe it and we are dedicating some marketing efforts and some promotion in that regard but the hon Member needs to put that intention and that aspiration and that view that the Government have together with the general downturn in technology globally and the massive not stagnation but almost contraction of growth that there has been since mid 2000 in technology and e-commerce world-wide. Whereas before to obtain venture capital funding all one needed to do was add dot com after ones name, now adding dot com is almost an indication to people that they should not fund you. In that global context it is more difficult to obtain funding and therefore more difficult to attract the more speculative end of the market to Gibraltar but the case is still there for some niche industries to locate to Gibraltar and we will try to ensure that that is the case and apart from trying to attract in good investment, try to grow and reposition at least the technological potential of Gibraltar in the sense of training and infrastructure with a view to expanding further when the downturn finishes and there is a renewed growth in that market.

NO. 595 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

INDUSTRIAL PARK – LATHBURY BARRACKS

When do Government expect to be in a position to allocate Phase 1 of the industrial park at Lathbury Barracks?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The units should be going out to tender sometime during the summer of this year.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 595 OF 2002

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Has the Government already set the level of rent for these units or will tenderers be expected to bid for the area they want?

HON K AZOPARDI:

No we have not set a level of rent although I anticipate that they will be set in the context of the North Mole Industrial Park and the Governor's Cottage Industrial Park. We have to take a view of that but we have not actually set that yet.

NO. 596 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

EUROPA BUSINESS CENTRE

What is the total of rent owed by tenants in the Europa Business Centre as at 31st March 2002 and what is the total number of tenants?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The total amount of rent owed at Europa Business Centre as at 31st March 2002 is as follows:

- (a) Active accounts £62,732;
- (b) Inactive accounts £34,277.

The total number of tenants is 45.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 596 OF 2002

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Minister provide a breakdown in relation to the 45 tenants who are presently there, how does that relate to the £62,000 owed by active tenants or £34,000 who are inactive?

HON K AZOPARDI:

What I mean by active I think is that the £62,000 is owed by the current number of tenants so it is the £62,000 divided amongst the 45. Of that sum, £39,288 is actually owed by three of those tenants who I am told are about to enter into arrears agreements with Treasury. The inactive accounts have all been passed on to Treasury.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

How many ex-tenants are involved in the £34,000 figure.

HON K AZOPARDI:

Fifteen.

NO. 597 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

NEW HARBOURS

What is the total amount of rent owed by tenants in the New Harbours as at 31st March 2002 and what is the total number of tenants?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The total amount of rent owed at New Harbours as at 31st March 2002 is as follows:

- (a) Active accounts £278,879.61;
- (b) Inactive accounts £264,821.74.

The total number of tenants is 100.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 597 OF 2002

HON DR J J GARCIA:

As with the previous question, how many tenants make up both figures?

HON K AZOPARDI:

The £278,000 relates to the current number of tenants, 100, of that figure £152,800 is owed by eight tenants of that figure of 100 which again I am told they are entering into arrears agreements with Treasury and the inactive accounts relate to 25 tenants.

NO. 598 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

EUROPORT BUILDING

Can Government say whether the applicant has now been notified of the status of the application for a change of land use in the Europort Building and if so what is it?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Yes, informally. I am happy to discuss the circumstances why formal notification has not yet been issued with the hon Member privately if he wants to ask me later.

NO. 599 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

LAND RECLAMMATION WITHIN THE HARBOUR

Can Government say whether they intend to go ahead with a feasibility study into the viability of carrying out land reclamation within the harbour?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Yes.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 599 OF 2002

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Does the Minister have a time-scale within which the study will be commissioned or has it been commissioned already?

HON K AZOPARDI:

Yes, the study will take approximately six to nine months I am told and it would be intended for it to be carried out this year.

NO. 600 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

CATALAN BAY

Can Government say whether the Little Genoa Development in Catalan Bay is going to proceed given that Skanska has pulled out of the project?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Skanska have now confirmed to Government that contrary to initial indications they have now reviewed their position and remain involved in the project as they had originally envisaged. The project is therefore proceeding on the basis of the original award.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 600 OF 2002

HON J J BOSSANO:

Did they have a deadline by which they were supposed to commence in the original award?

HON K AZOPARDI:

Not that I am aware of.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is it not normal when something is put out for development that in the tender they are required to commence by a certain date and then if they do not use the land the Government have the right of recovery, is that not standard?

HON K AZOPARDI:

What is standard practice is for that requirement to be included in the development licence which would contain such a clause. The hon Member will recall that during the last Question and Answer session we did discuss whether Skanska were or were not involved in the project and as a result of the tooing and froing that there has been on that issue the development licence has as yet not been signed, but now that they have said we are proceeding and it has taken the parties who submitted the tender with Skanska, the local party, it has taken them quite a few months and visits to Gibraltar by senior members of Skanska from Sweden to decide this question. Now that they have decided that, we are discussing the issue of the development licence which will contain the start standard clauses.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Minister say whether Skanska remain interested in other projects in Gibraltar which was their original intention when they arrived?

HON K AZOPARDI:

Not that I am aware of but they may be.

NO. 601 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

EU FUNDING

Can Government list the parties who have applied for EU funding since 1st February 2002, indicating the amount of funding that was requested and the purposes for which it was intended, listing those applications that have been successful, those that have been unsuccessful and those applications that are still pending?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

One applicant has applied for EU funding since the answer given at the last Question Time in the House.

Project No	EU Grant	Sponsor	Purpose of Gran	Status
014	£4,116 (EU) £4,116 (GOG) Total £8,232	Internet Direct Ltd	Purchase of IT Equipment and Furniture	Under Consideration

NO. 602 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

ELECTRONIC COMMERCE ORDINANCE

Can Government say whether the Minister has requested that the contents of any web site be removed or modified since the Electronic Commerce Ordinance came into force, and if so, when and what web sites?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

No requests have been made to remove or modify the contents of any web site by the Minister since the Electronic Commerce Ordinance came into force. We have investigated one case to evaluate this issue even though there was no formal request.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 602 OF 2002

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is it possible for the Minister to say what the case related to?

HON K AZOPARDI:

Yes, there was a case where someone registered and seems to be operating a web site from Gibraltar using the name of a local bank. It is the name of the bank, then it has

offshore.com. My view is that it is unhelpful for that to be there but when we looked at the Ordinance it was clear that there needed to be a request, the particular bank in question took advice from its London office and decided not to make a formal request because it considered that the contents itself was irrelevant. So we took no action on that basis because the bank felt that they did not want to take action.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

When the Minister said that the web site was operated from Gibraltar does that mean that the actual computer with the information happened to be here because the domain under which it was registered is a dot.com which could be anywhere in the world, is that the case?

HON K AZOPARDI:

The people who are behind the web site are here in Gibraltar who have registered a domain name with a dot.com and therefore have bought it from the institution that sells it in Virginia or wherever it is, but that they are here and therefore it is operated from Gibraltar in that sense.

NO. 603 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES

Can Government say whether the Minister has approved any party to issue accreditation certificates for electronic signatures and whether any application is under consideration?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

No party has been approved to issue accreditation certificates for electronic signatures and there are no applications at present.

NO. 604 OF 2002

HON DR J J GARCIA

EU FUNDING

Can Government say whether the applications for EU funding known as projects numbers 10, 11, 12 and 13 have been approved, rejected or are pending consideration?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

These applications for EU funding have all been approved.

NO. 605 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE TO CONFERENCES

Can Government say how many conferences it has assisted with, sponsored or co-sponsored in February, March and April 2002 to date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Over the period in question, Government have assisted, co-sponsored or sponsored the following events:-

- Finance Centre Protected Cell Company Seminar on 11th March.
- The World Association of Small and Medium Enterprises, (WASME) Conference on 8th – 10th April.
- The Trans-Border Institute, “The Effects of the Euro on the Economies of the Strait”, on 12th – 13th April.

NO. 606 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION

What proposals for changes to the Regulations governing the fees payable to the FSC have been put forward?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question No 607 of 2002.

NO. 607 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION

When did consultations commence between the Government and the Financial Services Commission regarding the Regulations governing the fees payable to the FSC?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The new Fee Regulations came into effect on the 7th March 2002. Consultations with Government and the Industry commenced in August 2000. There has been close co-operation and consultation with the market prior to the introduction of these changes.

NO. 608 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

COMPANIES ORDINANCE

Can Government list the companies that have been struck off under Section 203A of the Companies Ordinance in February and March 2002?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

During February and March 2002 no company has been struck off pursuant to Section 203A.

NO. 609 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

NEW BANKING LICENCES

Have there been any new banking licences issued in February, March or April 2002 to date and if so to whom and when?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

There have been no new banking licences in February, March or April 2002 to date.

NO. 610 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PROTECTED CELL COMPANIES

Can Government say whether any protected cell company has been formed in Gibraltar since the legislation was brought into effect, and whether any formal applications have been made?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

One protected cell company has been formed in Gibraltar and an application has been made by a PCC insurance company to carry on insurance business in Gibraltar.

NO. 611 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

EU/GOG – LOANS AND GRANTS

Can Government say whether improvements to hairdressing salons would qualify for European Union or Gibraltar Government loans or grants?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

In principle improvements to hairdressing salons can qualify for European Union or Gibraltar Government loans or grants. It is not necessarily the use to which the business will be put which is the only relevant factor. Specific criterias apply governing the grant of funds.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 611 OF 2002

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Minister list the criteria which would apply?

HON K AZOPARDI:

The criteria set in the single programming document and all the EU funding criteria that is available is quite extensive but I can certainly provide that to the hon Member if he

wants. The criteria is not driven only by the Government given that there are EU funding requirements but certainly I can write to him and give him a flavour of that criteria.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

I would be grateful for that information but can the Minister also go through the procedure in terms of the various bodies or boards through which such an application would go?

HON K AZOPARDI:

Again extensive information can be supplied to the hon Member and I am happy to do so, there are explanatory booklets that have been produced to simplify the process and I will send them to the hon Member if he so wants. I can supply that they are indeed publicly available and they have been so for some time. I do not know if what is at the heart of this question is a recent application for a hairdressing salon and there was some confusion as to the eligibility of that application for EU funding and if that is what is at the heart of the question I am certainly happy to discuss that application with the hon Member. In that application, if that is what the hon Member is trying to get at, in that application the refurbishment, this is the distinction that I make, improvements to a hairdressing salon are eligible in principal but refurbishment of a hairdressing salon did not meet the EU eligibility criteria for funding assistance under the programme and this was pointed out by the Business Advisory Unit to the particular applicant some months ago. I know there has been correspondence between the applicant and the department setting out at least the department's clarification on those issues but I am certainly happy on a more abstract and holistic level to supply the hon Member with the criteria and explanatory booklets for his attention.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

I would certainly like to discuss the case with the hon Member. One of the issues which arises from it is this question whether refurbishment would apply or not and the other one was the question of it that is being refused on the basis of opening floodgates or not opening floodgates in terms of them getting other people to apply for the same thing which is why we were requesting the actual criteria that would be required for this. The second one was the role of the Enterprise Initiative Board in the actual decision making process and whether the conclusions which the Board arrives at can then be overturned?

HON K AZOPARDI:

The Enterprise Initiative Board does not make any decisions. It merely sifts through the applications, considers whether they meet the criteria, advises with the help of the Business Advisory Unit, and points them in the right direction and tells them "you are eligible for EU funding or you are not eligible." In this case "not eligible for EU funding" and therefore the only other sources of funding one can obtain is direct Government funding under the Gibraltar Enterprise Scheme, nothing to do with the EU funding requirements and criteria, criteria set by the Government, independent of EU funding requirements which again I am happy to send the hon Member. The Board in that respect again would sift through and make recommendations to the Government who

would then take the funding decisions. On this specific case I would be happy to discuss it with the hon Member.

NO. 612 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

J & B ENTERPRISES LTD

Can Government say whether the goods possessed from J & B Enterprises were sufficient in value to cover the whole amount of the loan made to that Company?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

We have estimated the value of the goods to be sufficient to cover the loan amount. However, until the goods are auctioned and the value realised we will not be able to confirm this.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 612 OF 2002

HON J J BOSSANO:

At the time of the original answer there were other companies, has anything been done to recover the loans or the arrears of anybody else other than this one, at the time I think the Minister said that this was the only one that something was being done about?

HON K AZOPARDI:

I cannot recall the exact answer, I seem to recall that there were three companies in question and that there had been action taken in another as well but I cannot precisely remember that and I do not have the note of my last Question and Answer with me. The hon Member has asked a very specific question on this company so I did not bring that information because I did not think that he wanted it but if he wants to write to me or raise that question again I would be happy to give him that information.

NO. 613 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES – INDUSTRIAL ACTION

Can Government confirm that they have now abandoned their policy of denying their employees the right to selective industrial action?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Employees have no such right, and it is therefore not a question of it being denied by Government policy.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 613 OF 2002

HON J C PEREZ:

Is it then that Government choose and pick on when they threaten their workers with putting them off pay if they take selective industrial action depending on which workers take action or is it that the Government have no policy on the matter at all?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

That is a different issue that does not raise questions of rights on the part of the employee, it raises the opposite question of when the Government choose to exercise their rights under the employment contract. The Government have the right to insist on people that they employ fulfilling the entirety of the contract of employment and not picking and choosing which parts of their contract of employment they undertake whilst expecting to be paid as if they were undertaking all of it, so that is a Government right at stake, not an employee right and certainly the Government are free to decide in which cases they enforce that right and in which cases they do not. The Government policy which is what the hon Member has asked me about is that employees are free to decide whether to withhold their labour or not but if they withhold their labour then they must withhold it all and therefore if employees undertake what is called selective industrial action which is little more than picking and choosing which part of their contractual duties they decide they want to carry out whilst being paid for it all the general Government policy is that such people are thought to be and treated as if they were on strike and are regarded as not being at work and are not allowed to carry out any part of their duties. It is true that the Government's ability to deploy that policy becomes harder when there are essential services involved. Government have their policy but are not willing to endanger life in order to impose their policy on any factual situation. So if the hon Member has in mind the current example, for example, of the firemen, that is a case which the Government feel that their policy is being violated and it is now a matter for judgement for the Government whether they choose to apply their policy at the expense of there being no emergency cover for possible fires and other emergency situations that might arise or not and the Government have chosen so far not to.

HON J C PEREZ:

I have not got that area in mind and indeed I am not suggesting that the Government should put any employee off pay for taking selective action, it is my view that the right belongs to the worker to take selective action and not to the Government as the Chief Minister has stated. The case that I have in mind is that were as the Government took that action against school attendants when they took selective industrial action it did not take any such action against members of Prospect in the clerical grades when they were taking selective industrial action against the Government, there the emergency services were not involved and the Government chose to take a different view and I would think that if they take a lenient view with one group of workers, they should take that same lenient policy view with the school attendants.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I am not aware whether Prospect have ever been taking any selective industrial action but certainly if they have it has not been noticeable at least not noticeable in my office so that I would have been moved to take action. I am not aware that Prospect is taking any selective industrial action but the policy applies to all of them and if the hon Member is trying to suggest that this policy is selectively applied depending on the union involved.....

HON J C PEREZ:

To a group.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I have already explained to him the basis upon which some groups are easier than others in this respect to apply the policy. The same policy applies to all public servants and what sometimes happens is that the so-called selective industrial action is something that is not specifically provided for in the job specification and then there is an issue about whether they are entitled to stop doing, then it is not so much a question of selective industrial action in terms of not carrying out part of the clear contractual duties, then it becomes a question of whether it is contractual duty or goodwill that is being withdrawn and there are sometimes grey areas around that which make the Government have to be particularly cautious. I cannot agree with the statement of the hon Member, I think all employers are entitled to insist that their employees carry out their full contracts of employment. All employers should respect the right of their employees to exercise what I think nowadays has to be regarded as a human right and that is to withdraw one's labour in pursuance of a dispute but withdrawing one's labour means withdrawing one's labour and I do not believe that the hon Member, who is in this House to scrutinise the Government in their stewardship of public funds, possibly believes that it is right for the tax payer to pay people 100 per cent of their salary for doing 50 per cent of their contractual obligations.

HON S E LINARES:

The Chief Minister seems to have a very short memory because in the last debate we had in this House he said that the industrial action that was taken at that time, that is the civil service one which he does not recollect and seems that nobody in his office was in selective industrial action at the time, did not involve the omission or performance of any jobs specified in their jobs specification of any of the officers involved. That means that he was aware of the strike and the second thing that I would say to the Chief Minister is that he said at the time when I posed the question was "...but the policy does not have any exceptions," now he seems to have exceptions to wherever it is needed or wherever he requires or wants to.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can the Chief Minister say whether and if so when this policy has been formally put to the Union by the Industrial Relations Officer or Personnel Office.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No I cannot but the Unions are aware that that is a Government policy.

HON J J BOSSANO:

They may be aware because they listen to the House and we are live on radio but the point is that since this Government think that they do not have the right which they had until 1996 in the public service and indeed in the rest of Gibraltar including the MOD, is this not a sufficiently important change in the way that the Gibraltar Government conduct their industrial relations for this to be something that the Unions would have been told ".....look you no longer are able to put your members on to black something or a go slow or anything without risking having them all locked out and sent home and not paid"?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Unions are aware that that is Government policy.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Have the Unions raised any objections towards the Government policy?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is not for the Government to disclose to the hon Member what the Unions choose to put to it.

NO. 614 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

GOG/PROSPECT – SALARY REVIEW ARBITRATION

Have Government now agreed the details of the arbitration with Prospect, over their differences over the 1999/2000 salary reviews, and if so, when is the arbitration scheduled to commence and what are its terms of reference?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Government and Prospect are working constructively to take the arbitration forward. It is not appropriate to make further public comment at this stage.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 614 OF 2002

HON J C PEREZ:

Can the Chief Minister state whether it is intended to choose an independent arbitrator to the satisfaction of both sides or whether the intention is to pick one from either side to look at the matter, are details of that nature in the domain of the Chief Minister to give?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I think that is precisely one of the issues that is currently under discussion, the union Prospect is taking the commendably responsible position that it is exercising patience to the Government in recognition of the fact that the Government are substantially distracted with matters of external challenge to Gibraltar, a stance for which the Government are grateful to that union and certainly we will not abuse that delay in the sense that it is our intention to get on with that arbitration which was a Government suggestion and which both the Government and the Union are keen to get on with.

HON J C PEREZ:

Could I ask whether there will be a specific written agreed terms of reference under which that arbitration will work?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is intended that the issue and the procedures should be agreed between Prospect and the Government and that is precisely the discussions that need to take place and are taking place.

NO. 615 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

POST OF COLLECTOR OF CUSTOMS AND PERSONNEL MANAGER

Are Government now in a position to open the vacancies of Collector of Customs and Personnel Manager?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

There is as yet no change to the position stated in response to the last time the hon Member asked this question.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 615 OF 2002

HON J C PEREZ:

Do Government not feel that certainly the question of the Personnel Manager is something that is now becoming urgent given the remarks made by the District Officer of the TGWU in his May Day Message which is a repeat of what he has said on a couple of occasions already in terms of industrial relations?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. The Government do not consider that it is urgent for that reason nor do the Government necessarily agree with everything that the District Officer said in his May

Day message this year or the previous years. The Government are trying to redistribute the functions presently being carried out by the Personnel Manager in order to accommodate the predisposition of the acting incumbent in respect to the various functions that exist. We are seeking to split once again the Personnel resources, establishment type of function from the industrial relations functions and that the two functions may not necessarily reside in the same place or even on the same person.

HON J C PEREZ:

In respect of the Collector of Customs if I recall well the Chief Minister initially said that they were giving a chance to people there to act in the post and gain experience in the run up to opening the post but I believe that this has now taken quite a while, when does the Chief Minister expect to be in a position to open the post or is it that they are thinking of filling it in again from outside the Customs Service?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I cannot answer the hon Member's question of why this has still not been done but I can answer the hon Member as I think I have done in the past that the Government are not intending to bring in a Collector of Customs from outside the service.

HON J C PEREZ:

The Customs Service.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

From outside the Customs Service yes that is how I understood his question.

NO. 616 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

LAND PROPERTY SERVICES

Have the Treasury now looked at the recommendations made by Baker Tilley over the contractual arrangements with Land Property Services , and if so, are Government now in a position to finalise the review of the contract?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The position remains as it was when I last answered a question by the hon Member on this subject, there has been no developments as far as I am concerned except that I am aware that there have been further discussions. There is this Baker Tilley Report which I have not seen and I therefore cannot say exactly where the discussions are between the company and the Treasury who are conducting these discussions but certainly Ministers have not been required to make a decision one way or the other or to choose options or anything like that.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 616 OF 2002

HON J C PEREZ:

So the position is that the Treasury have the Baker Tilley Report but the recommendations have not been put to the Ministers?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

That may be the position but that is not how I formulated the answer. There has been a backlog of papers in my office since the external situation obtained the dimensions that it has recently obtained and it may well be that there is a minute in my office. If there is I have not yet attended to it and have not seen it so I would not wish to say that it has not come up for ministerial decision but that ministerial decisions have not yet been taken in respect of it. I would have to check to see if that is because it has not come up or because we have not yet had an opportunity to look at it even though it has come up for ministerial decision.

NO. 617 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

BREATHALYSER TESTS

Can Government state whether the Royal Gibraltar Police is now involved in the practical application of the use of breathalyser tests, and if so, whether this is having the desired result or whether some problems are being encountered?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

No.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 617 OF 2002

HON J C PEREZ:

So although the legislation was passed and I believe that the equipment is in Gibraltar it is still not being made use of, that is the position?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes I understand that at present the position is that guidelines are being drawn up between the Attorney General's Chambers and the RGP dealing with Section 47C (1) of the new Ordinance, namely situations which could give rise to a police officer having reasonable cause to suspect that a person has driven or attempted to drive a motor vehicle in a public place or is in charge of a motor vehicle in a public place after having consumed so much alcohol that the proportion of it in his breath, blood or urine exceeds the prescribed limits.

NO. 618 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

COMPETENT AUTHORITY

Do Government know whether a revised list of competent authorities in respect of the application of Council Directives 93/75 EEC and 78/55 EEC has been published by the European Commission after 24th April 2001, and if so, whether the Captain of the Port appears on the list as Gibraltar's competent authority?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Government have made enquiries and established that the Commission have been made aware of Gibraltar's competent authority in this respect. Nevertheless, the Commission have not yet included us in any list. However, the Commission's list of competent authorities for this directive is due to be updated shortly and it is to be expected and hoped that Gibraltar's competent authority will be added at this time.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 618 OF 2002

HON J J BOSSANO:

When the Chief Minister says that the Commission has been informed, is it that the United Kingdom has informed the Commission?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Foreign Office has established from the Commission that they are aware that Gibraltar's Captain of the Port needs to be listed as a competent authority. I would rather articulate it that way which is how it appears by the papers that I have in front of me because I cannot actually confirm to him that that awareness was the result of any formal notification, but certainly the Foreign Office has confirmed to us that they have checked with the Commission and that the Commission is aware that the appropriate directorate of the Commission is aware.

NO. 619 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

GIBTEL/NYNEX

Will Government urge Gibtel and Nynex to take legal proceedings against the European Commission for failure to act against Spain, if this is deemed necessary, in respect of the individual cases brought to the Commission by the respective companies?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Yes. In their capacity as shareholder with board representation.

NO. 620 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

NON-RECOGNITION BY SPAIN OF 350 CODE

Are Government aware whether the European Commission have now indicated a willingness to act against Spain for their non-recognition of Gibraltar's internationally recognised 350 code?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Government are not aware that the EU Commission has given any such indication.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 620 OF 2002

HON J C PEREZ:

Will Government therefore be deeming it necessary to ask their shareholders in Gibtel and Nynex to act against the Commission as a result of no movement there?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The companies are aware of the Government's views.

NO. 621 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

STUDY OF ROCK FACE

Have Government already engaged a specialist consulting engineer to conduct a thorough inspection of the rock face, and if so, what are the terms of reference of the consultancy and what is the cost?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Government engaged Golder Associates Ltd, who are a firm of geotechnical engineering consultants, to inspect the cliff face in the area of the Dudley Ward Tunnel entrance. They have been asked to prepare a report on the condition of the cliffs and advise on any remedial stabilisation measures that may be required. The fee costs for this work (the consultancy) have amounted to £7,738.67.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 621 OF 2002

HON J C PEREZ:

Would the Government consider taking advantage of the consultancy now that it is here to look at the part of the cliff face just behind Catalan Bay where there are sporadic rock falls and where indeed it was deemed necessary at some stage when the school was there to vacate the school for the reason that there were rock falls in that area, would the Government consider including that in the consultancy or have a separate consultancy now that the company is there to look at the rock face in that area?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes and indeed there was a significant landslide the hon Member will recall. That has already been done and the recommendation is that a “rock bund” is to be built there and I think that the hon Member will find, I do not know if it is specifically disclosed as a project but that there are funds in the Improvement and Development Fund this year for the construction of a “rock bund” which I understand is a catchment area, a ditch so to speak to catch rocks as they fall.

NO. 622 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

TELEPHONE NUMBERING PROBLEM

Have the European Commission now been informed by Gibtel, Nynex or both, of the offer of extra telephone numbers made by Spain and in particular of those aspects of the offer which run contrary to Community Law?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No 623 of 2002.

NO. 623 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

TELEPHONE NUMBERING PROBLEM

Can Government state whether the British Government have been made aware of the aspects of the Spanish offer of extra telephone numbers which run contrary to Community Law, and if so, can they state whether this has led to the British Government taking a different view on the matter?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Yes.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 622 AND 623 OF 2002

HON J C PEREZ:

On both counts?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes. My only doubt is to whether in answer to the question as to whether the Commission have been told whether they were told by the companies or whether they have been told by the Government, they may have been told by both, certainly the Government have told them and have been told that the companies have told them as well.

HON J C PEREZ:

I believe on the last occasion I asked a similar question I was told that the companies were seeking a meeting with the Commissioner, have they had a response from the Commissioner is this to take place or has this taken place?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, it is important for there to be an obvious and clearly discernible distinction which of course there is in fact but it is important that we should not be blurring it here between the Government on the one hand and the companies as commercial private litigants on the other. Therefore the hon Member will understand that the Government cannot answer formally for the companies in that respect but that having said all that such a meeting has recently taken place and the companies have expressed directly to the Commission in a meeting their analysis and concerns purely commercially without straining to the political concerns which the Government for their part have done in a letter that I wrote to the Commission in question. My understanding of the information that has filtered back to the Government through our representation on the Board is that the Commission have not been particularly receptive or sympathetic to the points that have been made, not out of any judgement or assessment of the merits of the point but only I suspect in response to the fact that it was an unwelcome invitation to follow the line other than the line of least resistance which is the line that they were embarked on.

HON J C PEREZ:

Can the Chief Minister disclose in what way this has now changed the British Government's perception of the issue given that he has said 'yes' to both questions?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The only census of which the Gibraltar Government are aware that it has affected the British Government's perception is one in the very different treatment that this issue got in the communiqué after the last bilateral ministerial meeting compared to the glowing warmth with which it had be welcomed after Barcelona. What happened in-between is that the Gibraltar Government provided the British Government with an assessment and pointed out the cunning plan which one supposes had not been spotted before in London, secondly the fact that meetings had taken place between London and Madrid based on all of these issues that the Gibraltar Government at the political side and regulatory side and licensing side had pointed out and which the companies themselves had pointed out in respect of the commercial consequences to them of those points. So, the British Government understand that this is not quite as simple as they had at first thought and the deal is not closed so to speak on that and that the British Government are aware that the numbers are not presently being used, the alleged new numbers are not presently being used because they are not being made available at this end because it would involve accepting the conditions which come with them which are wholly unacceptable.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Who is it that would have to accept those conditions, the Government, the company, or the Regulator?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The owner of the numbering plan is the Government, it is a national asset. The numbering plan is administered on the owner's behalf by the Regulatory Authority and also the Government's involvement more directly is as Licensing Authority. The Government have to license people and the ability to license people is of course restricted by the fact that when one has licensed them there is no numbers for them to use. So, the answer to the hon Member's question is that it is a matter for the Government and through the Government and on their behalf the Regulatory Authority as administrator of the numbering plan on the Government's behalf to establish what the numbering plan is. In other words, commercial licencees which is what the two commercial operators are, are not free to select their own national numbering plan and put it into operation.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is the way that it has been done in the legislation indicative of the fact that a company could go directly to Telefónica and say I want some of these numbers and get it, is that what the Spanish legislation implies?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Is the hon Member referring to the Spanish 'decreto',

HON J J BOSSANO:

Yes.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, and I do not know if the hon Member is aware of a second Spanish 'decreto' much more recent which purports to give the same treatment to the existing 30,000 numbers. The hon Member may be aware and I think that I have explained this to him before in the past that we take the view that the 30,000 numbers in Gibraltar's original numbering plan are not numbers that Spain has given to Gibraltar but rather Gibraltar numbers which are accessible from the Spanish network. One of the objections to the alleged new 70,000 numbers was that they were 70,000 numbers out of and from the Spanish numbering plan so Spain was saying "...out of my numbering plan, I am making these 70,000 numbers available for use by Gibraltar," therefore incorporating Gibraltar physically and unarguably for the first time into the Spanish numbering plan. Given those 70,000 numbers were and under the terms of the 'decreto' assigned by the Spanish Regulator or the Controller of the Spanish numbering plan, I am not sure it is the Regulator, to Telefónica and therein lies one of the commercial complaints by the local operators, that they are in effect in the hands of the competitor, and that any Gibraltar operator that wanted access to those numbers should apply to Telefónica

who would sub-licence them. So, these were Spanish numbers assigned by the Spanish operator to a Spanish licensee, Telefónica, to whom Gibraltar licensees were supposed to go and apply “....please can I have 1,000 numbers,” which deprives the Government of Gibraltar of ownership of the plan, deprives the Licensing Authority of any licensing input over the numbers and deprives the Regulator of the Regulation of that numbering plan, in effect usurping to Spain ownership, licensing and regulatory functions applying to the numbering plan and in a second ‘decreto’ they have said “oh and by the way and that is the case with the first 30,000 numbers as of now,” even though it had not been the case in the past and that is where matters stand.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can Government give the date of the second one because I am not aware of it, I was referring to the one of November or if it is readily available it will save us searching for it?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I will certainly make a copy of it available to him but I do not have one here. It is quite recent a month to six weeks perhaps.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am grateful for that information but in fact my question was narrower than that and more specific, I was saying “is it the way that the Spaniards have set it out,” is it that in theory that somebody turns up tomorrow and says I want ‘X’ numbers and Telefónica is in a position to give it to them?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I suppose people could but physically those numbers could not be used in Gibraltar unless certain switches were thrown in Gibraltar which they will not be and have never been. There are physical things that Gibraltar has to do to allow subscribers in Gibraltar physical access to those numbers.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Would Nynex be the one that would be responsible for taking that step?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Technically yes but they are subject to instructions of the Regulator in that respect.

NO. 624 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

HARBOUR VIEWS PROMENADE

Have Government reconsidered their position with respect to providing bathing facilities at the Harbour Views Promenade by properly demarcating an area for swimming, and if so, will this be ready for the commencement of the official summer season?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

No, Government have not altered their previously stated position.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION 624 OF 2002

HON J C PEREZ:

The Chief Minister has not seen the light yet.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Not on this issue, no.

NO. 625 OF 2002

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

HOUSE PRICES

Can Government state what has been the increase in average house prices in the last financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No 626 of 2002.

NO. 626 OF 2002

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

HOUSE PRICES

Can Government explain how inflation in house prices is reflected in the Index of Retail Prices?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

House prices do not form part of the basket of goods and services in respect of which the Index of Retail Prices measures quarterly changes. The Government cannot therefore state what has been the increase in average house prices last year.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 625 AND 626 OF 2002

HON J J BOSSANO:

Do Government not think it is desirable to monitor the movement in average house prices?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I am not aware that Government have evidence of that, there is of course a casual monitoring in the sense that Ministers like everybody else are aware of the fact that house prices are rising and no one is under any conclusion that house prices are rising substantially in Gibraltar as elsewhere and this is good for homeowners and not good for first time homebuyers which is why the Government are shortly to unveil large scale housing programmes for such people.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Given the fact that homeownership is now much greater in terms of percentage of population in that area, would the Government not think it would be a good idea to get the Statistics Department to look at a way of measuring, we all know they are going up they are not coming down, but that the rate at which they are going up I would have thought would be a useful statistic for the Government and everybody?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The only source of that information of course is to individually log the information, for example, Government have two occasions upon which it could do that, on a deed by deed basis. When it comes to stamp duty or when it comes for registration as a land title deed I suppose that a note could be made and now with the age of information and technology I suspect that that is probably quite feasible and I would certainly suggest it to the Government Statistics Office to see if they could do that. It will not provide information as accurate as the hon Member and the Government might hope because the hon Member is aware that one of the ingredients because of the historical 7 per cent limit on home ownership resales annual increase, this practice has arisen whereby part of the purchase price is described as being in respect of fixtures and fittings and that does not appear on the title deed so in fact such Statistics would understate the amount that people are paying for their houses and therefore the extent to which they have increased.

NO. 627 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

TRANSFER OF BOATS AT WESTERN BEACH TO COALING ISLAND

Are Government now in a position to state 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

Negotiations with MOD and relevant third parties are at an advanced stage. Government hope to be able to commence this project soon.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 627 OF 2002

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

How soon?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Given that this is a project that the Government are very excited about and would dearly have loved to have done and have no reason to seek to delay I can express regret that it has not been possible to move for a variety of reasons all out of our control as fast as I would like. Suffice me to tell the hon Lady that the current delay is that we are awaiting and have been for some considerable time the MOD to specify

their requirements as to the facilities to be reprovided by us on those currently existing on Coaling Island wharf to be reprovided by us now in the Gun Wharf protrusion.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Can the Chief Minister confirm whether negotiations have been successful as far as the third party is concerned?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes the other third party being a private company with an interest in the land on Gun Wharf, that is being exchanged.

NO. 628 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

AIRLINES

Can Government say if they are aware of how many airlines are interested in flying a possible Gibraltar-Madrid route and if so which airlines they are?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

No airline has expressed to the Gibraltar Government an interest in that route.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 628 OF 2002

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Having discussed the matter with the Minister for Tourism earlier, the answer which the Chief Minister gives is not surprising but are the Government aware of the statements made by the Diputación de Cadiz including the Mayors of Algeciras and Los Barrios which in Spanish says that an act of goodwill would be having flights between Madrid and Gibraltar in which already several European carriers have expressed an interest, are the Government then not aware which carriers they are referring to?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. One of the problems with this sort of local initiative is that there seems to be a great rush to get into the public domain before the details of it are worked out. The answer is that the Gibraltar Government are not aware and indeed that remains the position. Let me say to the hon Member generally, in respect of that initiative, the Gibraltar Government are indeed very interested in pursuing that. The idea of forming a joint company is that if no established commercial airline could do it then the joint company would itself do it. At the end of the day all that needs to be done is to charter an aeroplane so that the idea is that the joint company would preferably find some commercial airline to do it but if one could not be found and I have seen what they have said in their press about the level of interest that exists in that respect but if one could not be found then the joint venture company itself could do it.

NO. 629 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

EU-FREE MOVEMENT OF GOODS

Can Government say at what stage is the Commission's action against the United Kingdom in five test case directives relating to Gibraltar and the free movement of goods?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I apologise to the hon Member for what is a very unhelpful and ill informative answer that has been prepared for me to give him but I am advised that the matter is still pending before the European Court of Justice. I suppose what he meant is at what procedural stages it is in. From my personal memory of it, which I would ask him to give me the opportunity to check, the United Kingdom has just sent in its response to the considered opinion. That is my recollection of the exact stage.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 629 OF 2002

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In the light of recent developments we take it the United Kingdom is still proceeding to fight this case and to maintain that the free movement of goods should not apply to Gibraltar?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I am not sure what recent developments the hon Member is referring to if he means the sudden interest in discussing Gibraltar's possible status within the Common Customs Union, to which of course this is inextricably linked. The answer is I have detected no change of posture or argument. The United Kingdom believes the Commission is wrong on this issue and is defending the case on that basis. The hon Member already knows the Gibraltar Government's views about the desirability or not of Gibraltar's status changing but leaving to one side what the UK may want to do at some stage on that issue legally I think it can defend itself and is defending itself rather than using some desire as a pretext not to defend the position. That is the position as I see it at the moment if I detect any change of tactic on the part of the UK I will of course bring it to the House's attention.

NO. 630 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

NUMBER OF STAFF IN GIBRALTAR OFFICES

Can Government list the number of staff and the posts at:

- (a) the Gibraltar Office in London;
- (b) the Gibraltar Office in Madrid;
- (c) the Gibraltar Office in Brussels;
- (d) the Gibraltar Office in Washington?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Yes I can although I will just mention to the hon Member before I do so that none of these are Government posts. The present complement is as follows:

(a) Gibraltar Office in London

Director
Tourism Development Manager
Tourism Sales Manager
Accounts Manager
Sponsored Patients Welfare Officer/Calpe House Liaison Officer
Secretary to the Director
4 General Information Officers including a part-timer

(b) Madrid Office

Marketing Co-ordinator
Administrator – vacant (post already advertised)

(c) Brussels Office

Gibraltar Government Representative

(d) Washington Office

Gibraltar Government Representative

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 630 OF 2002

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In relation to the Washington Office is that actually physically a Gibraltar Office establishment where the person goes full time or not?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

There is an office, a physical place, I have never visited it myself but one of my Colleagues has visited it, I have never been to it myself but there is an office there, I think it is in an office block and there is just this one person Perry Stieglitz whom I presume the hon Member knows, certainly the Leader of the Opposition does, works out of it. There is no other staff, I understand it is one of these support offices or managed space where there is a central typing service, telephonist service and this sort of thing.

NO. 631 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – INFORMATION OFFICER

How many persons applied for the vacancy for a Grade 1 Information Officer in the Gibraltar Tourist Board as advertised on 2 February 2002?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT

Twenty-six persons applied for the post of Grade 1 Information Officer, 19 were interviewed and two appointed.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 631 OF 2002

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can Government say if those appointed came from within the Government service or the unemployed lists?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I think that the two successful applicants came from outside the service.

NO. 632 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – NUMBER OF CIVIL SERVANTS

Can Government say how many persons are employed in tourism as civil servants outside the Gibraltar Development Corporation?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

This information is available to the hon Member in the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure just laid in the House.

NO. 633 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Can Government give the total amount of persons employed by the Gibraltar Development Corporation as at 31st March 2002, indicating how many are employed in tourism?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The total amount of persons employed by the GDC as at 31st March 2002, was 159 including 69 employed in tourism.

NO. 634 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

VISAS FOR NON-EU NATIONALS

What is the total number of visas issued in British Consular Offices in Morocco for non-EU nationals wishing to travel to Gibraltar on a monthly basis in February, March and April 2002 to date, providing a breakdown showing those issued in Tangier and Casablanca?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The total number of visas for Gibraltar issued in Morocco since 1st February 2002 up to and including 22 April 2002, on a monthly basis is as follows:-

February 2002	-	56
March 2002	-	68
April 2002 (Up to and inc 22.4.2002)	-	57
Total No of visas issued	-	181

The number of visas issued by Tangier and Casablanca is:-

	<u>Tangier</u>	<u>Casablanca</u>
February 2002	46	1
March 2002	56	1
April 2002 (Up to and inc 22.4.2002)	40	11

NO. 635 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

RESIDENCE PERMITS

Can Government say how many applications for a Gibraltar residence permit for the non-EU national spouse of British residents of Gibraltar are currently pending, listing from what date has each been pending, and showing the country of origin of the spouse?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No 636 of 2002.

NO. 636 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

RESIDENCE PERMITS

Can Government list the requirements for British residents in Gibraltar who marry non-EU nationals abroad who want to apply for a residence permit for their spouse?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answer to Question No 635 of 2002

There are currently 10 cases under consideration although a further six enquiries have been received recently in respect of which formal applications could materialise. The cases being considered are:

<u>Country of Spouse's Origin</u>	<u>Date of Request</u>
Moroccan	10.1.02
Moroccan	4.2.02
Moroccan	11.3.02
Indian	14.3.02
Indian	22.3.02
Moroccan	25.3.02
Indian	25.3.02
Indian	16.4.02
Moroccan	23.4.02
Indian	Visa application lodged in India on 9.3.02 but request for residence is still awaited.

Answer to Question No 636 of 2002

As a matter of immigration practice, requests to reside in respect of the non-EU spouses of Gibraltar residents are considered on their individual merits. Requests are carefully assessed in order to establish that the marriage is valid in law and the relationship is genuine and not one of convenience. The accommodation which the couple are to occupy, other relatives who may have to live with them and the ability of the resident to maintain his or her spouse without recourse to public funds are the main factors that are taken account of.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 635 AND 636 OF 2002

HON DR J J GARCIA:

One document which has been requested from applicants who have come forward with information is a request for a certificate of non-impediment on marriage. Our understanding is that this is not issued by the Government of Gibraltar itself and what we cannot understand is how, for example, obtaining a certificate that one is not married in India necessarily guarantees that one has not got married somewhere else?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Is the hon Member describing a certificate that is requested on an application for residence or an application for a marriage licence in Gibraltar?

HON DR J J GARCIA:

It relates first of all to the residency but perhaps if I go over the case it may perhaps clarify the situation. It relates to a Gibraltar resident, who say, wants to get married, before going through that process they are asked for a certificate of non-impediment from the jurisdiction where the wife originates. This causes all sorts of problems because some of the jurisdictions, like we do, do not actually issue this certificate and a guarantee by a notary public is apparently not considered enough by the Government. We are wondering if this was something that the Chief Minister was aware of and perhaps something which could be looked into?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No I am not aware of it, I will certainly look into it but I think that the hon Member is confirming by his last supplementary that this is something that is required when somebody seeks to get married in Gibraltar and not when somebody seeks to apply for a residence permit here. As I understand, what the hon Member is describing is a certificate that one is required to show that there is no impediment to marrying in Gibraltar, that is perhaps something that the Marriage Registrar might ask for when entertaining an application for a licence to marry, not residence. I will certainly look into it and let the hon Member know, I have never heard of such a documentary

requirement for the case of a residence application. Residence in the first instance is not a question of marriage, it is not a question of your spousal status.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Another area I think that the Chief Minister has alluded to is the question of the recognition of the validity of the marriage in law presumably in British law. Some of these marriages, as is obvious, are with spouses who are either Indian or Moroccan. There is one individual case where the person got married, was provided with a certificate as a testimony to that marriage in another jurisdiction, in a ceremonial way not in a civil way, and on returning to Gibraltar in order to make the wife resident was told obviously that they needed proof that the person is actually his wife and they needed to get married either locally or somewhere else. The problem is that on presenting the certificate of marriage the certificate is not a recognised certificate in Gibraltar which maybe is not recognised under British Law. The problem is that although they are saying that the certificate is not recognised in Gibraltar they do recognise that the person is married which means that in order to obtain a residence permit for the wife the person cannot get married here because the Gibraltar authorities are recognising his marriage somewhere else but they are not recognising the document that is being presented as a testimony of that marriage. This is probably one of the cases which the hon Member has listed but it is particularly a difficult one because there is a circular argument involved whereby the person cannot get married here and make the wife resident because he is married somewhere else, but the certificate of the marriage somewhere else is not recognised locally. This has created all sorts of difficulties for individuals who after all are British Gibraltarians and who are residents and who perhaps would like some clarification on this point.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

If the hon Member wants me to answer questions on individual cases then he needs to give me notice of them, I would say in response to the situation that he has explained is that knowing as I do the calibre and characteristics of the individuals, particularly the Head of Department in the Civil Service responsible for these things, I must say he has never struck me as somebody who would adopt quite an irrational position such as the hon Member has described in his supplementary, he either accepts the certificate or he does not but he cannot accept it for one purpose and not for another. My understanding and therefore he will forgive me if I in ignorance of the facts and having only the hon Member's version, or rather the version that has been put presumably by the affected party to the hon Member, he will forgive me if I do not on the basis of what he has been told by the complainant, if I can call him that, do not rush to accept the premise of his supposition but I will check it, I will ask the Civil Status and Registration Office whether the situation is as he is describing. My understanding is that the procedural requirement generally on these things is that the Gibraltar Government accept whatever is the certification under the law of the country where the marriage is alleged to have been celebrated and that is because people have got to bring in a marriage certificate from the country in which they have been married. The problem is I suppose that sometimes people bring in letters or certificates without the necessary official certification but on the whole I think it follows that these international certificates are recognised, but I will look into it and have the answer provided to the hon Member to see if the case, I suppose there will be somebody in the department who will be able to recognise the case from the facts that the hon Member has recited and I will have him informed of what the position is in respect of that case and generally. Mr Speaker, with your indulgence, if I could just

say that apparently the administration is presently grappling with three cases of marriages that appear to have taken a religious ceremony but not the appropriate civil ceremony in the country in question and that therefore there are difficulties of establishing the validity in law of the marriages in those countries. It may be and that the hon Member's case is one of those three.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

I do think it is one of those three, is there any set procedure to tackle those cases or is this something that has never happened before and that is why it is taking its time?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I will have to come back to the hon Member on that, I am not aware if there is.

NO. 637 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

OFFSHORE BETTING

Can Government say how many people are employed in the offshore betting industry indicating how many are part-time and how many are full-time as at 31st March 2002, 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

The latest available information supplied by the licensed operators as at 31st January 2002 was provided in answer to Question No 317 of 2002 in February of this year. This information is normally updated periodically and it is planned to be next reviewed at the end of June 2002.

NO. 638 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

OFFSHORE BETTING

Can Government say whether there have been any new applications for a licence to conduct offshore betting from Gibraltar in February, March and April 2002 to date, and whether any applications have been approved, rejected, or remain under consideration in that time?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Six enquiries have been received post the information provided in answer to Question No 316 of 2002 in February 2002, of which two resulted in formal applications and are under consideration. With regard to the previous applications referred to in answer to Question No 316 of 2002 the position remains the same.

NO. 639 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

IMPORT DUTY

What was the amount of import duty paid on building materials on a monthly basis in January, February and March 2002?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The amount of import duty paid on building materials for the months of January, February and March 2002 is as follows:

January 2002	£30,340.39
February 2002	£30,173.34
March 2002	£27,960.43

NO. 640 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

INTERNET CAMERAS AT THE FRONTIER

Can Government say whether the internet cameras will again be operational at the land frontier once the works in the area are completed by the end of April as planned?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

No.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 640 OF 2002

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can Government say why they have taken that decision, not to put them back?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The purpose for which they were originally set up has passed, they were set up in the midst of the very excessive frontier delays and the hon Member will recall that when we last had an exchange on this issue in the House I informed him that members of the business community, hotel trade and others were concerned that the cameras on the internet were simply being used by potential day visitors to check the state of the queue before coming down and if they saw a long queue they would not bother to

come and that that was generally thought to be contrary to Gibraltar's interest. Given the view that the Commission appears to have taken now on this issue which will be covered in another question in the order paper, the balance of interests in having them or not having them has now swung into not having them given that their presence is no longer improving the prospect of the Commission in taking any action.

NO. 641 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

CASEMATES DEVELOPMENT

Can Government say what type of business each of the five tenderers who applied for the three vacant units at the Casemates development intend to set up if awarded a unit?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No 642 of 2002.

NO. 642 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

CASEMATES DEVELOPMENT

Can Government say whether any units at Casemates have been vacated or reassigned in February, March or April 2002 to date, and if so which ones?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answer to Question No 641 of 2002

The proposed type of businesses each of the five tenderers who applied for the three vacant units at Casemates development intend to set up if awarded a unit are as follows:

1. Confectionary, Selected Spirits and Tobacco Shop.
2. Moroccan House Accessories Specialist Shop
3. Pick 'N' Mix Old Fashioned Sweet Shop
4. Tapas Bar
5. A Specialist Chocolate/Sweet Shop.

Answer to Question No 642 of 2002

No unit has been vacated at Casemates as such, Unit 3 Water Gate House held by Dan Trading Limited has been closed for a number of months now. Forfeiture Proceedings were issued against Dan Trading Limited on the 20th November 2001 to lead to the recovery of possession and arrears of rent on the unit. The position is that the defendant did not acknowledge service within the prescribed time after the Service of Claim. The Government are waiting for a judgement in default. No units have been assigned in February, March or April 2002.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 641 AND 642 OF 2002

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is it the case then that the three units remain vacant and the Government are expecting to allocate those to the five people who have applied and in what time scale is that expected to take place?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. The hon Member should not assume that just because there are as many applicants as there are vacant units that each applicant gets a vacant unit. The Government remain determined to carefully control the business activities within the Casemates Development to ensure that it does not become additional premises for the sort of retail outlets which add nothing to the Casemates experience and therefore from the list of five that I gave him some are entirely unlikely to prosper particularly the spirits and tobacco one. There has to be an element of speciality, it does not matter what but there has to be an element of curios or specialist retailing, it has got to be something special. So the sweets, tobacco and spirits one and also the tapas bar have not succeeded, the Pick 'N' Mix Old Fashioned Sweet Shop has been given the option to take over units 7C Casemates Arcade when surrendered but this has not yet been finalised.

NO. 643 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

CASEMATES DEVELOPMENT

Of the total number of tenants in the old Health Centre building at Casemates, as at 31 March 2002, how many have rent outstanding as follows:

- (a) current monthly only;
- (b) over three months;
- (c) over six months;
- (d) over twelve months?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos 644 to 646 of 2002.

NO. 644 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

CASEMATES DEVELOPMENT

Of the total number of tenants in the Casemates Development, excluding the old Health Centre block, as at 31st March 2002, how many have rent outstanding as follows:

- (a) current month only;
- (b) over three months;
- (c) over six months;
- (d) over twelve months?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos 643, 645 and 646 of 2002.

NO. 645 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

CASEMATES DEVELOPMENT

What is the total amount of rent owed by tenants in the old Health Centre block at Casemates as at 31st March 2002 and what is the total number of tenants?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos 643, 644 and 646 of 2002.

NO. 646 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

CASEMATES DEVELOPMENT

What is the total amount of rent owed by tenants in the Casemates Development, excluding the old Health Centre block as at 31st March 2002 and what is the total number of tenants?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answer to Question No 643 of 2002

- (a) Two
- (b) Nil
- (c) Nil
- (d) One.
- (e)

Answer to Question No 644 of 2002

- (a) Current month only 11
- (b) Nil
- (c) Nil
- (d) Nil.

Answer to Question No 645 of 2002

Total amount of rent outstanding at 31.3.02 = £11,719.95

Total number of tenants = 6

Answer to Question No 646 of 2002

Total amount of rent outstanding at 31.3.02 = £19,646.80

Total number of tenants = 26

NO. 647 OF 2002

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

HOUSING – 50/50

How do Government propose to establish the market value of the 50/50 homes to compare it with the proposed 4 per cent annual increase on the initial cost price in order to arrive at the sale price?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos 649 to 655 of 2002.

NO. 648 OF 2002

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

HOUSING – 50/50

Can Government state whether they have now identified a site in order to build further affordable housing units on a 50/50 basis as this is now an urgent issue?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Government have identified sites for all their intended house building projects but do not consider it appropriate to make them public just yet.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 648 OF 2002

HON DR R G VALARINO:

Will the Government decide to make them public in the near future at budget time or will it be some time in the summer or autumn recess?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I cannot tell the hon Member exactly when the Government will announce them because it is really a question of making final decisions about the distribution of which particular type of project to place on which particular site. One or two of the sites still have one or two loose ends which still need to be tied up so rather than encourage

speculation and then have to retract we would rather wait until we are ready to make the announcement. We do not expect it to be long and it might even be possible to do it during the budget maybe.

HON DR R G VALARINO:

This could also include sites for homes for the elderly as the Chief Minister has said previously.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes the Government are terribly proud of their achievements in respect of the Bishop Canilla Home for the elderly, a novelty of this Government's manifesto which I do not recall reading in anybody else's manifesto of the last election. We do have this manifesto commitment to build more of these houses they have been a roaring success and terribly popular with the elderly people and the Government fully intend to build more of them, not just because it is a very convenient form of housing for elderly persons who want to avail themselves of that sort of housing but also because it has the effect of freeing up much larger houses elsewhere in the Government's housing stock so everyone is a winner all around. It is a very value for money way of providing a maximum number of large houses in Gibraltar for people on the waiting lists.

HON DR R G VALARINO:

Will Government take into account that the largest number of people on the waiting lists are on the 1RKB and 3RKB lists and will this show appropriate increases for these type of houses?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I assume the hon Member is now talking about Government housing rental stock. Yes, the hon Member is right, the Government have carefully thought about the configuration of the supply that it now needs to make available and that amongst other factors have been taken into account.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Given that the original answer asked about housing units on a 50/50 basis, is the reply that we have had confirmation that there are going to be for home ownership on a 50/50 basis?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I have spoken of the Government's various housing projects. There are various types of projects with different types of conditions, the Government intend to comply with our manifesto commitment in respect of 50/50 schemes which I am sure the hon Member is familiar with the terms of that commitment so there will be all sorts of housing including homeownership.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is the number of units going to be influenced by the success of the proposed sale, is the money that is going to be raised from the proposed sale of the existing going to be channelled into building more and therefore does one affect the other?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Certainly the Government are intent on reinvesting any money that we retrieve. Any capital that we unlock from the 50/50 scheme the Government are intent in investing in housing and theoretically the more money the Government have available the more we can build on housing for rental, the capital cost of which has got to be assumed by the Government as opposed to other sorts of housing, 50/50 scheme part of the capital cost of which can be retrieved, so at the moment the scheme is not dependent on it. The financing of these projects is not conditional or dependent upon capital being available to the Government from the source that we have mentioned in the supplementary.

HON DR R G VALARINO:

Will this housing be means tested as explained in the manifesto?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

We keep all our manifesto promises.

NO. 649 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

HOUSING – 50/50

Can Government say how many homeowners have registered an interest in buying out the Government's share of 50/50 homes to date, giving a breakdown by estate?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos 647 and 650 to 655 of 2002.

NO. 650 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

HOUSING – 50/50

Can Government confirm that the 4 per cent price increase for the sale of Government's share of 50/50 homes will apply from 1st June 2002?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos 647, 649 and 651 to 655 of 2002.

NO. 651 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

HOUSING – CO-OWNERSHIP HOUSES

Can Government state whether the 4 per cent annual increase offer for the sale of Government's share of co-ownership homes requires the whole of the Government's share of each property to be bought by the other co-owner?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos 647, 649, 650 and 652 to 655 of 2002.

NO. 652 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

HOUSING – CO-OWNERSHIP HOUSES

Can Government say what is the estimated value of the Government's share of co-ownership homes on the basis of the offer for sales at the level of 4 per cent per annum increase on the original purchase price giving a breakdown by estate?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos 647, 649 to 651 and 653 to 655 of 2002.

NO. 653 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

HOUSING – CO-OWNERSHIP HOUSES

Can Government say which estates are covered by the extension of the 7 per cent price increase by one year to May 2002?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with question Nos 647, 649 to 651 and 654 to 655 of 2002.

NO. 654 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

HOUSING – CO-OWNERSHIP HOUSES

Can Government say which estates are still covered by the original nine year 7 per cent per annum price increase giving the date by which the nine year old period expires in respect of each estate?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos 647, 649 to 653 and 655 of 2002.

NO. 655 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

HOUSING – CO-OWNERSHIP HOUSES

Can Government state as at the beginning of this financial year what the estimated value was of the Government's share of co-ownership homes and the number of flats involved giving a breakdown by estate?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answer to Question No 647 of 2002

The Government have obtained valuation advice based on transactions on the current market value of the dwellings in each of the estates benefiting from the 50/50 scheme and will be applying those values to each of the estates, respectively.

Answer to Question No 649 of 2002

Co-owners have been able to register their interest in buying Government's share in their properties since 16th April 2002. As at 25th April the total number of expressions of interest received was 106. I do not think that it is appropriate to give publicly the breakdown that he seeks, at this early stage.

Answer to Question No 650 of 2002

Government can confirm that the offer applies from the date that the offer was announced on the 17th April 2002. Every co-owner interested in buying has a different original completion date from which the value of Government's share will be calculated. It depends on when they bought, that is when the 4 per cent will start.

Answer to Question No 651 of 2002

The current proposal is for the whole of the Government's share to be purchased.

Answer to Question No 652 of 2002

The estimated value of the Government's share of the properties based on a 4 per cent per annum increase over the original purchase price is £52.7 million. The breakdown by estate is as follows:

	(£m)
Montagu Gardens	15
Montagu Crescent	5
Westview Park	3
Harbour Views	19
Sir William Jackson Grove	7
Brympton	3
	<hr/>
Total	52
	<hr/>

Answer to Question No 653 of 2002

If the purchase dates in any of the co-ownership estates were before the 1st May 1992 they would have reached the end of the nine year period on the 30th April 2001. The extension to 10 years (under the Trust Deed) would mean that from 1st May 2001 to 30th April 2002 Government would not charge market value for any purchase of Government's shares they would restrict the price to the 7 per cent per annum. Montagu Gardens (Westside One) Phases I and II completed in early 1992. Phase III various dates throughout 1993 and 1994. Harbour Views (Westside Two) Phases I and II completed between August and November 1992 and the majority of Phase III between December 1992 and May 1993. Brympton Estate – Completions commenced in March 1993.

Answer to Question No 654 of 2002

Montagu Gardens – Phase III the last completion was in April 1995 (expiry April 2004).

Brympton Estate – The last completions were April 1994 (expiry April 2003).

Sir William Jackson Grove – The majority of 50/50 purchasers completed between June and August 1994 (expiry August 2003).

Answer to Question No 655 of 2002

The estimated market value at the beginning of the financial year of the Government's share of the properties was £73 million. The estimated breakdown by estate is the following:

	(£m)
Montagu Gardens	30
Montagu Crescent	10
Westview Park	5
Harbour Views	23
Sir William Jackson Grove	5
	<hr/>
Total	73
	<hr/>

The Government will respect the contractual rights of anyone whose nine year period has not yet expired but would equally offer them the more favourable option of 4 per cent as soon as they want to take it without requiring them to wait until the end of the nine year so it is entirely the option of the owner.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 647, AND 649 TO 655 OF 2002

HON DR R G VALARINO:

Since the answer is such a lengthy one I wonder whether the Chief Minister would be gracious enough to allow us a copy of his reply?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

As the hon Member is well aware the Chief Minister always tries to be as gracious as circumstances permit to the hon Members and therefore will happily make to them available prematurely a copy of the answer which he has just read. As to his last question Brympton seems to be missing I will check that for the hon Member.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The Chief Minister has just referred to the fact that in one of the questions I was saying the number of flats involved, that has not been included in the answer I take it?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. I regret that it has not been included and I will provide that to him but from memory I think that about 120 of these flats are subject to the 50/50 scheme with the exclusion perhaps of the Sir William Jackson Grove where there are many so called Option 'C' flats but I will provide him with the number of flats involved. The only information that I meant not to give him was the breakdown by estate of expressions of interest at this stage but there is no reason why he should not have the number of flats in which the Government have a 50/50 interest broken down by estate, he is welcome to that information but I cannot explain why it has not been provided to me for me to give him. I will provide it.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I take it that the information sought described the 50/50 as being interpreted as including 60/40's or 70/30's, that is to say people who have had resales presumably are covered in this offer for the balance that they do not own and therefore would that be included in all these calculations?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I would hope so, they should certainly be included in the information that I have given him as to the market value of the Government's shares. I would hope so, the name 50/50 scheme is a generic name which covers 70/30 and 60/40 so I hope that the answer to the hon Member's supplementary is yes but I will check.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Have Government a figure of the total number of units of which 106 we know have expressed an interest so that we can get a feel for just what the ratio is? Are we talking about 10 per cent of the possible ones or 20 per cent?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I cannot give an indication, the figure may have risen by now because this was as at 25th April 2002 and inquiries have been coming in but from memory I think there is about 1800 flats in all, that information will be clear when I have provided the hon Member with the number of flats.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The position then is that anybody wanting to buy between now and the end of the year will be able to buy at this price and then after January it goes back to whatever was the relevant criteria before this move was made?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes if anyone does not buy before the end of the year and the period of limitation has already expired then one is exposed to a Government entitlement thereafter to charge market value for their share. As the hon Member has seen from the answers I have given there are still some estates whose nine year period will not have expired come the end of the year, they will retreat but to their 7 per cent position. No one will be worse off than they are now.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I also asked if I am not mistaken about what the value would be of the property with the 7 per cent as opposed to the 4 per cent?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

That was the last answer, the hon Member asked "What was the market value based at 4 per cent?," that was Question No 652 of 2002 and I gave him the figure of £52 million and then his Question No 655 of 2002 was the estimated market value of the Government's share of the properties at the beginning of the financial year and the estimated market value for those properties still subject to the nine year rule is cost plus 7 per cent per annum. In respect of all properties because the others are still subject to the one year extension and the figure that I have given him subject to this not adding up/ omission of Brympton is £73 million without Brympton £80 million perhaps including Brympton and the difference has to be those 3 per cent for each of those nine now in some cases 10 years. I have not done the calculation to see if that is mathematically sensical or non-sensical.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I did not actually refer to the 4 per cent or the 7 per cent as the market value, I took the market value to be the value based on the valuation advice that the Chief Minister said that they had obtained.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I did say, the hon Member may not have heard me, valuation advice based on transactions. Therefore the valuation advice is not based on what somebody thinks that the house is worth but on an assessment of what the market is producing for them. On the basis of an assessment of the going rate for them in the market in terms of real purchases and sales that have taken place. This is not a sort of valuation on the basis of assessment of what somebody thinks of the value and thinks that the property is worth and those transactions upon which these valuations are based are transactions which have been subject to the 7 per cent rule and therefore must include the 7 per cent rule subject to the money which changes hands outside of the transaction and which is not taken into account here.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is the £80 million the result of the value in the books of the companies that own the property or the result of the valuation advice?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is the result of what the hon Member asked for in his question which was the market value. The market value means because of the conditions attached to the Trust Deed, the market value actually means cost plus 7 per cent per year except to the extent that that is frustrated in fact by money changing hands for fixtures and fittings which the Government are disregarding in these valuations.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Given that the actual statement issued by the Government is that they will sell their share of the property at either 4 per cent per annum increase or the market value

which ever is lower, that is the press release that the Government issued assuming that the Government cannot think that it is possible for 7 per cent to be lower than 4 per cent they must have been thinking about something else?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes we are thinking about something else, I had assumed that the hon Member would spot that. Obviously for the bulk of these things 4 per cent or 7 per cent is less than real market value except, there is a block in which market value might be less than cost plus 7 per cent or cost plus 4 per cent and that is Westside I Phase III which the hon Members will recall was subject to complications and price hikes and all manner of things which resulted in the fact that the cost paid for that particular block increased by 4 per cent may actually be more than the market value which has not run so fast in those flats than in the others because they paid much more for the flats originally and the reason why the Government have put that formula is just to give the option to those Phase III of Westside I who may be in that position. It very much depends on when one bought, how much one paid, whether it is a flat with a view or not a flat with a view but it is there just in case somebody needs to benefit from that rather than from the cost plus 4 per cent.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

Is the offer open only to owners at present, for example, if somebody were to sell his property tomorrow on a 60/40 or 70/30, will the offer also apply to the person buying now?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The offer applies to anyone that is in a position to buy from the Government their share before the end of the year, that might include somebody who is not the owner today but who buys between now and then and indeed may buy relying on that possibility, so the answer to the hon Member is certainly yes it includes such people.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can I just point out that in answer to Question No 655 of 2002 the higher value put on Sir William Jackson Grove is £5 million whereas the 4 per cent value put in Question No 652 of 2002 is £7 million and that cannot possibly be right.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It can be right because the Government have in Sir William Jackson Grove.....

HON J J BOSSANO:

But we are talking about the same price in both questions. Unless what we are being told is that the market value in the case of Sir William Jackson Grove follows the rule the Chief Minister has just said, which is that it is 4 per cent per annum, the fact that there are properties that are not 50/50 should be reflected in both, the answer to

Question No 652 of 2002 and the answer to Question No 655 of 2002 because it is the same question but a different multiplier.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The questions are not exactly formulated in the same way but I would accept at least if I had been reading these questions for answer the differences would not justify giving the answer on a different basis, I accept that even though they are not exactly formulated. I will have the clarification of all of these issues for the House tomorrow.

NO. 656 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

HOUSING – CO-OWNERSHIP HOUSES

Can Government state how many homeowners have purchased part, or the whole, of the Government's share of their co-ownership homes in the last financial year and the total value of such sales and the comparable figure for the preceding year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

A total number of 26 homeowners have voluntarily purchased the remaining Government's share of their co-ownership homes during the financial year 2001/2002. The total value of these sales was £794,908.91. The comparable sales figures in the preceding year 2000/2001 were a total number of seven homeowners who purchased Government's share of their co-ownership homes, and the total value of these sales was £205,051.35.

2001/2002		
Estate	Number of homeowners who purchased	Value of Sales (£)
Montagu Gardens	13	440,320.83
Montagu Crescent	1	45,500.00
Harbour Views	5	122,457.64
Sir William Jackson Grove	6	167,130.44
Brympton	1	19,500.00
Total	26	794,908.91

2000/2001		
Estate	Number of homeowners who purchased	Value of Sales (£)
Montagu Gardens	4	126,502.41
Harbour Views	2	57,561.34
Sir William Jackson Grove	1	20,987.60
Total	7	205,051.35

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 656 OF 2002

HON J J BOSSANO:

I take it that the proceeds of these sales are in the cash holdings of the residential property company which is shown in the estimates as cashing in Government companies, is that the case?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is, yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Would the policy of reinvesting the proceeds of sales back into investment in property apply to the money that has been raised until now?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes indeed.

NO. 657 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

IMPORTS – COMPUTERS

What was the value and number of computers imported into Gibraltar on a monthly basis in 2000, 2001 and 2002 to date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The value of computer hardware imported into Gibraltar, on a monthly basis in 2000, 2001 and 2002 to date is as follows:-

Imports of Computer Hardware			
Month	2000 (£000's)	2001 (£000's)	2002 (£000's)
January	525	284	391
February	232	396	1161
March	273	373	819
April	215	2542	-
May	263	267	-
June	1030	200	-
July	229	621	-
August	701	241	-
September	459	333	-
October	251	1224	-
November	388	416	-
December	279	562	-
Total	4845	7459	2371

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 657 OF 2002

HON J J BOSSANO:

I take it that the Government's own spending in computers will be reflected in these figures will they?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes the Government are now dutiable like any other importer on all items.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Will that have been the case in the three years?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I would have to check about 2000 but it was certainly the case in 2001 and may even have been the case by 2000.

NO. 658 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

FRONTIER FENCE

Have Government now decided how they are going to replace the frontier fence?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

No.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 658 OF 2002

HON J J BOSSANO:

Given the time that they have been considering it, is there a particular complication in the design of this or is it that they are not necessarily going to do it anymore?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, there is no complication. It is just one of those projects which are non-priority projects which have just stayed stuck in the sort of finance centre, tax reforms, relaunched external affairs talks that we have been dealing with. It is just one of those projects that have not been given a push, the stage at which it is at is actually the stage at which we last discussed it and that was that certain fencing proposals had been put up to the Government which were not thought to be appropriate because they were too non-transparent. If the hon Member is asking whether there is any political complication, non has been brought to my or the Government's attention.

HON J J BOSSANO:

No, no I was asking why it was proving so difficult, presumably the Government have someone working on this, I would have expected that if it was a question of design they would have come up with something by now.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I think this was one of the projects that awaits ministerial decision as to the nature of the fencing. One of the latest proposals in front of the Government is fencing of the nature that one finds outside the Fortress Headquarters building next to the 100 Ton Gun. That is the latest proposal and we have not moved beyond that.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I think in a supplementary on a similar question previously I had asked the Government whether they had looked into this business of the MOD at one stage being responsible for that fence and for its upkeep, has that been considered?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I fear that if we ask the British Government to contribute to the cost of the fence, first of all they would not and secondly they might take the opportunity to express a desire to pull it down altogether in the current climate and we would not wish to provoke that.

NO. 659 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CONSOLIDATED FUND

Have any transfers been made to the Consolidated Fund from the Short-Term Benefits Fund in the last financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

No. The sum of £5 million was transferred from the Short-Term Benefits Fund to the Social Assistance Fund as he will see from appendix 'H' of the estimates laid.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 659 OF 2002

HON J J BOSSANO:

Why was the Social Assistance Fund selected as a recipient of the £5 million?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

This is an issue which I am certain the hon Member would prefer to discuss with me in private.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The Chief Minister knows that I do not agree with the money being taken out of the Short-Term Funds and we voted against it. Is it not the case that that money could have been transferred to the Closed-Long Term Benefits Fund which requires constant money being put in it and was that not something that was given consideration?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It could have been transferred anywhere but the use to which it was put given that the fund was in significant surplus over its foreseeable requirements was a purpose which better suited its description of Short-Term Benefits.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Given that the money which goes into the Closed Long-Term Benefits Fund is money which is monthly transferred from the Open Long-Term Benefits Fund, it is initially the result of Social Insurance Contributions the same as this, would the Government not agree that if monies are required in that fund the logic is that it should come from here?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Government could have applied this money to any number of purposes and the effect of using it for one and not for another is that for the other the money has to come from some other place. Now in respect of the decision to have used the money to supplement the Long-Term Fund, yes, that is a possibility but the requirements of the Long-Term Fund will need to be supplemented. The hon Member knows that the Long-Term Fund is not a fully funded fund, the money could have been used for that. Instead it has been used for another purpose the hon Member will find equally desirable.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I have no doubt about the desirability of the purpose but I am not questioning the purpose, I am questioning whether money that has been paid for by people who pay social insurance should not go where all the other money from the social insurance is going and this is a point that we made when the Ordinance was amended last year and we voted against.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Leader of the Opposition knows that money from the Social Insurance contributions goes to several places including the Group Practice Medical Scheme, it is not true that money from the Social Insurance Contribution goes only either into the Short-Term Benefits Fund or to the Long-Term Benefits Fund. There are other purposes for which the money goes, we had this debate at the time that this Bill was passed at the House, the Government do not share the view that this is money which is earmarked for use only for one or other of the uses to which Social Insurance

Contributions are made. The entitlements to people under the Short-Term Benefits Legislation are statutory and completely unconnected to the existence of the cash fund itself so whether the Government take all or part or none of the money out of this fund the purpose for which it was put remains an entitlement of the recipient payable by the Government, in fact there is more than enough money left in that fund to pay the requirements of that and the Government does not share the hon Member's view that this money should have been used for the particular purpose that he has mentioned either because it is one of other destinations of social insurance contributions or otherwise it was not the view that the Government took.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The Government know full well that the separation of Short-Term and Long-Term Benefits came post 1988 as a result of the liability of Spanish Pensioners which the United Kingdom acquired, and when in 1996 and 1997 when the funds were restored the position of the Government was that the very high level of reserves in the Short-Term Benefits Fund which had been put there for a particular reason at the time would be made available to the Long-Term Benefits, that is what was said at the time so why have the Government not done it?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I can only rely on his memory for the fact that it was said at the time. I do not recall whether anything was said at the time and if so whether it was what the hon Member has just recited or not. The funding certainly may have been said that that was one of the possible uses for which to put it and indeed it was and is, it is just not what was eventually decided. What was eventually decided was what the Government were advised was another perfectly legitimate use of those monies and that is the decision that was made. Certainly the decision that the hon Member would have preferred could also have been made but the Government chose not to make that one, it chose to make a different one.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Was the sum arrived at on the basis that it was desired to provide £5 million to the SAF or that the correct balance for the Short-Term Benefit was the £6.4 million that has been left behind?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. I understand that the capital that was left behind is still far in excess of the reasonably foreseeable requirements of the Short-Term Benefits Fund and therefore it is not that this figure has been chosen because it has the effect of depleting the balance left of capital in the Short-Term Fund to that which has been actuarially calculated it should be. It is still more than it needs to be.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I do not think that is the answer that I was given by the Financial and Development Secretary earlier but the implication is that if it is in the Government's judgement or advice of what is required it is still possible to draw further on that fund?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The hon Member would understand that it is all a matter of judgement on interest and investment rates but yes subject to that variable, yes.

NO. 660 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX – SELF EMPLOYED PERSONS

Can Government now state what were the amounts assessed in respect of self-employed persons for each tax year from 1995/96 to 2000/2001 giving the amounts discharged, confirmed and paid and the number of tax payers involved and can they further show in respect of each year whether this was based on returns provided by the tax payer or on estimates by the department as at 31st January 2002?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The schedule that I now hand the hon Member provides the statistical information requested in respect of self-employed persons. The data is as at 24th April 2002 and does not distinguish between estimated and non-estimated assessments. The Commissioner of Income Tax advises that this statistical data has been compiled in-house using the computer data transfer function available to the department since April 2001.

	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Assessed	7.6	7.8	9.5	9.6	45.2	8.4
Discharged	4.7	4.4	5.4	5.4	40.7	3.4
	2.9	3.4	4.1	4.2	4.5	5.0
Paid	1.9	2.4	2.6	2.7	2.8	2.0
Outstanding	1.0	1.0	1.5	1.5	1.7	3.0
No of Taxpayers	1177	1122	1144	1056	997	823

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 660 OF 2002

HON J J BOSSANO:

Obviously the £45 million for the year 1999/2000 on self-employed persons is a figure estimated by the department, is there a particular explanation for that which seems extraordinarily high given that we are talking about 1,000 people being the number of tax payers?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I believe, although I have to check for him, that this question arose last Question Time and that the answer then was that there had been a computer input error which could only be reversed by a corresponding figure on the debit side and that that explains why it is £45.2 million and £40.7 million and not two figures between zero and 10 as is the case in all other years. I believe that to be the explanation but I cannot tell the hon Member with certainty. I will endeavour to find that out by tomorrow. Whilst I am on my feet can I just mention to the hon Member that he will notice if he compares this information with the information as to 1995/96 and 1996/97 and 1997/98 that we gave in answer to Question No 446 of 2001 which he asked in February of that year. At the time the facility to download and manipulate data for statistical and managing purposes was not available to the Commissioner of Income Tax as it now is and the information given in answer to that question in February was provided by the Information Technology Unit. The Income Tax Office has been unable to find out exactly why the differences arise hence why they have not been answering the hon Member's questions when he asked it, for example, in October 2001 and in February 2002, he asked similar questions, Question No 1233 of 2001 and Question No 326 of 2002, so whereas the Commissioner of Income Tax has drawn the information now given to him from the department's own manipulation of

the data available to them from new programmes, softwares, now in operation, they do not currently compare with information given from another source back in February 2002 in respect of those three years and the Commissioner of Income Tax has not yet succeeded in finding out why the Information Technology Unit provided that information in that form.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In relation to my supplementary on the £40 million I think that the Chief Minister is thinking of a figure of £80 million that appeared in reply to a previous question which was on corporation tax, can I take it then that this is considered to be more accurate than the figure previously provided in respect of the earlier years?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is so considered by the Commissioner of Income Tax who is now able to extract given his new computer and software facilities. The Commissioner is now able to draw this internally as management information from his own system so I am certain that he would consider this information to be such that he can vouch for it.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In the distinction which is the same that is drawn between companies where a tax return is made and companies where an assessment is made by the department, is it that the department cannot differentiate in respect of any year or would they be able to do it for more recent years but not going further back?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Again I cannot give the hon Member an entirely reliable answer to that but my reading of the Commissioner's explanation is that his new computer system is not programmed to report that distinction. Whether it can be programmed to report that distinction I would have to find out but what he is saying is that the data does not distinguish between estimated and non-estimated and knowing the Commissioner of Income Tax he would only have failed to make that distinction in answer to a question from the Leader of the Opposition if he physically could not and it would not have been out of any choice not giving it. It may be that it can be programmed and that there is a limit but certainly as I said to the hon Member if there is any sort of information to which they for reasons of their own attach a particular importance they are certainly free to write to the Minister, in this case me, and I would be very happy to do all that is reasonably possible to get the appropriate department's computer programmed so that it reports information in the way that the hon Member wants it in answer to his questions. Where the difficulty comes in is where the Government spend a lot of money programming computers which serves the departments needs and the departments supposed desire for management information of how they want it and then the hon Member comes and asks the question in a slightly different format and then one finds that the computers have not been programmed in that way. Certainly if he has got particular requirements I am perfectly happy to feed them in and have the computers programmed in that way if possible, I do not understand these things but I suppose it must be possible.

NO. 661 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX – PAYE

How much was collected in PAYE each month since December 2001?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The figures (net of refunds) and subject to possible adjustments when reconciled with the Treasury Books are as follows:

	£M
December 2001	4.0
January 2002	5.0
February 2002	4.1
March 2002	3.7

NO. 662 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX – PAYE

Can Government say what was the amount collected in PAYE in the last financial year by area of employment as follows:

- (a) MOD
- (b) Government of Gibraltar
- (c) Government owned and joint venture companies
- (d) Private sector employment?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The total amount of PAYE collected in the Financial Year 2001/2002 was £54.7 million analysed as follows:

	£M
MOD	4.2
Government of Gibraltar	19.4
Government owned & Joint Venture Companies	2.4
Private Sector Employment	28.7
	<hr/>
	54.7
	<hr/>

These figures are subject to possible adjustments when reconciled with the Treasury Books.

NO. 663 OF 2002**THE HON J J BOSSANO****INCOME TAX – PAYE**

What is the current estimated amount of PAYE payable in the tax year 2000/2001 by area of employment and the number of employees in each area as follows:

- (a) MOD
- (b) Gibraltar Government
- (c) Government owned and joint venture companies
- (d) Private sector employment?

ANSWER**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Based on the Employers' Annual Statement, Declaration and Certificate submitted up to 24.4.02 the information sought is as follows:

	£M	Approximate No of Employees
(a) MOD	3.9	2700
(b) Gibraltar Government	14.5	5100
(c) Government owned and joint venture Companies	2.5	700
(d) Private sector employment	27.1	15500
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	48.0	24000
	<hr/>	<hr/>

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 663 OF 2002

HON J J BOSSANO:

How do Government explain that in answer to Question No 1232 of 2001 the figure that I was given for the private sector was higher even though at the time the caveat was entered that a total of 433 employers had not yet returned their PAYE declaration and that consequently one assumes that since that answer more people have made returns so how come the figure has come down?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I suppose the hon Member is referring to Question No 1230 of 2001?

HON J J BOSSANO:

Question No 1232 of 2001, Question No 1230 of 2001 was the figure for the months of PAYE?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

What was the figure given for private sector?

HON J J BOSSANO:

For the private sector we were told it was £29.4 million and 16,000 and at the time 433 employers had not yet made their returns so consequently the indications were that when those returns arrived the figure would be higher?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I would have thought so, I cannot give an explanation but I will tomorrow.

NO. 664 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX – PAYE

As at 31st March 2002 how many employers had returned the 2000/2001 Employers' Declaration and PAYE Certificate and what was the total amount of tax deducted and the number of employees affected?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

As at 31st March 2002, a total of 1,549 employers had submitted their 2000/2001 Employers' Declaration and PAYE Certificate. The total amount of PAYE tax deducted was £47.3 million and the number of employees was 22,170.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 664 OF 2002

HON J J BOSSANO:

The figures of employees do not seem to tally with the ones that I have just been given in the previous answer which is for the same tax year.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

In what respect are they not consistent?

HON J J BOSSANO:

The answer that I was given was a breakdown which showed MOD, Gibraltar Government, Government owned and private sector and if we add that I think that that comes to more than the 22,000 that I have just been given.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The only explanation that is possible from the information that I have in front of me is that whereas Question No 663 of 2002 is given up to the 24th April 2002 , Question No 664 of 2002 is up to 31st March 2002 whether those days are capable of explaining the difference I cannot calculate on my feet at this time of the night but I can find out and try and confirm it.

NO. 665 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX – PAYE

As at 31st March 2002 how many employers had not yet returned the 2000/2001 Employers' Declaration and PAYE Certificate and what is the estimated number of employees affected?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

As at 31st March 2002, 356 employers had not yet returned the 2000/2001 Employers' Declaration and PAYE Certificate. The estimated number of employees affected was 1,800.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 665 OF 2002

HON J J BOSSANO:

When I was given the information last time that there were 433 who had not yet returned, it included the Government, are Government still included there?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

What was then the number of employees?

HON J J BOSSANO:

It was 433 employers and the figure which was not in the written thing was something of the order of 4,000.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I would then guess but it would be no more than a guess that the Government are no longer included here but I can find that out for him.

NO. 666 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX – PAYE

Of the 124 employers who had not yet returned the Employers' Declaration and PAYE Certificate for the tax year 1996/97 as at 31st January 2002, how many are still trading and of these how many have failed to make returns for subsequent tax years?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The department has reason to believe that 71 of the 124 employers are still trading and that the remaining 53 employers are currently not trading and no one has seen fit to arm me with the other information that the hon Member seeks, namely how many are the ones thought still to be trading, have failed to make returns for subsequent years but I suppose that all of them otherwise the answer that I have given would presumably not be formulated on the basis of reason to believe. If they were trading, if they had submitted subsequent returns presumably there would be evidence that they were still trading.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 666 OF 2002

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is the Chief Minister saying that the fact that they are trading is based on the fact that they have made returns?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not know I was giving the hon Member information and making one possible supposition from it. The hon Member asked , "...of the 124 how many are still trading and of the ones that are still trading how many have failed to make returns for subsequent years, and the only information that I have given him is that the department has reason to believe that 71 of the 124 are still trading and that 53 are not trading but they do not tell me of the 71 that they believe to be trading they do not tell me whether or not they have made or failed to make returns in subsequent years and I am supposing that they have not because if they had it would not be a question of believing them still to be trading but knowing them still to be trading but that is supposition on my part. If the hon Member is particularly keen to have that part of his question answered I can ask but I suppose that it means inspecting all 71 files.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Would the Government not agree that if there are employers that have retained the PAYE of their employees from 1996/97 and are trading and have continued doing it ever since something ought to be done about it?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I agree with the hon Member.

HON J J BOSSANO:

That is why I want to know.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

As the hon Member knows enforcement of the Income Tax legislation is not something that political government gets involved in. The Hon Member has asked me whether I believe that it is a situation that requires or indicates that something should be done that people should be in arrears of PAYE by five years and that they should still be trading and no one tackles them and the answer is that I believe that that is an unacceptable situation if it is happening and something should be done about it. As to what should be done about it I suppose it is the usual answer if one takes the necessary proceedings one jeopardises the jobs but there comes a time which is implicit in the hon Members point that these jobs are not sustainable anyway they can only be definitely sustained on the basis of non-compliance with fiscal obligations. The hon Member should not assume that nothing is done although clearly if there are 71 companies that have not paid their PAYE from 1996/97 then there is at least 71 cases of the sort that he has described.

HON J J BOSSANO:

What I am suggesting is that would the Government not agree that it is a sufficiently manageable number to say "...instead of chasing somebody else," I would have thought that the people who have been defaulting longest ought to be tackled first.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I agree entirely with the hon Member and I would make the suggestion to the Commissioner of Income Tax.

NO. 667 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX – CORPORATION TAX

What was the total amount of Corporation Tax collected in each month since January 2002?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Corporation Tax collected in each month since January 2002 (net of refunds) was as follows:

	£M
January 2002	0.4
February 2002	0.2
March 2002	3.4

These figures are subject to Treasury Books reconciliation.

NO. 668 OF 2002**THE HON J J BOSSANO****INCOME TAX – CORPORATION TAX**

As at 31st March 2002 how many companies in each of the tax years 1995/96 to 2001/2002 had been assessed for company tax, the amounts of tax payable and amounts paid in respect of each tax year?

ANSWER**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

I hand the hon Member a schedule giving the information he has requested.

	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Assessed	15.7	15.2	17.9	24.4	85.3	21.0	12.6
Discharged	5.2	4.1	6.7	11.0	71.1	8.4	1.4
	10.5	11.1	11.2	13.4	14.2	12.6	11.2
Paid	9.5	10.2	10.2	12.4	12.8	9.6	4.2
Outstanding	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.4	3.0	7.0
No of Companies	1436	1410	1449	1421	1477	1385	1000

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 668 OF 2002

HON J J BOSSANO:

In a supplementary to Question No 1222 of 2001 which provided the same information which has now been updated, I asked for an explanation why the number of companies had come down in respect of 1995/1996 and 1996/1997 notwithstanding the fact that the amounts had not altered, I note that the figure has gone up again to the one provided in Question No 450 of 2001, can Government confirm at a later stage which is the accurate one?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

For which year?

HON J J BOSSANO:

In the year 1995/96 in answer to Question No 450 of 2001 I was told that it was 1,430 taxpayers assessed at £15.5 million, this then became 1363 assessed at £15.7 million and I found it odd that the amount assessed had gone up and the number of taxpayers had come down. In the supplementary that I put at the time, in fact the information did not come back, but I notice that now the figure is £15.7 million and it is 1436 as opposed to the 1363 that I was given before so I would like to know which is the correct figure.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Question No 450 of what year?

HON J J BOSSANO:

It was Question No 450 of 2001 was one figure and then Question No 1222 of 2001 was the other figure.

NO. 669 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX – CORPORATION TAX

As at 31st March 2002 how many companies had been assessed by the Commissioner of Income Tax, without having made a return of taxable profit, (a) above and (b) below £35,000 in taxable profit for the years 1998/99 to 2001/2002, what was the tax assessed and paid in each case and for each category and each year what were the amounts of tax assessed and paid by qualifying companies?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I hand the hon Member a schedule giving the information that he has requested.

Answer to Question 669 of 2002**COMPANIES OTHER THAN QUALIFYING COMPANIES**

	Year of			
	Assessment			
	1998/1999	1999/2000	2000/2001	2001/2002
	£	£	£	£
<u>Under £35,000</u>				
No of Companies assessed	943	868	705	730
Total assessed (i.e. total tax payable)		1.5M	1.4M	1.5M
Total paid under	1.2M	0.7M	0.4M	0.2M
<u>Over £35,000</u>				
No of Companies assessed	57	56	38	52
Total assessed (i.e. total tax payable)		3.3M	2.2M	2.7M
Total paid over	3.2M	2.8M	1.6M	0.8M

QUALIFYING COMPANIES**Under £35,000**

No of Companies assessed	23	27	5	Nil
Total assessed (i.e. total tax payable)		26K	2K	Nil
Total paid	2K	0.16K	0.32K	Nil

Over £35,000

No of Companies assessed	2	8	10	Nil
Total assessed (i.e. total tax payable)		54K	0.2M	Nil
Total paid	Nil	22K	0.1M	Nil

NO. 670 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX – CORPORATION TAX

As at 31st March 2002 how many companies had declared a taxable profit (a) above £35,000 and (b) below £35,000 for each of the tax years 1998/99 to 2001/2002, what was the tax assessed and paid in each category and can Government state in each category and for each year how many were qualifying companies and what were the amounts of tax assessed and paid by such companies?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I hand the hon Member a schedule giving the information that he has requested.

Answer to Question 670 of 2002**COMPANIES OTHER THAN QUALIFYING COMPANIES**

	Year of Assessment			
	1998/1999 £	1999/2000 £	2000/2001 £	2001/2002 £
<u>Under £35,000</u>				
No of Companies assessed	142	175	209	119
Total assessed (i.e. total tax payable)		353K	463K	245K
Total paid under	314K	331K	413K	115K
<u>Over £35,000</u>				
No of Companies assessed	53	48	62	44
Total assessed (i.e. total tax payable)		6.3M	6.9M	6.6M
Total paid over	6.2M	6.3M	5.9M	3.0M

QUALIFYING COMPANIES**Under £35,000**

No of Companies assessed	5	7	Nil	Nil
Total assessed (i.e. total tax payable)		4K	Nil	Nil
Total paid	3K	4K	Nil	Nil

Over £35,000

No of Companies assessed	10	14	3	1
Total assessed (i.e. total tax payable)		1.4M	157K	82K
Total paid	865K	1.4M	97K	Nil

NO. 671 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GOVERNMENT DEBENTURES

As at 31st March 2002, what was the value of Monthly Income Debentures and Pensioners Monthly Income Debentures issued by the Gibraltar Savings Bank?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The value, as at 31st March 2002, of the Monthly Income Debentures and the Pensioners Monthly Income Debentures is as follows:

Monthly Income Debentures	£17,552,800
Pensioners Monthly Income Debentures	£18,950,300

NO. 672 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

I & D FUND

Was the £10 million loan for the Improvement and Development Fund drawn in the last financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

A total of £8 million was borrowed for the Improvement and Development Fund during the financial year ended 31st March 2002.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 672 OF 2002

HON J J BOSSANO:

Was the £8 million drawn under the (a) facility of the NatWest Loan which is the revolving one?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I honestly do not know, I do not take the same keen interest that the hon Member used to take in the minutiae of treasury management, I honestly do not know but if the hon Member is particularly keen to know I shall find out for him.

NO. 673 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR COMMUNITY CARE LIMITED

Have any more purchases been made from Gibraltar Community Care Limited of 11.875 per cent 2005 Gibraltar Loan?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

No. The holding by Gibraltar Community Care Ltd of Gibraltar 11.875 per cent 2005 loan still stands at a nominal of £36,438,000.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 673 OF 2002

HON J J BOSSANO:

I was told on the previous occasions which is now some years ago that the timing of this was so that they would not be getting the money closer to the maturity date when the market value comes down to the nominal value, is this no longer a consideration?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

My understanding is that those in Gibraltar Community Care Limited who have carefully assessed the actuarial funding requirements have not yet offered any more of their stock for sale, I would not want to be more specific than that. The hon Member and myself could have a private conversation if he wants to.

NO. 674 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Do Government still expect the results of the October 2001 Employment Survey to become available this month?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The October 2001 Employment Survey Report was finalised in March this year and has been tabled earlier on at the beginning of this meeting of the House.

NO. 675 OF 2002**THE HON J J BOSSANO****EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT**

Can Government state whether GBC, the Office of the Ombudsman and the Refuse Incinerator company are included in the Private Sector in the October 1998, 1999 and 2000 Employment Survey Reports and if so give a breakdown by nationality of the number of full-time and part-time employees accounted for by these three employers?

ANSWER**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

The Government can confirm that GBC, the Office of the Ombudsman and the Refuse Incinerator company were included in the Private Sector in the October 1998, 1999 and 2000 Employment Survey Reports. The breakdown by nationality and full-time/part-time employees is shown in the table provided.

GBC, Office of the Ombudsman, Onyx (Gibraltar) Ltd						
	1998		1999		2000	
	Full-Time	Part-Time	Full-time	Part-time	Full-Time	Part-time
Gibraltarian	30	12	40	10	51	12
Other British	1	1	2	1	6	-
Spanish	-	-	2	-	1	-
Other EU	-	-	-	-	1	-
Other	-	-	1	-	1	-
Total	31	13	45	11	60	12

NO. 676 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CENSUS OF GIBRALTAR

When do Government expect to be in a position to publish the results of the 2001 Census?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Government expect to be in a position to publish the 2001 Census of Gibraltar by autumn of this year.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 676 OF 2002

HON J J BOSSANO:

When was the last date for the forms being collected, was it earlier this year or was it last year?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I could not possibly say but I can tell the hon Member that coding and data input is some 85 per cent complete and that data validation of the information inputted has also commenced and I am told by way of comparison that the reports in respect of November 1981 Census and the October 1991 Census were published in December 1982 and November 1992 respectively.

NO. 677 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

ABSTRACT OF STATISTICS

Can Government now say when the 1998 Abstract of Statistics will be published?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I cannot offer the hon Member an explanation of why there has been an interruption in the publication of the abstract but I am assured by the Chief Secretary that the 2001 Abstract, which will include all the missing years, will be published before the end of this year on the basis of a revamped set of statistics and tabled presentation. The Statistics Office seem to think that it will be much improved based on the data available in the Census and in the data that will be available in the Input/Output Study and this apparently will be an all singing and dancing Abstract of Statistics which still does not explain why it has not been published in the old form for the missing years but let us hope that the new one is worth waiting for.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 677 OF 2002

HON J J BOSSANO:

Presumably that will only affect the results for the last year because the years up to the year 2000 would be done I take it on historic data which is available within different departments, is that the case?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes I think that must be right.

NO. 678 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT

Can Government say how they have calculated that the Gross Domestic Product is currently £450 million?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The GDP figure of £450 million is an estimate based on the preliminary findings of the Input/Output Study which calculated GDP to be in the order of £400 million in 1998/1999.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 678 OF 2002

HON J J BOSSANO:

In answer to a question in the last House about the report of Professor Fletcher that was used in the European Court case, I was told that he had not provided any estimates of GDP, are these figures provided by him or not?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not know, certainly I can tell the hon Member, I do not know if there is another question in the Order Paper, that the Input/Output Study has just been received, it does not answer his question as to what the state of the Government's knowledge

was when the £450 million figure was given, I am afraid I cannot accurately set the chronology. When was the £450 million given?

HON J J BOSSANO:

It was given in the recent speech that the Chief Minister made in the London School of Economics or somewhere and which was published here as a Government Press Release.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not know what the answer to the hon Member's question is, it was certainly an estimate but whether the estimate was given with a draft of the Input/Output Study in hand or without even a draft of the Input/Output study in hand I could not say.

HON J J BOSSANO:

But one would assume that a figure given in that context would be treated as being reliable given that it was delivered by the Chief Minister and not anybody else. If the Chief Minister tells the London School of Economics that we have a GDP of £450 million and he happens to be the head of the Government, they assume that it is a reliable solid figure not just picked out of thin air.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

What I suppose they would assume as everyone that has ever heard a Gibraltar GDP figure historically would also have assumed that there is some scientific model basis for the figure and the answer is that until now when we have the Input/Output Study there has been less than complete economic science in these figures in the past and certainly the Government have been aware, at least I have, that when I make broad political use internationally of these figure that this is a guesstimate and one of the reasons why we commissioned the Input/Output Study and did it on an organic model basis so that it is precisely that we should always have available to us the model for producing national income accounts and GDP measurements on an on-going basis which in the past has not really been the case. It has really been back of the envelope sort of stuff by those that have to calculate it as best they could and I believe that the Input/Output Study and the model that it creates will provide an on-going mechanism for very accurate information of this sort and of other sorts. I do not want to pre-empt what we might exchange in relation to another question on the Order Paper but the Input/Output model is such that, for example, it will be possible to test what the effect on Government Revenues would be, for example, of the Tax Reforms that the Government are planning, it is that sort of model so Government are confident that we are now on the threshold of a new era of additional and more reliable economic statistics for Gibraltar and therefore I attach less importance to dwelling on the past whether it be the recent past or more distant past.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Certainly however accurate or inaccurate it is it must be better than what we have had since 1996 which is nothing.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Government have not published formally GDP statistics because the Government are not satisfied that until we receive this model that the Government had available to it the means to produce a statistic the accuracy of which it was willing to answer for and I know that previous Governments have taken a different view of this but that is the view that we took that to have calculated GDP using old models giving the enormous change that there has been in the meantime in the economy it would not have produced a meaningful or credible figure. Even if the Government could have arrived at a figure it would not have had the means to justify, so whether any such figure would have been better or worse than no figure is very much a moot point. Certainly it would have been possible for the Government to have bragged about growth in the economy for domestic political purposes, we chose not to do it because we did not feel that we would have had sufficiently reliable economic statistics for it. That has now changed and it will now be possible to give regular annual GDP figures.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Yes but whether in fact the new model does all the things that the Chief Minister believes it will do remains to be seen and we certainly will have to wait to see the report and see the model because I will remind the Chief Minister that Input/Output models of the past have been a total disaster and I have reminded him of this before so we will have to see what this one has got that the other ones did not have because the other ones failed miserably to predict anything even though the experts who were paid to produce these things made similar claims. Could I ask the Chief Minister in terms of the calculation for the GDP if it is going to be based on whatever it is that the Input/Output model does it will only be possible to do that from a current or future date? Will the years where nothing has been done will anything be done about those years or that remains as a black-hole between 1996 and now?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Without wishing to suggest that earlier years in respect of which a figure was bandied about for GDP shed any more light than the current black-hole, there comes a time where unjustifiable and uncheckable figures are less transparent still than no figure at all but leaving that point to one side I have not yet seen the model myself. The model as all Input/Output models relies on the accuracy of the statistical information that is fed into it, theoretically I suppose that it will be possible to run historical data in respect of past years through the model and get the result that the model would have produced in those back years so to speak had the model been applied. I cannot imagine why it should not be possible to do so given that it is a computerised model.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I think that the Chief Minister said that the figure of £400 million was 1998/1999 in answer to the original question, so the estimate of £450 million was in respect of what year, 1999/2000 or now?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

2000/2001, who knows.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Oh I see.

NO. 679 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

IMPORTS

What was the volume of imports of petroleum products from Spain in the calendar years 2000 and 2001?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The volume of imports of petroleum products from Spain in 2000 and 2001 were 1,446,107 metric tonnes and 1,395,559 metric tonnes respectively.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 679 OF 2002

HON J J BOSSANO:

Am I right in thinking that this accounts for almost all the petroleum products, that Spain is the main source?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is certainly the main source whether it is the exclusive source I dare not say, from time to time tankers arrive from further afield and I do not know whether some of the non-Cepsa bunkerers bring it from elsewhere, in fact I am told that they do but what proportion I cannot tell.

NO. 680 OF 2002**THE HON J J BOSSANO****IMPORTS**

What was the value of goods imported by land and sea, other than petroleum products, each month since December 2001?

ANSWER**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

The information requested is as follows:

	2002 (Value of Goods Imported Other Than Petroleum Products)	
	Land (£ million)	Sea (£ million)
January	19.4	2.9
February	17.0	2.7
March	16.4	5.8

NO. 681 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INPUT/OUTPUT STUDY

Can Government state whether Professor Fletcher has now completed the final validation of data for the Input/Output Study?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No 682 of 2002.

NO. 682 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INPUT/OUTPUT STUDY

Can Government state whether the Input/Output Study has now been finalised?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Input/Output study was finalised last week and the Report was submitted to the Government on Thursday 25th April.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 681 AND 682 OF 2002

HON J J BOSSANO:

What is the next step following this receipt of the report, is it that it requires a policy decision or something to be done or it sort of gets implemented?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No there is nothing to actually implement in an Input/Output Study as the hon Member knows, whether it will be set up as a model and utilised is another question but the first thing that needs to happen is that the Government need to read it, digest it, and understand it. That is presently being done at senior officials level and I hope to read it myself in the not too distant future and then a policy decision will be taken (a) how to put it into practical use and (b) also the question of whether and to what extent and on

what terms to circulate it and to whom to circulate it and whether to publish it or not to publish it. All these things need to be decided once the content of the model has been studied. At the moment the position is that I have not seen it at all myself and that it is still being considered by officials in the appropriate departments principally the Chief Secretary and others.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Given that the Chief Minister has not seen it, does he know enough about what it contains to be able to say, for example, whether the report contains an explanation of the methodology and how the proposed structure has been arrived at what has been going on since 1996. We are talking about something that was announced in 1996 presumably a lot of data has been collected in the intervening period and I would expect that the report would say how the information obtained is linked to the recommendations that it makes as to how the Input/Output model should work in predicting what happens in the economy?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I cannot tell the hon Member whether it does or does not contain that but I shall ask and let him know, as I say I have not looked at it myself and I am not in a position to answer any questions about it at this stage. Even if it did not contain the information that the hon Member wanted, if the Government can be persuaded by him that it is relevant to obtain it we can always get information from Professor Fletcher about the methodology whether or not it is contained in the report. I am sure he can provide a methodology statement even if he has not done so in the report.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Do Government know whether in fact the approach of the Input/Output Study is used anywhere else for GDP calculations because in the United Kingdom there is a thing called the 'Blue Book' which as far as I understand is what the Statistics Office here has always relied on for trying to do the same thing in the case of Gibraltar.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I think the basic issue is that the inability to calculate GDP appears to have been based on lack of reliable information to feed into the formula. Part of the exercise of the team has been to identify the information required.

NO. 683 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GOVERNMENT TENDERS

Can Government say what is the policy when awarding tenders and the prospective contractor owes the Government money?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

When tenders are considered and before they are awarded, the debtor position in respect of monies owed to the Government by the prospective contractor is ascertained. In cases where there is a debtor position, the award is normally made conditional on the contractor entering into an arrears agreement to regularise its position. When the debts owed are significant, the tender may not be awarded to that contractor.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 683 OF 2002

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is this a position that is taken by the Tender Board?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

One of the things that the Tender Board do is consult the Central Arrears Unit and people of that sort. They establish the debtor position and they then include it as part

of their recommendation that the contract should or should not be given to this or that tenderer.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is it that the Board decides if a particular amount of money is significant or not, is that the case?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes that is my understanding it certainly does not come to Ministers or anything like that, it gets absorbed as part of their decision making process. So they are exercising the judgement as to whether the debtor position is such that the company should not be rewarded with a Government contract.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Presumably the rationale of that would be that the debtor position might be indicative of a problem in fulfilling the contract because if by giving the contract the Government stands a better chance of recovering the money then it would make sense. Obviously I am assuming that if it were not for that the person would stand a chance of getting a contract obviously?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I am not sure that that is the main reason, there are probably several reasons, one is as a straight forward deterrent this is a stick that the Government tend to wield, "if you do want access to Government work then you will be compliant with your obligations in terms of taxation and social insurance contributions et cetera." So in one respect it is just an attempt by the Government to exercise leverage over people that it can in that respect but secondly and this is something that the Chamber of Commerce have often brought to the Government's attention and that is that there is a need to create a level playing field for contractors. If one is a contractor or a supplier, it is not just building contractors, this applies across the board and one is not complying with ones obligations in terms of social insurance, PAYE et cetera, et cetera, then the advantage over ones competitors because one can always quote a cheaper price for the services if one is not meeting ones dues from the profits one is making and so businesses that do comply with their obligations consider that they are being disadvantaged because compliance has a cost. Companies that comply necessarily have got to quote higher prices than companies that do not bother to comply and therefore in practice have less overheads and therefore they can afford to write down their quotation. So, it is both, leverage in order to maximise Government Revenue and also levelling the playing field to ensure that the non-compliers do not actually obtain an advantage in the tendering process through being able to undercut companies that do comply.

NO. 684 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CIVIL SERVICE –VACANCIES

Is it no longer Government policy to advertise vacancies within the Civil Service before such vacancies are opened up for applicants outside the service?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

It remains Government policy to advertise vacancies in the Civil Service first, unless there is a good, exceptional reason for not doing so , and then in consultation with the trade union concerned.

NO. 685 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

REGISTER OF GIBRALTARIANS

How many persons are currently on the Register of Gibraltarians?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

There were a total of 35,244 persons entered in the register of Gibraltarians on 23rd April 2002.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 685 OF 2002

HON J J BOSSANO:

Obviously that includes all Gibraltarians abroad?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I fear it may be worse than that, it is not accurate as to people that may have passed away and things like that. It is not an accurate figure of those registered Gibraltarians who are still alive but it would certainly include Gibraltarians abroad, registered Gibraltarians who do not live in Gibraltar.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Would the Government not agree that it is desirable to do something to produce perhaps in addition to this a register of those Gibraltarians who have not passed away and are living in Gibraltar given the speculation about a referendum where presumably the persons on the Register of Gibraltarians will feature prominently if not exclusively?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

This is a matter that is under consideration as the Government start to plan ahead for possible referenda, several questions arise whether who would be eligible to vote in that referendum and any administrative work we should be getting on with. What we do not want to find is to find that we make a choice as to some of these questions and then find that we have not done the administrative preparatory work. We are now focusing on issues such as that implied by the hon Member's supplementary.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So that means that in fact this particular aspect which I would have thought was irrespective of who else may be included, we can take it as given that those on the register of Gibraltarians will be permitted to vote.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It would be inconceivable that registered Gibraltarians would be excluded from the vote, I cannot imagine who else might vote but certainly it would include registered Gibraltarians. Obviously the issue is whether any referenda should be limited to registered Gibraltarians or should be based on the electoral register, that is the issue.

NO. 686 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

VISAS

Can Government say whether any new arrangements have been introduced for holders of a UK visa wishing to visit Gibraltar?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

As from 3rd June 1999 arrangements are in place under which holders of valid UK multiple entry visas and persons with indefinite leave to remain in the UK are exempted from the requirement to hold separate visas for Gibraltar if they seek to enter as visitors for a short period of stay which is not normally expected to exceed one month. No other new arrangements have been introduced since then.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 686 OF 2002

HON J J BOSSANO:

I understand that people have been experiencing difficulties recently which was not the case before and it appears to depend on how the question of multiple entry is interpreted, are Government aware of this?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No I am not aware of it, I do not see how the documentation itself can be the subject matter of any problems because either one has a multiple entry visa in ones passport or one does not and either one has a status that has unlimited leave to remain

indefinitely to remain in the UK or one does not. I suppose it is still possible for an Immigration Officer in Gibraltar to doubt whether the purpose of the visit is temporary and that might be a reason why in an individual case, I am not aware of any cases in which it has but speculating on the basis of the point made by the Leader of the Opposition I can see that that might be a reason. Another reason where it might give rise to incidents if indeed there have been any is that the exemption does not apply to persons entering from Spain and intending to return there, or those in transit to Spain unless valid Schengen visas are held which would ensure their entry or re-entry to Spain. So, if people are arriving at the border and do not have a documented ability to re-enter Spain, then they are not allowed into Gibraltar even if they would be free to be in the UK because then they have no means of leaving Gibraltar by the way that they have entered namely the land frontier. So, it may be if there have been incidents and I do not know if the hon Member has any in mind, he might like to consider whether they involve persons that arrived or tried to enter through the land border because another possible difficulty might have been that they were not sufficiently documented to get back into Spain by the land border.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Yes, the cases of which I am aware of are from the land border so that might be an explanation, but I understood also that there was something about visas being given for a year and whether a year long visa for UK is considered multiple entry because one can go in during a period of a year but apparently there is some doubt as to whether that means that one can go in and out as many times as one wants in that year or there is a limit in the sense that the expiry date is a year but it does not clearly state how many times one can move in and out in that year?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, I am not aware of any such issue but I will make it my business to find out. Of course multiple entry visas always have a date attached to them, I have a multiple entry visa for the United States but it expires in five years time or in three years time. So there is a difference between the ability to come and go as often as one pleases within a fixed period of time and a visa for a fixed period of time. It may be that there is such some issues, if there is I regret I am not aware of it and I am sure if the hon Member writes to the Chief Secretary or whoever else, light can be cast on the case that he has in mind but I suppose that if he wanted to comply with convention, which is not always his strong suit, he would write to me as the Minister and I would get him the information but I am happy that he should do it either way.

NO. 687 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EU NATIONALS

Can Government confirm whether EU Nationals of school age are entitled to take up residence in Gibraltar to attend school if one of their parents, not an EU national, holds a valid residence permit?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

EU nationals of school age are entitled to take up residence in Gibraltar if at least one of his or her parents is an EU national, resides in Gibraltar and is exercising EU rights of establishment as, for example, an employed person. Where this is not the case, there is no entitlement for these EU children of non-EU national parents to reside in Gibraltar. Therefore the answer to the hon Member's question is no. The resident parent must be the EU national.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 687 OF 2002

HON J J BOSSANO:

Given that it is not an EU right in the light of that answer are Government willing to consider on its merits cases were there are, one particular case that I am aware of is somebody who has been here for 17 years and is exercising the right of establishment in the sense that he is self-employed and the child of that person is of Spanish nationality. If we are required to do it to an EU national almost on arrival would a case like this of which I do not know how many there might be I only know of one, but would cases like this be something that the Government would exercise discretion on?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, I have to say that the Government are continuing the policy that we inherited from him in this respect except that we have relaxed it considerably in favour of the children of Moroccans resident in Gibraltar who are now given access to free school education in circumstances where it was previously deprived to them but the tendency of the Government is not to make individual exceptions in an area of rights which is statutory. Government find as I am sure the hon Member did when he was in office that at the time that one makes an individual exception one has very little way of knowing how it might affect other people and even if there are not people in exactly the same situation there were people in a different situation who then say "*well if you made an exemption for that situation why do you not make an exception for my situation even though it is different.*" Therefore, we believe that when it comes to things like acts to help and access to education there should be a fair system but once a fair system has been agreed then it should be applied informally rather than having Ministers exercising on an individual basis who gets the statutory entitlement and who does not. That is my general inclination, if the hon Member wants to write to me with the facts of the case that has been brought to his attention I am happy to look at it to see if there is any way of squeezing it past the existing policy without altering the policy. On the basis of the facts that he has given to me it seems a pretty general exemption as I have understood him to say there is a non-EU spouse of an EU national resident in Gibraltar. The non-EU spouse is resident here but the EU spouse is not?

HON J J BOSSANO:

No, the child is an EU national because he was born in Spain.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I see.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The father is in Gibraltar and the child wants to be with the father but cannot. My question was whether given that he has Spanish nationality, if the parent was of an EU nationality presumably the answer would be that he would not need a permit he would just automatically come in.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

If the parent resident in Gibraltar were an EU national the child would have an EU entitlement.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I was trying to establish whether that applied even if the parent was not an EU national and the answer is that it does not.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

That is right.

NO. 688 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR AIRPORT

Can Government say whether Gibraltar airport will be covered by EU measures to raise compensation levels to passengers?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I think the hon Member is referring to Regulation 295/91 on Denied Boarding Compensation, which does not exclude Gibraltar. This gives passengers the right to financial compensation, the choice of an alternative flight at the earliest opportunity, re-routing or reimbursement of the ticket. In 1998 the Commission concluded that the regulation needed extension and clarification, and proposed an amended Regulation. Unfortunately the Council has so far failed to adopt the proposal due to disagreement about its application to Gibraltar airport. As matters now stand the latest version of the proposal published on 21st December 2001 (reference Com (2001) 784 Final) does not exclude Gibraltar airport as it currently stands published but unimplemented because of the impasse about Spain alleging that it should not extend to Gibraltar.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 688 OF 2002

HON J J BOSSANO:

Given that it is a Regulation if it sort of gets finalised will it apply automatically?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Unless it excludes Gibraltar on its face by the introduction of the Gibraltar exclusion formula which we maintain is illegal. Government believe there is no entitlement to exclude Gibraltar from a first pillar measure. Whether this will be assisted by this formula that the UK and Spain recently announced as a means of resolving aviation measures, namely, that they would refer it to the Commission who would decide whether it applied to airports and if they did it could not be applied to Gibraltar and if it did not it would remain to be seen.

NO. 689 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SUPREME COURT OF GIBRALTAR - JUDGMENT

Since the answer to Question No 350 of 2002, has there been any instance of a Supreme Court judgment being accepted for enforcement in Spain?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I can confirm that since the answer to Question No 350 of 2002 the Government have received no request for the transmission to Spain of a Supreme Court judgment.

NO. 690 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR COMMUNITY CARE LTD

What action have the UK Government requested the Gibraltar Government to take in respect of Gibraltar Community Care Ltd and when was this first raised?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Community Care Trust, and its associated companies, are not entities in respect of which the Government have power to take action. I am, if the hon Member wishes, happy to meet with him to give him a private briefing on this issue. I do not believe that it is in Gibraltar's interests to debate this issue in public at this time.

NO. 691 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SPANISH PENSIONERS

What is the position regarding the legal action against the Government in the name of Spanish pensioners which was pending in May 1996?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

In 1996 the Claimant appealed to the Court of Appeal against an Order of the Supreme Court which required the Claimant to put up security for the Government's costs of defending the case, failing which the Claimant would not be allowed to continue with the case. The Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal in September 1996. The Claimant never provided the security ordered and the case therefore came to an end in 1996.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 691 OF 2002

HON J J BOSSANO:

I would need to go back and check Hansard but certainly my recollection in 1996 was that that was not the explanation that was given, the explanation that was given was that the Government were doing nothing to have it dismissed because it felt that it was better to let matters run for a while before they even moved on this.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Possibly but that was at a time when the matter was in process, at the time of that exchange as I recall the position was that they were not proceeding with it, once the Court of Appeals judgement was given and the security was not provided then things happened automatically without the need for the Government to do anything.

NO. 692 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SPANISH PENSIONERS

Can Government say what was the reply given to the European Commission on 27th September 2001 regarding the information it was seeking with reference to the Spanish pensioners complaint and what further exchanges have taken place since?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The reply given by the United Kingdom Government to the EU Commission explained the arrangements which were put in place following the dissolution of the Social Insurance Fund in 1993 and the resumption of fixed pension payments under the new closed scheme. The reply also explained that Gibraltar residents over retirement age were eligible to receive various forms of financial assistance such as Elderly Persons Allowance and Household Cost Allowance. This prompted a second letter from the EU Commission on 15th November 2001, seeking details of the nature of the Elderly Persons Allowance and the Household Cost Allowance. The United Kingdom replied to this letter on 1st February 2002 explaining the nature of these two allowances. I would add that the Government were consulted on the terms of both replies and expressed our disagreement over the inclusion of references to the Household Cost Allowance, including the form in which such references were made.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 692 OF 2002

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can the Government say whether in fact the complaint which the Commission was pursuing was and is as far as we can tell from what has come out publicly for the Social Security Pension to be revalued in accordance with the index of retail prices, is that the nature of the complaint that the Spanish pensioners put to the Commission, because that is how we have understood it?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

According to the Commission the complaints they received relate to the fact that Spaniards pensions have been frozen since 1990 unlike they allege those of pensioners resident in Gibraltar who it is further alleged will receive regular increases to their pensions. Of course the underlying nature of their claim is for a revaluation of their pensions. They are not saying, "If you withdraw the alleged increases from the Gibraltarians we will be happy," they are saying, "I do not care what is happening with the Gibraltarians, we believe that we are entitled to revalurised pensions," and the whole thing on whether or not the Gibraltarians have had increases is irrelevant to the existence of the claim which is that they believe that regardless of what is happening they are entitled to revalued pensions. Although it is also true that they do rely on the fact that they alleged that the Gibraltarians are being paid pension increases to strengthen their claim but their claim is for a revalurised pension.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Given that the United Kingdom in fact when the decision was made that they would pay provided the pensions were frozen for five years in 1989 and then subsequently in 1996 when they agreed to resume payment provided they continued to be frozen which is in fact something that was reflected in the amendments to the Closed Long-Term Benefits Fund in the Social Insurance, given that the UK informed the Commission of this action since at the time infraction proceedings were imminent, has the UK not argued that it was known that they were going to be frozen before they were resumed and nobody raised any objections?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I am not aware that the UK has argued that, although we have urged them to do so amongst other arguments.

NO. 693 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

MOTION RE: VAT

What action have Government taken to bring to the notice of the Secretary of State in the UK the text of the motion on VAT passed at the last meeting of the House?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Government have not brought this motion directly to Mr Hain's attention, although I presume that the Convent systematically reports such matters to the FCO in London.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 693 OF 2002

HON J J BOSSANO:

I was under the impression that the Government were unhappy to have a clause requiring them to do so on terms which indicated that the reply was expected but I was not aware they were going beyond that point to say that they would not simply bother to have the motion. It is then dependent of whether the Governor has chosen to do it or not?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is dependent on whether the Governor has chosen to do it or not and it is also dependent about whether any Member of this House wants to send it to Mr Hain. If the Leader of the Opposition thinks that this House thinks that this House says or does something which he believes that it is important that Mr Hain should be aware of, then of course he is free to write to Mr Hain sending him a copy of it.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I will take the Chief Minister's advice.

NO. 694 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

ELECTRICITY SUPPLY – LIBERALISATION PROPOSALS

Can Government state whether Gibraltar will be affected by the decision announced at the Barcelona Summit to liberalise the electricity supply market?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The decision taken in this respect at Barcelona was a preliminary political decision. There are as yet no liberalisation proposals. We presume that any future liberalisation directive that may emerge will apply to Gibraltar, if electricity is regarded as a service and not as “goods”.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 694 OF 2002

HON J J BOSSANO:

That would also depend on what happens with the test cases on ‘goods’ presumably?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, the issue there being whether our exclusion from the Common Customs Union which is unchallenged necessarily has as a consequence our exclusion from the Single Marketing Goods which had always been assumed wisdom and that is what is now being challenged, the consequence but not the origin.

HON J J BOSSANO:

As I understand it from what I have read of the decision it is at this stage limited to commercial as opposed to domestic consumers.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, it is a test case raising the principle and it is not limited in its effect either as the hon Member has suggested or by any other means. The question at issue is whether given that Gibraltar is by agreed derogation excluded from the Common Customs Union, does that mean that it is necessarily also excluded from the Single Market in Goods or can one be in the Single Market In Goods even if one is not in the Common Customs Union, that is the issue, if it is resolved in favour of the Commission then it will apply to all directives in 'goods'.

HON J J BOSSANO:

My last supplementary was not related to the test case, it was related to the original question about the liberalisation, my understanding is that what was agreed in Barcelona was that they would proceed with liberalisation of electricity supplies to commercial users as opposed to residential.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Absolutely right, there is as the hon Member will be aware, this is a controversial issue in the UK, those Members with liberalised electricity industries want access basically to the French market. The French Government are determined to hang on for as long as possible to their state owned monopolies in electricity and have grudgingly conceded this limited liberalisation, limited as the hon Member correctly says to commercial users as a first step the others hope.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is there a parallel between this, for example, the question of telecommunications were the network owner as it were is required to make available capacity to competitors?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

There are no proposals we just do not know on what terms the Commission is going to propose this liberalisation.

HON J C PEREZ:

Would the Chief Minister not agree that if indeed there is a parallel with the telecommunications and there is a need to have a central grid in which the commercial electricity in the future might have to come that there is a strong case to perhaps be prepared now for excluding Gibraltar from the measure as a result of the peculiarity of our own system?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Government will form a view on such issues when we are aware of what the proposals are.

NO. 695 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EUROPEAN ELECTIONS

Have the UK Government accepted that the territory of Gibraltar must form part of the UK constituency selected for Gibraltar's participation in the next European elections?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Yes.

NO. 696 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EUROPEAN ELECTIONS

Have Government made any progress in persuading UK that Gibraltar should participate in a south west euro-constituency as their preferred option instead of being included in the London Constituency?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The matter of which regional constituency Gibraltar will be added to has not yet been specifically discussed with the British Government it is one of the issues that is on the agenda for discussion.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 696 OF 2002

HON J J BOSSANO:

Would this be something that the Government as such would do it or is there something like, there is a Boundaries Commission for national elections in the United Kingdom, presumably there must be something similar for Euro elections would that body have to be involved?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The information that we are getting so far from the British Government is that that is the body that would make the decision and not the Government, whether and what degree of influence that leaves the Government with is a matter of speculation for the

likes of the hon Member and myself but that is formally the body that makes the decision not the Government.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is there just one commission for both National Parliamentary elections and Euro elections or are they different bodies?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

My understanding is that it is the same body, the Electoral Boundaries Commission.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is there any kind of indication whether they are particularly inclined to one as opposed to another?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I cannot recall from whom or in what circumstances but certainly not in any formal sense. I am under the impression that it has been indicated that there is a preference for the London region rather than an outer region.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I take it that the Government view from previous answers is that we are likely to be less lost in a smaller constituency than if we were part of London which I think has got 10 million voters?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I think the constituencies are all roughly the same size in terms of the electorate that they contain. They are as the hon Member knows regional lists but certainly my view is not so much because of the size of the constituency but the political and electoral environment in an urban setting compared to the political and electoral environment in a rural setting makes the latter one in which the Gibraltar electorate is more likely to make a visual impact, statistically of course the impact is the same but in terms of political impact is much more likely to be perceptible in a rural environment rather than in an urban setting like London. I think these issues are true even for residents of those constituencies.

HON J J BOSSANO:

But is it not the case that in addition in fact London is one single constituency as opposed to the regions that have got about 3 million people. In the case of London the whole of London is one constituency, it is not broken up?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The whole of London is one constituency but what I cannot say is where the borders of London end and Middlesex, Surrey, Kent, Essex and Hertfordshire begin.

NO. 697 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

STATE AID RULES

Can Government confirm that the main actions in the European Court of First Instance regarding the application of State Aid Rules to Gibraltar exempt and qualifying companies will take place this month or the next?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The main actions have already taken place. We are awaiting the Courts' ruling, which was expected on 30th April 2002 and is now known and the results of it have been made public.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 697 OF 2002

HON J J BOSSANO:

The ruling was, as I understand it, that the Commission was wrong in trying to classify the whole of the Tax Exempt Ordinance as new aid as opposed to the 1978 and 1983 amendments and the court therefore said in its summary that it did not have the power to tell the Commission to concentrate on those amendments, the only thing that it could do was annul the whole thing. Does that mean that now the Commission can come back and say, " We are now going to pursue those two amendments as new aid,"?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is technically possible, it would be I am told pretty inconsequential if they did because of the nature of what those amendments were and the number of people affected. The point is and we have just received technical analysis of the judgement which I have not yet seen, the Commission is free to start again on exempt companies but regarding it as existing aid and the court thinks that it is being properly regardable as an existing aid does not mean that the Commission is not free to investigate it. It simply means that it has got to follow the procedure applicable to existing aids which is much less aggressive and which amongst other things includes the fact that one can carry on whilst the investigation takes place. A very different issue is whether it is in Gibraltar's interest to do that and using the present position as a negotiating platform for the Tax Reforms of the Commission because one of the great problems that Gibraltar is presently suffering is that the market uncertainty whilst the question mark hangs over the future viability of this product is causing serious damage to the Finance Centre because no client wants to use a Gibraltar tax exempt company if its status is going to be called into question 18 months down the line. People want a greater degree of certainty than that so that coupled with the fact that the Commission is free to start again and coupled with the fact that there are other international and EU initiatives, sooner or later Gibraltar is going to have to comply with those, it suggests and this appears to be the consensus in the finance centre that the Government should continue with their tax reforms.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Given that the decision on the qualifying companies was in favour of the Commission, what exactly happens with those now?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I am grateful to the hon Member for reminding me that is one of the reasons why tax reform is really necessary because we need to find a way of dealing with the qualifying companies in which we always thought our grounds were much less certain than exempt companies. The position is that the Commission's decision to initiate the new aid procedure for its investigation into qualifying companies has been found to be lawful and that the Commission is therefore free to pursue that investigation to see whether qualifying companies legislation constitutes state aid and whether it does constitute state aid of the sort that is prohibited by the State Aid Regulation. That is the nature of the formal investigation that now takes place. They have of course already formed the preliminary view that it does and that is reflected in the issue of the decision letters of July 2000.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is it then the case that if changes are proposed to the qualifying companies system which the Commission considers overcome the reasons why they think it might be illegal state aid, then the investigation would not proceed?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

An inaccurate premise to that question the nature of the complaint if sustained, the nature of the complaint is such that it cannot be cured by tinkering with the legislation. There is not some sort of alteration one can make, the whole concept of the discrimination between tax systems that are available to some tax payers but not to others that goes to the very root of the legislation and therefore remedying it is not a question of making changes here or there but rather completely removing the system and replacing it with another system that is compatible with Gibraltar's inward investment and Finance Centre base requirements. If the Government continue with their tax reforms, it is very much hoped that in exchange for those reforms which are being informally consulted with the Commission there would be no purpose if one is driven precisely by eliminating uncertainty from the marketplace. There is no purpose in putting in something which then itself is subject to uncertainty. It is very much hoped that if there is reform the Commission will decide not to proceed further with the qualifying companies and will not bother to start again with the exempt ones under the alternative regime and in a sense that is one of the advantages that we hope to achieve by winning this case. It may have increased the chances of the Commission taking that view. There are of course other issues for which this case has been very useful not least the dangers of recoverability from recipients of the state aid probably under exempt companies.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In the case of the qualifying companies assuming that that path does not follow, what would be the time scale of the Commission carrying on with the qualifying company, given the fact that the court has now ruled that they can carry on?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

These things are said to take normally between 12 to 18 months, whether that is what it will take in this case and in parallel to that there are recoverability issues. In parallel to its investigation into whether the regime constitutes unlawful aid or not there is a debate about whether if it should be found to be illegal aid the Commission should or should not in the circumstances of the case order recoverability, and those arguments have already begun.

NO. 698 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

FRONTIER DELAYS

When were Government told by the European Commission of their decision that frontier delays by Spain were not disproportionate?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No 699 of 2002.

NO. 699 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

FRONTIER DELAYS

Did Her Majesty's Government consult the Government of Gibraltar prior to making the request to the Spanish Government that they should open a second lane for private vehicles entering Spain?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Gibraltar Government had not received any communication from the European Commission to the effect that the frontier delays caused by the Spanish Government were not disproportionate. The United Kingdom Government informed us on the 19th March that the EU Commission did not consider that it had a strong enough case to initiate proceedings against the Spanish Government. For its part the Spanish Government had agreed to open a second channel at the frontier provided the EU Commission closed the fiche on frontier delays. I understand that the Commission closed the fiche on the 20th March, that is, on the same day that the Spanish Government opened the second channel in accordance with agreed choreography and chronology.

However on the 26th April a letter dated 18th March addressed by the EU Commission to the "Complaints Office, Four Corners, Government of Gibraltar, Office of the Chief Secretary, No 6 Convent Place, Gibraltar," was received. In that letter, the EU Commission says that on the 30th October 2000, it sent a letter of formal notice to the Spanish Government drawing its attention to the fact that the checks at the crossing point between Spain and Gibraltar might be disproportionate and, therefore, incompatible with Community law. The Commission adds that in its reply of 20th December 2000, the Spanish Government states that the checks carried out are necessary and proportionate. According to the Spanish authorities, persons are required merely to show their passport or identity card and cross practically without

needing to stop. The control of goods carried by travellers is implemented by means of random checks performed on not more than one in ten persons or vehicles, with these searches taking not more than one minute in each case. On average, eight vehicles and twenty pedestrians allegedly cross the boundary line each minute in each direction. Nevertheless, the Spanish Government accepts that, regrettably, queues form in the route for cars at certain times of the day. The Commission's letter ends by saying that after careful examination of the reply of the Spanish Government and on the basis of the information supplied by Gibraltar and of further information that the Commission have been able to gather, it is concluded that no infringement of Community law is actually being committed. The fact, which is not denied by the Spanish authorities, that at certain peak times there are delays cannot, according to the Commission's letter, legally support the claim that the checks carried out by the Spanish authorities are disproportionate and therefore incompatible with Community law. Accordingly says the letter, the Commission officials are proposing that the Commission close this case.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 698 AND 699 OF 2002

HON J J BOSSANO:

The announcement by the Spanish Government was that they were providing the second lane to celebrate their happiness at the Commission's decision and at the request of the United Kingdom, that is what they actually put in their press release, this is why Question No 699 of 2002 asks whether in fact Gibraltar was consulted or asked about this request, I think that part has not been answered.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The answer is no.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Do Government know whether the Spanish statement is correct, that it was the United Kingdom that asked them to put a second lane on the way in?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Gibraltar Government do not know that but of course the Gibraltar Government are aware that the United Kingdom have for many years been pressurising the Spaniards to normalise the frontier regime and certainly it is envisageable that one of those requests that the British Government would have been putting was that there should be more than one lane but I understand that the British Government and this appears from informal conversations that I have had with Ministers, that the British Government were expecting a red and a green channel which is not materialising and indeed that they were expecting that it should be in both directions which has not yet happened. There appears to be a sense in London that not all that they thought they had been promised has in fact been delivered.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Given that we know they have been expecting a red and green channel since 1985 no doubt we shall see whether it materialises after the summer or not. I asked at the last meeting of the House I think it was, whether the Government had pursued this statement by Señor Piqué that if the relaunched process did not achieve for Spain what Spain was expecting to get out of it, anticipatory moves on their part were reversible, would it be the case that if the open second lane closes the closed fiche will re-open, or is that not the case?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I cannot of course answer for the Spanish Government, we are speculating, but although this has been parked under, parked to our regret, under the Brussels discussions given that we believe that it is a matter of EU rights but I do not think this limited improvement to the frontier regime has not come about as an early fruit of the bilateral political discussion but rather as part of some sort of more or less formal or informal understanding between Spain, UK and the Commission as the means of allowing the Commission to close the fiche. Presumably if Spain reneged in a way that the Commission thought breached that informal understanding then the fiche would be reopened, but of course, that is where we have been for the last seven or eight years and the Commission never took any action then so whether the hon Member is entitled to be confident that they would be any more likely to take action if those circumstances reproduce themselves is a matter of speculation.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I think at one stage it was in the Foreign Affairs Committee Report that if the Commission failed to take action it was open to the UK to do so, given that against the present background that seems to be even less likely than in the past, would the Government of Gibraltar be able to do anything about it as it has done with the state aid thing or is that an area where they would not be able to act on?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

We are advised that this is an area in which action is open only to the Member State.

NO. 700 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

MOTION – MR HAIN, ACTION TAKEN

When did the Government transmit to the Secretary of State in UK the text of the motion approved by this House referring to Mr Hain's previous reply?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I presume that the hon Members' question relates to the motion passed on 25th March 2002, I regret that, due to an oversight, this had not been forwarded to the Minister for Europe, but it was sent on the 26th April 2002.

NO. 701 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EUROPEAN OPEN SKIES

Have Government now received a final opinion over the steps that need to be taken to challenge Gibraltar's exclusion from the European Open Skies?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

No.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 701 OF 2002

HON J J BOSSANO:

The preliminary opinion that they had is now some time ago, is it that the people they have contracted to do this work are not yet ready with the reply, are they due to produce that advice fairly soon or not?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I would prefer to have this conversation with the hon Member in private because anything that I say in public reaches the ears of people who will at some stage in the future oppose any action that we may be able to take including on procedural

grounds. Suffice to say that the Government's ability to bring this action relies on novel and evolving procedural law which is not cast in stone and therefore the advice reflects that situation.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I think it can be taken for granted that Spain will seek to intervene and Spain will seek to argue that we should not be permitted because they have just done it on the state aid thing because whatever legal action that problem will always be there that does not mean that they will win.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

There are different articles of the Treaty and different articles of the Treaty give different parties different lockers. The hon Member should not think that there is just one rule about lockers, it depends on the subject matter, it depends on the article of the treaty under which one is bringing the action and in the case of the state aid we were advised that sub-units of Member States with responsibility for taxation matters did have this right of action under that particular article and if a sub-unit of a Member State had it, for example, an overseas territory like Gibraltar which had even more constitutional autonomy for tax than, for example, Scotland or Germany but that does not mean that the Gibraltar Government have lockers in every area of the treaty and therefore certainly Spain will challenge it wherever it is raised regardless of the degree of merit that our case has in a particular situation but of course there is no point in the Government spending tax payers' money in challenging this if our advice is that we have no prospect whatsoever of establishing lockers and that is what the advice is about, certainly if it is speculative we will run it just for the publicity value.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Presumably the Government have also asked the person providing the advice to look as to whether someone other than the Government can do it, as I remember in the question of the airport exclusion clause initially it was argued that a commercial entity affected adversely by Gibraltar's exclusion was in a position to do it except that we could not find any volunteers.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

All those dimensions are being considered formally.

NO. 702 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

PROPOSED TAX REFORMS

What was discussed at the London meeting of 2nd April 2002 with the Treasury and with what result?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The detail of these discussions are necessarily confidential but as has already been said publicly the discussions related to Gibraltars' proposed tax reforms and the UK Government's assistance in the desirable contacts with the EU Commission State Aid directorate in respect of them. The result of that meeting, and subsequent discussions, have been very positive.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 702 OF 2002

HON J J BOSSANO:

It is good to hear that they have been positive, I take it that that means that the UK is willing to defend Gibraltar's position on the basis of what is currently being considered.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, it means that the Treasury have indicated that they are willing to defend Gibraltar's proposed tax reforms as being compliant with State Aid Regulations and to argue that case with us and for us in the EU Commission.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Where does that leave the previous analysis which was reflected in this business of us having to be rescued by an EU package if we had to carry out changes to the financial services industry?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I would be reluctant to do it myself and I would urge the Leader of the Opposition not to do it either to provoke the UK Government into not being supportive of our tax reform packages for the reason that he implies in his question. Suffice to say that the Gibraltar Government have always been confident that Gibraltar's finance centre interests did not require a sovereignty deal with Spain, not least, well for two reasons firstly because we were confident that we could reform the tax structure in a way that served the finance centre that complied with the EU and secondly that no one was suggesting, when the Minister for Europe says that Gibraltar could be the financial services hub of Andalusia or whatever he said, he did not say because if we do a sovereignty deal Gibraltar will be exempted from all the various State Aid Regulations and OECD Report and Code of Conduct and therefore it was always an irrelevant non sequitur, no one was saying "if you do the deal you can carry on as you are in the finance centre but if you do not do the deal you have got to change." The answer is that Gibraltar has to change and comply with all these things whether or not we do a sovereignty deal and therefore Government have never proceeded on the basis that there is a link between the two things.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In my supplementary I did not actually say anything about any sovereignty deal, I said the analysis, "where does that leave the analysis" and I certainly was not suggesting that

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The hon Member was not suggesting that?

HON J J BOSSANO:

No. I have not suggested anything about that and I was not suggesting either that we would want to provoke the United Kingdom into changing their mind about the proposed package being state aid compliant. My question is, given that previously they thought that compliance and I think the statement that was made by the Foreign Secretary was that it had nothing to do with a deal with Spain that the need to comply which had nothing to do with the Spanish negotiation would necessarily have an effect such that we would need financial assistance in order to make the transition or the

transformation to the new environment demanded by compliance requirements. Given that that is not a view we have ever shared nor did anybody provide any evidence or statistics to show how they arrived at those conclusions but given that the United Kingdom following the meeting with the Treasury is now happy to support the proposals for compliance, does that mean that they no longer believe that we are going to need to go for aid to the EU?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

They have not said that to me of course an awful lot of brainstorming and imaginative thinking has gone into these reform proposals, it may well be that it had been thought that Gibraltar would not have the resources under which to come up with reform proposals that were capable of being satisfactory. The truth is that we have and that if the judgement that the hon Member has explained is indeed the judgement that had been made in London then of course presumably now they will be reviewing it. Whether the judgement that he has described was limited on London's part to the finance centre or whether it extended to wider aspects of the economy I do not know but certainly we have always said to London that we felt that we could do this and the hon Member will recall that we started this exercise not for state aid reasons, not for EU reasons but the Government started their tax reform thinking for OECD reasons which had nothing to do with the EU and`` this was in 1997/1998 long before anyone had raised or made any questions about economic viability and politics and things of that sort. `We were already confident that we could restructure the tax system in Gibraltar in a way that would enable the finance centre to prosper in a way which was compliant with international consensuses which were then emerging and if the hon Member looks at the glossy consultation document that the Government published he would see that already state aid had been identified. We were still confident that we could do it. So, I do not know whether the hon Member is just asking me to comment or whether he is asking me whether I am going to make them retract, frankly we never thought that that analysis was correct.

HON J J BOSSANO:

It is not a question of asking them to retract, it is an important issue, especially when such use of that analysis is made publicly and in Parliament by the Foreign Secretary. The Foreign Secretary has said the same thing in articles in the Chronicle and in the House of Commons that in order to meet these international requirements independent of anything to do with the re-launch of the Brussels process we would need financial help. If they are satisfied in London now that that is no longer the case then presumably that will be reflected in the future.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is.

NO. 703 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

MEETING IN LONDON – 25TH JANUARY 2002

What was the nature of the discussions in Gibraltar's future that took place between the Chief Minister and the Foreign Secretary in London on the 25th January 2002?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

As I have already stated, my discussions with the Foreign Secretary on the 25th January 2002 related to the question of Gibraltar's participation or not in the imminent process of dialogue.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 703 OF 2002

HON J J BOSSANO:

So in fact in the answer given by Mr Hain in Parliament where he said that Gibraltar's future was discussed, does it suggest then that Gibraltar's Constitutional future was discussed. The Government have not discussed with the UK the Constitutional proposals approved by the House?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is not my recollection, I would have to recheck the minutes of the meeting. It may be that there may have been a casual reference to Constitutional Reform but it certainly was not an issue under discussion at the meeting, I would hate to say in case it was referred to in passing that the words "Constitutional Reform" were not uttered. They may have been uttered or they may not have been uttered. I have no

recollection of that as I stand here speaking but certainly that was not what the meeting was about. The meeting was about UK Government trying to obtain our participation in the dialogue and us stating the reasons why we would not and could not and what it would take for us to do so.

NO. 704 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

PROPOSALS ON GIBRALTAR'S FUTURE

Did the Chief Minister accept the UK's offer to keep him fully informed of the details of the proposals on Gibraltar's future being discussed with Spain allegedly made on 25th January 2002?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Such offers as have been made to keep me informed have been made subject to my maintaining strict confidentiality. When I have indicated that that is not acceptable the offer has not been repeated, nor the information provided.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 704 OF 2002

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am asking this question because Mr Hain told Parliament that on the 25th January they had offered to keep the Chief Minister fully informed of what was happening in the Brussels Process but it did not say anything about the strict confidentiality, that was specifically made on that day was it?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I cannot recall whether an offer was made on the 25th January I have no reason to disbelieve the Minister for Europe, my Colleague was present and yes it was made, and I would add that the hon Member may have seen the statement of Mr Straw in his farewell interview not in his welcome interview, in his farewell interview in the Gibraltar Chronicle the one published on Monday's edition in which he makes the somewhat extraordinary statement that the reason why the Chief Minister cannot be informed of the details is that he is not in the process and that is why they are so frustrated about the fact that we are not present because the fact that I am not involved in the process means that they cannot tell me things which of course is not a version of events that I have not heard before. Certainly I am aware that they want a degree of confidentiality which in my judgement is not compatible with my needs to defend Gibraltar against things that I might hear and it has never been sent to me. Unless one participates one cannot be briefed, that is brand new, the issue before had been confidentiality, not being in or being out.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So I take it then that the Chief Minister is not being informed?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not know any more than the hon Member does I have said this publicly on many occasions. We know what there is in the four pillars and we have had the Deputy Chief Minister and me a long meeting with Sir Emir Jones Parry in which we have tried to extract more details of what sovereignty means, "sovereignty" is just a word, we have tried to extract whether this would be just sovereignty for discussion clause and the most we have obtained is no that it would have to be beyond that, some sort of specific model on the basis of shared or joint sovereignty. That is the most we have been able to scratch the surface.

NO. 705 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

MEETING STRAW/PIQUE

Have Government been informed when the next meeting between Jack Straw and Joseph Piqué to discuss Gibraltar will take place?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

No. Except that I think I heard Mr Straw say on television the other day that there were some meetings of the general affairs council programmed in Helsinki or somewhere like that where he expected to meet Mr Piqué and that Gibraltar may well be discussed in the margins of that but we are not aware of any formal Gibraltar specific bilateral having been established fixed yet.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 705 OF 2002

HON J J BOSSANO:

I think the date of the 15th May has appeared in the Spanish press as another Brussels meeting between the Foreign Secretaries given the reliability of the Spanish press for accuracy in these things.

NO. 706 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

REFERENDUM ON GIBRALTAR'S FUTURE

Have Government accepted the UK's decision that they will oversee the organisation and timing of any referendum on Gibraltar's future?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

No and I was amused to read in this morning's ABC that if I should have the temerity of organising a referendum in Gibraltar I am in serious jeopardy of instant dismissal from my post by the British Government.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 706 OF 2002

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well there is a silver lining in every cloud.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I believe that the Leader of the Opposition has learnt the Spanish version of that saying which is closer to what was used in the Spanish press.

HON J J BOSSANO:

That is correct I do not quote it in the House but I do quote it in the Spanish press. I do not know whether the preservation of the House of Assembly which is the last thing we were promised means the preservation of the English language as well, I imagine that it is.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Spanish press is speculating that Spanish will become one of the official languages in Gibraltar and this is one of the things that particularly pleases them that Spanish will become an official language in Gibraltar. I do not know whether that means that I have got to agree to answer half these questions in English and the other half in Spanish to sort of deliver compliance with joint sovereignty but certainly this is what they are expecting.

HON J J BOSSANO:

That is creating a problem for “llanito” speakers because it is obvious it is our language which is the one that is going to be excluded. Can I ask in terms of the technical position to organise a referendum, the United Kingdom has said in Parliament that it is a matter for them both to decide the question I think and the timing that is put, on what basis do they think they have the right say under the Constitution to do this without the support of this House?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not know and they appear to think that this raises some legalistic issue were of course a referendum is simply a properly administered opportunity for people to express a free and democratic view. It does not raise any issue of law and of course there is nothing in the laws of Gibraltar that entitle the UJK Government but not the Gibraltar Government to conduct a referendum and there is nothing in United Kingdom law in that respect either. I think the point they are making which in my opinion is a complete non sequitur is that if the result of the referendum would require a change in English law, for example, if we all voted to be Spanish in this referendum and this required some acts of Parliament to be passed that they do not think that they should have to change the UK law except in response to a referendum that they have organised, I think that is the somewhat skewed thinking, the formal positions are as follows, they say that they would like to organise in consultation with the Gibraltar Government and I say that the Gibraltar Government will organise it in consultation with the British Government. In either event the Gibraltar Government reserve the right to organise a referendum in Gibraltar on any issue at any time that it pleases there is nothing in the law preventing the Gibraltar Government from doing so, indeed there is nothing in the law providing anybody in Gibraltar organising a referendum. The idea to be a valid expression of democratic will it has got to somehow comply with some law which is non-existent in the event but that it has to comply with some law is a view for which I can see no rational consensus.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In a referendum that dealt with Gibraltar's constitutional status consequently in the terms of the new constitution we have agreed in the House would be the exercise of self-determination, would that require the administering power to do it or not if it was a self-determination referendum which is what we put in the new Constitution?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Certainly I can see that the arguments become different if one is talking about a referendum on the status between the relationship between UK and Gibraltar which the UK have to give, whether as a matter of proper United Nations jurisprudence it has to be organised by the ministering power I think is far from clear but that is not the issue upon which we have expressed the view. We have said that if the Government of Gibraltar want to organise a referendum 'à la suisse' tomorrow about whether the price of petrol should go up or down or whether we like or do not like the weather on Thursday morning or whether we like or do not like what the UK and Spanish Government might agree we are free to do so and the suggestion that the Government of Gibraltar are prohibited from organising such a referendum is a self-serving, ridiculous argument to articulate. I can see how it can spoil the party that that should happen. I think it is ridiculous to argue that the Government cannot organise a referendum, they may want to argue that they do not recognise the results, that is a matter for them but I think they are going to have great difficulty in saying, "...the British Government only accept the freely expressed wishes of the people of Gibraltar and the democratically expressed wishes of Gibraltar only if we have had the opportunity to choose the question, if we have had the opportunity to supervise the referendum and if we have had the opportunity to choose the timing." I think they would be laughed right off the front news pages of their own newspapers if they try arguments of that sort.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Would the matter be something that we would debate in the House before the step was taken. If this framework agreement comes to fruition, which it may not according to the latest statements of Mr Straw, if in his judgement it is not a good deal this presumably would then come to the House before the step of the referendum took place, would it not?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It could do, the Government have not addressed their minds to it but I suppose that it would do and yes we would not call a referendum the day after, so if the Government did not bring it to the House certainly the hon Member could. There is no reason to think that the Government will not bring it to the House.

GIBRALTAR

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

16th October 2002

Nos 707 to 1124



The Speaker

- **The Hon Judge J E Alcantara CBE**

GOVERNMENT (GSD):

The Hon P R Caruana QC

The Hon K Azopardi

The Hon Dr B A Linares

The Hon J J Holliday

The Hon Lt-Col E M Britto OBE , ED

The Hon H A Corby

The Hon J J Netto

The Hon Mrs Y Del Agua

The Hon R Rhoda QC

The Hon T J Bristow

- **Chief Minister**
- **Minister for Trade, Industry and Telecommunications**
- **Minister for Education, Training, Culture and Health**
- **Minister for Tourism and Transport**
- **Minister for Public Services, the Environment, Sport and Youth**
- **Minister for Employment and Consumer Affairs**
- **Minister for Housing**
- **Minister for Social Affairs**
- **Attorney General**
- **Financial and Development Secretary**

OPPOSITION (GSLP/ Liberals):

The Hon J J Bossano

The Hon Dr J J Garcia

The Hon J L Baldachino

The Hon Miss M I Montegriffo

The Hon Dr R G Valarino

The Hon J C Perez

The Hon S E Linares

- **Leader of the Opposition**

D J Reyes Esq, ED

- **Clerk of the House of Assembly**

16th October 2002

Nos 707 to 1124

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WRITTEN

NO. 707 OF 2002

THE HON S E LINARES

GIBRALTAR FAIR - 2002

Can Government state how much the 'feriantes' paid for water, electricity, et cetera and how much did they pay in rent, tax or any other fee?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

The arrangement that has been in place since the Government took over responsibility for the organisation of the Fair in 1997 is that an all inclusive payment is made to Government amounting to £14,000.

NO. 708 OF 2002

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

EMPLOYMENT INJURIES INSURANCE FUND

Can Government state what was the estimated balance of the Employment Injuries Insurance Fund as at 30th April, 31st May, and 30th June 2002?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos 709 to 713 of 2002.

ORAL

NO. 709 OF 2002

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

EMPLOYMENT INJURIES INSURANCE FUND

Can Government state what was the estimated balance of the Employment Injuries Insurance Fund as at 31st July, 31st August and 30th September 2002?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos 708 and 710 to 713 of 2002.

ORAL

NO. 710 OF 2002

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE FUND

Can Government state what was the estimated balance of the Social Assistance Fund as at:

- (a) 31st July 2002;
- (b) 31st August 2002;
- (c) 30th September 2002?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos 708, 709 and 711 to 713 of 2002.

ORAL

NO. 711 OF 2002

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE FUND

Can Government state what was the estimated balance of the Social Assistance Fund as at:

- (a) 30th April 2002;
- (b) 31st May 2002;
- (c) 30th June 2002?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos 708 to 710 and 712 to 713 of 2002.

ORAL

NO. 712 OF 2002

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

SOCIAL INSURANCE (SHORT-TERM BENEFITS) FUND

Can Government state what was the estimated balance of the Social Insurance (Short-Term Benefits) Fund as at:

- (a) 30th April 2002;
- (b) 31st May 2002;
- (c) 30th June 2002?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos 708 to 711 and 713 of 2002.

ORAL

NO. 713 OF 2002

THE HON J L BALDACHINO

SOCIAL INSURANCE (SHORT-TERM BENEFITS) FUND

Can Government state what was the estimated balance of the Social Insurance (Short-Term Benefits) Fund as at:

- (a) 31st July 2002;
- (b) 31st August 2002;
- (c) 30th September 2002?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

I hand the hon Member a list giving the information requested.

Answer to Question Nos 708 and 709 of 2002

EMPLOYMENT INJURIES INSURANCE FUND	
Period Ending	Amount (£)
30 th April 2002	5,946,064.17
31 st May 2002	5,922,268.99
30 th June 2002	5,984,385.70
31 st July 2002	5,935,419.67
31 st August 2002	5,986,974.79
30 th September 2002	5,977,391.22

Answer to Question Nos 710 and 711 of 2002

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE FUND	
Period Ending	Amount (£)
30 th April 2002	3,348,510.98
31 st May 2002	3,059,576.73
30 th June 2002	2,954,460.44
31 st July 2002	2,632,336.89
31 st August 2002	2,375,382.31
30 th September 2002	2,230,041.43

Answer to Question Nos 712 and 713 of 2002

EMPLOYMENT INJURIES INSURANCE FUND	
Period Ending	Amount (£)
30 th April 2002	6,419,277.61
31 st May 2002	6,394,280.09
30 th June 2002	6,262,166.05
31 st July 2002	6,255,713.54
31 st August 2002	6,259,276.12
30 th September 2002	6,238,296.25

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 708 TO 713 OF 2002

HON J J BOSSANO:

In the case of the answer to Question Nos 712 and 713 of 2002, I notice that the Short-Term Benefits Fund is lower at the end of September than it was in April, that would suggest that in fact the revenue of the fund is insufficient to meet the outgoings and this is the fund from which £5 million was removed in the last financial year. Can the Minister give an explanation as to how it is that at the time we were being told that the money had been removed because there was so much money in this fund that it was not needed and that in fact even what was left was not needed?

HON K AZOPARDI:

I cannot give the hon Member an explanation at the moment but I imagine we could do so during the course of today if he is happy with that. I am sure there is nothing sinister.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am not suggesting there is anything sinister, I am questioning the value judgement of the Government. The policy decision of the Government in removing money from this fund. I am not suggesting that actually they have run away with the money.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

In answer to Question No 710 and 711 of 2002, I notice that there is about £1 million less in the Social Assistance Fund, is there an explanation for that as well, from April 2002 to September 2002?

HON K AZOPARDI:

We are happy to give the hon Members supplementary information on any of these figures and we will do so later collectively.

~~~~~

**HON K AZOPARDI:**

The Leader of the Opposition asked the same question in respect of both funds why the sum in respect of the 30<sup>th</sup> April was higher than in relation to the 30<sup>th</sup> September. In respect of the Social Assistance Fund the sum in respect of 30<sup>th</sup> April 2002 is £3,348,000 loosely and on the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2002 was £2, 230,000 loosely and the hon Member asked as to the reason for the decreasing balance. The information that I have from Treasury is that at the beginning of the year they posted about £7 million was transferred into that from the Consolidated Fund which is the normal practice at the beginning of each year. That sum is transferred to meet the projected expenditure of that fund, there then is normally a reduction in the balance through the year and that is the reason why if the hon Member looks at the final figure of the fund account balance brought forward at the end of each financial year he will see that the sum of money is actually quite small so, for example, the fund account balance figure estimate for 2002/2003 is £81,000 and for the year 2001/2002 was £273,000 and in respect of 2000/2001 was £164,000. So at the end of the year it is a small amount that really is left over and at the beginning of each year I am assured that what happens is that there is a big lump sum payment made into the fund so that it can then cater for expenditure which necessarily means that the balance of the fund as the year goes by decreases from month to month. That is in relation to the Social Assistance Fund.

In relation to the Social Insurance Short Term Benefits Fund the figure for 30<sup>th</sup> April 2002 was £6,419,000 again loosely and for the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2002 was £6,238,000 approximately. The hon Member was asking as to whether this fund can meet its

liabilities as a result of the transfer of £5 million which was conducted at the beginning of the year, I think that is specifically his interest.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Yes.

**HON K AZOPARDI:**

Again I am assured that when the calculation was done to enable the transfer of the £5 million from this fund there was a projection of the necessary expenditure over a number of years and it was projected that the fund would still have enough money to meet its liabilities for at least a period of 10 years and a view was taken that that was a sufficient horizon for the viability of the fund and that of course at any time the Government can transfer money into this fund to meet any further liabilities beyond that and so the Government's view is that that is sufficient for the purposes in relation to that fund as well. I hope that that is enough information for the hon Member.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

The point that I made is that this indicates that the fund is currently operating on an excess of expenditure over income because the balance is going down and we were told I believe at the previous meeting of the House when we questioned the £5 million transfer that in fact the amount that was left in the fund was such that it was still possible to transfer more money out, is that a view that is no longer the case?

**HON K AZOPARDI:**

It really depends on when one applies a future cut-off date, we think we have got enough money to deal with expenditure over a period of 10 years if we leave the fund untouched, if we then ask the question, "...Well hang on what about if we instead of applying a 10 year horizon we apply a five year horizon?" then of course we would have surplus amounts and therefore if that were the question to be applied that could be transferred out but the horizon as when the projections were made was the 10 year period but of course everything that I have explained in the last 20 seconds would allow Treasury to make a different calculation for them to reach a different conclusion. Always in the basis that the Government have the rider of putting further money in if they feel they need to.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Obviously, we are raising this matter because we were opposed to the money being taken out and if by taking the money out they find that they have left a little behind they will have to put money in I have no doubt, that is not the issue. The issue is that since we are unhappy with the original decision we are monitoring what is happening and asking questions and is the 10 year projection then on the assumption of what that the

balance will come down to zero over a 10 year period because of the excess of expenditure over income?

**HON K AZOPARDI:**

Yes, that generally would be the calculation. If things remain as they are for 10 years that would be the case, if revenue does not go up, we do not transfer money in et cetera.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Would the Government not agree that in fact as the Social Insurance Funds have been managed until now it has never been considered that a realistic projection would be that the balance should be run down to zero, it has always been the view taken that the purpose of having a fund at all is in fact to have a buffer in case the unexpected happens in terms of the balance between contributors and beneficiaries otherwise one does not need a fund one needs a fund because we are not paying social benefits out of current contributions, we are paying social benefits out of current contributions plus investment income. Surely if one runs the capital down then one is going to be running down as well the return on the accumulated investments. So it is not that the Government are actually thinking of letting this happen, I assume the Government would stop well before it got to zero.

**HON K AZOPARDI:**

Yes. I know that the hon Member likes to indulge in these mathematical, economical calculations but let me assure him that I have tried to give an explanation of how the projection was done by Treasury, they adopted a fairly prudent stance of, we need to make sure that we have got money in this fund for a long period of time and 10 years is a conservative estimate. It is possibly going to be more than that but the intention is purely when the assessment was made it was purely to understand the sufficiency and to ensure the sufficiency of the fund. The Government have no intention of letting the fund run down to zero and making the academic, the hypothesis come to fruition that is not our stance, we would at some point take a view and transfer money in to ensure that the fund does not reach that point. We can do so by a different variety of ways by even adjusting the proportion of the Social Insurance Stamp Contribution into this fund and we have no intention, that is the current policy, we have no intention of letting the fund run down to the hypothetical position of zero.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Given that this is the first year in fact that the fund is actually going to finish up on these figures, with a lower balance at the end of the financial year than it had at the beginning of the financial year except for the year when the £5 million was removed of course and that was because the £5 million was removed, but on a recurrent income and expenditure level this is the first year that this is going to happen, have the Government a trigger point on this balance which would require them to act, that is to say, if they started off the year with £6.4 million and by September they are now down to £6.2

million we are then talking on the basis of six months it is not an unreasonable assumption that we will finish up in March with just over £6 million. Beyond that at what point does the Government say, "...well we are not going to let it run down to zero once it hits such a point we will act," because in fact this will be the first year that it is going into minus.

**HON K AZOPARDI:**

I understand that there has to be a cut-off point and a point at which even though there is a hypothetical projection that one has got money going forward for a number of years 10 maybe more at some point one will take the view that because one does not actually want that hypothetical moment to arrive one is going to have to put money in either through a lump sum transfer or by adjustment of the proportion of the stamp or whatever. I understand that the projections were made, the Treasury still has not taken a view of when that cut-off point would arise, they are the guardians of the solvency of this fund and they would advise the Government on that and we would expect to receive that advice in accordance with the Government's stated policy that we have no intention of running down the fund and we would make transfers into this fund at an appropriate moment and at an appropriate level to ensure that it remains solid and solvent.

ORAL

**NO. 714 OF 2002**

**THE HON J L BALDACHINO**

**SOCIAL INSURANCE CONTRIBUTIONS**

Can Government state if they have entered into any special arrangements with any company or companies on the payment of Social Insurance Contributions?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS**

The Treasury Central Arrears Unit has entered into repayment agreements on behalf of Government with 259 companies in arrears of Social Insurance Contributions.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 714 OF 2002**

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Other than the repayment agreements for arrears can Government say how many companies have got special arrangements as regards making their returns on the quarterly schedules of social insurance contributions on their own initiative. That is special arrangements that we were told at the beginning of the year some companies



were entering into in which they were not issued as it were with the equivalent of a social insurance card, they themselves made their own returns?

**HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:**

Not that I am aware of but I am not 100 per cent certain and I will find out and pass on the information.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Is it that the Minister is not aware whether any have been done?

**HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:**

That is the case.

ORAL

**NO. 715 OF 2002**

**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 in April, May and June 2002 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 for each month?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS**

Answered together with Question Nos 716 to 718 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 716 OF 2002**

**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 in July, August and September of 2002 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 for each month?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS**

Answered together with Question Nos 715, 717 and 718 of 2002.

**ORAL**

**NO. 717 OF 2002**

**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 of the months of April, May and June 2002 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 715, 716 and 718 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 718 OF 2002**

**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 of the months of July, August and September 2002 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**

I hand the hon Member a list giving the information requested.

**Answer to Question Nos 715 and 716 of 2002**

The following pensioners were in receipt of payments from the Closed Long-Term Benefits Fund from April 2002 – September 2002.

|                                             | <b>April 02</b> | <b>May 02</b> | <b>June 02</b> | <b>July 02</b> | <b>Aug 02</b> | <b>Sept 02</b> |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| <b>Pre-1969 Spanish Pensioners</b>          | 7050            | 7003          | 6972           | 6960           | 6951          | 6930           |
| <b>British Pensioners (Gib/UK National)</b> | 4626            | 4648          | 4662           | 4671           | 4690          | 4709           |
| <b>Moroccan Pensioners</b>                  | 1293            | 1301          | 1306           | 1308           | 1314          | 1318           |
| <b>Other nationalities</b>                  | 352             | 355           | 356            | 360            | 360           | 360            |
| <b>Total</b>                                | <b>13,321</b>   | <b>13,307</b> | <b>13,296</b>  | <b>13,299</b>  | <b>13,315</b> | <b>13,317</b>  |

**Answer to Question No 717 of 2002**

The balance of the Closed Long-Term Benefits Fund from 30<sup>th</sup> April 2002 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2002 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:-

|                                                       | <b>30 April 02</b> | <b>31 Mar 02</b> | <b>30 June 02</b> |
|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|
|                                                       | <b>£</b>           | <b>£</b>         | <b>£</b>          |
| <b>Fund Account-<br/>Opening Balance</b>              | <b>420,963</b>     | <b>924,778</b>   | <b>402,373</b>    |
| <b><u>"Local Account"</u></b>                         |                    |                  |                   |
| Opening Balance                                       | 168,408            | 567,765          | 26,063            |
| <b><u>Add</u></b>                                     |                    |                  |                   |
| Transfers from the<br>Open Long-Term<br>Benefits Fund | 1,235,000          | 340,000          | 920,000           |
| Other Receipts                                        | 3,462              | 4,575            | 1,601             |
|                                                       | 1,406,870          | 912,340          | 947,664           |
| <b><u>Less</u></b>                                    |                    |                  |                   |
| Pension Payments                                      | (839,105)          | (886,277)        | (875,497)         |
| <b>Closing Balance</b>                                | <b>567,765</b>     | <b>26,063</b>    | <b>72,167</b>     |
| <b><u>"Spanish Account"</u></b>                       |                    |                  |                   |
| Opening Balance                                       | 252,555            | 357,013          | 376,310           |
| <b><u>Add</u></b>                                     |                    |                  |                   |
| Receipts from DFID                                    | 520,000            | 290,000          | 990,000           |
|                                                       | 772,555            | 647,013          | 1,366,310         |
| <b><u>Less</u></b>                                    |                    |                  |                   |
| Pension Payments                                      | (415,542)          | (270,703)        | (908,256)         |
| <b>Closing Balance</b>                                | <b>357,013</b>     | <b>376,310</b>   | <b>458,054</b>    |
| <b><u>Fund Account –<br/>Closing Balance</u></b>      | <b>924,778</b>     | <b>402,373</b>   | <b>530,221</b>    |

### **Answer to Question No 718 of 2002**

The balance of the Closed-Long Term Benefits Fund from 31<sup>st</sup> July 2002 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2002 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:-

|                                                       | <b>31 July 02</b> | <b>31 Aug 02</b> | <b>30 Sept 02</b> |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|
|                                                       | <b>£</b>          | <b>£</b>         | <b>£</b>          |
| <b>Fund Account-<br/>Opening Balance</b>              | <b>530,221</b>    | <b>383,130</b>   | <b>478,721</b>    |
| <b><u>"Local Account"</u></b>                         |                   |                  |                   |
| Opening Balance                                       | 72,167            | 3,278            | 20,184            |
| <b><u>Add</u></b>                                     |                   |                  |                   |
| Transfers from the<br>Open Long-Term<br>Benefits Fund | 810,000           | 950,000          | 900,000           |
| Other Receipts                                        | 2,856             | 2,383            | 2,800             |
|                                                       | 885,023           | 955,661          | 922,984           |
| <b><u>Less</u></b>                                    |                   |                  |                   |
| Pension Payments                                      | (881,745)         | (935,477)        | (880,000)         |
| <b>Closing Balance</b>                                | <b>3,278</b>      | <b>20,184</b>    | <b>42,984</b>     |
| <b><u>"Spanish Account"</u></b>                       |                   |                  |                   |
| Opening Balance                                       | 458,054           | 379,852          | 458,537           |
| <b><u>Add</u></b>                                     |                   |                  |                   |
| Receipts from DFID                                    | 460,000           | 400,000          | 970,000           |
|                                                       | 918,054           | 779,852          | 1,428,537         |
| <b><u>Less</u></b>                                    |                   |                  |                   |
| Pension Payments                                      | (538,202)         | (321,315)        | (940,000)         |
| <b>Closing Balance</b>                                | <b>379,852</b>    | <b>458,537</b>   | <b>488,537</b>    |
| <b><u>Fund Account –<br/>Closing Balance</u></b>      | <b>383,130</b>    | <b>478,721</b>   | <b>531,521</b>    |

ORAL

**NO. 719 OF 2002**

**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 for April, May and June 2002?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS**

Answered together with Question No 720 of 2002.



ORAL

**NO. 720 OF 2002**

**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 for July, August and September 2002?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS**

I hand the hon Member a list giving the information requested.

**Answer to Question Nos 719 and 720 of 2002**

**TRANSFERS FROM THE OPEN/LONG-TERM BENEFITS FUND TO THE CLOSED  
LONG-TERM BENEFITS FUND**

| <b>MONTH</b>   | <b>AMOUNT (£)</b> |
|----------------|-------------------|
| April 2002     | 1,235,000         |
| May 2002       | 340,000           |
| June 2002      | 920,000           |
| July 2002      | 810,000           |
| August 2002    | 950,000           |
| September 2002 | 900,000           |

**ORAL**

**NO. 721 OF 2002**

**THE HON J L BALDACHINO**

**SOCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Can Government state the number of persons giving a breakdown by age and sex receiving social assistance for the months of April, May and June 2002?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS**

Answered together with Question Nos 722 to 725 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 722 OF 2002**

**THE HON J L BALDACHINO**

**SOCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Can Government state the number of persons giving a breakdown by age and sex receiving social assistance for the months of July, August and September 2002?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS**

Answered together with Question Nos 721 and 723 to 725 of 2002.

**ORAL**

**NO. 723 OF 2002**

**THE HON J L BALDACHINO**

**SOCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Can Government state how many persons were in receipt of a disability allowance under the social assistance arrangements in the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> quarters of 2001 giving a breakdown for each month, their sex and age?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS**

Answered together with Question Nos 721, 722, 724 and 725 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 724 OF 2002**

**THE HON J L BALDACHINO**

**SOCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Can Government state how many persons were in receipt of a disability allowance under the social assistance arrangements in the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarters of 2002 giving a breakdown for each month, their sex and age?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS**

Answered together with Question Nos 721 to 723 and 725 of 2002.

**NO. 725 OF 2002**

**THE HON J L BALDACHINO**

**SOCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Can Government state how many persons applied for disability allowance under the social assistance arrangements in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarters of 2002 and how many of these applications were not successful, giving a breakdown for each month?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS**

I hand the hon Member a list giving the information requested.

**Answer to Question Nos 721 and 722 of 2002**

| PERSONS IN RECEIPT OF SOCIAL ASSISTANCE BY MONTH, SEX & AGE |       |         |       |       |       |       |       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------|---------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 2002                                                        | MALES | FEMALES | TOTAL | 18/25 | 26/35 | 36/45 | 46/60 |
| April                                                       | 113   | 195     | 308   | 56    | 99    | 90    | 63    |
| May                                                         | 112   | 201     | 313   | 57    | 99    | 94    | 63    |
| June                                                        | 112   | 194     | 306   | 57    | 96    | 88    | 65    |
| July                                                        | 120   | 211     | 331   | 63    | 98    | 104   | 66    |
| August                                                      | 120   | 213     | 333   | 66    | 94    | 104   | 69    |
| Sept                                                        | 122   | 215     | 337   | 66    | 95    | 108   | 68    |

**Answer to Question Nos 723 and 724 of 2002**

| Month                     | 0-10 | 11-20 | 21-30 | 31-40 | 41-50 | 51-60 | 61-70 | Total | Males | Females |
|---------------------------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---------|
| <b>1<sup>st</sup> Qtr</b> |      |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |         |
| Jan 01                    | 23   | 25    | 15    | 12    | 13    | 10    | 1     | 99    | 68    | 31      |
| Feb 01                    | 23   | 25    | 15    | 12    | 14    | 11    | 1     | 101   | 68    | 33      |
| Mar 01                    | 23   | 25    | 15    | 11    | 15    | 11    | 1     | 101   | 68    | 33      |
| <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr</b> |      |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |         |
| Apr 01                    | 21   | 27    | 15    | 11    | 15    | 11    | 1     | 101   | 68    | 33      |
| May 01                    | 21   | 27    | 15    | 11    | 15    | 11    | 1     | 101   | 68    | 33      |
| Jun 01                    | 21   | 27    | 15    | 11    | 15    | 11    | 1     | 101   | 68    | 33      |
| <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Qtr</b> |      |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |         |
| July 01                   | 21   | 27    | 15    | 11    | 15    | 11    | 1     | 101   | 68    | 33      |
| Aug 01                    | 21   | 27    | 14    | 12    | 15    | 11    | 1     | 101   | 68    | 33      |
| Sept 01                   | 21   | 27    | 15    | 12    | 15    | 11    | 1     | 102   | 69    | 33      |
| <b>4<sup>th</sup> Qtr</b> |      |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |         |
| Oct 01                    | 21   | 27    | 15    | 12    | 15    | 11    | 1     | 102   | 69    | 33      |
| Nov 01                    | 20   | 28    | 15    | 12    | 15    | 11    | 1     | 102   | 69    | 33      |
| Dec 01                    | 20   | 28    | 16    | 12    | 15    | 11    | 1     | 103   | 70    | 33      |
| <b>1<sup>st</sup> Qtr</b> |      |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |         |
| Jan 02                    | 20   | 28    | 16    | 12    | 15    | 11    | 1     | 103   | 70    | 33      |
| Feb 02                    | 20   | 28    | 16    | 12    | 15    | 11    | 1     | 103   | 70    | 33      |
| Mar 02                    | 20   | 28    | 16    | 12    | 15    | 11    | 1     | 103   | 70    | 33      |
| <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr</b> |      |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |         |
| Apr 02                    | 22   | 28    | 16    | 12    | 15    | 11    | 1     | 105   | 72    | 33      |
| May 02                    | 22   | 28    | 16    | 12    | 15    | 11    | 1     | 105   | 72    | 33      |
| June 02                   | 22   | 28    | 16    | 12    | 15    | 11    | 1     | 105   | 72    | 33      |
| <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Qtr</b> |      |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |         |
| July 02                   | 22   | 28    | 16    | 12    | 15    | 11    | 1     | 105   | 72    | 33      |
| Aug 02                    | 22   | 28    | 16    | 12    | 15    | 11    | 1     | 105   | 72    | 33      |
| Sept 02                   | 22   | 28    | 17    | 12    | 15    | 11    | 1     | 106   | 73    | 33      |

**Answer to Question No 725 of 2002**

The following persons applied for disability allowance under the Social Assistance Arrangements in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarters of 2002:-

| Disability Allowance Applications |          |          |            |         |
|-----------------------------------|----------|----------|------------|---------|
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter           | Received | Approved | Disallowed | Pending |
|                                   |          |          |            |         |
| April                             | 2        | 2        | 0          | -       |
| May                               | 0        | -        | -          | -       |
| June                              | 1        | -        | -          | 1       |
|                                   |          |          |            |         |

| Disability Allowance Applications |          |          |            |         |
|-----------------------------------|----------|----------|------------|---------|
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter           | Received | Approved | Disallowed | Pending |
|                                   |          |          |            |         |
| July                              | -        | -        | -          | -       |
| August                            | -        | -        | -          | -       |
| September                         | 1        | 1        | -          | -       |
|                                   |          |          |            |         |



ORAL

**NO. 726 OF 2002**

**THE HON J L BALDACHINO**

**SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY**

Can Government state how many children are held in care giving a breakdown by age and sex at the end of September 2002?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS**

As at the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2002, twenty-seven children (27) and young persons were in care with the Social Services Agency.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 726 OF 2002**

**HON J L BALDACHINO:**

Does that also include the children that are placed in foster homes?

**HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:**

Yes, when I refer to children in care in the social in the Social Services Agency it includes all categories.

**HON J L BALDACHINO:**

From the figure that the Minister has just given it appears that there has been an increase in care during the last 12 months, is that the case?

**HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:**

Yes. An increase of two.

**NO. 727 OF 2002**

**THE HON J L BALDACHINO**

**DR GIRALDI HOME**

Can Government state how many individuals applied for respite facilities at Dr Giraldi Home and how many were accommodated giving a breakdown for each month of April, May, June, July, August and September of 2002?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS**

I hand the hon Member a list of the information requested.

**Answer to Question No 727**

|                | <b>Application</b> | <b>Met</b> |
|----------------|--------------------|------------|
| April 2002     | 9                  | 8          |
| May 2002       | 10                 | 8          |
| June 2002      | 9                  | 8          |
| July 2002      | 12                 | 9          |
| August 2002    | 10                 | 7          |
| September 2002 | 11                 | 8          |

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 727 OF 2002**

**HON J L BALDACHINO:**

Those applications that were not met, was it because there were not enough facilities in the Home, enough facilities to provide the persons that were not successful?

**HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:**

Yes. Over the summer months there is usually more demand and there are only four beds available so it all boils down to demand really.

**HON J L BALDACHINO:**

Who makes the decision of the applicants that apply for facilities, on who is or is not successful?

**HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:**

Certainly not me. The Management of the Dr Giraldi Respite Unit.

**HON J L BALDACHINO:**

I have no intention of indicating that it was the Minister otherwise I could have asked her why she has made that, so it is the Management of the Home, is there any set criteria on who is given preference or is it just that the decision is taken by the Management and there is no laid down criteria?

**HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:**

If there is I am not aware of what that criteria is.

**HON J L BALDACHINO:**

But the facilities are there to help the family in a certain way, more than to help the disabled person it might be that the family requires to go somewhere or needs the rest and that is what the facility is there for is it not?

**HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:**

Yes that is the whole ethos of respite, giving respite to the family who cares after the disabled person.

ORAL

**NO. 728 OF 2002**

**THE HON J L BALDACHINO**

**DR GIRALDI HOME**

Can Government state if the managerial posts for Dr Giraldi's Home have now been filled?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS**

Answered together with Question No 729 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 729 OF 2002**

**THE HON J L BALDACHINO**

**DR GIRALDI HOME**

Can Government state if the post of Manager and Deputy Manager for Dr Giraldi Home have already been filled?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS**

Both the Manager and Deputy Manager posts of the Dr Giraldi Home have now been filled.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 729 OF 2002**

**HON J L BALDACHINO:**

Have they been filled by seconding civil servants or is it that they have gone out?

**HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:**

The Deputy Manager post has now been filled by the promotion of a senior support worker from the Dr Giraldi Home who is not a civil servant, she was a Milbury employee. The appointee is at present on attachment at a similar Home in the United Kingdom with a view of enhancing her knowledge and experience in the field of challenging behaviour

care at a managerial level. There has been a need to recruit a Manager from the UK with specialist experience in very severe challenging behaviour to be able to assist in the setting up of the new 'Challenging Behaviour Unit'. The appointee is a qualified and experienced person in residential care and most specifically on challenging behaviour.

**HON J L BALDACHINO:**

In essence, what the Minister is saying is that no one locally met the criteria that she has just laid down?

**HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:**

Not for the Manager post.

ORAL

**NO. 730 OF 2002**

**THE HON J L BALDACHINO**

**DRUG REHABILITATION PROGRAMME**

Can Government state if they have introduced any new measures to assist persons who have completed a Drug Rehabilitation Programme to find employment?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS**

I am delighted to inform the House that a new Wage Subsidy pilot scheme has just been approved under ESF, which will assist, not only persons who have completed a Drug Rehabilitation Programme but can also include ex-offenders and in a broader sense, those persons recovering from other forms of addiction that is substance abuse. Having now received final approval the scheme is to be publicised shortly.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 280 OF 2002**

**HON J L BALDACHINO:**

What the Minister has just said is that a wage subsidy will be offered to private sector employers to employ these persons that fall under the category that she has just said.



**HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:**

Yes.

**HON J L BALDACHINO:**

Have Government enquired if employers are willing to take that offer up?

**HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:**

The final approval from the European commission only came a week ago. Nothing has been done to sound the market.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Does this scheme have any restriction on the length of time the person has to be unemployed as is the case of other schemes?

**HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:**

All details will be announced shortly but what I can say is that the subsidy will only last for 12 months alike other subsidy schemes in existence.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Does the Minister not know if a person has to be unemployed for six months before they qualify, or is it the case that in these circumstances they become eligible straightaway as it were?

**HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:**

I do not know the answer to that but I will find out for the hon Member.

**HON J L BALDACHINO:**

Will it also be open to persons who are under the age of 25 years?

**HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:**

Yes.

ORAL

**NO. 731 OF 2002**

**THE HON J L BALDACHINO**

**NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED**

Can Government give a breakdown of male and female unemployed Gibraltarians aged 18 and over for the months of April, May and June 2002 receiving:-

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

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS**

Answered together with Question No 732 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 732 OF 2002**

**THE HON J L BALDACHINO**

**NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED**

Can Government give a breakdown of male and female unemployed Gibraltarians aged 18 and over for the months of July, August and September 2002 receiving:-

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

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS**

I hand the hon Member a list giving the information requested.

**Answer to Question Nos 731 and 732 of 2002**

The following is a breakdown by month, sex and age of male and female unemployed Gibraltarians ages 18 and over from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2002 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2002:-

**A. Unemployment Benefit**

| 2002   | Males | Females | Total | 18/25 | 26/35 | 36/45 | 46/60 |
|--------|-------|---------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| April  | 37    | 16      | 53    | 23    | 9     | 11    | 10    |
| May    | 41    | 19      | 60    | 25    | 11    | 11    | 13    |
| June   | 33    | 18      | 51    | 20    | 13    | 8     | 10    |
| July   | 29    | 17      | 46    | 12    | 19    | 9     | 6     |
| August | 23    | 24      | 47    | 16    | 14    | 10    | 7     |
| Sept   | 24    | 22      | 46    | 21    | 14    | 6     | 5     |

B. Social Assistance

| 2002   | Males | Females | Total | 18/25 | 26/35 | 36/45 | 46/60 |
|--------|-------|---------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| April  | 75    | 20      | 95    | 31    | 29    | 24    | 11    |
| May    | 72    | 23      | 95    | 30    | 28    | 26    | 11    |
| June   | 70    | 21      | 91    | 29    | 26    | 24    | 12    |
| July   | 76    | 31      | 107   | 33    | 24    | 38    | 12    |
| August | 74    | 28      | 102   | 32    | 22    | 37    | 11    |
| Sept   | 68    | 20      | 88    | 27    | 29    | 26    | 6     |

C. No Payments

| 2002   | Males | Females | Total | 18/24 | 25 & Over |
|--------|-------|---------|-------|-------|-----------|
| April  | 74    | 65      | 139   | 42    | 97        |
| May    | 75    | 70      | 145   | 52    | 93        |
| June   | 77    | 75      | 152   | 52    | 100       |
| July   | 80    | 68      | 148   | 67    | 81        |
| August | 91    | 88      | 179   | 83    | 96        |
| Sept   | 102   | 124     | 226   | 77    | 149       |

ORAL

**NO. 733 OF 2002**

**THE HON J L BALDACHINO**

**SOCIAL ASSISTANCE FUND**

What category of unemployed persons are covered by the payment of £3.1 million to GHA?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS**

The category of unemployed persons covered by the contribution from SAF to the GHA is the same as that covered by the policy of the previous administration. In essence these are persons who are not in employment, whose income exceeds that which would grant them exemption under the Regulations, and are not covered by virtue of being dependants of a contributor.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 733 OF 2002**

**HON J L BALDACHINO:**

So therefore a person who is unemployed and receives no payment does qualify?

**HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:**

What does the hon Member mean by that, unemployed but receiving no payments?

**HON J L BALDACHINO:**

The Minister just answered the question on unemployment benefit, people who are receiving unemployment benefit and people who are on Social Assistance, I suppose those are covered. What I am now asking is if the person who is receiving no payments either from the Social Assistance or from the unemployment benefits but is unemployed would qualify to be covered under that scheme, is that it?

**HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:**

Yes, as long as they are not covered by virtue of being dependants of a contributor.

**HON J L BALDACHINO:**

I suppose if there is such a person in such a category she would have to go to the Minister's department, because they are the payee, the other side is just a recipient, so that something is given for the Health Authority to know that they are covered under that payment. How is it that the person goes about and in the GHA, for example, if they want to go to the Health Centre one needs a card and people are covered either by being someone's spouse or a contributor to the Social Insurance scheme. Obviously if the person is unemployed and receiving unemployment benefit they will have a form saying that he is receiving unemployment benefit and therefore if he takes it to the GHA the GHA will then know that the contribution from that person will be paid by the Minister's department, equally is the social assistance. Now the person that is receiving no payments which has nothing from the Minister's department to take to the GHA saying that he is unemployed, is there a form which the Minister's department gives that person so that he does not have to make a contribution to the GHA because the Minister's department is making that contribution?

**HON K AZOPARDI:**

I cannot illuminate the hon Member as to the exact mechanism but from my experience as Minister for Health there are mechanisms which allow those people, I imagine what he is asking is what if there is someone employed who then becomes unemployed is not receiving benefits after the end of the period during which time he would have received the unemployment benefit, what happens then? How does the Authority know that that person is covered. I know that there are mechanisms but I cannot explain to the hon Member across the floor of the House what exactly those are but they exist I am assured.

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

The people operating the mechanism which I do not know exactly how it is structured, have never brought to me any problems in that respect as if there was a certain uncertainty on their part. Apparently there is a process whereby they can establish the category of the individual person whether they are employed, unemployed, covered by the dependant on a contributor but they seem to be quite happy that the mechanism or the process works fluidly but I can find out exactly how they operate at counter level.

ORAL

**NO. 734 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**HEAD 8A SUBHEAD 23**

Can Government provide a breakdown of Head 8A Subhead 23 in respect of the £119,000 forecast out-turn for the Year 2001/2002 being National Day?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS**

I hand the hon Member a list giving the information requested

**Answer to Question No 734 of 2002**

|     |            |                    |
|-----|------------|--------------------|
| (a) | £ 2,870.90 | Publicity Material |
| (b) | £42,972.20 | Events             |
| (c) | £63,102.85 | Works/Equipment    |
| (d) | £ 4,257.30 | Receptions         |
| (e) | £ 2,466.40 | Security           |
| (f) | £ 3,768.82 | Miscellaneous      |



## **SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 734 OF 2002**

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

With respect to the two largest items in the breakdown being about £43,000 for events and £63,000 for works and equipment, could the Minister clarify further what those figures relate to exactly?

**HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:**

I can give the hon member a couple of examples in what they relate to, for example under events, it would relate to the holding of a classical concert, the Gibraltar Philharmonic Society, the fireworks display, the Gibraltar Photographic Society Exhibition and things of that nature. With regards to works and equipment I can say for example, the hire of tables and chairs for the fair, several works that had to be undergone on the electricity poles, the hire of equipment and labour to transfer men and equipment to the Detached Mole during the fireworks display, the renting of skips for the fair and things of that sort.

ORAL

**NO. 735 OF 2002**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**SOCIAL INSURANCE CONTRIBUTIONS**

Can Government explain why persons with missing social insurance contributions in respect of the year 2001 have been told that if they wish to pay such contributions, the payment will not be accepted after 30<sup>th</sup> June this year?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS**

The law stipulates that the arrears in relation to any contribution year have to be paid by the 30<sup>th</sup> June of the following year. The Director may in his discretion extend the period in which the arrears of contributions may be paid. I am advised by the Director that due to technical reasons related to the new computer system, the issuing of letters of notification of arrears in respect of contribution year 2001 was delayed. In view of the short notice given to those insured persons who may still wish to pay arrears in respect of 2001, I can confirm that the Director will be extending the time limit for payment to the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2003. An advert to this effect will shortly appear in the press.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 735 OF 2002**

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

I am glad that that decision has been taken. Is it the result of the question that brought it to the notice of the Government?

**HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:**

No, we had realised the error of our ways before it was brought to our attention.

ORAL

**NO. 736 OF 2002**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**SOCIAL INSURANCE CONTRIBUTIONS**

How many persons have been sent letters informing them of their social insurance contribution record for the year 2001, in each month of this year, giving a breakdown by employment sector as follows:-

- (a) MOD
- (b) Gibraltar Government
- (c) Government owned and joint venture companies
- (d) Private employers?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS**

Answered together with Question No 737 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 737 OF 2002**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**SOCIAL INSURANCE CONTRIBUTIONS**

As a result of the letters sent to employed persons in the private sector regarding their insurance contribution record for 2001 how many have informed the department of missing contributions and how many employers are involved?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS**

I can confirm that individual annual statements for the year 2001 have been sent to 15,638 insured persons. This is broken up as follows:-

|                                              |        |
|----------------------------------------------|--------|
| MOD                                          | 1,114  |
| Government owned and Joint Venture Companies | 962    |
| Private Sector Employers                     | 13,562 |

The issue of statements to employees in the Gibraltar Government have been delayed due to technical reasons. No records have been kept, or are kept, of how many persons have informed the department of missing contributions. In those instances where the Department has been informed proper follow-up action has been taken with the employer concerned.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 736 & 737 OF 2002**

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

I am at a loss to understand how proper action is being taken with the employers concerned and the department does not know how many employers are taking action.

**HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:**

I am informed that most of the employees who have informed the department because it is the employees on receiving the letters that call to inquire, ".....what is this?" basically, ".....why are some of my contributions missing?" have been in respect of employers who have not returned the contribution schedules. I can say that on average throughout the four quarters of 2001, 822 private sector employers totalling 3,291 insured persons have not returned the schedules.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

A total of 822 have not returned the schedules?

**HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:**

Yes, 822 private sector employers have not returned the schedules.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

That means that something like three quarters of the employers have not returned the schedules.

**HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:**

That seems to be the case.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

That I am afraid is in conflict with the information we have been provided in answer to the question we did not put this time but put the last time which was provided a few days ago in writing by her department as to the number of schedules returned for 2001 were in fact from memory I think it was something in the order of 900 had returned it and there cannot be 900 who return it and 800 who do not because that is more than there are employers in Gibraltar, perhaps the Minister would go back and get confirmation whether that figure is accurate?

**HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:**

I will certainly do that.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

In terms of the follow-up action as I understood from having seen one of these letters the purpose of this exercise was to give employees the opportunity to notify the department when there are missing contributions because obviously the department has got no way of knowing whether the missing contributions are because the person was not working or the missing contributions are because the money has been deducted and not paid. Given that this seems to be an important initiative on the part of the department would it not be useful to record what success it is having in getting a response?

**HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:**

I would not know whether the department would consider it useful to record the number of employers or employees who approach the department but I will certainly suggest it to them.

ORAL

**NO. 738 OF 2002**

**THE HON J L BALDACHINO**

**CAMMELL LAIRD**

Can Government state how many persons were employed by Cammell Laird or alternatively in the Shipping Industry as at the end of April, May, June, July, August and September 2002 and how many of these were Gibraltarians giving a breakdown for each month?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

**(on behalf of the Minister for Employment and Consumer Affairs)**

As the hon Members know my Colleague the Minister for Employment and Consumer Affairs Mr Hubert Corby has recently undergone a knee replacement operation and is under doctor's orders not to attend the House. I am therefore answering his questions as best as I can in his absence.

Answered together with Question No 739 of 2002.



ORAL

**NO. 739 OF 2002**

**THE HON J L BALDACHINO**

**CAMMELL LAIRD**

Can Government give a monthly breakdown of the vacancies for Casual Workers opened with the Employment Agency by Cammell Laird or alternatively in the Shipping Industry in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarters of 2002, and of these how many have been taken by Gibraltarians?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

**(on behalf of the Minister for Employment and Consumer Affairs)**

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

In drawing up statistics to this question, it has been noted that a Company within the Shipping Industry (namely Cammell Laird) chooses to include in its "Notice of Terms of Engagement" forms the word 'casual' when (as confirmed by the company) they really mean "probationary period " safeguard.

The Company has been informed, and has agreed, that in future they will only include the word "casual" when they mean real casual work, and "probationary period" when the work requires such a period of employment. The low number of Gibraltarians may be explained by the fact that most of the vacancies were for specialist/skilled trades, not available in the local labour market. Some vacancies were for labourers and have been

taken up by both Gibraltarians and other EU Nationals. Selection remains the employer's prerogative.

The number of persons employed in the shipping Industry in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarters 2002 is as follows:-

|           | APRIL | MAY | JUNE |
|-----------|-------|-----|------|
| Gibraltar | 123   | 119 | 111  |
| Other     | 112   | 113 | 75   |
| Total     | 235   | 232 | 186  |

|           | APRIL | MAY | JUNE |
|-----------|-------|-----|------|
| Gibraltar | 113   | 107 | 109  |
| Other     | 95    | 81  | 94   |
| Total     | 208   | 188 | 203  |

**Answer to Question No 739 of 2002**

Breakdown of vacancies for Casual Workers opened with the Employment Agency in the Shipping Industry in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarters of 2002, showing Gibraltarians employed.

|                 | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter |     |      | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter |        |      |
|-----------------|-------------------------|-----|------|-------------------------|--------|------|
|                 | April                   | May | June | July                    | August | Sept |
| Total Vacancies | 15                      | 19  | 1    | 26                      | 16     | 21   |
| Gibraltarians   | 2                       | 3   | 1    | 4                       | 4      | 4    |

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 738 AND 739 OF 2002**

**HON J L BALDACHINO:**

Do Government have any knowledge because it appears if we take the September figure for employed Gibraltarians it has gone down to 21 and it is going down all the time

in the shipping industry is it that people are being made redundant, is the department being informed of that?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

No I do not think so. The hon Member will see that it is also going down for the others for the non-Gibraltarians as well. I think the reason is that 11<sup>th</sup> September did have an effect on shipping movements and curiously also on shipowners willingness to have ships in port at that time and I think that there is or there was a downturn at that stage, there has been a downturn in the amount of activity generally in shipyards and ours is no exception and this simply reflects the fluidity of their workforce generally. We are not aware of any redundancies, more than five would have had to be notified.

**HON J L BALDACHINO:**

If the Chief Minister takes the casual workers together with the people in permanent employment if one can call them that which has gone down not just by Gibraltarian but every other that has been employed there, as a matter of fact in the first quarter there was no casual work while now there are being more people being employed as casual workers and this is where I understand what the Chief Minister has said that if the work was going down it might have been going down for the reason that the Chief Minister has given therefore casual workers would not have been employed either.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

In accordance with the agreed language formulated in this question I am steering a careful line between answering questions generally about shipping and specifically about the business of one company. If the hon Member is particularly keen as it would not surprise me that he would be in the particular statistics relating to Cammell Laird, I am sure if the hon Member writes to the Minister I am certain that the Minister will give him the analysis that he seeks and the particular reasons.

ORAL

**NO. 740 OF 2002**

**THE HON J L BALDACHINO**

**EMPLOYMENT – NUMBER OF GIBRALTARIANS**

Can Government state of the Gibraltarians employed in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2002 how many were registered with the Employment Agency giving a breakdown for each month by age and sex?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

**(on behalf of the Minister for Employment and Consumer Affairs)**

Answered together with Question Nos 741 to 749 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 741 OF 2002**

**THE HON J L BALDACHINO**

**EMPLOYMENT – NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED**

How many Gibraltarians joined the Unemployment register during each month of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarters of 2002 giving a breakdown by age and sex?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

**(on behalf of the Minister for Employment and Consumer Affairs)**

Answered together with Question Nos 740 and 742 to 749 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 742 OF 2002**

**THE HON J L BALDACHINO**

**TERMS OF ENGAGEMENT**

Can Government state how many Terms of Engagement were registered with the Employment Agency on 30<sup>th</sup> April, 31<sup>st</sup> May and 30<sup>th</sup> June 2002:

- (a) including directors;
- (b) excluding directors?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

**(on behalf of the Minister for Employment and Consumer Affairs)**

Answered together with Question Nos 740, 741 and 743 to 749 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 743 OF 2002**

**THE HON J L BALDACHINO**

**TERMS OF ENGAGEMENT**

Can Government state how many Terms of Engagement were registered with the Employment Agency on 31<sup>st</sup> July, 31<sup>st</sup> August and 30<sup>th</sup> September 2002:

- (a) including directors;
- (b) excluding directors?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

**(on behalf of the Minister for Employment and Consumer Affairs)**

Answered together with Question Nos 740 to 742 and 744 to 749 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 744 OF 2002**

**THE HON J L BALDACHINO**

**EMPLOYMENT – VACANCIES FILLED**

Can Government state of the vacancies filled in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarters of 2002 how many were for part-time employment giving a breakdown by sex and age for each month as follows:

- (a)     Gibraltarians;
- (b)     Other nationals?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

**(on behalf of the Minister for Employment and Consumer Affairs)**

Answered together with Question Nos 740 to 743 and 745 to 749 of 2002.



ORAL

**NO. 745 OF 2002**

**THE HON J L BALDACHINO**

**EMPLOYMENT – CONTRACTS TERMINATED**

Can Government give a breakdown by nationality and industry giving the total for each month for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarters of 2002 in respect of employment contracts terminated?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

**(on behalf of the Minister for Employment and Consumer Affairs)**

Answered together with Question Nos 740 to 744 and 746 to 749 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 746 OF 2002**

**THE HON J L BALDACHINO**

**WORK PERMITS**

Can Government state the number of Work Permits issued in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarters of 2002 giving a breakdown by occupation, sex and nationality for each month?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

**(on behalf of the Minister for Employment and Consumer Affairs)**

Answered together with Question Nos 740 to 745 and 747 to 749 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 747 OF 2002**

**THE HON J L BALDACHINO**

**DETACHED WORKERS**

Can Government state the number of workers that were registered with the Employment Agency as “Detached Workers” in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarters of 2002, giving a breakdown for each month, their trade and nationality?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

**(on behalf of the Minister for Employment and Consumer Affairs)**

Answered together with Question Nos 740 to 746, 748 and 749 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 748 OF 2002**

**THE HON J L BALDACHINO**

**EMPLOYMENT – NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED**

Can Government state how many Gibraltarians registered unemployed with the Employment Agency as at 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarters of 2002 were registered as looking for part-time jobs giving a breakdown by sex and age for each month?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

**(on behalf of the Minister for Employment and Consumer Affairs)**

Answered together with Question Nos 740 to 747 and 749 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 749 OF 2002**

**THE HON J L BALDACHINO**

**EMPLOYMENT – NUMBER OF GIBRALTARIANS**

Can Government state of the Gibraltarians employed in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2002 how many were registered with the Employment Agency as unemployed giving a breakdown for each month by age and sex?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

**(on behalf of the Minister for Employment and Consumer Affairs)**

As all of the information sought by the hon Member in all of these questions is actually factual and statistical and that it is extensive, I set it all out for him in the written schedule that I now hand to him.

**Answer to Question No 741 of 2002**

Gibraltarians who joined the Unemployment Register during the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter of 2002.

| <b>April</b>   | <b>Male</b> | <b>Female</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|----------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| <b>&lt;18</b>  | 4           | 5             | 9            |
| <b>18 – 24</b> | 30          | 13            | 43           |
| <b>25+</b>     | 36          | 20            | 56           |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>70</b>   | <b>38</b>     | <b>108</b>   |

| May     | Male | Female | Total |
|---------|------|--------|-------|
| <18     | 7    | 12     | 19    |
| 18 – 24 | 24   | 21     | 45    |
| 25+     | 32   | 27     | 59    |
| Total   | 63   | 60     | 123   |

| June    | Male | Female | Total |
|---------|------|--------|-------|
| <18     | 6    | 7      | 13    |
| 18 – 24 | 26   | 15     | 41    |
| 25+     | 30   | 23     | 53    |
| Total   | 62   | 45     | 107   |

| July    | Male | Female | Total |
|---------|------|--------|-------|
| <18     | 7    | 8      | 15    |
| 18 – 24 | 41   | 23     | 64    |
| 25+     | 35   | 26     | 61    |
| Total   | 83   | 57     | 140   |

| August  | Male | Female | Total |
|---------|------|--------|-------|
| <18     | 1    | 4      | 5     |
| 18 – 24 | 39   | 31     | 70    |
| 25+     | 37   | 23     | 60    |
| Total   | 77   | 58     | 135   |

| September | Male | Female | Total |
|-----------|------|--------|-------|
| <18       | 5    | 14     | 19    |
| 18 – 24   | 29   | 28     | 57    |
| 25+       | 53   | 50     | 103   |
| Total     | 87   | 92     | 179   |

### **Answer to Question No 742 and 743 of 2002**

Notice of Terms of Engagement registered with the Employment Service during the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter of 2002.

|                                        | <b>April</b> | <b>May</b> | <b>June</b> | <b>July</b> | <b>August</b> | <b>September</b> |
|----------------------------------------|--------------|------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|------------------|
| Including directors and self- employed | 18721        | 18734      | 18723       | 19033       | 18918         | 19042            |
| Excluding Directors & self-employed    | 16023        | 16025      | 16012       | 16310       | 16203         | 16328            |

### **Answer to Question No 744 of 2002**

Part-time vacancies filled in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter of 2002.

| <b>April</b> | <b>Gibraltarians</b> |               | <b>Other</b> |               | <b>Total</b> |               |
|--------------|----------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
|              | <b>Male</b>          | <b>Female</b> | <b>Male</b>  | <b>Female</b> | <b>Male</b>  | <b>Female</b> |
| <18          | 2                    | 2             | 1            | 1             | 3            | 3             |
| 18 – 24      | 14                   | 15            | 8            | 16            | 22           | 31            |
| 25+          | 4                    | 17            | 12           | 35            | 16           | 52            |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>20</b>            | <b>34</b>     | <b>21</b>    | <b>52</b>     | <b>41</b>    | <b>86</b>     |

| <b>May</b>   | <b>Gibraltarians</b> |               | <b>Other</b> |               | <b>Total</b> |               |
|--------------|----------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
|              | <b>Male</b>          | <b>Female</b> | <b>Male</b>  | <b>Female</b> | <b>Male</b>  | <b>Female</b> |
| <18          | 0                    | 2             | 4            | 1             | 4            | 3             |
| 18 – 24      | 8                    | 10            | 4            | 24            | 12           | 34            |
| 25+          | 7                    | 10            | 16           | 27            | 23           | 37            |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>15</b>            | <b>22</b>     | <b>24</b>    | <b>52</b>     | <b>39</b>    | <b>74</b>     |

| <b>June</b>  | <b>Gibraltarians</b> |               | <b>Other</b> |               | <b>Total</b> |               |
|--------------|----------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
|              | <b>Male</b>          | <b>Female</b> | <b>Male</b>  | <b>Female</b> | <b>Male</b>  | <b>Female</b> |
| <18          | 1                    | 0             | 0            | 3             | 1            | 3             |
| 18 – 24      | 3                    | 5             | 6            | 9             | 9            | 14            |
| 25+          | 6                    | 2             | 6            | 9             | 12           | 11            |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>10</b>            | <b>7</b>      | <b>12</b>    | <b>21</b>     | <b>22</b>    | <b>28</b>     |

| <b>July</b>  | <b>Gibraltarians</b> |               | <b>Other</b> |               | <b>Total</b> |               |
|--------------|----------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
|              | <b>Male</b>          | <b>Female</b> | <b>Male</b>  | <b>Female</b> | <b>Male</b>  | <b>Female</b> |
| <18          | 2                    | 5             | 1            | 1             | 3            | 6             |
| 18 – 24      | 14                   | 30            | 16           | 28            | 30           | 58            |
| 25+          | 6                    | 6             | 11           | 26            | 17           | 32            |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>22</b>            | <b>41</b>     | <b>28</b>    | <b>55</b>     | <b>50</b>    | <b>96</b>     |

| <b>August</b> | <b>Gibraltarians</b> |               | <b>Other</b> |               | <b>Total</b> |               |
|---------------|----------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
|               | <b>Male</b>          | <b>Female</b> | <b>Male</b>  | <b>Female</b> | <b>Male</b>  | <b>Female</b> |
| <18           | 2                    | 1             | 0            | 2             | 2            | 3             |
| 18 – 24       | 6                    | 3             | 5            | 14            | 11           | 17            |
| 25+           | 2                    | 8             | 6            | 21            | 8            | 29            |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>10</b>            | <b>12</b>     | <b>11</b>    | <b>37</b>     | <b>21</b>    | <b>49</b>     |

| <b>Sept</b>  | <b>Gibraltarians</b> |               | <b>Other</b> |               | <b>Total</b> |               |
|--------------|----------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
|              | <b>Male</b>          | <b>Female</b> | <b>Male</b>  | <b>Female</b> | <b>Male</b>  | <b>Female</b> |
| <18          | 2                    | 0             | 2            | 0             | 4            | 0             |
| 18 – 24      | 4                    | 5             | 5            | 7             | 9            | 12            |
| 25+          | 7                    | 23            | 1            | 18            | 8            | 41            |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>13</b>            | <b>28</b>     | <b>8</b>     | <b>25</b>     | <b>21</b>    | <b>53</b>     |

**Answer to Question No 747 of 2002**

Detached Workers registered with the Employment Service in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter of 2002.

**April 2002**

| <b>Nationality</b>   | <b>Professional</b> | <b>Semi-Skilled</b> | <b>Skilled</b> | <b>Manual</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|
| <b>Spanish</b>       | -                   | 1                   | 26             | 3             | 30           |
| <b>British</b>       | -                   | -                   | 3              | -             | 3            |
| <b>Other EEC</b>     | -                   | -                   | 5              | -             | 5            |
| <b>Other Non EEC</b> | -                   | -                   | 17             | -             | 17           |
| <b>Total</b>         | -                   | <b>1</b>            | <b>51</b>      | <b>3</b>      | <b>55</b>    |

**May 2002**

| <b>Nationality</b>   | <b>Professional</b> | <b>Semi-Skilled</b> | <b>Skilled</b> | <b>Manual</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|
| <b>Spanish</b>       | -                   | 5                   | 13             | -             | 18           |
| <b>British</b>       | 6                   | -                   | -              | -             | 6            |
| <b>Other EEC</b>     | -                   | -                   | -              | -             | -            |
| <b>Other Non EEC</b> | -                   | -                   | -              | -             | -            |
| <b>Total</b>         | <b>6</b>            | <b>5</b>            | <b>13</b>      | <b>-</b>      | <b>24</b>    |

**June 2002**

| <b>Nationality</b>   | <b>Professional</b> | <b>Semi-Skilled</b> | <b>Skilled</b> | <b>Manual</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|
| <b>Spanish</b>       | -                   | 4                   | 6              | -             | 10           |
| <b>British</b>       | 1                   | -                   | 4              | -             | 5            |
| <b>Other EEC</b>     | -                   | -                   | -              | -             | -            |
| <b>Other Non EEC</b> | -                   | -                   | -              | -             | -            |
| <b>Total</b>         | <b>1</b>            | <b>4</b>            | <b>10</b>      | <b>-</b>      | <b>15</b>    |



**July 2002**

| <b>Nationality</b>   | <b>Professional</b> | <b>Semi-Skilled</b> | <b>Skilled</b> | <b>Manual</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|
| <b>Spanish</b>       | -                   | 1                   | 17             | -             | 18           |
| <b>British</b>       | -                   | -                   | 7              | -             | 7            |
| <b>Other EEC</b>     | -                   | -                   | 3              | -             | 3            |
| <b>Other Non EEC</b> | -                   | -                   | -              | -             | -            |
| <b>Total</b>         | -                   | 1                   | 27             | -             | 28           |

**August 2002**

| <b>Nationality</b>   | <b>Professional</b> | <b>Semi-Skilled</b> | <b>Skilled</b> | <b>Manual</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|
| <b>Spanish</b>       | -                   | -                   | 28             | -             | 28           |
| <b>British</b>       | 3                   | 2                   | 13             | -             | 18           |
| <b>Other EEC</b>     | -                   | -                   | -              | -             | -            |
| <b>Other Non EEC</b> | -                   | -                   | -              | -             | -            |
| <b>Total</b>         | 3                   | -                   | 41             | -             | 46           |

**September 2002**

| <b>Nationality</b>   | <b>Professional</b> | <b>Semi-Skilled</b> | <b>Skilled</b> | <b>Manual</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|
| <b>Spanish</b>       | -                   | -                   | 17             | 2             | 19           |
| <b>British</b>       | -                   | 1                   | 12             | -             | 13           |
| <b>Other EEC</b>     | -                   | -                   | -              | -             | -            |
| <b>Other Non EEC</b> | 1                   | -                   | -              | -             | 1            |
| <b>Total</b>         | 1                   | 1                   | 29             | 2             | 33           |

**Answer to Question No 748 of 2002**

Unemployed Gibraltarians registering for part-time work in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter of 2002

| <b>April</b>   | <b>Male</b> | <b>Female</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|----------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| <b>&lt;18</b>  | 0           | 0             | 0            |
| <b>18 – 24</b> | 0           | 4             | 4            |
| <b>25+</b>     | 0           | 19            | 19           |
| <b>Total</b>   | 0           | 23            | 23           |

| <b>May</b>     | <b>Male</b> | <b>Female</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|----------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| <b>&lt;18</b>  | 0           | 0             | 0            |
| <b>18 – 24</b> | 0           | 4             | 4            |
| <b>25+</b>     | 0           | 14            | 14           |
| <b>Total</b>   | 0           | 18            | 18           |

| June    | Male | Female | Total |
|---------|------|--------|-------|
| <18     | 0    | 0      | 0     |
| 18 – 24 | 2    | 1      | 3     |
| 25+     | 0    | 13     | 13    |
| Total   | 2    | 14     | 16    |

| July    | Male | Female | Total |
|---------|------|--------|-------|
| <18     | 0    | 0      | 0     |
| 18 – 24 | 0    | 1      | 1     |
| 25+     | 0    | 8      | 8     |
| Total   | 0    | 9      | 9     |

| August  | Male | Female | Total |
|---------|------|--------|-------|
| <18     | 0    | 0      | 0     |
| 18 – 24 | 1    | 3      | 4     |
| 25+     | 0    | 10     | 10    |
| Total   | 1    | 13     | 14    |

| September | Male | Female | Total |
|-----------|------|--------|-------|
| <18       | 0    | 0      | 0     |
| 18 – 24   | 1    | 3      | 4     |
| 25+       | 1    | 20     | 21    |
| Total     | 2    | 23     | 25    |

**Answer to Question Nos 740 and 749 of 2002**

Registered Unemployed Gibraltarians employed during the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter of 2002.

| April   | Male | Female | Total |
|---------|------|--------|-------|
| <18     | 1    | 3      | 4     |
| 18 – 24 | 13   | 13     | 26    |
| 25+     | 12   | 8      | 20    |
| Total   | 26   | 24     | 50    |

| <b>May</b>     | <b>Male</b> | <b>Female</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|----------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| <b>&lt;18</b>  | 3           | 3             | 6            |
| <b>18 – 24</b> | 16          | 8             | 24           |
| <b>25+</b>     | 15          | 10            | 25           |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>34</b>   | <b>21</b>     | <b>55</b>    |

| <b>June</b>    | <b>Male</b> | <b>Female</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|----------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| <b>&lt;18</b>  | 3           | 1             | 4            |
| <b>18 – 24</b> | 14          | 7             | 21           |
| <b>25+</b>     | 7           | 2             | 9            |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>24</b>   | <b>10</b>     | <b>34</b>    |

| <b>July</b>    | <b>Male</b> | <b>Female</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|----------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| <b>&lt;18</b>  | 2           | 3             | 5            |
| <b>18 – 24</b> | 21          | 8             | 29           |
| <b>25+</b>     | 22          | 12            | 34           |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>45</b>   | <b>23</b>     | <b>68</b>    |

| <b>August</b>  | <b>Male</b> | <b>Female</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|----------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| <b>&lt;18</b>  | 2           | 2             | 4            |
| <b>18 – 24</b> | 26          | 4             | 30           |
| <b>25+</b>     | 13          | 5             | 18           |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>41</b>   | <b>11</b>     | <b>52</b>    |

| <b>September</b> | <b>Male</b> | <b>Female</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| <b>&lt;18</b>    | 4           | 2             | 6            |
| <b>18 – 24</b>   | 20          | 10            | 30           |
| <b>25+</b>       | 21          | 14            | 35           |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>45</b>   | <b>26</b>     | <b>71</b>    |

### Answer to Question 745

| Industry                  | APRIL |     |     |     |     |     | MAY |     |     |     |     |         | JUNE |     |     |     |     |         |
|---------------------------|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------|
|                           | GIB   | BRI | SPA | MOR | EEC | OTH | GIB | BRI | SPA | MOR | EEC | OT<br>H | GIB  | BRI | SPA | MOR | EEC | OT<br>H |
| Shipbldg, repair etc.     | 3     |     | 6   |     | 3   |     | 11  | 1   | 17  | 1   | 1   |         | 5    |     | 25  |     | 6   |         |
| M/f of food, & tobacco    | 1     |     | 3   | 1   |     |     | 1   |     |     |     |     |         | 1    |     |     |     |     |         |
| Printing & publishing     | 1     |     |     |     |     |     | 2   | 1   |     |     |     |         | 4    | 2   | 1   |     |     |         |
| M/f n.e.c.(clothing etc)  |       |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |         |      |     |     |     |     |         |
| Blding & construction     | 21    | 23  | 42  | 10  | 3   | 2   | 19  | 45  | 31  | 3   | 4   | 4       | 12   | 16  | 33  | 1   |     |         |
| Electricity supply        |       |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |         | 1    |     |     |     |     |         |
| Water supply              |       |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |         | 1    |     |     |     |     |         |
| Sea transport/shipping    | 5     |     |     |     |     |     | 1   |     |     |     | 1   |         | 4    | 1   |     |     | 1   |         |
| Port & services           |       |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |         |      |     |     |     |     |         |
| Road transport            |       |     |     |     |     |     |     | 1   |     |     |     |         | 1    |     | 1   |     |     |         |
| Post & telecomm.          | 3     |     |     |     |     |     | 1   |     |     |     |     |         | 1    |     |     |     |     |         |
| Air transport & related   |       | 1   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |         |      |     |     |     |     |         |
| W/sale food, drink        | 6     | 1   | 1   |     |     |     | 1   | 2   | 2   |     |     |         | 4    | 1   |     | 5   |     |         |
| W/sale fuel               |       |     |     |     |     |     | 1   |     |     |     |     |         |      |     |     |     |     |         |
| W/sale n.e.c.             | 4     | 1   | 1   |     |     |     |     |     | 1   |     |     |         | 2    | 1   |     | 1   |     |         |
| Retail –food              | 4     | 4   | 1   |     | 2   |     | 5   | 3   | 4   | 1   |     |         | 9    | 4   | 5   | 2   |     | 1       |
| Retail-drink & tobacco    | 3     |     |     |     |     |     | 3   |     | 1   |     |     |         |      |     |     |     |     |         |
| Ret.-clothing, footwear   | 1     | 1   |     |     |     |     | 1   |     |     |     | 1   |         | 1    | 2   | 3   |     |     |         |
| Retail – h/hold goods     | 1     | 1   |     |     |     |     |     |     | 1   |     |     |         | 1    |     |     |     |     |         |
| Retail – n.e.c.           | 6     | 3   | 4   |     | 2   |     | 10  | 1   | 7   |     |     |         | 6    | 3   | 3   | 1   | 1   |         |
| Hotels,hostels,g/houses   | 1     | 1   | 1   | 2   | 1   |     | 1   | 2   | 4   |     | 2   |         | 7    | 2   | 6   | 1   |     |         |
| Restaurants, cafes etc    | 12    | 9   | 21  |     | 2   |     | 4   | 14  | 13  | 1   | 1   |         | 10   | 17  | 14  | 6   | 4   |         |
| Bars(lic to sell alcohol) | 13    | 38  | 6   | 1   | 7   |     | 4   | 6   | 6   |     |     |         | 2    | 2   | 5   | 1   | 1   |         |
| Tourist svcs n.e.c.       | 2     | 1   | 1   |     |     |     | 5   |     |     |     |     |         | 5    |     | 3   |     |     |         |
| Banking & finance         | 8     | 3   |     |     | 1   | 1   | 4   | 2   |     |     | 2   |         | 8    | 5   |     |     | 1   |         |
| Insurance & real estate   | 2     |     |     |     |     |     | 3   |     |     |     | 1   |         | 6    | 3   |     |     |     |         |
| Legal,account,other svc   | 16    | 9   | 6   | 2   |     |     | 13  | 5   |     |     | 2   | 1       | 18   | 6   | 3   |     | 1   | 1       |
| Public admin              | 12    |     |     |     |     |     | 21  | 2   | 1   |     |     |         | 16   |     |     |     |     |         |
| Education services        | 1     |     |     |     |     |     | 1   |     |     |     |     |         |      | 1   | 1   |     |     |         |
| Medical/health services   | 5     |     |     |     |     |     | 2   | 2   |     |     |     |         | 1    | 1   | 2   |     |     |         |
| Welfare,charity,rel svcs  |       | 1   |     |     |     |     | 1   |     |     |     |     |         | 2    | 2   |     |     |     |         |
| Entertainment & sport     | 10    | 16  |     |     |     | 3   | 17  | 13  |     |     | 2   | 1       | 22   | 13  |     | 1   | 2   |         |
| Repairs-consumer good     |       |     | 3   |     |     |     | 3   | 1   | 2   |     |     |         | 3    | 3   |     |     |     |         |
| Police/fire services      | 3     | 2   | 1   |     |     |     | 2   | 1   | 1   |     | 1   |         | 4    | 3   | 1   |     |     |         |
| Defence                   | 4     |     |     |     |     |     | 5   | 1   |     |     |     |         | 2    | 2   |     |     |     |         |
| Sanitary services         |       |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |         |      |     |     |     |     |         |
| Services n.e.c.           | 28    | 9   | 8   | 1   |     | 1   | 15  | 3   | 5   |     |     |         | 26   | 9   | 10  | 2   | 1   |         |
| Totals                    | 176   | 124 | 105 | 17  | 21  | 7   | 157 | 106 | 96  | 6   | 18  | 6       | 185  | 99  | 116 | 21  | 18  | 2       |
|                           |       |     | 450 |     |     |     |     | 389 |     |     |     |         |      | 441 |     |     |     |         |

**CONTD ANSWER TO QUESTION 749 OF 2002**

**Contd. Answer to Question 745**

| Employment Contracts Terminated by Nationality & Industry for July – September 2002 |            |           |           |           |           |           |            |            |            |           |           |           |            |           |            |           |           |          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| Industry                                                                            | July       |           |           |           |           |           | August     |            |            |           |           |           | September  |           |            |           |           |          |
|                                                                                     | GIB        | BRI       | SPA       | MOR       | EEC       | OTH       | GIB        | BRI        | SPA        | MOR       | EEC       | OTH       | GIB        | BRI       | SPA        | MOR       | EEC       | OTH      |
| Shipbldg, repair etc.                                                               | 2          | 1         | 2         |           |           |           | 10         | 2          | 23         |           | 3         |           | 2          |           | 5          |           | 1         |          |
| M/f of food, & tobacco                                                              |            |           | 1         |           |           |           |            | 1          |            |           |           |           | 1          |           |            | 1         |           |          |
| Printing & publishing                                                               | 4          | 1         |           |           |           |           | 1          |            |            |           |           |           |            | 1         |            |           |           |          |
| M/f n.e.c.(clothing etc)                                                            |            |           |           |           |           |           |            | 1          |            |           |           |           |            | 1         |            |           |           |          |
| Blding & construction                                                               | 10         | 18        | 38        | 5         | 1         |           | 24         | 20         | 26         | 4         | 1         | 1         | 23         | 19        | 51         | 2         | 2         |          |
| Electricity supply                                                                  | 1          |           |           | 1         |           |           |            |            |            |           |           |           | 1          |           |            |           |           |          |
| Water supply                                                                        |            |           |           |           |           |           | 11         |            |            |           |           |           | 1          |           |            |           |           |          |
| Sea transport/shipping                                                              | 7          |           |           |           | 1         |           | 4          |            |            |           |           |           | 3          |           |            |           |           |          |
| Port & services                                                                     |            |           |           |           |           |           |            |            |            |           |           |           |            |           |            |           |           |          |
| Road transport                                                                      | 1          |           |           |           |           |           | 2          |            |            |           |           |           |            | 1         |            |           |           |          |
| Post & telecomm.                                                                    | 3          |           |           |           |           |           | 25         | 2          |            |           |           |           | 1          | 1         |            |           |           |          |
| Air transport & related                                                             |            |           |           |           |           |           |            |            |            |           |           |           |            |           |            |           |           |          |
| W/sale food, drink                                                                  | 1          |           |           |           |           |           | 9          |            | 4          |           |           | 1         | 3          | 1         |            | 1         | 1         |          |
| W/sale fuel                                                                         | 2          |           |           |           |           |           |            |            |            |           |           |           | 1          |           |            |           |           |          |
| W/sale n.e.c.                                                                       | 2          |           | 2         |           |           | 5         | 4          |            | 1          |           | 1         | 2         | 5          | 5         |            |           |           | 1        |
| Retail –food                                                                        | 6          | 3         | 3         |           | 1         |           | 17         | 5          | 11         | 2         |           |           | 5          |           | 5          | 2         |           |          |
| Retail-drink & tobacco                                                              |            | 1         |           |           |           |           | 6          | 1          |            |           |           |           | 8          |           | 1          |           |           |          |
| Ret.-clothing, footwear                                                             | 5          | 2         | 1         |           |           |           | 5          | 1          | 3          |           |           |           | 6          |           | 1          |           |           |          |
| Retail – h/hold goods                                                               |            |           |           |           |           |           | 2          |            | 4          | 2         |           |           | 4          | 3         | 2          |           |           |          |
| Retail – n.e.c.                                                                     | 8          | 1         | 4         |           |           |           | 13         | 4          | 2          | 1         |           |           | 8          | 2         | 7          |           |           |          |
| Hotels,hostels,g/houses                                                             | 5          | 2         | 7         |           | 1         |           | 2          | 2          | 3          |           | 3         |           | 7          | 2         | 6          | 2         | 2         |          |
| Restaurants, cafes etc                                                              | 8          | 11        | 18        | 1         | 2         | 1         | 14         | 15         | 14         | 6         | 3         |           | 11         | 10        | 9          | 1         | 3         | 1        |
| Bars(lic to sell alcohol)                                                           | 4          | 6         | 3         |           |           |           | 6          | 7          | 4          |           |           |           | 1          | 3         |            |           |           |          |
| Tourist svcs n.e.c.                                                                 | 2          |           |           |           |           |           | 9          |            |            |           |           |           | 9          | 3         | 4          | 1         |           |          |
| Banking & finance                                                                   | 12         | 1         | 2         |           | 1         |           | 13         | 8          |            |           | 2         |           | 19         | 7         |            |           | 2         | 1        |
| Insurance & real estate                                                             | 6          | 3         | 1         |           |           |           | 6          | 3          |            |           |           |           | 3          |           |            |           |           |          |
| Legal,account,other svc                                                             | 27         | 10        | 3         | 1         | 2         |           | 31         | 7          | 1          | 1         | 1         |           | 23         | 9         |            | 2         | 1         | 1        |
| Public admin                                                                        | 23         | 2         |           |           |           |           | 23         |            |            | 1         |           |           | 19         | 2         |            | 1         |           |          |
| Education services                                                                  | 1          |           |           |           |           |           |            | 1          |            |           |           |           | 1          |           |            |           |           |          |
| Medical/health services                                                             | 3          |           |           |           |           |           | 16         |            |            | 1         |           |           | 8          | 1         |            |           |           |          |
| Welfare,charity,rel svcs                                                            | 2          | 2         |           |           |           |           | 2          | 1          |            |           |           |           | 3          |           |            |           |           |          |
| Entertainment & sport                                                               | 5          | 7         | 2         |           | 1         | 19        | 11         | 17         | 1          |           | 1         | 14        | 6          | 6         | 1          | 1         | 2         | 2        |
| Repairs-consumer good                                                               | 8          | 2         | 3         | 1         | 1         |           | 4          | 3          | 3          | 1         |           |           | 5          | 3         |            | 2         |           |          |
| Police/fire services                                                                | 2          | 1         |           |           | 1         |           | 2          | 3          |            |           | 2         |           | 4          | 3         |            |           |           |          |
| Defence                                                                             | 5          | 9         |           |           |           |           | 4          | 1          |            |           |           |           | 2          | 3         |            |           | 1         |          |
| Sanitary services                                                                   |            |           |           |           |           |           | 1          |            |            |           |           |           |            |           |            |           |           |          |
| Services n.e.c.                                                                     | 20         | 11        | 8         | 1         | 2         |           | 34         | 7          | 6          | 2         | 1         |           | 23         | 1         | 28         | 1         |           |          |
| <b>Totals</b>                                                                       | <b>185</b> | <b>94</b> | <b>98</b> | <b>10</b> | <b>14</b> | <b>25</b> | <b>311</b> | <b>112</b> | <b>106</b> | <b>21</b> | <b>18</b> | <b>18</b> | <b>216</b> | <b>87</b> | <b>120</b> | <b>17</b> | <b>15</b> | <b>6</b> |
|                                                                                     | 426        |           |           |           |           |           | 586        |            |            |           |           |           | 461        |           |            |           |           |          |

**CONTD ANSWER TO QUESTION 749 OF 2002**

**Answer to Question 746**

Work Permits issued in the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter of 2002.

| April 02     | Malasian |    | Swiss |   | H Konese |   | S African |   | Mexican |   | Cypriot |   | Totals |
|--------------|----------|----|-------|---|----------|---|-----------|---|---------|---|---------|---|--------|
|              | M        | F  | M     | F | M        | F | M         | F | M       | F | M       | F |        |
| Managerial   |          |    |       |   |          |   |           |   |         |   |         |   |        |
| Professional |          |    |       | 1 |          |   |           |   |         |   |         |   | 1      |
| Medical      |          |    |       |   |          |   |           |   |         |   |         |   |        |
| Clerical     |          |    |       |   |          |   | 2         |   |         |   |         |   | 2      |
| Semi-Skilled |          |    |       |   |          |   |           |   |         |   |         |   |        |
| Domestic     |          |    |       |   |          |   |           |   |         |   |         |   |        |
| Catering     |          |    |       |   |          |   |           |   | 1       |   |         |   | 1      |
| Skilled      | 5        | 19 |       |   |          | 1 |           |   |         |   | 3       |   | 28     |
| Director     |          |    |       |   |          |   |           |   |         |   |         |   |        |
| Totals       | 5        | 19 |       | 1 |          | 1 | 2         |   | 1       | 3 |         |   | 32     |

| May 02       | Malasian |   | Slovak |   | American |   | Bulgarian |   | Yugoslav |   | Russain |   | Australian |   | Totals |
|--------------|----------|---|--------|---|----------|---|-----------|---|----------|---|---------|---|------------|---|--------|
|              | M        | F | M      | F | M        | F | M         | F | M        | F | M       | F | M          | F |        |
| Managerial   |          |   |        |   |          |   |           |   |          |   |         |   |            |   |        |
| Professional |          |   |        |   | 1        |   |           |   |          |   | 1       |   | 1          |   | 3      |
| Medical      |          |   |        |   |          |   |           |   |          |   |         |   |            |   |        |
| Clerical     |          |   |        |   |          |   |           |   |          |   |         |   |            |   |        |
| Semi-Skilled |          |   |        | 1 |          |   |           |   |          |   |         |   |            |   | 1      |
| Domestic     |          |   |        |   |          |   |           |   |          |   |         |   |            |   |        |
| Catering     |          |   |        |   |          |   |           |   |          |   |         |   |            |   |        |
| Skilled      |          | 6 |        |   |          |   | 3         |   | 3        |   |         |   |            |   | 12     |
| Director     |          |   |        |   |          |   |           |   |          |   |         |   |            |   |        |
| Totals       |          | 6 |        | 1 | 1        |   | 3         |   | 3        |   | 1       |   | 1          |   | 16     |

**CONTD ANSWER TO QUESTION 749 OF 2002**

**Contd Answer to Question 746**

| June 02      | Korean |   | Cypriot |   | Totals |
|--------------|--------|---|---------|---|--------|
|              | M      | F | M       | F |        |
| Managerial   |        |   |         |   |        |
| Professional |        |   |         |   |        |
| Medical      |        |   |         |   |        |
| Clerical     |        |   |         |   |        |
| Semi-Skilled |        |   |         |   |        |
| Domestic     |        |   |         |   |        |
| Catering     |        |   |         |   |        |
| Skilled      |        | 1 | 1       |   | 2      |
| Director     |        |   |         |   |        |
| Totals       |        | 1 | 1       |   | 2      |

| July 02      | Korean |   | Chinese |   | Canadian |   | Russian |   | Polish |   | Pakistani |   | S. African |   | Cypriot |   | Totals |
|--------------|--------|---|---------|---|----------|---|---------|---|--------|---|-----------|---|------------|---|---------|---|--------|
|              | M      | F | M       | F | M        | F | M       | F | M      | F | M         | F | M          | F | M       | F |        |
| Managerial   |        |   |         |   |          |   |         |   |        |   |           |   |            |   |         |   |        |
| Professional | 2      |   |         |   | 1        |   |         | 1 |        |   | 1         |   | 1          |   |         |   | 6      |
| Medical      |        |   |         |   |          |   |         |   |        |   |           |   |            |   |         |   |        |
| Clerical     |        |   |         |   |          |   |         |   |        |   |           |   |            |   |         |   |        |
| Semi-Skilled |        |   |         |   |          |   |         |   |        |   |           |   |            |   |         |   |        |
| Domestic     |        |   |         |   |          |   |         |   |        |   |           |   |            |   |         |   |        |
| Catering     |        |   |         |   |          |   |         |   |        |   |           |   |            |   |         |   |        |
| Skilled      |        | 2 |         | 1 |          |   |         |   | 1      |   |           |   |            |   | 2       |   | 6      |
| Director     |        |   |         |   |          |   |         |   |        |   |           |   |            |   |         |   |        |
| Totals       | 2      | 2 |         | 1 | 1        |   |         | 1 | 1      |   | 1         |   | 1          |   | 2       |   | 12     |

**CONTD ANSWER TO QUESTION 749 OF 2002**

**Contd. Answer to Question 746**

| August 02    | Moroccan |   | Cypriot |   | S.African |   | Korea |   | Totals |
|--------------|----------|---|---------|---|-----------|---|-------|---|--------|
|              | M        | F | M       | F | M         | F | M     | F |        |
| Managerial   |          |   |         |   |           |   |       |   |        |
| Professional |          |   | 1       | 1 |           | 2 |       |   | 4      |
| Medical      |          |   |         |   |           |   |       |   |        |
| Clerical     |          |   |         |   |           |   |       |   |        |
| Semi-Skilled |          |   |         |   |           |   |       |   |        |
| Domestic     |          | 1 |         |   |           |   |       |   | 1      |
| Catering     |          |   |         |   |           |   |       |   |        |
| Skilled      |          |   | 1       |   |           |   | 1     |   | 2      |
| Director     |          |   |         |   |           |   |       |   |        |
| Totals       |          | 1 | 2       | 1 |           | 2 | 1     |   | 7      |

| Sept 02      | Israeli |   | Chinese |   | American |   | S. African |   | Argentinian |   | Polish |   | Isle of Man |   | Total |
|--------------|---------|---|---------|---|----------|---|------------|---|-------------|---|--------|---|-------------|---|-------|
|              | M       | F | M       | F | M        | F | M          | F | M           | F | M      | F | M           | F |       |
| Managerial   |         |   |         |   |          |   |            |   |             |   |        |   |             |   |       |
| Professional | 1       |   |         |   |          |   | 4          | 2 |             |   |        |   |             |   | 7     |
| Medical      |         |   |         |   |          |   |            |   |             |   |        |   |             |   |       |
| Clerical     |         |   |         |   |          |   |            |   |             | 1 |        |   |             |   | 1     |
| Semi-Skilled |         |   |         |   |          |   |            |   |             |   |        |   |             |   |       |
| Domestic     |         |   |         |   |          |   |            |   |             |   |        |   |             |   |       |
| Catering     |         |   | 1       |   |          |   |            |   |             |   |        |   |             |   | 1     |
| Skilled      |         |   |         |   |          |   |            |   |             |   | 2      |   | 1           |   | 3     |
| Director     |         |   |         |   | 1        |   |            |   |             |   |        |   |             |   | 1     |
| Totals       | 1       |   | 1       |   | 1        |   | 4          | 2 |             | 1 | 2      |   | 1           |   | 13    |



**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 741 TO 749 OF 2002**

**HON J L BALDACHINO:**

In Question No 746 of 2002 on work permits is it that these are new issued or is it that it could also be renewed included?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

They are new work permits. Does he mean whether it is somebody that has just arrived in Gibraltar as opposed to somebody changing jobs? My understanding is that these are new work permits issued.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

In answer to Question No 747 of 2002 where we have got the figures for detached workers are these in a particular industry, for example, are they in shiprepairing or would they be in construction which are the two most obvious areas which might be using detached workers?

**HON J J NETTO:**

Judging from memory I would daresay shipbuilding.

ORAL

**NO. 750 OF 2002**

**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 for the month of April, May and June 2002 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 CHIEF MINISTER**

**(on behalf of the Minister for Employment and Consumer Affairs)**

Answered together with Question No 751 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 751 OF 2002**

**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 for the month of July, August and September 2002 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 CHIEF MINISTER**

**(on behalf of 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 No 750 of 2002**

**April 2002**

Number of inspections carried out was 11.  
1 Fixed Penalty Notice was issued.  
1 Fixed Penalty Notice was paid.  
No pending cases with the Attorney General.

## **May 2002**

Number of inspections carried out was 13.  
6 Fixed Penalty Notices were issued.  
No Fixed Penalty Notices were paid.  
No Pending cases with the Attorney General.

## **June 2002**

Number of inspections carried out was 13.  
2 Fixed Penalty Notices were issued.  
2 Fixed Penalty Notices were paid.  
No pending case with the Attorney General.

## **Answer to Question No 751 of 2002**

## **July 2002**

Number of inspections carried out was 20.  
4 Fixed Penalty Notices were issued.  
3 Fixed Penalty Notices were paid.  
2 pending cases with the Attorney General.

## **August 2002**

Number of inspections carried out was 23.  
2 Fixed Penalty Notices were issued.  
5 Fixed Penalty Notices were paid.  
1 pending case with the Attorney General.

## **September 2002**

Number of inspections carried out was 18  
5 Fixed Penalty Notices were issued.  
3 Fixed Penalty Notices were paid.  
2 pending cases with the Attorney General.

The provisions are as follows:-

- (1) Regulations 8(2A) of the Income Tax (Pay As You Earn) Regulations 1989 (Duty to Register).
- (2) Regulation 3 of the Employment Injuries (Contributions) Regulations (Duty to Register).

- (3) Regulation 3 of the Employment Injuries (Contributions) Regulations as applied by Regulation 4(1) of the Social Security (Contributions) Regulations (Duty to Register).
- (4) 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).
- (5) Regulation 4 of the Employment Regulations 1994 (Duty to notify Director of vacancy).
- (6) Regulation 6 of the Employment Regulations 1994 (Duty to notify Director of intention to engaged an entitled worker).
- (7) Regulation 7 of the Employment Regulations 1994 (Duty to apply to the Director for a permit in relation to a non-entitled worker).
- (8) Section 3 of the Business Trades and Professions (Registration) Ordinance 1989 (Duty to Register).

**NO. 752 OF 2002**

**THE HON J L BALDACHINO**

**JOB CLUB**

Can Government state how many persons have used the facilities provided at the Job Club in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarters of 2002, giving a breakdown for each month, by sex and age?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

**(on behalf of 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.

Total number of persons using the Job Club facilities for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarters of 2002 by month, sex and age.

**Answer to Question No 752 of 2002**

| April  | Under 18 | 18-24 | 25 and Over | Total |
|--------|----------|-------|-------------|-------|
| Male   | 10       | 11    | 9           | 30    |
| Female | 3        | 7     | 9           | 19    |
| Total  | 13       | 18    | 18          | 49    |

| <b>May</b>    | <b>Under 18</b> | <b>18-24</b> | <b>25 and Over</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|---------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------|
| <b>Male</b>   | 5               | 7            | 12                 | 24           |
| <b>Female</b> | 1               | 9            | 9                  | 19           |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>6</b>        | <b>16</b>    | <b>21</b>          | <b>43</b>    |

| <b>June</b>   | <b>Under 18</b> | <b>18-24</b> | <b>25 and Over</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|---------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------|
| <b>Male</b>   | 4               | 6            | 9                  | 19           |
| <b>Female</b> | 0               | 7            | 4                  | 11           |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>4</b>        | <b>13</b>    | <b>13</b>          | <b>30</b>    |

| <b>July</b>   | <b>Under 18</b> | <b>18-24</b> | <b>25 and Over</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|---------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------|
| <b>Male</b>   | 6               | 9            | 16                 | 31           |
| <b>Female</b> | 3               | 11           | 10                 | 24           |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>9</b>        | <b>20</b>    | <b>26</b>          | <b>55</b>    |

| <b>August</b> | <b>Under 18</b> | <b>18-24</b> | <b>25 and Over</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|---------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------|
| <b>Male</b>   | 4               | 10           | 14                 | 28           |
| <b>Female</b> | 3               | 13           | 17                 | 33           |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>7</b>        | <b>23</b>    | <b>31</b>          | <b>61</b>    |

| <b>September</b> | <b>Under 18</b> | <b>18-24</b> | <b>25 and Over</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|------------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------|
| <b>Male</b>      | 6               | 9            | 13                 | 28           |
| <b>Female</b>    | 6               | 17           | 14                 | 37           |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>12</b>       | <b>26</b>    | <b>27</b>          | <b>65</b>    |

ORAL

**NO. 753 OF 2002**

**THE HON J L BALDACHINO**

**EMPLOYMENT – NON EEC NATIONALS**

Can Government state how many non-EEC nationals employed in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2002 were new entrants to the Local Labour Market giving a breakdown by nationality and job title, for each month?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

**(on behalf of the Minister for Employment and Consumer Affairs)**

Answered together with Question Nos 754 to 756 of 2002.



ORAL

**NO. 754 OF 2002**

**THE HON J L BALDACHINO**

**EMPLOYMENT – MOROCCAN NATIONALS**

Can Government state how many Moroccan nationals employed in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2002 were new entrants to the Local Labour Market?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

**(on behalf of the Minister for Employment and Consumer Affairs)**

Answered together with Question Nos 753, 755 and 754 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 755 OF 2002**

**THE HON J L BALDACHINO**

**EMPLOYMENT – SPANISH NATIONALS**

Can Government state of the 297 Spanish nationals employed in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter how many were new entrants to the Local Labour Market giving a breakdown for each month?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

**(on behalf of the Minister for Employment and Consumer Affairs)**

Answered together with Question No 753, 754 and 756 of 2002.

**NO. 756 OF 2002**

**THE HON J L BALDACHINO**

**EMPLOYMENT – OTHER BRITISH NATIONALS**

Can Government state of the 300 other British employed in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2002 how many were new entrants to the Local Labour Market giving a breakdown for each month?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

**(on behalf of 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 Nos 753 to 756 of 2002**

**British Nationals**

|              | <b>April</b> | <b>May</b> | <b>June</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|--------------|--------------|------------|-------------|--------------|
| New Entrants | 52           | 56         | 36          | 144          |

**Spanish**

|              | <b>April</b> | <b>May</b> | <b>June</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|--------------|--------------|------------|-------------|--------------|
| New Entrants | 40           | 65         | 44          | 149          |

**Moroccans**

|              | <b>April</b> | <b>May</b> | <b>June</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|--------------|--------------|------------|-------------|--------------|
| New Entrants | 0            | 0          | 0           | 0            |

Other Non-EEC Nationals

| April        | Malaysian | Greek/<br>Cypriot | Swiss | Mexican | S African | H.Konese | Total |
|--------------|-----------|-------------------|-------|---------|-----------|----------|-------|
| Managerial   | -         | -                 | -     | -       | -         | -        | -     |
| Professional | -         | -                 | 1     | -       | -         | -        | 1     |
| Medical      | -         | -                 | -     | -       | -         | -        | -     |
| Clerical     | -         | -                 | -     | -       | 2         | -        | 2     |
| Semi-Skilled | -         | -                 | -     | -       | -         | -        | -     |
| Domestic     | -         | -                 | -     | -       | -         | -        | -     |
| Catering     | -         | -                 | -     | 1       | -         | -        | 1     |
| Skilled      | 24        | 3                 | -     | -       | -         | 1        | 28    |
| Director     |           | -                 | -     | -       | -         |          |       |
| Total        | 24        | 3                 | 1     | 1       | 2         | 1        | 32    |

| May          | American | Bulgarian | Yugoslav | Slovak | Russian | Aug | Malaysian | Total |
|--------------|----------|-----------|----------|--------|---------|-----|-----------|-------|
| Managerial   | -        | -         | -        | -      | -       | -   | -         | -     |
| Professional | 1        | -         | -        | -      | 1       | 1   | -         | 3     |
| Medical      | -        | -         | -        | -      | -       | -   | -         | -     |
| Clerical     | -        | -         | -        | -      | -       | -   | -         | -     |
| Semi-Skilled | -        | -         | -        | 1      | -       | -   | -         | 1     |
| Domestic     | -        | -         | -        | -      | -       | -   | -         | -     |
| Catering     | -        | -         | -        | -      | -       | -   | -         | -     |
| Skilled      | -        | 3         | 3        | -      | -       | -   | 6         | 12    |
| Director     | -        | -         | -        | -      | -       | -   | -         | -     |
| Total        | 1        | 3         | 3        | 1      | 1       | 1   | 6         | 16    |

| June         | Korean | Greek/Cypriot | Totals |
|--------------|--------|---------------|--------|
| Managerial   | -      | -             | -      |
| Professional | -      | -             | -      |
| Medical      | -      | -             | -      |
| Clerical     | -      | -             | -      |
| Semi-Skilled | -      | -             | -      |
| Domestic     | -      | -             | -      |
| Catering     | -      | -             | -      |
| Skilled      | 1      | 1             | 2      |
| Director     | -      | -             | -      |
| Totals       | 1      | 1             | 2      |

ORAL

**NO. 757 OF 2002**

**THE HON J L BALDACHINO**

**EU DIRECTIVE – PROTECTION OF YOUNG WORKERS**

Can Government state when they intend to transpose to our National Law EU Directive on the Protection of young workers?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

**(On behalf of the Minister for Employment and Consumer Affairs)**

As the hon Member will know, parts of the Directive on the Protection of Young People at Work have already been transposed into our national law incorporated in the Working Time Ordinance (which itself transposed the Working Time Directive). Government hope to be in position to review and transpose, as appropriate, the remaining provisions of the Protection of Young People at Work Directive as soon as possible.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 757 OF 2002**

**HON J L BALDACHINO:**

I have asked this question because during the debate that we had on the Ordinance that the Chief Minister has just stated I raised the question that when there is an age gap of persons that are 17 years old who are not protected but were protected by the old Ordinance that we had. At the time I was told by the Government that that size age which was 17 would be protected when they brought the Protection of Young Workers Ordinance Bill or Directive to the House, this was about three years ago.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

I accept that the matter was first raised by him some time ago, it would not be true that the Working Time Ordinance as it presently stands leaves a gap for 15 to 18 years.

**HON J L BALDACHINO:**

No, 17.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

Persons aged between 15 and 18 include 17 year olds. Many of the provisions of the Working Time Ordinance makes specific provision to people or to workers under the age of 18, for example, Sections 8(2), 9(3), 10(3), 12 and to Young Workers which is a defined term in Section 17. The exercise that is presently being done but I cannot tell him at what stage it is in terms of the drafting work is to make sure that all the references that there have been to these young workers under 18 in the Working Time Directive as transposed constitutes full transposition of the Protection of Young People At Work directive. The answer to that question is probably that it does not completely transpose the latter directive and an exercise is being done to see if there are any lacunae have been left and those will be filled by an amendment. That exercise is taking place but I regret that I cannot tell him exactly at what stage the drafts people are in. I can ask Mr Corby to contact him and bring him up to date with the timings of that exercise.

ORAL

**NO. 758 OF 2002**

**THE HON J L BALDACHINO**

**EMPLOYMENT – WAGE SUBSIDY**

Can Government state what was the expenditure by the Employment Agency on Wage Subsidy in each month of the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2002 and the number of people and of employers involved in each of these months?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

**(On behalf of the Minister for Employment and Consumer Affairs)**

Answered together with Question Nos 759 to 761 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 759 OF 2002**

**THE HON J L BALDACHINO**

**EMPLOYMENT – WAGE SUBSIDY**

Can Government state what was the expenditure by the Employment Agency on wage subsidy in each month of the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2002 and the number of people and of employees involved in each of these months?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

**(On behalf of the Minister for Employment and Consumer Affairs)**

Answered together with Question Nos 758, 760 and 761 of 2002.



ORAL

**NO. 760 OF 2002**

**THE HON J L BALDACHINO**

**EMPLOYMENT – WAGE SUBSIDY**

Can Government state what was the expenditure by the Employment Agency on wage subsidy in each month of 2001 and the number of people and of employers involved in each of these months?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

**(On behalf of the Minister for Employment and Consumer Affairs)**

Answered together with Question Nos 758, 759 and 761 of 2002.

**NO. 761 OF 2002**

**THE HON J L BALDACHINO**

**EMPLOYMENT – WAGE SUBSIDY**

Can Government state what was the expenditure by the Employment Agency on wage subsidy in each month of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2002 and the number of people and of the employers involved in each of these months?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

**(On behalf of the Minister for Employment and Consumer Affairs)**

The extensive, factual and statistical information is set out in tabular form in the schedule that I now hand the hon Member.

**Supplementary to Question No 760 of 2002**

In total, the number of employees assisted is 35.

**Supplementary to Question No 761 of 2002**

In total, the number of employees assisted up to end of September 2002 is 13.  
The number of employers is 7.

The numbers of wage subsidised employees may, to the Opposition, appear low, and certainly so in comparison with numbers of the sort during their term of office.

As the Hon Mr J J Netto pointed out in his 1999 Budget Speech –

*“Government spending this year in terms of wage subsidies, as was the case last year and the year before, for that matter, has been prudent and contained in an effort to maintain wage subsidy levels in tune with real demand and long term sustainable employment; in difference to the pattern set by the previous administration of wage subsidies at whatever cost, totally uncontrolled and irrespective of employment sustainability, simply in an effort to reduce the unemployment figures. This Government is not prepared, never has been, to subsidise, at the tax payer’s cost, employment of the latter sort.”*

Employers benefiting from a wage subsidy today have to demonstrate real commitment by way of real and sustainable employment opportunities.

The 52 week wage subsidy period is split into two blocks. The first 26 weeks of wage subsidy are claimed by and paid to the employer at, normally four week periods. The second 26 weeks of wage subsidy are claimed by and paid to the employer only after the end of that 26<sup>th</sup> week in a lump sum.

This means that during the second 26 weeks the employer would have had to pay the full wage to his/her employee (already having to show extra commitment to keep on the employee beyond the first 26 weeks), and wait to have had that employee in employment for a total of 52 weeks before claiming the second half chunk of wage subsidy.

This wage subsidy scheme would also then have ensured that the employee remained in continuous employment for a minimum period of 52 weeks (if the employer wants to make certain of getting back his/her own second 26 week period wage subsidy/investment already paid out to him/her).

Additionally, the 52 week continuous employment will entitle the employee to have recourse to an industrial tribunal should he/she be dismissed for no good cause (as often used to happen before, just short of 52 weeks employment).

#### **Answer to Question Nos 758,759 and 761 of 2002**

|                 | 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter |     |       | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter |       |       | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter |     |       |
|-----------------|-------------------------|-----|-------|-------------------------|-------|-------|-------------------------|-----|-------|
| Year 2002       | Jan                     | Feb | March | April                   | May   | June  | July                    | Aug | Sept  |
| Expenditure £   | 5,396                   | 360 | 778   | 935                     | 4,968 | 6,080 | 975                     | 900 | 4,700 |
| No of Employees | 2                       | 1   | 2     | 2                       | 6     | 6     | 3                       | 3   | 5     |
| No of Employers | 2                       | 1   | 2     | 2                       | 5     | 3     | 3                       | 3   | 3     |

## **SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 758 TO 761 OF 2002**

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Can Government say whether the employers that are listed here are all private sector employers or are there any instances of people working in these schemes working for either the Government or a Government company?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

I would need to obtain confirmation of the answer that I am about to give the hon Member. I believe that it is all private sector employers, I have a doubt which I would want to just eliminate by asking about whether some of the people engaged in the Cammell Laird apprenticeship scheme and placed, for example, in the Electricity Department where they get placed for work experience whether they are the subject of ....some of these people are placed in private sector others are placed elsewhere whether they are included under this wage subsidy scheme some are placed in the Electricity Department others are placed in the Garage what I do not know if it is in those cases the Government benefit from the wage subsidy scheme, probably not because is there not a rule, he may remember this from his days that wage subsidy is not available for Government employees I seem to remember that there was something actually.

**HON J L BALDACHINO:**

All these employees are people who are 25 or over are they?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

In the Cammell Laird Electrical and Mechanical training centres. The ones that are placed in Cammell Laird the ship yard those are private sector.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

If we look at the figure for 2001/2002 nearly every month 2002 is well below 2001 the only month that seems to be fairly close is in the second quarter of 2002 we have got 6,006 people and June last year we had 2,004 people but in the earlier part of the year we have got less people and less money being spent, is it that we are likely to be underspending on the money in the estimates this year?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

I have not received any indication that there is going to be an underspend it is being indicated to me that these are just ordinary fluctuations. I am not aware that there is any programmed underspend.

**HON J L BALDACHINO:**

Maybe the Chief Minister can clarify, for example, in January 2001 expenditure was £5,689 for 10 employees but in the first quarter of this year in January the expenditure is £5,396 for two employees. A wage subsidy cannot be £2,500.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

I am almost certain there is nobody on wage subsidy earning £2,648.50 a month, the most likely explanation is that in respect of the figure entered in the expenditure column it relates to wages from a previous month to others but I agree that there would then not be a correlation between the number of employees and the number of employers and the figure. It is expenditure, employees, and employers but if the explanation that I am suggesting is correct there is no marriage between the figures in the three boxes, for example, in February it is one employee and one employer and earning £360.00, in March two employees £778.00, so it is obviously about £360.00 per employee per month so if it is £5,396 in January for two employees there has to be an element of arrears in respect of previous.....

**HON J L BALDACHINO:**

December?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

I was just looking at the December figure, the December figure is itself £3,575 for eight employees I do not know whether that is up or whether it is still on the high side.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

It is still on the high side.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

I will find out for the hon Member and let him know.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

The actual numbers it is difficult to know whether the expenditure is as budgeted if there are these fluctuations because in fact it does not necessarily follow that the expenditure for any given month refers to the actual people covered by the scheme in that month but the numbers if we look at this year we start the year with only two persons on a wage subsidy for two employers one each presumably and then in January there is one so in fact if we compare that with the preceding year the year started with 10, in August there were 13 and 12, this is why I am saying that even if the sums of money and the

expenditure are difficult to relate to the budgeted amount of money the numbers of people covered by the scheme seem to be running at about half the level of the previous year.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

That is apparent from the figures. Certainly the rules relating to the eligibility for wage subsidy have tightened considerably it was not quite as easy as in days gone past where we used to have sustained schemes. Those schemes are still possible but certainly the rules have been tightened up quite considerably. I do not even know whether the hon Member speaks of underspend it may not be that there is a particular vote for wage subsidy it may just be general ESF Funds the hon Member has the answer there to a previous question. I am not sure if the ESF allocation is subdivided into wage subsidy, training and other things I think it is not so if that is right the fact that one is not spending it on wage subsidy presumably does not mean that it is not being spent on other things, training and other such schemes.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

But the estimate this year was Wage Subsidy, £150,000 of which EU Projects was £130 and other was £20,000 in appendix b of the approved estimates now given that the forecast out-turn for the preceding year was £55,000 .....

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

I beg your pardon I misunderstood him when the hon Member spoke of underspend I had not appreciated that he was talking about underspend as against our budget, I thought he was meaning underspend as against the EU time during which one is allowed to spend the money I thought he meant underspend as against the ESF Programme document where as he actually means underspend as against what we voted in the estimates in this House we thought we were going to spend.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

I believe the ESF unlike the Regional Fund has to be spent on an annual basis. If one does not spend it in one year one cannot carry it over so the amount that the Government were intending to spend in the current financial year was based on an assumed contribution from the European Social Fund of £0.5 million of which £130,000 is shown under Wage Subsidy. The point that I am making is that the actual spend in the preceding year the forecast out-turn is shown as £33,000. If we have actually spent £33,000 we have had an average of eight or nine persons in receipt of the subsidy every month and in the first nine months of this year we have an average of three or four then irrespective of the sums of money we are looking at it would seem to me that we are half-way through and we seem to be unable or unlikely to be spending the amount that the House provided in the estimates and therefore if there has been a tightening, is it that the tightening has been between 2001 and 2002?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

As to whether it is likely or unlikely that we will spend the Government are at this moment in time considering one significant application for Wage Subsidy which will certainly mop up that figure from the estimates. It is not a matter that I would like to mention extensively today because it is sensitive and still under discussion but I did mention it once, a large food retailer, we did have a brief exchange across the floor, that is under active consideration now and if we can find a way of approving it it would certainly consume those funds as to how much more demand there is that is the one case that I am aware of as to whether there are in the pipeline any other applications or whether simply there is just not a demand for this within the parameters permissible under the rules I do not know. I know for a fact, for example, that one of the few parameters left one of the few criteria left for wage subsidy is protecting jobs that would otherwise be lost through redundancies whereas when the wage subsidy scheme was first introduced in Gibraltar there was much more latitude in the reasons. That is as much light as I can shed on it the numbers are self evident as he is analysing, the numbers were not terribly large anyway but within that they are down by anything between 20, or 30, very significantly the current numbers are in most months less than a quarter of the numbers last year.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

I think it would be useful to know whether the change between this year and the last is as a result of the rules being more demanding in terms of the criteria that has to be met or the fact that the private sector is not approaching the service offering places.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

It is not like businessmen not to apply for funds that is open to them but certainly I will have this matter looked into and give the hon Member the full explanation.

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HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Wage subsidy is available for anybody over the age of 18 not 25 and that is the reason why there is the apparent discrepancy between the size of the monthly payment and the number of employees to which it purports to relate is the explanation that I offered him but not limited to one month's arrears but to more. Employers send in invoices at the end of a lengthy and varying period depending on what arrangement suits them and they get paid in the month in which the invoice gets received rather than in the period to which the subsidy relates. That is why there is no correlation in time or amount between the amount paid and the number of employees appearing under that month.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I take it that the age group then is 18 to 25, over 18 irrespective. Can I ask is there an indication of the question of the numbers, the fact that it looked as if the numbers were down compared to last year that was the other point that was going to be looked at?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

That is entirely a matter of demand.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

Can the Chief Minister say when the policies were changed because I remember having an exchange of views with the then Minister for Employment, why limited to 25 and over and he said that that was the policy of the Government when I was arguing that it should be 18?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not know the answer to that question but I do not think it is a matter of policy of the Government I think it is a question of the rules attaching to the ESF but in any event if it were policy of the Government I would not now be able to tell him when the policy was changed if it has been changed.

ORAL

NO. 762 OF 2002

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

EMPLOYMENT - INSURANCE INDUSTRY

What are the total number of people employed in the insurance industry as at 30th June 2001 and 30th June 2002, giving a breakdown by company and nationality?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

(On behalf of the Minister for Employment and Consumer Affairs)

In June 2001 it consisted of 25 employers with a total of 165 registered employees of which 121 are Gibraltarians, 42 British and 2 are Spanish. The same figures for 2002 as of June is 27 employers with a total of 176 employees of which 124 are Gibraltarians, 48 are other British, 2 are Spanish, one is Portuguese and one is Czech.

ORAL

NO. 763 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

HOUSING – REFERENDUM AND CONSTITUTION BLOCKS

Are Government aware that there have been a number of complaints from tenants at both Referendum and Constitution Blocks about the eroded state of the exterior water stopcocks?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Government are aware that there have been a number of complaints from tenants regarding the eroded state of the exterior water stopcocks. Several have been replaced and there are requisitions to carry out several others. It is our intention to carry a comprehensive survey of the water supply system and, if deemed necessary, replace all of them.

ORAL

NO. 764 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

BUILDINGS AND WORKS DEPARTMENT

Can Government state whether they have resumed negotiations with the TGWU over the Government's proposals to move employees out of the Buildings and Works Department?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question No 765 of 2002.

ORAL

NO. 765 OF 2002

THE HON J C PEREZ

BUILDINGS AND WORKS DEPARTMENT

Can Government state whether they have now concluded the recruitment of new managerial posts for the Buildings and Works Department, and if so, has this now been agreed with the union Prospect which holds the negotiating rights for these grades?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Formal negotiations have not been resumed. Government have now finalised the recruitment of the new management for Buildings and Works. The union Prospect is aware of such new recruitment.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 764 AND 765 OF 2002

HON J C PEREZ:

We know that the union Prospect is aware of it and we know that when they saw the notice wrote to the Minister, copy to the Chief Minister, telling him not to put out the adverts. He is not answering the question by telling me that they are aware of it, I am asking whether they have agreed to it now, whether there is any sort of agreement for the people that they represent and for the people that they need to negotiate for whether there is any agreement for the employment of this post?

HON J J NETTO:

There is no such agreement between Prospect and the Government in relation to the new Management post, the union is aware, the union is in discussion with them in normal day to day activities but there is no agreement. They are aware that the recruitment is taking place, we heard their objections, we explained our position, we never had an agreement it would have been ideally better in all circumstances to have had an agreement but that never took place and there is not one at the moment. Having said that that does not stop the union as such from on a daily basis getting in contact with the various managers in Buildings and Works and sorting out whatever problems there might be.

HON J C PEREZ:

The problem is not held by the union or by the managers, the problem is with the Government. The union wrote to the Minister on the day that they saw the adverts objecting to the adverts coming out without the Government or the Minister having cleared the jobs and the job description with the union and I am asking whether that problem has been resolved, or is the union still in dispute with the Government over the employment of those managers?

HON J J NETTO:

There is no such dispute. The union wrote to me and at the end of the day we were not able to have an agreement with them but there is no such dispute they are aware of the new management post and there may be disagreement but it is not an issue where there is a dispute.

HON J C PEREZ:

So, the fact that the union is not taking industrial action is considered by the Minister that they are not in dispute, there is no agreement, they have objected to what the Government are doing but the Minister does not consider that to be a dispute?

HON K AZOPARDI:

Yes, they did write, but the Minister wrote back. There is no agreement but the Government's view as we said last time is that no agreement is necessary. There is no dispute because no agreement is necessary and that is our position.

HON J C PEREZ:

So what the Minister is saying is that the normal negotiating rights of all unions have been altered by this Government unilaterally without discussion with them because from time immemorial every new post that came out internally or externally had to be agreed

with the union beforehand. Was the Minister saying that that is now not the case, not only in this instance, but across the Government employees?

HON K AZOPARDI:

We explained last time that our view is that they do not apply in this case but that we do not concede that we have created a precedence ?

HON J J BOSSANO:

If the Government do not consider that this is the first time can they inform the House when was the first time they introduced this philosophy?

HON K AZOPARDI:

I cannot tell him when the first time was but I, for example, did not seek the consent or the so called agreement of the unions pursuant to fictitious negotiating rights when, for example, we created the post of Chief Executive of the Health Authority.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Could that be because the post of Chief Executive of the Health Authority is one in respect of which no union has a negotiating right, and is it that the Minister is so ignorant of the established practice in the Government of Gibraltar that he does not know that obviously the consultation process only applies in respect of posts which are part of the negotiating rights with the union. That is where the union is consulted is where there is a grading within the post which forms part of the collective agreement with the union. If the Chief Executive is one where no union represents that position then obviously no union is consulted.

HON K AZOPARDI:

I am not going to accuse the hon Member of ignorance. I am not going to go there on that basis but let me say I see no difference between the post of Chief Executive of the Health Authority which was a new post which no union could possibly hold negotiating rights in respect of and new posts that exist in the Buildings and Works Department. They are also new, they have not been carried forward, there are no rights that accrue to them because they are new. They are precisely in the same category as the other example I gave.

HON J J BOSSANO:

No, I will explain to the Minister and try and put it in the form of a question. Does the Government not distinguish between a situation, for example, where the negotiating rights of ACTSS is for PTO posts and then the number of PTOs have been agreed with

the union and if Government believe that there should be one more or one less they discuss that with the union and the creation of the Chief Executive of something where it is not a grade or a post in which there is a collective agreement. A negotiating right recognition agreement between the Government and the union which presumably there are for the posts in the Building and Works?

HON K AZOPARDI:

I distinguish between them because I understand that they fall into slightly different scenarios in the sense that one may have five PTOs and if one wants to create a sixth that is one example, but if one wants to create a completely new post that is a different example but I do not see a huge amount of difference between them, that is the first point, secondly I would say that both examples arise in the case of the Buildings and Works Department, there are more posts being created of grades that already exist but there are also completely new managerial posts and the Government as a matter of principle do not see that if we are giving additional resources to the Buildings and Works Department in accordance with recommendations of a review, why the union has to agree the increase of staff and why the Union needs to be what someone could perceive to be an obstacle to the additional human resources being deployed to the Department. We do not as a matter of principle concede that, we do not think it is precedent and we explained our position last time.

HON J C PEREZ:

Can the Minister state whether these employees have been taken on directly by the Government of Gibraltar or whether they are employed by the Development Corporation or some other entity and if they are employed by the Government of Gibraltar have they gone through the Public Service Commission Board and are they permanent and pensionable and what will happen to these grades if the Government are not successful in convincing the rest of the staff to move to an Authority.

HON J J NETTO:

I think some of the supplementary questions there will be asked by your hon Colleague later on in terms of the management whether they are pensionable, on contract et cetera, et cetera. I think it would be more relevant really to allow when he arrives at his number and we can have a discussion then as opposed to having a discussion now.

MR SPEAKER:

It is not a question of a discussion, it is a question of answering the question if you want to answer.

HON J J NETTO:

As I say I do not mind answering the question but I do not want to have to repeat it later on.

MR SPEAKER:

You are not answering? All right.

ORAL

NO. 766 OF 2002

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

BUILDINGS AND WORKS DEPARTMENT

Can Government say whether any workers employed by Buildings and Works who are entitled to bonuses previously agreed on, have not been paid on time?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

There have been very few occasions in which payment of a bonus has not been effected within the agreed period of two weeks. In such few occasions it has been for administrative reasons. That said, there has also been some other occasions upon which individuals have queried that a payment has not been made, only to find out that indeed the payment was made but the individual concerned had not realised that. However, to put things in perspective, since the introduction of the current bonus scheme from August 1997, there have been literally thousands of payments made.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 766 OF 2002

HON J C PEREZ:

How is it that the Minister says that on very few occasions they have been paid late and everybody is complaining all the time that they are not paid in time, surely there is something wrong here the complaint on a weekly basis is that they are not being paid on time and the Minister comes here and says that they are, the line of communication must be wrong somewhere?

HON J J NETTO:

When I receive a question I check the answer with my senior executive officer who tells me that when there is a complaint that the payment has not been effected within a period of two weeks he looks into the matter either with individual consent or in some occasions with the shop stewards and the reality is that there has been very few occasions where the department administration has not made the payment within the agreed period of two weeks and there are many, many occasions for which individuals claim that the payment has not been made without realising that the payment had been made. Probably this is due to the fact that sometimes a small payment of a bonus is part of another payment which is done within the following days and the person concerned has not realised the payment or a number of payments being made within the period but the reality is that I am told by Administration that the vast majority are made within the allocated time and the union shop stewards are aware of this and they are satisfied that this is working right. This is information that has been brought to me.

HON J C PEREZ:

Given that the occasions are so very few can the Minister say out of the 1,000 odd bonuses that have been paid on how many occasions do the Government agree that it has been paid late?

HON J J NETTO:

I do not have that information the hon Member would have to give me notice of it?

ORAL

NO. 767 OF 2002

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

POST OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE – HOUSING

Can Government state whether the new post of Chief Executive in Housing, Buildings and Works is permanent and pensionable or is the post on a contract basis?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos 768 and 769 of 2002.

ORAL

NO. 768 OF 2002

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

POST OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE - HOUSING

Can Government state how the present occupant of the new post of Chief Executive in Housing, Buildings and Works was chosen?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos 767 and 769 of 2002.

ORAL

NO. 769 OF 2002

THE HON DR R G VALARINO

POST OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE – HOUSING

Can Government state what is the salary of the new post of Chief Executive in Housing, Buildings and Works at present?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answer to Question No 767 of 2002

The recruitment of the Chief Executive, Buildings and Works, is on a contract basis as stated on numerous occasions in the House.

Answer to Question No 768 of 2002

In relation to his selection for the post, was done by being the preferred option of the Selection Board.

Answer to Question No 769 of 2002

The salary of the Chief Executive, Buildings and Works, is £55,000 annually, as shown in the approved Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for 2002/2003.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 767 TO 769 OF 2002

HON J C PEREZ:

Can the Minister state whether when he refers to the Selection Board he means the Public Service Commission and whether they are Government employees and (2) can the Minister state what he intends to do with this post if eventually he is not successful in moving the workforce into the proposed authority?

HON J J NETTO:

There are a number of permutations there and I will try to remember some of them. First of all they are employed by the Government, secondly it is a Selection Board, I am not quite sure that it is a full Public Service Commission, I do not think it is a Public Service Commission, in this particular case but I am a bit sketchy on those details but it is not the Public Service Commission it is a full board by senior management and the third question where the hon Member makes a link as to long term the post being linked to whether the people move to the Authority or not, that is not necessarily the yardstick so to speak that the Government will adhere to. Whether the department moves the Authority or not is one issue the other issue as far as I am concerned is whether these people who are on contract not just the Chief Executive but the Project Co-ordinator and the Unions Manager all of them are on contract whether they are performing well and whether to the satisfaction of the Government regardless whether the department had gone to an Authority, the reforms in either case are sufficiently good enough to make the Government satisfied that the department is giving a much better service for the tenants in the future. So I do not see necessarily the link as for long term employment being linked with whether the department goes to the Authority or not, that may or may not be the case.

HON J C PEREZ:

Is the contract for two years or more?

HON J J NETTO:

You are referring to the three posts?

HON J C PEREZ:

Yes you have said they are all on contract.

HON J J NETTO:

I would need notice of that question to be able to answer it. I do know that the Chief Executive was already in the employment under contract in Technical Services Department and the period that he has served which I think is more or less a year and a half has been taken into account in terms of the new period for the contract. As regards to the other ones they have an initial one year followed by three years but as I have said to the hon Member I am talking without having the information readily available and I would need notice of that question.

HON J C PEREZ:

Does the Minister realise that if he cannot agree with himself that they have been employed by the Public Service Commission as is normal for all civil servants, they are not Government employees as he states?

HON J J NETTO:

No, my understanding is that when people are employed on contract as opposed to permanent and pensionable it is not the rules that the full Public Service Commission does the interviews, that is my understanding. My understanding is that when it is on contract basis it is a selection board and not the Public Service Commission.

HON K AZOPARDI:

It very much depends whether the contract officers are employed by the Government or for example, by the GDC, in either case my understanding is that it is not done by the full PSC they are done by much smaller selection boards but if they are employed by the Government as required by the legislation it would have to be what is I think sometimes called a departmental PSC or a PSC which is a smaller selection.

HON J C PEREZ:

I am not asking whether they have been employed by a full PSC I am asking (a) whether they are Government employees and if so whether they have gone through the right procedure and been employed by a Selection Board of the Public Service Commission and what I am getting is if they are members of the Development Corporation or whether they are Government employees or whatever the Minister should make up his mind, what is it?

HON K AZOPARDI:

The answer to the question is yes of course the Government will have followed the proper procedure in this case because the recruitment process and procedures are not done in-house by the Buildings and Works Department, of course they are done always under advice with the Personnel Department so the proper procedure as required by law

in either case would have been followed it would depend strictly on whether they are Government Employees or Gibraltar Development Corporation employees but if they are Crown employees obviously any requirements of the law would have been followed. I am completely sure that that is the case.

HON DR R G VALARINO:

The figure of £55,000 mentioned by the Minister is here, is there likely to be any increase as the years go by and is the salary the same as that of the Chief Executive in the Health Authority?

HON J J NETTO:

I would need notice to answer that supplementary question.

HON K AZOPARDI:

All I would say is that the Chief Executive of the Health Authority is a senior officer as he well knows.

HON J L BALDACHINO:

According to what the Minister has just said on the provision of the contract there is nothing on that there will be increases of the wages on the three years is there?

HON J J NETTO:

What I am trying to say to the hon Members is that I have not got the contract in front of me and that is why we need notice to be able to actually answer those particular supplementary questions.

~~~~~

**HON J J NETTO:**

If I can go back to Wednesday's session where the Hon Mr Perez sought clarification on Question Nos 765 and 768 of 2002, namely on two issues, one of them was if the new senior management in Buildings and Works are Government employees or GDC employees and two whether the new management were selected by the Public Service Commission. I can confirm as I did say on several occasions on Wednesday that the new management in Buildings and Works are employees of the Government and obviously this was approved in the House of Assembly at budget time and is shown in the establishment figure of Head 3 of the estimates of revenue and expenditure on page 41.



With regard to the latter point I am informed by the Personnel Department that contract officers do not go through the Public Service Commission , instead they are selected by a Government Board, however, if at a later date the officer concerned were to be retained on a permanent basis the matter would then be referred to the Public Service Commission for approval or endorsement.

**NO. 770 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR R G VALARINO**

**HEAD 101 – HOUSING**

Can Government state how much of the amount provided in Head 101 Housing, has been spent to date as from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2002 and on what projects?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING**

I hand over to the hon Member the information requested.

**Answer to Question No 770 of 2002**

The total amount of £2,297,371 has been incurred to date this financial year under Head 101 Housing. The analysis of the total amount spent in the Head is as follows:-

**Head 101 – 1 Major Remedial Works and Repairs to Housing Stock**

|                     |          |
|---------------------|----------|
| Miscellaneous Works | £292,721 |
| Window Replacements | £162,540 |
| Scaffolding         | £ 86,173 |
| Laguna Estate       | £611,577 |
| Heathfield House    | £ 30,878 |
| Anderson House      | £195,391 |
| MacMillan House     | £ 33,657 |

|                                                                                       |          |                    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|--------------------|
| Reconversion Works for Disability purposes/<br>Edinburgh House & Bishop Canilla House | £ 22,842 |                    |
| Demolition & Construction of Retaining Wall –<br>Tankerville & Prison Quarters        | £366,797 |                    |
| Schomberg (Repairs Drainage)                                                          | £ 39,315 |                    |
| Coelho House                                                                          | £378,340 |                    |
| MacFarlane House (Footbridge)                                                         | £ 41,634 | £2,261,865         |
| Head 101 – 2 New Housing for Senior Citizens                                          | £        | 3,757              |
| Head 101 – 3 Consultants Fees                                                         | £        | 31,749             |
|                                                                                       |          | <hr/>              |
| <b>Grand Total</b>                                                                    |          | <b>£ 2,297,371</b> |
|                                                                                       |          | <hr/>              |

ORAL

**NO. 771 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR R G VALARINO**

**HOUSING - PRE/POST-WAR HOUSES**

Can Government state how many pre and post-war housing units which have been allocated since the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2002, have been on a do-it-yourself basis?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING**

Answered together with Question Nos 772 and 773 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 772 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR R G VALARINO**

**HOUSING – POST-WAR FLATS**

Can Government state how many post-war housing units have been allocated since the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2002, broken down by month to date?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING**

Answered together with Question Nos 771 and 773.

ORAL

**NO. 773 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR R G VALARINO**

**HOUSING – PRE-WAR FLATS**

Can Government state how many pre-war housing units have been allocated since 1<sup>st</sup> May 2002, broken down by month to date?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING**

**Answer to Question No 771 of 2002**

A total of 25 housing units have been allocated on a do-it-yourself basis.

**Answer to Question No 772 of 2002**

A total of 70 post-war housing units have been allocated since 1<sup>st</sup> May 2002.

**Answer to Question No 773 of 2002**

A total of 11 pre-war housing units have been allocated since 1<sup>st</sup> May 2002.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 771 TO 773 OF 2002**

**HON J L BALDACHINO:**

The question that has been asked by my hon Colleague has not been answered, my Colleague is asking, "Can Government state how many post-war housing units have been allocated since the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2000 broken down by month to date?" and what we have got is a total figure. I understand that the Ministers when we make a mistake like that they say it is we have not asked but this time we have asked and we have not got the answer.

**HON J J NETTO:**

Yes, the hon Member did ask by month and the information has not been supplied so hopefully later on during the course of the day I will try and bring that extra bit of information to the hon Member.

**HON DR R G VALARINO:**

I would be grateful if he would give the answer to that one and to the previous question on the contract of the new Chief Executive Officer on the increase.

**HON J L BALDACHINO:**

On the question of the 70 post-war and the 25 do-it-yourself basis and the 70 that have been allocated, do the 25 form part of the 70?

**HON J J NETTO:**

No.

**HON J L BALDACHINO:**

Then my question is have they all been allocated under the pointage system or some of them have been allocated on a decanting basis?

**HON J J NETTO:**

I presume whether it is in relation to the 70 of post-war or in relation to the 11 of pre-war obviously a vast majority of them will have been allocated to people who are in the waiting list but as the hon Member knows there are occasions where there are medical cases that get some allocations and there are also social cases that get some allocations.

**HON J L BALDACHINO:**

On the post-war there cannot be any social cases?

**HON J J NETTO:**

No that is right.



ORAL

**NO. 774 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR R G VALARINO**

**HOUSING – POST-WAR FLATS**

Can Government state how many post-war flats are vacant giving the area, room composition and the date they became vacant?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING**

Answered together with Question No 775 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 775 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR R G VALARINO**

**HOUSING – PRE-WAR FLATS**

Can Government state how many pre-war flats are vacant giving the area, room composition and the date they became vacant?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING**

I hand the hon Member a table with the data sought.

### **Answer to Question 775 of 2002**

### **Answer to Question 774**

There are 52 post-war flats currently vacant; 10 in the Town, 10 in the South; and 32 in the North as follows:-

|      |   |              |
|------|---|--------------|
| 1RKB | - | 10/05/01     |
|      |   | 27/05/02     |
|      |   | 22/07/02     |
|      |   | 08/08/02     |
|      |   | 04/09/02     |
|      |   | 07/09/02     |
|      |   | 23/09/02     |
|      |   | 03/10/02     |
| 2RKB | - | 08/11/01     |
|      |   | 14/11/01     |
|      |   | 05/02/02     |
|      |   | 08/05/02     |
|      |   | 22/05/02 x 2 |
|      |   | 29/05/02 x 3 |
|      |   | 07/06/02     |
|      |   | 12/06/02     |
|      |   | 26/06/02     |
|      |   | 08/07/02     |
|      |   | 08/08/02     |
|      |   | 12/08/02     |
|      |   | 14/08/02     |
|      |   | 04/09/02     |
|      |   | 27/09/02     |
| 3RKB | - | 14/06/00     |
|      |   | 07/12/01     |
|      |   | 03/04/02     |
|      |   | 20/04/02     |
|      |   | 10/05/02     |
|      |   | 13/05/02     |
|      |   | 20/05/02     |
|      |   | 22/05/02     |
|      |   | 11/06/02     |
|      |   | 28/06/02     |
|      |   | 05/08/02     |
|      |   | 12/08/02     |
|      |   | 26/08/02     |
|      |   | 29/08/02     |

**Cont...**

**Contd Answer to Question 775 of 2002**

**Contd Answer to Question 774**

04/09/01 x 2  
16/09/02  
27/09/02  
03/10/02

4RKB - 11/04/02  
13/06/02  
14/08/02  
05/09/02  
16/09/02 x 2

5RKB - 17/09/02

**Answer to Question 775**

There are 32 pre-war flats currently vacant in the Town area as follows:-

1RKB - 14/03/98 X 2  
22/01/01  
19/08/02

2RKB - 11/05/98  
22/01/01  
20/06/01  
26/11/01 X 3  
27/05/02  
05/08/02  
26/08/02  
05/09/02  
27/09/02

3RKB - 08/10/00  
15/11/00  
01/02/02  
07/03/02  
27/05/02  
04/09/02  
06/09/02  
23/09/02  
29/09/02

2.

Contd Answer to 775 of 2002

4RKB - 11/06/01  
12/02/02 X 2  
10/05/02  
05/08/02

5RKB - 19/08/02  
05/09/02

6RKB - 21/06/02

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 774 AND 775 OF 2002**

**HON DR R G VALARINO:**

Some of these flats are going back quite some time, is there any likelihood that they can be allocated within the next three to four months at least?

**HON J J NETTO:**

This is a recurring question that the hon Member asks and the Government on every occasion basically says that there are a substantial number of empty flats around Gibraltar awaiting to be refurbished and this is the reason why we are not content in terms of the re-let times to refurbish those empty flats. The hon Member would have noticed that there has been in fact an increase in the period concerned or in relation to the previous question of the amount of flats that have been refurbished by the Buildings and Works which is obviously to be noted and to be appreciated but the fact remains that there are still a substantial number of empty flats in Buildings and Works awaiting refurbishment and I would not like to repeat on every single occasion the same argument but this is one of the reasons why the Government are seeking further reforms in Buildings and Works not just in relation to the category of refurbishing flats but indeed any type of repairs which are outstanding for a considerable period of time beyond what is reasonable and this is the whole point of the process to reform Buildings and Works.

**HON DR R G VALARINO:**

I thank the Minister, I did not know, I just noticed that apart from that answer that there is still 32 pre-war flats currently vacant in the town area some of these I am sure could well hold the answer for one of the following questions on social cases but we will come to that when the time comes.

ORAL

**NO. 776 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR R G VALARINO**

**HOUSING – WAITING LIST**

Can Government state how many applicants are in the Housing Waiting Lists giving a breakdown of their flat requirements and the date they became eligible for rehousing?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING**

Answered together with Question Nos 777 to 781 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 777 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR R G VALARINO**

**HOUSING – PRE-LIST**

Can Government state how many applicants are in the pre-list for housing, giving a breakdown of their flat requirements?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING**

Answered together with Question Nos 776 and 778 to 781 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 778 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR R G VALARINO**

**HOUSING – PENSIONER EXCHANGE LIST**

Can Government state how many housing applicants are at present in the Housing Pensioner Exchange List giving a breakdown of those who are Government tenants and private sector?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING**

Answered together with Question Nos 776,777, and 779 to 781 of 2002.



ORAL

**NO. 779 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR R G VALARINO**

**HOUSING – APPLICANTS MEDICALLY RECOMMENDED**

Can Government state how many housing applicants are medically recommended and their medical category recommendation?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING**

Answered together with Question Nos 776 to 778, 780 and 781 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 780 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR R G VALARINO**

**HOUSING – APPLICANTS SOCIALLY RECOMMENDED**

Can Government state what is the number of housing applicants who are socially recommended, their requirements and how many are classified as homeless?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING**

Answered together with Question Nos 776 to 779 and 781 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 781 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR R G VALARINO**

**HOUSING WAITING LIST**

Can Government state on how many occasions has the Housing Waiting Lists been published since the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2002?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING**

**Answer to Question 776 of 2002**

There are 224 applicants in the Housing Waiting List. The breakdown of the flat requirement is as follows:-

|       |   |     |
|-------|---|-----|
| 1 RKB | - | 113 |
| 2 RKB | - | 29  |
| 3 RKB | - | 48  |
| 4 RKB | - | 29  |
| 5 RKB | - | 4   |
| 6 RKB | - | 1   |

**Answer to Question No 777 of 2002**

There are 445 applicants in the pre-list. The breakdown of the flat requirement is as follows:-

|       |   |     |
|-------|---|-----|
| 1 RKB | - | 272 |
| 2 RKB | - | 29  |
| 3 RKB | - | 98  |
| 4 RKB | - | 38  |
| 5 RKB | - | 8   |

**Answer to Question No 778 of 2002**

There are 284 applicants in the Housing Pensioner Exchange List of which 202 are Government tenants and 84 are private sector tenants.

**Answer to Question No 779 of 2002**

There are a total of nine applicants medically categorised as follows:

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| A | - | 3 |
| B | - | 4 |
| C | - | 2 |

**Answer to Question No 780 of 2002**

There are nine housing applicants socially recommended as follows:

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| A | - | 4 |
| B | - | 2 |
| C | - | 3 |

Their requirements are as follows:-

1 RKB            -            6 ;        3 RKB            -            3

One is classified as homeless.

**Answer to Question No 781 of 2002**

The waiting lists have been published on three occasions since 1<sup>st</sup> January 2002.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 776 TO 781 OF 2002**

**HON DR R G VALARINO:**

I thank the Minister. Those figures correspond more or less with the last answer that he gave. Medical were 14 last time but on the Housing Waiting List the Minister said it had been published three times?

**HON J J NETTO:**

Yes.

**HON DR R G VALARINO:**

I imagine that from now until the end of the year it will be published once more?

**HON J J NETTO:**

That is correct.

**HON DR R G VALARINO:**

One last point, since there were so many figures the Minister does not have a breakdown that he could hand me to compare?

**HON J J NETTO:**

What I can do is prepare something later on and give it to him this afternoon.

**HON DR R G VALARINO:**

Fine.

**HON J L BALDACHINO:**

On the question of the Medical categories on the last answer that the Minister gave in this House forgetting the A's there were B – 5 and C – 5, that is the answer that the Minister gave, what I am asking is as there is less in B's and C's is it that they are being allocated?

**HON J J NETTO:**

The hon Member would have to give me notice to that supplementary question I do not have that information available with me right now.

**HON J L BALDACHINO:**

If they have been allocated is it that the Government have now changed their policy that they had before that only people in the category 'A' would be allocated under medical grounds?

**HON J J NETTO:**

On the latter part there has been no change of policy.

**HON J L BALDACHINO:**

Therefore if there have been allocations will the Minister give us the answer if they are being removed because there have been allocations or why is there a decrease in 'B's' and 'C's' today than what there was the last time that we asked?

**HON J J NETTO:**

The hon Member will also have to take into account and I am not saying that this is exactly the situation but there have been meetings of the Medical Advisory Board and it could very well be the case that some of the 'Bs' and 'Cs' are perhaps 'As' or have been 'As' and could have been categorised, it needs to be taken into account. I am not saying that is the case but it would need to be taken into account as well.

**HON J L BALDACHINO:**

We would be grateful when the Minister finds out if he could give us the reasons why these applicants have been removed or have been allocated .....

**HON J J NETTO:**

Could the hon Member give me the Question No on the previous occasion so that I can .....

**HON J L BALDACHINO:**

Question No 413 of 2002.

**ORAL**

**NO. 782 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR R G VALARINO**

**SOCIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Can Government state on how many occasions the Social Advisory Committee has met since the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2002 to date?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING**

Answered together with Question Nos 783 and 784 of 2002.



ORAL

**NO. 783 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR R G VALARINO**

**HOUSING MEDICAL ADVISORY BOARD**

Can Government state on how many occasions the Housing Medical Advisory Board has met since the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2002 to date?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING**

Answered together with Question Nos 782 and 784 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 784 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR R G VALARINO**

**HOUSING ALLOCATION COMMITTEE**

Can Government state on how many occasions the Housing Allocation Committee has met since the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2002 to date?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING**

**Answer to Question No 782 of 2002**

The Housing Advisory Committee met on three occasions.

**Answer to Question No 783 of 2002**

The Medical Advisory Committee met on four occasions.

**Answer to Question No 784 of 2002**

The Housing Allocation Committee met on five occasions.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 782 TO 784 OF 2002**

**HON DR R G VALARINO:**

Considering that this is since May can the Minister confirm that there was a break in the meetings during the month of August therefore they must have met twice in a particular month?

**HON J J NETTO:**

In relation to the Housing Allocation Committee, yes they have met twice in May and twice in June.

**ORAL**

**NO. 785 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR R G VALARINO**

**HOUSING – POST –WAR FLATS**

Can Government state how many tenants of post-war housing units are on rent relief and how much has been spent from the £445,000 provided for in the Social Assistance Fund Appendix 'H' to date?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING**

Answered together with Question Nos 795 and 801 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 786 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR R G VALARINO**

**HOUSING – EDINBURGH HOUSE**

Can Government state how many tenants allocated flats at Edinburgh House have subsequently exchanged their flat for one in another building estate?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING**

Answered together with Question No 787 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 787 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR R G VALARINO**

**EDINBURGH HOUSE**

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

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING**

**Answer to Question No 786 of 2002**

A total of 25 original tenants who had been allocated a housing unit in Edinburgh House have subsequently exchanged their flats with tenants elsewhere.

**Answer to Question No 787 of 2002**

At present a total of 22 tenants are on rent relief at Edinburgh House.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 786 AND 787 OF 2002**

**HON DR R G VALARINO:**

It seems that the number of tenants on rent-relief is going up, is there any idea why, is it that they cannot make the payments?

**HON J J NETTO:**

That would depend on the circumstances of the particular family in any given moment in time. There has been unemployment in a particular family a drop of income those would be the circumstances that would alter a variation of whether one is entitled or not entitled to rent-relief but obviously beyond that I cannot give a more definitive answer to the hon Member.

**HON DR R G VALARINO:**

What is the reason for those tenants moving from those flats at Edinburgh House to another building estate, do they have to notify a specific reason before approval is given by the Housing Agency?

**HON J J NETTO:**

At the end of the day it has to be approved by the Housing Allocation Committee but for various family circumstances many tenants in Edinburgh House have chosen to move out of Edinburgh House between two sitting tenants mutually agreeing to a change and they fill the relevant forms and then obviously that form goes to the Housing Allocation Committee to be looked into and ratified. All I can say perhaps given that the excellent standards of accommodation and services provided in Edinburgh House some people have then subsequently decided to move to other particular places giving the huge demand that there is to move into Edinburgh House.

**ORAL**

**NO. 788 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR R G VALARINO**

**HOUSING – DEVIL’S TOWER ROAD**

Can Government state the planned date for works on site and completion date of the new housing scheme at Devil’s Tower Road (Site 1)?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING**

Answered together with Question Nos 793 and 794 of 2002.



ORAL

**NO. 789 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR R G VALARINO**

**HOUSING – COELHO HOUSE**

Can Government state when it is likely that all remedial works will be completed at Coelho House?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING**

The contractor's completion date is 20<sup>th</sup> December 2002.

**ORAL**

**NO. 790 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR R G VALARINO**

**HOUSING – BISHOP CANILLA HOUSE**

Can Government confirm that all repair work has been undertaken at Bishop Canilla House and that there is no longer any problem with water penetration and/or dampness?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING**

Answered together with Question No 791 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 791OF 2002**

**THE HON DR R G VALARINO**

**HOUSING – BISHOP CANILLA HOUSE**

Can Government state whether there are any non-occupied flats at Bishop Canilla House?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING**

**Answer to Question No 790 of 2002**

Following the advice provided by the two consultants engaged by the contractor, the contractor undertook the recommended work in all the flats that had been affected by water penetration and/or dampness. In addition, work on the replacement of the lead flushing within the valley gutters was also completed. During the recent rains, no reports have been received in respect of further water penetration via the valley gutters. We therefore, believe that this problem is likely to have been solved by the works undertaken although we would wish for this to be subjected to further rain before we can confidently state this. Of the numerous flats previously affected by dampness and/or water penetration, only one such flat, has now experienced such a problem. The flat in question is an easterly facing flat, which had not previously suffered from water penetration via the balcony door. This problem is currently being investigated by the contractor and remedial action will be taken along the lines of that undertaken in other flats which had previously suffered from this same problem but which have now been successfully repaired.

**Answer to Question No 791 of 2002**

One housing unit is vacant at the moment and another one will become vacant shortly.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 790 AND 791 OF 2002**

**HON J L BALDACHINO:**

Can the Minister say how many flats were affected by water penetrations in total whether they have been repaired or not, how many were affected?

**HON J J NETTO:**

The hon Member would have to give me notice of that.

ORAL

**NO. 792 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR R G VALARINO**

**HOUSING – CANTON HOUSE**

Can Government state when the replacement aluminium windows at Canton House were installed?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING**

There is no specific programme to change the aluminium windows at Canton House. However, it is the Government's policy to replace the windows, if required, when reported to the Reporting Office.

**ORAL**

**NO. 793 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR R G VALARINO**

**HOUSING – NORTH MOLE SITE**

Can Government state the planned date for works on site and completion date of the new housing scheme at the North Mole Site (Sands)?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING**

Answered together with Question Nos 788 and 794 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 794 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR R G VALARINO**

**HOUSING – DEVIL’S TOWER ROAD HOSTEL**

Can Government state the planned date for works on site and completion date of the new housing scheme at Devil's Tower Road Hostel?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING**

No. Government will make more detailed announcements in relation to these important projects in due course.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 788, 793 AND 794 OF 2002**

**HON DR R G VALARINO:**

These dates came out on the tender documents which I have with me so how can he say that they are not public?

**HON J J NETTO:**

I do not know whether it is appropriate or not for him to discuss across the floor tender documents which are the subject of [Interruption] all I want to say is that those particular dates are very preliminary dates which are obviously subject to change. They are not

fully detailed dates taking into account all the circumstances so what I have said at this stage, I am not prepared to give formal details of dates until such a time hopefully towards the summer of next year when I have detailed designs being done by whoever is the successful consultant and then I will be in a much better position to more accurately and firmly give those particular dates but given at the stage we are in now it is only the very initial stage to try and appoint a consultant this is a process which can change and I am not prepared to be held to ransom here in this particular House for dates which are very preliminary and which might be the subject of further change in the light of circumstances.

**HON J C PEREZ:**

Without wanting to hold anybody to ransom can we take it then that the general opinion expressed by the Government that the first of these houses will not see the light of day until five years time is still the position independent of the tender procedures that need to take place?

**HON J J NETTO:**

Generally speaking the hon Member is correct.

**HON J C PEREZ:**

What he is saying is that possibly in five years time he will finish the first ones but once we go to tender and we look at the problems it might be six, seven or eight years time?

**HON J J NETTO:**

No I have not said that.

**HON K AZOPARDI:**

It might be less than that the hon Member will have to bear with the Government whilst the Government make these preliminary assessments, we are committed to these housing schemes that is why we announced them but obviously a lot of work has to be done to be able to fine-tune the time-scale and when we are ready we will make the announcements.



ORAL

**NO. 795 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR R G VALARINO**

**HOUSING – RENT RELIEF**

Can Government state how many tenants of pre-war housing units are on rent relief and how much has been spent from the £445,000 provided for in the Social Assistance Fund Appendix 'H' to date?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING**

Answered together with Question Nos 785 and 801 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 796 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR R G VALARINO**

**HOUSING – LAGUNA ESTATE**

Can Government state when it is now likely that all remedial works and beautification scheme will be completed at Laguna Estate?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING**

Answered together with Question Nos 797 and 798 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 797 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR R G VALARINO**

**HOUSING – VARYL BEGG ESTATE**

Can Government state when it is now likely that remedial works and beautification of Varyl Begg Estate will start?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING**

Answered together with Question Nos 796 and 798 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 797 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR R G VALARINO**

**HOUSING – VARYL BEGG ESTATE**

Can Government state when it is now likely that remedial works and beautification of Varyl Begg Estate will start?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING**

Answered together with Question Nos 796 and 798 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 798 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR R G VALARINO**

**HOUSING – VARYL BEGG ESTATE**

Have Government now decided on a date when the installation of lifts in Varyl Begg Estate is likely to start?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING**

**Answer to Question No 796 of 2002**

The embellishment works at Laguna Estate are expected to be completed by 30<sup>th</sup> January 2003 due to extra works and the installation of new ducts and cabling for street lighting.

**Answer to Question No 797 of 2002**

Remedial works are scheduled to start this month. As far as beautification works are concerned, this will be carried out at a much later date, as stated on numerous occasions to this House.

**Answer to Question No 798 of 2002**

The contractor will commence with installing lifts as from this month in connection to the remedial works in Phase 1, as stated on numerous occasions to this House.

## **SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 796 TO 798 OF 2002**

**HON DR R G VALARINO:**

Especially on the last question I beg to differ from the Minister, in fact he said that this would start as from the end of 2001 if I remember correctly if one looks at Hansard. I am glad it is going to start in the near future. There is I think quite a delay on Laguna Estate for remedial works and beautification. Is there any reason at all why the delay is as planned?

**HON J J NETTO:**

Firstly, there is no confusion as to the last question, the question asks when the date for installation of lifts in Varyl Begg is likely to start and that is as I have stated on numerous occasions under phase 1 so there is no misconception there. As to the delay why the works will start in Varyl Begg phase 1 this is basically driven by the .....

**HON DR R G VALARINO:**

In Laguna Estate.

**HON J J NETTO:**

I have already said what the delays were.

**HON DR R G VALARINO:**

I asked about the delays in Laguna the thing is that if one answers three questions in one, one has difficulty to follow each of them.

**HON J J NETTO:**

That has been as a result as I said due to extra works in Laguna Estate and also the installation of new ducts and cabling for street lighting which was not part of the original contract and hence the reason for the extension.

**ORAL**

**NO. 799 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR R G VALARINO**

**HOUSING – KING’S BASTION**

Can Government provide the total cost to date of the hire, inclusive of the initial installation and monthly inspection specification of the scaffolding at King’s Bastion?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING**

Answered together with Question No 800 of 2002.

**NO. 800 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR R G VALARINO**

**HOUSING – KING'S BASTION**

Can Government provide details of the contractual arrangement with Haymills who are providing the scaffolding at King's Bastion?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING**

**Answer to Question No 799 of 2002**

The total all-inclusive cost to Government for the hire of the scaffolding at King's Bastion was £32,805.60.

**Answer to Question No 800 of 2002**

As a result of the time that this scaffolding has been on hire and the fact that the scaffolding contractor is Government's appointed term contractor for this type of work and consequently undertaking substantial other work for Government, the contractor has agreed not to levy any further charges against Government for the indefinite continued use of this scaffolding. Payment for the hiring of this scaffolding ceased in May 2002.



ORAL

**NO. 801 OF 2002**

**THE HON J L BALDACHINO**

**HOUSING – SOCIAL ASSISTANCE FUND**

Can Government state what has been the payments made out of the £420,000 from the Social Assistance Fund, sub-head Rent Relief up to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2002?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING**

**Answer to Question Nos 785, 795 and 801 of 2002**

As at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2002, there were 533 tenants of post-war housing and 61 tenants of pre-war housing on rent relief. This figure fluctuates on a daily basis in line with new applications and review of existing ones. For this same reason it is impossible to quantify (split up) the amounts spent on both categories of housing units. It should be clarified that the figure mentioned by the hon Member of £445,000 is the actual spend of the previous financial year. Subsequently, this sum is used as a gauge for this year. Therefore, as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2002, the sum of £333,748.97 has been spent. I would like to clarify to the hon Member that the figure estimated for the financial year 2002/2003 is £445,000 and not £420,000 as asked in the question.

## **SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 785, 795 AND 801 OF 2002**

**HON J L BALDACHINO:**

This is a Social Assistance payment and therefore it is under the department of the hon Lady that passes the money over to the Minister and therefore by the answer that he has given how is it that the transfer takes place, is it on a yearly basis or is it monthly, how is money passed from one department to the other?

**HON J J NETTO:**

My understanding is that the transfer is done through the Treasury Department.

**HON J L BALDACHINO:**

I understand that the money is passed on from the Treasury but the money is being passed from one department to another because the one that is not collecting the rent, the Housing Department has to collect the amount of rent that is stipulated in the tenancy, it is a Social Assistance payment therefore as it is a Social Assistance payment Housing has to collect the money that is given in rent relief. The rent relief is not given by the Housing Department it is given by the Social Services Department and therefore what I am asking is that there must be a transfer from one department to another, is there such a thing or not and if so how is it passed, monthly, yearly, six monthly, quarterly?

**HON J J NETTO:**

I cannot answer the question how it is passed, all I can try to attempt to give an answer from the information that I have received from my staff is that the figure that is an actual figure spent in the previous financial year is the figure that is moved forward to the following financial year as an estimate and as we are making the payments throughout the year at the end of the financial year or before the financial year this is actually reconciled I believe with Treasury and DSS. That is the information that I have but I cannot answer the first part of his question on how it is transferred. All I know is that it is an estimate which used to be the actual figure spent in the previous financial year and then it is monitored and used as we go along but the problem that we have and I actually tried and attempted to provide the information to the hon Member in terms of trying to split up the money spent both on post-war and pre-war but even my clerical staff actually showed me that the answer that was provided for this particular question the following day had already changed as a result of information that I had given here which is new applications, review existing applications, which is in other words a figure which is on a daily basis constantly changing and I can only give that information as it is on the day that I am answering the question and unfortunately I am not able to give the hon Member that split up between post-war and pre-war and as the hon Member would know from many years when he used to be Housing Minister that has always been the case and it is only now, perhaps innocently as I suppose that the current shadow spokesman for Housing has requested this information but the answer is that it cannot be done I wish I could.

**HON J L BALDACHINO:**

The question that I am trying to ask is, the Housing Agency who is the landlord on behalf of the Government for Government flats is entitled to collect its rent in full, therefore when we have rent relief the rent relief is a Social payment and therefore it is paid by the hon Lady's department to the Housing Department, if there is £5 million to be collected in rents then at the end the Housing Department is the recipient of £5 million in rent for the sake of mentioning a figure. Therefore what I am asking is, seeing that it is a social payment and rent relief is given by the DSS because the DSS is the one that has the formula which says how much rent relief each person gets, when is that money out of the £445,000 which is an estimate, when the actual figure of how much has been spent on rent relief is then passed from the DSS to the Housing Department therefore it would show a payment made out of the DSS to the Housing Department who would get it as revenue and that is my question?

**HON K AZOPARDI:**

Payments are regularly made from one department to the other through Treasury. As to the frequency of the payments I will not be able to confirm precisely but it is either monthly or quarterly.

ORAL

**NO. 802 OF 2002**

**THE HON S E LINARES**

**(Question asked by the Hon Dr J J Garcia)**

**VOLUNTARY YOUTH WORKERS**

Can Government state what was the cost of running the course for part-time and voluntary Youth leaders?

**ANSWER**

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

Answered together with Question No 804 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 803 OF 2002**

**THE HON S E LINARES**

**(Question asked by the Hon Dr J J Garcia)**

**YOUTH CENTRE**

Can Government confirm that letters have been sent to individuals and groups who traditionally have used facilities at the Youth Centre stating that they will have to find alternative facilities elsewhere?

**ANSWER**

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

Yes. Such letters have been sent to those individuals, and groups that are not considered to be delivering youth work in their use of Youth Centre facilities. However, all such groups have been likewise informed in writing that they will not be stopped from using the Youth Centre facilities, nor requested to vacate these, until suitable alternatives are secured. Assistance has also been offered by the Senior Youth and Community Officer to these groups in applying/seeking suitable alternatives facilities.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 803 OF 2002**

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

Does the Minister have a list of the various groups or individuals concerned?

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

Yes. There are eight groups affected:-

- The Lourdians Athletic Club;
- The Taikwondo Association
- Weight Training/Body Building Club
- Leit Motif
- Danza del Sur
- Mediterranean Dance Group

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

In what sense are these groups not delivering youth facilities are youth not involved in the activities of these groups, are these groups not open to young people getting involved?

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

It is an obvious question but not an easy one to answer, it comes down to the definition of what is and what is not youth work and I have to admit that when I first took over ministerial responsibility for youth my idea of youth work was a little more restricted than what it is now and in the way that I have been advised. One tends to think that the provision of discotheque facilities was youth work. The views being taken by the people who are leading the youth service is much more academic, much more in line with the narrower definitions of youth work and therefore they see things like weight training and bodybuilding as not providing that youth work. It is a sporting facility and not the providing of youth work because the youth themselves are not involved in doing anything from the grass roots up and I choose that one with no particular accent on it. My point applies to all the groups concerned, they are run by outsiders from the youth service. They are run for the benefit of a cross section of the community no doubt there are some youth involved but there are also people over 21 involved and therefore the youth service today is taking a narrower view and saying, " these are the youth facilities and we want to maximise the use of these facilities for the use of youth work and therefore they are seeking to move out the groups that are using the facilities for other purposes taking it in general terms rather than primarily youth work. I stress what I said before that no one is being evicted or forced out until such time as adequate arrangements are secured and my suspicion is that this will take a little bit of time because obviously it is not easy to provide alternative facilities.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

The alternative presumably has to be an alternative provided by the Government because the Minister said that assistance would be given to them in finding alternatives but it is not that they are expected to compete in the market for property in order to find places?

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

Yes, the Government continue to seek and provide suitable premises for clubs and associations and it is through that venue that we will try to accommodate them.

**NO. 804 OF 2002**

**THE HON S E LINARES**

**(Question asked by the Hon Dr J J Garcia)**

**VOLUNTARY YOUTH WORKERS**

Can Government state who conducted the course for part-time and voluntary leaders that started on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2001 and what are the qualifications held by those who conducted it?

**ANSWER**

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

The course to train part-time and voluntary youth workers and leaders was conducted jointly by the Gibraltar Youth Service and the British Forces Youth Service in Gibraltar. The course was attended by members of local entities and individuals. The training programme, which was jointly approved, was led by Mr Dan Richmond, Senior Youth Worker for BFYS Gibraltar assisted by Mrs Lorraine Richmond and fully qualified members of the Gibraltar Youth Service staff, Mr Jaime Felices and Mr Mark Zammit. Mr Richmond is a professionally qualified and well experienced Youth and Community worker, enabled and trained to deliver such training programmes, which he often does. All other persons involved in the delivery of that training were also suitably professionally qualified and enabled to deliver such training. The actual qualifications are as follows:

Mr Dan Richmond – BA (Hons) Community & Youth Work Studies (Plymouth University)

Mrs Lorraine Richmond – Trainer's Qualification in Adult Education and Diploma in Counselling



Mr Jaime Felices – Certificate in Community and Youth Work Studies (Reading University)

Mr Mark Zammit – BA (Hons) – Community and Youth Work Studies (Derby University)

The courses led to locally validated certificates issued jointly by the Gibraltar Youth Service and British Forces Youth Service. The total cost of running and resourcing the training courses for part-time and voluntary youth leaders and workers was £6,200.

ORAL

**NO. 805 OF 2002**

**THE HON J C PEREZ**

**SCADA CONTROLLER LINK PROJECT**

Do Government still consider that the SCADA controller link project could be ready by February 2003 as the Minister indicated in answer to Question No 438 of 2002?

**ANSWER**

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

The equipment which was damaged as the result of the flooding had to be replaced, the suppliers had to re-engineer the software and hardware since these are items made specially for Gibraltar and are not available "off the shelf". Regrettably, due to supplier's staff changes and considering the specialist nature of the equipment, they incurred slippages in their works programme. The new components have to undergo a new Factory Acceptance Test, which are expected to take place in late November 2002. Assuming that the equipment is found to perform satisfactorily, and this is not certain that it will, it will have to be shipped to Gibraltar with delivery just before Christmas, and this will leave the Department with little time to meet the initial objective and it will be extremely difficult for it to achieve completion of the installation of the control equipment before the end of February 2003. The building at Orange Bastion, which will house the major components of the equipment, is currently being totally refurbished and an inner shell is being constructed to prevent further ingress of water or dampness.

## **SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 805 OF 2002**

**HON J C PEREZ:**

So the Minister is saying that there is now a further delay. Has he got now a new estimated date of completion, the last time I asked him he says the workforce permitting, that is to say if there was sufficient labour in the department permitting he would be able to finish the project by February 2003 now he says that there are delays in the actual supply of the equipment because it is done on the basis that it is only for Gibraltar and that it needs to be tested and that there have been more seepages there still, has he now got a date by which he can guarantee that this project which has been slipping for four or five years will be terminated?

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

No. Regrettably I have not because until the equipment meets its factory acceptance test and is delivered to Gibraltar, until we know that date we cannot forecast what the date for the installation of the control equipment can take place until the equipment is remade, tested, we have to go there and accept the standard that it is at and then it is shipped and until it actually arrives here we cannot forecast the date of completion.

**HON J C PEREZ:**

Can the Minister state whether he has investigated the possibility of taking legal action against the company given their part of the responsibility on the delay of the project, I think the contract was awarded five or six years ago, I know that there have been problems here on this side but getting the answers that we are getting from the Minister it seems to me that the manufacturer has a lot to blame for the delay that is certainly what the Minister is indicating, is there any recourse against the manufacturer for these delays?

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

I have not been advised of any recourse being available but in fact the delay that we are experiencing now is directly linked to the flooding. We were at the stage when the controller equipment was about to be installed and then it got flooded and damaged and the whole project was pushed back a year or a couple of years. This present delay is not attributable to the manufacturer.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

If the Minister cannot give an estimated completion date because it does not know when the equipment will arrive in Gibraltar can he say how long after the equipment arrives in Gibraltar will be needed for the completion so as to have an idea of how many extra months we have to add to the arrival date or whatever?

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

I do not have this information in front of me, I am trying to see whether in previous answers that information has been given, I need notice of that question.

ORAL

**NO. 806 OF 2002**

**THE HON J C PEREZ**

**WATERPORT DISTILLER**

Are Government now able to provide the Opposition on a confidential basis with the comparative costs of a ton of water produced by the new Reverse Osmosis Plant and that produced by the Waterport Distiller?

**ANSWER**

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

The position remains the same as given in answer to Question No 433 of 2002, that is to say that this information is commercially sensitive and therefore cannot be made public. In supplementaries to this question I undertook to consult our commercial partners in Lyonnaise Northumbrian Water whether this information could be supplied to the Opposition on a commercial 'in confidence' basis. This matter was discussed at the Board Meeting held on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2002 and the Board decided that, and I quote, "The Chairman should not provide information deemed to be commercially sensitive to the Opposition even on a confidential basis." I should point out that the information requested belongs to the Company of which the Government are only on a minority shareholder and not to the Government, and that I am not technically accountable for it in this House.

## **SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 806 OF 2002**

**HON J C PEREZ:**

Can the Government state whether they have any problems in giving this information to the Opposition on a confidential basis or whether it is only the commercial partner in the company that has the problem in doing so?

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

I have not considered it from that point of view to be perfectly honest because as I have just said the information belongs to the company and therefore at the Board Meeting the Government have asked the board for permission to do what was being requested. I am not in a position to assess the confidentiality or otherwise of the information but it would seem to me that there is perfect logic on the basis of future developments that could happen in the production of water in Gibraltar that there is perfect logic for the company not wanting to release this information.

**HON J C PEREZ:**

The Minister said in the last Question and Answer that it was deemed by the company to be commercial in confidence and that he would have to go back to the company to check whether the partner agreed to give it to us on a confidential basis or not. I am trying to establish whether the Government are accepting the view that the Opposition in Gibraltar should not have this information when the Opposition ought to have information at least on a confidential basis that would allow it to plan for the future of the basis of what the cost of the water to the people of Gibraltar is going to be, I would think that on a commercial in confidence basis that information should be available to the Opposition but I am trying to establish whether these are the partners of Lyonnaise alone that think that it is something very sensitive that an Opposition should have commercial in confidence information on a confidential basis or whether the Government agree with the partners in the company that it is so. We want to know who it is that thinks that it is dangerous that the Opposition should have commercial in confidence information by the Water Company on a confidential basis?

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

I find it amusing the tendency to dramatise this but the short answer is that the opinion of the Government is irrelevant because the information does not belong to the Government, the information belongs to the company as I have already mentioned, the company has considered it, the Government are in a minority in the company, the Board of the company has decided that the information should not be released and I have a copy of the minutes here, from which I have just quoted and the hands of the Government are tied it is an unavoidable fact, we live in a commercial world, that water could become as competitive as telecommunications in the near future and therefore the company justifiably in my mind wants to protect information which it considers confidential.

**HON J C PEREZ:**

.....and the company thinks that it is not protected by giving it to the Opposition on a confidential basis, that is to say, they do not trust that the Opposition will keep it on a confidential basis otherwise they would not have any problems in doing it and the Minister is saying that it is irrelevant what the position of the Government is. Well, it is as relevant as the position of the other shareholder in the company, either there are two views in the company and the majority one prevails or there is unanimity within the company and I would want to know whether the Government agree with the company that the Opposition should not have this information or they do not agree with the company, that is all I am trying to discover?

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

I am not in a position to answer that because the Government have not considered the question from the point of view that the hon Member is asking. This is purely a commercial matter within Lyonnaise in which the Government have not taken a view as a government because it has not been discussed as a Government. I undertook at the last meeting to ask our commercial partners whether the information that they considered commercially sensitive and could not be made public could be released on a commercial in confidence basis, the Board discussed it, the Board on which the Government are in a minority, the decision of the Board is as I have quoted that it should not be released to anybody including the Opposition because it is commercially sensitive and that is the position of the board and that is the position of the company. As I have said before the opinion of the Government is not only irrelevant but it has not been formulated because the Government have not had the occasion or the need to consider the position.

**HON J C PEREZ:**

Does the Minister not find it strange that a company that holds a monopoly situation should find that giving details of the cost of production of water is a sensitive situation more so given that it is subsidised by this House of Assembly every year that the water the company provides the public goes with a public subsidy voted by this House every year and given that that public subsidy is voted in this House every year does he not think that we should all be able to have the same information that the Government have in order to judge whether that public subsidy is justified or not.

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

A number of irrelevant factors have been introduced into the matter which I am not going to take up. The question is whether the information can be provided, I have given the answer, the company says that it cannot be provided and that is the basis in which I am answering the question.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Can the Minister say whether the cost of producing water by the reverse osmosis plant is higher or lower than that by the water distiller, without giving the figure?

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

It is lower.



ORAL

**NO. 807 OF 2002**

**THE HON J C PEREZ**

**WATERPORT DISTILLER**

Can Government state whether the report commissioned by Lyonnaise des Eaux into the future of the Waterport Distiller, post 2005, has now been completed?

**ANSWER**

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

Yes. The study has been completed.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 807 OF 2002**

**HON J C PEREZ:**

Is the Minister in a position to state whether the company would be prepared to share the conclusions of that report with the Opposition on a confidential basis?

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

This was not discussed at the last Board Meeting so I am not in a position to give a categorical answer but I can tell the hon Member that the indications that I have from Management are that the conclusions and the recommendations of the report are

commercially sensitive at this stage but I can also indicate that the report is being studied and looked at and that no decisions have been made on the way forward.

**HON J C PEREZ:**

Can the Minister state whether the report envisages that the Waterport Power Station has still got a long or a short life to go?

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

I am not aware of the contents of the report I have not read the report.

ORAL

**NO. 808 OF 2002**

**THE HON J C PEREZ**

**EUROPA INCINERATOR**

Can Government state how many employees there are presently in the Government owned company, Europa Incinerator Ltd, and how many employees there were when the company was set up?

**ANSWER**

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

Europa Incinerator does not have, nor has it ever, had any employees.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 808 OF 2002**

**HON J C PEREZ:**

Can Government state how many employees there are employed by the Gibraltar Development Corporation that work in the incinerator company?

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

None.

**HON J C PEREZ:**

Where are the employees of the incinerator employed by because the Minister said in the House that they were employed by the Europa Incinerator Limited that is why I am asking this question?

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

I cannot remember on my feet when I said this but if I did I was wrong.

**HON J C PEREZ:**

In the estimates there is a figure saying that that is paid to Europa Incinerator Limited for the wages of the employees.

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

That is a different thing altogether we pay to the Europa Incinerator Limited to pay to the contractor for the wages of the employees but the hon Member has asked me how many employees there are in Europa Incinerator the answer is none, how many employees there are in GTC the answer is none. To clarify the situation, there is no secret, the employers at the incinerator were originally employees of Krugger and they were subsequently transferred to a firm called Onyx when Krugger's contract with the Government was terminated and Onyx took over the responsibilities of running the incinerator from them. They are employees of Onyx Limited.

**HON J C PEREZ:**

Why is it that the company Europa Incinerator Limited exists, what does it own, what is its function?

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

The legal position goes back when that was established going back a couple of years and I was not directly involved in setting it up so not that it is a secret but I do not have that information with me now. I suspect, I think rather than suspect, that the hon Member is right and that the incinerator plant is owned by Europa Incinerator Limited but I am speaking from memory subject to that information being wrong.

**HON J C PEREZ:**

So the Minister is saying that the Europa Incinerator Limited pays Onyx for the running of the incinerator which is not running, how many employees have Onyx got employed now and how many employees did it have at the commencement of this arrangement?

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

That is correct I think speaking from memory and subject to correction when the deal was struck the incinerator became the property of Europa Incinerator Limited and Europa Incinerator Limited contracted Onyx to carry on running it which it did for a short period of time until it broke down and since then the contract has been maintained, not the same contract a different contract has been maintained with Onyx for keeping the incinerator in moth balls until such time as a decision was made whether to refurbish it or to replace it. The number of employees, I thought I had the information here with me but I do not, again from memory we are talking of I think around 15 but that figure is not exact, as far as I am aware it is the same I do not think that there has been any change from the moment that Onyx took over to today.

**HON J C PEREZ:**

The Minister knows nothing whatsoever about any possible deployment from Onyx Limited into Government departments of employees there?

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

If by deployment the hon Member means a change of employer that is a situation that is being looked at at the moment because Government have given notice to Onyx that its contract will terminate at the end of this year and it is in the context of that termination that the future of the employees is being studied at the moment.

**HON J C PEREZ:**

So what the Minister is telling me now is that the intention of the Government is to shut down the incinerator completely and it is trying to re-deploy the workforce that has been keeping the incinerator on moth balls for the last two years into other positions within the public sector, is that the situation?

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

That is the substance of the next question, No 809 of 2002 which I will answer then.

ORAL

**NO. 809 OF 2002**

**THE HON J C PEREZ**

**INCINERATOR**

Can Government state whether they have now taken a decision over which of the proposals for the refurbishment and operation of the existing incinerator they will opt for, and if so, when do they expect to sign the contract and when is the incinerator expected to be fully operational again?

**ANSWER**

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

Government have studied the two proposals for the refurbishment of the existing incinerator plant, and having considered the advice being provided by their appointed consultant, have now concluded that it is not economically viable to proceed with the refurbishment and upgrading of the existing plant. Government are currently considering all their options for the future disposal of domestic refuse and will shortly be making an announcement in this respect.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 809 OF 2002**

**HON J C PEREZ:**

Is the Minister suggesting that the Government are content with the situation it now has of disposing the refuse in the Los Barrios dump and that they are not looking at an alternative in Gibraltar so that our refuse disposal could be at least 75 per cent self-sufficient?

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

Government are not suggesting that it is content with their present arrangements or that they are not looking at alternative local arrangements.

**HON J C PEREZ:**

How is it that they can be studying the proposals for the reopening of the incinerator and the refurbishment for over two years and then come back and conclude that after studying proposals to refurbish and reopen the incinerator it is now not economically possible to do so, they have actually been doing this for two long years and after two long years they say that although they have got two proposals to do it it is now not economically feasible to do so. Economically feasible against what cost, the cost of disposal refuse in Los Barrios or the cost of building a new incinerator?

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

There are two questions in one there, firstly it is not a simple question of having two proposals to refurbish and taking two years to look at it I would have to research the history of it but again speaking from memory when this started we asked for proposals to refurbish or to replace, some came in they were not adequate, we had to go back and eventually we narrowed it down to two proposals to refurbish and the decision seemed to be going down the road of refurbishing. We then appointed independent consultants who are the ones who have advised us recently and it is on the basis of that advice that a decision has now been taken and the advice of the consultants was that in a nutshell, to answer the second question, the cost of refurbishment now which has been increasing as time has gone by, because of the introduction mainly of new EU directives, the cost of refurbishment now is almost the same as the cost of a new incinerator so it is on the basis of the comparison of the cost of refurbishment against the cost of the new incinerator that the Government have now made the decision of not to refurbish and is now looking at the cost of the new incinerator against the other options.

**HON J C PEREZ:**

Is it still looking at incineration as the preferred method of refuse disposal or is it that the Minister is saying EU directives and exigencies on plants are making it economically unfeasible to continue with the incineration as an option, is that what the Minister is saying?

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

No I am saying that the cost is so high that it is discarding incineration, on the contrary the Government's preference is to be like in all other essential services to be self-sufficient and not dependent on neighbouring countries for services and therefore the Government's preference is for incineration but it would be irresponsible of the Government not to look and study all the options.

**HON J C PEREZ:**

When does the Minister expect to be in a position to state what the Government intend to do about it and obviously the intention I take it is to redeploy everyone which is today in Onyx and start afresh with whatever replaces what there is today?

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

I am not in a position to give dates as I speak, the main reason being that the decision is not one which I will be taking on my own as indeed all matters to now have been taken with the involvement of other ministers and therefore it is not possible for me to give an indication. We are back to the SCADA question, until such time as the decision is made one cannot then plot the way forward. It is then not a question of issuing a contract assuming the decision is to go for incineration we then have to look at going out to tender again and looking at the various ways of funding the project, whether it is going to be a Government let project, we are not talking about weeks and I suspect we are talking more than a few months.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

In answer to the previous question the Minister said that they had given notice to Onyx of termination of the contract at the end of the year, are we talking at the end of the calendar year or the financial year?

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

The calendar year.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

So that would mean that in fact the 15 employees or whatever the number is would have to be given notice of redundancy by the company in order to comply with the law?

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

Yes I assume so.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Is it in that context then that the Government are looking to provide alternative employment to those employees from January?



**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

I have already met with representatives of the employees and the unions and I have given assurances on behalf of the Government that the Government will seek to find the best solution possible for the employees but the interest of the employees are safeguarded by the terms of the contract with Onyx which allows for the employees to be transferred into employment of Europa Incinerator Limited if and when Onyx exit the market. I am using words loosely but we are now in the stage of negotiating what that can mean or will mean in practice with a built in possible gap of relative length before a new incinerator can be in place.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

So in fact it would mean that in terms of the position of the employees they could become the employees of Europa Incinerator and presumably do whatever they have been doing for Europa Incinerator as part of the contract with Onyx because in fact it is Europa Incinerator through the payment we vote in this House that has been meeting their wages.

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

Yes, indirectly but we are also looking at other options like providing or offering alternative work or jobs to the workforce.

**ORAL**

**NO. 810 OF 2002**

**THE HON J C PEREZ**

**WELLINGTON FRONT**

What action have Government taken to avoid a repetition of the flooding of Wellington Front since it occurred last winter?

**ANSWER**

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

All gullies and drains within Wellington Front and the surrounding areas have been inspected and cleansed to ensure that there are no foreign matters that will reduce the discharge capacity of the system. The complete system continues to be periodically and continuously inspected and action is immediately taken to deal with any obstructions that may be identified. In addition, cleansing works within the Trunk Sewer have been resumed, from Victoria House at Rosia Road downstream towards Scud Hill, the object of which is to remove silt accumulations within the same thus improving the Trunk Sewer's own carrying capacity which in turn, reduces the occurrence of overflows.

ORAL

**NO. 811 OF 2002**

**THE HON J C PEREZ**

**WELLINGTON FRONT**

Can Government state whether their insurance managers accepted all claims for damages arising out of the flooding of Wellington Front last winter, and if not, which were not accepted?

**ANSWER**

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

No. I am advised by the Treasury that all reports on the matter were submitted to the Government's Public and Products Liability Insurers who handle all such claims on behalf of the Government. After careful consideration, the Insurers concluded that there was no liability on the part of Government. They believe that there are no grounds whereby Government can be blamed for what can only be described as extreme weather conditions.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 811 OF 2002**

**HON J C PEREZ:**

Can the Minister confirm that some cash payment has been made to entities occupying buildings in Wellington Front and that this has not been the case with vehicles parked in the area, is the Minister aware that some entities that were housed in Wellington Front are said to have received some indemnity whereas cars parked in the area have not?

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

I cannot answer that question with a clear 'yes' or 'no' because I simply do not know. I can tell the hon Member that I am told by the Treasury that no claims have been paid by the Government insurance. I am not aware of any other payments having been made by anybody else but I do not know if they have or have been but they have certainly not been paid by the insurance managers as the hon Member asked me in the question.

ORAL

**NO. 812 OF 2002**

**THE HON J C PEREZ**

**ROSIA ROAD – SEWERS**

Will Government state when it is now envisaged that the works on the sewer in Rosia Road will be completed and when is it expected that the unacceptable stench in the area will disappear?

**ANSWER**

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

The actual repair works to the main sewer were completed on the 4<sup>th</sup> October 2002. The Contractor is currently completing the works above ground, involving the reinstatement of the retaining walls and parapets in the area. It is expected that the gravity flow in the repaired section of the sewer will be restored shortly once the area immediately upstream and downstream of the repaired section is desilted. Desilting works commenced on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2002 and it is estimated that it will take 13 weeks to cleanse the section of main sewer from North Jumpers to Cumberland Steps. However, to reduce this contract period, improve performance and minimise the inconvenience to the public, two vehicles will be used, the second vehicle will be arriving shortly. As part of the repair works to the main sewer, it was necessary to drive a new shaft down to the area of the collapse. While such works were on going, this shaft naturally acted as a vent to the system. In addition, there was a need to have a number of manholes opened both to ventilate the system to allow personnel to enter the same to undertake the repairs as well as to provide access for the over-pumping operation. This regrettably resulted in the release of foul smelling gases and it is this that has caused an inconvenience to the public, something that is regretted but was unavoidable was the consequence of having undertaken this very difficult and risky operation within such a confined area. Once gravity flow is re-established and the over-pumping operation removed and all manhole covers replaced, it is expected that the foul smells will no longer be present. In addition old gullies in the area have been replaced with new

gullies that incorporate traps to prevent the release of gases and the whole drainage system in this area is being inspected to ensure that any defects that may contribute to the emission of foul smells are rectified.

### **SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 812 OF 2002**

**HON J C PEREZ:**

So what the Minister is saying is that once the desilting is over we expect the foul smell to go away, that the desilting was expected to take some 13 weeks but there are two vehicles coming and there might be a possibility of cutting down that time. So we can safely say that by the end of the year the foul smelling gases will not be there anymore?

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

Yes the hon Member has grasped what I have said essentially and yes, I expect that by the end of the year the foul smells will have disappeared.

**ORAL**

**NO. 813 OF 2002**

**THE HON J C PEREZ**

**DUDLEY WARD TUNNEL**

Can Government state whether the Geotechnical Engineering Consultants engaged to inspect the cliff face in the area of Dudley Ward Tunnel have now finalised their work, and if so, can Government disclose what are the recommendations made by the Consultants?

**ANSWER**

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

The consultants engaged by Government to inspect the cliff faces in the area of the Dudley Wad Tunnel entrance submitted their report in May 2002. Very extensive recommendations have been made on the works required in the area and these are still being considered by Government.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 813 OF 2002**

**HON J C PEREZ:**

The Minister is saying that the report was given to Government in May and that the Government are still considering what to do about it and in the meantime the road is still closed and works have still not commenced, and does the Minister believe that there is a sense of priority to these matters and that traffic flow in Gibraltar is a big problem and that whatever there is a need to do needs to be done rapidly given that that road is closed and it is a major roadway particularly in the summer? If the Minister had got the

report last month it would be excusable but if the report is there since May and the Government have still not decided whether to accept or not those recommendations and works have not commenced, for how long is Dudley Ward Tunnel going to be closed to the general public?

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

I will take the first question first, for a considerable period of time.

**HON J C PEREZ:**

Is it that the recommendations are very expensive and the Government need to weigh what is to be done or is it that the Government are going to take a second opinion on them?

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

The report makes a number of recommendations and a number of options. As I have indicated in the main answer the Government have not yet given it enough consideration to make decisions on which option to take. Let me stress because of what he said originally as I also said in relation to a previous question that this is not a decision because of the extensive scope of the works and the considerable costs involved, this is not something that is my decision alone, and it is something in which other ministerial colleagues are involved. Having said all that I repeat what I have said. The dates cannot be established because we are in the 'catch 22' situation, we have to decide first what we have to do, cost it, contract it out at a considerable cost and then be in a position to forecast the date. Taking all the options into account of both costs and the extent of the work involved as I indicated earlier we are talking about a considerable period of time.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

The emphasis on considerable is indicative of what, a number of years?

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

Yes I think we are talking in years we are certainly talking between a year and two years from the beginning of the works if my memory serves me rightly from the report.

**HON J C PEREZ:**

Has it not been possible to look at a method by which the road remains open, surely there must be some method where one can do work on a cliff face and keep the road opened?



**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

Unfortunately there is not, once again I am trusting my memory so I may be subject to correction but if the hon Member thinks of the topography of the location there is a very high sheer face cliff just above the entrance to the tunnel where the fall occurred and the fatal accident occurred and the report identified that the rock that hit the ground was only a small part of a very much, much larger rock of I think it was 70 tonnes estimated, that was dislodged from the very top. It broke up on the way down and there are still identified pieces of the original rock caught on the cliff and the report categorically says that it is unsafe to use that road and allow traffic through it. If the hon Member thinks once more of the layout of the area there is just no alternative that does not do what the options recommend which is to cover up the access to the entrance in a more effective and safe way.

**HON J C PEREZ:**

Would the Minister consider approaching the MOD to see whether the tunnel of the Communication Centre could be used as an alternative for the summer, that is to say the tunnel that runs across what used to be the old dockyard to the entrance to Sandy Bay because that is an alternative?

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

I am not sure whether the Communication Centre tunnel is suitable for traffic?

**HON J C PEREZ:**

It is suitable for one way traffic definitely.

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

If the hon Member is talking purely about the width of the tunnel there are matters of ventilation et cetera but the answer is that Government have not taken this option but I am sure that my Colleague the Minister with responsibility for transport and roads who is avidly listening to the advice coming from the Opposition benches will take due heed and consider whether it is possible or not possible. It is a matter for the MOD but I know that that tunnel is sensitive from an MOD point of view.

ORAL

**NO. 814 OF 2002**

**THE HON J C PEREZ**

**CEMETERY**

Are Government taking any action about the state of neglect of the Cemetery?

**ANSWER**

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

Government do not think that the cemetery is in a state of neglect, although Government constantly consider ways of improving and embellishing it. Apart from the Superintendent of Cemeteries, the Cemetery Keeper and gravediggers, there is a squad of seven men on permanent detachment from Community Projects Ltd and who work full time on a day-to-day basis primarily cleaning and weeding the Cemetery. Government have invited the two horticultural contractors (Greenarc and Gibralflores) to make proposals and provide quotations for different systems for embellishing approved sites within the Cemetery during a trial period. At the end of the this trial period Government will assess which of these systems is considered most appropriate and financially viable and award a contract for the on-going and permanent embellishment and maintenance of the Cemetery. One quotation has already been received and the trial period is expected to start shortly. At Government's suggestion, Lyonnaise des Eaux is currently installing at their own expense, a fresh water supply system in the north west sector of the Cemetery where no such infrastructure exists at present.

**ORAL**

**NO. 815 OF 2002**

**THE HON J C PEREZ**

**LINE WALL ROAD – BRIDGES**

Will Government state when was the last time that structural inspections of Smith Dorrien Bridge and other bridges in Line Wall Road were carried out?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT**

Smith Dorrien Bridge was last inspected in April 2002. The other bridges on Line Wall Road are the Fish Market Road Bridge (last inspected in December 1999) and the Orange Bastion Bridge (last inspected in June 2000).

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 815 OF 2002**

**HON J C PEREZ:**

Can the Minister confirm that the inspections found at the bridge were safe or did the inspection find that any work needed to be done to the bridges to stabilise them in any way?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

I believe that Smith Dorrien Avenue when it was last inspected in April 2002 was carried out as a result of possible damage that may have been caused to the bridge by a large vehicle that was jammed underneath the same. However, the inspection found that there was no serious damage recorded. In addition to that I believe that the Orange Bastion bridge structure was last inspected as I have said in June 2000 and as a result of this the walkway along the eastside of the bridge was completely demolished and reconstructed so obviously what was found has been addressed. Within the next few weeks a further inspection of the structure is scheduled to be undertaken following the vacating of the Electricity Department at the Orange Bastion depot and this will now provide better access to this structure that had been available in the past. So that is the position as it stands today.

ORAL

**NO. 816 OF 2002**

**THE HON J C PEREZ**

**REFERENDUM HOUSE**

Can Government state what action has been taken about the nesting of pigeons in the chute at Referendum House?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING**

The problem was reported by one of the tenants on the 19<sup>th</sup> September and a requisition marked 'Urgent' was issued by the North Depot on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2002. The ducts will be covered with mesh from the inside to prevent the pigeons from nesting in the future. I can also inform the hon Member that apart from the mesh the Environmental Agency has been in touch with the Animal Welfare Centre in order to try and carry out a cull of pigeons in the area as well but I believe that has not taken place yet.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 816 OF 2002**

**HON J C PEREZ:**

I would presume that there would be no objection to the, for example, planting of poison within the chute itself given that the pigeons that are there and those nests need to be removed as a health precaution to the tenants?

**HON J J NETTO:**

All I can say is that this will be monitored by the Environmental Agency and those considerations which the hon Member has stated will obviously hopefully be taken into account.

**HON J C PEREZ:**

The hon Member perhaps might wish to inform the Health Department that there is quite a lot of concern in the block about the health hazard that this represents to the tenants and frankly if the report reached the department on the 9<sup>th</sup> September and we are today on 16<sup>th</sup> October they do not think that nothing is being done. The Minister has replied that measures will be taken to avoid a repetition of this but the chute is full of pigeons and some of them get into the corridors in the Tower Blocks and I would think that the Health Department should take appropriate steps to try and deal with this matter as a matter of urgency.

**HON J L BALDACHINO:**

On the exterior water stopcocks are they now being fixed or is it in the process of being fixed?

**HON J J NETTO:**

As I said, some have been fixed, some are scheduled to be fixed but the department is also going to carry out a survey of all the system in the area and depending what the survey tells us it may even produce a situation where we have to replace all of them but some have been fixed, some will further be fixed, and then we will carry out a survey later on as well.

**HON J L BALDACHINO:**

I suppose this is an urgent job to be done because if there is a breakage, if I understand, what the exterior water stopcock does is that if one has a breakage where one cannot close it in the dwelling or in the flat one is required to do that otherwise the whole block is going to be flooded, that is an urgent job?

**HON J J NETTO:**

That is correct.

ORAL

**NO. 817 OF 2002**

**THE HON J C PEREZ**

**VARYL BEGG ESTATE – GARAGES**

Can Government state what is the problem regarding the supply of electricity to garages at Varyl Begg Estate, which the Minister said over a year ago did not exist?

**ANSWER**

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

In answer to Question No 68 of 2001, which sought similar information, I said and I quote, “ Government are now in a position to provide a supply to garages on the north part of the Estate.....the garages on the south-east side of the estate are still awaiting the installation of the mains supply cable and meters.” Regrettably, however, the reply to Question No 927 of 2001 appears to have been drafted by the department on insufficiently accurate information because the answer and the supplementaries assumed that the five applications then pending were all from the north part of the estate and the information given in this House implied that they could be connected as soon as the applicants supplied the necessary certificates of completion and wiring diagrams as required by BS 7611. The vast majority of garages are located in the northern part of the estate in the proximity of the main thoroughfare and these had the incoming distribution cables laid through new infrastructure provided at the time of the construction. The garages in the south-east did not have any infrastructure provided at the time of construction and depended on utilising existing infrastructure which had to be intercepted by way of excavations. This represents major works because the ducts are very deep and, due to other exigencies of the service requiring higher priority, has never been done. I am now advised that two of the applicants mentioned in answer to Question No 927 Of 2001 who have indeed been waiting for quite some time are located in the south-east side of the estate. Urgent measures are now being implemented to correct this anomaly and to provide a supply to these two garages in the south-east of the estate as soon as possible.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 817 OF 2002**

**HON J C PEREZ:**

I can safely presume that the name that I left with the Minister in his office is one of these two applicants?

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

Yes indeed, I should in fact apologise to the hon Member for not actually coming back to him with the information which was not available to me until very recently. That is the reason why I did not come back to him directly but yes, the name indeed was one of the two applicants and the department is putting into place urgent measures to get them supply without having to do the excavations at least on a temporary measure until such time as permanent supplies can be laid.



ORAL

**NO. 818 OF 2002**

**THE HON J C PEREZ**

**WATERPORT POWER STATION**

Can Government state what will be the total additional electricity generating capacity once the proposed new engines have been installed at Waterport Power Station and could it give a breakdown of the number of engines with the output of each?

**ANSWER**

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

Answered together with Question No 826 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 819 OF 2002**

**THE HON J C PEREZ**

**GIBTELECOM - CHARGES**

Given that a new provider of telecom services has made known publicly its intention of offering free local calls, can Government state whether Gibtelecom intends to reduce its charges for local calls?

**ANSWER**

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

No. The level of charges for local calls is now a matter for the Gibraltar Regulatory Authority which has been appointed to regulate the telecommunications industry and determine the tariffs charged by Gibtelecom. The Telecommunications Ordinance implementing EU directives was brought into operation over a year ago, on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2001. Under the provisions of this Ordinance and the subsidiary Regulations, Gibtelecom has been designated by the Regulator as having Significant Market Power (SMP). Any future changes they may wish to make to local call tariffs are now subject to regulatory clearance.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 819 OF 2002**

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Can the Minister clarify whether he is actually saying that if Gibtelecom wishes to reduce it they need to go to seek the permission of the Regulator or that in fact the level at which they are charging at the moment they are charging more which are two different things?

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

I think if one distinguishes between one and the other the actual situation is probably a third option which is that they are charging at a level agreed to by the Regulator. We are back to the cost related formula and the fact that Gibtelecom having SMP is not allowed to charge below the cost related level specified by the Regulator.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

When the explanation was given originally and we were unable to obtain again for commercial in-confidence reasons information on the structure of the income of the company the argument that was being put was that what GNC was not permitted to do was to cross subsidise. Given that in the report that has been tabled in this House we are told that last year there were 6.65 million international calls and 37.8 million local calls it is peculiar that the argument should be that the 37 million is being provided at undercost but we are unable to establish how the cost of the 37 million needs separating from the cost of the 6 million in the company's accounting process.

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

The costings have been more than identified and discussed with the Regulator. It has been a considerable accounting exercise that has been carried out by the company's auditors and by independent consultants and that is the subject which is then referred to the Regulator in order to justify the costs and has then got to be approved by the Regulator.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

But it seems to me that if the company is trying to justify a cost increase it goes to the Regulator and produces figures to substantiate what it is doing but if the argument is in fact the position of the company which is half-owned by the Government that it is actually losing money on the 37 million making a profit on the 6 million and covering the loss on the 37 million because that is the only way a cross subsidy can be understood.

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

It is not just a question of cross subsidy it is also a question of the tariff having to be cost orientated even if the implication of the subsidy is that if the cost of the local call is not cost orientated then and the company is not losing money then obviously it has been subsidised from somewhere else so the criteria is dual but I am now delving into Regulatory matters which I do not want to do but my understanding of it is that the Regulator decides or accepts the company's argument or does not accept the company's argument of what their costings are and if it does not accept the company's argument has power to stipulate what the cost of the call is.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Yes, but the company is making a profit and we are seeing that in the dividends that are shown as Government revenue so is it in fact the argument in relation to not being able to bring down the cost obviously they would not make a profit if the calls were free but the Regulator talks in this as the increase in local calls being the first stage in an exercise that is to last 18 months of rebalancing tariffs and given that there is now a competitor that is offering or intends to offer the public of Gibraltar free local calls how can it be sustained whatever information the company has provided to the Regulator that Gibtelecom loses money on 37 million local calls because it must lose money if we are being told that the other side is that it cannot charge less than it costs. If it charges less than it costs it loses money so what we are being told is that it loses money on 37 million calls.

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

That is the assessment that is why the Regulator is saying that the costs have to go up.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Yes, but it is the company that is telling that to the Regulator.

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

It depends how one defines who is telling who. The company has an obligation to declare its tariffs to the Regulator, it is not making a price claim or claiming an increase, it has an obligation that we have gone through in the last two years, it has been an accounting exercise that has been extensive and costly and based on that is the basis of the company's desire for tariff changes. That has to be accepted or not accepted by the Regulator and I am not a Regulator neither do I have any connection with the Regulatory process. If the hon Member feels that the Regulatory process should be working differently then he should take it up with the Regulator not with me and I mean that in a nice way it is entirely outside the company's control, the way the Regulatory System is set up as it is in the rest of Europe is that the Regulator has overriding powers over the company and it leads to what some may think is a slightly absurd situation but it has its logic in EU terms where a new comer is allowed to provide free calls, I am told for a period of time which the Regulator will decide the length of but is allowed to provide free calls whereas Gibtelecom because they have substantial money power are not allowed to go anywhere near never mind provide free and anywhere near to compete because the whole logic of allowing the newcomer to compete as I may have mentioned before is to allow the newcomer to eat into the share of the market now enjoyed by the monopoly provided and my understanding of it is that when the Regulator decides that that level has come to what he considers the correct level he then will require the new entrant to start charging cost orientated tariffs but what that market share is is a matter for the Regulator not a matter for either of the companies.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

When the original thing was looked at I think it was before the actual merger took place, the charges were looked at, and in fact Nynex was charging Gibtel for the local call element of international calls a rate which was not the same as they were charging their own landline customers, has that changed as a result of the merger?

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

I am not sure that that is absolutely accurate but the two companies are now under common ownership so the situation no longer arises. The local services and the line services are now provided entirely by Gibline and the Internet services are provided entirely by Gibconnect.....

**HON J C PEREZ:**

The cost of the switch .....

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

There is no longer an interconnect charge between the companies because there is no charging as there was before.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

The international calls now, do we still have separate companies with separate accounts which can have different levels of profitability or is that no longer the case?

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

We still have separate companies yes.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

The revenue of international calls, does that go now to Nynex and is retained by Nynex or does Nynex pass a proportion of that to Gibtel as they used to do before?

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

We are now getting into a level of technicality that is both outside my competence and also entering the area of commercial sensitivity.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

If it was commercial sensitivity I happen to know about it without being commercial sensitivity in the past, all I am trying to establish is that in looking at the cost of international calls the previous situation was that the revenue that Nynex derived from international calls which they allegedly were using to subsidise loss making local calls was the revenue that they retained from what the subscriber paid and what they paid in turn to Gibtel. Is that mechanism still there or not?

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

The short answer is that I would need notice of the question, I am not involved in the minor details of the company to that extent to be able to provide the information on my feet. It is not that I do not want to provide the answer, I simply do not know the answer at this stage.

ORAL

**NO. 820 OF 2002**

**THE HON J C PEREZ**

**GIBTELECOM**

Can Government state whether the long-term objective of Gibtelecom is to vacate its present offices and workshops in Europort?

**ANSWER**

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

Answered together with Question Nos 821 and 994 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 821 OF 2002**

**THE HON J C PEREZ**

**GIBTELECOM**

Can Government state whether Gibtelecom intends to vacate the premises, or part of the premises known as Mount Pleasant?

**ANSWER**

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

Answered together with Question Nos 820 and 994 of 2002.



ORAL

**NO. 822 OF 2002**

**THE HON J C PEREZ**

**GENERAL POST OFFICE**

Can Government state whether the refurbishment of the Central Post Office in Main Street is still now expected to be completed this month and could it state when it is intended to commence operating from there?

**ANSWER**

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

GJBS who is the contractor involved in the refurbishment of the Central Post Office in Main Street, has informed the Government that the new estimated completion date is March 2003. As explained in early May this year in answer to Question No 436 of 2002, Government were, at that time, awaiting and I quote "new counter developments and designs that are being introduced in the UK and worldwide in 2002 prior to making any purchases." I also indicated that there was a process of consultation with the staff and that they had been involved in the development of the new counters and the new electronic point of sales system. The final plans for these counters have now been agreed and the order confirmed, but unfortunately, the UK supplier has indicated to GJBS that there is a further delay in actually supplying the counters themselves which are now expected to arrive in Gibraltar before the end of the year. These counters have to meet certain security standards and therefore GJBS has been obliged to use a specialist supplier in this field as counters like these are not easily available.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 822 OF 2002**

**HON J C PEREZ:**

So the works will be completed in March but when is it expected that the Post Office should be operating from there?

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

I would assume that shortly after March assuming that the counters arrive in time, assuming that the counters are the right counters, that the installation is done, assuming things proceed the way they are planned my understanding is that there is very little left apart from the counters so the Post Office should be in operation within a couple of months after that, certainly the public side of it.

ORAL

**NO. 823 OF 2002**

**THE HON J C PEREZ**

**POSTAL SERVICES**

Can Government state whether there has been any progress in the negotiations with the employees of the Post Office?

**ANSWER**

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

The situation remains as in answers to Question Nos 923, 924 and 925 of 2001 and Questions 89, 90 and 437 of 2002. As I said in supplementaries to Question No 437 of 2002, as long as negotiations are on-going, I am not prepared to discuss industrial relations publicly in this House whilst they are being discussed privately with the workforce.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 823 OF 2002**

**HON J C PEREZ:**

Can the Minister confirm that without agreement with the Union they have employed extra bodies in the Post Office over the post of Commercial Director which they did last year?

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

No. I am tempted to answer this question despite of what I have said but there are no extra bodies in the Post Office and the Union is being consulted every step of the way.

**HON J C PEREZ:**

The Union has been consulted in every step but is it or is it not the case that there are people employed which are not employed by the Government and the attempt of the Government is to get those people to work side by side with Government employees doing the same thing and this has not been accepted by the Unions, is that the state of play?

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

To the question “..are there people in the Post Office who are not Government employees?”, the answer is “No.”

**HON J C PEREZ:**

So the Minister is saying that the new employees have been recruited into the Government but that the Government are attempting to take the rest of the other employees outside the Government?

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

No, this is getting us nowhere, the hon Member is now putting words in my mouth. I go back to my original answer and that is all I am prepared to say.

**HON J C PEREZ:**

Fine. It is all very well for the Minister to be three years saying here that he does not want to conduct industrial relations across the floor of the House, but it is three years since he is negotiating and regrettably it seems he is getting nowhere.

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

I share the hon Member's regrets.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Is it the case that as far as the Government are concerned whether they employ somebody or do not employ somebody at public expense is that industrial relations is secret which the House is not entitled to know?

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

No.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

So then can irrespective of whether there is an industrial relations dimension or not have any extra persons been paid directly or indirectly from the Post Office head of expenditure?

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

I do not know the answer to that question because I do not know who has been paid from the Post Office head of expenditure but there are no workers in the Post Office working, have not been, and are not. There are no workers in the Post Office working there who are not Government employees.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

The problem that we have is that it gives us the impression that there is information which the Minister knows we would like to have, he has, and is unwilling to share with us, perhaps I am wrong but that is the impression I get. We would like to know whether there are currently engaged in delivering mail more people than there were at the beginning of this financial year and if there are more people were are they paid from and in what capacity are they employed, are they temporary workers of the Government , or temporary workers of the contractor that is providing them to the Government?

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

No, there are no extra workers in the Post Office over and above the Post Office complement. The question has been whether there are any workers in the Post Office today.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

No the question has been whether there are people delivering mail, that has been the question?

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

No, there is nobody delivering mail in the Post Office that is not a Government worker.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

If they do not deliver mail in the Post Office there are delivering mail to people's houses, there is nobody?

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

Not that I am aware of certainly not an employee of the Post Office.

**ORAL**

**NO. 824 OF 2002**

**THE HON J C PEREZ**

**DIRECTOR OF POSTAL SERVICES**

Can Government state whether or not they intend to fill the post of Director of Postal Services?

**ANSWER**

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

Yes. The Government intend to fill the SEO Post of Director of Postal Services. The post is presently being filled on an acting basis. Applications for the grade of SEO have been invited and are the subject of normal PSC procedures.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 824 OF 2002**

**HON J C PEREZ:**

Will the Director of Postal Services be the top person in the Post Office, will he work side by side with the Commercial Director, will the Commercial Director be able to give the Director of Postal Services instructions or vice versa, how will that fit in with the new structure that the Minister is negotiating?

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

There will be a Director of Postal Services and there is a Commercial Manager. The relation is a side by side relation but the details I would prefer not to go into because I do not want to cause people to think things that are not there. I do not want to make things more difficult than they already are.

**HON J C PEREZ:**

Was the past incumbent in the post acting SEO or acting senior grade?

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

From memory acting as SEO that is subject to correction, he was certainly acting, I can confirm that.

**HON J C PEREZ:**

My recollection was that Mr Dennis Figueras who was then moved to the House was chosen as Director of Postal Services, Senior Grade and that the post was senior grade and that the past incumbent was acting senior grade. That was my recollection of the situation that is why when the Minister said that the post of SEO was coming out as a vacancy I felt that they were downgrading the post, am I right that the post is being downgraded from that of senior grade to SEO?

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

I honestly need notice of that question I do not think that the post has been downgraded, I am practically certain that it has not been downgraded. If it has been it has been in consultation with the Union but I do not think it has. It is a sort of question that I would need notice of.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Who does the Director of Postal Services report to currently?

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

In as far as the chain of management presumably to me as minister, there is no one in-between.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

That continues irrespective of the other changes?

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

Yes.



ORAL

**NO. 825 OF 2002**

**THE HON J C PEREZ**

**GOVERNMENT LOTTERY**

Have the Treasury concluded their consultations and study into the Gibraltar Government Lottery and has it made any concrete proposal to the Government?

**ANSWER**

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

A total of eight submissions have been received from the public by the Treasury and there has also been further consultation with the existing lottery agents. The Treasury study is nearing completion and a concrete proposal is expected to be submitted to the Government shortly.

ORAL

**NO. 826 OF 2002**

**THE HON J C PEREZ**

**OESCO CONTRACT**

Can Government state whether or not it has now decided to terminate the OESCO contract by 2004?

**ANSWER**

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

At present Government are considering the requirements for additional generating plant but no decision has yet been taken in respect of the number of engines or their technical specifications. No decision has been made relating to the future of the OESCO Contract.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 818 AND 826 OF 2002**

**HON J C PEREZ:**

Given that the Minister did say that a decision had been taken already to extend the present Waterport Power Station I would have expected him to know how many engines and what the capacity of those engines would be given the space that there is there and after he had confirmed to the Leader of the Opposition that there was no need for reclaiming land as the 1981 study had suggested, so, is the Minister saying that he has decided to install more engines at Waterport Power Station but he still does not know how many and what capacity they are?

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

In broad terms I think that is the Government's position but the obvious implications of the OESCO contract have to be taken into account and that is what is being considered and that is where no firm decisions have been made. I think that the decision in principle subject to the electricity authority going ahead, the decision in principle has been made to install new generating capacity at Waterport but whether it is one or more engines or whether it is one engine now and another in the future or whether it is only one engine and I know that modifications need to be done to the building, certainly the building needs to be extended, and obviously if the building is extended then we will take into account the decision on the number of engines but as I have said the whole thing is still in the melting pot and I cannot give any firm indications at this stage.

**HON J C PEREZ:**

Given the history and problems that the existing engines in Waterport Power Station have had can the Minister state whether the department is still looking at the same manufacturer for the extension or whether that is not a decision that has yet been taken?

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

No we are not at the stage of procuring the equipment, we are still at the stage of assessing the need.

ORAL

**NO. 827 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR R G VALARINO**

**DANGEROUS DOGS LEGISLATION**

Can Government state when they intend to bring to the House the Dangerous Dogs legislation?

**ANSWER**

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

The Government have not yet decided whether it will bring the Dangerous Dogs legislation to the House or whether this will be enacted as regulations. The legislation has now been drafted and a consultation document is currently being finalised. Both documents will then be circulated and the legislation will subsequently be enacted following this process of consultation.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 827 OF 2002**

**HON DR R G VALARINO:**

Has the legislation received approval by the Minister?

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

In principle yes.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Given that if the Government decide to do it by regulation it will not be possible for us to have an input and given the fact that we originally submitted some proposals to the Government which the Government decided not to proceed with because they thought that it was deficient in some respects, will the Minister include us in that process of consultation?

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

Yes I have no problem in doing that.

ORAL

**NO. 828 OF 2002**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GIBRALTAR SPORTS AUTHORITY**

Can the Minister for Sport confirm whether an agreement has been reached with the Unions as to the transfer of staff to the Gibraltar Sports Authority?

**ANSWER**

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

All matters regarding the possible transfer of Sports Department Staff to the Gibraltar Sports Authority are under discussion with the Unions and final agreement has not yet been reached.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 828 OF 2002**

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Can the Minister confirm when the Government officially approached the Union on the matter?

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

No I would need notice of that question.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Can the Minister say whether there are at present any employees that have actually agreed to sign up with the Sports Authority?

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

We are yet not at a point where anyone has agreed or disagreed we are still discussing principles.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

If I recall correctly during the budget session I believe that the Minister did say that there have been a few members of the staff that had actually voiced their agreement to going with the Health Authority, am I not correct?

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

To be honest I cannot remember. If I did at that stage it may have been an indication of people saying it is a good idea or a bad idea but we are not at the point of anybody signing along the dotted line yet. I cannot really give any guidance because we are not at that point yet.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Can the Minister say if there have been any meetings held with the Unions up to now or there has just been communications through post, for example?

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

There have been meetings and there have been exchange of papers.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

How does the situation stand at the moment, that the Government are awaiting a reply from the Union or vice versa?

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

If my memory does not fail me because I am involved in a number of similar processes, we have given certain documentation to the Union and we are awaiting reactions from them.

ORAL

**NO. 829 OF 2002**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**VICTORIA STADIUM**

Can Government confirm whether they are still paying for the services of AMCO (Gibraltar) Ltd for the upkeep of the water-based hockey pitch at the Victoria Stadium?

**ANSWER**

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

Yes.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 829 OF 2002**

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Can the Minister confirm whether they are actually paying AMCO an average of about £3,000 to £4,000 per month for their services?

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

I do not have that information.



**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Can the Minister confirm whether the groundsmen have in fact considered that the upkeep of the water-based hockey pitch is indeed an additional work for them and that therefore they are not doing any work at the hockey based pitch at the moment?

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

There was initial controversy because of some misunderstanding on the part of the workforce, the new hockey pitch is not part of the Victoria Stadium facilities, we have two distinct and separate pieces of sports facilities one is the existing Victoria Stadium at which the Government have employed staff, the other one is the new Bayside Sports facility which includes the new hockey pitch and that will be taken over by the Sports Authority who at this moment in time have no employees.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Are the Government looking at alternative arrangements for the upkeep of the hockey pitch if indeed they are spending this exorbitant amount of money a month?

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

The reason why the Government still has AMCO in place is because there are certain problems with the watering system of the pumps which have not yet been satisfactorily completed and an extended period of loopholes and adjustments have been required. AMCO as a subcontractor are engaged in these works. What we have done is because theoretically the pitch should not have been handed over but in order to be able to provide the facility we have allowed AMCO to carry on and provide the service and therefore the facility can take place but in answer to the first part of the question, yes the Government are looking as part of the way forward at the new arrangements to look after all the new facilities at Bayside not just the hockey pitch.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

I would have thought that that would entail perhaps employing more people for the maintenance of that pitch?

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

Yes obviously the new Sports Authority will need new staff to look after its facilities.

ORAL

**NO. 830 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**STREET MARKET**

Can Government say whether they still plan to move the street market from the Piazza?

**ANSWER**

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

Answered together with Question No 831 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 831 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**STREET MARKET**

Have Government received any applications or expressions of interest in the last twelve months from street traders interested in operating a market stall from the Piazza, and if so, how many and when?

**ANSWER**

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

Government intend to move the Street Market from the Piazza to the old Fish Market site at the Public Market in order to make way for the proposed redevelopment of the Piazza. There has been consultations with existing stall holders who have agreed to the proposed move which will take place as soon as certain necessary improvements have been carried out at the new site. There have been no applications in the last 12 months from street traders interested in operating a market stall from the Piazza, nor would any be favourably considered.

ORAL

**NO. 832 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**WASTEWATER TREATMENT SEA OUTFALL STUDY**

Can Government say whether the first phase of the Wastewater Treatment Works Sea Outfall study is now complete?

**ANSWER**

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

The first phase of the Sea Outfall Study has not yet been completed. The earliest that we envisage this phase being completed is now December 2002 although this is likely to extend into the first quarter of 2003.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 832 OF 2002**

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

Can the Minister elaborate on the reasons for the delay in completion of the first phase?

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

Yes, as the study evolved and the optimal route for the new outfall became apparent it was considered prudent to undertake supplementary survey work along the line of the preferred route. The scope of the original study was therefore extended to include the following additional studies:-

- Dye Tracing
- Sport Racing
- Magnetometer Survey

in addition to the foregoing and as a related issue to the study Government decided to extend the scope of the study but as a separate although inter-related study to cover the requirements of the Blue Flag designation of our beaches. Consequently additional and more rigorous on site surveys have been undertaken in this respect. The undertakings of all the additional surveys that I have mentioned have extended the study completion date between the original envisaged date of September 2002.

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

Is it correct to assume that the extra study work will involve extra cost as well and if so how much?

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

I need notice of that question but I suspect that the answer is probably yes.

ORAL

**NO. 833 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**DEVELOPMENT APPEALS TRIBUNAL**

Have any new appeals been lodged before the Development Appeals Tribunal since 1<sup>st</sup> May 2002?

**ANSWER**

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

Answered together with Question No 834 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 834 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**DEVELOPMENT APPEALS TRIBUNAL**

Can Government say at what stage are the ten appeals which were lodged before the Development Appeals Tribunal at the end of April this year?

**ANSWER**

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

No new appeals have been lodged before the Development Appeals Tribunal since 1<sup>st</sup> May 2002. In respect of the 10 appeals which had been lodged before the Development Appeals Tribunal as at the end of April this year, the position is as per details on the list which I hand to the hon Member.

| Ref | Proposal Refused                     | Date of Appeal | Hearing Date   | Remarks                     |
|-----|--------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| 1   | Erection of corporate sign           | 15.6.01        | 6.2.02         | DPC decision upheld         |
| 2   | Fitting of an air-conditioning unit  | 29.11.01       | 16.10.02       |                             |
| 3   | Construction of 3 No terraced houses | 6.11.01        | 30.10.02       |                             |
| 4   | Erection of double glazed partition  | 28.12.01       | Pending        | Pending Appellants Comments |
| 5   | Conditional Permit for redevelopment | 25.10.01       | Not applicable | Withdrawn                   |
| 6   | Construction of wider shopfront      | 9.1.02         | Pending        | Pending DPC Comments        |

|           |                                   |          |                |                      |
|-----------|-----------------------------------|----------|----------------|----------------------|
| <b>7</b>  | Extension                         | 25.10.01 | Pending        | Pending DPC Comments |
| <b>8</b>  | Re-roofing                        | 18.2.01  | 16.9.02        | Pending information  |
| <b>9</b>  | Residential development           | 26.2.02  | Not applicable | Withdrawn            |
| <b>10</b> | Construction of a toilet building | 8.3.02   | Pending        | Pending DPC Comments |

For the benefit of the hon Member because he has asked over the past a number of related and progressive questions on the subject I have now tabulated the answer giving the projects a reference number. The only other option was to give the name and the address which obviously I did not think was appropriate. What I intend to do is to follow that sequence of numbers so in a subsequent list those projects that he sees on the list that I have given him have been withdrawn may disappear but the new list will still, for example, if project No 5 should disappear from the list the next time he asks me a similar question but I will not replace the No 5 with a new project, the current numbers will continue for ease of reference.

### **SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 834 OF 2002**

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

Just looking down the list, for example, project No 2 where somebody was appealing against the DPC in relation to the fitting of an air-conditioning unit in November 2001 and the hearing has been set for October 2002 which is nearly a year since the original appeal was made and the similar situation in relation to project No 3 is there a particular reason why the appeals are taking so long to be heard?

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

I have tried to explain this before. Let me start by saying that the Tribunal itself has not delayed any appeal and I say that and I suddenly realise that there is one exception to that and that is project No 2 which the hon Member will realise should have been held today and has had to be postponed because this House should have been held at three o'clock this afternoon and we obviously had to postpone it because the House is sitting. With that caveat the delays are in general terms due to one of two things, firstly the process is such that when the appellant makes the appeal in the first place the appeal goes to DPC and then the Tribunal has established the process once it is notified of the appeal then the appellant is asked to state its case and given a period of time the DPC is then asked to comment and given a period of time and then each side has a second chance and in theory at that stage the appeal should take place. In practice what has happened is that this exchange between them has taken considerably longer than the periods that we originally envisaged but we cannot force them to be faster than they



want to be. That is one aspect that is causing delays the other aspect is that in most cases appellants tend to involve lawyers on their behalf and when that happens DPC sometimes also involves lawyers and in many cases in parallel to the information provided by either side there is also side and parallel discussions between the lawyers and that of course adds to the volume and the time taken but I reiterate what I said at the beginning, it is the process between the parties and those involved on behalf of the parties that is causing the delay the moment so far anyway, there is no waiting list is what I am trying to say, so far anyway when an appeal has been ready to be heard it has immediately been once a suitable date was identified suitable to everybody a date has been chosen and so far we have heard two project No 1 as one can see the original DPC decision was upheld and in the case of project No 8 that has also been heard and one can see they are pending information that the Tribunal has deferred its decision pending further information from one of the parts. Once that information is received then the Tribunal should, I hope, make a decision in that case. We were due to hear another one today and it has been postponed and project No 3 is scheduled for the 30<sup>th</sup> of this month. All things being equal those two should be heard fairly soon. We tried to bring in the date of project No 2 to be heard tomorrow but because we only cancelled it two or three days ago it was impossible so we will now reschedule it as soon as we can.

**ORAL**

**NO. 835 OF 2002**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**TRANSPORTATION OF SEWAGE SLUDGE**

Have Government entered into any contract for the collection and transportation of sewage sludge with a private contractor?

**ANSWER**

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

No, Government have not entered into any contract for the provision of this service.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 835 OF 2002**

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Given that there was recently an application for a licence to carry out such a service which appeared in the Gazette would it be possible to do this for anybody other than the Government, presumably the only client for this kind of thing would be the Government?

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

Not necessarily. Firstly, let me say that I am not familiar with the notice that the hon Member refers to, there is already a licenced private facility that provides a service to the Government although not on contract as and when required and there are other potential clients apart from the Government, the MOD is one, through sewage sludge that comes

off ships for example and I am trying to think if there is anybody else. Not that I can think of that is the only one that comes immediately to mind. The MOD that have their own sewage system and as the hon Member knows and ourselves.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

As I understand it, would the need for the licence arise out of EU requirements that the transportation of this kind of material is considered to be hazardous waste?

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

That is correct. The Environmental Agency must license any contractor engaged in the transportation of this contaminated material.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Currently therefore the only one operating this field if I have understood the previous answer correctly is that there is a contractor who occasionally does work of this nature for the Government as and when required but the Government are not in a position to say whether anybody is doing it currently for the MOD or any other customer, is that the case?

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

I honestly need notice of that question because I am speaking without being properly briefed but certainly I am aware of one company that provides a service and has provided a service through the Government when there has been a need to transport such material that has not been impossible to decontaminate and dispose of locally. What I am trying to say is that I do not know how many licences are in existence that is what I need notice of but I suspect that there are other people licensed. One firm that specialises in the clearing of sewers, a local firm, is licensed and has taken such material to Spain. In the case of the works at the Rosia Road sewer there has as far as I understand, there has been no need to take any of this sludge out of Gibraltar because the vehicles and equipment that the Government have brought into do the work is capable of recycling and decontaminating what comes out of the sewer and diluting it with water and then drying it up to an extent that it is then possible to dispose of locally under permission from the Environmental Agency. If the contractor, for example, of the Rosia Road project, had not been able to achieve those thresholds then they would have been required to transport it out of Gibraltar to be properly disposed but my understanding is that that has not happened.

ORAL

**NO. 836 OF 2002**

**THE HON J C PEREZ**

**TRANSPORT REGULATIONS 2000**

Can Government state why they have decided, under the Transport Regulations 2000, to penalise taxi drivers with a higher fine than would be the case for any other driver, for the same offence?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos 837 and 838 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 837 OF 2002**

**THE HON J C PEREZ**

**GIBRALTAR TAXI ASSOCIATION**

Can Government state when they intend to call a meeting with the Gibraltar Taxi Association as they offered publicly in Government press release No 174/2002 of 25<sup>th</sup> September 2002?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos 836 and 838 of 2002.

**ORAL**

**NO. 838 OF 2002**

**THE HON J C PEREZ**

**GIBRALTAR TAXI ASSOCIATION**

Can the Minister for Traffic and Transport confirm that in a letter dated 7<sup>th</sup> July 1999 he made an offer to the Gibraltar Taxi Association guaranteeing the use of a number of taxis for every cruise liner related to the number of arriving passengers?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT**

I believe that the Opposition Member is referring to the fact that Fixed Penalty tickets can be issued under the Transport Regulations to licensees under the Transport Ordinance, and that the fixed penalty is £50. This is covered by Regulation 124 of the Transport Regulations which allow a person the opportunity of any liability to conviction of an offence on payment of a fixed penalty. It is up to the individual to choose whether or not to accept the fixed penalty; there is no question of taxi drivers being penalised. With regard to the proposed meeting with the GTA, this has been on the basis that the Association terminates the so-called selective industrial action, which the President of the Association says he is not prepared to do. If the GTA were to accept this, then Government would be willing to meet and explain their position on the current dispute. I turn now to the issue of the guarantee that Government will provide GTA members with a specific number of tours for a cruise ship dependent on its size. As hon Members will understand the Government cannot issue such guarantee as the Government do not hire taxis for tours for cruise ships. It is up to the ship to ask its Shore Excursion Agent to source the transport it requires for tours, and if no taxis are used or fewer taxis than the quota for that vessel, then the Shore Excursion Agent has to pay a penalty of £25 for every unused taxi. This in itself, is a disincentive for Shore Excursion Agents to use less than the quota of taxis. What the Government guaranteed was that a certain number of taxis would be used for each call and would either pay the full fee for a tour or the standby fee if it was not required.

## **SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 836,837 AND 838 OF 2002**

**HON J C PEREZ:**

The Minister first tells me he cannot guarantee it and then he goes on to tell me that he did guarantee it, either he cannot guarantee it or he can guarantee it, one of the two. I am asking him whether it is true that on the 7<sup>th</sup> July 1999 he gave that guarantee in writing to the Taxi Association? He first tells me that it is not for him to guarantee it, that he cannot guarantee it because it has nothing to do with him and finishes up the answer saying that he did guarantee something. Secondly in respect of the first answer I am not referring to what the Minister said, I am referring to the fact that if the taxi driver abandons a taxi on a taxi stand he is liable to be fined £50 and if a motorist abandons his vehicle in a taxi stand he is liable to be fined £25 only and I think that it is discriminatory against the taxi driver to be fined 100 per cent more for the same offence given that it is the same offence on the two occasions. As far as the Minister requests that the industrial action should be lifted before he meets the Association, I understand that there are days when there is industrial action and days when there is no industrial action and this is not the basis of the offer he made publicly in a statement he made to the press but definitely if what he is saying is, "I do not want to meet when there is industrial action," he can meet when there is no industrial action.

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

I will deal with I believe the three issues that have been raised by the hon Member. In the first place let me say that on the 7<sup>th</sup> July 1999 I did write to the President of the Gibraltar Taxi Association and there is a point where I actually say in the letter, "there will be a guaranteed use of taxis in respect of each cruise call at Gibraltar for passengers.." and then I go on to actually qualify under which terms the use of taxis was guaranteed. The use of taxis were guaranteed in the sense that every cruise ship would have a quota attached to each depending on its size and therefore the guarantee was that there would be a use of taxis and if those taxis were not used then they would be paid for by a penalty by the Shore Excursion Agent in order to discourage him from actually not making use of the taxis. So, therefore I think the letter has to be read in the contents of the qualifications that come under the actual explanation that is given and in any case subsequent to the 7<sup>th</sup> July 1999 and I think it was the 3<sup>rd</sup> or the 4<sup>th</sup> of August 1999, legislation was published where it is clearly pointed out what exactly the terms and conditions were which were based on this and there is no difference between what is said in the letter and what is said in the regulations and there was therefore the fact that the taxis keep on harping on about the fact that there was a guarantee given to us for the use of taxis that guarantee has to be qualified and is qualified in the letter and is qualified in the legislation. So I do not think that there is any question of the Government having guaranteed anything that is not delivering on.

If I can deal with the second point, the fact that there are fixed penalties. These fixed penalty scheme applies to licensees under the Transport Ordinance and the Transport Regulations and these Regulations stipulate what the penalties are if one is a licensee and operator be it a taxi or be it a bus or be it a coach, any form of transport operator that holds the licence. So therefore there is no discrimination amongst those that have

licences under the Transport Ordinance. People in the public highway do not qualify for that because we come under a completely different, we do not form part, we do not hold the licence and therefore we are not subjected to the Transport Regulations so the idea of discrimination I think is totally irrelevant. The fact that I made a statement to the press on the fact that I was willing to meet the Taxi Association, I actually met the Taxi Association President prior to the industrial action being accelerated and I actually tried to see whether we could try and find the way forward which would avoid the present conflict. The present conflict is doing no good to Gibraltar. It is damaging our reputation as a cruise destination and the results are that we will suffer the consequences of our actions today in the months to come and there is no getting away from that whether we like it or not damage is being caused and our reputation is going down the chute and that is their fault. I tried to mediate by trying and bringing them to a meeting which they refused to do because they were unwilling to break their selective industrial action. The Government are not willing to sit down with the Taxi Association or any other sector for that matter under duress and while industrial action is taking place and that is Government policy and actually we stand by it so long as this Government are in office.

#### **HON J C PEREZ:**

I think that the Minister should recall that the Chief Minister qualified at the last meeting of the House in answers to Questions on whether to lock out people in certain instances and not in others, he would remember that it depends on the strength of the workshop and the effect of the action whether the Government would do one thing or another but let me say to the Minister that if there is a difference of interpretation in what the Taxi Association claim he offered or he guaranteed in a letter and what the Minister says he has later legislated and there is grounds there to try and break the ice and try and come to a sort of agreement given the damage the Minister says this can cause the industry, and given the offer of the meeting I do not see why on the basis of trying to clarify that the Minister does not meet the Association. Obviously the Association is not going to give up their right to take selective industrial action at any given time but my understanding is that there is no permanent industrial action. There are some days when there is industrial action and some days when there is no industrial action, the Minister can choose to call a meeting on a day when there is no industrial action and then he can argue that there is no industrial action and have the meeting. Given the damage that the Minister claims that this can do to the industry long-term and given the differences of interpretations that there are to the guarantee that the Minister gave and given his absolute powers under the law to legislate and regulate because he gave himself absolute powers which is something I criticised on this side of the House of Assembly when the legislation came up. I believe that the obligation of the Minister is to sit down with the Taxi Association and try and find mileage in the differences over that guarantee which I think in my view looking at it from the outside is what can break or make an agreement. On the other aspect let me say that I do not agree with the Minister that a licenced operator has to have a higher fine for the same offence from an ordinary motorist when the offence is exactly the same one, parking or leaving an unattended car in a taxi rank. If I leave an unattended car in a taxi rank I am fined £25 if a taxi driver does it he is fined £50 well, either we are both fined £50 or both fined £25 I do not see why there should be a difference between one and the other.



**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

He has not asked any questions?

**HON J C PEREZ:**

Should I ask does the Minister not agree?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

Well he made a statement, he has not really asked any questions.

**HON J C PEREZ:**

If I finish by the statement saying "Do you not agree Minister?" I might get a reply?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

I do not agree.

ORAL

**NO. 839 OF 2002**

**THE HON J C PEREZ**

**BUS SERVICE**

Can Government state whether the tender for the supply of public service vehicles has now been awarded, and if so, will they state the number of tenderers and the respective bids?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question No 840 of 2002.

**ORAL**

**NO. 840 OF 2002**

**THE HON J C PEREZ**

**BUS SERVICE**

Can Government state whether they have now resolved their problems with the existing bus operators, and if so, what are the terms of the agreement entered into?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT**

The tender for new buses has not yet been awarded, nor has final agreement with the existing operators been achieved.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 839 AND 840 OF 2002**

**HON J C PEREZ:**

Is one dependent on the other, is the Minister trying to get agreement with the bus operators before he goes ahead in awarding the tender?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

In an ideal scenario that is the case and it has been made known to the two operators that an ideal situation might be that they should get themselves involved in the actual selection of the tender because at the end of the day we hope that they will be the ones who would actually be on the day to day running and therefore the selection would be

better done by those who know and have worked the industry before but at the same time they are also aware that should an agreement not be reached the Government will push ahead and continue with its own project. Having said that, I am quite optimistic that we will be able to reach an agreement because part of the stumbling block that we were getting was that some of the operators I do not want to qualify because there are only two and it is a bit difficult for me not to give away the actual situation but there were operators that were not willing to submit to the Government evaluations or accounts of the company for the sake of valuation and therefore we have overcome that difficulty and I am glad to say that both operators have now submitted the relevant information that we required for independent assessment in order to be able to value the companies and I think that once over that hurdle I think that by the end of October we should have those figures back and that would enable us to actually sit round and then, we are talking about figures rather than principles.

**HON J L BALDACHINO:**

The Minister said, both questions that my hon Colleague has asked are inter-linked in a certain way, but he said that were there is no agreement with the existing operator the Government would go ahead anyway, have the Government set themselves a deadline?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

The tender process is now proceeding. There has been an initial submission being made by a number of bus suppliers, this list I believe has now been short-listed and the specific requirements are now being sent to successful first phase tenderers and therefore after that we should have a situation where we should be in a position to be able to select a supplier for these buses. I believe we are looking at a timescale of possibly before the end of the year early next year for the actual award of the tender and I think supplies after that should come within a period of between six and nine months depending on the manufacturer concerned, some can supply earlier and some can supply later I do not want to commit to any particular time-table, I do not really know who will be awarded the tender so it depends to who it is as to what the supply time-scale will be.

ORAL

**NO. 841 OF 2002**

**THE HON J C PEREZ**

**COACH PARK**

Can Government state whether they are satisfied that the pre-booking system for coaches at the coach terminal is not being abused?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT**

Yes.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 841 OF 2002**

**HON J C PEREZ:**

The Government are completely satisfied that it is not being abused is that the case?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

Yes. It is completely satisfied that it is not being abused.

**HON J C PEREZ:**

Then why is it carrying out an investigation further to the complaint that they have received recently?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

Well, there was a complaint and we have studied the details of this and therefore we referred the matter to the Attorney General's Chambers and their advice was that the matter ought to be reported to the Royal Gibraltar Police. It does not mean that the system is being abused or that this one incident can mean that the actual system does not work. It is an incident, let us hope that it is just the only incident and even though I know that the Gibraltar Taxi Association claim that this has happened before, we have carried out similar examinations of fact before and have found no evidence of this. In this case there was an element of evidence were there had been malpractice and therefore we take a serious view of this and therefore the matter has been reported to the police. I would not want to comment any further seeing that it is under police investigation.

**HON J C PEREZ:**

So in fact there has been at least one incidence that it has been found to being abused and what the Minister is saying is that he is closing the door so that it should not happen again?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

Absolutely but if one looks at the details of what was reported and what we are aware of as we speak today without being privy to the investigations that are being carried out by the RGP the reality is that the system actually is not at fault but I would not want to comment further. There were circumstances in that particular day which led to the abuse but not necessarily as a result of the system being flawed.

ORAL

**NO. 842 OF 2002**

**THE HON J C PEREZ**

**SIGNAL STATION ROAD**

Has Signal Station Road in the Upper Rock been re-opened to vehicular traffic?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT**

No.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 842 OF 2002**

**HON J C PEREZ:**

Can the minister state whether the repairs that were envisaged have taken place now, the road was closed because according to the Minister I think the last time we raised it there were signs that there might be the possible collapse of part of the road and the Minister said that there were surveys being carried out and a possible repair to the road, can he give us an up-date?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

Yes the hon Member is correct. The closure was effected due to some subsidence caused by the water tank under the road. Surveys have been carried out, we do have recommendations of what needs to be done, the cost is actually quite significant and the Government have not taken a view as to what sort of priority it wishes to give to the repair of that particular road.

ORAL

**NO. 843 OF 2002**

**THE HON J C PEREZ**

**TRAFFIC FLOW – TOWN RANGE**

Does Government not consider that changing the traffic flow in Town Range from Convent Place to King's Yard Lane and accessing southbound traffic via Kings Yard Lane would relieve somewhat the present daily congestion in the area?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT**

No.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 843 OF 2002**

**HON J C PEREZ:**

When the changes in traffic took place, this is how it was started, it was one way and down King's Yard Lane and the system used to work and the Gibraltar Chronicle would not be able to take photographs of traffic jams outside their window because they would not exist.

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

If it was changed it was changed because we did not feel that that particular change warranted good traffic flow and therefore.....



**HON J C PEREZ:**

Although the Minister changed it I can tell him why he changed it even if he does not recall it.....

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

No, I think there are a number of issues the hon Member can tell me whatever he wants in respect of to why I changed it but I can tell him that there are a number of issues as to why the change is not good generally, I think a number of issues have to be balanced out to see what options are better. One has to take into account that if we were to actually change that traffic flow what would actually happen is that one would have the main thoroughfare going in front of St Mary's Junior School which would cause additional risk on children unnecessarily which can be avoided by actually having the traffic flowing the way it is today. The reality of the situation is that by moving, there is obviously a pressure point either at the junction between Convent Place and Main Street by the Convent or King's Yard Lane and Main Street. There is no doubt that where there are two main junctions meeting there is going to be congestion or delays one way or another. The idea of moving that pressure point further south all it means is that the tailback at peak times could actually go back all the way up to the Queen's Cinema roundabout therefore it could affect traffic flowing into Queensway and so we were advised after monitoring that it was better to push it down further north because what would actually happen is that it would allow more space to come up. The other point is that traffic coming down Lovers' Lane and heading for the Upper Town area can actually turn left and go up King's Yard Lane turn right and head for the Upper Town which if the traffic was coming down in that direction what would actually happen is that traffic coming up Lovers' Lane would have to go all the way round the Queen's Cinema adding further congestion to that particular area in order to get to the Upper Town. So, on balance and after giving consideration to the different permutations of the change I still feel that the present system is workable. I am all in favour of changes if it is for the better but it is a matter that has been considered many a time and those that know probably more about it than myself advise me that that would not be the case so the change that the hon Member has suggested is not really in my favour.

**HON J C PEREZ:**

I can only tell the Minister that it used to work better before and that the problem of St Mary's can easily be resolved because there are two times when there can be an issue of danger which is when the kids are coming in and when the kids are leaving school given that at lunch time and with all the railings surrounding the area there are very few people leaving the school area at lunch time now because of the successful policy of the Minister and everything else and they have only got to keep a diversion notice in the school and bring it out when the policeman comes in to direct people in and out of school for half an hour in the morning and half an hour in the afternoon and that clears the problem of St Mary's School completely but the rest of the 22.5 or 23.5 hours that there is a problem during the day and during the night, the traffic would flow better in the way I have suggested and I would suggest the Minister check with the Traffic Commission on that again because traffic coming from the Lower Town and the Upper Town travelling again up to the Upper Town would freely go up to the Upper Town and

traffic going south would go down the King's Yard Lane and would not have to travel all the way round Lovers' Lane and up again, they have to turn all the way round at the moment and it congests the point at Convent Place which is what makes the tail end go down back to Hospital Hill causing nuisances for the ambulance and down Bell Lane up to the Piazza. That is blocked every morning from 10 o'clock to nearly 12 o'clock.

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

That is something that the Traffic Commission are constantly reviewing and I am sure that they will be aware of what is being discussed and I am sure that if their suggestion is to change I bow down to the suggestion but as I said this has been examined before and the conclusion is to leave things as they are.

ORAL

**NO. 844 OF 2002**

**THE HON J C PEREZ**

**TRAFFIC FLOW – WATERPORT FOUNTAIN**

Can Government confirm that major works are envisaged in the area of Waterport Fountain which will adversely affect traffic flow, and if so, could they state what steps they intend to take to ameliorate the situation?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT**

The Government are not carrying out any major works in the vicinity of Waterport Fountain. If any private company needs to carry out works which impact on the public highways, these will be carried out in accordance with a timetable and a schedule approved by the Government.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 844 OF 2002**

**HON J C PEREZ:**

That is exactly what I am talking about that there are pipelines for a particular petrol station that need to be put there and I am sure that the Government have knowledge of this already and should have the appropriate applications for licences for the works to be carried out, I think a contractor has already been chosen by the company itself.

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

I am sure that relevant arrangements will be put in place as soon as a proposal is sent to the Government for approval but to my knowledge I am not aware of what the hon Member has said. Nothing has come in a way of a formal application to my knowledge.

**ORAL**

**NO. 845 OF 2002**

**THE HON J C PEREZ**

**TRAFFIC FLOW**

Can Government state whether they intend to take immediate action in respect of the unacceptable level of traffic blockages during most of any weekday?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT**

The Government do not accept that there is an unacceptable level of traffic blockages, although the Government accept that, as happens everywhere in the world, there is increased traffic congestion at certain times known as "rush hours".

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 845 OF 2002**

**HON J C PEREZ:**

So the Minister believes that 10 o'clock in the morning, 10.30, 11.00, 11.30, 12.00 o'clock those are "rush hours", I have given him a good example in the last supplementaries just taking into account the number of pictures that the Chronicle takes from its windows and the time that they are taken, is this suggesting that these only happen in the "rush hour", and this is just beside Convent Place where the Chief Minister sits, where he claims "I invent these things and that there is no traffic chaos and all that," ?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

I have already said that the Government do not accept that that is the case.

ORAL

**NO. 846 OF 2002**

**THE HON J C PEREZ**

**TRANSPORT – MOT TEST**

Will Government reconsider introducing a system under which motorists are advised in advance in writing of when their MOT test is due and are offered a proposed date for the test?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT**

Government currently have no plans to do so.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 846 OF 2002**

**HON J C PEREZ:**

Would the Minister not consider it wise to do so?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

No. Government have no plans to do so.

**HON J C PEREZ:**

The fact that Government do not have any plans does not quite answer my question, why do they not have any plans if it is a good suggestion?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

We have heard the hon Member make the suggestions on many occasions and if after having heard the hon Member make the suggestions and field the arguments that he thinks are in favour of his suggestion repeatedly, the answer when he puts the question for the umpteenth time is still that the Government have no plans to do so then he should assume that the Government have no plans to do so notwithstanding the arguments that he has fielded. What Government cannot do is reconsider it everytime he asks the question which is every meeting of the House.

**HON J C PEREZ:**

It is the first time I am putting it given that on other occasions in the House I have not got a direct reply. The Minister might be referring to a particular press release but not to Questions in the House but is it or is it not the case that this would drastically reduce the problems that affect the public in the MOT Test Centre by being able both the Government and the public to organise bookings properly and in an orderly manner, would that not have this effect and would it not be a convenient way to circumvent the problem that the public and the Government are having in the MOT and at the same time in my view it would not cost a lot of money to do, would the Government not agree?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

That is true of every relationship between the Government and a citizen. I suppose it would be very useful and helpful as he defines usefulness and helpfulness for the Government to write to every citizen in their homes reminding them the television licences have expired and that their trading licence is expiring and that this licence, and that that licence and that this business and that business, the Government take a view as to whether the administrative burden and therefore the cost to the taxpayer of offering that sort of service outweighs or is outweighed by the benefit to the citizen of receiving that service. The fact of the matter is that citizens have a licence which says that there is an expiry date. The vast majority of citizens have no difficulty knowing that the expiry date is the date on which they must renew something. I do not know why the hon Member insists on suggesting that the Government need to treat citizens as if they were incapable of appreciating that if they have a licence until the 30<sup>th</sup> April then they have to renew it on or by the 30<sup>th</sup> April. Of course it would be an aid to the citizen to get a letter in the mail three weeks before, assuming that the Post Office will deliver it on time, reminding them of that fact but that can be said of in every time and on every occasion in every walk of administrative life in which the citizen has to do something in relation to the state. The question is that if we do it for this we would do it for many other areas of life where people would find usefulness and simply the administrative burden is unjustified by whatever advantage may flow from it.

**HON J C PEREZ:**

The Chief Minister does not seem to realise that when the citizen actually does go and asks for a booking at the MOT Test Centre he is not able to get it in time and he is now being asked by the department to think three months ahead and to book the MOT Test three months ahead because there are no bookings early enough to give the citizen the service he deserves if he complies with the letter of the law and goes to get a booking on the week that the booking is due. So the Chief Minister is now saying that the citizen has not only got to take on the responsibility but goes on to state the fact that the Government have a problem in providing the service and that they should go three months in advance to book for an MOT Test because there are no bookings when the due date comes up or two weeks before when the due date comes up and he seems to think that this is not sufficient justification for him to burden a bit extra the administration so that both the MOT Test Centre has a better record and can give bookings in a more organised fashion and so that the motorist can get a better service than what he is getting at the moment?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

The hon Member's intervention suggests what very skimpy grasp he has of the realities of the situation. Yes, he may wish to cackle, if he asks the question presumably he is interested in the answer he is not just interested in listening to his own voice. If the hon Member complains that the nature of the problem is that motorists cannot get the booking on the day that their existing.....

**HON J C PEREZ:**

Or the week or the fortnight or the month.....

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

Well the hon Member ought to keep quite and listen to what I am saying without shouting at me from a sedentary position. He should know that that problem if it exists and to the extent that it does which I am sure it does to some extent is not addressed by writing a letter to the motorist saying "your licence expires on the 25<sup>th</sup> April" nor would the system be made more administratively fluid if he is suggesting that in that letter the administration should also say "and your booking is on such and such a date" where the person may not be in Gibraltar, it may not be convenient for them, in other words deprive the motorist of the opportunity to fix a test date of his own convenience by the Government writing to everybody telling them when the test is going to be. That is the essence of the hon Member's suggestion. It is wholly unworkable and the hon Member knows that there is a considerable amount of flexibility, people can book and actually have conducted their tests for a two month period before it is due. Whatever the defects, or improvements that may be possible to the system all administrative systems are capable of improvement but the Government are satisfied that the particular proposal that the hon Member supports would not amount to a significant improvement.



**HON J C PEREZ:**

So the Chief Minister is saying that the other administrations that have this system in place are burdening the motorists in having the freedom of getting the date that they would like to have their test because they could be on holiday et cetera. The Chief Minister is talking nonsense and he knows it. If he does not want to do it then he does not want to but do not try to justify something that is totally unjustifiable.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

The hon Member is saying what he has clearly said and I take note of the fact that the hon Member is of the view that any view different to the one that he holds is nonsense, it is quite typical of his attitude.

ORAL

**NO. 847 OF 2002**

**THE HON J C PEREZ**

**TRANSPORT – MOT TEST**

Can Government state how many vehicles requiring an MOT test, since 1<sup>st</sup> January this year, did not take the initial test until after the due date, giving a breakdown of private, commercial and public service vehicles?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT**

This information is not presently available to the Government. I will write to the hon Member in due course and provide him with the statistics requested.

ORAL

**NO. 848 OF 2002**

**THE HON J C PEREZ**

**TRANSPORT – HIGHWAYS REFURBISHMENT**

Do Government feel that their highways refurbishment programme is sufficiently advanced to enable it to change the law in order to remove the common law immunity the Crown enjoys in respect of accidents on the highway?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT**

The Government have not as yet taken any decision in this regard.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 848 OF 2002**

**HON J C PEREZ:**

I accept that the Minister or the Chief Minister in the last House said that he wanted to update the roads and get them into a proper condition before he did this. Given the great affinity that this Government have to “zoning”, might it not be possible for the Government to apply the law and start “zoning” out areas where Crown immunity does not exist so that eventually when the whole of Gibraltar is repaired to the standard of the Chief Minister the law will have been able to cover all the highways and we could possibly enjoy immunity at Casemates and Main Street, Irish Town and areas like that which I am sure he must agree with me are highways which are now in a condition that could possibly accept the law?

## HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Government do regret that it is having to take so long to do this which of course reflects the amount of time that it is taking us to reverse the complete lack of investment in public highways and pavements that prevailed during the eight years that they were in office. It is not a small job, the next main project is the pavement up the Rock Hotel hill up Europa Road this is, he says highways, it is not so much highways as areas where pedestrians walk which is mainly pavements and things of that sort. I do not think that it is practical. It could be done but I do not think that it is on the first hearing at least it does not sound to me sensible to divide Gibraltar into bits where pedestrians can safely trip over and bits in Gibraltar where they cannot with compensatory rights trip over an unkempt highway. It is not so much the conditions of the highway, finishing the work on the highway that is the trigger that will make the Government feel that the time is right to reverse that law, incidentally a law which the hon Member had eight years of opportunity to reverse and did not. *[Interruption]* It was pointed out in a court case recently but the lack of compensation rights for citizens that trip up on highways prevailed also during the eight years that he was in office and it was not something that he felt that strongly about. The trigger event is going to be probably when the Government finally adjudicate the measured term contract for highways maintenance and when a highways maintenance contractor is up and running because that is the point in time in which it will be possible for the Government to have a crash programme of repairing the obstacles that currently exist for unsuspecting pedestrians on the highway. So it is not so much waiting for all the highways or all the pavements to be fixed but rather the Government having the capability to address these problems when they occur. That procurement process is at a very advanced stage and I think that contract is about to be awarded so it may not be too much further into the future before the Government are in the position that I have just described.

ORAL

**NO. 849 OF 2002**

**THE HON J C PEREZ**

**TRANSPORT – OMBUDSMAN REPORT**

Have Government now taken a view over the case highlighted by the Ombudsman in a special report over the destruction of a motor vehicle by the Department of Transport?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT**

The Government have indeed taken a view in this case. This matter was thoroughly investigated and the Ombudsman made certain recommendations relating to the compensation of the owner of this vehicle. Although the Government do not agree with the Ombudsman's analysis of this case nor that the owner is entitled to any compensation. However, certain recommendations made by the Ombudsman touched on Government policy. The question as to whether impounded vehicles should or should not be destroyed is a matter of Government policy. The Government are reviewing the existing procedures to see if any modifications should be made in the light of this case.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 849 OF 2002**

**HON J C PEREZ:**

Does the Minister not feel that it is strange that on this occasion alone this is the first time that a new vehicle is deemed to be *[Interruption]* therefore why is it that the Ministers says that they do not agree with the Ombudsman?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

The answer is not that, the answer is that we do not agree with his analysis as to entitlement to compensation. It is true that the law does not give this person a right to compensation. There has been no breach of the procedure as set out in the law. We cannot say to anyone who has been involved in administrative level in this "I agree." We cannot say "you are in breach of the law, you have not followed the established procedure, you have done something that you are not entitled to do and therefore the Government are liable in damages," that is what we mean when we say that we do not agree with the Ombudsman analysis but I agree entirely with the sentiment underlying the hon Member's question which is that I think that it is absolutely extraordinary that anyone should take the decision to destroy a new car. At the very least the Government would have had it for its fleet of vehicles but that is a different issue and we are certainly reviewing the existing procedures to make sure that this cannot happen again. We are accepting notwithstanding our view of the legal position, we are accepting the Ombudsman recommendation which was not that he should be paid compensation but rather that the Government should give him the next comparable vehicle that comes available.

**HON J C PEREZ:**

Which would be none.....

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

Well, yes, cars could be confiscated, now the Ombudsman said that he should not be entitled to compensation. It is also true I am aware that the gentleman in question is still claiming compensation from the Government but that has nothing to do with the Ombudsman's recommendations, the Ombudsman's recommendation was that he should not have compensation but rather a substitute vehicle when one became available from the next confiscation which may take longer than this man should fairly be made to wait I accept that.

ORAL

**NO. 850 OF 2002**

**THE HON J C PEREZ**

**YACHT REPORTING BERTH**

Can Government state whether they have reconsidered their policy of doing away with the functions of the Yacht Reporting Berth?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT**

No.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 850 OF 2002**

**HON J C PEREZ:**

By when do the Government intend to do away with the Yacht Reporting Berth?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

When it has all the logistical requirements in place to be able to do so.

**HON J C PEREZ:**

When does it envisage to have all the logistical requirements in place?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

There is no fixed date at the moment.

ORAL

**NO. 851 OF 2002**

**THE HON J C PEREZ**

**PORT DEPARTMENT**

Can Government state whether there has been any move over the final offer made by the Minister to Port Department employees which he said in answer to Question No 463 of 2002 was still the basis of further negotiation?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT**

No.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 851 OF 2002**

**HON J C PEREZ:**

Does the Minister envisage further negotiations or can he state whether he feels that the question is now at a stalemate?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

There is a meeting planned for tomorrow and Friday with the Unions and Port representatives subject to availability of the House and I have been trying to see whether we could reschedule this but we have not been able to agree as to when the meeting can now be held.



ORAL

**NO. 852 OF 2002**

**THE HON J C PEREZ**

**DOCK WORK ORDINANCE**

Will Government state why the Dock Work Ordinance is being breached and could they state what action, if any, they are taking to correct this?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT**

The Government are not aware that the Dock Labour Ordinance is being breached.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 852 OF 2002**

**HON J C PEREZ:**

Is the Minister not aware that the Register of Dockers which needs to be kept by the committee is not being kept and that that is a breach of the law?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

I am aware that there were delays in the registration of stevedores and dock labour workers in the register but I believe that the matter has now been rectified.

**HON J C PEREZ:**

So then the Minister knew that the Ordinance was being breached and he knows that it has been corrected?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

Yes, that is correct.

**NO. 853 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**“HOME FROM HOME” PROGRAMME**

What criteria does the Government use to measure the claimed success of their “Home from Home” programme?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT**

There are various key indicators which point towards success of the campaign. Some of the more important factors are as follows:

- (a) a 25 per cent increase in the number of requests for Gibraltar brochures;
- (b) an increased perception of Gibraltar as a tourist destination by the general media and the specialist travel press;
- (c) the increased demand has led to a major UK tour operator to include Gibraltar in its brochures;
- (d) a key UK tour operator has produced a dedicated Gibraltar brochure, where previously it published a brochure covering Gibraltar and Spain;
- (e) UK tour operators have reported increase sales to Gibraltar;
- (f) There has been an increase in number of visitors to the tourism web site.

## **SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 853 OF 2002**

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

Is there a specific survey done to determine the reason why somebody comes here whether it is as a result of this campaign or anything else?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

As I have said in this House before there is no clear survey that can be carried out in order to be able to ascertain whether any form of marketing or advertising activity coordinates with any particular increase or decrease in sales of tourists coming to Gibraltar. Therefore we cannot attribute any actual fact to a particular campaign but the general "Home from Home" campaign and these factors which I have just pointed out were subsequent to this campaign so I am sure that some of these increases are due to this increase in this particular campaign.

ORAL

**NO. 854 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**WORLD TRAVEL MARKET**

Can Government say whether their decision to continue to attend the World Travel Market has the support of the UKGTA?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos 865 and 881 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 855 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**GTB – GIVE-AWAYS**

Can Government say how and from whom items for give-aways for the GTB are obtained?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT**

Items are obtained from suppliers who have notified the Gibraltar Tourist Board that they can supply a product which has been approved as a give-away. The total value of an order is small, and below the ceiling for purchase through tender. Before approving a purchase, the GTB seeks prices from several suppliers and opts for the cheapest. The suppliers of give-aways used in Gibraltar by the GTB are as follows :-

|                      |   |                      |
|----------------------|---|----------------------|
| Promotional Printers | - | Stickers             |
| Analgo               | - | Lapel badges         |
| Victory Enterprises  | - | Sticks of candy rock |
| Gibraltar Crystal    | - | Crystal Medallions   |
| Analgo               | - | Stick on calendars   |
| Zenith Promotions    | - | GTB logo stickers    |
| 123 Printers         | - | Posters              |

We have now taken the decision that we will be going out to tender in a proper format because we wish to have a far more systematic programme in the purchase and giving away of give-away items and a tender will shortly be published covering a wider range of products which we have decided will form part of our give-away items for next year.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION 855 OF 2002**

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

I recall that there was a tender for give-aways which was published last year and various companies submitted their ideas, was that tender then ever awarded or did it simply lapse?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

No, the tender was not awarded, if the hon Member remembers the quotes that came in we just did not have the budget to be able to meet that so what we decided was that we would buy from individual small quantities of things that we needed because we did not have the budget. The budget is now being made available so we are programming to put a tender out which will cover our requirements as I said for next year.

ORAL

**NO. 856 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**MOORISH CASTLE**

Can Government say for how long and for what period the top floor of the Moorish Castle has been closed?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT**

Five months.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 856 OF 2002**

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

Can the Government explain why it has been closed for that period of time?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

The roof terrace which I presume is what the hon Member is referring to has been closed for five months. It was actually closed by the Gibraltar Tourist Board due to the fact that the fencing on one side of the west side of the terrace was in a dangerous state and at the same time we were getting pressured from the Prison Officers for us to close the terrace as various visitors to the terrace were actually making contact with the inmates and throwing things into the Prison and obviously that was creating a problem



for them. We have not taken a view because although not visited very regularly by visitors it is a part of the Moorish Castle which we do not wish to close to visitors on a permanent basis so we are looking at the possibility of putting some wire mesh at the bottom end of the Prison to prevent anything being thrown into the Prison and looking at alternatives as to whether we are going to open the terrace but only on requests and accompanied by a security officer or maybe with the idea of putting up CCTV. We are looking at various options so at the moment we are not carrying out this repair because we feel that we really need to take this decision, I have been in correspondence with the Prison Board, the Chairman of the Prison Board because obviously we need to find a way which is mutually acceptable for both parties. We are obviously concerned about the actual institution of prisoned inmates and on the other hand we want to make sure that that part is available to visitors at least on an on request.

ORAL

**NO. 857 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**SEA TRADE CONVENTION**

What was the cost of attending the Sea Trade Convention in Genoa, with a breakdown, and who made up the Government delegation?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos 864 and 901 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 858 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**EASTSIDE DEVELOPMENT**

Can Government say whether an environmental impact study into the eastside development has been carried out?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT**

No.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 858 OF 2002**

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

Are Government in a position to say whether such a study is required?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

The hon Member would have to be more specific as to the focus of his question in this respect, usually in the case of land reclamation projects the environmental impact study is done at the time of the land reclamation not at the time that one builds things on land that one has reclaimed and now indeed environmental impact studies in land reclamation projects is compulsory under EU Regulations. The land on which the eastside development would be located is the area of the reclamation which we have

finished but did not start. The hon Members will recall that it was started in their time, it has been finished, I do not know whether an environmental impact study was done at that time, probably not, whether an environmental impact study is now relevant in the context of simply building on the land that has already been reclaimed is another matter so I do not know whether he is referring to the reclamation itself or to the building on the reclamation.

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

Perhaps if I explain the origins of the question, in a report the Minister for Trade and Industry and the Minister for Tourism both were quoted and it says that both insisted on the importance of the development et cetera and they were exploring options for stabilising the coastline and would determine whether a full environmental impact assessment was required, that was the one we were referring to.

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

I think there are two aspects of that question. One is and environmental coping and screening study has been carried out in respect of the proposed works on the breakwaters and beach refurbishment area but as far as the land side is concerned no environmental impact study has been carried out and that will very much depend on the actual final layout and scheme itself. There are proposals that I know of that may or may not come through that have been proposed and shown to the Government to get impact and to get an impression of what we believe which involves a marina on that side. That would mean that an environmental impact study will have to be carried out, if there is actually no actual addition done on the land itself then the environmental impact study may not be necessary but until we know the details of the scheme itself we will not be able to determine whether an environmental impact study will require it or not but as the Chief Minister has clearly pointed out it is the European Union obligation which would have to be adhered to depending on the details of the scheme itself.

ORAL

**NO. 859 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**ST MICHAEL'S CAVE**

How often and on what dates has the viewing platform in front of St Michael's Cave been cleaned this year?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT**

There is no "viewing platform" in front of St Michael's Cave.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 859 OF 2002**

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

The area in question is obviously when one gets to the cave and there is a platform where cars park, that area there.

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

Yes, that area which is allocated to coaches on the road leading to the ticket office and includes the surrounding areas and the road leading to the top of Prince Philip Arch is cleaned on a daily basis.

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

The area immediately below that, the slope that leads down with the trees and grass where there have been reports and photographs and I have been up to see it myself of the accumulations of rubbish which have been allowed to remain there, in that particular respect are the Government satisfied with the state of cleanliness of that slope?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

No, the Government are not satisfied with some of the level of cleanliness on some of the slopes the reality is that the cleaning of those slopes are not subjected to contract which I think Master Service had of the cleaning and maintenance of the Upper Rock. These slopes actually need cleaning by a specialist type of cleaning contractor because of the dangers and health and safety issues. What has traditionally happened is that the Government, and this goes back many, many years, these slopes may have been cleaned maybe once, twice, once a year or once every two years, what has happened is that there seems to be an accelerated accumulation of rubbish in recent times whether those are actually the common practice or not what we have done is that we have carried out a cleaning exercise sometime in the month of August/September, we are in negotiations at the moment with a contractor in order to look at the possibility, with the contractor Master Service in order to extent their contract to cover that but there are financial implications obviously to this and the Government are giving consideration as to the cost that this has but obviously it is not something that I find satisfactory from the point of view of the tourist product.

ORAL

**NO. 860 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**CITY UNDER SIEGE EXHIBITION**

Can Government say why some of the wax models at tourist sites on the Upper Rock at the beginning of August had no heads and for how long have they been in this condition?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT**

At the time in question, there was an element of press coverage following sensationalistic reports that wax models forming part of the City Under Siege Exhibition had been decapitated. Indeed, this sort of vandalism only occurs at this site and not, as the question implies, at tourist sites generally. The exhibitions are inspected regularly, and whenever it is found that some senseless person has damaged a wax model, it is repaired.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 860 OF 2002**

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

Can the Minister say how regularly these sites are inspected given the amount tourists that visit this site?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

These sites are inspected almost on a daily basis because there are sites attendants that look after these sites. These wax figures do not have their heads attached to the rest of the body basically the head lands on top of the wax body so one just needs to knock it off to find the head rolling very easily and there are some visitors or locals that find it amusing to knock their heads off. We have asked those that put these wax figures in place some years ago to visit Gibraltar. They are coming I believe in the first week of November and we are looking at ways and systems in order to avoid this sort of occurrence from happening on a regular basis.

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

Are there any plans to refurbish the area, there is a general sense of decay and lack of colouring and there is also a general neglect in terms of overgrown areas and strewn litter, are there any plans to tackle this?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

I think I answered that by saying that two representatives from the company will be out in Gibraltar for a general assessment to see what needs to be put in place in order to upgrade some of these exhibits.

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

Is the Minister also referring to the litter and the drink cans scattered around?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

That also is being looked into.



ORAL

**NO. 861 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**ST MICHAEL'S CAVE**

Can Government give the dates on which the sound and light system at St Michael's Cave has been out of action since the new system was installed?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT**

The sound and light system at St Michael's Cave has been undergoing a comprehensive testing programme since its installation, due to a series of technical hitches. The system was inaugurated to members of the travel trade on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2002, and will be shown routinely on weekdays as from Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October, and, in addition, on request for example from Shore Excursion Agents for cruise calls.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 861 OF 2002**

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

Is it the intention to have a rotating exhibition every 15 minutes or half an hour or is it just a one off?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

No what is intended is that initially we will probably show the sound and light system possibly three or four times a day at specific times. One must remember that for the programme to go through the lights have to come off and therefore one has to have members of the public seated et cetera and so therefore there will be certain hours of the day when this will be shown and as I have said on requests for cruise passengers because operators have shown an interest in being able to offer these to their customers on board. Last night the inauguration was to the travel trade in order to make everybody conversant with the product itself.

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

Can the Minister explain given the high cost of this tender which I think went into six figures, what the technical hitches were?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

One of the major issues was the voice over of the sound and light system. There is a voice over which explains the history of Gibraltar and I went up there on two occasions and saw and listened to the programme itself and I was not satisfied that the sound and voice over was adequate for the density and size of the cave. So it had to be recorded on numerous occasions until we finally got the right level. It is also being done in the Spanish language and that took time as well and we also want to have it available in other foreign languages as well, sometimes we get cruise ships that are mainly of German speaking customers and we want to have that available for them.

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

This sound problem is the only hitch which has taken all this time to correct?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

No, there were other technical hitches, in fact the people who put them are in Gibraltar today as a result of some technical hitches yesterday so by no way have we overcome that but we are getting there. It is a very complex equipment with wiring and lighting all over the cave at different levels and I think that that has produced an element of making sure that there are no technical hitches which we have been getting up till recently.

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

Recently both the Chief Minister and myself were at a dinner in the cave and the music went off and some of the effects started going off by themselves while the Minister was speaking, can I ask, is the system insured or are the Government paying additionally to the tender?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

For what for all these technical hitches, absolutely not.

ORAL

**NO. 862 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**AIRLINE ASSISTANCE**

Can Government say why the £221,000 left over from the airline assistance scheme was transferred in Statement of Reallocations No 2 of 2001/2002 to improve tourist sites and beaches instead of being put towards attracting a new airline or opening a new air route to Gibraltar?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question No 891 of 2002

**ORAL**

**NO. 863 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**NUN'S WELL**

Can Government say whether they are studying, or have studied any plans for the refurbishment of the Nun's Well area?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT**

No plans are presently being studied.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 863 OF 2002**

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

The question also asks whether they have studied any in the past even if they are not currently being studied.

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

There was a tender some time back and the tenders that were submitted were well beyond the budgeted amount and so therefore the tender was not awarded and the whole idea was left in abeyance. We are to be honest looking at the whole area in Europa Point not just Nun's Well but the area by the Lighthouse et cetera and it may encompass Nun's Well when we actually come to the end of our deliberations but I cannot commit myself as to whether Nun's Well will be included or not.

ORAL

**NO. 864 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**POSIDONIA 2002**

What was the cost, with a breakdown, of Gibraltar's participation at Posidonia 2002?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos 857 and 901 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 865 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**GTB – PROGRAMME OF EXHIBITIONS**

What changes to the programme of exhibitions attended by the Gibraltar Tourist Board were recommended by the UKGTA sub-committee that was set up in March?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos 854 and 881 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 866 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**GTB - KEY SELLING POINTS**

Who are the supporting suppliers entrusted with ensuring that all the essential tools are in place to ensure that all parties linked with selling Gibraltar are properly briefed in its key selling points?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT**

This is a question on which I am not too clear on what the hon Member is trying to ask but if he is trying to ask whether we have any suppliers that help us with the delivery of information on the Gibraltar Tourist product et cetera the answer is that there are none.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 866 OF 2002**

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

The question is actually practically word for word a statement made by the Minister and this was in relation to the appointment of an advertising agent, a public relations agent and a third company to help the Tourist Board with promotions and exhibitions and it was in relation to the third of the three that the Government said that they would be helped by the supporting suppliers and that was why I wanted to know who they were.



**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

Which was the third party that the hon Member is referring to?

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

I believe the third one was the Network.

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

The Network for all intents and purposes is a company that helps the Gibraltar Tourist Board and the distribution of brochures, it actually has no function whatsoever in terms of active participation even though they do undertake surveys for us. They basically provide a service rather than actually assist us in delivering any of our selling points that the hon Member is referring to.

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

Just to clarify, when the Minister was referring to the supporting suppliers then there is actually nobody who does that?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

Not supporting suppliers we do have a Business Development Manager in the London Office which is part of the London Office staff who is the one who visits travel agents and puts across the selling points as far as Gibraltar is concerned. Network does not actually provide us with that sort of support we have an in-house person because we felt that it was better to have somebody in-house reporting to us, loyal to us than have an outsider where we did not really know whether the job was being done and how well it was being done.

ORAL

**NO. 867 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**SCHOOL OF TOURISM**

What is the total number of students since 2000 who have completed the School of Tourism course and how many are currently employed in the sector?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT**

A total of 39 students have completed their studies, 20 of these are employed in the sector and a further three are pursuing further studies in the UK in this field.

**ORAL**

**NO. 868 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**GTB**

Can Government say where the following companies, which provide services to the Gibraltar Tourist Board, are based:

- (a) DOT.COM PR Ltd;
- (b) Bygraves Bushell Valladares and Sheldon (BBVS);
- (c) The Network?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos 869 to 873 of 2002.

**ORAL**

**NO. 869 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**GTB**

Can Government say how much was paid to DOT.COM PR Ltd for handling the public relations of the Gibraltar Tourist Board in the financial year 2001/2002?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos 868 and 870 to 873 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 870 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**GTB**

Can Government say how much was paid to Bygraves Bushell Valladares and Sheldon (BBVS) for acting as an advertising agency to the Gibraltar Tourist Board in the financial year 2001/2002?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos 868, 869 and 871 to 873 of 2002.

**ORAL**

**NO. 871 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**GTB**

Can Government say what track record and experience in tourism advertising, public relations and marketing respectively the following have:

- (a) DOT.COM PR Ltd;
- (b) Bygraves Bushell Valladares and Sheldon (BBVS);
- (c) The Network?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos 868 to 870, 872 and 873 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 872 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**GTB**

Can Government say how much was paid to The Network for assisting the Gibraltar Tourist Board in marketing activities in the financial year 2001/2002?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos 868 to 871 and 873 of 2002.

**ORAL**

**NO. 873 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**GTB**

On what date were the following tenders awarded, and how many companies bid for the tenders for:

- (a) acting as public relations for the Gibraltar Tourist Board;
- (b) acting as an advertising agency for the Gibraltar Tourist Board;
- (c) assisting the Gibraltar Tourist Board in marketing activities?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT**

The information sought in this question is too voluminous to be read out in this House, therefore I hand the hon Member a table giving the information requested.



- (a) Payment to DOT>COM PR for services provided to the GTB:-

2001/2002 - £63,464.80

- (b) Payment to BBVS for services provided to the GTB:

2001/2002 - £31,133.80

This company is based in Hunton, Kent.

- (c) Payment to The Network for services provided to the GTB:

2001/2002 - £5,170

This company is based in Huddersfield.

- (d) Tenders for public relations, marketing and advertising were awarded to take effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2002, that is the start of the new financial year. Nine companies submitted bids.

- (e) The track record and experience of BBVS is at appendix 'A'.

- (f) The track record and experience of The Network is at Appendix 'B'.

- (g) The track record of the Internet PR Company, previously known as DOT COM PR is at Appendix 'C'. This company no longer supplies services to the GTB.

**BYGRAVES BUSHELL VALLADARES & SHELDON LTD**

**CREDENTIALS**

**General**

BBVS is a London advertising agency with billings in excess of £50 million and a great deal of experience in the travel and leisure markets. The Agency, which was established in 1978, is privately owned by its key partners and is truly independent, as well as being financially stable.

All members of staff are experienced, enthusiastic and hardworking and have access to the best state-of-the-art research, information and planning systems.

**Scope**

BBVS implements advertising campaigns across all media types: TV, newspapers, magazines, radio, outdoor, cinema and all other types of media.

Whilst the client list is diverse and contains a large number of household brands, one particular area of expertise is the travel and leisure market. A deep understanding of the travel business is necessary in order to be able to count effective campaigns. It is crucial to understand 'what works' and to be able to deliver highly relevant and cost effective advertising solutions. This only comes with experience.

**The Travel Market**

BBVS understands Tourist Boards. That is why the following are amongst the current client list:

- Gibraltar Tourist Board
- Mauritius Tourism Authority
- Turkish Tourist Board (UK plus 14 other countries)
- Pennsylvania Tourism
- St Lucia Tourist Board
- Philadelphia Tourism
- Northern Territory Tourist Office
- South Australia Tourist Office

Other travel clients include:

- English Country cottages
- Vacances en Gcampagne
- Peregor Travel
- Okagango Tours & Safaris
- Partnership Travel
- Sardatur
- Camp Beaumont
- Mark Warner

### **Account Director – Mike Vickery**

Mike Vickery is Account Director on the Gibraltar Tourist Board business. He is a highly seasoned advertising professional with a great deal of experience and has worked at a senior or Board Director level at a number of top 10 agencies: Lintas, Masius Wynne-Williams, McCann-Erikson, Wasey Campbell-Ewald, Universal McCann et cetera. The list of blue chip clients that he has been responsible for is extremely impressive. He is an award winner in marketing's equivalent of an MBA and brings years of experience to the GTB account.

**The Network**

The Network is a highly regarded marketing and promotions company in the UK, based at Huddersfield. It has been established for over 10 years and includes a number of major travel companies in its client portfolio.

- Bourne Leisure
- British Airways
- British Airways Holidays
- Brittany Ferries
- Carribean Tourism Organisation
- Daily Mail
- DFDS Seaways
- Embassy Leisure Breaks
- First Choice Holidays plc
- Gibraltar Tourist Board
- Hermis Travel Group
- Holiday Cottages Group
- Kuoni Travel Ltd
- Libra Group
- Mark Warner
- Metro
- P&O Portsmouth
- Stena Line
- Sunwin Motors
- The Business
- The TIPTO Organisation
- Tony Pryce Sports
- Walt Disney Parks & Resorts

## **Appendix 'C'**

The Internet PR Company is an award-winning, independent specialist online communications agency that has **turned PR on its head by** transforming traditional techniques to work in a digital age.

Technology and, in particular, the Internet has effected change on numerous industries in recent years. Perhaps no industry has been changed so profoundly as the news media arena and, by extended association, the public relations industry.

The Internet PR Company has embraced this opportunity by integrating traditional PR know-how with cutting-edge technology to provide a dynamic range of communications solutions and delivery platforms that empower business to take charge of their own online communications.

But as we have all the communications know-how, you don't have to go it alone. We can also provide guidance and support along the way and step in with a fully managed service – or anything in-between - if that's what is needed.

**OUR MISSION IS** to develop and deliver a range of unique, customised communications management platforms that transform public relations into a truly Internet-enabled industry.

## **SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 868 TO 873 OF 2002**

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

The information supplied in relation to the amounts paid to each of the companies, the public relations company receives £63,000 (DOT COM PR), BBVS receives £31,000 and the Network £5,170, is the Minister satisfied with the performance in the first year?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

Contracts for each aspect of the services that both the three companies provide are on an annual basis so their performance is renewed annually and contracts are renewed if we feel that their performance and the productivity have been to our satisfaction. DOT COM PR no longer provides a service for us and has subsequently been replaced. BBVS continues to provide a service for us and their contract was renewed this year. Basically the Network has a contract with us but as I have said before it is the service that they provide and we count on them only when there is a need for a particular distribution to be undertaken or particular aspect of surveying is to be done. It is not something that we have an annual contract with, as far as the annual renewal of contracts are concerned we ensure that we have at least three companies in the different aspects of the different areas of activity who put proposals through to the Tourist Board before a candidate is selected. So in the case of DOT COM PR a year back they were selected as a preferred supplier of service. At the end of that year we had three people that came in and provided us with alternatives which included them as well and we decided that there was the need for a change and so therefore we selected another party and they had clear understandings that their services were for one year and one year only, it just keeps them on their toes. As far as BBVS is concerned this is an advertising agency that buys advertising space for us and what we do is that we actually get media buyers, and there is not a lot of professional media buyers in the travel industry in the UK but we select at least the three better known and what we do is that we give them the budget that we have available for above the line advertising and then they come up with their offer of what they can deliver for that budget in terms of actual newspaper publications where we can put adverts in, the Travel Trade, the consumer advertising, media advertising and therefore we look at the package that they are able to offer us for a specific price and we pay them very little because they earn their living from commissions that they get from the different respective newspapers in which they put in publications which is common practice in the industry. Where BBVS were paid £31,000 is because they did a lot of hard work for us, they did a lot of additional work for us in order and they subcontracted out in order to assist us with adverts, we had the poster campaign in the London Underground we had the taxis that had to be totally done, these were additional work that they needed to do before in addition to actual media buying. Hon Members will notice that this year BBVS payments to them will be much less because most of their activity will have been done mainly in media advertising where we do not settle or pay for their services. Therefore they know that come November and December, this is why probably the hon Member has asked the question as to why a budget has to be made available, I have got to start from somewhere and I have got to start as early as November, straight after the World Travel Market I have got to look for these advertising buyers. I need to say, "Look the

Government have a budget of £450,000 or £500,000 for media above the line advertising, we need you in January to come to us with your proposed campaign, what can you offer us? How many ads are you going to be able to support us in the media, in the newspapers, in the tabloids, in the regional newspapers, in the London papers et cetera.” Then they come up with a budget and we assess the value of that depending and there are some companies that are better negotiators and others that are less but if one looks for example, the profile that the hon Member has asked for, BBVS buy in excess of £50 million of advertising a year so we are just one more little account and if one looks they have quite an impressive list of tourist orientated customers who they buy media for. So I am sure that they have the strength to be able to go to the press and say, “What package can you give me?” they may have £0.5 million from Gibraltar but maybe they have £10 million from other destinations so their media buying power is very much to our benefit.

**ORAL**

**NO. 874 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**GIBRALTAR AIRPORT – LANDING CHARGES**

At what stage are discussions between the Government and the Ministry of Defence aimed at securing a reduction in landing charges for commercial aircraft?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT**

There are no such discussions in progress. The MOD is aware of Government's views on the high level of landing charges and various representations have been made over a period of time.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 874 OF 2002**

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

Can the Government say what the results of those presentations have been in terms of when and also when the last such representations were made?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

I believe that the last representations that I made to the MOD was when I last had a meeting with the Commander of British Forces. I can also say that not just myself but some of my Colleagues who have contacts with the MOD do raise the issue because it is an on-going complaint unfortunately it is not something that we can convince them. The MOD I think realises the need for a review of these but I think are subjected to policies back in London where they are applicable to all military airfields in the UK and overseas.



ORAL

**NO. 875 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**HEAD 6-A – SUBHEAD 8**

Can the Minister for Tourism provide a breakdown of Head 6A Subhead 8 in respect of the £950,000 forecast out-turn for 2001/2002 being marketing, promotions and conferences?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT**

I can do better than that – I can now provide a breakdown of the actual expenditure for 2001/2002. However, the information sought in this question is too voluminous to be read out in this House, nor would the hon Member be able to note the information given for the purposes of formulating supplementaries if it were read out. I therefore hand the hon Member a table giving the information requested.

**ANSWER TO QUESTION 875 OF 2002**

**HEAD 6A TOURISM SUBHEAD 8 MARKETING, PROMOTION & CONFERENCES**

**ACTUAL OUT-TURN 2001/02**

|                      |     |                     |              |               |
|----------------------|-----|---------------------|--------------|---------------|
| LITERATURE           |     |                     |              | 93,598        |
| TRADE ACTIVITY       |     |                     |              | 61,428        |
| MEDIA ACTIVITY       |     |                     |              | 25,709        |
| PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL |     |                     |              | 10,981        |
| ADVERTISING          |     |                     |              | 411,784       |
| TRADE FAIRS          | TF1 | World Travel Market | 49,148       |               |
|                      | TF2 | London Boat Show    | 19,357       |               |
|                      | TF3 | EIBTM               | 40,231       |               |
|                      | TF4 | FITUR               | 27,890       |               |
|                      | TF5 | CONFEX              | 2,392        |               |
|                      | TF6 | Dive Show           | <u>666</u>   |               |
|                      |     |                     |              | 139,684       |
| EVENTS               | E1  | Gib Regatta         | 6,000        |               |
|                      | E2  | Blue Water Rally    | 3,532        |               |
|                      | E3  | Gib Dog Show        | 5,000        |               |
|                      | E4  | Gib Power Boat Fest | 6,413        |               |
|                      | E5  | WASME Conf.         | <u>5,175</u> |               |
|                      |     |                     |              | 26,120        |
| OTHER                | OT1 | History Alive       | 12,489       |               |
|                      | OT2 | Website Madrid      | -            |               |
|                      | OT3 | " maint & stats.    | <u>3,999</u> |               |
|                      |     |                     |              | 16,488        |
| RECURRENT            | RE1 | Dot Com PR Ltd      | 56,333       |               |
|                      | RE2 | VI & VA Spain       | 7,605        |               |
|                      | RE3 | Subs UK/GIB         | 4,222        |               |
|                      | RE4 | Annual Subs Gibnet  | 540          |               |
|                      | RE5 | Ministry Travel     | 19,857       |               |
|                      | RE6 | UKGTA meeting exp.  | 9,678        |               |
|                      | RE7 | Sales Rep expenses  | 17,212       |               |
|                      | RE8 | Trade Dev. Manager  | 31,584       |               |
|                      | RE9 | Travel exp. Spain   | <u>765</u>   |               |
|                      |     |                     |              | 147,796       |
| CONTINGENCIES        |     |                     |              | <u>16,804</u> |
| TOTAL                |     |                     |              | 950,394       |

**ORAL**

**NO. 876 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**HOTELS – GRADINGS**

Can Government say whether Gibraltar hotels have been graded in 2002 and if so when and with what results?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT**

Hotels including hostels and self-catering apartments had their annual inspection between 1<sup>st</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> July 2002. The grading reports concluded , in all cases, that all properties should retain their corresponding star gradings.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 876 OF 2002**

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

Can the Minister confirm that the grading is in fact being carried out by the same company?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

Indeed but there is every likelihood that we will be changing companies for next year as we understand the present adjudicators are in problems financially and may not be around for next year.

ORAL

**NO. 877 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**TOURISM – VISITING JOURNALISTS**

Can Government give the cost of inviting thirteen journalists to Gibraltar on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2002 for three days, providing a breakdown of the figure?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos 878 and 879 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 878 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**TOURISM – VISITING JOURNALISTS**

Can Government say how many of the thirteen journalists had articles on Gibraltar published as a result of their visit on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2002 listing the newspapers or magazines where such articles were published and the date of publication?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos 877 and 879 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 879 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**TOURISM – VISITING JOURNALISTS**

Can Government list the names of the thirteen journalists who visited Gibraltar on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2002 giving the names of the media they worked for?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT**

I hand the hon Member a table giving the information requested.

**Answer to Question No 879 of 2002**

**PRESS ON THE ROCK 2002**

**Guest List and Coverage Received**

| <b>Name</b>          | <b>Date of Coverage</b>                                                                                                    |
|----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Peter Ellegard       | TTG 3 June                                                                                                                 |
| Simon Evans          | Due in CNN News in October                                                                                                 |
| Milton Firman        | Jewish Telegraph<br>(copy sent to Gibraltar 19.9.02)                                                                       |
| Paul Francis         | Press Gazette 19 <sup>th</sup> July<br>Kent Messenger Series                                                               |
| Steve Gedge          | Pending                                                                                                                    |
| Dominic Hamilton     | This istravel.co.uk. 12 <sup>th</sup> August                                                                               |
| Charlie Harris       | Has an article awaiting publication in the<br>Home Counties in Luton/Watford area.<br>This is a syndicate of 4 newspapers. |
| Gillian Harrison     | Telegraph 25 <sup>th</sup> May<br>Sunday Mercury 16 <sup>th</sup> June                                                     |
| Lucinda Hawksley     | 5 text 19 <sup>th</sup> July                                                                                               |
| Allyson Howden       | Dorset Echo 1 <sup>st</sup> June                                                                                           |
| Penny Kitchen        | Standard 5 <sup>th</sup> June                                                                                              |
| Peter MrGregor Eadie | Travel News Ireland                                                                                                        |
| Gareth Phillips      | Pending                                                                                                                    |

Further articles are expected from these journalists.

**COST TO GOVERNMENT OF PRESS ON THE ROCK 2002**

|                                     |           |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|
|                                     | £         |
| UK organisation of attendees        | 5,193.69  |
| Travel                              | 1,050.00  |
| Entertainment                       | 1,450.92  |
| Ed Lacy Award for best travel piece | 659.95    |
| Sundires                            | 120.05    |
|                                     | <hr/>     |
|                                     | £8,474.61 |
|                                     | <hr/>     |



ORAL

**NO. 880 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**MEDCRUISE**

Can Government say how many votes were obtained by Gibraltar, Venice and Barcelona respectively in the elections for the presidency of Medcruise earlier this year?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT**

Gibraltar one, Venice two and Barcelona 33 votes.

ORAL

**NO. 881 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**WORLD TRAVEL MARKET**

Why was the 2002/2003 increased marketing spend on tourism announced in London at the UK Gibraltar Tourism Association before it was made public in the House of Assembly?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT**

The decision to attend World Travel Market was discussed extensively with the UKGTA, and they support a Gibraltar presence at the exhibition this year. A sub committee of the UKGTA also made proposals, which were approved by UKGTA and myself, for the GTB to man a stand at four consumer shows in the UK in addition to the exhibition at which Gibraltar is represented. I also accepted a recommendation that there should be a GTB presence at four additional trade shows and a Conference and Incentive exhibition. With regard to the allegations that an announcement was made at a UKGTA meeting of the approved marketing spend, this is incorrect. The UKGTA were informed of the bid made by the Ministry for Tourism for marketing, and were told that the bid was subject to approval first by Government and then by this House. It has never been the practice in Gibraltar that Government policy is announced only in this House first.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 854, 865 AND 881 OF 2002**

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

Can the Minister confirm that the changes which the UKGTA recommended to the programme of exhibitions and the Minister has mentioned a number of exhibitions which Gibraltar will now be represented at, were there any which they felt Gibraltar should not be attending?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

The sub-committee composed of tour operators, hoteliers and some tourism officials looked at the various shows which we were currently exhibiting at and also looked at new potential areas and came up with the report and we had actually confirmed that all those that we were already attending we should continue attending.

ORAL

**NO. 882 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**TOURISM – PERSONS INTERVIEWED**

Can Government say how many interviews with persons who said that they had not stayed at a hotel have been carried out since 1<sup>st</sup> March 2002 inclusive, on a monthly basis, stating where they were interviewed and the number interviewed at each location?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos 895 and 896 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 883 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**HOTEL ARREARS**

What amounts are due and owing to Government by hotels broken down by items and in respect of which periods these monies became due as at the end of August 2002?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT**

The arrears due by hotels stood at £417,000 as at 31<sup>st</sup> August 2002. These arrears are in respect of amounts due over a number of years dating as far back as 1991. The breakdown is as follows:

|                  |          |
|------------------|----------|
| Social Insurance | £ 51,000 |
| PAYE Tax         | £166,000 |
| Electricity      | £171,000 |
| Rates            | £ 28,000 |
| Rents            | £ 1,000  |
|                  | <hr/>    |
|                  | £417,000 |
|                  | <hr/>    |

Agreements were entered into for the repayment of most of these arrears as well as for ensuring that current bills are settled as and when due.

ORAL

**NO. 884 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**TOURISM ADVISORY COUNCIL**

How often and on what dates has the Tourism Advisory Council met since 18<sup>th</sup> April 2002?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT**

The Tourism Advisory Council met once, on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 885 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**MINISTER'S OVERSEAS VISITS**

Can the Minister for Tourism give the dates when he has been away from Gibraltar on Government business from 6<sup>th</sup> March 2002 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 from Gibraltar on tourism-related business on four occasions as follows:

|         |   |         |              |   |        |
|---------|---|---------|--------------|---|--------|
| 16.5.02 | - | 17.5.02 | Presentation | - | Madrid |
| 23.5.02 | - | 27.5.02 | UKGTA        | - | London |
| 19.9.02 | - | 22.9.02 | UKGTA        | - | London |
| 4.10.02 | - | 5.10.02 | Meetings     | - | London |

ORAL

**NO. 886 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**PORT – OPERATOR LICENCES**

Have the two applications for a port operator licence which were being considered in April now been granted, and have any new applications been made since then?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT**

The two licences in question have not been issued. Subsequently, there have been four further applications for port operator licences.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 886 OF 2002**

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

Can the Minister clarify whether the licences have not been issued because they have been refused or whether all these four and the two that were there previously are all pending?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

No, the two licences in question that have not been issued are in respect of bunker operators, a series of conditions have been attached to these operators and to the granting of these licences and both operators are almost there in being able to meet all



these requirements but have yet not achieved that, as soon as all the conditions are met the licences will be issued. In respect of the four other licences that I have referred to there is one licence which is on appeal against the Registration Board and they have been awarded a Ship Agent's licence, then there is a licence to collect garbage from ships at anchor and then there have been two licences granted for rope-handling and rigging. These four licences have been granted and these licences actually do have a set of conditions attached to them which have been met by the applicants.

ORAL

**NO. 887 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**UPPER ROCK – ADMISSION FEES**

Can Government say how much revenue has been raised in admission fees to the Upper Rock on a monthly basis since April 2002?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question No 888 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 888 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**COACH PARK CHARGES**

Can Government say how much revenue has been raised by charging coaches that use the coach park on a monthly basis since April 2002?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT**

I hand the hon Member a table giving the information requested.

Answer to Question No 887 of 2002

**UPPER ROCK REVENUE**

**APRIL – SEPTEMBER 2002**

| <b><u>MONTH</u></b>  | <b><u>REVENUE</u></b> |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| April                | £213,585.00           |
| May                  | £242,101.50           |
| June                 | £197,674.00           |
| July                 | £235,027.50           |
| August               | £259,937.50           |
| September            | £260,287.50           |
| <b>Total Revenue</b> | <b>£1,408,693.00</b>  |

**Answer to Question No 888 of 2002**

**COACH PARK REVENUE**

**SINCE APRIL 2002**

| <b><u>MONTH</u></b>  | <b><u>REVENUE</u></b> |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| April                | £ 9,790.00            |
| May                  | £10,720.00            |
| June                 | £ 8,100.00            |
| July                 | £ 8,190.00            |
| August               | £ 8,230.00            |
| September            | £10,660.00            |
| <b>Total Revenue</b> | <b>£55,690.00</b>     |

ORAL

**NO. 889 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**GIBRALTAR AIRPORT – LANDING CHARGES**

Can Government say what are the landing charges levied by the Ministry of Defence for commercial aircraft using Gibraltar airport as on 30<sup>th</sup> August 2002 and when was the last time this charge was increased?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT**

The present MOD landing fees came into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2002, and they are set out in schedule which I now hand over to the hon Member.

**Answer to Question 889 of 2002**

**RAF GIBRALTAR**

**COMBINED LANDING AND NAVIGATION FEES (EFFECTIVE FROM 1<sup>st</sup> APRIL 2002)**

Cheques to be made payable to: Public sub accountant HMG 01459714

| MTOW (KGS) | FEE (£) | MTOW (KGS) | FEE (£) | MTOW (KGS) | FEE (£) |
|------------|---------|------------|---------|------------|---------|
| 0 - 500    | 8.08    | 32000      | 517.76  | 67000      | 1084.06 |
| 501-1000   | 16.16   | 33000      | 533.94  | 68000      | 1100.24 |
| 1001-1500  | 24.24   | 34000      | 550.12  | 69000      | 1116.42 |
| 1501-2000  | 32.32   | 35000      | 566.30  | 70000      | 1132.60 |
| 2001-2500  | 40.40   | 36000      | 582.48  | 71000      | 1148.78 |
| 2501-3000  | 48.48   | 37000      | 598.66  | 72000      | 1164.96 |
| 3001-3500  | 56.56   | 38000      | 614.84  | 73000      | 1181.14 |
| 3501-4000  | 64.72   | 39000      | 631.02  | 74000      | 1197.32 |
| 5000       | 80.90   | 40000      | 647.20  | 75000      | 1213.50 |
| 6000       | 97.08   | 41000      | 663.38  | 76000      | 1229.68 |
| 7000       | 113.26  | 42000      | 679.56  | 77000      | 1245.86 |
| 8000       | 129.44  | 43000      | 695.74  | 78000      | 1262.04 |
| 9000       | 145.62  | 44000      | 711.92  | 79000      | 1278.22 |
| 10000      | 161.80  | 45000      | 728.10  | 80000      | 1294.40 |
| 11000      | 177.98  | 46000      | 744.28  | 81000      | 1310.58 |
| 12000      | 194.16  | 47000      | 760.46  | 82000      | 1326.76 |
| 13000      | 210.34  | 48000      | 776.64  | 83000      | 1342.94 |
| 14000      | 226.52  | 49000      | 792.82  | 84000      | 1359.12 |
| 15000      | 242.70  | 50000      | 809.00  | 85000      | 1375.30 |
| 16000      | 258.88  | 51000      | 825.18  | 86000      | 1391.48 |
| 17000      | 275.06  | 52000      | 841.36  | 87000      | 1407.66 |
| 18000      | 291.24  | 53000      | 857.54  | 88000      | 1423.84 |
| 19000      | 307.42  | 54000      | 873.72  | 89000      | 1440.02 |
| 20000      | 323.60  | 55000      | 889.90  | 90000      | 1456.20 |
| 21000      | 339.78  | 56000      | 906.08  | 91000      | 1472.38 |
| 22000      | 355.96  | 57000      | 922.26  | 92000      | 1488.56 |
| 23000      | 372.14  | 58000      | 938.44  | 93000      | 1504.74 |
| 24000      | 388.32  | 59000      | 954.62  | 94000      | 1520.92 |
| 25000      | 404.50  | 60000      | 970.80  | 95000      | 1537.10 |
| 26000      | 420.68  | 61000      | 986.98  | 96000      | 1553.28 |
| 27000      | 436.86  | 62000      | 1003.16 | 97000      | 1569.46 |
| 28000      | 453.04  | 63000      | 1019.34 | 98000      | 1585.64 |
| 29000      | 469.22  | 64000      | 1035.52 | 99000      | 1601.82 |
| 30000      | 485.40  | 65000      | 1051.70 | 100000     | 1618.00 |
| 31000      | 501.58  | 66000      | 1067.88 |            |         |

**Notes:**

1. Between 2300 and 0800 a 75% surcharge on landing fees is applicable.
2. Over 15000 no insurance charge. Under 15000, £8.50 if not in possession of MOD insurance certificate.

ORAL

**NO. 890 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**AIRLINES**

Can Government list the offers they have rejected from airlines interested in flying to Gibraltar on the basis of the level of subsidy required, listing the name of the airline, the amount of money they wanted, and the package of flights offered?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos 892 to 894 of 2002.

**NO. 891 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**AIRLINE ASSISTANCE SCHEME**

Have any funds been paid out of the airline assistance scheme and to what airline since 14<sup>th</sup> March 2002?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT**

Monies had been budgeted to assist an airline which had indicated that it was about to commence operations in Gibraltar in the financial year 2001/2002, and with which Government had discussed an in-principle agreement for support. The commencement of the service did not happen. The funds were therefore used to cover an overspend elsewhere in the Tourism I & DF vote. Under accounting instructions it is not possible to carry forward funding from one financial year to the next. The following amounts were paid out of the Airline Assistance Scheme since 14<sup>th</sup> March 2002.

|              |                                                    |                   |
|--------------|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 25.04.02     | Bland Ltd Airline Support period Feb to April 2002 | £15,000.00        |
| 25.04.02     | Monarch Airlines basic subsidy and extra flights   | £18,900.00        |
| 11.09.02     | GB Airways subsidy period Feb- March 2002          | £29,492.00        |
|              |                                                    | <hr/>             |
| <b>TOTAL</b> |                                                    | <b>£63,392.00</b> |
|              |                                                    | <hr/>             |

These were obviously payments in respect of the previous agreement that we had with them, at the moment there is no subsidy or support being given to any of the two airlines.



ORAL

**NO. 892 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**AIRLINES**

Can Government say whether they expect any of the four airlines that they have been having discussions with since February to commence operating from Gibraltar airport and if so when?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos 890, 893 and 894 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 893 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**AIRLINES**

Have the initial enquiries made by two new airlines in April now materialised into formal discussions?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos 890, 892 and 894 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 894 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**AIRLINES**

Can Government say whether, and if so when, they expect a resumption of air links between Gibraltar and Morocco?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT**

Government have no firm indication that the four airlines with which I have been in discussion will be commencing operations to Gibraltar in the short term. Discussions continue. Government are nevertheless hopeful that new operators will come on stream in due course, and that one route which will be re-opened will be between Gibraltar and Morocco. With regard to two further airlines which made preliminary enquiries, these have not as yet developed into formal discussions. However, I am not able to provide details of the support packages which prospective airlines have been discussing with Government, as to do so might negatively affect the negotiation process.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 890 TO 894 OF 2002**

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

The information requested in the question in relation to the packages offered to airlines related to offers which have already been rejected by the airline not to existing ones, is it not possible to give information on that basis?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

The reality is that none of the four airlines which I have mentioned have actually rejected any proposals put on the table, negotiations continue, one has to understand that operating or opening a new route is not something that an airline takes very lightly and it takes sometimes years for it to come to fruition. Negotiations still continue so therefore I am able to discuss the matter with him in private if he wishes but I do not think it would be prudent for me to open up discussions on this as I do not think it would be in our interest generally.

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

Question No 890 of 2002 is a separate question to the previous one on the four airlines, it is the Government that have chosen to answer them together but they are actually separate. This one is talking about not necessarily the four with which the Government are negotiating but previous airlines that may have come in the past.

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

I do not have this information anyway here with me I will definitely give it some thought and if need be I will write to him or maybe we can arrange and discuss the matter on a confidential basis.

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

It is information that we would welcome because we have often expressed concern about the question of air routes and it is something that we would like to see developed for the benefit of Gibraltar generally. The other question which I think is relevant to this is the issue of Fly Europa which we were told would be commencing operations to Gibraltar last year but then it became this year and then it was the summer, obviously it has not materialised and it is obvious that this was the airline that money was set aside for but does the Minister have any more information in relation to this venture and why is it that it is taking so long to get off the ground if you excuse the pun?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

The latest information I have on Fly Europa was as recent as maybe two weeks ago. I actually met them in the UK and basically I presume it was the reaction to an e-mail or letter I wrote to him basically saying that the Government was no longer going to keep their side of the agreement in protecting the idea of them operating from Manchester or Stansted in that if another operator or an opportunity arose elsewhere we would take that on board and not feel restricted or sort of sense of duty towards what had been agreed because I think time had elapsed and our patience was more than generous. I think subsequently there was a board meeting and a decision was taken that an announcement would be made at World Travel Market to start operations in April. I have heard so many stories as to when these starting dates are going to be that I take no serious view on this any more obviously the Government would welcome the start of Fly

Europa but I am not willing to jeopardise my own negotiations elsewhere as a result of it and I made it clear to the Managing Director that I was very happy to hear that the Board had decided that and that I was delighted to welcome him on the route to Gibraltar and that the Government would have to consider their financial commitments to that depending on where it was in respect of other negotiations if there was any at all. The reality is that there are other possibilities on air at the moment and so therefore I am sure that the industry which is a very small one has probably heard that something was afoot and therefore they wanted not to lose their slot but I am no longer going to stand up in public and say Fly Europa is coming to Gibraltar again, I think I have done it too many times and I have fallen flat on my face too many times as well. However, I can assure hon Members that it is Government priority and my own personal priority to ensure that we try and open up new routes for Gibraltar. It is not easy and if there is any views or any ideas that hon Members may have which may lend itself to assisting in this it would be very welcome. I have offered the same sort of opportunity to members of the UKGTA because at the end of the day tour operators want more access to Gibraltar, hoteliers in Gibraltar in the light of possible hotels opening want new routes to open up and I am saying to everybody 'yes okay' everybody looks at me it is ultimately my responsibility to deliver on that but if any hon Member has the will or the know how which may assist in any way or contact or whatever I am very happy to take that on board.

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

The Opposition Members' concern is that there seems to be endless unprotracted negotiations with different airlines. At one stage it was 17 different ones and announcements are made and then they do not happen so obviously it is something which concerns us but in relation to Fly Europa, may I ask, are they already licensed by the Civil Aviation Authority first and secondly on the possibilities of opening a route to Manchester or to the North of England or Scotland which I think would be very welcome is that envisaged in the other negotiations which the Minister is having?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

In the other negotiations in respect of?

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

The Minister said in respect of the four different airlines.

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

No. Manchester is and it is something that Fly Europa knows that if it does not include Manchester then the Government will not support their operation in any way, they can fly on a totally commercial and open real world and compete with others on the route but if they do include Manchester which they know is a must then they would get the Government support that they desire and look for?

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

Are they already licensed by the Civil Aviation Authority?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

The aircraft belongs to another company whom I am trying to remember the name and they are licensed. Fly Europa is leasing their craft it is already apparently operating from Luton airport to some German destination, the planes are already painted with Fly Europa colours but it is not Fly Europa per se that have the contact with the sole Aviation Authority but the lease, the actual owners of the aircraft from whom they are leasing the aircraft from, but not necessarily on the route to Gibraltar which has still not happened but not through any fault of the Civil Aviation Authorities because I can assure the House that I have done all my background work to see whether there was any stumbling block that was creating any problems for them within the Civil Aviation Authorities, that has not been the case but the owners of the aircraft are recognised by the Civil Aviation Authorities, they conform with various requirements that are needed it is a matter of putting in the application for the Gibraltar route which I believe they are now doing but I have said this enough times and I am not going to stand here defending Fly Europa again.

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

That is what I wanted to establish whether they were already licensed to fly the route to Gibraltar but it obviously transpires that they are not and that they are actually in the process of applying which is quite far away. In relation to the flight to Morocco, we have the Regional Airlines flight to Casablanca that did not work out are there any possibilities for establishing a concrete possibility of a flight to Tangier?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

The negotiations with Regional Airlines is on-going but the issue there is that they expect a level of support which I feel is totally disproportionate to the value of the route and therefore if the hon Member wishes I am happy to give him the figure in confidence and he will realise that I am taking the right decision but the reality is that they are asking for what I believe is an unreasonable request and it is not only that but the actual timing of the flights does not allow us to be able to encourage the day tripper to Gibraltar which I think is something that is important in both directions, it leaves Gibraltar late at night and comes into Gibraltar early in the morning or the other way around and therefore it just does not make sense for us as a destination where we want to encourage passengers to come in this direction not to go over to Morocco and the time-table that they have suggested is wrong it is the other way around to what we have suggested so that is the first stumbling block, then the finances which I think are fairly unreasonable. We are dealing with new people now and we are starting all over again in a number of areas but having said that it is only as recent as earlier this month that I had an operator that wanted to base its aircraft in Gibraltar and do the Tangier route and that I think is more reasonable more realistic for it to happen and that is why I have mentioned in my answer that I see maybe a Gibraltar/Tangier operation starting soon but these people

come, they talk, they discuss it, they go back, they do studies, they come back, it is an on-going process and the Government are not willing to throw money away down the route which really does not justify its expense.

ORAL

**NO. 895 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**TOURISM – PERSONS INTERVIEWED**

Can Government state of the number of persons who have been interviewed since 1<sup>st</sup> March 2002 inclusive, who said that they had stayed at a hotel, how many were interviewed at the airport, how many were interviewed at the land frontier, and 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 882 and 896 of 2002.



ORAL

**NO. 896 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**TOURISM - PERSONS INTERVIEWED**

Can Government say how many interviews with persons who said that they had stayed at a hotel have been carried out since 1<sup>st</sup> March 2002 inclusive, on a monthly basis, stating where they were interviewed and the number of interviewed at each location?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT**

I hand the hon Member a table giving the information requested.

**Answer to Question No 896 of 2002**

**INTERVIEWS OF PERSONS WHO DID NOT STAY AT HOTELS**

**MARCH – JUNE 2002**

| Month | Hotel | Airport | Port | Frontier | Waterport | Marina | Coach Park |
|-------|-------|---------|------|----------|-----------|--------|------------|
| March | 1,302 | 22      | 130  | 686      | -         | -      | 464        |
| April | 1,552 | 42      | 337  | 625      | 8         | 4      | 536        |
| May   | 1,737 | 58      | 477  | 663      | 1         | 2      | 536        |
| June  | 1,657 | 49      | 371  | 735      | -         | -      | 502        |

The figures for July, August and September are presently being inputted.

**INTERVIEWS OF PERSONS WHO STAYED AT HOTELS**

**MARCH – JUNE 2002**

| Month | No Of<br>Persons<br>Staying At<br>Hotels | Interviewed<br>At Airport | Average<br>Length Of<br>Stay (days) | Interviewed<br>At Frontier | Average<br>Length Of<br>Stay | Interviewed<br>At Port | Average<br>Length Of<br>Stay |
|-------|------------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| March | 8                                        | 8                         | 3.3                                 | -                          | -                            | -                      | -                            |
| April | 30                                       | 29                        | 5.4                                 | -                          | -                            | 1                      | 3.0                          |
| May   | 57                                       | 57                        | 4.2                                 | -                          | -                            | -                      | -                            |
| June  | 104                                      | 104                       | 6.4                                 | -                          | -                            | -                      | -                            |

The figures for July, August and September are presently being inputted.

ORAL

**NO. 897 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**GTB – MADRID OFFICE**

Can Government give the dates during which the Gibraltar Office in Madrid has been unmanned?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT**

I hand the hon Member a list with the information requested.

**LIST OF DATES WHEN THE GTB OFFICE IN MADRID WAS UNMANNED**

|          |          |    |        |          |
|----------|----------|----|--------|----------|
| Tuesday  | 16.10.01 | to | Friday | 26.10.01 |
| Monday   | 5 11. 01 | to | Friday | 30.11.01 |
| Friday   | 7.12.01  | to | Friday | 14.12.01 |
| Thursday | 20.12.01 | to | Friday | 4.01.02  |
| Monday   | 28.01.02 | to | Friday | 1.02.02  |
| Monday   | 11.2.02  | to | Friday | 22.02.02 |

|           |          |    |           |          |
|-----------|----------|----|-----------|----------|
| Tuesday   | 28.02.02 | to | Monday    | 18.03.02 |
| Friday    | 22.03.02 | to | Monday    | 08.04.02 |
| Monday    | 15.04.02 | to | Monday    | 29.04.02 |
| Friday    | 3.05.02  | to | Wednesday | 15.05.02 |
| Monday    | 20.05.02 | to | -----     |          |
| Wednesday | 22.05.02 | to | Monday    | 24.06.02 |
| Monday    | 1.07.02  | to | Monday    | 29.07.02 |
| Friday    | 2.08.02  | to | Tuesday   | 24.09.02 |

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 897 OF 2002**

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

Is it the intention of the Government to close the Gibraltar Office in Madrid?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

No that is not the case at all. I know that the list that I have given the hon Member obviously clearly points out that the office in Madrid has been closed for a good part of the last 12 months but these have been through circumstances of no choice. We had two officers in Madrid whose contract terminated in September 2001 and one particular officer decided not to renew his contract and gave the relevant notice and left after the three year contract. The other officer did renew the contract but unfortunately fell ill very shortly after renewing her second term and had to return back to Gibraltar. This was not a cold, she had a serious illness and therefore had to return back home. The idea of finding substitutes has not been easy. I am grateful and I would like to take this opportunity to thank some members of the GTB who are actually based here in Gibraltar who have agreed to go to Madrid and man the office on a temporary basis. Some of the functions of the Madrid office have actually been taken over by some of the management here and have had to undertake the work from Gibraltar but the reality is that it has not been easy to find people to go and take up those jobs and definitely those that worked here who we offered incentives to go to Madrid were not willing to deploy themselves to Madrid on a semi-permanent basis, some of them had family commitments which they were unwilling to uproot to go off to Madrid. At the same time if one recalls we did have vacancies advertised towards the earlier part of this year and unfortunately the Selection Board felt that none of the candidates that applied were

suitable and it was better to have the office unmanned than to have unsuitable people. I do not know whether the people who applied for what reason the Selection Board decided that they were not suitable for the job but I think that we need to understand that the office in Madrid is a delicate position to hold, it is too close to the heat and therefore we need to have people of certain characteristics and therefore nobody was selected. We have now subsequently re-advertised sometime towards the summer, we have been able to select one person and in fact that person is already in Madrid starting her job I think she started earlier on this month so the office is no longer unmanned and we hope to find a second body within the near future.

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

There are several issues which arise from all this. The Minister referred to the fact that there are two permanent members of staff employed and that it made the Government or earlier advertise for the post of an Office Administrator for which there were 16 applicants, 13 Gibraltarians, 2 British and 1 Spanish, these presumably were all people who were willing to put up 'with the heat' as the Minister described.....

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

That is not what I said, '...near the heat.'

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

Sorry, yes 'near the heat' .....

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

The hon Member has to realise that these people in Madrid Office get phone calls from the Spanish press, people that are not necessarily mean to be in Gibraltar's favour and therefore they need to be people who have a certain amount of characteristic and know how and sometimes young people are not suitable for that post. I would not even know who was interviewed on these, but the Selection Board were given a range of I presume guidelines which they needed to observe and if nobody was selected it was probably because they thought that nobody was fit at the job itself and that is the way it is and what one cannot do is select somebody when one knows that they are not appropriate on a three year contract and then boot them out a few months later or have somebody there for three years which is not really the sort of person that one wants there. I think one needs to be understanding, one needs to understand that through no choice of ours or myself that we have had an office there which has been unmanned for part of the year. Sometimes it is better to have the office unmanned than having it manned improperly.

**HON J C PEREZ:**

Given the amount of applicants for the post of Administrative Officer and given the amount of disgruntled highly qualified people that have been thrown out what is the criteria that the Government use in selection because the fact that they are young or the fact that they are .....I accept that there needs to be at least one person with a lot of tact in the office which is 'very near the heat' but there are some functions in the office that unless people do not start young to learn them they will never learn them and here we have a pool of 16 people none of which were selected whereas it might be a convenient thing for the Government to select them on the basis of trial periods to see whether they are good or not because what one hears outside is annoyance by people who think that they are very highly qualified and that they have applied for this job and that they have not been chosen notwithstanding the fact that the Madrid Office is empty and that no one has taken up the post. That is what one hears in the street from disgruntled people who have applied for the job, perhaps on a trial basis .....

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

I cannot comment for the decisions of the Selection Board the only thing that I can say is that no candidate was recommended and therefore I am not going to get myself involved in actually recommending somebody when I was not involved. I presume that they take the view of the selection and they do not look any further and I understand the point the hon Member is making but the Selection Board is not answerable to me in their decision and therefore I have a limited ability to be able to make them decide in any particular way.

**HON J C PEREZ:**

I am not suggesting it should decide on which of the 16 to take, let me put it clear it is nothing to do certainly with us and certainly the Minister on not to get involved in that but the only thing I am telling the Minister is that there is something wrong in the system when 16 people meet the requirements of qualifications that are needed, apply for a job, they are interviewed and none of the 16 are found to be suitable and because none of the 16 are found to be suitable we are paying a rent in an office in Madrid which remains empty because the criteria is so strict that although 16 qualified people have applied, qualified that is they held the requirements requested, none of them have been chosen. It seems to be a very odd situation and I think that although the Minister is right in saying that he cannot interfere in who gets the job he can certainly interfere in the criteria used by those selecting the person given the circumstances they are facing today.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

To what extent did the advert inviting applications contain anything as to the character requirements as opposed to the technical qualifications, did the people not know when they were applying for the job the kind of pressures that the job entailed?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

I am afraid I cannot answer that. I do not get myself involved in that sort of detail. I am sure that the brief prepared by the Chief Executive of the Gibraltar Tourist Board will probably have identified the sort of people that we are looking for a particular type of job in addition to qualifications or not, I would not know but let me say that the Selection Board when I heard personally myself that no nobody had been selected I actually tried and I said reconvene have a look because I am sure that not everybody can be totally inadequate. We have a situation where we have somebody who has left and we want to replace and somebody who has got ill through no fault of hers so we have a varied situation through no choice of ours, let us try and they came back and said that they were unwilling to recommend anybody that had been selected. I do not even know who was interviewed or who they were the only thing is that that is what we ended up with and so what we had to do is that when we found that that was going to be the case and it was going to take some time for a person to be replaced we started to get some of the middle management within the Tourist Board to go over and deal with certain matters as it was required. It was not and is not the best alternative but there was little we could do. I am glad to say that the matter now is solved from the point of view that we actually do have a body there now that has been appointed and in fact the lady that was there on contract but was not well is now better and has gone over with the person concerned in order to spend a bit of time to try and build her in but that person will have to come back to Gibraltar in a few weeks because she needs training in certain aspects of her job which will entail us manning the office with alternative members of staff, but one thing is asking somebody within the Tourist Board, "...would you go to Madrid for two weeks to fill in a post?" and one thing is to offer them to go for three months like we did try and do and nobody opted out, nobody wanted to go for three months, I can understand it. A lot of them are females they are mothers, they have got family commitments and therefore no matter what the offer is that it had to be a matter worth their while in order to make them go through such an inconvenience and hardship.

**ORAL**

**NO. 898 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**NUMBER OF PRIVATE MOTOR VEHICLES IMPORTED**

What was the value and number of private motor vehicles imported by:

- (a) individuals;
- (b) licensed dealers:

on a monthly basis since April 2002 inclusive?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos 899 and 900 of 2002.



**ORAL**

**NO. 899 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**NUMBER OF GOODS VEHICLES IMPORTED**

What was the value and number of goods vehicles imported by:

- (a) individuals;
- (b) licensed dealers;

on a monthly basis since April 2002 inclusive?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT**

Answered with Question Nos 898 and 900 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 900 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**NUMBER OF GOODS VEHICLES IMPORTED**

With regard to the financial years 2000-2001 and 2001 - 2002, can Government say:-

- (a) how many companies purchased and registered goods vehicles in each of those years, and
- (b) how many goods vehicles were registered in that time?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT**

The information sought in this question is too voluminous to read out in this House and the answer is being submitted to the hon Member in written format.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 898 TO 900 OF 2002**

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

In relation to Question No 900 of 2002, the figures supplied by the Minister for example, for the year 2000/2001 in terms of registration and purchase of goods vehicles show that there were 198 goods vehicles purchased in Gibraltar and that 249 were registered.

One figure is more than the other is it because they were from the previous financial year or what is the reason for that, why are there more registered than purchased?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

I really would not know. The only thing that I can think of is that maybe the goods vehicles purchased by companies I presume maybe they purchased 198 locally and then may be they registered 249 because they actually did not buy them locally I do not know, I am happy to find this out for him and write to him on the matter or answer the question later on in this session but I am afraid I would not know.

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

We would welcome an explanation either in writing or later on in this session because it does not make sense to us.

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

Yes, yes absolutely.

**Answer to Question No 900 of 2002**

(a) Value And Number Of Private Motor Vehicles Imported From April – August 2002

| INDIVIDUALS |        |                       | LICENSED DEALERS |                      |
|-------------|--------|-----------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| MONTH       | NUMBER | VALUE<br>(£ Thousand) | NUMBER           | VALUE<br>(£ MILLION) |
| April       | 15     | 41.3                  | 566              | 6.0                  |
| May         | 19     | 63.1                  | 720              | 8.4                  |
| June        | 16     | 42.8                  | 549              | 6.7                  |
| July        | 13     | 21.4                  | 741              | 8.7                  |
| August      | 20     | 42.9                  | 506              | 5.2                  |

(b) Value And Number Of Goods Vehicles Imported From April – August 2002

No goods vehicles were imported in this period by private individuals.

|        | LICENSED DEALERS |                        |
|--------|------------------|------------------------|
|        | Number           | Value<br>(£ thousands) |
| April  | -                | -                      |
| May    | 1                | 3                      |
| June   | 1                | 4                      |
| July   | 1                | 4                      |
| August | -                | -                      |

(c) Registration of Goods Vehicles 2000/2001 and 2001/2002

|                                       | <u>2000/2001</u> | <u>2001/2002</u> |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Goods vehicles purchased by companies | 198              | 96               |
| Goods vehicles registered             | 249              | 134              |

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**NO. 901 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**EUROPEAN INCENTIVE AND BUSINESS TRAVEL MARKET**

Can Government give the cost with a breakdown of attending the European Incentive and Business Travel Market (EITBM) in Geneva in May?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND TRANSPORT**

The information sought in this question is too voluminous to be read out in this House, nor would the hon Member be able to note the information given for the purposes of formulating supplementaries if it were read out. I therefore hand the hon Member a table giving the information requested.

**COSTS OF ATTENDING EXHIBITIONS**

**Answer to Question No 857 of 2002**

Seatrade Genoa –

|                          |           |
|--------------------------|-----------|
|                          | £         |
| Cost of Stand            | 13,652.00 |
| Air fares                | 2,843.60  |
| Subsistence and expenses | 3,599.12  |
|                          | <hr/>     |
|                          | 20,094.72 |
|                          | <hr/>     |

The delegation was made up of Messers A Poggio, J Bossino and A H Davis.

**Answer to Question No 864 of 2002**

|                                       |             |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| POSIDONIA -                           | £           |
| Cost of Stand                         | 11,979.00   |
| Air fares                             | 1,714.20    |
| Subsistence expenses                  | 972.84      |
|                                       | <hr/>       |
|                                       | 14,666.04   |
|                                       | <hr/>       |
| Less sponsorship from Maritime sector | (12,300.04) |
|                                       | <hr/>       |
|                                       | 2,366.04    |
|                                       | <hr/>       |

**Answer to Question No 901 of 2002**

|                  |           |
|------------------|-----------|
| EIBTM -          | £         |
| Cost of stand    | 37,682.96 |
| Travel and hotel | 2,123.74  |
| Literature       | 172.00    |
| Give-aways       | 838.50    |
|                  | <hr/>     |
|                  | 40,817.20 |
|                  | <hr/>     |

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 857, 864 AND 901 OF 2002**

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

With regards to the first of the three questions which the Minister answered together, No 857 of 2002, can the he state what fine-tuning to the Government's short and medium term cruise strategy has now taken place as a result of attending this convention?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

The convention was attended by Mr Albert Poggio, Mr Jimmy Bossino and Mr Tony Davis. The person who attended the conference itself was Mr Tony Davis. He gave me a report on his return as to what the overall market and trends were in cruising in the Mediterranean, also highlighted the need for Gibraltar to look at the improvement of its infrastructure in order to

be able to adhere to the growing sizes of ships that are due to come in to the market in the next two or three years from now and the need for us to make provisions for much bigger ships which are on the pipeline in this respect and also the need for us to be able to expand on the variety of tours that we actually have on offer in Gibraltar in order to ensure that we are able to offer a wider cross section of tours because the market is much more demanding. The idea of actually going on a rock tour is appealing but is appealing only to a sector of the market. Now they are looking for mountain climbing, scuba diving and God knows what so this is something that we are pre-warned about, we do not go to these conferences we have relationships directly with cruise operators and therefore these trends and these ways of thinking in the market is something that we are very much aware of prehand and that is why I convened a meeting of all shore excursion agents and operators and the possible tours in order for us to be able to go to Genoa with a new outlook and a new vision for Gibraltar in years to come and I think that was something that the market well received even though at the end of the day it is up to every individual and shore excursion agent in Gibraltar to sell its own wares to its principles. The Gibraltar Tourist Board can only encourage and provide and facilitate for these to happen. A particular type of tour that has been requested of us now which may seem a bit peculiar is the cigar club, people want to come and go and visit cigar clubs and smoke cigars while they are ashore. We are now looking to cigar suppliers in Gibraltar to see whether they can do something jointly in order to provide that sort of facility. So, they are targeting very, very specific needs. I have just used that as an example because that was one of the peculiar ones that Gibraltar may be able to deliver on but that was basically the thrust of the conference. One area that was obviously of great emphasis at the conference as well was the level of security in the aftermath of the 11<sup>th</sup> September. I think that this is something that every port is very conscious of and thank God that Gibraltar seems to have a good reputation for keeping a certain level of security which most operators feel comfortable with so this was another aspect that was very much at the forefront of the conference.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

In terms of the level of security in the Port of Gibraltar is this something that is exclusively looked at by Gibraltar or do we take advice or any technical help from UK on this?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

The reality of the situation is that MedCruise which is an association of which we are a member of has been tasked with one of its objectives by the European Union with European Union funding in order to advise and help and assist European members' ports in order to ensure that they come up to a reasonable level. The reality is that Gibraltar Port actually levelled up quite well in the security level scale of reputation so we are proud of what we have and I think this is very much recognised in the industry. We are looking and I would like to be able to say the name but it escapes me at the moment but there is an international maritime security organisation of some nature which assists ports into looking at the structures and in fact some ports have been tasked by these people to look at them because they are in a very, very low level recognition from the point of view of port security. We have taken the initiative that some time early next year we will be carrying out with the help of this organisation a complete overview of what we have for the sake of credibility and I think it just adds recognition to the fact that we have a system in place which is recognised and

supported and has been sort of looked at by this institution which gives credibility to the whole scheme. I am afraid the exact name of the organisation escapes me.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Is it UK based?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

Yes it is.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Did the convention in Genoa give an indication as to what is the trend in terms of cruises in the Mediterranean, is it sort of static or is it beginning as if it is going to start growing again or.....?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

No it has very much started to grow again and in fact in the year 2003/2004 the indications are that the volumes and growths will be up. I think everybody seems to believe that that is the case but obviously with the proviso of what may develop in the months to come but the general trend and the general programming that is going in to the different ports in the Med is that the Med is going to bounce back in the year 2003/2004.



**WRITTEN**

**NO. 902 OF 2002**

**THE HON S E LINARES**

**EDUCATION – THRESHOLD SALARIES**

Can Government state how many teachers have applied for the threshold salary and how many have been successful?

**ANSWER**

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

Answered together with Question No 903 of 2002.

WRITTEN

**NO. 903 OF 2002**

**THE HON S E LINARES**

**EDUCATION - THRESHOLD SALARIES**

Can Government state the amount of money that has been paid towards the threshold salaries to teachers?

**ANSWER**

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

**Answer to Question No 902 of 2002**

A total of 213 teachers applied for the threshold salary and were successful. Five teachers who would have been eligible to apply did not do so upon advice from their superiors. These teachers were advised to work on certain areas where they did not quite meet the standards and re-apply in the future.

**Answer to Question NO 903 of 2002**

In May 2002 £647,497.34 was paid towards the threshold salaries to teachers.

**WRITTEN**

**NO. 904 OF 2002**

**THE HON S E LINARES**

**EDUCATION - NUMBER OF TEACHERS**

Can Government state how many teachers are permanent and pensionable, permanent supply, casual supply and retired status?

**ANSWER**

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

There are currently 300 teachers in schools who are permanent and pensionable. There are another 23 P & P teachers at the College.

There are 24 full-time supply teachers in our schools (not counting those used for Maternity cover.)

Casual supply list : drawing on unemployed qualified teachers - 12.

The casual supply list varies but the core is made up of retired teachers – 8 in all.

There are more teachers on supply database who are only occasionally engaged.

**WRITTEN**

**NO. 905 OF 2002**

**THE HON S E LINARES**

**EDUCATION – BEHAVIOURAL SUPPORT TEAM**

Can Government state whether the three teachers who form part of the Behavioural Support Team are over and above the existing complement of teachers?

**ANSWER**

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

Yes.

**WRITTEN**

**NO. 906 OF 2002**

**THE HON S E LINARES**

**EDUCATION – TRAINING SCHEME**

Can Government state whether graduate students are eligible to apply to the Training Scheme?

**ANSWER**

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

The present policy is that graduate students are not eligible to be sponsored under the Government supported training schemes.

**WRITTEN**

**NO. 907 OF 2002**

**THE HON S E LINARES**

**EDUCATION – NUMBER OF LECTURERS AND TEACHERS**

Can Government give this House the list of lecturers and/or teachers together with their qualifications who are currently in :

- (a) College of Further Education;
- (b) Construction and Training Centre;
- (c) Bleak House?

**ANSWER**

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

I do not think that it is appropriate to issue the personalised information that the hon Member seeks across the floor of the House. I will however be happy to give it to him privately.

**WRITTEN**

**NO. 908 OF 2002**

**THE HON S E LINARES**

**EDUCATION – INCLUSION PROGRAMME**

Can Government state what is the ratio of children in the inclusion programme to classroom aides giving a breakdown by school?

**ANSWER**

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

Answered together with Question Nos 909 to 911 of 2002.

**WRITTEN**

**NO. 910 OF 2002**

**THE HON S E LINARES**

**EDUCATION - INCLUSION PROGRAMME**

Can Government state how many classroom aides are assigned to pupils who are in the inclusion programme?

**ANSWER**

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

Answered together with Question Nos 908, 909 and 911 of 2002.



**WRITTEN**

**NO. 911 OF 2002**

**THE HON S E LINARES**

**EDUCATION – INCLUSION PROGRAMME**

Can Government state how many children are in mainstream schools who were from other institutions and/or units who are in the inclusion programme?

**ANSWER**

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

**Answer to Question No 908 of 2002**

The extensive factual and statistical information requested by the hon Member is set out in the written schedule.

**Answer to Question No 909 of 2002**

The extensive factual and statistical information requested by the hon Member is set out in the written schedule.

**Answer to Question No 910 of 2002**

There are 19.6 classroom aides assigned to pupils who are in the inclusion programme.

**Answer to Question No 911 of 2002**

Twenty-four children in St Martin's Special School or Special Units or Child Development Centre are now either fully or partially integrated in Mainstream Schools.

**Answer to Question No 908 of 2002**

| School                           | No of Children | No of Teachers                   |
|----------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|
| Governor's Meadow                | 1              | C Teacher SENCo                  |
| Notre Dame & Nursery             | 19             | S U Teacher, SENCo & C Teacher   |
| St Bernard's First School        | 0              | -                                |
| St Joseph's & Nursery            | 6              | C Teacher, SENCo & 1 L S Teacher |
| St Mary's First                  | 1              | C Teacher, SENCo                 |
| St Paul's First School & Nursery | 6              | C Teacher, SENCo                 |
| Hebrew First School              | 0              | -                                |
| <b>Middle Schools</b>            |                |                                  |
| Bishop Fitzgerald                | 9              | 2 SU Teachers, SENCo, C Teacher  |
| Sacred Heart                     | 1              | C Teacher, SENCo                 |
| St Anne's                        | 14             | C Teacher, SENCo                 |
| St Joseph's                      | 0              |                                  |
| Hebrew                           | 0              | -                                |
| <b>Secondary Schools</b>         |                |                                  |
| Bayside                          | 15             | 1 S U Teacher, SENCo, C Teacher  |
| Westside                         | 5              | 1 S U Teacher, C Teacher         |
| <b>Special Schools</b>           |                |                                  |
| St Martin's                      | 8              | C Teacher, SENCo                 |
| Gibraltar College of FE          | 1              | C Teacher, SENCo                 |
| <b>Total Number of Children</b>  | <b>86</b>      |                                  |
| <b>Ratio</b>                     | <b>1:3</b>     |                                  |

**Answer to Question No 909 of 2002**

| School                           | No of Children | Classroom Aides          | Additional Information             |
|----------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>First Schools</b>             |                |                          |                                    |
| Governor's Meadow                | 1              | None                     |                                    |
| Notre Dame & Nursery             | 19             | 4 full time              | 1 Nursery Nurse & 1 Classroom Aide |
| St Bernard's First School        | 0              | None                     |                                    |
| St Joseph's Nursery              | 6              | 1 full-time, 3 part-time | 1 Nursery Nurse & Classroom Aide   |
| St Mary's First School           | 1              | None                     |                                    |
| St Paul's First School & Nursery | 6              | 1 full-time, 1 part-time | 1 Nursery Nurse & 1 Classroom Aide |
| Hebrew First School              | 0              | None                     |                                    |
| <b>Middle Schools</b>            |                |                          |                                    |
| Bishop Fitzgerald                | 9              | 1 full-time, 2 part-time |                                    |
| Sacred Heart                     | 1              | 1 full-time              |                                    |
| St Anne's                        | 14             | 1 full-time              | EBD Programme                      |
| St Joseph's                      | 0              | None                     |                                    |
| Hebrew Primary                   | 0              | None                     |                                    |
| <b>Secondary Schools</b>         |                |                          |                                    |
| Bayside School                   | 15             | 3 full-time              | 1 aide 1:1                         |
| Westside School                  | 5              | 2 full-time              | 1 aide 1:1                         |
| <b>Special Schools</b>           |                |                          |                                    |
| St Martin's                      | 8              | 2 full-time              | Outreach Programme                 |
| <b>Gibraltar College of FE</b>   | 1              | None                     |                                    |
| <b>Total No of children</b>      | <b>86</b>      |                          |                                    |
| <b>Ratio</b>                     | <b>1:4</b>     |                          |                                    |

**WRITTEN**

**NO. 912 OF 2002**

**THE HON S E LINARES**

**EDUCATION – GCSE RESULTS**

Can Government give a breakdown of the GCSE results, per school, subject, and number of students sitting each exam with the relevant grades obtained?

**ANSWER**

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

Answered together with Question Nos 913 and 914 of 2002.

**WRITTEN**

**NO. 913 OF 2002**

**THE HON S E LINARES**

**EDUCATION - A/S LEVEL RESULTS**

Can Government give a breakdown of the A/S results, per school, subject, and number of students sitting each exam with the relevant grades obtained?

**ANSWER**

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

Answered together with Question Nos 912 and 914 of 2002.

**WRITTEN**

**NO. 914 OF 2002**

**THE HON S E LINARES**

**EDUCATION – ‘A’ LEVEL RESULTS**

Can Government give a breakdown of the A level results, per school, subject, and number of students sitting each exam with the relevant grades obtained?

**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.

**ANSWER TO QUESTION 914 OF 2002****Answer to Question 912 of 2002****Bayside School****GCSE Results - 2002**

| Subject                           | A*         | A          | B          | C          | D          | E          | F         | G         | U         | %<br>A*- C Pass | No of<br>Entries |
|-----------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|------------------|
| Art                               | 1          | 5          | 4          | 4          | 1          | 0          | 0         | 0         | 0         | 93.3            | 15               |
| Business Studies                  | 5          | 4          | 3          | 1          | 3          | 0          | 1         | 0         | 1         | 72.2            | 18               |
| Design & Tech:Graphics            | 0          | 1          | 7          | 8          | 3          | 0          | 0         | 0         | 0         | 84.2            | 19               |
| Design & Tech:Materials           | 0          | 0          | 3          | 9          | 3          | 5          | 1         | 0         | 2         | 52.2            | 23               |
| Drama & Theatre Arts              | 0          | 2          | 7          | 1          | 0          | 0          | 0         | 0         | 0         | 100.0           | 10               |
| English                           | 3          | 18         | 46         | 36         | 19         | 8          | 0         | 0         | 0         | 79.2            | 130              |
| English Literature                | 3          | 22         | 17         | 0          | 1          | 0          | 0         | 0         | 0         | 97.7            | 43               |
| French                            | 7          | 10         | 9          | 1          | 0          | 0          | 0         | 0         | 0         | 100.0           | 27               |
| Geography                         | 0          | 0          | 4          | 4          | 2          | 0          | 1         | 0         | 0         | 72.7            | 11               |
| History                           | 0          | 4          | 6          | 11         | 3          | 5          | 4         | 1         | 0         | 61.8            | 34               |
| Home Economics (Food & Nutrition) | 1          | 1          | 2          | 3          | 1          | 2          | 0         | 0         | 0         | 70.0            | 10               |
| Information Technology            | 0          | 2          | 17         | 16         | 8          | 3          | 0         | 0         | 8         | 64.8            | 54               |
| Mathematics                       | 2          | 15         | 34         | 41         | 23         | 9          | 8         | 0         | 0         | 69.7            | 132              |
| Music                             | 0          | 0          | 2          | 4          | 1          | 0          | 0         | 0         | 0         | 85.7            | 7                |
| Office Applications               | 0          | 0          | 0          | 2          | 12         | 10         | 0         | 0         | 3         | 7.4             | 27               |
| Physical Education                | 1          | 5          | 0          | 2          | 4          | 5          | 0         | 0         | 0         | 47.1            | 17               |
| Religious Studies                 | 1          | 5          | 12         | 19         | 28         | 27         | 15        | 9         | 6         | 30.3            | 122              |
| Science:Single Award              | 0          | 0          | 0          | 3          | 8          | 10         | 7         | 3         | 0         | 9.7             | 31               |
| Science:Double Award              | 6          | 14         | 30         | 72         | 20         | 12         | 2         | 0         | 0         | 78.2            | 156              |
| Science:Biology                   | 2          | 3          | 5          | 1          | 1          | 1          | 0         | 0         | 0         | 84.6            | 13               |
| Science:Chemistry                 | 2          | 5          | 3          | 2          | 0          | 0          | 0         | 0         | 0         | 100.0           | 12               |
| Science:Physics                   | 7          | 3          | 1          | 1          | 0          | 0          | 0         | 0         | 0         | 100.0           | 12               |
| Sociology                         | 1          | 2          | 1          | 4          | 2          | 1          | 1         | 0         | 0         | 66.7            | 12               |
| Spanish                           | 96         | 18         | 7          | 8          | 4          | 2          | 0         | 0         | 0         | 95.6            | 135              |
| <b>Totals</b>                     | <b>138</b> | <b>139</b> | <b>220</b> | <b>253</b> | <b>147</b> | <b>100</b> | <b>40</b> | <b>13</b> | <b>20</b> | <b>70.1</b>     | <b>1070</b>      |

Cont'd....

## Westside School

### GCSE Results - 2002

| Subject              | A*         | A          | B          | C          | D          | E         | F         | G         | U        | %<br>A* - C Pass | No of<br>Entries |
|----------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|------------------|------------------|
| Art                  | 4          | 5          | 10         | 5          | 2          | 4         | 3         | 4         | 2        | 61.5             | 39               |
| Business Studies     | 6          | 5          | 4          | 5          | 18         | 6         | 7         | 0         | 1        | 38.5             | 52               |
| Child Development    | 2          | 4          | 3          | 19         | 5          | 5         | 3         | 1         | 1        | 65.1             | 43               |
| Drama                | 0          | 4          | 15         | 7          | 0          | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0        | 100.0            | 26               |
| Economics            | 0          | 2          | 1          | 2          | 4          | 0         | 2         | 0         | 0        | 45.5             | 11               |
| English              | 5          | 21         | 39         | 27         | 35         | 18        | 1         | 0         | 0        | 63.0             | 146              |
| English Literature   | 4          | 20         | 35         | 12         | 2          | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0        | 97.3             | 73               |
| French               | 4          | 15         | 15         | 3          | 1          | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0        | 97.4             | 38               |
| Geography            | 0          | 4          | 9          | 7          | 8          | 2         | 3         | 2         | 0        | 57.1             | 35               |
| History              | 5          | 11         | 15         | 13         | 6          | 1         | 3         | 0         | 1        | 80.0             | 55               |
| Home Economics(Food) | 0          | 0          | 2          | 11         | 1          | 0         | 0         | 1         | 0        | 86.7             | 15               |
| Mathematics          | 11         | 15         | 46         | 37         | 16         | 13        | 5         | 3         | 1        | 74.1             | 147              |
| Music                | 0          | 0          | 2          | 1          | 1          | 1         | 1         | 0         | 0        | 50.0             | 6                |
| Physical Education   | 0          | 3          | 5          | 5          | 2          | 1         | 0         | 0         | 0        | 81.3             | 16               |
| Religious Studies    | 2          | 11         | 22         | 20         | 13         | 10        | 1         | 1         | 0        | 68.8             | 80               |
| Science:Double Award | 14         | 24         | 24         | 46         | 16         | 4         | 0         | 0         | 0        | 84.4             | 128              |
| Science:Single Award | 2          | 7          | 5          | 18         | 21         | 19        | 9         | 2         | 1        | 38.1             | 84               |
| Spanish              | 11         | 21         | 4          | 7          | 3          | 1         | 0         | 0         | 0        | 97.3             | 147              |
| <b>Totals</b>        | <b>170</b> | <b>172</b> | <b>256</b> | <b>245</b> | <b>154</b> | <b>85</b> | <b>38</b> | <b>14</b> | <b>7</b> | <b>73.9</b>      | <b>1141</b>      |



**CONT'D ANSWER TO QUESTION 914 OF 2002**

Cont'd Answer to Question 912

**Gibraltar College of FE**

**GCSE Results - 2002**

| Subject          | A* | A  | B | C  | D  | E  | F | G | U | %<br>A*- C Pass | No of<br>Entries |
|------------------|----|----|---|----|----|----|---|---|---|-----------------|------------------|
| English (GCE)    | 0  | 1  | 2 | 5  | 4  | 4  | 0 | 0 | 0 | 50.0            | 16               |
| Spanish          | 0  | 13 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0 | 0 | 0 | 100.0           | 13               |
| Italian          | 0  | 4  | 0 | 0  | 1  | 0  | 0 | 0 | 0 | 80.0            | 5                |
| Mathematics      | 0  | 0  | 3 | 10 | 15 | 16 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 25.0            | 51               |
| Science: Biology | 0  | 0  | 1 | 1  | 3  | 0  | 0 | 0 | 0 | 25.0            | 5                |
| French           | 0  | 3  | 0 | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0 | 0 | 0 | 100.0           | 3                |
|                  |    |    |   |    |    |    |   |   |   |                 |                  |
| Totals           | 0  | 21 | 6 | 16 | 23 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 46.0            | 93               |

**CONT'D ANSWER TO QUESTION 914 OF 2002****Answer to Question 913**

Bayside School

GCE 'AS' Level Results - Summer 2002

| <b>Subject</b>                    | <b>A</b>  | <b>B</b>  | <b>C</b>  | <b>D</b>  | <b>E</b>  | <b>No of<br/>Passes</b> | <b>U</b>  | <b>Total No<br/>of entries</b> | <b>Percentage<br/>A-E Pass</b> |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Art & Design                      | 4         | 2         | 2         | 0         | 0         | 8                       | 0         | 8                              | 100                            |
| Biology                           | 5         | 2         | 2         | 4         | 7         | 20                      | 4         | 24                             | 83                             |
| Business Studies                  | 0         | 1         | 2         | 2         | 1         | 6                       | 0         | 6                              | 100                            |
| Chemistry                         | 9         | 1         | 2         | 3         | 0         | 15                      | 0         | 15                             | 100                            |
| Computing                         | 3         | 2         | 4         | 0         | 4         | 13                      | 2         | 15                             | 87                             |
| Design & Technology               | 0         | 0         | 0         | 1         | 0         | 1                       | 0         | 1                              | 100                            |
| English Literature                | 3         | 5         | 5         | 6         | 1         | 20                      | 0         | 20                             | 100                            |
| French                            | 14        | 1         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 15                      | 0         | 15                             | 100                            |
| Geography                         | 2         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 1         | 3                       | 0         | 3                              | 100                            |
| History                           | 1         | 3         | 1         | 4         | 5         | 14                      | 0         | 14                             | 100                            |
| Mathematics (Applied)             | 5         | 4         | 1         | 2         | 0         | 12                      | 2         | 14                             | 86                             |
| Music                             | 0         | 0         | 1         | 0         | 1         | 2                       | 0         | 2                              | 100                            |
| Physical Education/Sports Studies | 0         | 1         | 2         | 2         | 2         | 7                       | 0         | 7                              | 100                            |
| Physics                           | 9         | 2         | 1         | 3         | 3         | 18                      | 2         | 20                             | 90                             |
| Religious Studies                 | 0         | 1         | 1         | 0         | 0         | 2                       | 0         | 2                              | 100                            |
| Sociology                         | 0         | 0         | 2         | 0         | 1         | 3                       | 1         | 4                              | 75                             |
| Spanish                           | 39        | 14        | 1         | 1         | 1         | 56                      | 1         | 57                             | 98                             |
|                                   |           |           |           |           |           |                         |           | 0                              |                                |
| <b>Totals</b>                     | <b>94</b> | <b>39</b> | <b>27</b> | <b>28</b> | <b>27</b> | <b>215</b>              | <b>12</b> | <b>227</b>                     | <b>94.7</b>                    |

**CONT'D ANSWER TO QUESTION 914 OF 2002**

**Cont'd Answer to Question 913**

Westside School

GCE 'AS' Level Results - Summer 2002

| Subject                           | A          | B         | C         | D         | E         | No of<br>Passes | U         | Total No<br>of entries | Percentage<br>Pass |
|-----------------------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|-----------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Art                               | 8          | 0         | 0         | 3         | 1         | 12              | 0         | 12                     | 100                |
| Biology                           | 6          | 6         | 4         | 3         | 6         | 25              | 7         | 32                     | 78                 |
| Business Studies                  | 2          | 1         | 4         | 3         | 2         | 12              | 2         | 14                     | 86                 |
| Chemistry                         | 5          | 3         | 0         | 2         | 1         | 11              | 0         | 11                     | 100                |
| Economics                         | 4          | 2         | 1         | 0         | 0         | 7               | 0         | 7                      | 100                |
| English                           | 8          | 4         | 7         | 6         | 3         | 28              | 2         | 30                     | 93                 |
| French                            | 11         | 3         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 14              | 0         | 14                     | 100                |
| Geography                         | 1          | 3         | 0         | 1         | 2         | 7               | 1         | 8                      | 88                 |
| History                           | 1          | 7         | 6         | 2         | 2         | 18              | 0         | 18                     | 100                |
| History of Art                    | 1          | 3         | 5         | 6         | 1         | 16              | 2         | 18                     | 89                 |
| Mathematics                       | 6          | 3         | 0         | 1         | 0         | 10              | 0         | 10                     | 100                |
| Physical Education/Sports Studies | 2          | 7         | 3         | 2         | 0         | 14              | 0         | 14                     | 100                |
| Physics                           | 4          | 1         | 1         | 0         | 1         | 7               | 0         | 7                      | 100                |
| Religious Studies                 | 0          | 0         | 2         | 3         | 0         | 5               | 0         | 5                      | 100                |
| Spanish                           | 53         | 22        | 8         | 4         | 1         | 88              | 0         | 88                     | 100                |
|                                   |            |           |           |           |           |                 |           | 0                      |                    |
| <b>Totals</b>                     | <b>112</b> | <b>65</b> | <b>41</b> | <b>36</b> | <b>20</b> | <b>274</b>      | <b>14</b> | <b>288</b>             | <b>95.1</b>        |

**CONT'D ANSWER TO QUESITON 914 OF 2002**

**Cont'd Answer to Question 913**

**GIBRALTAR COLLEGE OF FE**

**GCE 'AS' Level Results - Summer 2001**

| Subject          | A  | B  | C  | D | E | No of<br>Passes | U/X | Total No<br>of entries | Percentage<br>Pass |
|------------------|----|----|----|---|---|-----------------|-----|------------------------|--------------------|
| Spanish          | 15 | 22 | 6  | 4 | 1 | 48              | 4   | 52                     | 92                 |
| Economics        | 0  | 0  | 1  | 0 | 1 | 2               | 2   | 4                      | 50                 |
| Business Studies | 0  | 1  | 2  | 2 | 1 | 6               | 0   | 6                      | 100                |
| Psychology       | 0  | 0  | 1  | 0 | 1 | 2               | 4   | 6                      | 33                 |
| Totals           | 15 | 23 | 10 | 6 | 4 | 58              | 10  | 68                     | 85                 |

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**CONT'D ANSWER TO QUESTION 914 OF 2002**

**Answer to Question 914 of 2002**

Bayside School

GCE 'A' Level Results - 2002

| Subject             | A         | B         | C         | D         | E         | No of<br>Passes | N/O      | U/F      | Total No<br>of entries | Percentage<br>A-E Pass |
|---------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|----------|----------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Art & Design        | 4         | 1         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 5               | 0        | 0        | 5                      | 100                    |
| Biology             | 2         | 5         | 2         | 2         | 2         | 13              | 0        | 1        | 14                     | 93                     |
| Business Studies    | 0         | 2         | 3         | 0         | 0         | 5               | 0        | 0        | 5                      | 100                    |
| Chemistry           | 3         | 1         | 2         | 3         | 0         | 9               | 0        | 0        | 9                      | 100                    |
| Computing           | 1         | 1         | 6         | 5         | 1         | 14              | 0        | 0        | 14                     | 100                    |
| Design & Technology | 2         | 0         | 1         | 3         | 1         | 7               | 0        | 0        | 7                      | 100                    |
| English Literature  | 1         | 1         | 2         | 0         | 0         | 4               | 0        | 0        | 4                      | 100                    |
| French              | 5         | 2         | 2         | 0         | 0         | 9               | 0        | 0        | 9                      | 100                    |
| Geography           | 0         | 2         | 0         | 2         | 0         | 4               | 0        | 0        | 4                      | 100                    |
| History             | 1         | 0         | 0         | 1         | 0         | 2               | 0        | 0        | 2                      | 100                    |
| Mathematics         | 4         | 1         | 2         | 1         | 0         | 8               | 0        | 0        | 8                      | 100                    |
| Music               | 0         | 0         | 1         | 0         | 2         | 3               | 0        | 0        | 3                      | 100                    |
| Physics             | 4         | 5         | 4         | 1         | 1         | 15              | 0        | 0        | 15                     | 100                    |
| Psychology          | 0         | 0         | 0         | 1         | 1         | 2               | 0        | 0        | 2                      | 100                    |
| Religious Studies   | 0         | 0         | 0         | 1         | 0         | 1               | 0        | 0        | 1                      | 100                    |
| Sociology           | 0         | 1         | 2         | 2         | 1         | 6               | 0        | 0        | 6                      | 100                    |
| Spanish             | 24        | 10        | 3         | 0         | 0         | 37              | 0        | 0        | 37                     | 100                    |
| Sports Studies & PE | 1         | 0         | 2         | 1         | 1         | 5               | 0        | 0        | 5                      | 100                    |
| <b>Totals</b>       | <b>52</b> | <b>32</b> | <b>32</b> | <b>23</b> | <b>10</b> | <b>149</b>      | <b>0</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>150</b>             | <b>99</b>              |

**CONT'D ANSWER TO QUESTION 914 OF 2002**

**Cont'd Answer to Question 914**

Westside School

GCE 'A' Level Results - 2002

| Subject           | A  | B  | C  | D  | E  | No of<br>Passes | N/O | U/F | Total No<br>of entries | Percentage<br>Pass |
|-------------------|----|----|----|----|----|-----------------|-----|-----|------------------------|--------------------|
| Art               | 4  | 3  | 1  | 0  | 1  | 9               | 0   | 0   | 9                      | 100                |
| Biology           | 2  | 5  | 7  | 5  | 6  | 25              | 0   | 1   | 26                     | 96                 |
| Business Studies  | 0  | 2  | 5  | 6  | 1  | 14              | 0   | 3   | 17                     | 82                 |
| Chemistry         | 0  | 3  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 3               | 0   | 2   | 5                      | 60                 |
| Economics         | 0  | 0  | 3  | 1  | 0  | 4               | 0   | 0   | 4                      | 100                |
| English           | 6  | 2  | 11 | 4  | 3  | 26              | 0   | 0   | 26                     | 100                |
| French            | 1  | 3  | 4  | 3  | 0  | 11              | 0   | 0   | 11                     | 100                |
| Geography         | 2  | 0  | 5  | 1  | 0  | 8               | 0   | 0   | 8                      | 100                |
| History           | 5  | 3  | 3  | 0  | 0  | 11              | 0   | 0   | 11                     | 100                |
| History of Art    | 1  | 1  | 7  | 2  | 2  | 13              | 0   | 4   | 17                     | 76                 |
| Mathematics       | 1  | 1  | 3  | 0  | 0  | 5               | 0   | 0   | 5                      | 100                |
| Music             | 0  | 1  | 1  | 0  | 0  | 2               | 0   | 0   | 2                      | 100                |
| Physics           | 0  | 2  | 1  | 0  | 2  | 5               | 0   | 1   | 6                      | 83                 |
| Religious Studies | 0  | 1  | 1  | 0  | 0  | 2               | 0   | 0   | 2                      | 100                |
| Spanish           | 48 | 18 | 4  | 0  | 0  | 70              | 0   | 0   | 70                     | 100                |
| Sports Studies/PE | 1  | 3  | 6  | 2  | 2  | 14              | 0   | 1   | 15                     | 93                 |
| Totals            | 71 | 48 | 62 | 24 | 17 | 222             | 0   | 12  | 234                    | 95                 |

**WRITTEN**

**NO. 915 OF 2002**

**THE HON S E LINARES**

**WESTSIDE SCHOOL**

Can Government state whether Westside is now offering IT at GCSE level and whether IT will be offered at A/S and A level?

**ANSWER**

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

Yes.

**WRITTEN**

**NO. 916 OF 2002**

**THE HON S E LINARES**

**EDUCATION – MANDATORY GRANTS**

Can Government state how many students have been awarded mandatory grants this year and what subject and institution they have chosen to study?

**ANSWER**

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

A total of 129 students have been awarded mandatory scholarships this year. The extensive, factual and statistical information requested by the hon Member is set out in the written schedule.



Mandatory awards by subject 2002/2003

Answer to Question 916 of 2002

|    | <i>No of yrs</i> | <i>Subject</i>                              | <i>Qualification</i> | <i>Institution</i>                                          |
|----|------------------|---------------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1  | 3                | Accounting                                  | BAEcon               | University of Manchester                                    |
| 2  | 3                | Accounting & Finance                        | BA(Hons)             | Kingston University                                         |
| 3  | 3                | Accounting & Finance                        | BA                   | Nottingham Trent University                                 |
| 4  | 3                | Accounting & Finance                        | BA(Hons)             | Kingston University                                         |
| 5  | 4                | Accounting & Finance                        | BA                   | University of Leeds                                         |
| 6  | 4                | Accounting & Law                            | BA                   | Manchester University                                       |
| 7  | 4                | Aerospace Engineering                       | MEng                 | Southampton University                                      |
| 8  | 3                | Applied Community and Youth Studies         | BA(Hons)             | University of Derby                                         |
| 9  | 3                | Applied Youth & Community Studies           | BA(Hons)             | Derby University                                            |
| 10 | 3                | Architectural Technology                    | BSc                  | Leeds Metropolitan University                               |
| 11 | 3                | Architectural Technology                    | BA(Hons)             | Southampton Institute                                       |
| 12 | 4                | Art & Design                                | BA                   | London Guildhall University                                 |
| 13 | 2                | Beauty Therapy                              | HND                  | Birmingham College of Food, Tourism & Creative Studies      |
| 14 | 4                | Biomedical Sciences                         | BSc                  | Brighton University                                         |
| 15 | 2                | Business & Finance                          | HND                  | Salford University                                          |
| 16 | 4                | Business Administration and Psychology      | BA                   | Aston University                                            |
| 17 | 2                | Business and Finance                        | HND                  | Salford University                                          |
| 18 | 4                | Business and Financial Services             | BA                   | Nottingham Trent University                                 |
| 19 | 2                | Business and Marketing                      | HND                  | Southampton Institute                                       |
| 20 | 4                | Business in Europe - French Route           | BA(Hons)             | Manchester Metropolitan University                          |
| 21 | 4                | Business Information Systems                | BA(Hons)             | Nottingham Trent University                                 |
| 22 | 3                | Business Management                         | BA(Hons)             | Kingston University                                         |
| 23 | 2                | Business Studies                            | HND                  | Southampton Institute                                       |
| 24 | 4                | Business Studies with Marketing             | BA(Hons)             | University of Brighton                                      |
| 25 | 3                | Business Studies with Tourism               | BA                   | Canterbury Christ Church University College                 |
| 26 | 4                | Childhood Studies                           | BA(Hons)/PGCE        | University College Chichester                               |
| 27 | 3                | Christian Ministry                          | BA                   | St Martin's College                                         |
| 28 | 3                | Computer Network Management                 | BSc(Hons)            | Southampton Institute                                       |
| 29 | 3                | Computer Network Management                 | BSc                  | Southampton Institute                                       |
| 30 | 4                | Computer Science                            | BSc                  | University of Manchester Institute for Science & Technology |
| 31 | 3                | Computer Studies                            | BSc(Hons)            | Southampton Institute                                       |
| 32 | 3                | Computer Studies                            | BSc(Hons)            | Southampton Institute                                       |
| 33 | 2                | Computing                                   | HND                  | Southampton Institute                                       |
| 34 | 2                | Computing                                   | HND                  | Southampton Institute                                       |
| 35 | 2                | Computing (Business Information Technology) | HND                  | Southampton Institute                                       |

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Mandatory awards by subject 2002/2003

|    |   |                                             |              |                                             |
|----|---|---------------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------------|
| 36 | 4 | Computing and Management                    | BSc          | Loughborough University                     |
| 37 | 4 | Dance                                       | BA/PGCE      | University of Surrey, Roehampton            |
| 38 | 3 | Dance Studies with Psychology               | BA(Hons)     | University of Surrey                        |
| 39 | 2 | Dental Hygiene                              | Diploma      | Guy, Kings & St Thomas' School of Dentistry |
| 40 | 5 | Dentistry                                   | BDS          | University of Bristol                       |
| 41 | 3 | Design Studies                              | BA(Hons)     | Southampton Institute                       |
| 42 | 4 | Dietetics                                   | BSc          | Nottingham University                       |
| 43 | 3 | E-Commerce with IT                          | BSc          | Coventry University                         |
| 44 | 4 | Education and Employment & English          | BA/PGCE      | St Mary's College                           |
| 45 | 4 | Education with History                      | BA(Hons)     | University of Central England, Birmingham   |
| 46 | 4 | Engineering                                 | BEng         | Birmingham University                       |
| 47 | 4 | English                                     | BA(Hons)     | University of Leeds                         |
| 48 | 3 | English and American Literature             | BA           | University of Kent at Canterbury            |
| 49 | 4 | English and Italian                         | BA           | University of Reading                       |
| 50 | 4 | Equine Studies                              | BA           | Warwickshire College                        |
| 51 | 4 | European Legal Studies                      | LLB          | University of Kent at Canterbury            |
| 52 | 4 | Fine Arts                                   | BA           | Reading University                          |
| 53 | 1 | Foundation Studies in Art & Design          | BTEC Diploma | Loughborough University                     |
| 54 | 4 | French and Spanish                          | BA           | Cardiff University                          |
| 55 | 2 | Health Studies                              | Diploma      | Newcastle College                           |
| 56 | 4 | Industrial Design                           | BSc          | Brunel University                           |
| 57 | 2 | Information Technology                      | HND          | Kingston University                         |
| 58 | 4 | Interactive Multimedia                      | BA(Hons)     | Staffordshire University                    |
| 59 | 4 | Interactive Multimedia                      | BA           | Staffordshire University                    |
| 60 | 4 | International Management & Modern Languages | BSc(Hons)    | Bath University                             |
| 61 | 4 | Internet Computing                          | BSc          | University of Exeter                        |
| 62 | 3 | Jurisprudence                               | BA           | Oriel College, Oxford University            |
| 63 | 3 | Law                                         | LLB          | University College, London                  |
| 64 | 3 | Law                                         | LLB          | University of Surrey                        |
| 65 | 3 | Law                                         | LLB          | Cardiff University                          |
| 66 | 3 | Law                                         | LLB          | Manchester Metropolitan University          |
| 67 | 3 | Law                                         | LLB          | Queen Mary, University of London            |
| 68 | 3 | Law                                         | LLB          | Nottingham Trent University                 |
| 69 | 3 | Law                                         | LLB          | Leeds University                            |
| 70 | 4 | Law                                         | LLB          | University of Kent at Canterbury            |
| 71 | 4 | Law                                         | LLB          | University of Kent at Canterbury            |

Mandatory awards by subject 2002/2003

|     |     |                                               |               |                                                 |
|-----|-----|-----------------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| 72  | 4   | Law                                           | LLB           | University of Kent at Canterbury                |
| 73  | 4   | Law                                           | LLB           | London School of Economics & Political Science  |
| 74  | 4   | Law and Accounting                            | BA            | University of Kent at Canterbury                |
| 75  | 4+1 | Law and Spanish                               | LLB           | Cardiff University                              |
| 76  | 2   | Leisure Management                            | HND           | Southampton Institute                           |
| 77  | 4   | Management and Tourism                        | BSc           | University of Surrey                            |
| 78  | 3   | Marine Biology                                | BSc           | University of Wales, Swansea                    |
| 79  | 4   | Marketing Management                          | BA(Hons)      | Manchester Metropolitan University              |
| 80  | 3   | Mathematic, Operational Research & Statistics | BSc           | Cardiff University                              |
| 81  | 4   | Mathematics                                   | BSc           | University of Leeds                             |
| 82  | 3   | Medical Science                               | BSc           | St Andrew's University                          |
| 83  | 5   | Medicine                                      | MBChB         | Manchester University                           |
| 84  | 5   | Medicine                                      | MBBS          | Kings College London                            |
| 85  | 3   | Midwifery                                     | BMid          | University of Wales, Swansea                    |
| 86  | 3   | Midwifery                                     | BMid(Hons)    | Keele University                                |
| 87  | 3   | Midwifery                                     | BSc           | University of West of England, Bristol          |
| 88  | 4   | Multimedia Technology & Design                | BSc(Hons)     | University of Kent at Canterbury                |
| 89  | 3   | Music                                         | BA            | Bath Spa University College                     |
| 90  | 4   | Music                                         | BA(Hons)/PGCE | Southampton University                          |
| 91  | 2   | Music Technology & Sound Engineering          | HND           | The People's College, Nottingham                |
| 92  | 3   | Nursing                                       | BN            | University of Wales, Swansea                    |
| 93  | 5   | Physics                                       | MPhys (Dis)   | Loughborough University                         |
| 94  | 3   | Physiotherapy                                 | BSc(Hons)     | Keele University                                |
| 95  | 3   | Physiotherapy                                 | BSc           | University of Nottingham                        |
| 96  | 3   | Physiotherapy                                 | BSc           | University of Brighton                          |
| 97  | 3   | Physiotherapy                                 | BSc(Hons)     | University of the West of England, Bristol      |
| 98  | 4   | Physiotherapy                                 | BSc           | Glasgow Caledonian University                   |
| 99  | 3   | Primary Education                             | BA(Hons)      | University College Northampton                  |
| 100 | 4   | Primary Education                             | BA            | Brighton University                             |
| 101 | 4   | Primary Education                             | BA(Hons)      | Brighton University                             |
| 102 | 4   | Primary Education                             | BA(Hons)      | Brighton University                             |
| 103 | 3   | Primary Education with QTS                    | BA(Hons)      | University College Northampton                  |
| 104 | 4   | Primary Teaching with PE                      | BA            | Brighton University                             |
| 105 | 4   | Product Design                                | BSc(Hons)     | Nottingham Trent University                     |
| 106 | 3   | Product Design                                | BA            | Nottingham Trent University                     |
| 107 | 3   | Professional Catering                         | GNVQ          | Guildford College of Further & Higher Education |

Mandatory awards by subject 2002/2003

|     |   |                                             |             |                                                    |
|-----|---|---------------------------------------------|-------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| 108 | 3 | Psychology                                  | BA          | Cardiff University                                 |
| 109 | 3 | Psychology                                  | BSc         | Greenwich University                               |
| 110 | 3 | Psychology                                  | BSc         | Kingston University                                |
| 111 | 3 | Psychology                                  | BSc(Hons)   | Luton University                                   |
| 112 | 3 | Psychology with Physiological Sciences      | BSc(Hons)   | Worcester College                                  |
| 113 | 3 | Public Relations & Communication            | BA(Hons)    | Southampton Institute                              |
| 114 | 3 | Sociology and History                       | BA          | Glamorgan University                               |
| 115 | 3 | Sociology with Photography                  | BA          | Sunderland University                              |
| 116 | 4 | Spanish & English                           | BA(Hons)    | University of Wales, Swansea                       |
| 117 | 3 | Sport Management & Rugby Studies            | BA          | Buckinghamshire Chilterns University College       |
| 118 | 3 | Sport Studies                               | BSc         | University College Northampton                     |
| 119 | 3 | Sports Industry Management & Tennis Studies | BA          | Buckinghamshire Chilterns University College       |
| 120 | 4 | Sports Science                              | BSc/PGCE    | Brighton University                                |
| 121 | 3 | Sports Therapy                              | BSc         | University of Hertfordshire                        |
| 122 | 3 | Television and Film Design                  | BA          | University of Lincoln                              |
| 123 | 3 | Theology                                    | BA          | University of Bristol                              |
| 124 | 3 | Theology/Politics                           | BA          | Bristol University                                 |
| 125 | 3 | Tourism Management                          | BA          | Salford University                                 |
| 126 | 2 | Travel & Tourism Management                 | HND         | Thames Valley University                           |
| 127 | 4 | Upper Primary with Physical Education       | BA          | Trinity and All Saints College                     |
| 128 | 5 | Veterinary Medicine                         | BVetMed     | The Royal Veterinary College, University of London |
| 129 | 6 | Veterinary Medicine                         | BSc BVetMed | Bristol University                                 |

Mandatory awards by institution 2002/2003

|    | <i>No of yrs</i> | <i>Subject</i>                                | <i>Qualification</i> | <i>Institution</i>                                     |
|----|------------------|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| 1  | 4                | Business Administration and Psychology        | BA                   | Aston University                                       |
| 2  | 3                | Music                                         | BA                   | Bath Spa University College                            |
| 3  | 4                | International Management & Modern Languages   | BSc(Hons)            | Bath University                                        |
| 4  | 2                | Beauty Therapy                                | HND                  | Birmingham College of Food, Tourism & Creative Studies |
| 5  | 4                | Engineering                                   | BEng                 | Birmingham University                                  |
| 6  | 4                | Biomedical Sciences                           | BSc                  | Brighton University                                    |
| 7  | 4                | Primary Education                             | BA                   | Brighton University                                    |
| 8  | 4                | Primary Education                             | BA(Hons)             | Brighton University                                    |
| 9  | 4                | Primary Education                             | BA(Hons)             | Brighton University                                    |
| 10 | 4                | Primary Teaching with PE                      | BA                   | Brighton University                                    |
| 11 | 4                | Sports Science                                | BSc/PGCE             | Brighton University                                    |
| 12 | 3                | Theology/Politics                             | BA                   | Bristol University                                     |
| 13 | 6                | Veterinary Medicine                           | BSc BVetMed          | Bristol University                                     |
| 14 | 4                | Industrial Design                             | BSc                  | Brunel University                                      |
| 15 | 3                | Sport Management & Rugby Studies              | BA                   | Buckinghamshire Chilterns University College           |
| 16 | 3                | Sports Industry Management & Tennis Studies   | BA                   | Buckinghamshire Chilterns University College           |
| 17 | 3                | Business Studies with Tourism                 | BA                   | Canterbury Christ Church University College            |
| 18 | 4                | French and Spanish                            | BA                   | Cardiff University                                     |
| 19 | 3                | Law                                           | LLB                  | Cardiff University                                     |
| 20 | 4+1              | Law and Spanish                               | LLB                  | Cardiff University                                     |
| 21 | 3                | Mathematic, Operational Research & Statistics | BSc                  | Cardiff University                                     |
| 22 | 3                | Psychology                                    | BA                   | Cardiff University                                     |
| 23 | 3                | E-Commerce with IT                            | BSc                  | Coventry University                                    |
| 24 | 3                | Applied Youth & Community Studies             | BA(Hons)             | Derby University                                       |
| 25 | 3                | Sociology and History                         | BA                   | Glamorgan University                                   |
| 26 | 4                | Physiotherapy                                 | BSc                  | Glasgow Caledonian University                          |
| 27 | 3                | Psychology                                    | BSc                  | Greenwich University                                   |
| 28 | 3                | Professional Catering                         | GNVQ                 | Guildford College of Further & Higher Education        |
| 29 | 2                | Dental Hygiene                                | Diploma              | Guy, Kings & St Thomas' School of Dentistry            |
| 30 | 3                | Midwifery                                     | BMid(Hons)           | Keele University                                       |
| 31 | 3                | Physiotherapy                                 | BSc(Hons)            | Keele University                                       |
| 32 | 5                | Medicine                                      | MBBS                 | Kings College London                                   |
| 33 | 3                | Accounting & Finance                          | BA(Hons)             | Kingston University                                    |
| 34 | 3                | Accounting & Finance                          | BA(Hons)             | Kingston University                                    |
| 35 | 3                | Business Management                           | BA(Hons)             | Kingston University                                    |

Mandatory awards by institution 2002/2003

|    |   |                                    |              |                                                |
|----|---|------------------------------------|--------------|------------------------------------------------|
| 36 | 2 | Information Technology             | HND          | Kingston University                            |
| 37 | 3 | Psychology                         | BSc          | Kingston University                            |
| 38 | 3 | Architectural Technology           | BSc          | Leeds Metropolitan University                  |
| 39 | 3 | Law                                | LLB          | Leeds University                               |
| 40 | 4 | Art & Design                       | BA           | London Guildhall University                    |
| 41 | 4 | Law                                | LLB          | London School of Economics & Political Science |
| 42 | 4 | Computing and Management           | BSc          | Loughborough University                        |
| 43 | 1 | Foundation Studies in Art & Design | BTEC Diploma | Loughborough University                        |
| 44 | 5 | Physics                            | MPhys (Dis)  | Loughborough University                        |
| 45 | 3 | Psychology                         | BSc(Hons)    | Luton University                               |
| 46 | 4 | Business in Europe - French Route  | BA(Hons)     | Manchester Metropolitan University             |
| 47 | 3 | Law                                | LLB          | Manchester Metropolitan University             |
| 48 | 4 | Marketing Management               | BA(Hons)     | Manchester Metropolitan University             |
| 49 | 4 | Accounting & Law                   | BA           | Manchester University                          |
| 50 | 5 | Medicine                           | MBChB        | Manchester University                          |
| 51 | 2 | Health Studies                     | Diploma      | Newcastle College                              |
| 52 | 3 | Accounting & Finance               | BA           | Nottingham Trent University                    |
| 53 | 4 | Business and Financial Services    | BA           | Nottingham Trent University                    |
| 54 | 4 | Business Information Systems       | BA(Hons)     | Nottingham Trent University                    |
| 55 | 3 | Law                                | LLB          | Nottingham Trent University                    |
| 56 | 4 | Product Design                     | BSc(Hons)    | Nottingham Trent University                    |
| 57 | 3 | Product Design                     | BA           | Nottingham Trent University                    |
| 58 | 4 | Dietetics                          | BSc          | Nottingham University                          |
| 59 | 3 | Jurisprudence                      | BA           | Oriel College, Oxford University               |
| 60 | 3 | Law                                | LLB          | Queen Mary, University of London               |
| 61 | 4 | Fine Arts                          | BA           | Reading University                             |
| 62 | 2 | Business & Finance                 | HND          | Salford University                             |
| 63 | 2 | Business and Finance               | HND          | Salford University                             |
| 64 | 3 | Tourism Management                 | BA           | Salford University                             |
| 65 | 3 | Architectural Technology           | BA(Hons)     | Southampton Institute                          |
| 66 | 2 | Business and Marketing             | HND          | Southampton Institute                          |
| 67 | 2 | Business Studies                   | HND          | Southampton Institute                          |
| 68 | 3 | Computer Network Management        | BSc(Hons)    | Southampton Institute                          |
| 69 | 3 | Computer Network Management        | BSc          | Southampton Institute                          |
| 70 | 3 | Computer Studies                   | BSc(Hons)    | Southampton Institute                          |
| 71 | 3 | Computer Studies                   | BSc(Hons)    | Southampton Institute                          |

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Mandatory awards by institution 2002/2003

|     |   |                                             |               |                                                    |
|-----|---|---------------------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| 72  | 2 | Computing                                   | HND           | Southampton Institute                              |
| 73  | 2 | Computing                                   | HND           | Southampton Institute                              |
| 74  | 2 | Computing (Business Information Technology) | HND           | Southampton Institute                              |
| 75  | 3 | Design Studies                              | BA(Hons)      | Southampton Institute                              |
| 76  | 2 | Leisure Management                          | HND           | Southampton Institute                              |
| 77  | 3 | Public Relations & Communication            | BA(Hons)      | Southampton Institute                              |
| 78  | 4 | Aerospace Engineering                       | MEng          | Southampton University                             |
| 79  | 4 | Music                                       | BA(Hons)/PGCE | Southampton University                             |
| 80  | 3 | Medical Science                             | BSc           | St Andrew's University                             |
| 81  | 3 | Christian Ministry                          | BA            | St Martin's College                                |
| 82  | 4 | Education and Employment & English          | BA/PGCE       | St Mary's College                                  |
| 83  | 4 | Interactive Multimedia                      | BA(Hons)      | Staffordshire University                           |
| 84  | 4 | Interactive Multimedia                      | BA            | Staffordshire University                           |
| 85  | 3 | Sociology with Photography                  | BA            | Sunderland University                              |
| 86  | 2 | Travel & Tourism Management                 | HND           | Thames Valley University                           |
| 87  | 2 | Music Technology & Sound Engineering        | HND           | The People's College, Nottingham                   |
| 88  | 5 | Veterinary Medicine                         | BVetMed       | The Royal Veterinary College, University of London |
| 89  | 4 | Upper Primary with Physical Education       | BA            | Trinity and All Saints College                     |
| 90  | 4 | Education with History                      | BA(Hons)      | University of Central England, Birmingham          |
| 91  | 4 | Childhood Studies                           | BA(Hons)/PGCE | University College Chichester                      |
| 92  | 3 | Primary Education                           | BA(Hons)      | University College Northampton                     |
| 93  | 3 | Primary Education with QTS                  | BA(Hons)      | University College Northampton                     |
| 94  | 3 | Sport Studies                               | BSc           | University College Northampton                     |
| 95  | 3 | Law                                         | LLB           | University College, London                         |
| 96  | 4 | Business Studies with Marketing             | BA(Hons)      | University of Brighton                             |
| 97  | 3 | Physiotherapy                               | BSc           | University of Brighton                             |
| 98  | 5 | Dentistry                                   | BDS           | University of Bristol                              |
| 99  | 3 | Theology                                    | BA            | University of Bristol                              |
| 100 | 3 | Applied Community and Youth Studies         | BA(Hons)      | University of Derby                                |
| 101 | 4 | Internet Computing                          | BSc           | University of Exeter                               |
| 102 | 3 | Sports Therapy                              | BSc           | University of Hertfordshire                        |
| 103 | 3 | English and American Literature             | BA            | University of Kent at Canterbury                   |
| 104 | 4 | European Legal Studies                      | LLB           | University of Kent at Canterbury                   |
| 105 | 4 | Law                                         | LLB           | University of Kent at Canterbury                   |
| 106 | 4 | Law                                         | LLB           | University of Kent at Canterbury                   |
| 107 | 4 | Law                                         | LLB           | University of Kent at Canterbury                   |

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Mandatory awards by institution 2002/2003

|     |   |                                        |           |                                                             |
|-----|---|----------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| 108 | 4 | Law and Accounting                     | BA        | University of Kent at Canterbury                            |
| 109 | 4 | Multimedia Technology & Design         | BSc(Hons) | University of Kent at Canterbury                            |
| 110 | 4 | Accounting & Finance                   | BA        | University of Leeds                                         |
| 111 | 4 | English                                | BA(Hons)  | University of Leeds                                         |
| 112 | 4 | Mathematics                            | BSc       | University of Leeds                                         |
| 113 | 3 | Television and Film Design             | BA        | University of Lincoln                                       |
| 114 | 3 | Accounting                             | BAEcon    | University of Manchester                                    |
| 115 | 4 | Computer Science                       | BSc       | University of Manchester Institute for Science & Technology |
| 116 | 3 | Physiotherapy                          | BSc       | University of Nottingham                                    |
| 117 | 4 | English and Italian                    | BA        | University of Reading                                       |
| 118 | 3 | Dance Studies with Psychology          | BA(Hons)  | University of Surrey                                        |
| 119 | 3 | Law                                    | LLB       | University of Surrey                                        |
| 120 | 4 | Management and Tourism                 | BSc       | University of Surrey                                        |
| 121 | 4 | Dance                                  | BA/PGCE   | University of Surrey, Roehampton                            |
| 122 | 3 | Physiotherapy                          | BSc(Hons) | University of the West of England, Bristol                  |
| 123 | 3 | Marine Biology                         | BSc       | University of Wales, Swansea                                |
| 124 | 3 | Midwifery                              | BMid      | University of Wales, Swansea                                |
| 125 | 3 | Nursing                                | BN        | University of Wales, Swansea                                |
| 126 | 4 | Spanish & English                      | BA(Hons)  | University of Wales, Swansea                                |
| 127 | 3 | Midwifery                              | BSc       | University of West of England, Bristol                      |
| 128 | 4 | Equine Studies                         | BA        | Warwickshire College                                        |
| 129 | 3 | Psychology with Physiological Sciences | BSc(Hons) | Worcester College                                           |



**WRITTEN**

**NO. 917 OF 2002**

**THE HON S E LINARES**

**EDUCATION – DISCRETIONARY GRANTS**

Can Government state how many students have been awarded discretionary grants this year and what subject and institution they have chosen to study?

**ANSWER**

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

A total of 44 students have been awarded discretionary grants this year. The extensive, factual and statistical information requested by the hon Member is set out in the written schedule.

# **ANSWER TO QUESTION 917 OF 2002**

## **Discretionary awards by institution 2002/2003**

|    | <i>No of yrs</i> | <i>Subject</i>                      | <i>Qualification</i> | <i>Institution</i>                          |
|----|------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| 1  | 1                | Law                                 | Diploma              | BPP Law School                              |
| 2  | 2                | Law                                 | CPE/Pg DL & LPC      | BPP Law School, London                      |
| 3  | 2                | Business & Marketing                | HND                  | Brighton University                         |
| 4  | 1                | Dance                               | PGCE                 | Brighton University                         |
| 5  | 1                | Education                           | PGCE                 | Canterbury Christ Church College            |
| 6  | 1                | Education                           | PGCE                 | Canterbury Christ Church University College |
| 7  | 1                | Education                           | PGCE                 | Canterbury Christchurch University College  |
| 8  | 2                | CPE/Diploma in Law                  | CPE/Pgd Dip Law      | City University London                      |
| 9  | 1                | Conservative Dentistry              | MSc                  | Eastman Dental Institute                    |
| 10 | 2                | Dietetics                           | Postgraduate Diploma | Glasgow Caledonian University               |
| 11 | 3                | Optometry                           | BSc(Hons)            | Glasgow Caledonian University               |
| 12 | 2                | Social Work                         | Diploma              | Glasgow Caledonian University               |
| 13 | 2                | Child Care and Education Course     | CACHE Diploma        | Grantham College                            |
| 14 | 1                | Strategic Marketing                 | MA                   | Greenwich University                        |
| 15 | 1                | Catering                            | NVQ Level 2          | Guildford College                           |
| 16 | 2                | Travel & Tourism Management         | HND                  | Guildford College                           |
| 17 | 2                | Social Work                         | MA/DipSW             | Keele University                            |
| 18 | 1                | Forensic Science                    | MSc                  | King's College London                       |
| 19 | 1                | Business Studies                    | PGCE                 | Kingston University                         |
| 20 | 1                | Education                           | PGCE                 | Kingston University                         |
| 21 | 1                | Law                                 | Graduate Diploma     | Kingston University                         |
| 22 | 1                | Law                                 | Diploma              | London Guildhall University                 |
| 23 | 1                | International Business & Management | MSc                  | Manchester School of Management             |
| 24 | 2                | Music Technology & Industry         | BND                  | New College Nottingham                      |
| 25 | 1                | Education                           | PGCE                 | Nottingham Trent University                 |
| 26 | 1                | Writing                             | MA                   | Nottingham Trent University                 |
| 27 | 3                | Bio-Medical Optics (Physics)        | PhD                  | Nottingham University                       |
| 28 | 2                | Law                                 | MSc                  | Oxford University                           |
| 29 | 3                | Education                           | BA                   | Plymouth University                         |

**CONT'D ANSWER TO QUESTION 917 OF 2002**

Discretionary awards by institution 2002/2003

|    |   |                                |           |                                          |
|----|---|--------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------------------|
| 30 | 1 | Critical Care                  | BMedSci   | Sheffield University                     |
| 31 | 1 | Education                      | PGCE      | St Mary's College                        |
| 32 | 1 | Education                      | PGCE      | St Mary's College                        |
| 33 | 1 | Education                      | PGCE      | St Mary's College                        |
| 34 | 2 | Law                            | PGDL      | The College of Law                       |
| 35 | 1 | English                        | PGCE      | University of Leeds                      |
| 36 | 1 | Education                      | PGCE      | University of North London               |
| 37 | 1 | Education                      | PGCE      | University of North London               |
| 38 | 1 | Information Technology         | PGCE      | University of Southampton                |
| 39 | 1 | Integrated Product Development | MSc       | University of Strathclyde                |
| 40 | 2 | Nutritional Medicine           | MSc       | University of Surrey, Guildford          |
| 41 | 5 | Medicine                       | MBChB     | University of Wales Cardiff              |
| 42 | 2 | Physiotherapy                  | BSc(Hons) | University of Wales College of Medicine  |
| 43 | 1 | Education                      | PGCE      | University of Wales Institute of Cardiff |
| 44 | 1 | Environmental Biology          | MSc       | University of Wales, Swansea             |

**CONT'D ANSWER TO QUESTION 917 OF 2002****Discretionary awards by subject 2002/2002**

|    | <b>No of yrs</b> | <b>Subject</b>                      | <b>Qualification</b> | <b>Institution</b>                          |
|----|------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| 1  | 3                | Bio-Medical Optics (Physics)        | PhD                  | Nottingham University                       |
| 2  | 2                | Business & Marketing                | HND                  | Brighton University                         |
| 3  | 1                | Business Studies                    | PGCE                 | Kingston University                         |
| 4  | 1                | Catering                            | NVQ Level 2          | Guildford College                           |
| 5  | 2                | Child Care and Education Course     | CACHE Diploma        | Grantham College                            |
| 6  | 1                | Conservative Dentistry              | MSc                  | Eastman Dental Institute                    |
| 7  | 2                | CPE/Diploma in Law                  | CPE/Pgd Dip Law      | City University London                      |
| 8  | 1                | Critical Care                       | BMedSci              | Sheffield University                        |
| 9  | 1                | Dance                               | PGCE                 | Brighton University                         |
| 10 | 2                | Dietetics                           | Postgraduate Diploma | Glasgow Caledonian University               |
| 11 | 1                | Education                           | PGCE                 | University of Wales Institute of Cardiff    |
| 12 | 1                | Education                           | PGCE                 | Canterbury Christchurch University College  |
| 13 | 1                | Education                           | PGCE                 | University of North London                  |
| 14 | 1                | Education                           | PGCE                 | University of North London                  |
| 15 | 1                | Education                           | PGCE                 | Canterbury Christ Church University College |
| 16 | 1                | Education                           | PGCE                 | Nottingham Trent University                 |
| 17 | 3                | Education                           | BA                   | Plymouth University                         |
| 18 | 1                | Education                           | PGCE                 | Kingston University                         |
| 19 | 1                | Education                           | PGCE                 | St Mary's College                           |
| 20 | 1                | Education                           | PGCE                 | Canterbury Christ Church College            |
| 21 | 1                | Education                           | PGCE                 | St Mary's College                           |
| 22 | 1                | Education                           | PGCE                 | St Mary's College                           |
| 23 | 1                | English                             | PGCE                 | University of Leeds                         |
| 24 | 1                | Environmental Biology               | MSc                  | University of Wales, Swansea                |
| 25 | 1                | Forensic Science                    | MSc                  | King's College London                       |
| 26 | 1                | Information Technology              | PGCE                 | University of Southampton                   |
| 27 | 1                | Integrated Product Development      | MSc                  | University of Strathclyde                   |
| 28 | 1                | International Business & Management | MSc                  | Manchester School of Management             |
| 29 | 1                | Law                                 | Graduate Diploma     | Kingston University                         |
| 30 | 2                | Law                                 | PGDL                 | The College of Law                          |
| 31 | 2                | Law                                 | MSc                  | Oxford University                           |

**CONT'D ANSWER TO QUESTION 917 OF 2002**

**Discretionary awards by subject 2002/2002**

|    |   |                             |                 |                                         |
|----|---|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 32 | 1 | Law                         | Diploma         | BPP Law School                          |
| 33 | 2 | Law                         | CPE/Pg DL & LPC | BPP Law School, London                  |
| 34 | 1 | Law                         | Diploma         | London Guildhall University             |
| 35 | 5 | Medicine                    | MBChB           | University of Wales Cardiff             |
| 36 | 2 | Music Technology & Industry | BND             | New College Nottingham                  |
| 37 | 2 | Nutritional Medicine        | MSc             | University of Surrey, Guildford         |
| 38 | 3 | Optometry                   | BSc(Hons)       | Glasgow Caledonian University           |
| 39 | 2 | Physiotherapy               | BSc(Hons)       | University of Wales College of Medicine |
| 40 | 2 | Social Work                 | MA/DipSW        | Keele University                        |
| 41 | 2 | Social Work                 | Diploma         | Glasgow Caledonian University           |
| 42 | 1 | Strategic Marketing         | MA              | Greenwich University                    |
| 43 | 2 | Travel & Tourism Management | HND             | Guildford College                       |
| 44 | 1 | Writing                     | MA              | Nottingham Trent University             |

**WRITTEN**

**NO. 918 OF 2002**

**THE HON S E LINARES**

**CHANGE OF SCHOOL HOURS**

Can Government state whether all the works related to the change of school hours are now complete?

**ANSWER**

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

Answered together with Question Nos 925 and 934 of 2002.

**WRITTEN**

**NO. 919 OF 2002**

**THE HON S E LINARES**

**POST – 16 EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Can the Minister for Education say if the committee he formed to look into the provision of post-16 education in Gibraltar is still at the exploratory stage?

**ANSWER**

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

The Post-16 education committee is still at a consultative stage.

**WRITTEN**

**NO. 920 OF 2002**

**THE HON S E LINARES**

**E-COMMERCE TRAINING**

Can Government state whether the apprenticeship programme to equip local people with modern skills within the E-commerce field will commence in the current year or is it still at the 'considering' stage?

**ANSWER**

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

It is the intention to commence this programme under the current year.



WRITTEN

**NO. 921 OF 2002**

**THE HON S E LINARES**

**NVQ COURSES**

Can Government state how many out of the 21 trainees who completed NVQ's at the Construction and Training Centre have secured employment in their respective trades, have done so in Government, GJBS and private sector?

**ANSWER**

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

The information requested is as follows:-

| <b>Location</b>                       | <b>Number of Trainees</b> |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Buildings and Works                   | 6                         |
| GJBS Ltd                              | 7                         |
| Private Sector                        | 4                         |
| <b>In Addition</b>                    |                           |
| MOD                                   | 1                         |
| Milbury Care (Social Services Agency) | 1                         |
| Unemployed                            | 2                         |
| <b>Total</b>                          | <b>21</b>                 |

**WRITTEN**

**NO. 922 OF 2002**

**THE HON S E LINARES**

**EDUCATION – SCHOOL SECRETARIES**

Can Government state whether they will be employing full-time secretaries for each school for the year 2003/2004?

**ANSWER**

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

The Department of Education will soon be employing additional school secretaries to provide for each school daily secretarial help, in most cases full-time, in some cases during morning sessions.

**WRITTEN**

**NO. 923 OF 2002**

**THE HON S E LINARES**

**EDUCATION – SCHOOL CLEANERS**

Can Government state whether all vacancies for school cleaners have been filled?

**ANSWER**

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

There are currently 5 vacancies for school cleaners. One post is for 39 hours a week and became vacant on the promotion of the holder to caretaker. Additionally four 20 hour cleaner jobs became available on the retirement or resignation of the holders. All of these posts are being converted with supply cleaners, as is the norm in these cases.

**WRITTEN**

**NO. 924 OF 2002**

**THE HON S E LINARES**

**ST MARY'S SCHOOL**

Is it still Government's aspiration to move St Mary's schools to the Westside Area?

**ANSWER**

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

It is Government's intention to build a First School/Middle School complex in the proximity of Westside area. This may entail the move of St Mary's School to that complex.

**WRITTEN**

**NO. 925 OF 2002**

**THE HON S E LINARES**

**BAYSIDE SCHOOL**

Can Government state whether the two storey building on the site of the portakabins in Bayside School is now complete?

**ANSWER**

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

Answered together with Question Nos 918 and 934 of 2002.

**WRITTEN**

**NO. 926 OF 2002**

**THE HON S E LINARES**

**EDUCATION – SCHOOL STATIONERY**

Can Government state whether schools are now paying the same amount of money they used to pay for stationary and other resources when they ordered directly from catalogues since the new Government policy of local buying was introduced?

**ANSWER**

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

It is more expensive buying locally. Last year we compensated to the schools by funding over and above the normal capitation and presently the whole issue and the procurement procedure involved are under consideration by Government.

**WRITTEN**

**NO. 927 OF 2002**

**THE HON S E LINARES**

**EDUCATION – SCHOOLS CAPITATION**

Can Government state whether schools capitation has changed from last year?

**ANSWER**

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

The schools capitation has been increased by 3 per cent.

WRITTEN

NO. 928 OF 2002

THE HON S E LINARES

**SCHOOL MEALS**

Can Government state how many children are staying for lunch giving a breakdown per school compared with the amount of children in the school roll?

ANSWER

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

The information requested is as follows:-

| School                   | Children Staying for Lunch | Numbers on Roll |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Bayside                  | 848                        | 973             |
| Westside                 | 564                        | 940             |
| Sacred Heart Middle      | 259                        | 295             |
| St Joseph's Middle       | 314                        | 340             |
| St Anne's Middle         | 415                        | 445             |
| Bishop Fitzgerald Middle | 347                        | 485             |
| Hebrew Primary           | 30                         | 63              |
| Notre Dame First         | 232                        | 245             |
| St Paul's First          | 244                        | 270             |
| St Mary's First          | 153                        | 159             |
| St Joseph's First        | 296                        | 315             |
| St Bernard's First       | 110                        | 121             |
| Governor's Meadow        | 279                        | 324             |



**WRITTEN**

**NO. 929 OF 2002**

**THE HON S E LINARES**

**NURSERIES**

Can Government state whether the legislation to regulate nurseries was in the agenda in the last meeting of the Council Ministers?

**ANSWER**

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

I do not think it is proper for me to divulge what is actually included in the agenda of any particular meeting of the Council of Ministers. What I can assure the hon Member is that the legislation on nurseries is ready to be considered by the Council of Ministers.

**WRITTEN**

**NO. 930 OF 2002**

**THE HON S E LINARES**

**TRUANT CHILDREN**

Can the Minister for Education state at what stage he is in, in order to present to this House the legislation on truant children?

**ANSWER**

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

The legislation to deter truancy is now at an advanced stage. At the last meeting of the steering committee on the issue, the final wording was being discussed, the amount of the fines was being updated, and more important still, new creative attempts were being made to support families with preventive measures such as Education Supervision Orders.

**WRITTEN**

**NO. 931 OF 2002**

**THE HON S E LINARES**

**ST MARTIN'S SCHOOL**

Can Government state whether St Martin's school playground has been resurfaced and the playground equipment installed?

**ANSWER**

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

As stated in my answer to Question No 536 of 2002 the playground in St Martin's School will be resurfaced in the course of this financial year and the playground equipment will be installed.

**WRITTEN**

**NO. 932 OF 2002**

**THE HON S E LINARES**

**BISHOP FITZGERALD SCHOOL**

Can Government state what provisions have been made at Bishop Fitzgerald School to accommodate the increase of children at years 4 and 5?

**ANSWER**

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

The increase in the number of children at the school created a need for additional classroom space. This we met through the installation of two portakabins which are purpose-built, fully fitted classrooms. Additionally, we have overcome the need for greater playground space by using the Queensway tennis courts which are directly adjacent to the school building. These courts are secure because they are fenced in and furthermore there is direct access from the school via a gate.

**WRITTEN**

**NO. 933 OF 2002**

**THE HON S E LINARES**

**ST PAUL'S SCHOOL**

Can Government state whether the costing to build a dining hall at St Paul's has been made and whether this building will be in place for the next academic year?

**ANSWER**

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

The position with regard to the dining hall at St Paul's School has not changed since I answered Question No 525 of 2002.

**WRITTEN**

**NO. 934 OF 2002**

**THE HON S E LINARES**

**WESTSIDE SCHOOL**

Can Government confirm whether the hall that was being constructed at the western end of Westside School is now complete?

**ANSWER**

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

**Answer to Question No 918 of 2002**

Most of the works related to the change of school hours have now been completed. A couple of minor items remain pending.

**Answer to Question No 925 of 2002**

This building is indeed complete to all intents and purposes. All that remains outstanding is the construction of a cover for the stairs leading to the first floor. This cover is actually currently being built at the GJBS workshops.

**Answer to Question No 934 of 2002**

The Westside School Hall is practically complete. The installation of a lift is the only outstanding item but the Spanish firm supplying this item has the matter in hand.

**WRITTEN**

**NO. 935 OF 2002**

**THE HON S E LINARES**

**ARTS ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Can Government state whether the Arts Advisory Council has met this Millennium and especially since I posed this question, in its new format, that is, with representatives from different associations as mentioned in answer to a previous question?

**ANSWER**

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

In a previous answer to Question No 507 of 2002, I replied, at the time, that the Arts Advisory Council had last met in 1999. I further added that it was my intention to convene the said Council, once the latter body had been duly reconstituted by appointing representatives of the associations which have been created in recent years in many areas of the Arts in Gibraltar. However, during the summer months it has proved difficult to contact all the relevant organisations to appoint a representative. We are hopeful that this will happen in the near future. I can also add that during the past millenium the Arts Advisory Council which was constituted in 1986 met 5 times during the period 1998 to 1999 but have not met during the period 1988 to 1996.

**WRITTEN**

**NO. 936 OF 2002**

**THE HON S E LINARES**

**CULTURAL GRANTS**

Can Government give a list of criteria used for the awarding of Cultural Grants?

**ANSWER**

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

Answered together with Question Nos 937 and 938 of 2002.



**WRITTEN**

**NO. 937 OF 2002**

**THE HON S E LINARES**

**CULTURAL GRANTS**

Can Government give a breakdown of the cultural grants awarded, groups applying and amount given to each group?

**ANSWER**

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

Answered together with Question No 936 and 938 of 2002.

**WRITTEN**

**NO. 938 OF 2002**

**THE HON S E LINARES**

**CULTURAL GRANTS**

Can Government explain why the applications for Cultural Grants were released in August as opposed to June/July as has been the norm for several years?

**ANSWER**

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

**Answer to Question No 936 of 2002**

All associations, groups and individuals applying to be considered for a cultural grant must provide the following information to the Committee:-

- (a) Amount applied together with specific purposes for the use of the grant.
- (b) Numbers of members (if any) and rates of subscriptions paid (if any).
- (c) Amount of financial assistance and sponsorship from all other sources.
- (d) A formal audited statement of accounts from the preceding year.
- (e) Credentials as to the cultural objectives of the applicants.

Furthermore, all applicants are provided with a set of guidelines.

**Answer to Question No 937 of 2002**

The following is a breakdown of the cultural grants awarded up to the present:

|                                                    |   | £     |
|----------------------------------------------------|---|-------|
| Gibraltar Amateur Drama Association                | - | 300   |
| Rooke Volunteer Band                               | - | 1000  |
| Rock on the Rock Club                              | - | 500   |
| Just in time Band                                  | - | 750   |
| Clive Lavagña Exhibition                           | - | 500   |
| Gibraltar National Dance Organisation              | - | 3,000 |
| Gibraltar Photographic Society                     | - | 800   |
| Gibraltar Academy of Dance                         | - | 500   |
| Tarik Modern Theatre Dance Company                 | - | 300   |
| Gibraltar Bird Breeders Association                | - | 250   |
| Catholic Community Centre Sequence Dance Club      | - | 500   |
| Leit Motif Dance Troupe                            | - | 500   |
| Fine Arts Association                              | - | 1,500 |
| Gibraltar Live Music Society                       | - | 1,000 |
| Rumores Dance Group                                | - | 500   |
| Stage One                                          | - | 100   |
| The Arts Centre                                    | - | 700   |
| Metior Saxum (Flat Bastion Road Magazine Project - |   | 500   |
| The New Gibraltar Music Centre                     | - | 5,000 |

### **Answer to Question No 938 of 2002**

This year's Official Notice inviting applications for Cultural Grants was issued only two weeks later than is usually the norm. Nevertheless, the Committee was, in fact, able to meet earlier than in other years in order to consider applications.

### **Answer to Question No 936 of 2002**

## **GUIDELINE FOR APPLICATION FOR CULTURAL GRANTS**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The guidelines have been prepared in order to offer applicants some advice before they submit their applications. It is not an inflexible document, but it aims to reflect the general attitude of the Cultural Grants Committee as evolved over the years.

1. The Committee will rarely consider applications from bodies whose activities would not normally be considered to have a cultural base.
2. Projects which are clearly set out and afford comprehensive information to the committee are more likely to be considered favourably.
3. It is a requirement that the applicant give clear evidence of the financial position of the body they represent, through a detailed statement of accounts, and where a grant was obtained in the previous year, an indication of how the money was spent would be expected.
4. Although it is very laudable that proceeds derived from concerts et cetera should be donated to charities, groups, should nevertheless, in the first instance, consider their own commitments and requirements before disbursing all their funds.

Furthermore, where proceeds have been donated, the amounts given should be specified together with the name of recipient(s).

5. Where the applicant represents a body in which formal tuition is being offered, it is expected that information would be given regarding the professional qualifications of the tutor(s) concerned.
6. Preference will be shown by the committee for those associations which finance their projects through subscriptions and fund-raising.
7. The committee will not normally consider awarding grants for the maintenance and repair of premises; grants in the main will be approved for projects which involve cultural activities in the community.

8. Where request for money is in connection with a visit abroad, the following guidelines apply:

**(a) Competitive Events Abroad**

- (i) The committee expects information in advance about the competition, in particular at what standard it operates (eg National Youth Drama Festival, Eistedfodd, et cetera) and whether the group is representing Gibraltar at club or national level.
- (ii) When representation of Gibraltar is involved at national level the committee requires the group to have reached national status through a process of selection undertaken locally.

**(b) Non-competitive events abroad**

The committee feels that this kind of activity should receive lower priority, although it would consider financing areas not directly involved with the actual event (eg purchase of scores, or equipment which will remain in the possession of the group after the event).

9. Preference will be shown for projects which have an educational value and/or involve youth. It is expected that some of these projects will involve the community and have an environmental bearing.
10. When a project involves substantial amount of money it is unlikely that the committee will commit itself to financing it totally: a phased contribution can be entered into, on the understanding that each year the matter would have to be reassessed.
11. In general, the committee prefers to allocate money for items which can remain a permanent asset to the group (eg scores, stage flats, equipment) rather than for expendable items (eg printing of posters or programmes).
12. In recent years applications have been made of a semi-professional nature, often requiring substantial sums of money to be spent abroad. While not wanting to dissuade people with professional aspirations, the committee feels that the limited funds available should be allocated to local projects which benefit the community.

**WRITTEN**

**NO. 939 OF 2002**

**HON S E LINARES**

**GOLDEN JUBILEE ORGANISERS**

Can Government state whether the Ministry of Culture or any other Ministry was approached by the Golden Jubilee Organisers to have a representation of Gibraltar in the Street Party held at the Mall on the 4<sup>th</sup> June 2002?

**ANSWER**

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

Answered together with Question No 940 of 2002.

**WRITTEN**

**NO. 940 OF 2002**

**THE HON S E LINARES**

**GOLDEN JUBILEE ORGANISERS**

Can Government state whether the Department of Education was invited by the Golden Jubilee Organisers for our local schools to be included in the Rainbow Arches which was made up of messages from the children from the Commonwealth?

**ANSWER**

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

**Answer to Question No 939 of 2002**

The Ministry of Culture was never approached by the organisers of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations to have any kind of representation by Gibraltar in the Street Party held at the Mall on the 4<sup>th</sup> June 2002.

**Answer to Question No 940 of 2002**

I can confirm that the Department of Education was not invited by the Golden Jubilee Organisers for our local schools to be included in the Rainbow Arches made up of messages from children of the Commonwealth.

**WRITTEN**

**NO. 941 OF 2002**

**THE HON S E LINARES**

**GIBRALTAR DANCE ASSOCIATION**

Can Government state what groups compose the Gibraltar Dance Association?

**ANSWER**

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

The Gibraltar Dance Association is a body independent of Government but I am informed by the President of the Gibraltar Dance Association that the following groups are presently members of the Association:

Catholic Community Centre Sequence Dance Club  
Danza Academy  
Danza del Sur  
Danza Lara  
DSA Sequence Dance Club  
Gibraltar Academy of Dance  
Gibraltar School of Ballet  
Pointes Dance Company  
Pointes Tap Company  
Revelations Dance Company  
Rock Liners  
Rumores Dance Group  
Tarik ModernTheatre Dance Company  
Vicente y Los Salineros



**WRITTEN**

**NO. 942 OF 2002**

**THE HON S E LINARES**

**DRAMA FESTIVAL**

Can Government state why the Drama Festival was not staged again last year?

**ANSWER**

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

The hon Member is clearly mistaken. Last year's Gibraltar Annual Drama Festival was, in fact, actually held from 26 to 29 March 2001.

**WRITTEN**

**NO. 943 OF 2002**

**THE HON S E LINARES**

**GIBRALTAR DRAMA ASSOCIATION**

Can Government state what groups compose the Gibraltar Drama Association?

**ANSWER**

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

Once again I have to make clear that the Gibraltar Drama Association is a voluntary organisation independent of Government. I am informed by the President of the Gibraltar Amateur Drama Association that the following groups presently compose the Gibraltar Drama Association:

Anouilh Players  
BUDS  
Group 70  
Royal Gibraltar Regiment Drama Group  
Spotlight Drama Group  
Stage Musicals Group  
Trafalgar Theatre Group  
Westside Drama Group.

ORAL

**NO. 944 OF 2002**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – 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 13, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 of 2002?

**ANSWER**

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

Answered together with Question Nos 945 and 946 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 945 OF 2002**

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – 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 accounting periods 13, 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 of 2002, 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 944 and 946 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 946 OF 2002**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – PRESCRIPTION CHARGES**

Can Government state how much extra revenue the Gibraltar Health Authority has raised from 1<sup>st</sup> April to the end of September 2002, as a result of their policy to increase prescription charges?

**ANSWER**

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

The factual and statistical information requested by the hon Member is contained in the schedule which is attached.

**Answer to Question No 944 of 2002**

| PERIOD  | 13         | 1         | 2         | 3         | 4         | 5         |
|---------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Scripts | 15,134     | 11,524    | 12,014    | 11,300    | 11,988    | 10,878    |
| Items   | 48,417     | 37,841    | 38,704    | 37,626    | 38,418    | 35,273    |
| Cost    | £70,010.17 | 54,721.68 | 57,199.61 | 55,750.27 | 56,903.48 | 51,430.59 |

Please note Period 13 has 5 weeks instead of the usual 4 weeks and Period 5 is incomplete.

**Answer to Question No 945 of 2002**

|         | 2001/2002   | 2002/2003   | 2002/2003   | 2002/2003   | 2002/2003   | 2002/2003   |
|---------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| PERIOD  | 13          | 1           | 2           | 3           | 4           | 5           |
| Scripts | 6,793       | 5,224       | 5,510       | 4,949       | 5,320       | 4,797       |
| Items   | 15,675      | 12,159      | 12,707      | 11,877      | 12,258      | 11,155      |
| Cost    | £196,550.30 | £150,666.30 | £161,777.65 | £154,748.19 | £155,616.99 | £141,917.48 |

Please note Period 13 has 5 weeks instead of the usual 4 weeks and Period 5 is incomplete.

|         | 2000/2001   | 2001/2002   | 2001/2002   | 2001/2002   | 2001/2002   | 2001/2002   |
|---------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| PERIOD  | 13          | 1           | 2           | 3           | 4           | 5           |
| Scripts | 5,669       | 5,429       | 5,566       | 5,701       | 5,425       | 5,110       |
| Items   | 12,290      | 11,941      | 12,092      | 12,852      | 12,107      | 11,162      |
| Cost    | £133,626.18 | £133,411.73 | £129,519.22 | £145,203.76 | £138,939.48 | £127,576.27 |

As stated previously the total value of the £2.50 medicines is not independently calculated.

**Answer to Question No 946 of 2002**

Period 1 starts w/e 7.4.02 to period 7 week 2 (29.9.02)

Revenue raised for periods 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 2 weeks of period 7

58,147 items @ £2.50 = £145,367.50

Before increase in prescription charges

Revenue raised would be 71,826 items @ £1.20 = £86,191.20

Also approximately 66 per cent of 151,911 items would have paid

20p = £20,052.20

Total revenue that would have been raised would have been 106,243.40

Therefore extra revenue raised would be £39,124.10

Period 5, 6, and 7 week 1 and 2 incomplete.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 944, 945, AND 946 OF 2002**

##### **HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Can the Minister say whether the actual revenue that the Health Authority is raising is less now than it was, for example, when he answered Question No 561 of 2002 and in November when he answered Question No 199 of 2000 when he said that the revenue raised for the same period in question was £79,000 and now I believe that when he talks about the revenue that has been raised, because the table says, for example, revenue raised from period so and so, before increase revenue raised would have been so much. The total revenue raised would have been so much and then the next figure says, therefore extra revenue raised would be £39,124, am I correct in assuming that because of the increase the extra, the net, the notional figure that would have been raised would have been £39,000 because if that is so it means that the first time that I asked the question which was for exactly the same period the figure given to me was £79,000?

##### **HON DR B A LINARES:**

The answer to Question No 561 of 2002 was over a period of two periods, periods 11 and 12 and the extra revenue then was £16,374, that was for two months. This time we are talking about 6 months increase in revenue and if one multiplies the £16,000 odd by 3 that would be £48,000 so the increase in revenue has dropped somewhat over the last six periods.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Therefore, if the Minister is confirming what I am assuming does that mean that there are more items of prescriptions being charged because I am sure that the medicines have not gone up as the Minister confirmed during the budget time?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

I would have to make a much closer analysis of all these figures to come up with those conclusions. This is an overall assessment that I have just given that the increase in revenue of £40,000 nearly this time compares more or less with the £16,000 over periods 11 and 12 last time.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

I am going back as far as the first time that I asked the Minister this question which was Question No 199 of 2000 where I was given that for the same period, 1 to 8, the estimated figure was just under £79,000 and there is quite a substantial difference from the figures that I am now being given for the same period.

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

That was the increase of revenue was it?

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

The revenue raised from period 1 to 8 is estimated to be in the region of just under £79,000 and I was wanting to bring it to the attention of the Minister because we are talking now about the same period in question and there is a substantial difference in the figures.

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

Is the hon Member speaking about the total revenue raised or the increase in revenue? The increase in revenue given the increase in rate compared with the £1.20 and 20p that was charged before I thought the question the hon Lady asked was, "is there an increase in revenue after we raised the rates to £2.50 as opposed to £1.20 before."

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

No, that is why I am putting it to the Minister because the question was phrased, "the extra revenue as a result of their policy to increase," the extra revenue, and therefore that is why I was bringing it to the attention of the Minister.



**HON DR B A LINARES:**

I will analyse the figures to see whether we can make a relativity and comparison which is valid and not just off the cuff.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

The reason for increasing prescriptions, the Minister and the Government at the time said was one of the main reasons was aimed at eliminating what he termed as certain abuses by the general public, has the Minister now any evidence that the measure has produced the Government's desired result?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

There is a question further on precisely about whether the new rates have led to an increase in the number of items over the £7.50 in the prescriptions, perhaps we can deal with that later on because I have figures for the hon Lady in that respect.

May I point out very briefly that I am still confused over the presentation of Question No 945 of 2002 where the hon Lady still seeks to know the cost of medicines in respect of which £2.50 per item is paid. I have pointed that out before, it is impossible to actually focus on the £2.50. If what she means is the total revenue of paying prescriptions that is the figure that I have given.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

I was a bit confused as well because when I looked up Hansard because I always do before I actually write down my questions the Minister said exactly the same thing as he has said except that he referred to Question No 567 of 2002 and when I looked at No 567 of 2002 it had nothing to do with the prescriptions, it has to do with the attendances at the Health Centre and therefore I was not sure of what he was meaning?

**NO. 947 OF 2002**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA - NUMBER OF PRESCRIPTIONS**

Can Government confirm why the number of prescriptions that have been issued since 13<sup>th</sup> December 1999, with more than three items and paying a total of £7.50 are not able to be collated by the Gibraltar Health Authority?

**ANSWER**

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

The Prescription Pricing Advisory Unit advise me that the number of prescriptions is not a relevant statistic. Whether the number of prescriptions has gone up or down will depend very much on the number of patients seeking consultation with the doctors et cetera. What the relevant statistic is and we do have it and I will pass it on to the hon Lady in a moment because I am sure her interest in the matter is the same as mine to know whether after we capped the prices of prescription at £7.50 the number of items over and above the three items costing £7.50 has gone up or down which is relevant to the supplementary she was asking a moment ago. So really with respect I think the hon Lady or both of us are asking the wrong question. It is not so much the number of prescriptions but the number of items over and above the £7.50, that is indicative that would be a significant and indicative factor and I have a paper here which shows that from last year to this year there has been a slight increase of non-paying items, that is those above the £7.50, from £22,289 to £28,343 and this year up-to-date it is £14,208 so in over 6 months it compares with the £28,000 of last year. So that should be of interest to both of us in keeping tabs on exactly what has been the effective result of the capping of prescriptions but with respect I do not think the relevant figure is the number of prescriptions which is open to all sorts of factors in terms flu epidemics and all sorts of things but actually the number of items which people feel freer now to access because they do not have to pay the full whack.

**Answer to Question No 947 of 2002**

| <b><u>Year</u></b> | <b><u>White Paid Items</u></b> | <b><u>Non Paying Items</u></b> |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 2000/2001          | 129,118                        | 22,289                         |
| 2001/2002          | 133,856                        | 28,343                         |
| 2002/2003          | 59,980                         | 14,208                         |

Please note that not all items come from scripts with more than 3 items.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 947 OF 2002**

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

As we were phrasing the questions I thought that it was understood, can Government confirm whether the number of prescriptions that have been issued since the 13<sup>th</sup> December with more than three items, the officials were going by the actual number of items but then again I thought that it was impossible that if the Minister was telling me every time that it was not being collated then I was thinking, "...well if it is not being collated how do they dispense the fee that they need to actually provide to the pharmacist?" and another aspect to it is the fact that when we get the total number of items in tables in other questions, are we getting the total number of items over and above the three in prescriptions?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

Yes, I think we have been perhaps in the past talking at cross purposes, the civil servants are very literal in their interpretation of questions and if one asks the number of prescriptions they say, "we have not got that," but as the hon Lady can see from the paper I have just passed on to her they do keep tabs, they do keep a record of the number of items and I hope that that settles the question.

**ORAL**

**NO. 948 OF 2002**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – DIABETIC PATIENTS**

Can the Minister for Health confirm whether diabetic patients are now being given 3 monthly prescriptions, instead of monthly ones?

**ANSWER**

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

The advice I have received which I promised I would obtain from members of the Formulary Committee is that the issue of long prescriptions, that is two months or more to patients with diabetes should only be introduced with a great deal of caution. Drugs for diabetes can be very powerful and can produce serious side effects and these can only be prevented by careful control of the disease itself which requires a lot of awareness and education on the part of the patient himself or herself. The present understanding is that whilst certainly some patients in Gibraltar might meet these requirements of awareness and self understanding not all patients do. It is therefore dangerous practice to make long prescriptions widely available for diabetes at this stage. However doctors do recognise that there are patients who can be safely monitored over longer periods by giving them three advance prescriptions instead of one prescription for three months, three separate prescriptions of one month each. The advantage of this is that they can be withdrawn or replaced if necessary as the diabetic condition progresses and shows indications which would make that necessary. This has the advantage that it allows the patient more freedom, he has got three months of prescriptions if everything goes smoothly but at the same time in a safety and controlled environment. May I add that the Government are also in addition about to introduce a Diabetes Clinic in the Primary Care Centre whose function will be precisely to monitor diabetic control and prevent complications, educate patients in self care and this will provide additional safeguards for identifying diabetic patients whose condition is suitable for long term prescriptions. So in principle long term prescriptions are accessible but always within

an environment of control and monitoring exercise by the general practitioners. I think that the hon Lady will understand that this is a wise and sensible policy.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Yes I understand what the Minister has said in the last end of his answer but what I cannot understand is when he says that there has to be a certain measure of control because certain patients might actually abuse the prescriptions. How will a GP be able to know who is a bona fide diabetic and who is not, and is it that the GP's have been told that they can actually prescribe the three monthly prescriptions for diabetics?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

I never used the word abused, it is a question of a patient who is not totally aware precisely of the symptoms, indications that he goes through within his diabetic condition having to be monitored precisely by the doctor and therefore it is unsafe to give free hand to these patients for a long period of time without at least the doctor having the possibility and the ability to check and control and monitor the condition of these patients. In any case if the aim sought by the hon Lady echoing I suppose requests from patients themselves is to avoid the inconvenience of the repeat prescription on a monthly basis this is also available but always within the environment of control by the doctor and I think that the best method is the one that is being applied quite extensively which is to give three prescriptions for three months on a monthly basis.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

I am a bit confused because in my mind the Minister is saying yes and then he is saying no.

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

In a way I am. I am saying yes, that we want to make it as convenient as possible for the patient who does not want to bother every month to collect a new prescription, for some patients who the doctor feels they can be trusted not in terms of abuse but in terms of self-awareness but at the same time one gives a prescription of three months duration then perhaps then the ability of the doctor to check and control is lost whereas with three prescriptions of one month each the inconvenience is overcome but at the same time the doctor has the ability to withdraw a prescription if the patient shows indications that might require that measure.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

I am sorry but I am not the wiser if the patients are going to be given three prescriptions as the Minister says what does it mean? It is not a question that patients do not want the inconvenience, the diabetic patients that have come to me first of all are saying that this is standard practice in the UK and that sometimes they are given a prescription for a

month as I explained to the Minister the last time I asked this question and before the month is over they have actually had to use insulin because they have had more attacks than normal and therefore they have to go before the month is over. It is not a question of inconvenience it is a question of their medical condition and a lot of them have actually sought advice from the UK and they have been told that this is what happens in the UK they are given three monthly prescriptions. If the Minister is telling me for example, that they can actually have three prescriptions what does it mean that they have three prescriptions given to them physically and it is up to the doctor to decide whether that patient is bona fide or is not is that the answer?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

We are not talking about bona fide, we are not talking about abuses we are talking about the necessity of patients who are not entirely self aware of their condition to me constantly and continuously checked and monitored by the practitioner. It seems to be that three separate prescriptions instead of one for a three month duration has effectively the same advantage, benefit for the patient but at the same time with that little element of control which is if after the first month or as the hon Lady puts it the example whereby the end of the month the patient needs another increase in the medication then it is available to the patient because it has got two more available.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Can the Minister confirm whether those two more that the patient has, the patient has physically or the patient has to go back to the Health Centre for those two more?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

Sorry perhaps I did not explain. He gets on one occasion three separate scripts for three months so he has got the advantage and at the same time that element of control.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

When can the Minister confirm that this has happened because as far as the patients that have come to me they are not able to get these three prescriptions, the GP's are telling them that they are not aware?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

I have it here in front of me a statement from the Formulary Committee that doctors and they put it quite categorically, doctors do recognise those patients who can be safely monitored over longer periods by giving them three advanced prescriptions of one month each so they are doing it perhaps those who are getting it do not go to complain because they are happy with the way they are being treated and those that go are those that the doctor is not entirely happy about giving them this facility for the reasons which I have explained.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

The patients that have come to me I think are patients that apart from being diabetics they know what they are doing for example, one of them, is a diabetic since the age of 10 and another is a diabetic since the age of 25 and she is now 46, surely these patients ought to know how to administer the insulin that they require so how can the doctor determine who will get the three and who will not what criteria do they use?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

I would be very hesitant to actually intervene in the clinical judgement of the doctors but what I can do definitely if the hon Lady says that she has evidence of some patients who she thinks, perhaps the doctor does not, is quite capable of monitoring himself or herself quite intelligently and the doctor is not responding to that with this facility which the Formulary Committee allows the doctors to exercise then what I can do is go back and check whether all the doctors are perfectly aware of the possibility of this.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

I would appreciate that from the Minister because in fact I can also tell him that these patients have been told by the relevant GP's that they have no authority at all and therefore.....

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

That is not the case.....

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

But I would welcome him intervening and actually telling the GP's that they can do this.

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

What I have read to the hon Lady is an official statement from the Formulary Committee so the facility to the doctor is there but of course sometimes communication lines falter.

ORAL

**NO. 949 OF 2002**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – PRESCRIPTION CHARGES**

Can Government confirm whether men in receipt of old age pensions, whose wives are still contributing to the Social Security Scheme, are now required to pay the full amount of the prescription charge for medicines under the GPMS?

**ANSWER**

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

The hon Member refers to “men” in receipt of old age pensions. May I point out that the position with regard to men in receipt of old age pensions whose wives are still contributing to the Social Security scheme is certainly no different to that of women who are in receipt of pensions but dependent on husbands who are contributing. The hon Lady was quoted in the Gibraltar Chronicle as having found a ‘new policy’ loophole by which some pensioners were being denied free medicines and then she went on although I do not want to be confrontational about accusations of an uncaring Government and uncaring Minister the fact of the matter is that no new policy has been devised in the question of dependants. There was a discussion relevant to this in reply to a question by the Hon Mr Baldachino, Question No 733 of 2002 the other day when we discussed exactly where the law stands in respect of those who are covered by the SAF. The fact is that the current principles and practice are identical to those which have been in place for many years and enforced during the previous administration, pensioners who were then paying the 20p per item would be required to pay the full £1.20 if they were considered dependants on a contributing working spouse.



**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

I can tell the Minister that that is not correct it did not happen when we were in Government that is why we are so surprised that we have had people coming now to us telling us and in fact there were no complaints then.

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

I am assured by the administration who administer the situation and the system in those days that they were then after the 1988 amendments to the legislation 1989 the system, the mechanics implemented where there were three coloured cards and with corresponding coloured prescriptions. The white card and the white prescriptions were for paying prescriptions that is the £1.20 then £2.50 now. There was a yellow card which was issued or a yellow prescription to unemployed persons under pensionable age and they were required to pay 20p and there was a green card which was issued to unemployed persons over pensionable age and they paid 20p but the white prescription was issued to dependants, pensioners, contributing working people they would go on the white card and when handing it at the pharmacy they would then have to pay as a paying prescription the £1.20. It actually makes sense because it is really how the law stands when in 1988 the Medical Group Practice Scheme Ordinance was amended and section 5 which established voluntary contributions was phased out then of course it has been since then very difficult to establish exactly who are covered by the SAF and yesterday in reply to a question from Mr Baldachino we established that those and he asked who are the unemployed who are covered by the £3.1 million of the Social Assistance Fund? and the answer was, if I remember rightly, employed persons who are contributing and also dependants of a contributing person are not covered by the SAF and therefore they are required to pay the full prescription. At least that is the information that I have got, I did not live through that stage that is the information that I have got that this policy and the legal principles behind it have been enforced right through from 1988.

**HON J C PEREZ:**

I think the Minister ought to check back with his department given that I rung the Health Centre on behalf of this gentleman and they told me there in the office that it was a new policy that had been adopted and let me say that the Minister is talking about dependants whereas this person concerned has paid insurance all his life and is entitled to those services for the stamps that he has paid and they are telling him that because his wife is still working he is considered a dependant notwithstanding the fact that he has paid 40 years of insurance himself and they say that notwithstanding the fact that he has paid 40 years of insurance whilst his wife is working he is considered a dependant and he does not get the free medicines that every other pensioner does now if he were separated or divorced he would.

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

The first thing that I want to establish is that there has been no new policy that I can assure the hon Member. I have not instituted any new policy whatsoever let that be for

his comfort assured. If there has been a misunderstanding in the interpretation of the legal statutory provisions I will certainly look into it so that it is cleared up but I am told by the people of the administration that the policy has been exactly the same as it has been since 1988 if that is not the case I will investigate it but certainly I want to make it very clear that there has been no new policy established by the Minister who is uncaring as it was made out to be that because I was an uncaring Minister belonging to an uncaring Government I was now putting the screws on old pensioners let me say to the House that I too in my family have old pensioners who also depend on this support from the Government and certainly there is no question of a new policy established by an uncaring Minister or an uncaring Government.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

We accept what the Minister says that there is no policy as a statement in the House since we all make ourselves responsible for the accuracy of the things that we say here given the fact that the same applies to what my Colleague has said I think the Minister should investigate how this has come about and we are very glad to see....it must be obvious to all of us and I think the Minister will agree that the number of pensioners in this category totally unnecessary must XXXXXis and makes no difference at all to the funding of the health service. Even if it is the case that it has always been like that and it is very odd that nobody should have complained before it is an opportunity to do away with it.

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

Absolutely, certainly I agree that the legislation as it is being interpreted as I have been told is not a new legislation, it is not a new policy and seems to me, and I will be very frank about this unfair and not sensible. So we will certainly look into it but that is also part and parcel in broad terms of the confusion which still reigns over exactly what the Social Assistance Fund is all about.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Is the Minister suggesting that the Social Assistance Fund is actually charged for the difference in the payment of prescriptions because that is not the case, the Social Assistance Fund is not based on whether if there are more people who do not pay the Social Assistance Fund makes up for that deficit. The Social Assistance Fund is based on a payment to the Health Authority which is comparable to the payment that would be made if those people were working and has nothing to do with the payment for the medicines so therefore if a person working out of the weekly insurance contributions pays for the sake of argument £10 and that is £500 a year then for each unemployed person there is a £500 a year contribution from the Social Assistance Fund to the Health Authority and therefore if there are 1,000 people out of work there would be £500,000. It has nothing to do with prescription charges.

**HON K AZOPARDI:**

Yes the hon Member is correct, the contribution that is made by the SAF to the Gibraltar Health Authority is based on a guesstimate in accordance to the number of people that they think would need a contribution and based on the sum of money that would be payable under the GPMS part of the Social Insurance Stamp. That is correct but I do not really think that we need to get into a debate about the SAF again on that issue, I think that the Government have made clear what their policy are in relation to this which is that there has been no departure and the Minister has offered to investigate individual cases in accordance with his last statement and I think that is how we would like to proceed.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

I welcome the Minister's intervention because I missed yesterday that it was a star performance on his part and therefore I take it that this is a repetition of the star performance.

**HON K AZOPARDI:**

I missed it too.

ORAL

**NO. 950 OF 2002**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – UK SOCIAL SECURITY PENSIONERS**

Can Government state how many UK Social Security pensioners, who were not also in receipt of a Gibraltar Social Security pension, are resident in 2002, and registered with the Group Practice Medical Scheme?

**ANSWER**

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

Answered together with Question Nos 951 to 955, 972 and 974 to 976 of 2002.

**ORAL**

**NO. 951 OF 2002**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA - SOCIAL SECURITY PENSIONERS**

Can Government now state how many Gibraltar Social Security pensioners, who were not also in receipt of a UK Social Security pension, were resident in UK in 2000?

**ANSWER**

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

Answered together with Question Nos 950, 952 to 955, 972 and 974 to 976 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 952 OF 2002**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – SOCIAL SECURITY PENSIONERS**

Can Government now state how many Gibraltar Social Security pensioners, who were not also in receipt of a UK Social Security pension, were resident in UK in 2001?

**ANSWER**

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

Answered together with Question Nos 950, 951, 953 to 955, 972 and 974 to 976 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 953 OF 2002**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – SOCIAL SECURITY PENSIONERS**

Can Government now state how many Gibraltar Social Security pensioners, who were not also in receipt of a UK Social Security pension, were resident in the UK in 1999?

**ANSWER**

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

Answered together with Question Nos 950 to 952, 954, 955, 972 and 974 to 976 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 954 OF 2002**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – COST OF TREATING PENSIONERS IN UK**

Can Government now 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**

Answered together with Question Nos 950 to 953, 955, 972 and 974 to 976 of 2002.



ORAL

**NO. 955 OF 2002**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – COST OF TREATING PENSIONERS IN UK**

Can Government now state what was the latest average annual cost of treating a pensioner in the UK in 2001?

**ANSWER**

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

Answered together with Question Nos 950 to 954, 972 and 974 to 976 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 956 OF 2002**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – OUT-PATIENT ATTENDANCES**

Can Government state what was the total number of out-patient attendances at St Bernard's Hospital from 1<sup>st</sup> April to end of September 2002, specifying each month?

**ANSWER**

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

Answered together with Question Nos 957 and 964 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 957 OF 2002**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – IN-PATIENT ADMISSIONS**

Can Government state what was the total number of in-patient admissions and the average number of patients per day at St Bernard's Hospital from 1<sup>st</sup> April to the end of September 2002, specifying each month?

**ANSWER**

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

Answered together with Question Nos 956 and 964 of 2002.

**NO. 958 OF 2002**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – WAITING LISTS**

Can Government provide a comparable waiting list for public and private patients covering all specialities for both out-patients and in-patients, also including those who require surgical interventions?

**ANSWER**

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

The factual and statistical information requested by the hon Member is contained in the schedule that I now hand to her.

The following is a list of the numbers of patients awaiting operations by speciality:

|                    |     |
|--------------------|-----|
| General Surgery    | 106 |
| Orthopaedics       | 740 |
| Gynaecology        | 98  |
| Ophthalmology      | 335 |
| Ear, Nose & Throat | 110 |

The outpatient waiting times by speciality are as follows:

|                    |                                     |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
| General Surgery    | 3 months                            |
| Orthopaedics       | 3 months                            |
| Gynaecology        | 3 months                            |
| Ophthalmology      | 3 months                            |
| Ear, Nose & Throat | 3 weeks (Adult), 6 weeks (Children) |

|                  |           |
|------------------|-----------|
| General Medicine | 4 weeks   |
| Paediatrics      | 3 weeks   |
| Geriatrics       | 1 week    |
| Pain Clinic      | 1 week    |
| Psychiatry       | 2-4 weeks |

There is no waiting time for emergencies.

The waiting time for private elective surgery is 2-3 weeks.

The waiting time for private out-patients is 1 week.

### **SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION 959 OF 2002**

#### **HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

I find this list somewhat confusing because I remember that in answer to Question No 700 of 2001 I was actually given a table which set the waiting times for private patients compared to the waiting times for public patients and therefore we did a comparability study at the time with the same information that I am asking now and we were able to draw the conclusion that for example, public patients needing general surgery the waiting time was six months and for private patients needing general surgery the waiting time was four weeks. With the table that I have been given it says, "The following is a list of the number of patients awaiting operations by speciality, the out-patients waiting time is ....." and that is it, there is no comparable list as I am asking in the Question with private and public patients.

#### **HON DR B A LINARES:**

I thought the hon Lady was interested in the maximum waiting times. Let me make that clear, that list actually establishes maximum waiting times permissible to the Consultant in terms of public patients it does not mean that they cannot attend to the out-patients and similarly with the in-patient surgery before those established maximum waiting times. What is missing here and I accept is the actual waiting times for private patients, is that what the hon Lady is asking now?

#### **HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

I can tell the Minister that I am asking for a comparable waiting list for public and private patients because the last time I asked this question which was Question No 700 of 2001 I got a reply from the Minister which to us was a disproportionate amount of time when one compared the public to the private and therefore I wanted to know whether that still

existed. It was exactly the same question as I am putting now and now I am not getting the complete information.

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

I accept that I have not been provided with the answer, what she wants to know in order to compare obviously if one wants to compare two things one wants to compare waiting times public, waiting times private and I accept that she did ask for the comparable data by misreading of the question it has not been provided but that is easily accessible and about disproportionate we have discussed and debated this matter before, obviously people go private very often because they have to wait less time but that is part and parcel of the scheme with of course all the necessary controls that are actually indicated in this paper whereby the consultants are limited to maximum waiting times for out-patients and in terms of surgery I have repeated this again and again they are also controller limited by the fact that they can only in terms of private patients carry out one major a week or two intermediaries or three minor operations. So there are controls to see that there is a proportionate rather than disproportionate element in the public waiting list and the private waiting list but it still does not take us away from the fact, and that is a fact, that people who go privately are attended quicker. That is part of the system here and in many other parts of the world.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Can I ask the Minister with his hand on his heart and some years ago as an advocate of socialism is he happy with the situation going by the last time I was answered this Question whether it is fair for a patient in Orthopaedics, General Surgery, Ophthalmology, in fact in nearly all specialities and I have my doubts why I have not been given the information but I take the Minister's answer that it has not been given but I hope that it will be given, but does he accept with his hand in his heart that a patient who goes publicly for example, Orthopaedics, he has to wait for eight months and if he goes private he has to wait for two to three weeks does he accept that ?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

I would retort with her hand on her heart does she accept that during her time the situation was similar or even worse?

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

With my hand on my heart I can say that no but he has not answered the question but the answer is no. One more supplementary, he has not answered the question but another point that I would want him to answer is that even in the previous question he said that he was not obliged to give me information as far as clinic out-patients were concerned for private patients how come that he is now saying that he will give me the out-patients waiting list for private patients, why is it that he says that he is not obliged because if the Minister is saying that this Government are keen in controlling private

practice why is it that he has actually said here in the House a few minutes ago that they are not obliged?

**HON K AZOPARDI:**

The Rules of Private Practice, the controls that were instituted require the Consultants to deliver the statistics and information that the administration require on request, they do not automatically deliver it, they do not automatically submit it but they are obliged to deliver it to the administration if the administration requests it, that is the situation and as to the previous question that the hon Member asked let me say that she can put her hand on her heart if she wants to and she can say whatever she wants to but the reality and everyone in Gibraltar knows it is that the system was uncontrolled in her day, I have called it the 'Wild West of Private Practice' before and I emphasise and reiterate it, it was the 'Wild West' there were no controls, people did whatever they wanted to even if they were contractually obliged not to do private practice and what we have instituted is a system of private practice controls where it is clear and transparent and accountable what they can and cannot do for surgery and for out-patient times. We have established maximum waiting times and a system of accountability and discipline where we can enforce these controls and things are clear for everyone to see, of course people are going to go and use private practice and abuse the system, that happens everywhere in the world what we need to ensure is that there are adequate controls that can enforce the system and Government are confident that it may not be an ideal and perfect system but it is certainly a monumental improvement on her day.

**NO. 959 OF 2002**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – ELDERLY CARE PATIENTS**

Can Government state how many long stay elderly care patients there were at St Bernard's Hospital in April, May, June, July, August and September of 2002?

**ANSWER**

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

The number of long stay elderly patients for the months in question are as follows:-

|           |   |    |
|-----------|---|----|
| April     | - | 54 |
| May       | - | 42 |
| June      | - | 44 |
| July      | - | 40 |
| August    | - | 38 |
| September | - | 40 |



**ORAL**

**NO. 960 OF 2002**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – ELDERLY PATIENTS**

How many elderly citizens are awaiting a place at Mount Alvernia, and how many of these are occupying a bed at St Bernard's Hospital as at the end of September 2002?

**ANSWER**

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

A total of 60 elderly citizens are awaiting a place at Mount Alvernia. Of these, 40 are presently occupying an in-patient bed within the Gibraltar Health Authority.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 960 OF 2002**

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Which means that the figure has increased dramatically, there is a situation that in the last House Of Assembly meeting the Minister said that there were 53 awaiting for a place at Mount Alvernia and that out of these 12 were occupying a bed at St Bernard's but then he said that there were more than 12 at St Bernard's and that therefore the question had not been properly answered. The Minister promised to provide us with the correct information, does it mean that what he has now told us is what we wanted to know that 40 are occupying out of the 60 it is not what he answered previously that 12 have been earmarked to go to Mount Alvernia.

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

I do not have the past questions before me to check exactly what I have said but I would be surprised very much and if I did I was mistaken that only 12 patients in St Bernard's Hospital were on the waiting list for Mount Alvernia. I think that figure of 12 might have referred to 12 in-patients in St Bernard's Hospital who were transferred in April to Mount Alvernia and hence she will see that reflected in the figures which I have given a moment ago but in April the number of long stay elderly patients in St Bernard's was 54 but then the next month it dropped to 42 precisely because of the transfer of 12 patients to Mount Alvernia. Anyway if she is asking exactly what I meant by the answer I have just given, yes, the waiting list for Mount Alvernia is 60 persons, and of those 60 persons 40 of them are presently in St Bernard's hospital awaiting a vacancy, a place and a transfer to Mount Alvernia.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Therefore the Minister is confirming that the answer that he gave us to Question No 575 of 2002 is not correct?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

What did I say then?

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

He said, "...with respect I did not say that of the 53 patients generally waiting for a bed in Mount Alvernia 12 were in St Bernard's there may be more than 12 in St Bernard's among those 53. What I have said is that 12 of these patients were actually de facto transferred to Mount Alvernia but that does not necessarily mean that there are no other patients who are also on the waiting list," and then we said that the Minister had not answered the question that was put because the question says, "How many are waiting a place and out of these how many are in St Bernard's," and the Minister said, "I agree. I have answered that 53 are on the waiting list and obviously the question that she wanted to know was of these 53, how many were in St Bernard's," but the way the answer has been given to me is that only 12 have been moved and I agree, so therefore I am trying to get him to confirm whether out of the 60, 40 are actually awaiting and it is not that 40 have been earmarked?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

Either the hon Lady is confused or she is trying to confuse me but it is quite clear from her quoting now of my answer which I did not have before me so I was a bit stumped that what I said last time was perfectly reasonable that there were 53 on the waiting list for Mount Alvernia which is what she keeps on asking, "How many people are waiting to get into Mount Alvernia?" then it was 53 this time it is 60 and then, "How many of these are actually now presently residing in St Bernard's Hospital?" and I said 12 had been transferred in April I did not say only 12 are waiting for a place there were many more

people waiting for a place and I said so in my answer as I am saying it now that there are now 40 waiting for a place in Mount Alvernia in St Bernard's I could not be clearer. Either we are getting our wires crossed as I say or I do not know.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

No, now the Minister has answered the question as we phrased it because at the time the last Meeting of the House he said 12 had been transferred.....

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

A total of 12 had been transferred but they were not the only ones waiting for a place in St Bernard's that is perfectly clear.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

That is why the question this time was phrased exactly the same as in the last Meeting of the House and all I am saying to the Minister is that he accepted he did not answer the question as phrased that he said that 12 had been transferred and all I am asking the Minister now is to tell me whether 40 out of the figure that he has given me are actually occupying a bed, that is all I want to know, comparing the same question with the one I have put this time because I do not want to get the answer that I got the last time?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

If that is all that she wants to know then she has got the answer. She seems to be wanting much more than that and I am glad that now she is satisfied that I have given the right answer.

**NO. 961 OF 2002**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – NUMBER OF OPERATIONS CANCELLED**

Can Government confirm how many routine operations were cancelled at St Bernard's Hospital due to the non-availability of beds for May, June, July, August and September 2002, giving a breakdown for each month?

**ANSWER**

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

No routine operations were cancelled because of non-availability of beds during the months of May, June, July, August, and September 2002 so there is no question of giving a breakdown because no cancellations were made.

May I take this opportunity with your indulgence that last time in answer to Question No 541 of 2002 there was a bit of a discussion on this and I expressed innocently satisfaction that during the months of March and April, she started with May, there had been no cancellations and I expressed satisfaction, limited satisfaction. I was then barraged by the hon Lady who said, "does that mean that you have solved the problem, that there will no longer be any further cancellations in the future?" and even the Leader of the Opposition said, "The Minister may find that in a couple of months down the road there may be more cancellations once again." Well, there have been more than a couple of months down the road now May, June, July, August, and September and my satisfaction is even greater now and I am sure the Leader of the Opposition's satisfaction and the hon Lady's satisfaction that during this prolonged period of time there have been no further cancellations of elective surgery as a result of bed shortages. I like to think and I hope that it is the new system, Bed Management System that we have implemented is yielding some results.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

I would like to say that here in the Opposition our function is to ask the Government questions where there are problems. I do not think that he should take it personally in the manner that he is but I can assure the Minister that if there have not been any he is happy and of course we are happy but having said that he hopes that it is actually the new system can he expand on what the new system is?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

The new system I explained last time that was the centre of the debate last time that we now approach a multidisciplinary approach in terms of counselling, trying to see the background, the social background, family problems involving long stay elderly patients in which are involved the professions allied to medicine, Occupational Therapy, Physio Therapy, looking at the conditions, the family conditions a much more positive counselling approach to individual cases and consultation with the family with the relatives trying to help them in the difficulties they have in taking relatives home, we went into details last time and perhaps we should all like to think and hope that precisely because of this new approach and this new methodology it is yielding results. It has gone on from March to September this year a period of quite a few months without this terrible thing that was unacceptable of cancelling elective surgery because of bed shortages.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

But in that case can the Minister explain why there are still 40 people waiting to be transferred to Mount Alvernia with all the new system that he has just explained?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

It has nothing to do with the cancellations of elective surgery the reasons.....

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

He has just said it.

**HON J C PEREZ:**

Would the Minister not agree that if the 'Home Help' system would be functioning that would prove more successful?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

I do not agree with that, if we develop as we are intending to develop first of all the residential facilities and provisions in Mount Alvernia I think the hon Member will know, the work that is being done through the Elderly Care Agency to be able to accommodate long stay residential cases not requiring acute care in the hospital and the domiciliary

care services in the community to enable elderly people to be able to remain, those developments will enable us to actually dislodge the problem of blockages. These are factual things that are logistical and there are no value judgements involved but just simply working methodically to solve problems.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Can the Minister confirm what is the relevance between the cancellation of routine operations elective surgery in relation to how many geriatric patients there are in geriatric wards because I cannot envisage that if he says that the elderly are blocking beds in geriatric wards how is it that it affects elective surgery when those patients that go for elective surgery have nothing to do with the geriatric wards?

**HON K AZOPARDI:**

I would have thought it was obvious if the hon Member had followed the answers that we had given in previous sessions. The number of geriatric patients affect the number of cancellations of routine operations when the geriatric wards are full and they have spilled over into surgical wards and when they are there for geriatric patients occupying a surgical bed necessarily it means that it may have a knock on effect on someone having to come in occupy a bed and then undergo surgery.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Will the Minister for Health confirm whether patients like geriatric patients when they spill over to another ward they do not spill to surgery, they spill to the medical wards do they not, and it has nothing to do with elective surgery or the surgical wards. I have never known a situation not even now when an elderly patient is actually put in a surgical ward. They are always put into either Victoria or Lady Begg or Lewis Stagnetto?

**HON K AZOPARDI:**

It may be that the first call is to the medical wards but they have in my experience also spilled over to surgical wards, they have in my experience also spilled over even to Maternity in a very exceptional case which was undesirable in the extreme but they have spilled over into all the wards which has led to the problems that we have had which has led to the cancellations in the past which has then led to the improvements that my hon Colleague has described over the last few months and I congratulate him for that.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Is it not correct then that the Minister is saying that now he has more because he has got 40 waiting for Mount Alvernia which is more than before?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

No, not 60, 40, 60 is the waiting list of Mount Alvernia. Forty is not more than before so let us get that straight. There were 53 waiting before and I have not got the previous figure but it is 54 in April and now it is 40 so it is not more than before.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

But will the Minister accept that the last time he said he had 53 and out of the 53 there were 12 and now he has got.....

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

I said 12 had actually been physically transferred to Mount Alvernia I did not say that there were only 12 patients we have gone over this before we must be getting our wires crossed because I said 12 patients had been moved physically from the hospital to Mount Alvernia I did not say that only 12 patients in the hospital were waiting to go to Mount Alvernia there were more than that and the figures are in that list there. 54 in April, 42 in May, 44 in June, 40 in July, 38 in August and 40 now so the figure has gone down thanks to those 12 in April who were moved.

**HON J L BALDACHINO:**

There is a bit of confusion maybe the Minister can clarify a point because he has actually if I heard him correctly and he can confirm this when he answers, he has linked in some way the position of having cancellations of routine operations to elderly persons. Is it that by moving 12 elderly persons from the hospital to Mount Alvernia this has actually solved the problem?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

Twelve transfers to Mount Alvernia reduced the bed blockage problem obviously, we had 52 and we reduced it to 42 that was one factor but also the methodology adopted which I will have occasion to explain in the next question as well has also helped for many long stay elderly patients to be returned home with the consent of relatives preparing the reception of them in the community which ultimately is the ideal. The ideal I think everyone will agree is for elderly patients to feel at home go back to their roots but of course the Government have an obligation to provide the necessary resources and necessary conditions and that is what we are working on especially through the very tireless efforts of the Elderly Care Agency.

**ORAL**

**NO. 962 OF 2002**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – ELDERLY PATIENTS**

What is the present number of beds earmarked for elderly patients at St Bernard's Hospital, and how many such beds are Government intending to provide at the Europort building?

**ANSWER**

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

If by earmarked the hon Lady refers to the dedicated geriatric wards Lady Begg and Lewis Stagnetto Wards then the answer is 33 beds are provided in these wards . As regards the new hospital and in accordance with modern practice the new hospital will not have separate clinical or surgical wards for elderly patients as such. Elderly patients of course will be treated in the hospital for acute care as ordinary patients generally. Additional beds for long term elderly care for more residential, minor nursing care are being provided as is known in Mount Alvernia the capacity of which for residential provision is currently being nearly doubled and then this is coupled also with the development as I mentioned before of Community Care of the elderly through a domicilliary service which will also help to alleviate the current situation.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 962 OF 2002**

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Will the Minister confirm that due to the nature of his answer he is actually saying that in the new hospital there will be no geriatric wards?



**HON DR B A LINARES:**

That is exactly it. There will not be a dedicated geriatric ward but elderly people requiring hospital care, acute care, will be part and parcel integrated in the medical and surgical wards of the new hospital which provides of course many more beds than the present hospital, there will be 201 beds in the new hospital as opposed to 166 which we have now.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Does that mean that nurses that are specialised with geriatric patients will need to be present in all of the wards or is the Government gearing the medical wards as I said originally to provide beds for geriatric patients?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

I do not know, the nursing provisions will be worked out accordingly and I am sure in order to give as dedicated and as specialised a nursing provision for the patients but the hon Member will understand that perhaps the type of residential care, nursing care which is given now in the geriatric wards much of this will be covered by the provision at Mount Alvernia.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Does that mean that the Minister is hoping that there will not be as many geriatric patients in Europort Building that they will automatically be sent to Mount Alvernia?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

Geriatric is a very wide term what I mean is that the hospital will be geared as everywhere else to acute hospital clinical care for young people, middle aged people and elderly citizens requiring hospital acute care. We do hope that both the residential facilities of Mount Alvernia and also the domiciliary service will cope with the needs of elderly people who are not necessarily to be interned in a hospital very often they are there as they are presently against their wishes very often but because there is no other way of being looked after but not necessarily because they need medical strictly acute care as it is called in the jargon and that is the way we are thinking.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Can the Minister confirm that once the Europort Building is open that St Bernard's Hospital will not be used for any patients?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

It is very unlikely that it will be used for patients especially since the facilities in the new Europort Hospital will be much more expanded as I have mentioned even in terms of beds and equipment and facilities and resources so there will be no need for patients to be taken into St Bernard's Hospital as it stands now.

**NO. 963 OF 2002**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – ELDERLY PATIENTS**

Can Government state during the months of April, May, June, July, August and September of 2002, of the beds occupied by elderly persons who have been formally discharged but refused to leave, how many fell into each of the three categories identified by the Government:

- (a) elderly persons living alone;
- (b) elderly persons needing support;
- (c) others able to be looked after?

**ANSWER**

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

As regards those three categories, faced with the problems that we had in terms of bed blockages months ago and in our attempt to identify the difficulties which were preventing many of the long stay elderly patients to leave hospital, we were trying to identify what the problems were and we categorised these patients in these three categories: elderly persons living alone (to see whether that was the difficulty); elderly persons needing support (whether that was a difficulty); others who were able to be looked after but just simply did not want to go or their relatives would not look after them. We have not really found this classification all that useful in these months. We have now concentrated as I mentioned a moment ago in all honesty in a much more positive multi-disciplinary more enlightened approach involving counselling and involving the professions allied to medicine to see about the conditions and analysing the motivation and the difficulties in a much more meaningful way, I explained this approach a moment ago in answer to another question and therefore all elderly patients who have been discharged today are either able to look after themselves or able to be looked after by

persons other than clinicians and when there is a reluctance even then on their part or of their relatives, a multidisciplinary interview is held with the person's problems, discussed and a planned discharge is set in motion. In short they do not go straight away but leave after this process has been gone through and the required facilities are put in place as far as possible and in some cases this works after a few days, someone reluctant to go or the relatives agree that the necessary conditions have been offered to them and they accept the discharge in other cases it may take a bit longer, weeks, and sometimes indeed months but that is the approach that we have now so that it is a human and a meaningful service, facilitating a mechanism to enable in recognition that some patients are in need of social care rather than acute care.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

The Minister has not answered the question I wanted to know the figures and he has given a sort of a resume of how they are being treated but I do not have figures to be able to.....

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

Yes because I have explained and I would have thought it was implicit that since we are not using these categories anymore in any sort of formal way there are no figures attached to each of the categories. We are now taking a global approach to long stay elderly patients analysing individually what their problems are and we no longer have mechanical, mathematical figures attached to these categories that in all honesty I have said we tried in good faith to try to see if they would help in analysing the problems but we find that they do not because we find that there are overlaps. There are elderly persons living alone but then they have others that can be looked after so one cannot just classify people in this mechanical sort of way so therefore we have no figures.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

I cannot understand the answer given by the Minister when in November of 2001 to January I was given the figures 9, 22, 18, and then in February and March I was given the figures again and the reason why I am asking for these figures is because the Gibraltar Health Authority came out with a press release actually saying that they would require a commitment which the Minister then said was a verbal commitment from these patients in these categories so if it is the Health Authority who has actually said that they were actually going to seek commitments from elderly persons living alone, elderly persons needing support and others to be looked after I would have thought that if I have got the figures that the Health Authority said that they were compiling themselves and actually said that they were going to start a procedure were they sought a commitment from them can the Minister say whether now he has been convinced by arguments and that commitment has been iradicated.

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

I have often prided myself in the past as an educator of being reasonably clear in my expositions of problems and issues . I am beginning to doubt now about myself whether I am failing to get through entirely. I gave figures related to categories which are no longer relevant which are no longer in use, in those days when we were trying to classify people to see what their difficulties were I could give the hon Member the figures and I did now as I have explained in all honesty we find that these classifications are not really useful or relevant so therefore there are no figures what is the issue.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

The issue is the question that I have asked the minister. We said that we thought it was unfair that elderly patients should be asked to give a commitment whether verbal or written then it came out to be that the commitment according to the Minister in the last House of Assembly Meeting was a verbal commitment, now I have been given figures twice in this House Of Assembly and since now he says that they are no longer relevant all I am asking the Minister is does he agree that we were right that they were irrelevant that they should not be penalising elderly patients by asking them to give commitments, that is all yes or no?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

If she wants to have the last word I am quite happy to let her have the last word but I am not prepared to carry on.

ORAL

**NO. 964 OF 2002**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – PRIVATE PATIENTS**

Can the Minister for Health state how many private patients were seen to or treated at St Bernard's Hospital:-

- (a) as out-patients; and
- (b) as in-patients during the months of April to September 2002?

**ANSWER**

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

I hand the hon Lady the information requested.

**Answer to Question No 956 of 2002**

The number of out-patient attendances is as follows:-

|           | <u>Clinics</u> | <u>Casualty</u> |
|-----------|----------------|-----------------|
| April     | 1358           | 1573            |
| May       | 1272           | 1741            |
| June      | 1236           | 1569            |
| July      | 1372           | 1802            |
| August    | 1231           | 1626            |
| September | 1214           | 1623            |
|           | —              | —               |
|           | <b>7683</b>    | <b>9934</b>     |
|           | —              | —               |

**Answer to Question No 957 of 2002**

The total number of in-patient admissions and the average number of patients per day at St Bernard’s hospital for the months in question is as follows:

| <u>Month</u> | <u>Admissions</u> | <u>Average No of patients per day</u> |
|--------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
| April        | 513               | 130                                   |
| May          | 512               | 128                                   |
| June         | 447               | 126                                   |
| July         | 526               | 130                                   |
| August       | 485               | 124                                   |
| September    | 484               | 120                                   |

**IN-PATIENTS**

|                      | <b><u>Admissions</u></b> | <b><u>No of patients<br/>(Average per day)</u></b> |
|----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Jan 2001 – Sept 2001 | 4126                     | 134.3                                              |
| Average monthly      | 456                      |                                                    |
| (Jan 2001- Dec 2001) | 4910                     | 134.9                                              |
| Average monthly      | 409                      |                                                    |
| Jan 2002 – Sept 2002 | 3963                     | 127.8                                              |
| Average monthly      | 440                      |                                                    |

**OUT-PATIENTS (Clinics and Casualty)**

|                       |   |         |
|-----------------------|---|---------|
| Jan 2001 – Sept 2001  | - | 33003   |
| Monthly Mean          | - | 3667    |
| (Jan 2001 – Dec 2001) | - | 40869   |
| Monthly Mean          | - | 3405.75 |
| Jan 2002 – Sept 2002  | - | 26486   |
| Monthly Mean          | - | 2942    |

**Answer to Question No 964 of 2002**

The total number of private in-patient care delivered is as follows:-

|              |           |
|--------------|-----------|
| April        | 15        |
| May          | 10        |
| June         | 11        |
| July         | 10        |
| August       | 10        |
| September    | 16        |
|              | —         |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>72</b> |
|              | —         |



## **SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 956, 957 AND 964 OF 2002**

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

I hope the Minister recognises the fact that when I have asked this question previously I have also asked him whether the figures are static .....

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

I have got it here.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

I am glad that he has got the information now, will he confirm whether they are static, in the increase or have they decreased?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

First of all I apologise because the hon Lady asked for the totals and we have only given the breakdown. I can give her the totals straightaway for her convenience, the total of out-patient attendances at clinics is 7,683 from April to September which is the table in front of her. The total for casualty attendances was 9,934 and that makes a grand total of out-patients attendances at St Bernard's during those months of 17,617. The total number of in-patient admissions during those months was 2,967 as regards the average number of patients at St Bernard's as in-patients per day. The overall average by adding up those figures and dividing by six, the overall average was 134. I have more information that I can actually pass on to her with the promised comparison of these figures with previous figures to see a point of interest to her and to me that is how the trend goes, whether they are static or whether they are increasing or decreasing and she will find these relativities in these papers that I hand to her now.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

I am grateful if the Minister provides information at a later stage but what I want him to confirm is whether they are static, in the increase or they are decreasing?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

They are pretty static, there is no dramatic increase or decrease as one will see from the figures there.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Just a quick observation, they seem to be going down slightly month by month am I correct?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

The average monthly admissions from January to September, I took January to September because the question related to January/September 2002. In 2001 was 456 monthly and in this year the average monthly admission was 440. That is a slight decrease although I do not think it is significant, that could be related to all sorts of factors which are not significant in anyway.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

In looking at the out-patients it seems that the figures for clinics and casualty have actually come down as well is that correct?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

Yes, the monthly mean has come down from 3,667 to 2,942 that is slightly more interesting drop but again especially in terms of casualty one never knows accidents, emergencies could go up and down I do not know whether either of us here can see any significant trend that might be worth attention.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

I think there is, if the Minister would agree to look at the past figures especially in relation if he will make a note of Question No 1084 of 2001 the casualty figures seemed to have dropped.

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

Going back to Question No 569 where we had two months February and March and in those months we had casualty 1,600 and 1,424 in March but again as I say those ups and downs especially in the area of casualty can be due to all sorts of events.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

I did ask in one of the questions the number of private in-patients and I am just looking to see whether I have been answered this question.

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

The Member has been given the number of private in-patients yes.....

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

.....and the number of out-patients?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

I have explained this before, according to private practice regulations there is no obligation to hand in this data and I have made that point repeatedly before.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

If the Minister will go back to the last Meeting of the House he confirmed that the question of private out-patients, of looking at the numbers is actually underway at the moment and he said he would pass the information over to me when it was ready.

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

We have the ability to seek the information and I apologise if I have not got round to it. Although there is no obligation to deliver that information and that data by the consultants we can investigate and I am sorry if I said that I would do so and I have not got the figures with me but I will deliver those figures to the hon Lady as soon as I obtain them.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

I am grateful that after so many questions that I have asked on the matter that the Minister has said that he will deliver and I will take him up on that.

ORAL

**NO. 965 OF 2002**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE**

Can Government state the number of complaints that are being received through the GHA's Complaints Procedure, from 1<sup>st</sup> April to end of September 2002?

**ANSWER**

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

The total number of complaints received through the complaints procedure for the period is eight. All eight complaints are in respect of secondary care.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 965 OF 2002**

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

The Minister will know because we have talked about the complaints Procedure before in this House and indeed he has accepted that there are deficiencies and moreover the Ombudsman and the Board of the Health Authority have criticised the efficacy of the Complaints Procedure, are Government looking at ways of improving it since they know and they have admitted that there are deficiencies?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

Indeed we are, we are currently reviewing the operational aspects of the Complaints Procedure and shortly I hope we will be in the position to announce certain practical changes in the way the whole scheme works which we are confident will add to the fluidity and the greater credibility as well of the procedure. We are always keen to improve things that we discover do not work as we would desire.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Are Government keen in taking the advise of the Ombudsman when he said in his last report that there should be an independent body completely unrelated to the Health Authority to look at these complaints?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

No, we do not intend to actually adopt that as pragmatically as that but the new arrangements will actually I think come a long way to meet the philosophy behind the Ombudsman's suggestion which is that there should be an arm's length in the procedure, an arm's length certain distancing of the persons investigating the complaints or the designated officers investigating the complaints from the actual front line practitioners who are involved in the complaint so there will be account given in more details at this stage but certainly the thinking behind it will be adopted but not quite in the sense of an independent external investigator, we do not think that that sort of thing works.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Can the Minister give a date more or less by which he expects these changes to be in place and can he also confirm whether it will mean that they will have to change legislation, the Regulations?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

I cannot give a fixed date I have said shortly and that is as far as I am prepared to go. I am not sure whether the Regulations will be affected as such from a legal or statutory point of view but certainly the actual operational mechanism in the Complaints Procedure as it stands will have to be looked at and adjusted to what we want to do.

ORAL

**NO. 966 OF 2002**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – NUMBER OF HOUSE CALLS**

Can Government state how many house-calls were attended to by Health Centre Doctors from 1<sup>st</sup> April to end of September 2002 specifying each month?

**ANSWER**

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

Answered together with Question No 967 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 967 OF 2002**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – OUT-PATIENT ATTENDANCES**

Can Government state what was the total number of out-patient attendances at the Health Centre from 1<sup>st</sup> April to the end of September 2002, specifying each month?

**ANSWER**

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

The number of house calls and out-patient attendances at the Primary Care Centre are as follows:-

|           | <b>House Calls</b> | <b>Out-patient Attendances</b> |
|-----------|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| April     | 635                | 12,318                         |
| May       | 555                | 13,209                         |
| June      | 452                | 10,284                         |
| July      | 506                | 10,969                         |
| August    | 507                | 9,721                          |
| September | 451                | 10,370                         |
| Total     | 3,106              | 66,871                         |

**NB** The house calls recorded are from 9.00 am to 4.00 pm only.

## **SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 966 AND 967 OF 2002**

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

As in the out-patient and in-patient questions in relation to St Bernard's I always ask the Minister for the same supplementary, can he confirm whether these figures are decreasing, static or increasing?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

What I will do is give the figures related to the previous period February to March which were in Question Nos 566 and 567 of 2002. The average monthly number of house calls from April to September was 521 and the average out-patient attendances for that period was 11,145 monthly. In February/March the monthly average of house calls was 690 so there has been a decrease and the out-patient attendances the monthly average February/March 2002 was 15,496 which has been an increase from the average of 11,145. Whether the month as such in terms of out-patient attendances January, February, are months when perhaps there is usually a pattern of an increase in people coming up to the Primary Care Centre because of the usual ailments connected with the winter months maybe there is a reason for that again I find it difficult to see patterns, there are all sorts of factors involved in all this like flu epidemics, rampant viruses and vagrant bugs around the place that may also condition exactly why there are these ups and downs.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

If we compare like with like I usually like to take the month and therefore instead of a month having an average I would rather take a period which is seven months compared to the previous year.

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

The wider the sample the more indicative is the average.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

That is right. If we take the average from the 1<sup>st</sup> January to July 2002 on the question of the house calls we have a figure for seven months of 3,210. The figure that has been given now for six months is 3,106 but on the question of out-patient attendances the figure that I have been given now is 66,871 if we compare that with the previous year for seven months the figure is 84,389 so we are talking about that there is a slight decrease am I not correct?



**HON DR B A LINARES:**

And even the averages indicate that as the average during the April/September period was 11,000 and certainly the two months before that it was 15,000 so definitely there was a decrease there.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

But on a humorous note it does not reflect on the question of the number of prescriptions that have been given out.

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

The greater the number of people who turn up at the Primary Care Centre the greater the number of prescriptions which are going to be issued.

**ORAL**

**NO. 968 OF 2002**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – PSYCHO-GERIATRIC PATIENTS**

Can Government state how many psycho-geriatric patients have been admitted to KGV from 1<sup>st</sup> April to end of September 2002?

**ANSWER**

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

A total of nine psycho-geriatric patients were admitted to KGV from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2002 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2002.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 968 OF 2002**

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

In a relevant question which I asked the Minister last year I asked him whether he could confirm whether it is planned that the number of in-patient beds at KGV will be reduced because this is consistent with what the GHA said in their annual report of 2001. They said there that they plan that the number of in-patient beds at KGV would be reduced, a substantial number of these beds have through the years been taken up by what are considered to be inappropriately placed patients who require considerable physical nursing care and therefore I am asking the Minister whether he can confirm that the number of in-patient beds have or have not been reduced?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

The number of beds have not been reduced, the whole issue of in-patient facilities and provision in the KGV is being studied globally rather than simply as a separate issue of beds.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

I know that I asked the Minister but in case they have changed their minds, will there be any provision in the new hospital for psychiatric patients, will there be any facilities?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

No. Except if they need acute clinical medical care.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Therefore the Health Authority did mention in their report that they were asking the Government for facilities to be included there, is it that the Government have now told the Health Authority that the whole question of the KGV and its facilities and the resources are being reviewed?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

Is the hon Member referring to the facilities in the new hospital?

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

No I am now referring to KGV because I have already been told by the Minister that there will be no facilities for psychiatric patients and therefore what I am asking him is that in view that the Health Authority in their report were saying that they were going to make representations to the Government on the facilities at the unit that they presently have whether that is now being looked at?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

It is being looked at as I said a moment ago in an overview of the present provision for psychiatric patients.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

And the review is between the Government and the Health Authority and nothing to do with another review from experts from outside, am I correct?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

You are correct to some extent except that the Clinical Governor's Programme which has been announced will cover all aspects of healthcare in Gibraltar, I am not going to into the details of how the programme is intended to operate at the moment but certainly I can say that the objective is to cover all aspects of healthcare in Gibraltar and that of course includes mental healthcare.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Do Government recognise the recommendations of the Health Authority in their report that the facilities should be improved because they are insufficient at KGV?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

Yes, indeed as I mentioned a moment ago we are always looking for improvements in order to facilitate and make our provision for all our patients, mental patients, sick patients and other patients the best that we can provide within given resources.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

But the Minister can confirm that the facilities will be expanded within the KGV unit and not elsewhere or are they also looking at the possibility of expanding for example, the community side of this psychiatric unit?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

The community side is obviously in need of expansion because the trend today as the hon Lady will know is that as far as possible the integration in community of many patients who need medical care but nevertheless perhaps can flourish and improve their condition by being more included and integrated in the community within a controlled environment is certainly something that will necessarily be part of the improvements that we envisage.

**ORAL**

**NO. 969 OF 2002**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – DERMATOLOGIST**

Can Government confirm when the Visiting Dermatologist, Skin Specialist, Dr Hutchinson, stopped working for the Gibraltar Health Authority?

**ANSWER**

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

The Government can confirm that Dr Hutchinson discontinued his visits in March 2002.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 969 OF 2002**

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Is the Minister aware that there are patients that are actually saying that Dr Hutchinson did not visit Gibraltar after December 2001 or is it that he did visit Gibraltar in March 2002 or that he discontinued his services in March 2002, which of the two is it?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

The information I have and I will be glad to check exactly what it means is that he discontinued his consultancy visits to Gibraltar as from, the wording is, in March 2002. That seems to imply that up to that time he was continuing with his regular visits as scheduled before.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

I do not think that the answer is very clear because the information that we have from a few patients that have come to see us is that they were told in December 2001 of last year that their appointments had been cancelled because Dr Hutchinson was no longer visiting Gibraltar that he would no longer come and therefore the way that the Minister has answered the question it is not precisely clear and therefore I would urge him to look at the problem because of the number of patients that are affected and also because if the information that we have is correct we have a situation that it means that it will take years for patients who were supposed to be seen in December 2001 to be seen again because the appointments that have been given now in October according to the patients who have gone to the administration, they have been told that they will be appointments being given in October from another skin specialist but that they are not included there because of the backlog and therefore these patients quite rightly are saying, "It will probably take two or three years before I am seen."?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

There are two points that the hon Lady has made, one is just factual if certainly the information that she has got from patients that it was in December 2001 that they were told that they would not be seen by Dr Hutchinson because he was not coming again then the answer given here is not correct. The impression given by this answer is that visits were discontinued in March but not in December so I will certainly follow that one up. The other issue is of a wider nature and that is the question of the backlog. We are making a huge in-road into that we now have actually recruited three consultant dermatologists, who will take it in turn so that the visits will be now not just four times a year as was the case once a quarter with Dr Hutchinson, we will have two consultant dermatologists from the Leicester Royal Infirmary taking it in turns to pay consultancy visits to Gibraltar, that would bring up the consultation to six times a year but on top of that we have also recruited the services of Dr Andres Minguillar of the Policlinica Regina of Algeciras who will be coming every month. He will be coming every month as from this month, from October, so really we have actually increased the provision so that we can actually begin to eliminate the backlog to which the hon Lady refers.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

I would therefore urge the Minister to look into the situation because of these patients that are affected because we are talking about well over one and a half years since they will not be seen and therefore if the Minister is saying that he is going to actually employ more doctors I assume that he says that they are going to be locums but I cannot understand that if they are going to be more than one employed why it is that patients will be waiting for two years before they are seen?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

Because of the increased provision patients will be able to get appointments much earlier than perhaps was envisaged when these arrangements had not still come into place.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

I understand that but I would like the Minister to go back to the administration to verify what I am saying that there are patients from December 2001 right up to now until October who have not been included in the appointments and therefore it will take them more than one and a half years now if the Minister I know that he is saying that he is employing more skin specialists but we will have to monitor the situation and see how long it will take for these patients to be seen because already they have been for more than a year to be seen.

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

Our whole aim as I have just explained is precisely to actually be able to attend to these patients much more quickly than they would have to because of the backlog, the whole objective is precisely to be able to reduce the waiting time but let me say also, let me add in case the wrong impression has been given that during those months of absence of Dr Hutchinson the urgent cases which were identified by clinicians were attended to in the interim and were referred to a consultant dermatologist in a local clinic, Professor Dowell. So urgent cases were never sort of neglected or abandoned but I agree that the more routine cases have had to wait and therefore we are now making provision so that they will be attended now more quickly than perhaps was envisaged.

**ORAL**

**NO. 970 OF 2002**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – DIALYSIS PATIENTS**

Can the Minister for Health now confirm whether the Dialysis Patients and Friends Association have replied to him with regard to the report by Professor Terry Feast on dialysis facilities at the Europort Building?

**ANSWER**

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

No, I have held meetings with them of an informal nature but a formal position reply has not yet been delivered.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 970 OF 2002**

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Can the Minister give the Opposition details or an indication of the recommendations by Professor Terry Feast ?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

The matter as I have explained in reply to similar earlier questions is still under consideration by the Council of Ministers and they are keen to also have the arguments



of the Dialysis Patients & Friends Association because of their very close interest in the matter and representing the feelings and the views of their members.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

So really we are nowhere near a situation where the Government are actually looking at the dialysis facilities that they said they would provide at Europort Building to enable our patients to go to Europort rather than go to La Linea, am I correct?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

'Nowhere near' is not quite the right expression, we are nearer as we move into this study and that is as much as I would like to say at this time.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

When the Minister says 'nearer' does that mean that the 'nearer' will be here in Gibraltar or nearer La Linea?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

That is cheating it is pre-empting the outcome which I as I say I cannot at this moment commit myself.

**ORAL**

**NO. 971 OF 2002**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – ALGECIRAS CLINIC**

Can the Minister for Health confirm how much money was spent by the Gibraltar Health Authority with regard to patients being sent to the Algeciras Clinic in May, June, July, August and September of 2002?

**ANSWER**

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

The cost of referrals to the Algeciras Clinic for the period in question was £64,974.01.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 971 OF 2002**

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

I take it that we are talking about the Algeciras clinic which is a CT Scan it means that the Government really have no plans to provide a CT Scan at Europort Building or in another clinic in Gibraltar?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

The hon Lady will be pleased to know that the Government have plans for the provision of CT Scans in the new general hospital.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

I am concerned with these facilities because with what they said about dialysis and then they are not sure whether it will mean that patients will no longer require to go to La Linea can he confirm that the CT scan will mean that they will no longer require to go to Algeciras?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

Obviously yes, if we provide the services and that service can cope with the demand there will be no need for people to go to Algeciras but it remains to be seen exactly what the demand is but I would not like to say and exclude categorically and dogmatically nobody will be sent to Algeciras after the creation of the new general hospital but certainly the bulk of patients will be attended by our own facilities.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

I expect that the Minister will know that there are patients who go to Algeciras for mammograms, will this also be included in the facilities for scanning within Europort?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

Yes.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

So the Minister has actually come to a decision about the CT Scan even though they did not say that they would have one and has not come to a decision about dialysis patients even though they said that there would be facilities?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

Well I do not think I have much of a reply to that, she likes to have the last word she can have it.

ORAL

**NO. 972 OF 2002**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – COST OF TREATING TEMPORARY VISITORS IN UK**

Can Government now state what was the latest available cost to the UK of treating temporary visitors from Gibraltar in respect of 2001/2002?

**ANSWER**

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

Answered together with Question Nos 950 to 955 and 974 to 976 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 973 OF 2002**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – SPONSORED PATIENTS**

Can Government state what was the number of sponsored patients treated in the UK from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2002 to the end of September 2002, 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 has been a total of 409 patients referred to the UK for treatment during the period in question. Of these 120 have been quota patients with the costs being met by the Department of Health. Fees for the remaining 289 have been met by the Authority through Lambeth Primary Care Trust (Primary Care Trusts are the purchasing agents for secondary care). Reporting information for the first half year is expected shortly.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 973 OF 2002**

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Seeing that I thought that the Minister when he answered the first questions over the sponsored patients I thought he said he was going to answer them all and now there is one here I would like to take the opportunity to ask the Minister in relation to the reciprocal agreement, the notorious formula, when was the last time because this question I did ask him in the last House of Assembly Meeting and he said he would actually look at the information and provide it for me at a later stage, when was the last

time that there was an actual reconciliation, a settlement because I recall that when we were in Government the actual negotiations were related as well to the negotiations between the Member State and the EU and usually Gibraltar always received monies that were owed to Gibraltar but the last time when I was in Government that we received a settlement from the Department of Health it was in the year 1989 and since then I have been trying to establish whether this Government have received a settlement in relation to the overall negotiations with the EEC and also with the reciprocal agreement which are integrated?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

The last time was 1996 I thought I explained that a few questions before when we discussed the question of the origins of the formula and the quota system. The last settlement or reconciliation in 1996 which established the quota at 120, in 1998 there was a further meeting of officials from the DOH but they did not go as far as actually reconciling all the factors and all the costs and all the things. They just simply agreed to maintain the notional figure of 120 quota. The last time there was a very real getting down to brass tax and working out figures and costs and particularly the EU aspects of the whole thing was in 1996 as I explained a moment ago there is now a process going on between the DOH officials whom I met personally with our own officers here and they have not finished, they intend to carry on working out all the figures and all the statistics and data in early January I am told.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

I understand what the Minister is saying but I am not getting the reply that I want, perhaps either he is not really understanding what I am trying to tell him. The EU meets every two years and even though he says that there has been a reconciliation in 1996 which has meant that the figure of the quota patient is being discussed I am talking about the overall negotiations whereby the Department of Health then comes back and says to Gibraltar, "I have negotiated with the EU, I have looked at the patients that you have treated, the patients that have been treated from the EU, and therefore there is a balance left for you of so much," has that happened?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

The last time was in 1996 now the EU comes into the picture as well in terms of auditing the costs of treatment of pensioners in UK and I also gave a date and figure for that. The last time the EU audited and provided that information was in 1999 and the cost of the treatment of UK pensioners was established at £1,776.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

I am trying to establish the figure, the balance, was there a settlement, did Gibraltar receive any money at all for example?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

Gibraltar did not receive any money at all. This is one of the things that we are looking at now to see whether if instead of a quota of patients we can now work on the basis of monies, what was established was a quota of patients that would be accountable or would be actually paid by the UK on the basis of the reciprocity agreement but there was no money being transacted?

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Surely that is not quite correct because in fact the quota was arrived at based on a sum of money which reflected the average cost of treatment per patient. So there is this sum of money that the formula produces and that translates into the quota. If the money the UK owes us, let us put it that way, were to be more then the number of patients would be more would it not?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

Yes.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

So the number is not fixed it is determined by a sum of money?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

The sum of money is established by working out the number of patients for which the UK is responsible that is multiplied by the cost of the treatment of the UK pensioner which is the figure audited by the EU. That then yields a number of people which is the quota.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Yes but the quota is not fixed.....

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

No. The quota is not fixed.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

I thought that he had just said that they wanted to get away from the quota being fixed and agree a sum of money, well it seems me the formula already is one that produces first the sum of money and then the number of patients.

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

And the number of patients may vary and the quota may vary the fact is that we have been working on a number of patients of a reconciliation. They are working on new figures trying to flesh out the formula this is why I said in discussion earlier that we have not committed ourselves to that proposition, that is that in future instead of establishing a quota of patients which are willing to pay they are prepared to give us a sum of money for us to administer through our purchasing agency but we have not committed ourselves precisely because of what the Leader of the Opposition has mentioned, is it to our advantage or not.



ORAL

**NO. 974 OF 2002**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – SPONSORED PATIENTS**

Can Government state what was the total number of sponsored patients treated in the UK for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April to the end of September 2002, with the costs being met by the UK Government and what was this cost?

**ANSWER**

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

Answered together with Question Nos 950 to 955, 972, 975 and 976 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 975 OF 2002**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – SPONSORED PATIENTS**

Have the costs for the total number of sponsored patients treated in the UK for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2001 to the end of October 2001 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 950 to 955, 972, 974 and 976 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 976 OF 2002**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – NUMBER OF QUOTA PATIENTS TREATED IN UK**

Can Government now state what were the costs of the 26 quota patients treated in the UK for the period 1<sup>st</sup> February to end of March 2002 with the costs being met by the UK Government?

**ANSWER**

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

Representatives from the UK Department of Health have been in Gibraltar during the past few days and holding discussions with the Chief Executive. I am therefore able to provide details to some of the questions.

**Answer to Question No 950 of 2002**

The number of UK Social Security Pensioners, who are not also in receipt of a Gibraltar Social Security Pension, registered locally with the Group Practice Medical Scheme is just over 400. The UK will be confirming the final figure shortly.

**Answer to Question No 951 to 953 of 2002**

The number of Gibraltar Social Security pensioners who were not in receipt of a UK Social Security Pension resident in the UK during the period 1999 to 2001 are as follows:

|      |   |    |
|------|---|----|
| 1999 | - | 27 |
| 2000 | - | 20 |
| 2001 | - | 15 |

### **Answer to Question Nos 954 and 955 of 2002**

The latest average annual cost of treating pensioners in UK in 2000 is not expected to be available until after July next year. As the hon Lady may know that figure is audited established by the EU Commissioners across the board of the European dimension and they only have audited up to now the cost of treating a pensioner in UK in the year 1999 and that figure is £1,776, they have not yet established the audited figures for 2000 or 2001 when the EU auditors confirm this I will be able to provide that figure as well.

### **Answer to Question Nos 972, 974 to 976 of 2002**

The total number of quota patients treated in the UK for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2002 was 120. We are still going on the notional figure that was established as I have explained to this House before the last time a reconciliation was made by the department of health officials in 1998 and we have been working on that figure up to now so in the past year 120 of our patients have been treated in the UK at the cost of the UK Government because that is the established quota. I had conversations, although they did their working with the Chief Executive et cetera I did have the opportunity to meet these gentlemen from the DOH and in respect of the other questions, that is the cost of treating our patients and the cost of treating our visitors et cetera they tell me that they are having problems in gathering information from the hospitals. The hon Lady may know that the system has changed quite radically in UK in terms of purchasing treatments in different hospitals, the Government DOH now works through the primary care trust who do the purchasing and therefore the hospitals are now not really incentivised to actually provide information directly to the DOH. They are having a lot of problems about getting information from the hospitals and the hospital trust directors so that means that the questions the hon Lady asks concerning the cost of the total number of sponsored patients treated in the UK for a particular period, the cost of treating the temporary visitors are as yet not available the DOH has not been able to provide it with that information but still I think the hon Lady will accept that we have gone a bit further this time in establishing the figures that both herself and myself are very interested in.

### **SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 950 TO 955, 972 AND 974 TO 976 OF 2002**

#### **HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

I agree with the Minister that the formula I remember that he termed it as a notorious formula in fact when I asked a question on this matter in the last House of Assembly Meeting the Minister did say that there would be a visit from the UK officials so that the formula would be reviewed but he said at that time that he was not sure whether the complicated formula was actually being reviewed or it was just a matter of simply fleshing out the information which is available which was not there before. I take it that from his answer he is saying the latter is that correct?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

When I said reviewing the formula at that time I meant actually fleshing out the factors in the formula but I have a bit of news on that one as well. In the conversation there is nothing confirmed either from them or from us because we have to look at this carefully to see where we stand and to our advantage as well. What they said is that having made the calculations for example, if there are 408 UK pensioners in Gibraltar with UK pensions and there are 15 Gibraltarian pensioners in UK with Gibraltar pensions then what we have to do is deduct 15 from 408 that would yield 393 pensioners for whose treatment the UK would be responsible, that number of persons has to be multiplied by the average cost of treating a pensioner in UK which as I explained has to be established and audited by the EU. That will then yield a sum of money which in the past has been divided by 'f' in the formula which is the average cost of a Gib referral which has been in the past £10,000. What they are suggesting and it is only a suggestion at the moment is instead of working through the formula actually establishing a sum of money and crediting us with a sum of money to the Lambeth Primary Care Centre which is our purchasing agent in UK. That will do away with that notorious formula and just simply deal with a sum of money credited to our account, that might be certainly simpler but I am still not committed to that because I want to know how at the end of the day we come out whether in a favourable or unfavourable situation but that is interesting too that they are realising that this cumbersome process is not helping them and not helping us.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

I am pleased that the Minister has given the House that information because it seems quite incomprehensible to us that there is a formula which is rather complicated but which at the end of the day it takes years to be able to actually gather the information and years for the GHA to settle with the UK and therefore I hope that the matter will be simpler and will be settled in a shorter space of time that what has hitherto been the custom.

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

Let me hasten to say that I do not make myself responsible for the creation of that notorious formula I think it goes back quite a number of years to her own administration or perhaps even before that but certainly not during our administration.

**·HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

To put the record straight the formula was presented to this House by the Hon Mr Azzopardi, perhaps not by the Minister but by him.

**HON K AZOPARDI:**

I confirm that I did sign the agreement with the UK that incorporated the formula and led to it being utilised for the benefit of our patients but this goes back a long way and the

actual basis of the formula was being kicked around before the 1996 election because I remember the Members of the Opposition when they were in Government issued a press release when David Davis came to Gibraltar in April or at least issued a press release confirming that David Davis who was the then Minister for Foreign Affairs, the junior minister had confirmed that they had reached an agreement in principle on the basis of the formula and so this formula was being kicked around even then though it was fine tuned and then entered into a formal agreement post 1996 and I think I did that in 1997 but let me say also that the whole basis of the entire sponsored patient arrangements were in fact entered into by the Hon Aurelio Montegriffo when he was Minister for Medical Services and I have seen a copy of the agreement which loosely speaking may have been improved on substantially by subsequent administrations but loosely speaking the principle of sponsored patient referrals had been established then in 1976 I think it was.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

The actual agreement and I am glad that the Minister has given us credit for the healthcare agreement that we started with Mr Davis when he came to Gibraltar was an agreement in principle but the actual details and specifications and points within the formula were provided to this House by the Hon Mr Azopardi.

**HON K AZOPARDI:**

In any event what I did give credit to was in fact the Hon Aurelio Montegriffo who in 1976 first entered into the agreement in the then AACR Government. I have said also that subsequent administrations improved on it, we did enter into the final agreement in 1997 and I think it has been to the benefit of all patients. Last year 120 patients were paid for under that scheme and I think we are all happy that that scheme exists.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Absolutely and I would ask the Minister, he is giving credit to the Hon Aurelio Montegriffo who is my uncle but he is not giving credit to us when the healthcare agreement was actually started by my administration with Mr Davis when he came to Gibraltar but that is a matter that if he does not want to accept well it is up to him.

**HON K AZOPARDI:**

The hon Member is supposed to put questions but she has an insistence usually of having the last word on these matters. The last word should be had by the party that is answering the questions but not the party that is questioning and I have given credit to her it is just that she is not listening to me correctly. I have said in order of chronology this arose in 1976 the first credit is due there the agreement was improved by subsequent administrations which necessarily must include her administration and the most recent agreement and I have said this for the third time now, was entered into by our government in 1997 and it is an arrangement which patients in Gibraltar benefit from,

we are all happy that it exists, if it can be improved on further well and good but it should continue in existence.

**HON J L BALDACHINO:**

The Minister said that the last word should rest with the Government, it is also true that the last word might rest on this side of the House because if they do not want to answer a question they do not have to answer a question and therefore it bears no relation as to who has the last word.

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

I will answer the question based on historical facts rather than just vague assumptions. The historical origins of who was the mastermind that created this formula, it was not the Hon Mr Azopardi and I can give the hon Member some historical facts. I have been speaking about this notional figure of 120 that was accepted at the last formal meeting of the DOH with our own people in 1998 but the actual figure of 120 quota patients goes back to a previous similar meeting of the DOH with our own people in 1996 when they made the type of reconciliation that they are doing now but based on a formula, 1996, which had already been in existence for a number of years. The hon Lady cannot just simply deny this with her body gestures but those are facts these are historical facts and they are recorded in records and minutes which I have obtained because I have taken a particular interest in this area as I have mentioned before. It is a favourite area of mine this algebra thing I have a passion for algebra .....in any case there is no question of blame or anything it is just that it has been there and we are using a scheme which has already been there and as my Colleague said we hope to fine tune it, improve it, for the benefit of our patients and of our tax payers.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

I know that this is question time but when the ministers make assertions about something happening I am more than glad to provide the minister with details of the agreement that we had, as far as the formula is concerned but I think that the debate has actually extended itself from where I wanted the minister to reply and all I am saying, that I am pleased as the Minister after years of the agreement that was announced by the Hon Mr Azzopardi to have come to the same conclusions as us that this is taking a very long time to process and therefore any improvements are not only welcomed by the Government but that they are more than welcomed by the Opposition Members.

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

It has taken a long time but it is none of our doing it has taken a long time to establish these figures because of the system.

ORAL

**NO. 977 OF 2002**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – PATIENT REFERRALS**

Can Government state since the 1<sup>st</sup> April to the end of September 2002, what was the total number of patient referrals to the UK?

**ANSWER**

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

The total number of patient referrals for the period in question is 546.



ORAL

**NO. 978 OF 2002**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – SPONSORED PATIENTS**

Can Government state how many patients have been given a choice of being treated in Spain as opposed to the UK, as sponsored patients, and have elected to go to Spain since 25<sup>th</sup> April 2002 to end of September 2002?

**ANSWER**

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

A total of 91 patients have so far taken up the option of treatment in Spain.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 978 OF 2002**

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Can the Minister confirm and I want him to take note of what I am saying that in the last House of Assembly Meeting he answered that 39 had elected to go then we reminded him that whether those 39 were the total that had been asked whether they wanted to go to Spain or whether the 39 was out of another total and therefore can he confirm now whether the number that he has given me which is 91 is it that the 91 have been asked, have elected to go or 91 have been asked out of 100 or so many?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

The option is not given individually to patients as they come for consultation. The option is a general open offer which the Government have announced that now within the service provided within the referral and sponsored patient scheme there is the facility of seeking treatment and consultation in Spain subject of course to the agreement of the clinicians or the consultants here agreeing that this is the best option for the patient. So it is a general offer, it is an open offer and as I say 91 patients have taken it up and they actually went for treatment to Spain because the clinicians locally agreed that it was just as advantageous to them as going to UK.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Yes, but he has not answered the question, he has not, and he agreed in the last meeting of the House that it was just as important to him as it was to us so that we would know how many people were actually saying 'no' and how many people were saying 'yes.'

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

I cannot speak of specific individual cases, it is a question that there is a general offer and many patients very often they themselves come and say, "look can I go to Cadiz for the angiogram that Dr Maskill is recommending that I should have or angioplastic surgery I would prefer to go to Cadiz," and if the clinicians here feel that they can make an appointment, also they have to fit within waiting times as well as in UK, that it is indicative clinically, then the facility is provided and 91 patients have availed themselves of that facility over the period from April to September 2002.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Therefore what the Minister is saying is that they do not actually have a sort of an indication of how many are saying 'no' and how many are saying 'yes' they just know of those who are saying 'yes', am I correct?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

A total of 91 have obviously said 'yes' and gone.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

But the Minister does not know how many have said 'no'?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

I suppose in some cases the clinician has said 'no', in other cases the patient has said 'no' and if we take away from the previous question, 546 patient referrals to UK presumably those either did not want to go Spain or the clinician did not think it indicative that they should go to Spain.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

It is just because of the answers that I got last time in the House, I thought the Minister would actually provide us with an indication of how many were saying 'no'. If they are not collating the information then all he needs to say is, "no we do not have the information," we just know how many are saying 'yes'.

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

The information is there 546 went to UK and 91 patients went to Spain.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

I know, I think we are at cross purposes, I know that 546 went to the UK all I was asking is does the Minister know how many of those that are being asked are not going and I am not getting that answer?

**HON K AZOPARDI:**

We are not at cross purposes we are flogging dead horses.

ORAL

**NO. 979 OF 2002**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – BARCELONA CLINIC**

Can the Minister for Health confirm whether the arrangements he announced in the last House of Assembly meeting, with a Clinic in Barcelona for patients requiring testing for Thrombophilia are already in place?

**ANSWER**

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

Yes. The specimens are sent to a private Clinic in La Linea and they are couriered to Barcelona. The private Clinic is run by Sr Arrimades who is a Pathologist in the Clinical Chemistry Section in La Residencia in La Linea. The results are back within a week.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 979 OF 2002**

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

The issue was not how quickly the results were received, I think the issue was the time it took for these tests to be sent to the UK which according to the Minister were not very adequate because of the time it took to get to the UK therefore what strikes me is that if the tests have to go to La Linea and from La Linea they have to be taken to Barcelona, a flight to Gibraltar to London we are talking about two and a half hours and therefore if Barcelona makes a difference of half an hour is that half an hour so crucial or are there some other elements involved?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

For some reason or other it is much quicker now and time of course in this matter is of the essence. These blood samples are very labile and they need to be analysed quickly and it seems that definitely our own pathologists are very happy indeed with the present arrangements as they overcome the problems that they had before with the specimens actually degenerating over a period of time. The situation is vastly improved because of this arrangement and I personally am very happy because at the end of the day what we all want is the benefit of our patients.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

But that is why I was asking the supplementary because the Minister said, ".....for some reason or other," and I was concerned about "for some reason or other" because.....

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

I said, "for some reason or other," because I do not know the intricacies of the whole mechanism I am not in the thick of it but certainly I am told by those who are, people in the front line, the clinicians that they are extremely happy about the service that they are getting and that they are having hardly any problems similar to those they had before when the samples were sent to UK when a great number of the specimens were degenerated, they are very labile, and they were having serious problems in attending and being able to attend to the needs of the patients.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

So if the time element is involved I take it that then the tests once they get to the La Linea clinic are being what flown over to Barcelona or transported by road or.....?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

I do not know the answer I have got is couriered. I presume the chap takes a plane to Barcelona.

ORAL

**NO. 980 OF 2002**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – PURCHASE OF AN ECHOCARDIOGRAPH**

Has the Minister for Health been able to find out the costs involved for the Gibraltar Health Authority to purchase an echocardiograph so that our patients do not require to go to Spain?

**ANSWER**

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

The cost involved in the purchase would be between £80,000 and £110,000. We also have to take into consideration the specialist staff who would be required in order to proceed with echocardiography locally.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 980 OF 2002**

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Therefore my supplementary follows in the line that I would ask the Minister whether the Government are seriously considering the purchase of this equipment?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

Yes. We are considering the purchase of our own equipment which is part and parcel of the equipment earmarked for the new hospital.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

In which priority? I do not know if the Minister has the same system as we had when we were in Government but as far as equipment were concerned there was one priority, priority number two, priority number three, priority number of four. Are they keen that this equipment should be made available?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

If the decision has been made it is because we are keen to have it.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

The Minister did say in the last meeting of the House that the GP's were actually referring the patients who required this testing to a clinic in Spain, can he confirm whether GP's are, because he did say that they would be looking in general terms as to GP's being able to refer patients directly to medical institutions in Spain other than for echo-cardiographs is this being studied?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

All these issues come under consideration, expanding our services but obviously things fall into place as they are considered in depth and see the pros and cons. There are many other services that GP's may wish to expand in their referral system but at the moment the only one that has been decided and we are committed to is echo-cardiography.

**ORAL**

**NO. 981 OF 2002**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – MALAGA CLINIC**

Can the Minister for Health state how much money was spent by the Gibraltar Health Authority with regard to patients being sent to the Malaga Clinic for scans in May, June,, July, August and September of 2002?

**ANSWER**

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

The cost of Malaga scans for the period was £1,085.60.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 981 OF 2002**

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

In the last meeting of the House the Minister said that he was going to investigate why the costs were low compared to Algeciras, does he know for example whether Malaga is being used solely for patients who require MRI and whether indeed there are very few patients that are going to Malaga?



**HON DR B A LINARES:**

Yes, it is a question of numbers. There are many more patients being sent for scans in Algeciras than Malaga. That is why we spend much more money in Algeciras than Malaga.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

But are the bulk of the patients being sent to Malaga being sent for MRI Scans?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

I could not answer that here and now I would have to check from the clinicians.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

I would just want the Minister to know because that is precisely what he thought was happening but I would urge him to look because apparently there are patients that are sent also to Algeciras for MRI's and therefore I wanted to know why send patients to Malaga and why send them to Algeciras.

ORAL

**NO. 982 OF 2002**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**VALUE FOR MONEY AUDIT**

Can Government say of the recommendations which they have accepted from the Value for Money Audit, on which date each of these have been implemented and the savings subsequent to implementation?

**ANSWER**

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

Answered together with Question No 983 of 2002.

**ORAL**

**NO. 983 OF 2002**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – VALUE FOR MONEY AUDIT**

Can Government confirm which recommendations by the Principal Auditor in his Value for Money Audit into the overall cost of meals provided at the Gibraltar Health Authority Hospitals, have been accepted by the Government and those which have not?

**ANSWER**

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

The Gibraltar Health Authority has taken seriously the Principle Auditors Value for Money Report but that does not necessarily mean that we have accepted all the recommendations. The Gibraltar Health Authority has already taken on board a number of the recommendations contained in the report into catering for instance, the audit goes beyond the overall costs of meals and examines other issues such as quality, hygiene and safety. The object of the Gibraltar Health Authority when taking on board these recommendations has been primarily to improve quality, hygiene and safety. Investment into environmental improvements and up-to-date industrial catering facilities have already taken place. Issues raised in the report such as flooring, refrigeration, tiling, cleaning, cooking areas have already been dealt with. Replacement of ageing catering equipment is now complete and new requirements are subject to periodical review by the director of operational services together with the senior catering staff. The senior catering staff visit hospital wards regularly to ensure that the standard and the desirability of food being provided meet client expectations, and we have also issued a catering questionnaire to patients which has been circulated amongst the in-patients in order to seek suggestions, recommendations, from them to improve the quality and the desirability of the food being provided. There has also been an investment in continued education of our catering staff and two cooks have attended courses on diet cookery. In addition alternative options recommended as a means of catering provision that is cook/freeze, cook/chill, which were already being considered by the Authority have been

taken on board and have been included in the operational plans for the new general hospital. The Gibraltar Health Authority has also recently invested in the employment of a second dietician, we had one we now have two, in order to assist in the enhancement and provision of special dietary requirements. One of the dieticians can now concentrate more on community service and the other dietician can then focus on ward service in the hospital and of course it is just simply impossible to give details of dates when each of these very wide provision of facilities and improvements have been introduced because they have been on-going. The recommendation from the Principle Auditor to increase the charge for meals supplied to night staff was not accepted.

### **SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 982 AND 983 OF 2002**

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

So therefore is the Minister saying that nearly all of the recommendations except one have been accepted and another thing is that I have asked the Minister in my question, because he said in the last Meeting of the House that he would provide the information, that had there been any saving subsequent to the implementation of these recommendations he has not answered that bit of the question.

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

The question of savings which of course is the Principle Auditor's intent has to be compensated and matched with the investment that he also recommends in terms of capital expenditure in all the recommendations that he makes for improvement of facilities as I have described.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

But really if there are any savings it will be reflected in the Auditor's Accounts eventually and therefore they will be revealed and as we are talking about his recommendations going back to the year 1999 I think, he said he could not give me dates, is it that the Minister since then does not know whether there have been some measures that have reduced the costs?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

Yes, I do know of some measures that have reduced the costs. Certainly the overtime payments have been drastically reduced by the Director of Operations quite dramatically because it was seen that there was a very manifest abuse there and he has successfully carried out this exercise which has meant a considerable cost saving.

ORAL

**NO. 984 OF 2002**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – KITCHEN FACILITIES**

Can the Minister for Health confirm whether the Gibraltar Health Authority will continue to have kitchen facilities at the Europort Building with the existing staff of St Bernard's Hospital?

**ANSWER**

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

The Government are considering studying the possibility of providing cook/chill or cook/freeze facilities in the near future. This would entail the preparation of the food outside the hospital premises and then regenerate it within the hospital. As regards the staff, the existing staff will be retained by the GHA and will be engaged in the new catering arrangements.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 984 OF 2002**

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

So the answer is 'no' to the question and therefore if the food will be as the Minister has explained prepared outside of Europort Building but the cooks will still continue to be engaged does it mean that the cooks will prepare the meals and from where will they prepare the meals?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

I said Government are studying the technicalities of this system at the moment but if it is carried through the meals will be provided outside the hospital in a dedicated and equipped area and the staff will be engaged as they are now in the preparation of the food.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

So really what the Minister says about the staff I want to be clear that the staff is the Gibraltar Health Authority existing staff?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

Yes.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

If it is decided to do that how does that affect the facilities in the Europort Building? At present presumably the plan involves having a kitchen there the same as there is in St Bernard's does that plan alter that or not?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

I can only repeat what I said before that we are studying all the logistical and technical aspects of this to see whether we would see there would be advantages in the system which may I say are quite common in many hospital establishments, certainly in UK and very much in Spain and our practitioners here are studying at all levels especially the dieticians and the management are studying the efficacy of these systems, they have gone and visited for themselves how it is working and whether it meets better precisely the dietary needs and the versatility and the varied diets that many hospital patients need and that in this system it is much easier to meet those requirements. All those technical and clinical aspects are being studied before we can commit ourselves and it is only when that is seen that we will see exactly how the design of the new hospital will need to cater for this or not.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

I appreciate it but my question was presumably in the existing contract with the existing contractor refurbishing the Europort Building, it is on the premise that there will be a kitchen there and the food will be prepared in the building in the kitchen. If it is found based on all those factors that the Minister has mentioned that the other alternative is going to be looked at does that mean any change for the present construction of the kitchen or does it not mean that?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

The hon Member is right. If provision for the initial food preparation is sited elsewhere the requirement for catering facilities in the hospital will be different to what they would be if the initial food preparation, there will always have to be some food preparation area because the food does not come ready to deliver to the bed, so certainly there would have to be a difference and there has to be some flexibility until this decision is made in the hospital design. The hon Member I know is aware that it is not just the hospital that is presently provided with food from the hospital kitchen, the prison is also provided with food from the hospital kitchen and other Government residential facilities may be able to benefit from that so if the system works, if the system succeeds in delivering to the various different consumers the quality and type of food with the necessary differentiation that is required that is the basis upon which it is being studied at the moment on the basis that a facility outside the hospital would be better placed to provide the service to users other than the hospital. So that question of the final design of the hospital is still in the air until that decision is made there is plenty of time.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Presumably the initial design, if this is something that is being looked at now, initially the plan was that it would be in the same building so there is a stage when the change in that design there may be plenty of time but there has to be a cut-off point presumably?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

Absolutely. The initial design is adaptable, I think that there is a preponderance of wait in the minds of the designers which suggests that this decision will be made I am not sure whether it is justified that assumption but there is adaptability leaning towards the assumption not yet established that we are going to go down that route and there is a moment in time I would not be able to tell the hon Member when it is when the contractor needs to know and this is not a decision that one can keep open.

**NO. 985 OF 2002**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – GYNAECOLOGIST CONSULTANT**

Can Government confirm whether a resident Consultant Gynaecologist is no longer occupying his post with the Gibraltar Health Authority?

**ANSWER**

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

I think the question to avoid the wrong impression and I am sure that it is not intentional by the hon Lady should have read, "...Can Government confirm whether a second Consultant Gynaecologist is no longer occupying the intended post?" Years ago this Government decided to increase the complement of Obstetrician Gynaecologist from one to two the reasons were that in that area emergencies are quite common and with one Gynaecologist on 24 hour call there was obviously an indication that a second Gynaecologist would be appropriate and therefore we actually recruited a second Gynaecologist in July 2001 but towards the end of that year the first Consultant the one who had been there initially retired early due to ill health and then the complement fell again reduced to one. However, in the course of the past three months we have maintained our commitment to having two Consultants in post and we have been filling the post on a locum basis whilst the recruitment process got under way and there was one Consultant who was considered for the post and had been working as I say as a locum prior to taking up as he hoped and the Authority hoped would be employment on a permanent basis. However, the Consultant left Gibraltar and these permanent arrangements were not finalised therefore we have again initiated the recruitment process once again but may I again make it clear that at all times we have retained on a permanent full time basis the service of a Consultant Gynaecologist.



**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 985 OF 2002**

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

So really if I understood the Minister we had a situation in July 2001 that the resident Consultant the first one retired, a replacement was found.....

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

No the replacement was already there.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

.....the replacement was already there and then they engaged another Consultant and that is the Consultant that has left.....

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

That is right.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

When did that second Consultant leave?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

I cannot give a date, he had been working as a locum and he decided not to continue and I have to admit also the Authority also decided that they would not go along into a permanent engagement of this Consultant so he has left Gibraltar.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

But that was the nature of the question when the resident Consultant Gynaecologist is no longer occupying this post, and since when that was the nature of the original question?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

No the question is, " Can the Government confirm whether a resident Consultant Gynaecologist is no longer occupying his post with the Gibraltar Health Authority?" a very deceptive question which I had to correct because it gives the impression to all and sundry that we do not have a Gynaecologist in Gibraltar.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

I think as the Minister said before, “we are flogging dead horses” here, now it is my turn to flog the dead horse because if they have two resident Consultants and I ask when a resident Consultant ...[*INTERRUPTION*] yes, confirm whether a resident Consultant [*INTERRUPTION*] and at the end of the question I have “and since when”, yes. I will read the question – “Can the Government confirm whether a resident Consultant Gynaecologist is no longer occupying this post,” a resident if they have two it has to be one, “is no longer occupying his post with the Gibraltar Health Authority and since when?”

**MR SPEAKER:**

It is not in the question.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

It is not in the Order Paper.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

It is in the questions that we have submitted.

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

It is very simple if the hon Lady wants to know exactly when he ceased to work for us and left I can find out I do not know the date because I was not given notice of that at least there must have been a mistake in printing or whatever.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

There has been a misprint there Mr Speaker.

**HON J C PEREZ:**

Does the Minister know whether the disengagement was a friendly one or whether it happened that the person concerned happened to stop appearing at the clinics, would the Minister know about this?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

I would not like to comment on the ins and outs of that situation I think there are personal elements involved and are obviously held under confidence and I do not think it would be

proper. I am giving the facts as they affect the Authority and the service that we have given that gentleman who was a locum for a while did not go through with the original intention which was to engage him on a permanent basis. We are now therefore still pursuing a recruitment process because we do want to have a second full time Gynaecologist in post.

ORAL

**NO. 986 OF 2002**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – SPECIALIST TRAINING FOR NURSES**

What steps have been taken to provide for specialist training for permanent nursing staff employees of the Gibraltar Health Authority, to enable contract nurses to be replaced?

**ANSWER**

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

Answered together with Question No 987 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 987 OF 2002**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – ENROLLED NURSES**

Can Government now state whether Enrolled Nurses not in possession of the required GCSE's set by them can now apply to be able to train up to the level of Staff Nurse?

**ANSWER**

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

The School of Health Studies has already taken many steps to address this need namely the delivery of specialist training locally for example, in intensive care, and of course referring and sponsoring staff nurses and local nurses for specialist courses in UK and the Diploma course for our own students enable them to continue their studies after the Diploma in areas such as for example, midwifery et cetera. With regard to the conversion courses for enrolled nurses it is something that I am very keen on and I have expressed my feelings on that matter before. As an educator I believe that nurses with experience equivalent to academic qualifications, I can understand that the world of academia is scrupulous and keen on establishing academic qualifications but there has to be and I understand that and it is correct but there has to be also an understanding of.....I have been at this for some time as the hon Lady knows from previous questions and I am glad to say that in the recent validation report by the Sheffield University they have now recommended that with their help we could devise our own course tailored to our own needs. At the moment we are depending on a course which is issued by EMAP College which is a licensee to deliver such courses but they require as an entrance requirement, not GCSEs by the way, but registration with UK Central Council. Our enrolled nurses are not registered with a UK Central Council so although the course is on offer on a distance learning basis and actually funded by the Education Department if it is taken up, hardly any have taken it up, precisely because of this entry requirement, what I am hoping to do and I am very pleased that there has been a breakthrough here with Sheffield University who after all are the validating Authority that we can work out a

tailor made course aimed at nurses, enrolled nurses locally who have a track record of competence and commitment and experience so that they will be locally certified and up to level 1 Nursing Status but I can assure the hon Lady that I have been working at it but nevertheless the weight of the world of academia weighs upon it and after all I have to also bow and yield to the validating authorities because we also want that to be a recognisable qualification and not just a Mickey Mouse one.

### **SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 986 AND 987 OF 2002**

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

So if I understood the Minister correctly the answer is that yes, that Sheffield University will allow those enrolled nurses which we convinced them originally when we were in Government that it should be kept on by the Gibraltar Health Authority and therefore we put arguments to him which I think he has used in order to convince Sheffield University. Obviously this is a policy that the Government introduced which we are not in favour of because nurses have to go through a three year course anyway and the Government decided to introduce a certain amount of GCSEs for applicants into the nursing grade and this is one of the problems that it has caused because enrolled nurses were there before and they did not have to have the entry qualifications. So if this happens then I am glad that they are being convinced as we were as convinced in Opposition. On the question of the employees of the Gibraltar Health Authority to enable contract nurses to be replaced the Minister has said that yes that they agree but he has not given a lot of information, all that he has said is that the nurses have been sent to the UK but if I could refer him to the Gibraltar Health Authority Annual Report 2001 he will see there that already the GHA is saying, ".....the current manpower level remains supplemented with contracted mental health nurses from the UK, however the plan is to eventually fill these posts with trained Gibraltarian RMN nurses as cultural integration is important." This was in the year 2001 when the report came out and all I am saying because the Minister said midwifery and he did not mention RMNs, the difficulty that I have is that I do not want to be told that I am actually asking a question because there is another question in the Order Paper that asks for the list, I am asking the Minister whether he can confirm that there are already Gibraltarian nurses in the UK specialising as RMNs yes or no?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

Are there local nurses in UK specialising as Community Mental Nurses or RMNs because there is a distinction?

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Whatever.

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

There is a distinction between a specialised Community Mental Nurse and a General Registered Mental Nurse. I am not too sure whether at the moment we have anyone training in that speciality but certainly there is no reason why there should not be.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

I think that the Community Nurses do not necessarily have to be an RMN therefore what I am asking is what the report says here, can he confirm that there are indeed Gibraltar nurses who are supposed to fill these posts that are presently in the Gibraltar Health Authority with contracted nurses from outside Gibraltar, the UK, are there any Gibraltarians who are there to specialise as RMNs to replace the contracted nurses?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

If there are none there will be because we are committed as per the quotation from our own Annual Report that we are intending and keen and planning to have local nurses substituting those that have to be recruited at the moment.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Therefore that was my point that the Minister will confirm that even though the suggestion was there in 2001 it has not happened yet, am I correct, or has it?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

There may be some training in UK specialising in Mental Nursing but I do not have the answer with me. I know that there are quite a number of nurses already training different specialisms but one of them could be Mental Nursing.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Therefore the Minister agrees that he can provide us with the information if there are any?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

Of course.

NO. 988 OF 2002

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

**GHA – CONTRACT NURSES**

Can Government confirm how many contract nurses are currently employed by the Gibraltar Health Authority, listing the speciality in which they are employed?

ANSWER

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

The contract nurses currently employed by the Authority and the specialities in which they are employed are as follows:

|                      |   |           |
|----------------------|---|-----------|
| Staff Nurses         | - | 15        |
| Psychiatric Nurses   | - | 5         |
| Sick Children Nurses | - | 3         |
| Theatre Nurse        | - | 1         |
| Staff Midwives       | - | 9         |
| Enrolled Nurses      | - | 3         |
|                      |   | —         |
| <b>Total</b>         | - | <b>36</b> |
|                      |   | —         |



**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 988 OF 2002**

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Are we saying that there are three enrolled nurses contracted?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

That is the information I have.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

So therefore if they are contracted they must be contracted from Gibraltar because contract nurses of that grade is no longer existing in the UK?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

No.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

The information that we were seeking is that if we have 15 staff nurses and we have three RMNs and a whole variety of different specialities I want to know whether the Minister is engaging local staff in going to the UK if they come from the UK in order to replace them with local staff, that is the question that I have been asking?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

We are not sending local staff to train as enrolled nurses, as the hon Lady knows they do not exist in the UK how this has crept into the answer, enrolled nurses contracted presumably from abroad that is enrolled nurses here whatever their qualifications there may not have been a vacancy for a Staff Nurse but they have been agreeable to be engaged as an Enrolled Nurse, it could be that maybe.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

It seems to be very unlikely but in any case, I have put two questions here in relation to the same matter, "What steps have been taken to provide specialist training for permanent staff of the Gibraltar Health Authority to enable contract nurses to be replaced?" and another which says, "How many contract nurses?" now that the Minister has given me the list it seems odd that there are 15 staff nurses with a contract can he say whether those 15 have been employed for a certain number of years because there are vacancies and have they been brought from outside?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

Because there are vacancies and they have to be recruited from outside as it always was the case even during the previous administration. [INTERRUPTION ] of course they did recruit staff nurses we did not have enough staff nurses locally trained now through the School of Nursing increasing the complement of locally trained with diplomas in nursing, Level 1 Nurses, and gradually the need for recruiting from abroad will be minimised.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

I take the Minister's point but it is just that if we are talking about contracts for nurses and the norm has always been that most of the nurses that have been contracted are RMNs or Midwives for the simple reason that they need extra specialist training after they become staff nurses. It just seems, will he not agree, that 15 staff nurses seems to be an exorbitant figure?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

Would the hon Lady object that if we need an increased complement of staff nurses and find that we need 15 staff nurses and locally we have not got the trained personnel to fill those vacancies would she object to our recruiting on a contractual basis which are normally on a temporary basis staff from abroad as we do for all other specialities. If we need staff nurses we recruit staff nurses, if we need a midwife we recruit a midwife, if we need a psychiatric nurse we recruit and by need I mean if we have not got the resources locally trained. More positively and in the long term we have a definite programme of training in the nursing school precisely to be able to rely less and less as we go along on precisely this recruiting process from abroad.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

All I want to know is because of my two questions and in view of the report of the Gibraltar Health Authority where in the year 2001 they are recommending already that nurses should be sent to specialise.....

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

We are doing so.....

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

.....the Minister has said that he does not know how many there are. All I want to know is I want the information because this is the gist of my two questions?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

The hon Lady has expressed surprise that there should be as many as 15 staff nurses on contract and that she does not recall there having been that many in her time, I am not surprised that she does not recall it because she presumably does recall that in her time not only did they not increase the complement of nurses as we have done but she did not even use to fill the vacancies that used to be made when people use to retire. So, in a climate in which one is not filling even existing vacancies in nurses it is not surprising that she did not have the problem of having to recruit nurses from abroad. She was running down the nursing complement for many of the years that she was in office so it is perfectly understandable that she should not herself have come up against this problem the only people who come up against this problem are people who recruit nurse vacancies when they arise and even more so people like the Government of the day that increase the nursing complement in order to improve the level of healthcare available.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

I think we are getting a bit fed up in this House of listening to the Chief Minister everytime that we put a question in and he does not know how to answer it he blames us for what we used to do. In order to put the record straight I did not run down.....

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

Yes you did.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

I did not run down, these are the tactics of the Chief Minister everytime they do not want to answer a question.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

The Minister said that there was a programme. Is it in fact the case that they have actually got planned when these contract nurses will be replaced? Presumably the intention if it is a programme, the intention is that if they have identified the needs and the people that need to be sent and the time scale within which this will happen, is it something as formal as that?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

As regards the staff nursing complement definitely, there is a structured phased programme which is part and parcel of the courses and programmes run by the School of Health Studies and Nursing. As regards the other specialisms which require training in UK, yes, there is also a programme but definitely it depends also on the accessibility or the desirability of the local nurses wanting to train in that particular specialism.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Presumably people are encouraged to go and train so that they can be replaced?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

That is what I meant. The broad programme is there, the long term programme is there, the aspiration is there but of course one depends on many factors which are rooted in the local staff not all of them may be even able to leave their families and their work here to go to train in UK.

**ORAL**

**NO. 989 OF 2002**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA - 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 we have not reached a decision on the new salary for the post of Chief Executive of the Gibraltar Health Authority.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 989 of 2002**

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

This again is a rather long drawn affair, can the Minister confirm whether the Chief Executive is actually receiving remuneration on an acting basis compared to the previous Chief Executive's salary or is he down to his old salary?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

I can confirm that he is not receiving an acting salary compared with the previous Chief Executive.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Seeing that this matter is taking such a long time for the Government to resolve how do they see the question of the new salary of the Chief Executive being resolved seeing that it is so many years still in the offing?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

It really is not appropriate for the hon Lady to pretend that the Government will conduct negotiations on the matters of pay with an individual named member of staff across the floor of the House in Question Time.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

I have not said that.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

The hon Lady has got to understand that her repeated posing of this question makes her sound like a trade union representative of the staff member in question. If the hon Member were to ask when is the Government going to confirm or when is the Government going to finalise the occupancy of the post of Chief Executive of the Gibraltar Health Authority that would be a perfectly legitimate question but to go further than that and to question the level of pay, whether this man is receiving an acting or whether he is not, and when is the Government going to agree to pay him the full amount it becomes an exchange on the personal circumstances of a particular employee, not even a category of employees one employee and I really do not think it is appropriate. There are issues at stake. As the hon Lady says this is a long running question. The Government are looking at issues to do with the future management of the Health Authority and how the various offices should be held and does not want to make a decision on this particular issue that she asks it is not the first time that she has asked this question and she knows, except in the context of that structural discussion. In the meantime the officer discharging the role receives the salary of the grade that he is which I understand is a Senior Officer. This was the man who was Finance Officer originally, he was then when Mr Jackson was recruited as the Chief Executive of the Health Authority a salary package was devised for a Chief Executive with that degree of experience, depth, and breadth in hospital management, Mr Jackson with the Government thing was beginning to do a very good job unfortunately died unexpectedly, the question then is "do we simply promote the next chap up and pay him the same salary package as was devised for a person with Mr Jackson's range of expertise?" it raises a difficult issue and it has been grappled with and really that is as much that we can say to the hon Lady.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

For the last few years.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

Yes.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

We note the explanation which is the one that we have been given before and I do not see why the Chief Minister thinks that there is something wrong in us asking periodically the same question to see if anything has changed from the last time it was answered and the answer is that there has been no change?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

There is nothing wrong with that question, there is nothing wrong with asking the question if particularly the opposition think that the Government are taking too long about dealing with it. It is absolutely proper that they should ask the question as often as they like, "when is the Government going to settle the post of Chief Executive of the Gibraltar Health Authority?" that is a perfectly proper question, the question which I am suggesting is not appropriate to be discussed across the floor of the House is the financial package attaching to the individual who is presently acting whilst a permanent arrangement is put into place. That is the aspect of it because otherwise we find ourselves discussing the pay of one individual civil servant.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

I know he would prefer that we clear with him the questions just like everybody has to clear with him the answers but I am afraid that is another innovation that he is trying to introduce in this House. He has never objected to the formulation of the question which has been put always in the same terms and he has given the answer before.

ORAL

**NO. 990 OF 2002**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – COOKS**

What action has been taken by the Government to confirm the appointment as permanent and pensionable in respect of the cooks employed by the Gibraltar Health Authority on temporary and non-pensionable terms since 1998?

**ANSWER**

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

All our cooks are now permanent and pensionable with the exception of one who was appointed on the 24<sup>th</sup> June 2002 and he will be required to do his probationary year.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 990 OF 2002**

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Does that mean that since we put the last question they have been made permanent and pensionable is that the case?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

I think chronologically it is since they asked the question but certainly not a cause of effect it is not because of the question.



ORAL

**NO. 991 OF 2002**

**THE HON J L BALDACHINO**

**TRAINING LEVY**

Can Government state how much money has been collected from the Training Levy up to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2002?

**ANSWER**

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

A total of £1,007,798.05 has been collected from the Training Levy up to the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2002.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 991 OF 2002**

**HON J L BALDACHINO:**

Will the projection of £2.2 million be met seeing that the collection is now £1.1 million?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

It looks very likely not only chronologically, we are six months and it is £2 million over a whole financial year so it looks like chronologically but I am also sure, also intrinsically in terms of the development of training programmes, it is very likely to be adjusted to the forecast estimates.

**NO. 992 OF 2002**

**THE HON J L BALDACHINO**

**VOCATIONAL TRAINING SCHEME**

Can Government state how many cadets passed through the Vocational Training Scheme up to the end of May of the years 1999, 2000, 2001?

**ANSWER**

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

|                           |   |                           |   |              |
|---------------------------|---|---------------------------|---|--------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> June 1998 | - | 31 <sup>st</sup> May 1999 | - | 38 trainees  |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> June 1999 | - | 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2000 | - | 93 trainees  |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2000 | - | 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2001 | - | 138 trainees |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2001 | - | 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2002 | - | 141 trainees |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2002 | - | to date (10.10 02)        | - | 101 trainees |

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 992 OF 2002**

**HON J L BALDACHINO:**

I have asked this question because in the last House he answered that the end of May 1999 of all the trainees in the Vocation Scheme, nine were employed, at the end of May 24 were employed, and at the end of April 2001, 46 were employed. What happened to the remainder of those that were not employed, for example, there were 21 in May 1999 is it that they now go again into the Vocational Training Scheme or does the department keep a register to see what happens after they are trained?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

The Training Unit does not keep a log of the development after their training programme, the answer will lie mostly with the Employment Services once they go through the training programme there is liaison between the Training Unit and the Employment Services Agency and after that it is up to them to see the trajectory in employment of these young people.

**HON J L BALDACHINO:**

So therefore the figure that the Minister gave of those that were employed is that the Training Department was actually informed that the person that had the training was going to stay with them at the end of the training is that correct?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

Yes that is correct. That would be young trainees who were then taken on in full employment by the employers with whom they were placed for the training programme.

ORAL

**NO. 993 OF 2002**

**THE HON J C PEREZ**

**TELECOM SERVICES**

Can Government state how many applications for the provision of telecom services are presently under consideration, how many new licences have been granted and for what services, and whether any applications have been turned down?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

No applications for the provision of telecom services are presently under consideration. Two General Authorisations have been granted, one to Equant (Gibraltar) Limited, which provides the airline booking system used by travel agents and the other to GibNet Limited which is an Internet Service Provider. These two licences are published on the Gibraltar Regulatory Authority's website ([www.gra.gi](http://www.gra.gi)). One application has been turned down from a company wishing to provide data and Internet communications to, primarily, betting companies established in Gibraltar. Two applicants, Broadband Gibraltar and Datatronix have been informed that they will be granted Individual Licences. The draft forms of licence are being finalised and will be sent to the companies for comments before final issue. Gibtelecom will also be issued with new forms of licences to replace those granted to Gibtel and GNC. All these licences will also be published on the GRA's website in due course.

ORAL

**NO. 994 OF 2002**

**THE HON J C PEREZ**

**GIBTELECOM**

Can Government state whether the developer of the site beside the Haven in John Mackintosh Square is Gibtelecom's or a subsidiary?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC SERVICES, THE ENVIRONMENT, SPORT AND YOUTH**

In answer to previous questions in this House I have made it clear that the Government no longer considers it appropriate to provide commercially sensitive information on Gibtelecom. The Telecommunications Ordinance was brought into operation over a year ago, and providing information on Gibtelecom's business plan could give a commercial advantage to their competitors and thereby be detrimental to the interests of the Companies concerned. The hon Member should approach the companies directly, and it would be for them to decide whether they are prepared to release information on their plans for business premises. Nevertheless, I can add that the Government as a shareholder would be supportive of any commercially viable and realistic proposals for rationalising Gibtelecom's real estate, following the bringing together of GNC and Gibtel into common ownership.

## **SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 820, 821 AND 994 OF 2002**

**HON J C PEREZ:**

What aspect of the information that I am asking does the Minister consider to be commercially sensitive?

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

It is a statement of general policy that I have repeated several times that information on the companies and their business span like, for example, changes in business premises is commercial information and it is a matter for the companies it is not a matter for me to answer in this House.

**HON J C PEREZ:**

But what is commercially sensitive about moving premises and should it not be a question of public knowledge when people apply for planning permission to develop a site, already in the street they are saying that it is a Gibtelecom development so that it will go to the height of the Haven and like that they will be able to have an entrance into the exchange which is in the Haven and in the City Hall and that they will have the whole unit there. That is the rumour in the street, the commercially sensitive information. I am asking the Minister to confirm whether that is the case or not, I do not see what use a competitor can make of that which is commercially sensitive?

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

I cannot answer for rumours in this House, I have indicated in the last part of my answer that the Government will support a move which rationalises in an adequate way changes of premises, the company I could say from my knowledge as shareholder is looking at various options, nothing has been decided, nothing is in plan, there is no developer either as Gibtelecom or as a subsidiary doing anything anywhere as yet but if and when it is decided then the company will make the announcements but at the moment there are intentions and considerations on the lines that the hon Member is suggesting but I can tell him that there is nothing definite but the Government would support such a move. The only thing that I would add is that the company has made an offer to purchase a plot to develop new offices more than that I cannot say anything because it is commercial information there is nothing signed and there is nothing confirmed.

**HON J C PEREZ:**

Were the company to vacate Mount Pleasant or part of it, can the Minister confirm that that property will pass on to the Government of Gibraltar?

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

That property belongs to the Government of Gibraltar.

**HON J C PEREZ:**

I am asking the Minister whether he can confirm that if it is not used for telecommunications purposes and Gibtel vacates part of it or the whole of it whether it will in turn pass on to the Government of Gibraltar, is he saying yes to that?

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

I am saying that it is not a question of passing on, that it is already the property of the Government of Gibraltar on which Gibtel has a lease which there is still a period to run. If Gibtelecomm decides to vacate it then obviously it will be Gibraltar Government property to develop according to the Government's needs.

**HON J C PEREZ:**

But regardless of the length of the lease Gibtelecom can only use it for the purposes of providing telecommunications under the licence and for no other purposes.

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

I am not familiar with all the terms of the lease but I assume that that would be so, I do not think there would be much option for things other than providing telecom service but I am not familiar with the terms of the lease.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Will the Minister confirm that in fact their use of those premises is to discharge their functions under the licence and that in fact they are not free irrespective of the expiry date of the lease either to put it to a different use or to dispose of it as a company to a third party?

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

No I cannot confirm that simply because as I have said I am not familiar with the terms of the lease.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

I am asking the Minister will he undertake to look at the lease and see if that is the case?

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

Can I ask what exactly it is he would like to know?

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Our understanding is that the occupation of the premises which goes back to the days of Cable and Wireless is tied to the premises being used for the purpose for which the licence is being granted and consequently independent of the expiry date of the lease the telecommunications company is not free under the terms of that lease either to put those premises to a different use if they decide to move their telephone business elsewhere, or to put those premises in the market for the unexpired period of the lease if they become vacant, that they revert back to the Crown in the event that they are not being used for the purpose that they have been licensed.

**HON LT COL E M BRITTO:**

I would look into it and confirm it, I would have thought that the hon Member is probably right from the usual leases that the Government issues but I cannot at this moment confirm it. I will look it up.



**ORAL**

**NO. 995 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR R G VALARINO**

**MOD – HOUSING**

Can Government state whether they are expecting any MOD Housing Units to be handed to them in the near future?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

At present the MOD have not identified any housing units for transfer to GOG in the immediate future.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 995 OF 2002**

**HON DR R G VALARINO:**

There was a rumour that part of Chilton Court and part of the RAF quarters at North Front may be coming, has the Minister any idea on this at all or is it just mere speculation?

**HON K AZOPARDI:**

There are always rumours about lots of things. I have not heard that rumour and certainly in my discussions with MOD which happen from time to time less frequently than perhaps I would like, they certainly have not raised that possibility with me.

ORAL

**NO. 996 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR R G VALARINO**

**HEAD 106 – SUBHEAD 5**

Can Government state how much of the amount provided in Head 106, subhead 5; Heritage and Planning Projects, has been spent to date as from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2002 and on what projects?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

A total of £32,231.88 has been spent under Head 106, Subhead 5, Heritage and Planning Projects on the following projects:-

|                                      | £         |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Forbes Quarry                     | 8.38      |
| 2. Demolition of 10 Fish Market Road | 5,103.26  |
| 3. Old Ovens Town Range              | 362.24    |
| 4. Prison                            | 25,990.00 |
| 5. Survey of Clocks                  | 768.00    |

ORAL

**NO. 997 OF 2002**

**THE HON J L BALDACHINO**

**EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND**

Can Government state what has been the receipt from the contribution of the European Social Fund to Gibraltar Development Corporation, Employment and Training up to the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2002?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

The total receipts from the contribution by the European Social Fund to Gibraltar Development Corporation, Employment and Training up to the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2002 is £7,879.00.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 997 OF 2002**

**HON J L BALDACHINO:**

Is there any more money that has to be received under that heading from the European Union?

**HON K AZOPARDI:**

These are receipts in relation to specific projects that have been approved under Objective 3 so when we approve more projects more will be received. This particular receipt was in relation to a .....

**HON J L BALDACHINO:**

No. What I am asking is there any in the pipeline from projects that have been submitted?

**HON K AZOPARDI:**

Yes, there are some but I cannot give the hon Member details on that I do not have them with me but I think that there are some in the process of being applied for.

**HON J L BALDACHINO:**

And do Government expect to reach the estimated level of £0.5 million?

**HON K AZOPARDI:**

Yes we expect to use all the money allocated to us under Objective 3.

ORAL

**NO. 998 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**CATALAN BAY**

Has the development licence now been issued in respect of the Little Genoa project at Catalan Bay?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

No, the development licence is expected to be signed shortly.

ORAL

**NO. 999 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING COMMISSION**

Can Government say how many meetings of the Development and Planning Commission have taken place since 9<sup>th</sup> May 2002 and on what dates?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

There were three meetings of the commission as follows:-

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June,

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> August,

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September.

ORAL

**NO. 1000 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**SHEPPARDS MARINA**

At what stage is the Development and Planning Commission's consideration of the proposed development by Monaco Ocean Village Ltd at Sheppard's Marina?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

An outline Planning Application Permit was issued on the 11<sup>th</sup> October 2002.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 1000 OF 2002**

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

Was this the development where there were several representations made by the residents of Marina Court and is the development going ahead with those complaints having been taken into consideration?

**HON K AZOPARDI:**

Yes it is. The development in respect of which representations were made by the residents of Marina Court. As a result of the representations, meetings were held between the residents of Marina Court and the officials from the Development and

Planning Commission I am not sure if all together but certainly they all met each other as it were, many of the points that had been raised by the Marina Court Residents were accommodated some were not. I cannot recollect which were but I think the majority of the issues were in fact addressed. I think one of the major ones was the obstruction of the construction of part of the development in front of the first floor of the Marina Court development which would obstruct the views and I think there was an accommodation there and that has not been proceeded with, as I said most of the points were addressed if not all.



ORAL

**NO. 1001 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**ROSIA BAY/VICTUALLING YARD**

How many parties have submitted a tender for the re-development of the area surrounding Grand Magazine, the Victualling Yard and Rosia Mole for which tenders closed on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2002?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

Four tenders were received.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 1001 OF 2002**

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

Are Government in a position to say who the tenderers are and the nature of the developments proposed by each of them?

**HON K AZOPARDI:**

I cannot recollect the practice that we followed on other occasions. I am not sure if we have given details of names of tenderers at least until there has been a formal decision.

I can certainly tell the hon Member that obviously there are four tenders, they have been assessed by my department and we have also sought the comments of the Heritage Trust. Firstly because there are heritage issues that arise at the Grand Magazine Site where the Grand Magazine is located and obviously in relation to the Victualling yard but also because of course the Heritage Trust actually holds the lease of the Victualling Yard. We have consulted them, they have evaluated it, our advice is that only three of the four tenders actually meet the tender conditions broadly speaking though of course even among the three that `broadly meet the tender conditions there are some differences and some elements are missing from some of them. I would be reticent to specify the names of the tenderers until such time as we are able to notify them of the decision, the Government have reached a decision on this matter quite recently and the parties need to be officially notified of that decision. I would not want to make the parties known or make the decision known at this stage until obviously there has been official notification from the Government directly to the parties. The hon Member wants to ask me in the ante-room I am happy to share the information with him but certainly not in a public fashion.

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

By when will they expect to be in a position to actually make public the adjudication of the award, are we talking about weeks or days?

**HON K AZOPARDI:**

I think it will be fairly quickly it will be as long as it takes for my department to give instructions to the Crown Agents to issue the relevant letters and then publish the notices in the Gazette.

ORAL

**NO. 1002 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**ROCK HOTEL**

Are Government now in a position to say who is conducting the environmental impact assessment into the proposed two projects at the Rock Hotel?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

The applicants have not confirmed who will be entrusted with undertaking the EIA or whether such an assessment has already been initiated.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 1002 OF 2002**

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

Was the Environmental Impact Assessment part of the conditions which the Government attached to going ahead with considering this application?

**HON K AZOPARDI:**

The Environmental Impact Assessment is not a condition to consent to proceed with the project. It is a pre-requisite to the application being considered. Under the Impact

Assessment Regulations there are some developments which require an EIA to be done and there are some developments for which an EIA can be ordered and it is in the discretion of the Minister to order them. The Minister on advice from the Town Planner who in turn will have sought advice from consultants usually. In this case a screening opinion was requested by me from the Town Planner who had received a screening report from a company called Scott Wilson who are planning experts and as a result of that I ordered an EIA. When the EIA is obtained and submitted the Planning Commission will then consider that part of the application which would be affected by the EIA.

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

Is it the case then that the Minister has ordered his own EIA which will be independent of whatever the developers or the people who have applied to the Planning Commission have ordered?

**HON K AZOPARDI:**

I am advised that this is not really how it works. I order the EIA, the developer then commissions consultants who submit an EIA, I suppose it has never arisen yet because the EIA Regulations are fairly new they have only been put into place in the year 2000 as a result of directives of the European Community I suppose it may be that the Commission can make its own EIA but the procedure which we follow for which we sought advice from local authorities in the UK I understand it is very similar to the procedure they would follow which is to order an EIA and then get the developer to submit one to go to the expense of doing that because for example, I am advised that an EIA in respect of this project could cost anything between £30,000 and £40,000.

ORAL

**NO. 1003 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**PROTECTED CELL COMPANIES**

Can Government say how many Protected Cell companies have been registered in Gibraltar to date, whether any applications are pending, and whether any applications have been rejected?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

Answered together with Question No 1004 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 1004 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**PROTECTED CELL COMPANIES**

Are there any applications under consideration to form a Protected Cell Company in Gibraltar?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

**Answer to Question No 1003 of 2002**

One insurance company has been licensed as a Protected Cell Company (PCC), namely White Rock Insurance (Gibraltar) PCC Limited. There are no applications pending and no applications have been rejected.

**Answer to Question No 1004 of 2002**

There are no applications currently being considered to form a protected cell company. There are enquiries from time to time.

ORAL

**NO. 1005 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**BANKING LICENCES**

Have there been any new banking licences issued in May, June, July, August or September 2002 to date?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

Answered together with Question No 1006 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 1006 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**BANKING LICENCES**

How many applications for a banking licence are currently under consideration?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

No new banking licences have been issued since May 2002 to date or are currently under consideration. I should point out a slight inconsistency in a previous answer to this House to Question No 609 of 2002. I answered then that no applications had been granted in April 2002. That was correct at the time the question was submitted and the answer drafted. However, unknown to me the FSC had finally granted a licence on the day before the last Question and Answer session.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 1005 AND 1006 OF 2002**

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

Was that Safra Bank?

**HON K AZOPARDI:**

No.



**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

Can the Minister give the name of the Bank in question?

**HON K AZOPARDI:**

Yes.

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

What is it?

**HON K AZOPARDI:**

It is a new operator who wants to announce a new operation in Gibraltar and will do so shortly but I do not want to make the announcement for it.

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

Is it already displayed on the website of the Financial Services Commission or is it up to one to and go and look?

**HON K AZOPARDI:**

I have not checked.

**ORAL**

**NO. 1007 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**ABBEY NATIONAL**

On what date were the Government informed of Abbey National's intention to change the nature of their presence in Gibraltar?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

Answered together with Question Nos 1008 and 1009 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 1008 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**ABBHEY NATIONAL**

Can Government say whether Abbey National will be handing back their banking licence and setting up as a representative office?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

Answered together with Question No 1007 and 1009 of 2002.

**NO. 1009 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**ABBEY NATIONAL**

Can Government say how many people were employed in Abbey National Gibraltar before their decision to change the nature of their operation in Gibraltar, and how many are employed after, giving a breakdown by nationality, full-time or part-time in each case?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

**Answer to Question No 1007 of 2002**

Senior Executives from Abbey National had a meeting with the Finance Centre Director on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2002. In that meeting Abbey National explained to the Government their intention to change the nature of their business in Gibraltar. Abbey National also informed the Government that their staff in Gibraltar were to be informed of their proposed change that day.

**Answer to Question No 1008 2002**

Abbey National has handed back their Banking Licence and re-established itself as a representative office in Gibraltar.

**Answer to Question No 1009 of 2002**

Abbey National has informed Government that 26 people (full-time) were employed within the Bank at June 2002. Government employment records do not reflect that exact figure but that may be due to the late filing of termination forms. From Government records there are currently 19 employed of whom 10 are Gibraltarians and nine are other British nationals. It is expected though that some more jobs will be shed in the reorganisation.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 1007 TO 1009 OF 2002**

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

The 19 that are recorded with the ETB is what is left for the representative office is that correct?

**HON K AZOPARDI:**

At the moment.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

How many were there before they rundown?

**HON K AZOPARDI:**

A total of 26.

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

As a matter of clarification everyone was full-time there were no part-timers?

**HON K AZOPARDI:**

Yes that is what I am told. This is at June 2002 they may have had part-timers before that because I have seen the ETB printout and some people are marked as part-time but obviously before June 2002 and ceased to be in employment before then.

ORAL

**NO. 1010 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**HISPANO COMMERZBANK**

Have Government been informed by Hispano CommerzBank of any intended changes to their operation in Gibraltar?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

Answered together with Question No 1011 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 1011 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**CREDIT AGRICOLE**

Have Government been informed by Credit Agricole of any intended changes to their banking presence in Gibraltar?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

**Answer to Question No 1010 of 2002**

In relation to Hispano ComerzBank , one of the General Managers from this bank met with the finance Centre Director on 6<sup>th</sup> August 2002 and in a meeting (which was at the time held on a confidential basis) informed him of the bank's intentions to scale down their Gibraltar operation over a period of time. He stated that there was no Gibraltar causal factor behind their decision. He informed us that the staff had already been told in confidence of the bank's plans. In the interim the bank continues to have a banking licence and as far as we are aware has not made any public statements as to its intentions. As questions were being raised in this House the Bank has agreed that Government could reveal the substance of the August meeting. I do not have any confirmation because they have not made an announcement I do not know if they are still reviewing the situation nor what this means this is two and a half months ago.

**Answer to Question No 1011 of 2002**

Credit Agricole have not informed the Government of any intended changes to their banking presence in Gibraltar.

## **SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 1010 AND 1011 OF 2002**

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

In relation to the first one of the two the Hispano ComerzBank can the Government say whether the scaling down involves becoming a representative office like Abbey National or handing back their licence completely and leaving Gibraltar and having no presence here.

**HON K AZOPARDI:**

I do not have that precise information . My information is that it is going to be scaled down whether it is scaled down to a representative or scaled down to complete withdrawal I do not have that information all I have been told is that it is going to happen over a period of time but that was the nature of the conversation nearly three months ago I understand that no one has yet been made redundant I do not know whether they are reviewing it.

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

Is the Minister in a position to say how many people were employed on the 6<sup>th</sup> August before the scaling down was due to take effect?

**HON K AZOPARDI:**

Fourteen. Eight Gibraltarians and six other nationals. The other nationals are three Spaniards and three German nationals

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

Are those figures for the 6<sup>th</sup> August or do they refer to today and if they are 6<sup>th</sup> August has there been any scaling down since?

**HON K AZOPARDI:**

The printout that I have is today but I was told that this is what they had, obviously we can verify that. Can I just correct that slightly because I noticed, curiously of the 14 jobs on my list one of them was taken on the 7<sup>th</sup> October. A Gibraltarian clerical staff was taken on the 7<sup>th</sup> October I hope that means that they are reviewing the position.



**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

In relation to Credit Agricole does the Minister have the number of people employed by them?

**HON K AZOPARDI:**

No.

ORAL

**NO. 1012 OF 2002**

**THE HON J C PEREZ**

**LAND RECLAMATION WITHIN THE HARBOUR**

Are Government in a position to say who will conduct the feasibility study into the viability of carrying out land reclamation within the harbour?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

Answered together with Question No 1013 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 1013 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**LAND RECLAMATION WITHIN THE HARBOUR**

Can Government say whether they have now commissioned a report for land reclamation within the harbour and whether this report has now been submitted to them?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

**Answer to Question No 1012 of 2002**

The Gibraltar Land Reclamation Company has overall responsibility to ensure that the study is carried out. It intends to subcontract individual parts of the study to specialist companies.

**Answer to Question No 1013 of 2002**

The Government have commissioned a report for land reclamation and I can confirm that an initial report has been submitted to Government.

## **SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 1012 AND 1013 OF 2002**

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

Can the Minister say what the report actually concluded?

**HON K AZOPARDI:**

Yes the phase 1 report was conducted over the period January to March 2002 and it was submitted to Government in March. It identified various options which could be undertaken, various options as to the sort of type of reclamation one could do, the size of it and the angle that one could and all of that business. The Government discarded three options but kept two as preferred options. Government then added a further option to maximise land use by reclamation to the greatest extent and as I say the report really only dealt with definition of boundaries and land areas which could be created and made available together with a sort of parameter indication of costs. There are as I say, that was phase 1 of the report we still need to do phase 2 and 3 of the report. Phase 2 is the investigative studies which commenced in May 2002 and phase 3 is the site investigations which is what has gone out to tender to specific specialist companies. For example, they have to do a topographic inventory, a geotechnical investigation and environmental screening report and an underwater survey amongst other things and that needs to be done by different entities.

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

The Minister said that in relation to phase one of the report one of the aspects looked at was the definition of the boundaries within which a reclamation could take place, can the Minister say what boundary is being looked at, where it is if this is envisaged to happened?

**HON K AZOPARDI:**

I am not sure if I can find ,I know what he wants...

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

What I understood by the answer was that this was the physical boundary that the delimitations of the land of the sea which would be reclaimed and the question was what is that boundary and where is it?

**HON K AZOPARDI:**

The answer is yes, the hon Member has understood me correctly I am not sure if I can explain my self without a map but let me try and explain it. It is the area in front of

Rooke to the south of the Calpe and Med Rowing Clubs which would lead on to Coaling Island, It is that type of broad area but of course there are different permutations. The idea would be to conduct the reclamation [INTERRUPTION] there are different permutations and obviously users that would need to be reallocated and the idea would be to conduct a reclamation but also to run a road to continue Europort Avenue through to Queensway. I think that would be a valuable infrastructural project if we were able to conduct it.

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

The second area which the Minister mentions in relation to phase 1 was the, if I understood him correctly, an indication, was also given of the costs, is the Minister in a position to tell the House what that would be?

**HON K AZOPARDI:**

Cost of the reclamation not cost of the study. Yes I can but I prefer to do it privately because we might go out to tender and I would not want to announce it so that people will pitch in precisely somewhere in the middle of that.

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

The actual cost of the study itself is that known to the Government?

**HON K AZOPARDI:**

The three phases is expected to cost about £100,000 I am not sure if that is total project cost or our part of it because some of it is EU funded. The cost of the initial study I think is around £25,000 but I could be wrong.

ORAL

**NO. 1014 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**NO 4 RODGER'S ROAD**

Can Government say at what stage is the development at 4 Rodger's Road following the award of the tender in August?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

The DPC has received an application to demolish parts of the building that will not form part of the proposed development. The application is being processed amongst the relevant Government departments and other authorities before a decision is taken by the Development and Planning Commission. In addition to this the draft development licence is currently being finalised with Government and completion is expected shortly.

ORAL

**NO. 1015 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**WATG PROJECTS LTD**

Can Government say how the project by WATG Projects Limited for a development at Queensway Quay Marina came about?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

Answered together with Question Nos 1016 to 1020 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 1016 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**WATG PROJECTS LTD**

Can Government say in what timescale the Development and Planning Commission is expected to take a view on the application for planning permission by WATG Projects Ltd at Queensway Quay Marina?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

Answered together with Question Nos 1015 and 1017 to 1020 of 2002.



ORAL

**NO. 1017 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**WATG PROJECTS**

Can Government say whether an Environmental Impact study will be commissioned before the Development and Planning Commission considers the proposed project by WATG at Queensway Quay Marina?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

Answered together with Question Nos 1015, 1016 and 1018 to 1020 of 2002 .

ORAL

**NO. 1018 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**WATG PROJECTS LTD**

What weight will be given to traffic considerations and access with respect to the application for planning permission by WATG Projects Ltd at Queensway Quay Marina?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

Answered together with Question Nos 1015 to 1017 and 1019 and 1020 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 1019 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**WATG PROJECTS LTD**

Can Government say who has ownership of the narrow hammerhead of land of Ordinance Wharf which is currently used for mooring capstans for ships, and which is the intended access point to the proposed new development by WATG Projects Ltd at Queensway Quay Marina?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

Answered together with Question Nos 1015 to 1018 and 1020 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 1020 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**WATG PROJECTS LTD**

Are Government satisfied that there will be sufficient manoeuvring space for yachts following the plans submitted by WATG Projects Ltd for a development at Queensway Quay Marina?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

**Answer to Question No 1015 of 2002**

The proposed development is substantially within the boundary of the Queensway Quay Marina and has come about as a result of a proposal made by WATG Projects Ltd in mid 2001. GOG is currently in negotiations with WATG Projects Ltd as to the level of premium to be paid by them, for certain additional rights over and above the rights contained in the original documentation dating back to October 1991.

**Answer to Question No 1016 of 2002**

No details of the time-scale may be given as the scheme and its contents have not yet been assessed by the Commission.

**Answer to Question No 1017 of 2002**

The procedure for an environmental assessment shall be determined under the Town Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulation 2000. On the basis of the submission the Town Planner has to decide whether the development is a list two development, it is not compulsory it is a discretionary order, and an EIA development.

This will be determined when a screening report is submitted by the applicants. Since the drafting of the answer I am aware that a screening report has been submitted by the applicants.

**Answer to Question No 1018 of 2002**

Traffic and access issues shall be referred to the pertinent authorities for their comments. The Development and Planning Commission shall take into account these comments in determining this application.

**Answer to Question No 1019 of 2002**

The strip of land along the North edge of Gun Wharf is within the Queensway Quay lease. The area to the south of this is in the ownership of the Government. The access point to the proposed new development by WATG Projects Ltd is in the strip of land within the Queensway Quay lease.

**Answer to Question No 1020 of 2002**

The application shall be passed to the Port Authorities through the Ministry for Tourism and Transport for their comments and feedback relevant to the responsibilities that they have to monitor such as boat movements within the marina. Other authorities consulted shall be fire prevention and Environmental Agency.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 1016 TO 1020 OF 2002**

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

Obviously we will table a number of questions in order to be able to make our own judgements as to this project. The Minister referred to negotiating a premium for additional rights, is he in a position to say what those additional rights which are being sought are?

**HON K AZOPARDI:**

The majority of the proposed project would be erected on land which is within the leased area which goes back to the original lease the 1991 lease. This is the lease granted to Taylor Woodrow in the 1<sup>st</sup> October 1991. The whole project goes back, the property was put out to tender by the AACR administration but the leases and the Development licences were granted by the subsequent administration, the Development licence in September 1990 and the lease in October 1991. About 85 per cent of the land on which they would propose to build the island project at ground level not at seabed level is

already within the leased area. At seabed level about 50 per cent is within the leased area. The user clause is quite wide and under the lease is to use it for the purposes of hotel, casino, conference, recreational, touristic, commercial, residential and other related activities so the user clause already under 1991 is quite wide. The negotiations with Government would entail the grant of that further additional plot of land which would enable part of a development to be carried out. I stress that the bulk of the development is already, the proposed development would be carried out within the parameters of the leased area granted in October 1991 by a lease to Taylor Woodrow.

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

Is it the case then that in terms of the land, that needs to be reclaimed part of that which is actually sea, part of that is already within the lease that Taylor Woodrow had since 1991 and the other part belongs to the Government and that is what is actually under negotiation?

**HON K AZOPARDI:**

Yes, that is what I am saying. When I say land I really mean sea there is no land there it is all water but when I describe it as at ground level 85 per cent of the land is within the lease I mean of the water area on which they would want to reclaim at ground level and at sea level about 50 per cent. It would be the additional tranche up to 100 per cent at both levels that would be the rights the Government would be giving them. That of course is a quite separate negotiation, quite a separate process, I want to emphasise that because of the planning objections that have been received quite a separate process to the planning process which would go separately.

ORAL

**NO. 1021 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**GIBRALTAR REGULATORY AUTHORITY**

What expert staff has been taken on by the Gibraltar Regulatory Authority following it being given responsibilities under the Misleading and Comparative Advertising Ordinance?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

None.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 1021 OF 2002**

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

Who is then responsible for carrying out the duties under the Ordinance?

**HON K AZOPARDI:**

The Government take a dim view of entities that try to appear in the Gibraltar market undermining our legislation. As I say that as the initial comment because I will explain why I

say that. The reason that the Gibraltar Regulatory Authority was given responsibilities under the Misleading and Comparative Advertising Ordinance is not because they are going to have general responsibilities to implement or enforce that Ordinance but rather because in one specific case on which we had taken legal advice it was decided that there should be delegated functions and powers under that Ordinance in case it was necessary to use them. Recently there was a telecommunications case where the Government issued a press release saying that the entity did not have a licence and could not just turn up in Main Street, hand leaflets to people and encourage them to take up the offer of the provision of telecommunications services from an address in the United Kingdom and from an entity which we then subsequently found out were not licensed either in the United Kingdom.

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

Is the Minister saying that this transfer which was carried out and published in the Gazette on 27<sup>th</sup> August is actually on a temporary basis for this particular case or will he administer the Ordinance in every other respect?

**HON K AZOPARDI:**

No they will not administer the Ordinance in every case. My Colleague the Minister for Consumer Affairs will have the mechanisms in place to administer the Ordinance generally in accordance with his responsibilities in this area. This is to give them power if power is needed and it is necessary to action that power so that the GRA can take whatever action our lawyers deem appropriate and necessary. That is why it is there at the time we took advice on a variety of options and the lawyers advised that if we wanted to consider action under this Ordinance they needed to be empowered very specifically for this case. It has not been used yet may not be used if it is not necessary but certainly the GRA is not taking over administration or responsibility generally under this Ordinance.



ORAL

**NO. 1022 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**INTERREG III B**

What contact has there been with other relevant EU regions with respect to the allocation of funds under Interreg III B announced in December 2001?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

There have been a number of contacts made with other regions in the geographical areas of Western Mediterranean and Southwest Europe under the Interreg IIIB Community Initiative. As a result Gibraltar is a partner in two project applications submitted to the Transnational Secretariat for accessing funds under the Southwest Europe Programme and expects to participate in two other project applications under the Western Mediterranean Programme which has a closing date of 4<sup>th</sup> November 2002.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 1002 NO 2002**

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

Can the Minister say which country in Southwest Europe these regions are from?

## **HON K AZOPARDI:**

The partners in the projects under the Southwest Europe Programme are the Diputacion Provincial de Jaen, the Technical Services Department of the Government and then La Camara Municipal of Comicao General of the Western Pyrenees and in the other one I suppose that it is because it is not necessarily the Government since partners and so for example, I remember that we issued a press release inviting people to come forward if they wanted to and it is unlikely because of the expense of the programme that people would come forward and this is why Government are trying to take a lead so that we do not loose the money but this programme is also available for businesses and other entities to apply for funding so that looks like a non-governmental organisation. In relation to a geo-link programme our partners are the Diputacion Provincial of Castellon and Malaga, an association in Spain and the department of telecommunications here in Gibraltar. In relation to the Western Mediterranean Programme that has been taken forward by the Heritage Telecommunications division in Gibraltar but really it is the Museum here in Gibraltar that are really promoting the project in conjunction with the Museo del Puerto Santa Maria and the Universidad de Huelva and purely there because these are people who work together annually anyway. They come here every year to do the Gorham's Cave excavations they are very big supporters of Gibraltar and we welcome working with them and in relation to a project on migration and physiology of something biological that I cannot pronounce so I will not embarrass myself in the Channel of Sardinia the Sea of Alboran and the Straits of Gibraltar the Universitat de la Estudi di Cagliari in Italy and the DTI in Gibraltar.

ORAL

**NO. 1023 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**EU FUNDING**

Can Government list the parties who have applied for EU funding since 1<sup>st</sup> May 2002, indicating the amount of funding that was requested and the purposes for which it was intended, listing those applications that have been successful, those that have been unsuccessful, and those applications that are still pending?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

Eleven applications for EU funding have been received since the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2002. Seven seeking European Regional Development Fund Assistance under the 2000-2006 Objective 2 Programme and four seeking European Social Fund Assistance under the 2000-2006 Objective 3 Programme. The details are set out in the schedule that I now hand the hon Member.

**Answer to Question No 1023 of 2002**

| Objective 2 Programme 2000-2006 |       |                             |                                                    |                                                                                                        |                     |
|---------------------------------|-------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Project Number                  | Grant |                             | Sponsor                                            | Purpose of Grant                                                                                       | Status              |
| 015                             | EU    | £5,270<br>GOG<br>£4,730     | D Duarte (Self Employed)                           | Purchase of Equipment, fit-out costs, set design/costume, rent and advertising.                        | Approved            |
| 016                             | EU    | £2,680<br>GOG<br>£2,680     | El Keki (Bakery)                                   | Purchase of machinery and equipment                                                                    | Approved            |
| 017                             | EU    | £27,250<br>GOG<br>£27,250   | Department of Trade, Industry & Telecommunications | A feasibility study investigating the conservation and beautification of the area near Orange Bastion. | Approved            |
| 018                             | EU    | £505,430<br>GOG<br>£505,430 | Technical Services Department                      | Phase IV of the Main Street Beautification Project.                                                    | Approved            |
| 019                             | EU    | £4,821<br>GOG<br>£4,821     | Redwood International Limited                      | Purchase of equipment, fit-out of new unit and professional fees.                                      | Under consideration |
| 020                             | EU    | £4,774<br>GOG<br>£4,774     | The Heather Life Clinic                            | Purchase of equipment and advertising                                                                  | Under consideration |
| N/A                             | EU    | £61,255<br>GOG<br>£61,255   | Lyonnaise Des Eaux (Gibraltar ) Ltd                | Relocation of Landport Ditch Depot                                                                     | Not Eligible        |

| Objective 3 Programme 2000-2006 |    |                           |                         |                  |          |
|---------------------------------|----|---------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|----------|
| 022                             | EU | £16,299<br>GOG<br>£19,921 | Employment Service      | Wage subsidy     | Approved |
| 023                             | EU | £17,896<br>GOG<br>£21,874 | Employment Service      | Wage subsidy     | Approved |
| 024                             | EU | £17,896<br>GOG<br>£21,874 | Employment Service      | Wage subsidy     | Approved |
| 025                             | EU | £28,790<br>GOG<br>£35,188 | Gibraltar Tourist Board | Training Subsidy | Approved |

ORAL

**NO. 1024 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**CONFERENCE SPONSORSHIP**

Can Government say how many conferences it has assisted with, sponsored or co-sponsored in May, June, July, August and September 2002 to date?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

The Finance Centre Division, Department of Trade, Industry and Telecommunications has assisted with, sponsored or co-sponsored the following conferences/seminars:-

1. Banque Populaire Asset Management seminar in Gibraltar in September.
2. ABN Amro Bank seminar in Gibraltar in September.

The Government sponsored the Calpe Conference 2002.

The Chief Minister hosted a dinner organised by the GTB for the Liberal Party International Forum on the 28<sup>th</sup> September 2002 and this dinner cost £2,762.

ORAL

**NO. 1025 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**MINISTERS' OVERSEAS VISITS**

Can the Minister for Trade and Industry give the dates when he has been away from Gibraltar on Government business from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2002 to date, giving the event or function attended, the venue, the city and country visited?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

I have been away from Gibraltar on Government business on the following occasions this year:-

- From 24 - 26 January accompanying the Chief Minister to meetings with the Foreign Secretary at the Foreign Office, London, England.
- From 2 - 3 April for meetings with the UK Treasury primarily on tax issues at the Treasury, London, England.
- From 13 – 17 May at the United Nations Pacific Regional Seminar of the Special Committee of Twenty-Four on Decolonisation in Nadi, Fiji.
- From 21 – 23 May for the launch by AON Insurance Managers of White Rock PCC (Gibraltar) Ltd, the first Protected Cell Company to be set up in Gibraltar, and other meetings. The Launch was held at the Gibraltar Government Office in London.
- From 2 – 12 September for the 48<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Plenary Conference and General Assembly in Windhoek, Namibia and the 22<sup>nd</sup> CPA Conference of Members from Small Countries in Walvis Bay, Namibia.

ORAL

**NO. 1026 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**‘LUXEMBOURG RENDEZ-VOUS’ EXHIBITION**

How many persons from Gibraltar attended the “Luxembourg Rendez-Vous” in May this year, and how many were part of the Government delegation?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

Answered together with Question No 1027 of 2002.



**NO. 1027 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**'LUXEMBOURG RENDEZ-VOUS' EXHIBITION**

Can Government give the total cost with a breakdown of attending the "Luxembourg Rendez-Vous" exhibition at the end of May?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

**Answer to Question No 1026 of 2002**

Three people from the Finance Centre Division , Department of Trade, Industry and Telecommunications attended the Luxembourg Rendez-Vous.

**Answer to Question No 1027 of 2002**

The total cost of attending the Luxembourg Rendez-Vous was £9,251.17

|                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| RIRG Exhibition Fees | £4,074.00 |
| Courier Services     | £480.00   |
| Hotel                | £890.00   |
| Flights              | £3,134.70 |
| Expenses             | £672.47   |

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|                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| <b>Total cost</b> | <b>£9,251.17</b> |
|-------------------|------------------|

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**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 1026 AND 1027 OF 2002**

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

There is one query there and that is there were three people and the flight cost over £3,000 is a particular reason for that that the Minister is aware?

**HON K AZOPARDI:**

I do not know how they got to Luxembourg, I imagine there are no direct flights from Malaga I think they went via Malaga I suppose it is because they probably had to take two flights to get there.

ORAL

**NO. 1028 OF 2002**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**COMPANIES REGISTER**

Can Government say how many companies have been incorporated each month since 1<sup>st</sup> January this year and the comparable figures for last year?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

|           | <b>2001</b>  | <b>2002</b> |
|-----------|--------------|-------------|
| January   | 437          | 304         |
| February  | 494          | 207         |
| March     | 427          | 308         |
| April     | 435          | 308         |
| May       | 577          | 336         |
| June      | 509          | 200         |
| July      | 498          | 367         |
| August    | 482          | 319         |
| September | 363          | 208         |
| October   | 349          | -           |
| November  | 421          | -           |
| December  | 186          | -           |
|           | <b>5,178</b> |             |

## **SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 1028 OF 2002**

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Is the figure for December last year, 186, the average for December in any year or was that the first sign of the downturn that I think was mentioned at the time of the budget, that a downturn had taken place I believe it said at around December?

**HON K AZOPARDI:**

Yes, that was the first sign that we had. There has been a lot of speculation about why there has been a downturn, some people say it is the tax investigation, my own view is it may be partly to a tax issue but it is not only about the tax. If it were the tax thing it should have come down after July .....

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Which is when it started.

**HON K AZOPARDI:**

...which is when the investigation was launched but if one looks at July figures in the year 2000 there were 500 companies in the year 2000, let me put this into context for the Leader of the Opposition, because there were 498 in July 2001. The figure of 500 in July 2000 was the highest ever for July so the fact that it was 498 in the year that they launched the tax investigation and the month after 482 in August and the month after that was 363 the really significant downturn occurred in December which is why my view is that it is not one factor but a combination of factors and I have said before that it is yes partly due to the tax investigation but also partly due to post September 11 downturn. It is also down to the global recession that people are immersed in and it is also due to certain instability that was created as a result of the Anglo-Spanish talks and two of those factors affect everyone in the world, the third factor the tax restructure affects all finance centres in the world because we are all facing the international initiatives at least in a regulatory sense and to a very large extent the tax harmonisation as well and the only thing that is individual to Gibraltar is the political issue. The downturn is not because of the political issue only because if one looks at other countries around the world and I have got statistics, the Leader of the Opposition will be interested, in the Bahamas, for example, the number of international business companies being registered in the Bahamas which is the equivalent to our tax exempt companies has dropped by 50 per cent. In the BVI there has been a 25 per cent reduction over the last two years. I mention the BVI and Bahamas because the way the finance centre is set up in Gibraltar, Bermuda is very much an insurance dominated market, Cayman has some 400 banking licences the offshore centres that we have concentrated on more company formation have traditionally been Bahamas; BVI so if one looks at company formation it is easier to compare ourselves to where these countries are but there has been a downturn even in the countries which have not focused on that, so for example, the Isle of Man and Jersey, there have been sharp descents in the overall number of active

companies in both territories I think it is in the order of 10 per cent in each. So, what I am saying is, it is not one factor it is a variety and it is very difficult to account to what extent the descent is due to each or what proportion of the descent is due to each of those factors but I think that one has to look at it globally so to answer the question of the Leader of the Opposition in a rather longwinded way, yes December was the first month but I think that it proves the fact that it started in December and it is not really about the tax investigation I think it is probably a combination of all sorts of factors that has then continued throughout the year.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

The figures that he has given for the other jurisdictions what is he comparing 2002 with 2001?

**HON K AZOPARDI:**

I do not have the figures for 2002 for BVI, the 25 per cent reduction is for BVI in 2001. The 50 per cent reduction that I am given is the projected reduction for Bahamas in 2002 and I can tell the hon Member as well that I am also advised that new foreign company registrations in Bermuda are approximately 50 per cent lower this year than two years ago. It is better to use two years ago than the last year because it is 2000 that is really the bumper year for everyone which is before the dot.com crash.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

The December turning point seems to be a Gibraltar phenomenon, the downturn in the case of the others has been spread over the year and before.

**HON K AZOPARDI:**

Actually what it proves in a way one can make this analysis that even though other finance centres were being hit by the global recession during 2001 our Finance Centre was doing very well. Even in a recession up until December last year when there was marked downturn I think as a result of combination of factors September 11<sup>th</sup> had its effect as well and I think that is true across the board because I was having a look at statistics not only in relation to company formation which illustrate precisely that fact that of course company incorporations have gone down in Gibraltar and they are down as they are everywhere else but if one actually looks at the numbers of companies being managed, so the real business being dealt with by the 78 licensees, the number of companies being managed, the number of trusts being managed, there has actually been an increase of about 37 per cent in the last two or three years. One looks at investment services licensees, insurance licensees, there has been big increases and so I think we have been fairly insulated from this global effect which I think was first really noticed in December 2001 and I do not think it is particularly helpful to make comparisons for people to say, "well it is down in 2001 from 2000," because 2000 was the record year. The real context is that we are probably at the same incorporation

levels than we were in 1998/1999 which is when the Finance Centre was growing towards a boom, so it is not too bad either.

ORAL

**NO. 1029 OF 2002**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**COMPANIES REGISTER**

Can Government say how many companies have been removed from the Companies Register each month this year and the comparable figures for last year?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

|           | <b>2001</b> | <b>2002</b> |
|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| January   | 125         | 9,816       |
| February  | 146         | 128         |
| March     | 121         | 140         |
| April     | 133         | 197         |
| May       | 125         | 1,089       |
| June      | 243         | 187         |
| July      | 170         | 154         |
| August    | 129         | 1,556       |
| September | 159         | 135         |

## **SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 1029 OF 2002**

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Are the months this year with the three large figures the result of the changes that were made in the legislation about people who had not made returns?

**HON K AZOPARDI:**

Yes, and I think he has asked me previous questions were I have explained that they were trying to do one big clean up and there was some discussion about the procedure and the notice period that had to be given before they could trigger that and I think these are the big figures that are coming out.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Do Government have any indication as to what degree that exercise is completed, how much more is there still left? These were companies that were considered not be active anyway, no?

**HON K AZOPARDI:**

I have a meeting with Companies House soon so I will ask them precisely that. The answer is I do not know but I have answered in the House before that the estimate as to active companies in Gibraltar is about 29,000 so I do not know up to what extent we are away from that now.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

As a result of these changes does the Minister know what is the sort of nominal figure at the end of 2001 and at the end of September, on paper how many companies we started off with at the beginning of January does he have that figure?

**HON K AZOPARDI:**

No I do not have that figure.



ORAL

**NO. 1030 OF 2002**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO COMPANIES**

What is the present position regarding, the three companies that as at the 31<sup>st</sup> January this year had failed to meet interest and capital repayments on the loans they had received from Government?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

Answered together with 1031 of 2002.

**NO. 1031 OF 2002**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO COMPANIES**

Since the 31<sup>st</sup> January have any companies that have received financial assistance from the Government failed to meet interest or repayment requirements on their loans and if so which companies?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

**Answer to Question No 1030 of 2002**

The present position regarding the three companies that as at 31<sup>st</sup> January of this year had failed to meet interest and capital repayments on the loans they had received from Government are as follows:

- **J & B Enterprises Ltd**

The loan given to J & B Enterprises Ltd was in the principal amount of £39,457. On 11<sup>th</sup> September 2001 following an Order from the Supreme Court, Government took possession of the assets (sporting equipment) secured under Clause 10 of the loan agreement. The repossessed equipment is currently stored in one of the units of the Europa Business Centre. The Government are currently putting together a tender document for the sale of the goods.

- **Carlton Designs**

The loan given to Carlton Designs was in the principal amount of £3,000. This amount was written-off by the Treasury after it concluded that the monies were irrecoverable.

- **Zenith Printers**

The loan given to Zenith Printers was in the principal amount of £34,767. The Government are considering the options available to address this matter.

### **Answer to Question No 1031 of 2002**

Since 31<sup>st</sup> January of this year two companies have failed to meet interest and capital repayments on the loan they had received from Government.

- **Sky's Electromechs**

The loan given to Sky's Electromechs was in the principal amount of £13,060. The company was meeting the repayment schedule until March of this year. However, since then the company has failed to meet the repayments. The Government is currently pursuing the matter.

- **Comdeck Limited**

A loan was given to Comdeck Limited in the principal amount of £11,000. The company initially failed to meet the repayment schedule however the company resolved the matter with Treasury before legal action was taken.

### **SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 1030 AND 1031 OF 2002**

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Resolved means what that they have entered into an agreement to pay?

**HON K AZOPARDI:**

I imagine yes.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

In the case of J & B Enterprises when the possession of the sports equipment took place I take it that they were not trading when that happened or is it that they were trading and put into liquidation?

**HON K AZOPARDI:**

I do not have that information.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Is there any particular reason why in the case of Carlton Designs it was written off and thought to be irrecoverable?

**HON K AZOPARDI:**

No I do not have that information. I can give it to him.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

What are the options that have been considered in the case of Zenith Printers?

**HON K AZOPARDI:**

Again a whole variety but I do not have that information with me, I would have to obtain the information and write to the hon Member.

ORAL

**NO. 1032 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**INVESTOR COMPENSATION DIRECTIVE**

Can Government say whether the approval by this House in July of the Investor Compensation Directive will be followed by passporting in investment services and if so when?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

The matter is currently under discussion with HMG and the Government are hopeful that all issues will be resolved to enable the commencement of the Ordinance and the full enjoyment of passporting rights in investment services.

ORAL

**NO. 1033 OF 2002**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**LEISURE CENTRE – KING’S BASTION**

Can the Minister for Sport confirm when the Government expects the old King’s Bastion to be converted to a Leisure Centre?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

No. The project remains in the consultative stage.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 1033 OF 2002**

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

So the situation is exactly the same as when I asked the Minister for Sport when he said, “..... the recommendation for tenders is in the process of being prepared and tenders are going to be requested but there are still a number of balls in the air,” are there still a number of balls in the air then?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

The hon Lady cannot get a different answer simply by repeating the question twice in the space of a minute the answer is that the project remains in the consultative stage.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Have the Government overcome the difficulties that they said there were at the time that I asked the same question last year in respect of the heritage lobby?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

It is not a question of overcoming difficulties. The heritage lobby or at least a significant part of the heritage lobby has always been of the view as I have always made clear in this House that the 1960's generating station building on Queensway should be demolished in order to expose the city walls on the North side of Kings Bastion. That is an issue which the Government have concluded. The Government have made the decision that the building will not be demolished, it will be incorporated into the Leisure Centre Facilities in Kings Bastion, the consultative stage is not about whether the building should or should not be demolished in the context of the heritage lobby's views but whether it is rather a consultation as to the content of the Leisure Centre.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

In the consultative period that the Government are in, have they already taken a decision as to whether the Leisure Centre will be privately run or run by the Government?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

The Government will announce their decisions at a time that the Government consider appropriate in the context of the project. We are not prepared to make announcements piecemeal until such time as the Government decide to proceed with announcing the project.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Are Government confident that the announcement will be made before their term of office?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

I repeat my last answer.

ORAL

**NO. 1034 OF 2002**

**THE HON J C PEREZ**

**WESTERN BEACH**

Has the Ministry of Defence offered to hand over Western Beach to the Gibraltar Government?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

**(on behalf of the Minister for Trade, Industry and Telecommunications)**

Western Beach is not land held by the MOD for the purposes of defence and as such the MOD is unable to make any such offer. By prerogative right the foreshore, which is all that Western Beach actually is, belongs to the Crown in exactly the same way as all the other beaches in Gibraltar. The MOD request us that GOG should take over the maintenance responsibility but without proper landside access and the hon Member knows that the Government are resisting that proposition.



**ORAL**

**NO. 1035 OF 2002**

**THE HON J C PEREZ**

**GIBRALTAR'S IDD CODE**

Given that the British Foreign Secretary told the House of Commons on the 17<sup>th</sup> June that the objective of the British Government remains Spanish recognition of Gibraltar's International Dialling Code as the only viable long term solution to our telecoms problems with Spain, can Government state whether they have been informed by the British Government of what they propose to do in pursuance of that objective?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

The Government are aware that the British Government have regular contact with the Spanish Government at official and Ministerial level and that they will continue to make clear to the Spanish Government that recognition of Gibraltar's IDD code is the only viable comprehensive, long term solution. The Gibraltar Government have no information as to how UK proposes to achieve that objective on its free standing merits.

**ORAL**

**NO. 1036 OF 2002**

**THE HON J C PEREZ**

**COMPETENT AUTHORITY**

Are Government aware whether the European Commission has now updated the list of competent authorities in respect of the Application of Council Directives 93/75/EEC and 78/55/EEC, and if so, whether the Captain of the Port appears on the list as Gibraltar's competent authority?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Enquiries have been made of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Government can confirm that no update to the list of competent authority has to date been brought to our attention. However, the FCO are pursuing this matter with the EU.

**ORAL**

**NO. 1037 OF 2002**

**THE HON J C PEREZ**

**BREATHALYSER TEST**

Can Government state whether the practical matters related to the application of the law for the use of breathalyser tests have now been cleared by the Attorney General's Chambers and whether the RGP is now making use of the provisions laid down in the Ordinance?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

The practical matters relating to the application of the law for the use of the breathalyser tests have been cleared by the Attorney General's Chambers. The RGP is at present not implementing the relevant part of the Ordinance but it is envisaged that it will start in January this year following a completion of the appropriate training programmes.

ORAL

**NO. 1038 OF 2002**

**THE HON J C PEREZ**

**LAND PROPERTY SERVICES**

Are Government now in a position to finalise the review of the contract of Land Property Services?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

The Baker Tilley report has been looked at and recommendations have been put forward by both Land Property Services and the Treasury. The Government have not yet concluded their consideration of these recommendations, but expect to do so before the end of this year. Basically what is proposed by the report is a change in the basis of remuneration to something more related to costs as opposed to revenue but this is something that needs to be negotiated in the context of the renewal of the contract. There has been quite a lot of delay (a) whilst the report was prepared (b) whilst the Government considered this, we are grateful to Land Property Services for the patience that they have shown but we are now determined to wrap this up by the end of the year.

ORAL

**NO. 1039 OF 2002**

**THE HON J C PEREZ**

**POST OF PERSONNEL MANAGER**

When will Government open the post of Personnel Manager?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

The Government have considered the recommendations made in the Review of the Personnel Department which was undertaken earlier this year. It has been decided to restructure the department and to re-organise its functions. This involves a change in the title of the post of Personnel Manager which will in future be called Human Resources Manager. A number of administrative changes need to be put in place before the post is filled on a substantive basis but I expect this to be finalised before the end of the year.

**ORAL**

**NO. 1040 OF 2002**

**THE HON J C PEREZ**

**RADIATION READINGS**

Can Government state whether it has now engaged consultants to take radiation readings from transmissions of aerials and mastheads around Gibraltar?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Consultants (Radio Spectrum International Consulting Ltd) were engaged by Government to carry out an Electro Magnetic Frequency (EMF) emission survey. The team visited Gibraltar from 29<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2002 and submitted their report to Government on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2002. Emission measurements were taken from a number of sites including offices at The Haven, which had been the main source of complaint and included the highest number of transmitters at any one site. The highest reading obtained in these offices is extremely low and represents a level of 1/412857 of the ICNIRP (International Commission for Non-Ionising Radiation Protection) public maximum exposure levels. This is well below the minimum levels recommended.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 1040 OF 2002**

**HON J C PEREZ:**

Did the consultancy include aerials and mastheads within the MOD or was that not included?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

No, I know that it certainly included a mast I think Government have in the Port Department at the top of one of the Port Department buildings, I know that it included that, I do not think it included MOD installations. What prompted the calling of the report in the first place was complaints from members of staff of the Government in the top floor of the Treasury Building on top of which these things stand that they were suffering an undue incidence of headaches so the Government obviously wanted to make sure that this could not be attributed to the mast and commissioned this survey as a matter of good employer practice to make sure that we were not exposing the employees and whilst they were here it extended to other Government sites. It has some value for the population at large but that was not the motive for calling it.

**HON J C PEREZ:**

I am glad to have that clarified because it first appeared in the Gibraltar Chronicle as an initiative of the Hon Mr Britto where he said that it was going to be done on a regular basis and that it was going to be kept monitored. My argument the last time which was not answered was if it is going to be done on a regular basis whether that consultancy ought not to have included people to be trained so that they could be done on a regular basis and what body is going to be the one that is going to receive that report to protect the public interest, would it be the Environmental Agency or would it be some other body?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

I am not aware of the answer given by my ministerial colleague mentioned by the hon Member, the readings on this occasion on the Treasury Building suggests that there is no need for on-going measurement, the readings as so far below the acceptable levels that unless there was some alteration to the strength of the transmissions passing through that mast there would seem to be no need. Whether the Minister meant that Gibtelecom as the operator were going to be conducting that which I think that they should if there is any issue there, if there is any issue there it would seem to be their responsibility, but certainly I agree with the hon Members if contrary to what I am now saying it is prudent to monitor these things on an on-going basis and if indeed unknown to me the Government have decided to do that on an on-going basis then I would agree with him that it would be logical to train up somebody in the Environmental Health Agency and to acquire the necessary equipment because as one knows these visiting consultancies are expensive.

ORAL

**NO. 1041 OF 2002**

**THE HON J C PEREZ**

**ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY**

Will Government state what is the extra cost to Government per annum of setting up the proposed Electricity Authority?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question No 1042 of 2002.



ORAL

**NO. 1042 OF 2002**

**THE HON J C PEREZ**

**ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY**

Can Government state whether they have now resolved all the outstanding issues with the Union and Staff Associations over the setting up of an Electricity Authority?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

The potential extra cost cannot be calculated until the negotiations are complete and the final structure known. Good progress is being made in those negotiations, in a friendly and constructive basis, but there does remain a number of outstanding issues.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 1041 AND 1042 OF 2002**

**HON J C PEREZ:**

Would it be fair to say that whatever the extra cost is the bulk of it would be salaries?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

I do not want to mislead the hon Member, the extra costs arising from a restructure of the terms and conditions of employment would obviously arise almost entirely from extra salaries. The Government are however intending in the context of a successful implementation of the Authority to look at the question of the plant and equipment in the station and that would almost certainly require extra investment in plant and equipment

and that would be extra cost but it would not be extra cost as a result of the change in terms and conditions of employment nor part of the negotiations in the sense of being part of the deal but it is on the table as one of the issues that people are aware of as they discuss the terms and conditions of employment.

**HON J C PEREZ:**

No, my question was actually looking at the recurring annual cost not any new plant that the Minister might decide in preference to keeping the contract of OESCO or whatever.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

Yes, any increase in recurring cost almost certainly or mostly will be extra payroll cost.

ORAL

**NO. 1043 OF 2002**

**THE HON J C PEREZ**

**CIVIL SERVICE – PAY REVIEW**

Can Government state whether the arbitration over the differences with the Union Prospect related to the 1999/2000 Pay Review for clerical grades has now commenced?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

This matter is the subject of informal discussion. It is not appropriate to comment further at this stage of the matter. It is the subject matter of what I think are going to be fruitful and formal discussions.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 1043 OF 2002**

**HON J C PEREZ:**

Could we say that the informal discussions could lead to the arbitration not taking place, is that the basis of the informal discussions?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

If the informal discussions yield fruit there would not be anything to arbitrate about, things have happened since we last met in this House in the UK, things have happened in terms of the pay review that has been agreed in the UK for the civil service for this year that have been announced after the summer which facilitate the resolution of the

issues that were left pending so it is not so much the question of the party saying, "Let us go back and restart the discussion where we had had them locally," but rather given that both sides are committed to parity principle the United Kingdom MOD which is the one that we are analogued has had structural changes to the method of pay calculation for the civil service and that has very helpfully in terms of timing cast new light on the party's ability to informally discuss the extent to which that provides a way forward on some of the outstanding issues. Fortuitous but there it is.

ORAL

**NO. 1044 OF 2002**

**THE HON J C PEREZ**

**POST OF COLLECTOR OF CUSTOMS**

Has the vacancy for the post of Collector of Customs been advertised, and if so, how many persons have applied for the post?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Yes. One application has been received.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 1044 OF 2002**

**HON J C PEREZ:**

Is the matter still at the level with the Public Service Commission it still needs to interview the individual and so on?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

Yes I understand that the PSC is planning to hold its meeting sometime in the middle of November. There still has to be a meeting even though there is only one applicant because the PSC still has to satisfy itself the applicant is suitable for the post even though there is no other applicant.

ORAL

**NO. 1045 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR R G VALARINO**

**HEAD 102 – SUBHEAD 1**

Can Government state what amount of the estimate in Head 102, Sale of Government properties has been received to date?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

The amount received from Land Property Services Ltd and credited to the Improvement and Development Fund Head 102 – Sale of Government Properties, Subhead 1 – Land and Building Sales and Leases as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2002 is £434,282.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 1045 OF 2002**

**HON DR R G VALARINO:**

I think the estimated figure on that Head was about £5 million does the Chief Minister have any hope that that figure will increase?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

We have every hope that that figure will increase. First of all the figure is an estimate for the whole year and secondly we are only part of the way through the year and this figure generally is a little bit of a stab because of course no one knows what demand there is going to be from people to buy their properties and even when people decide they want

to buy their properties the Government have little control of the exact timing. We hope to maximise it and get it as nearer to £5 million as possible but I think if the hon Member will see that if he compares every year's estimates with every year's forecast out-turn it hardly ever is a very accurate estimate.

ORAL

**NO. 1046 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR R G VALARINO**

**HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME**

Can Government give a breakdown by estate of those homeowners who have purchased Government's share of their co-ownership homes in this financial year?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question No 1047 to 1051 of 2002.



ORAL

**NO. 1047 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR R G VALARINO**

**HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME**

Can Government state how many home owners have purchased Government's share of their co-ownership homes in this financial year and the total value of such sales?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question No 1046 and 1048 to 1051 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 1048 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR R G VALARINO**

**HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME**

Can Government state as at the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2002 what the estimated value of the government's share of co-ownership homes is and the number of flats involved giving a breakdown by estate?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question Nos 1046, 1047 and 1049 to 1051 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 1049 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR R G VALARINO**

**HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME**

Can Government provide the number of flats in which Government have a 50/50 'generic' interest broken down by estate?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question Nos 1046 to 1048, 1050 and 1051 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 1050 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR R G VALARINO**

**HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME**

Can Government say how many home owners have registered an interest in buying out the Government's share of 50/50 homes to date, giving a breakdown by estate?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question Nos 1046 to 1049 and 1051 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 1051 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR R G VALARINO**

**HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME**

Can Government provide the estimated value of the Government's share of Sir William Jackson Grove based on a 4 per cent per annum increase over the original purchase price?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

**Answer to Question No 1046 of 2002**

The following is a breakdown by estate of the home owners who have purchased Government's share of their co-ownership homes in the financial year 2002/2003:-

|                           |           |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| Montagu Gardens           | 6         |
| Montagu Cresecent         | 3         |
| Westview Park             | 3         |
| Harbour Views             | 23        |
| Sir William Jackson Grove | 2         |
| Brymptom                  | 3         |
|                           | —         |
| <b>Total</b>              | <b>40</b> |
|                           | —         |

**Answer to Question No 1047 of 2002**

The number of homeowners who have purchased Government's share of their co-ownership homes in the financial year 2002/2003, via the 50/50 discount scheme, and the total value of such sales, are as follows:

40 purchases                    =                    £767,815 (Monetary value)

**Answer to Question No 1048 of 2002**

The following is the estiamted value of Government's share of co-ownership homes and the number of flats involved, by estates as at 1<sup>st</sup> October 2002:-

|                           |             | Cost         | Offer        |
|---------------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|
|                           |             | £m           | £m           |
| Montagu Gardens           | 484         | 10.9         | 15.1         |
| Montagu Crescent          | 206         | 4.5          | 4.7          |
| Westview Park             | 118         | 4.8          | 2.4          |
| Harbour Views             | 732         | 13.8         | 11.3         |
| Sir William Jackson Grove | 251         | 5.5          | 3.3          |
| Brympton                  | 81          | 2.2          | 2.1          |
|                           |             | _____        | _____        |
| <b>Total</b>              | <b>1872</b> | <b>£41.7</b> | <b>£38.9</b> |
|                           |             | _____        | _____        |

**Answer to Question No 1049 of 2002**

The following is a breakdown by estate of the number of flats in which Government have an interest:-

|                           |              |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| Montagu Gardens           | 484          |
| Montagu Crescent          | 206          |
| Westview Park             | 118          |
| Harbour Views             | 732          |
| Sir William Jackson Grove | 251*         |
| Brympton                  | 81           |
|                           | <hr/>        |
| <b>Total</b>              | <b>1,872</b> |
|                           | <hr/>        |

- Additionally Government have an interest through its Option C on 215 flats and a further interest on 117 pensioner flats.

#### **Answer to Question No 1050 of 2002**

The following is the breakdown by estate of the number of homeowners who have registered an interest in buying Government's share of 50/50 homes to date:

|                           |            |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Montagu Gardens           | 226        |
| Montagu Crescent          | 70         |
| Westview Park             | 37         |
| Harbour Views             | 282        |
| Sir William Jackson Grove | 76         |
| Brympton                  | 48         |
|                           | —          |
| <b>Total</b>              | <b>739</b> |
|                           | —          |

#### **Answer to Question No 1051 of 2002**

The following is the estimated value of Government's share of Sir William Jackson Grove based on a 4 per cent per annum over the original purchase price:-

|                                       |               |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| Cost                                  | £5,527,242.00 |
| 4% increase for 8 years               | £1,768,717.00 |
|                                       | —             |
| Estimated value of Government's Share | £7,295,959.00 |
|                                       | —             |

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 1046 TO 1051 OF 2002**

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

In answer to Question No 652 of 2002 at the last meeting of the House the estimated figure was £52.7 million what is the explanation for the difference?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

I would have to see the exact formulation of the question and the dates. There is a number of flats already which have been sold in the meantime and therefore those will be included in one total and not in the other. Depending on the date of that question there may have been a reduction. Had the 4 per cent business already been announced by then?

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

If I may quote the answer that was given in April was, “....the estimated value of Government’s share of the properties based on a 4 per cent per annum increase over the original purchase price is £52.7 million the breakdown by estate is as follows....” And there follows a breakdown by estate where comparing the two for example, I note that there is a difference in Harbour Views which is shown as £19 million in April and £11 million now and given that we have just been told that the amount that has been sold to date comes to £0.75 million...

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

Were they the same questions, exactly the same question?

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Yes exactly the same question and exactly the same answer the estimated value of the share based on a 4 per cent per annum increase over the original price is £52.7 if that was in April one would have expected that it would be worth more six months later because it would have meant another 2 per cent on top. It is on page 536 of Hansard of the April Question and Answer Session, Question No 652 of 2002.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

Does the hon Member say that the discrepancy affects principally Sir William Jackson Grove?

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Well nor that this seems to be enough because there is a discrepancy there of £7.3 million and the difference between £38 million and £52 million is double that.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

I do not have the answer to that these are the figures that have been passed up to me by the Treasury .....



**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Sir William Jackson Grove is now given as £3.3 million and in April it was said to be worth £7 million .....

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

I need to see the exact question because to see whether the previous question was formulated in terms of the estimated value of Government's share of co-ownership as opposed to Government's shares of the homes. Somebody may have taken the view in the Treasury that some of Sir William Jackson Grove is not co-ownership but I do not know. The hon Member says there is a discrepancy between the answers I will have somebody in the Treasury look to see whether there is a discrepancy between the answers and if there is to explain it.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

It is not that I am saying it as if as if I were speculating. We were told in April the value was £52 million and we are told now it is £38 million there clearly is a discrepancy. The question is the same and the answer is the same. It is Question No 652 of 2002 which was, "Can Government state which is the estimated value of the Government's share of co-ownership homes on the basis of the offer for sales at the level of 4 per cent per annum increase on the original price giving a breakdown by estate?", and the answer is £52.7 million and there is a breakdown by estate. Now we thought we were going to get a higher figure this year unless there had been sales which would have reduced it but we would like to know which of the two is the right figure?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

If there is a discrepancy as opposed to an explanation I shall have it established and pass it on to the hon Member.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Given that this money is intended to be credited to the residential property company and intended to finance the new investment in housing, I would have thought the Government would know whether they are talking about expecting something like £50 million or something like £38 million. I would understand if the figures were very close to each other but given the difference, do they not have a figure of what they think they can achieve by the sales if they are completely successful in their policy because that presumably is the money that they are going to re-invest?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

That is the answer that has been given to me by the Treasury and I shall repeat, the hon Member believes that there is a discrepancy between this answer and the one that he

got at the last House, I will ask whether there is a discrepancy or otherwise an explanation and I will pass them on to him.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

What I am asking now as supplementary is given that this is in fact as I understand it the raising of this capital is what the Government are intending to re-invest what is it that they are expecting to be able to raise from the sales if they were to be completely successful, have they not had a figure ?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

As much as possible.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Yes but they do not know what the figure is likely to be.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

It depends on how many people take up the offer, I told the hon Member in the last House that the funding did not depend on this that whatever could be raised would contribute to the funding. The hon Member does as usual, he gets part of what I have said, he moulds it into whatever form he wants and then he presents it back to me in a different form to which I gave it to him. This is not a question of the Government having a particular target for a particular amount we hope as many people as possible take up the offer to buy because that would give us as much funding as possible for housing and other things and relieve the Government of the need to have to provide the finance for those projects from other sources. That is what I told them the last time.

ORAL

**NO. 1052 OF 2002**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**TRANSFER OF BOATS AT WESTERN BEACH TO COALING ISLAND**

Are Government now in a position to state 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 the same as on the last occasion the hon Member asked this question.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 1052 OF 2002**

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Does it mean that Government have not been able to resolve the pending matters they have with the MOD?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

I mean that the position remains the same as on the last occasion that the hon Member asked this question.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Have matters with the third party been resolved then, with the private company?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

The position remains the same as when the hon Member last asked this question.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Has any attempt been made to progress the position from where it was the last time the question was asked?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

Yes but discussions with the MOD on their new approach to land redistribution is slow.

ORAL

**NO. 1053 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**HEAD 8-A – SUBHEAD 8(D)**

Can Government provide a breakdown of Head 8-A Subhead 8 (d) in respect of the £832,000 forecast out-turn for 2001/2002 being private sector fees for legal drafting, giving a breakdown by law firm showing the amounts paid to each firm and the date of payment?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question Nos 1054 to 1057 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 1054 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**HEAD 8-A – SUBHEAD 8(E)**

Can Government provide a breakdown of Head 8-A Subhead 8 (e) in respect of the £10,000 forecast out-turn for 2001/2002 being publications?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question Nos 1053 and 1055 to 1057 of 2002.

**ORAL**

**NO. 1055 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**HEAD 8 A – SUBHEAD 13**

Can Government provide a breakdown of Head 8-A Subhead 13 in respect of the £596,000 forecast out-turn for 2001/2002 being private sector fees for legal advice, giving a breakdown by law firm showing the amounts paid to each firm and the date of payment?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question Nos 1053, 1054, 1056 and 1057 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 1056 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**HEAD 8-A – SUBHEAD 14**

Can Government provide a breakdown of Head 8-A Subhead 14 in respect of the £478,000 forecast out-turn for the year 2001/2002 being political lobbying, invited guests and official travel?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question Nos 1053 to 1055 and 1057 of 2002.



ORAL

**NO. 1057 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**HEAD 8-A – SUBHEAD 22**

Can Government provide a breakdown of Head 8-A Subhead 22 in respect of the £126,000 forecast out-turn for the year 2001/2002 being research, development studies and professional fees?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

I hand the hon Member the information requested.

**Answer to Question No 1053 of 2002**

| <u>Law Firm</u>  | <u>Description</u>                 | <u>Amount (£)</u>  | <u>Date of Payment</u> |
|------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| M Llamas         | Consumer Protective Directive 97/7 | 6,630.00           | 05.04.01               |
| " "              | Consumer Legislation               | 23,400.00          | 22.05.01               |
| " "              | Civil Aviation                     | 5,330.00           | 25.04.01               |
| " "              | Civil Aviation                     | 6,825.00           | 18.05.01               |
| Hassans          | Telecommunications                 | 49,330.00          | 11.04.01               |
| Hassans          | Telecommunications                 | 31,540.00          | 25.06.01               |
| Hassans          | Tax Reform                         | 80,675.00          | 21.11.01               |
| Hassans          | Tax Reform                         | 26,017.00          | 05.03.01               |
| Triay & Triay    | Tax Reform                         | 41,060.00          | 21.11.01               |
| Triay & Triay    | Tax Reform                         | 11,670.00          | 13.03.01               |
| Baker Tilly      | Tax Reform                         | 29,925.00          | 21.11.01               |
| KPMG             | Tax Reform                         | 47,550.00          | 21.11.01               |
| KPMG             | Tax Reform                         | 20,287.00          | 13.03.01               |
| BDO Fidecs Agent | Tax Reform                         | 1,380.00           | 05.03.01               |
| <b>Total</b>     |                                    | <b>£381,619.00</b> |                        |

**Answer to Question No 1054 of 2002**

|                                                  |                  |
|--------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Butterworth Tolley – Halsbury Statutes           | £4,884.50        |
| Context – EU Legislation & Directives            | £2,050.00        |
| W H Everett & sons Ltd – Official Journals of EU | £ 739.07         |
| <b>Total</b>                                     | <b>£7,673.57</b> |

**Answer to Question No 1055 of 2002**

| <b><u>Law Firm</u></b>   | <b><u>Date</u></b> | <b><u>Amount (£)</u></b> |
|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>White &amp; Case</b>  | 05.04.01           | 3,714.30                 |
|                          | 06.05.01           | 5,176.05                 |
|                          | 04.06.01           | 4,187.29                 |
|                          | 12.07.01           | 2,308.24                 |
|                          | 22.08.01           | 3,008.99                 |
|                          | 03.09.01           | 6,017.02                 |
|                          | 27.11.01           | 15,659.00                |
|                          | 10.12.01           | 3,385.00                 |
|                          | 20.12.01           | 155,837.28               |
|                          | 09.01.02           | 3,560.00                 |
|                          | 14.02.02           | 4,120.00                 |
|                          | 05.03.02           | 776.00                   |
|                          |                    | <hr/>                    |
|                          |                    | <b>£207,749.17</b>       |
| <b>Hassans</b>           | 25.04.01           | 22,384.40                |
|                          | 03.05.01           | 855.00                   |
|                          | 17.5.01            | 5,361.00                 |
|                          | 22.05.01           | 2,504.50                 |
|                          | 04.06.01           | 12,365.00                |
|                          | 25.06.01           | 750.00                   |
|                          | 23.08.01           | 3,749.00                 |
|                          | 11.09.01           | 6,978.00                 |
|                          | 09.11.01           | 3,210.00                 |
|                          | 07.12.01           | 4,530.00                 |
|                          | 20.12.01           | 29,732.90                |
|                          | 28.11.01           | 4,506.11                 |
|                          | 01.02.02           | 650.00                   |
|                          | 26.02.02           | 750.00                   |
|                          | 05.03.02           | 19,418.62                |
|                          | 20.03.02           | 5,945.70                 |
|                          |                    | <hr/>                    |
|                          |                    | <b>£123,690.23</b>       |
| <b>Attias &amp; Levy</b> | 03.05.01           | 10,040.00                |
|                          | 22.08.01           | 760.00                   |
|                          | 22.08.01           | 2,137.70                 |
|                          | 13.03.02           | 5,758.00                 |
|                          |                    | <hr/>                    |
|                          |                    | <b>18,695.70</b>         |
|                          |                    | <hr/>                    |

|                                             |          |                   |
|---------------------------------------------|----------|-------------------|
| <b>Triay &amp; Triay</b>                    | 03.05.01 | 26,324.70         |
|                                             | 07.08.01 | 2,200.00          |
|                                             | 06.03.02 | 6,714.00          |
|                                             |          | <hr/>             |
|                                             |          | <b>35,238.70</b>  |
|                                             |          | <hr/>             |
| <b>Isola &amp; Isola</b>                    | 13.08.01 | 25,000.00         |
|                                             | 3.10.01  | 1,575.00          |
|                                             |          | <hr/>             |
|                                             |          | <b>26,575.00</b>  |
|                                             |          | <hr/>             |
| <b>Buhdrani &amp; Co</b>                    | 25.05.01 | 725.15            |
|                                             | 03.12.01 | 4,800.00          |
|                                             |          | <hr/>             |
|                                             |          | <b>5,525.15</b>   |
|                                             |          | <hr/>             |
| Ray Pilley Solicitors                       | 02.07.01 | 300.00            |
| Charles Gomez & Co                          | 07.12.01 | 650.00            |
| Louis Triay QC                              | 20.12.01 | 3,000.00          |
| Miscellaneous                               |          |                   |
| Mr A Thorhill QC                            | 25.04.01 | 5,000.00          |
| Mr A Thorhill QC                            | 03.09.01 | 5,000.00          |
| Richard Plender QC                          | 25.05.01 | 10,000.00         |
| Royal Institution of<br>Chartered Surveyors | 25.05.01 | 275.00            |
| M Llamas                                    | 20.12.01 | 67,150.00         |
| Professor Fletcher                          | 20.12.01 | 4,000.00          |
| Mr Luc Argand Etude                         | 07.03.02 | 10,529.20         |
| Michael Beloff                              | 07.03.02 | 11,875.00         |
| Adam Lewis                                  | 07.03.02 | 6,664.70          |
| Mr Andrew Hochhauser                        | 13.03.02 | 25,000.00         |
| Mr Argand                                   | 28.01.02 | 585.77            |
| Cruz & Co                                   | 02.07.02 | 16,840.08         |
| Cruz & Co                                   | 08.02.02 | 11,316.83         |
|                                             |          | <hr/>             |
|                                             |          | <b>174,236.58</b> |
|                                             |          | <hr/>             |

**Answer to Question No 1056 of 2002**

|                 |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------|
|                 | £                 |
| Official Travel | 133,288.51        |
| Invited Guests  | 8,718.10          |
| Political       | 336,116.95        |
|                 | <hr/>             |
|                 | <b>478,123.56</b> |
|                 | <hr/>             |

**Answer to Question No 1057 of 2002**

|                                                          |           |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Post Office Review                                       | 2,220.40  |
| Buildings and Works Review                               | 1,205.05  |
| Input/Output Study                                       | 1,692.00  |
| Civil Contingency Planning Consultancy                   | 4,200.00  |
| IT Review                                                | 24,291.85 |
| Nuclear Submarine Study                                  | 69,480.96 |
| Gaming Study Review                                      | 3,346.65  |
| Port Pay Evaluation Study                                | 7,000.00  |
| Professional Fees IRO Montagu Crescent Structural Report | 8,525.80  |
| Consultancy Fees IRO Asbestos                            | 2,773.70  |

ORAL

**NO. 1058 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**TAX REFORMS**

Can Government give the names of the persons involved in the committee that advised them on the tax reforms that were announced in July, and in what capacity each of them served on that committee?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question Nos 1059 and 1060 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 1059 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**TAX REFORMS**

Can Government give the total cost, with a breakdown, of the money paid to the group that advised on its tax reforms?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question Nos 1058 and 1060 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 1060 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**TAX REFORMS**

What did the group that advised the Government on their tax reforms produce in exchange for the money paid?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

The Government's Tax Reform Committee comprises of:-

- |    |                 |   |                                   |
|----|-----------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1. | Wilfred Smart   | - | Commissioner of Income Tax        |
| 2. | Frank Carreras  | - | Income Tax Office                 |
| 3. | Robert Vasquez  | - | Triay & Triay                     |
| 4. | Tony Provasoli  | - | Hassans                           |
| 5. | Chris White     | - | Hassans                           |
| 6. | Charles Serruya | - | Baker Tilly Chartered Accountants |
| 7. | Albert Mena     | - | KPMG Accountants                  |

The Tax Reform Committee has been responsible for advising upon and drafting the new company taxation legislation for Government. Members of the Committee were selected for their expertise and ability in these areas. The fees paid are set out in the Schedule I hand the hon Member. The total is £322,161.



**Answer to Question No 1060 of 2002**

|                 | £                  |          |
|-----------------|--------------------|----------|
| Hassans         | 80,675.00          | 21.11.01 |
| Hassans         | 26,017.00          | 05.03.02 |
| Hassans         | 19,395.70          | 25.04.02 |
| Hassans         | 10,367.95          | 04.10.02 |
| Triay & Triay   | 41,060.00          | 21.11.01 |
| Triay & Triay   | 11,670.00          | 13.03.02 |
| Triay & Triay   | 4,545.00           | 08.05.02 |
| Baker Tilly     | 29,925.00          | 21.11.01 |
| Baker Tilly     | 8,025.00           | 22.05.02 |
| KPMG            | 47,550.00          | 21.11.01 |
| KPMG            | 20,287.00          | 13.03.02 |
| KPMG            | 7,087.00           | 05.06.02 |
| KPMG            | 6,902.22           | 12.06.02 |
| KPMG            | 7,275.00           | 23.08.02 |
| BDO FIDECS MGNT | 1,380.00           | 05.03.02 |
|                 | <hr/>              |          |
|                 | <b>£322,161.87</b> |          |
|                 | <hr/>              |          |

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 1058 TO 1060 OF 2002**

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

Is it the case that the money was paid to the firms that the people came from and not to the actual person themselves?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

I am not sure that it is appropriate to delve into how these firms organise their internal accounting arrangements, it appears by the answer that he has had from me by the schedule that the recipient of the payment is the firm. I cannot say what they have done with it, certainly as far as the Government are concerned we chose the individuals not the firms because we were choosing the individuals because of the their aptitude and skills and expertise in the areas in question. When the bill arrived it arrived from the firm and it was paid to the firm.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

There seems to be more firms than individuals given that two of the individuals are civil servants?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

They are all individual working firms.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

I accept that, I think that the Chief Minister mentioned that there were two accountants, Albert Mena and Caruana?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

No. There are seven of which two are civil servants and therefore we can disregard them, all the others are three lawyers, one from Triay and Triay two from Hassans, and two chartered accountants one from Baker Tilley and one from KPMG.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

The BDO FIDECS payment then was in respect of what?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

That firm helped the committee in the drafting or in the research but they are not themselves part of the committee.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

The Draft Legislation is the one to which the Chief Minister referred to in July when he said that this would be brought to the House at some stage and we would have an opportunity of debating all the issues?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

Yes and it is quite voluminous it is not just a question of amendments to the Income Tax Ordinance there are seven or nine pieces of legislation involved in implementing the whole scheme and it really is a thick pile of papers in its totality.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Given from what we have been told and what it has taken this committee to produce it, it appears to be quite complex, would the Government be in a position to let us have this once they have decided if they are going to go ahead so that we have the maximum possible time to be able to go through it before we get to the House to debate it?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

Yes, Government are acutely aware that it would not facilitate proper debate in this House if the hon members have only seven days notice for all this legislation.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

So the answer is yes?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

Yes hon Members will get more than the usual seven days notice by which I do not mean some minimal increase, by which I mean a reasonable period of time. I do not want to commit myself to a particular period of time but certainly we will maximise the period of time not just because it is only reasonable that for such complex legislation the Opposition should have as much time as is possible to prepare but also because indeed from the industry's point of view they cannot see the legislation for the first time when it appears on a green paper as a Bill and therefore the Government have in mind that there is a need to "publish" the text of this legislation early on and perhaps even before the legislative process actually begins in terms of publication of the Bill so I am confident that there will be quite a lot, more than usual. What Government are not going to do is circulate the legislation in the industry and not send it to the Opposition.

ORAL

**NO. 1061 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**CASEMATES DEVELOPMENT**

Have the three units at the Casemates development that were put out to tender now been allocated, and if so when, to whom and for what type of business?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question No 1062 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 1062 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**CASEMATES DEVELOPMENT**

Can Government say whether there are any vacant units at the Casemates Development other than the three that were put out to tender?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

**Answer to Question No 1061 of 2002**

Units 6E, 18E and 21B Casemates Barracks were put to tender on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2001. Only unit 6E has been allocated. Mr James Valarino was the successful tenderer. The unit was allocated in April 2002 for the purpose of a Moroccan Bazaar.

One tender for unit 18E was received and rejected.  
One tender for unit 21B was received but did not materialise.

**Answer to question No 1062 of 2002**

Unit 2/3 Casemates Square previously intended as an ice cream parlour and which is in the process of being repossessed is to be put out to tender together with units 18E and 21B Casemates Barracks already put out to tender unsuccessfully.

## **SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 1061 AND 1062 OF 2002**

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

I understand that the three units have been put out to tender yesterday or the day before when the adverts came out in the press but the last time we discussed these in the House there were actually five tenderers who were interested in the three vacant units apart that only the Moroccan accessory shop seems to have been successful, there was also a confectionary, a pick and mix, a tapas bar and a specialist chocolate sweet shop, has the Chief Minister any information as to why none of these were successful?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

I fear that the hon Member is presupposing that all of those applied for any one of the units. I think he will probably find that all those other ones that he has mentioned, the sweetshop and the tapas bar, they were applicants in competition with the Moroccan bazaar but only for the unit downstairs. The problem here is that the units at ground floor level are quite popular, the units across the top of the uncovered walkway on the first floor are less commercially popular so there are always more applicants for anything that remains vacant on the ground street level than for upstairs. As I said in my answer for unit 18E only one tender was received and indeed only one tender was received for 21B and then it did not materialise.

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

In relation to 18E and 21B was a rejection of the two tenders to do with the type of business and if not what was the reason for the rejection?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

21B was not the subject of a rejection it was the subject of a bid that did not materialise in substance later. I have not got information of why the bid for 18E was received and rejected it might have been because the tenderer offered less rent than the going rate, it may be because it was for a user that was not considered appropriate, but I do not know.

ORAL

**NO. 1063 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**BUILDING MATERIALS**

What is the amount of import duty paid on building materials on a monthly basis since April 2002 inclusive?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

The amount of import duty paid on building materials on a monthly basis since April 2002 is as follows:-

|            | £         |
|------------|-----------|
| April 2002 | 25,386.44 |
| May 2002   | 25,336.40 |
| June 2002  | 24,843.90 |
| July 2002  | 30,487.56 |
| Aug 2002   | 19,497.72 |
| Sept 2002  | 23,493.36 |

ORAL

**NO. 1064 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**IMPORTS – COMPUTERS**

What was the value of computers imported into Gibraltar on a monthly basis since April 2002?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

The value of computer hardware imported into Gibraltar on a monthly basis since April 2002 to date is as follows:-

|        |            |
|--------|------------|
| April  | £ 582,703  |
| May    | £1,297,114 |
| June   | £ 458,965  |
| July   | £ 691,434  |
| August | £ 547,372  |



ORAL

**NO. 1065 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**ADVERTISING – LONDON TAXIS**

What is the cost to date with a breakdown of the advertising campaign on London taxis, and how many taxis carry the Gibraltar advert as at the end of August 2002?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question No 1066 of 2002.

**NO. 1066 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**ADVERTISING – LONDON UNDERGROUND**

What is the cost to date with a breakdown of the poster advertising on the London Underground, and how many Gibraltar posters are displayed as at the end of August 2002, listing the stations in which they are located?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

The information requested is too voluminous so I will hand the hon Member the information requested. I would just clarify when he has had the documents in front of him he will see that the first four full pages is a list of the underground stations where the Gibraltar poster has appeared. On the fifth page he will see that there is the advertising cost. When this answer has been prepared for me the answer to Question No 1065 of 2002 suggests that the answer to it will be found with Question No 1066 of 2002 in here, I see no separate reference in the schedules to taxis but it is 52 taxis at just over £3,000 each for a year, so although I do not think the information is contained under that heading, "Total Advertising Cost," I just need to check that it is true that it is not contained so that the hon Member can know whether that figure relates only to the poster campaign or whether it is the poster campaign plus the taxis.

Answer to Question 1066 of 2002

**GIBRALTAR - UNDERGROUND POSTER CAMPAIGN**

| <u>STATION</u>   | <u>LINE</u>            | <u>1 - 31 JAN</u> | <u>1 - 28 FEB</u> | <u>1 - 14 MAR</u> | <u>1 APR - 2 JUN</u> | <u>3 JUN - 28 JUL</u> | <u>29 JUL-31 AUG</u> |
|------------------|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| ALL SAINTS       | DOCKLANDS LIGHT RAIL   |                   |                   |                   | 2                    | 2                     | 1                    |
| ALDGATE EAST     | DISTRICT               | 1                 | 1                 | 1                 |                      |                       | 1                    |
| ANGEL            | NORTHERN               | 1                 |                   |                   | 1                    |                       |                      |
| BARBICAN         | CIRCLE AND HAMMERSMITH |                   |                   |                   | 1                    | 1                     | 1                    |
| BANK DLR         | DOCKLANDS LIGHT RAIL   | 3                 | 2                 | 2                 | 3                    | 2                     | 1                    |
| BAKER STREET     | JUBILEE                | 1                 | 1                 | 1                 | 1                    |                       |                      |
| BAKER STREET     | BAKERLOO               |                   |                   |                   |                      | 1                     | 0                    |
| BAKER STREET     | METROPOLITAN           |                   |                   |                   |                      | 1                     |                      |
| ISLAND GARDENS   | NORTHERN               | 2                 | 2                 | 2                 | 2                    |                       |                      |
| BANK             | CENTRAL                |                   |                   |                   | 1                    | 1                     | 1                    |
| BANK             | NORTHERN               |                   |                   |                   |                      | 2                     | 3                    |
| BAYSWATER        | DISTRICT               | 1                 | 1                 | 1                 |                      | 1                     |                      |
| BECKENHAM        | CROYDON TRAMLINK       |                   |                   |                   | 1                    | 1                     |                      |
| BECKTON          | DOCKLANDS LIGHT RAIL   |                   |                   |                   | 2                    | 1                     | 2                    |
| BECKTON PARK     | DOCKLANDS LIGHT RAIL   |                   |                   |                   | 2                    | 2                     | 1                    |
| BETHNAL GREEN    | CENTRAL                | 1                 | 1                 | 1                 |                      |                       |                      |
| BLACKFRIARS      | DISTRICT               | 1                 | 1                 | 1                 | 1                    | 1                     | 1                    |
| BLACKHORSE ROAD  | VICTORIA               |                   |                   |                   |                      |                       | 1                    |
| BLACKWALL        | DOCKLANDS LIGHT RAIL   |                   |                   |                   | 3                    | 1                     | 1                    |
| BOWCHURCH        | DOCKLANDS LIGHT RAIL   | 1                 | 1                 | 1                 | 2                    | 1                     | 2                    |
| BOND STREET      | CENTRAL                | 3                 | 3                 | 3                 | 2                    | 3                     | 3                    |
| BRIXTON          | VICTORIA               | 1                 | 1                 | 1                 | 1                    | 1                     |                      |
| BROMLEY-BY-BOW   | DISTRICT               |                   |                   |                   | 1                    |                       |                      |
| CAMDEN TOWN      | NORTHERN               |                   |                   |                   |                      | 1                     | 1                    |
| CANNON STREET    | DISTRICT               | 1                 | 1                 | 1                 | 1                    | 2                     | 1                    |
| CANNING TOWN     | JUBILEE                | 2                 | 1                 | 1                 | 1                    | 2                     | 1                    |
| CANARY WHARF DLR | DOCKLANDS LIGHT RAIL   | 1                 | 1                 | 1                 | 4                    | 2                     | 1                    |
| CHANCERY LANE    | CENTRAL                |                   |                   | 1                 |                      |                       | 1                    |
| CHARING CROSS    | NORTHERN               | 3                 | 2                 | 2                 | 1                    | 2                     | 2                    |
| CHARING CROSS    | BAKERLOO               |                   |                   |                   | 1                    |                       | 1                    |
| CROYDON          | CROYDON TRAMLINK       | 1                 | 1                 | 1                 | 6                    | 6                     | 1                    |

As at 2 August 2002

Continued...

Answer to Question 1066 of 2002

| <u>STATION</u>          | <u>LINE</u>          | <u>1 - 31 JAN</u> | <u>1 - 28 FEB</u> | <u>1 - 14 MAR</u> | <u>1 APR - 2 JUN</u> | <u>3 JUN - 28 JUL</u> | <u>29 JUL-31 AUG</u> |
|-------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| CROSSHARBOUR            | DOCKLANDS LIGHT RAIL |                   |                   |                   | 2                    | 2                     | 2                    |
| CUSTOM HOUSE            | DOCKLANDS LIGHT RAIL | 1                 | 1                 | 1                 | 2                    | 1                     | 1                    |
| CUTTY SARK              | DOCKLANDS LIGHT RAIL |                   |                   |                   | 2                    | 1                     | 2                    |
| CANADA WATER            | EAST LONDON          | 2                 | 2                 | 2                 | 1                    | 2                     | 1                    |
| CYPRUS                  | DOCKLANDS LIGHT RAIL |                   |                   |                   | 3                    | 1                     | 2                    |
| DEPTFORD BRIDGE         | DOCKLANDS LIGHT RAIL |                   |                   |                   | 2                    | 2                     | 2                    |
| DEVONS RAOD             | DOCKLANDS LIGHT RAIL |                   |                   |                   |                      | 2                     | 1                    |
| EAST INDIA              | DOCKLANDS LIGHT RAIL |                   |                   |                   | 3                    | 2                     | 1                    |
| EDGWARE                 | NORTHERN             |                   |                   |                   | 1                    | 1                     |                      |
| ELVERSON ROAD           | DOCKLANDS LIGHT RAIL |                   |                   |                   | 1                    | 1                     | 1                    |
| EMBANKMENT              | DISTRICT             | 2                 | 2                 | 2                 | 1                    | 1                     | 1                    |
| EARLS COURT             | DISTRICT             | 1                 | 1                 |                   | 1                    |                       | 1                    |
| EAST PUTNEY             | DISTRICT LINE        |                   |                   |                   | 1                    |                       | 1                    |
| ELEPHANT & CASTLE       | NORTHERN             |                   |                   |                   |                      |                       | 1                    |
| EUSTON                  | VICTORIA             | 1                 | 1                 | 1                 | 2                    |                       | 2                    |
| EUSTON                  | NORTHERN             | 2                 | 3                 | 2                 | 1                    | 3                     | 2                    |
| EUSTON SQUARE           | CIRCLE AND HAMMERSMI | 1                 | 1                 | 1                 | 1                    | 1                     | 1                    |
| FINSBURY PARK           | PICCADILLY           |                   |                   |                   | 1                    |                       | 1                    |
| FARRINGDON              | CIRCLE AND HAMMERSMI | 1                 | 1                 | 1                 |                      |                       |                      |
| GOLDERS GREEN           | NORTHERN             | 1                 | 1                 | 1                 |                      |                       |                      |
| GREENWICH               | DOCKLANDS LIGHT RAIL | 1                 | 1                 |                   | 1                    | 2                     | 1                    |
| GREEN PARK              | VICTORIA             | 1                 | 1                 | 1                 |                      |                       | 1                    |
| GREEN PARK              | JUBILEE              | 1                 | 1                 | 1                 | 1                    | 1                     | 1                    |
| GREEN PARK              | PICCADILLY           | 1                 | 1                 | 1                 | 2                    | 2                     | 1                    |
| HEATHROW TERMINALS 1,2  | PICCADILLY           | 1                 | 1                 | 1                 | 1                    | 1                     | 1                    |
| HIGHBURY & ISLINGTON    | VICTORIA             | 1                 | 1                 | 1                 |                      |                       |                      |
| HIGH STREET KENSINGTON  | DISTRICT             | 1                 |                   | 1                 |                      |                       |                      |
| HAMMERSMITH BUS STATION |                      | 1                 | 1                 | 1                 |                      |                       |                      |
| HAMMERSMITH             | CIRCLE AND HAMMERSMI | 1                 |                   |                   |                      |                       |                      |
| HAMMERSMITH             | DISTRICT             |                   |                   |                   | 1                    |                       | 1                    |
| HIGH STREET KENSINGTON  | DISTRICT             |                   |                   |                   | 1                    | 1                     |                      |
| HOLBORN                 | PICCADILLY           | 1                 | 1                 | 1                 |                      |                       | 1                    |
| HOLLAND PAARK           | CENTRAL              |                   |                   |                   |                      | 1                     |                      |
| HYDE PARK CORNER        | PICCADILLY           | 1                 | 1                 | 1                 | 1                    | 1                     |                      |

Continued...

As at 2 August 2002

| <u>STATION</u>         | <u>LINE</u>           | <u>1 - 31 JAN</u> | <u>1 - 28 FEB</u> | <u>1 - 14 MAR</u> | <u>1 APR - 2 JUN</u> | <u>3 JUN - 28 JUL</u> | <u>29 JUL-31 AUG</u> |
|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| ISLAND GARDENS         | DOCKLANDS LIGHT RAIL  | 1                 | 1                 | 1                 | 2                    | 2                     | 2                    |
| KNIGHTSBRIDGE          | PICCADILLY            | 1                 | 1                 | 1                 | 1                    |                       | 1                    |
| KINGS CROSS ST PANCRAS | PICCADILLY            | 2                 | 2                 | 2                 | 1                    | 2                     | 1                    |
| KINGS CROSS ST PANCRAS | VICTORIA              | 1                 | 1                 | 1                 | 1                    |                       | 1                    |
| LADBROKE GROVE         | CIRCLE AND HAMMERSMIT | 1                 | 1                 | 1                 |                      |                       |                      |
| LANCASTER GATE         | CENTRAL               |                   |                   |                   |                      |                       | 1                    |
| LEICESTER SQUARE       | PICCADILLY            | 1                 | 1                 | 1                 |                      | 1                     | 1                    |
| LEYTON                 | CENTRAL               |                   |                   |                   |                      |                       | 1                    |
| LEYTONSTONE            | CENTRAL               |                   |                   |                   | 1                    |                       |                      |
| LIMEHOUSE              | DOCKLANDS LIGHT RAIL  | 1                 | 1                 | 1                 | 2                    | 1                     | 1                    |
| LIVERPOOL STREET       | CIRCLE AND HAMMERSMIT | 2                 | 1                 | 1                 | 2                    | 2                     | 2                    |
| LONDON BRIDGE          | NORTHERN              | 2                 | 2                 | 2                 | 1                    | 1                     |                      |
| LONDON BRIDGE          | JUBILEE               |                   |                   |                   | 1                    | 1                     | 2                    |
| LOUGHTON               | CENTRAL               |                   |                   |                   |                      |                       | 1                    |
| MARBLE ARCH            | CENTRAL               | 1                 | 1                 | 1                 | 1                    | 1                     | 1                    |
| MOORGATE               | NORTHERN              | 1                 | 1                 | 1                 | 1                    | 1                     | 1                    |
| MOORGATE               | CIRCLE AND HAMMERSMIT | 3                 | 1                 | 1                 | 2                    | 1                     | 1                    |
| MONUMENT               | DISTRICT              | 1                 | 1                 | 1                 | 1                    | 1                     | 1                    |
| MANOR HOUSE            | PICCADILLY            | 1                 | 1                 | 1                 |                      |                       | 1                    |
| MANSION HOUSE          | DISTRICT              | 2                 | 1                 | 1                 | 1                    | 1                     | 1                    |
| MITCHAM                | CROYDON TRAMLINK      |                   |                   |                   | 7                    | 7                     |                      |
| MUDCHUTE               | DOCKLANDS LIGHT RAIL  | 1                 | 1                 | 1                 | 1                    |                       |                      |
| NOTTING HILL GATE      | CENTRAL               | 1                 | 1                 | 1                 | 1                    | 1                     | 1                    |
| NOTTING HILL GATE      | DISTRICT              | 1                 | 1                 | 1                 | 1                    | 1                     | 1                    |
| NORTH GREENWICH        | JUBILEE               | 1                 | 1                 | 1                 | 2                    |                       | 2                    |
| NORWOOD                | CROYDON TRAMLINK      | 1                 |                   |                   | 2                    | 2                     | 1                    |
| OLD STREET             | NORTHERN              | 1                 | 1                 | 1                 | 1                    | 1                     | 1                    |
| OXFORD CIRCUS          | CENTRAL               |                   |                   |                   | 1                    | 1                     |                      |
| OXFORD CIRCUS          | VICTORIA              | 3                 | 3                 | 3                 | 2                    | 4                     | 4                    |
| PADDINGTON             | DISTRICT              | 1                 | 1                 | 1                 | 2                    | 1                     | 1                    |
| PICCADILLY CIRCUS      | PICCADILLY            | 1                 | 1                 | 1                 | 1                    | 1                     | 1                    |
| PIMLICO                | VICTORIA              | 1                 | 1                 | 1                 | 1                    | 1                     |                      |
| PRINCE REGENT          | DOCKLANDS LIGHT RAIL  |                   |                   |                   | 2                    | 1                     | 1                    |
| PUDDING MILL LANE      | DOCKLANDS LIGHT RAIL  |                   |                   |                   | 1                    | 1                     | 2                    |

As at 2 August 2002

Answer to Question 1066 of 2002

| <u>STATION</u>         | <u>LINE</u>          | <u>1 - 31 JAN</u> | <u>1 - 28 FEB</u> | <u>1 - 14 MAR</u> | <u>1 APR - 2 JUN</u> | <u>3 JUN - 28 JUL</u> | <u>29 JUL-31 AUG</u> |
|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| QUEENSWAY              | CENTRAL              |                   |                   |                   |                      |                       | 1                    |
| RAVENSCOURT PARK       | DISTRICT             |                   |                   |                   |                      | 1                     | 1                    |
| ROYAL ALBERT           | DOCKLANDS LIGHT RAIL |                   |                   |                   | 3                    | 2                     | 2                    |
| ROYAL VICTORIA         | DOCKLANDS LIGHT RAIL |                   |                   |                   | 2                    | 2                     | 1                    |
| RUSSELL SQUARE         | PICCADILLY           | 1                 | 1                 | 1                 | 1                    |                       |                      |
| SEVEN SISTERS          | VICTORIA             | 1                 | 1                 | 1                 | 1                    | 1                     | 1                    |
| SHADWELL               | DOCKLANDS LIGHT RAIL |                   |                   |                   | 1                    |                       |                      |
| SHEPHERDS BUSH         | CENTRAL              |                   |                   |                   | 1                    |                       |                      |
| SLOANE SQUARE          | DISTRICT             | 1                 | 1                 | 1                 | 1                    |                       | 1                    |
| SOUTH CROYDON          | CROYDON TRAMLINK     |                   |                   |                   | 5                    | 5                     |                      |
| SOUTH KENSINGTON       | DISTRICT             | 1                 | 1                 | 1                 | 1                    |                       |                      |
| SOUTH KENSINGTON       | PICCADILLY           |                   |                   |                   |                      | 2                     | 2                    |
| SOUTH QUAY             | DOCKLANDS LIGHT RAIL |                   |                   |                   | 1                    |                       | 1                    |
| SOUTHWARK              | JUBILEE              |                   |                   |                   |                      | 1                     |                      |
| STEPNEY GREEN          | DISTRICT             | 1                 | 1                 | 1                 |                      |                       |                      |
| STRATFORD              | JUBILEE              | 2                 | 1                 | 1                 |                      | 1                     |                      |
| STOCKWELL              | VICTORIA             | 1                 | 1                 | 1                 | 1                    | 1                     |                      |
| STOCKWELL              | NORTHERN             | 1                 | 1                 | 1                 | 1                    | 1                     | 2                    |
| ST. JAMES'S PARK       | DISTRICT             |                   |                   |                   | 1                    | 1                     | 1                    |
| ST. JOHNS WOOD         | JUBILEE              |                   |                   |                   | 1                    |                       |                      |
| ST. PAULS              | CENTRAL              | 1                 |                   |                   | 1                    | 1                     | 1                    |
| SWISS COTTAGE          | JUBILEE              | 1                 | 1                 | 1                 | 1                    |                       | 1                    |
| SOUTHWARK              | JUBILEE              | 1                 | 1                 | 1                 | 1                    |                       |                      |
| TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD   | CENTRAL              | 1                 | 1                 | 1                 | 1                    | 1                     | 2                    |
| TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD   | NORTHERN             |                   |                   |                   |                      | 1                     |                      |
| TEMPLE                 | DISTRICT             | 1                 | 1                 | 1                 | 1                    |                       | 1                    |
| TOTTENHAM HALE         | VICTORIA             | 1                 | 1                 | 1                 | 1                    |                       | 1                    |
| TOWER HILL             | DISTRICT             | 1                 | 1                 | 1                 | 2                    | 1                     | 1                    |
| VAUXHALL               | VICTORIA             | 1                 | 1                 | 1                 |                      | 1                     |                      |
| VICTORIA COACH STATION |                      | 2                 | 2                 | 2                 | 1                    | 1                     | 2                    |
| VICTORIA               | VICTORIA             | 2                 | 2                 | 2                 | 1                    | 3                     | 3                    |
| VICTORIA               | DISTRICT             | 2                 | 2                 | 2                 | 2                    | 2                     | 1                    |
| WALTHAMSTOW CENTRAL    | VICTORIA             | 1                 | 1                 | 1                 | 1                    | 1                     | 1                    |
| WARREN STREET          | VICTORIA             | 2                 | 2                 | 2                 | 2                    | 3                     | 2                    |

As at 2 August 2002

Continued...

# Answer to Question 1066 of 2002

| <u>STATION</u>    | <u>LINE</u>          | <u>1 - 31 JAN</u> | <u>1 - 28 FEB</u> | <u>1 - 14 MAR</u> | <u>1 APR - 2 JUN</u> | <u>3 JUN - 28 JUL</u> | <u>29 JUL-31 AUG</u> |
|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| WESTFERRY         | DOCKLANDS LIGHT RAIL | 2                 | 1                 | 1                 | 2                    | 1                     | 1                    |
| WEST HAM          | JUBILEE              |                   |                   |                   | 1                    | 1                     | 1                    |
| WEST INDIA QUAY   | DOCKLANDS LIGHT RAIL |                   |                   |                   | 2                    | 1                     | 1                    |
| WOOD GREEN        | PICCADILLY           | 1                 | 1                 | 1                 |                      |                       |                      |
| WHITECHAPEL       | DISTRICT             | 1                 | 1                 | 1                 |                      |                       |                      |
| WATERLOO          | BAKERLOO             |                   |                   |                   |                      |                       | 1                    |
| WATERLOO          | JUBILEE              | 1                 | 1                 | 1                 | 1                    | 1                     | 1                    |
| WATERLOO          | NORTHERN             | 1                 | 1                 | 1                 | 1                    | 1                     | 1                    |
| WATERLOO          | WATERLOO & CITY      | 1                 | 1                 | 1                 | 1                    | 1                     | 1                    |
| WIMBLEDON         | CROYDON TRAMLINK     |                   |                   |                   | 2                    | 2                     |                      |
| WESTMINSTER       | JUBILEE              | 1                 | 1                 | 1                 | 2                    | 2                     | 2                    |
| WESTMINSTER       | DISTRICT             | 1                 | 1                 | 1                 |                      |                       |                      |
| TOTALS:           |                      | 115               | 102               | 101               | 164                  | 146                   | 131                  |
| TOTAL:            |                      |                   |                   |                   |                      |                       |                      |
| ADVERTISING COST  | £ 304,931            | £ 32,450          | £ 34,000          | £ 10,000          | £ 82,253             | £ 73,114              | £ 73,114             |
| PRINT/PRODUCTION: | £ 3,217              |                   |                   |                   |                      |                       |                      |
| TOTAL COST:       | £ 308,148            |                   |                   |                   |                      |                       |                      |

As at 2 August 2002

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 1065 AND 1066 OF 2002**

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

We would be grateful for that information. Can I ask the Chief Minister how long the two campaigns are expected to run?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

The poster campaign is until the end of the year currently scheduled, the taxis because they did not all start at the same time expires between January and March of the coming year and so we have to decide whether to continue either or both of those campaigns.



ORAL

**NO. 1067 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**OFFSHORE BETTING**

Can Government say how many people are employed in the offshore betting industry, indicating how many are part-time and how many are full-time as at 31<sup>st</sup> August 2002, 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 1068 and 1069 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 1068 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**OFFSHORE BETTING**

At what stage are the two formal applications for a licence to conduct offshore betting from Gibraltar that were under consideration at the last Question Time in this House?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question Nos 1067 and 1069 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 1069 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**OFFSHORE BETTING**

Can Government say whether there have been any new applications for a licence to conduct offshore betting from Gibraltar in May, June, July, August and September 2002 to date, and whether any applications have been approved or rejected in that time, or currently remain under consideration?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

**Answer to Question No 1067 of 2002**

Based on the latest available information supplied by the gaming operators themselves as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2002, a total of 537 persons were employed by 11 companies. I hand the hon Member the information requested.

**Answer to Question No 1068 of 2002**

Only one formal application that was under consideration at the last Question Time is still being pursued.

**Answer to Question No 1069 of 2002**

Eleven enquiries have been received post the information provided in answer to Question No 638 of 2002 of which further two resulted in formal applications and remain under consideration.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1069 OF 2002

OFFSHORE GAMING COMPANIES - EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2002

|                                                          | Gibraltarian | Other British | Spanish | Other | Total |
|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|---------|-------|-------|
| Ladbroke (Gibraltar) Limited - Full Time                 | 9            | 23            | 2       | 1     | 35    |
| - Part Time                                              | 1            | 0             | 0       | 0     | 1     |
| Sub-Total                                                | 10           | 23            | 2       | 1     | 36    |
| Victor Chandler (Int) Limited - Full Time                | 39           | 89            | 8       | 46    | 182   |
| - Part Time                                              | 31           | 20            | 7       | 4     | 62    |
| Sub-Total                                                | 70           | 109           | 15      | 50    | 244   |
| Bet and Win International Limited - Full Time            | 6            | 15            | 2       | 10    | 33    |
| (formerly Simon Bold) - Part Time                        | 1            | 0             | 1       | 0     | 2     |
| Sub-Total                                                | 7            | 15            | 3       | 10    | 35    |
| Stan James (Gibraltar) Limited - Full Time               | 8            | 84            | 0       | 4     | 96    |
| - Part Time                                              | 2            | 4             | 0       | 0     | 6     |
| Sub-Total                                                | 10           | 88            | 0       | 4     | 102   |
| Trafalgar Betting and Gaming limited - Full Time         | 2            | 5             | 0       | 1     | 8     |
| - Part Time                                              | 0            | 0             | 0       | 0     | 0     |
| Sub-Total                                                | 2            | 5             | 0       | 1     | 8     |
| Gala Interactive (Gibraltar) limited - Full Time         | 3            | 5             | 0       | 0     | 8     |
| - Part Time                                              | 0            | 2             | 0       | 0     | 2     |
| Sub-Total                                                | 3            | 7             | 0       | 0     | 10    |
| Netgame Limited )                                        |              |               |         |       |       |
| Rock Game )                                              | 4            | 2             | 3       | 4     | 13    |
| Eurobet (Gibraltar) Limited                              | 1            | 1             | 1       | 6     | 9     |
| Demmysportsbet.com Limited                               | 6            | 2             | 0       | 8     | 6     |
| Virtual Holdings Management Services (Gibraltar) Limited | 16           | 10            | 0       | 38    | 64    |
| Totals:-                                                 |              |               |         |       |       |
| Full Time                                                | 94           | 236           | 16      | 118   | 464   |
| Part Time                                                | 35           | 26            | 8       | 4     | 73    |
| Overall Total                                            | 129          | 262           | 24      | 122   | 537   |

Source: Office of the Financial & Development Secretary

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 1067 TO 1069 OF 2002**

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

In relation to the two applications which were carried forward from the last House, the Chief Minister said only one of those two is being pursued, can he say what happened to the other one whether it was rejected or whether the client decided not to proceed?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

As I think I have said to the hon Member in the past and this is the closest that I can come to answering his question, these things rarely come to a rejection of an application. Applications are normally discussed, the business proposal is to discuss it with the Gaming Unit in the Treasury first, indications are given as to whether the application will fall within the Government policy parameters or not and if they do not the application is discouraged and it is not normally submitted but having said that I do not know whether this is a case of the applicant having been discouraged or whether the applicant having decided not to pursue it for some other reason which would be most rare that normally it is a problem of the bouncer deciding who he lets into the discotheque rather than anybody who is queuing up to get into the discotheque deciding at the last minute that they do not want to go in after all and there is a lot of demand for gaming licences in Gibraltar and it really is a question of the Licensing Authority picking the ones that will most contribute to the economy of Gibraltar whilst at the same time protecting Gibraltar from future jurisdictional risk, in other words the reputation and track record of the operator.

ORAL

**NO. 1070 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**VISAS FOR NON-EU NATIONALS**

What is the total number of visas issued in British consular offices in Morocco for non-EU nationals wishing to travel to Gibraltar on a monthly basis since March 2002 inclusive to date?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

I hand the hon Member the information requested.

**Answer to Question No 1070 of 2002**

The total number of visas for Gibraltar issued in Morocco since 1<sup>st</sup> March 2002 up to and including 8<sup>th</sup> October 2002, on a monthly basis is as follows:-

|                                 |          |            |
|---------------------------------|----------|------------|
| March 2002                      | -        | 65         |
| April 2002                      | -        | 84         |
| May 2002                        | -        | 86         |
| June 2002                       | -        | 68         |
| July 2002                       | -        | 208        |
| August                          | -        | 112        |
| September 2002                  | -        | 53         |
| October 2002                    |          |            |
| (up to and including 8.10.02)   | -        | 10         |
| <b>Total No of visas issued</b> | <b>-</b> | <b>686</b> |

The number of visas issued by Tangier, Casablanca and Rabat is:-

|                                 | <b>Tangier</b> | <b>Casablanca</b> | <b>Rabat</b> |
|---------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|--------------|
| March 2002                      | 56             | 1                 | 8            |
| April 2002                      | 65             | 12                | 7            |
| May 2002                        | 63             | 8                 | 15           |
| June 2002                       | 40             | 14                | 14           |
| July 2002                       | 184            | 11                | 13           |
| August 2002                     | 93             | 7                 | 12           |
| September 2002                  | 47             | 3                 | 3            |
| October                         |                |                   |              |
| (Up to and including 8.10.02)   | 8              | 2                 | -            |
| <b>Total No of visas issued</b> | <b>556</b>     | <b>58</b>         | <b>72</b>    |

ORAL

**NO. 1071 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**MERCOMED GIBRALTAR**

What facility will Mercomed Gibraltar and Los Barrios contribute to Spanish companies who wish to establish themselves more permanently in Gibraltar?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question No 1072 of 2002.



ORAL

**NO. 1072 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**MERCOMED GIBRALTAR**

What procedure will be used for Mercomed Gibraltar and Los Barrios to come under an EU registered umbrella company group?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

The joint venture will initially offer advice and know how to businessmen in each place wishing to establish businesses in the other place. At a later stage the joint venture may offer short term business premises for the same purposes. Arrangements are in hand to register Mercomed Gibraltar and Mercomed Los Barrios which are two separate companies under the provisions of Council Regulation 2137/85 as a European Economic Interest Group (EEIG).

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 1071 AND 1072 OF 2002**

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

Can the Chief Minister say whether Mercomed Gibraltar on the one hand and Mercomed Los Barrios on the other are already established and already have premises?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

They are established in the sense that they are legally constituted, that there is one official in each of the “ayuntamientos” of Los Barrios and the Government of Gibraltar designated and tasked to work on the details of taking this project forward. It does not yet have premises outside of the Government of Gibraltar or outside of the “ayuntamiento” of Los Barrios premises.

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

Can Government say in which Government department the official in the Gibraltar Government side of the equation is based?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

The official in question actually is on the staff of the Procurement Unit because he has appropriate expertise and indeed an interest in this area. When the project is up and running it seems likely that this facility will be domiciled on an on-going basis in the department of Trade and Industry, when it starts actually considering business requests, at the moment it is run from No 6 because it is still in the phase of the launching of co-operation initiatives between Los Barrios and the Government. Whether when it passes from that phase to the up and running phase and it is domiciled in the DTI this particular official will move to the DTI or whether other arrangements will be made has not yet been decided.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Who are the shareholders of Mercomed, is it owned by another Government company or are the Government the only owner?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

In both companies, that is to say in Mercomed Gibraltar which is a Gibraltar company and in Mercomed Los Barrios which is a company incorporated in Spain in the Cadiz provincial registry, both the Gibraltar Development Corporation and the Los Barrios equivalent which I think is called “Iniciativa Los Barrios” are the share holders.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

What is the value of the share capital of the company?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

I think it has been set up initially with a very small share capital. Please accept this just as an indication I think that the Government’s initial outlay was £10,000 or £15,000.

**ORAL**

**NO. 1073 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**GIBRALTAR QUALIFYING COMPANIES**

At what stage is the European Commission's investigation of the Gibraltar Qualifying Company?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question Nos 1074, 1075 and 1076 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 1074 OF 2002**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**GIBRALTAR TAX EXEMPT COMPANIES**

Have Government any indication as to whether the European Commission intend to re-institute an investigation procedure in respect of the Gibraltar Tax Exempt Company as “existing aid”?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question Nos 1073, 1075 and 1076 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 1075 OF 2002**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**GIBRALTAR QUALIFYING COMPANIES**

Have Government had confirmation since May that the Commission no longer intends to pursue its investigation into whether the qualifying company legislation constitutes state aid?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question Nos 1073, 1074 and 1076 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 1076 OF 2002**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**TAX REFORMS**

Can Government state what action has been taken since May to obtain confirmation from the EU Commission that the proposed tax reforms are compliant with State Aid Regulations?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

**Answer to Question Nos 1073 to 1076 of 2002**

Since the Court's judgment, the European Commission has not taken any further legal steps in relation to the qualifying company legislation or initiated further proceedings in respect of the exempt company legislation. At the moment the Commission seems to be concentrating its attention on the proposed reforms. The proposed tax reform was formally notified to the EC Commission by the UK Government on the 12<sup>th</sup> August 2002. Since then the Commission has been examining the reform and it is expected that it will open a formal investigation procedure shortly. Since the answer was drafted the Commission has now as the hon Members know formally opened the investigation.

## **SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 1073 TO 1076 OF 2002**

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

In the informal exchanges that took place before August which we were informed of in the House in the last Question Time was anything changed in the tax structure as a result of that informal contact, I remember being told in July that the question of the tax on utilities was one of the issues that was under discussion with the Commission which might change if it was necessary?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

Yes, there had been informal discussions with the Commission as I have reported before to the House in pursuit of what was regarded as an off chance that the Commission might just wave the reform through which was a long shot, there are elements in the scheme which are more prone to being found, although we do not think any of them are in breach, but certainly there are aspects of the scheme which are more open to question or more susceptible to being carefully examined than others. When we have the detail of the Commission's decision we will have an indication of the reasons why they have in order to open the formal investigation which they have done the Commission only has to have a doubt it does not have to have made the decision so we will know what are the aspects of the proposal which has caused them to have the sufficient doubt or that degree of doubt which is necessary in order to sustain the opening of the formal investigation. At the moment we have not had sight yet of the detail of the decision and therefore we can only speculate as to what the reasons are. We know that there is the broad regional selectivity, we know secondhand it includes this business of some sectors of the economy only being subject to an additional profits tax in addition to the payroll tax, we know from speculative public statements which may turn out to be accurate public statements we know and indeed the Commission has recited this aspect of the reform in a statement we do not know whether that is to highlight that that is one of the objectionable areas, we know that they have focused on the existence of these caps, the quantum cap and the earlier percentage cap. We do not know whether that is an accurate list and certainly we do not know whether that is a full list so we will know what the reasons are when we get the list. Utilities which was the subject matter of the supplementary falls into the category of sectors of the economy that would be taxed additionally on profits together with financial services and .....

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

The Chief Minister mentioned last night at the Chamber dinner that there was one aspect that the UK Government had some doubts of but that that was not difficult to overcome, would that be the utilities as well in the case of the British Government or is it just something else?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

No it is not the utilities but I really would not wish to air what the aspect of it is. The answer is that we want to reserve the strongest argumentative position on all of these issues because if we find ourselves in the position in the future where we proceed with bits of the reform and hold back other bits pending determination of the process with the European Community that process may indeed include court process. The virtue of this procedure is that the Commission not only has got to give reasons but then one can take the Commission to court for the decision that it makes, so we want, if we are going to find ourselves in court we want all the issues. There is no point being salami sliced once in the negotiation and then find that there are still issues that they go to court on, so we want all the issues left on the table so that if we do go to court we can have a ruling on all of them. If we are able to conduct a negotiation leading to a modification of the scheme which is acceptable both to the Government and to the Commission so that it puts a definitive and satisfactory end to the matter then in that context it is possible for the Government to give away points which at this stage would not wish give to give or weaken.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

When we are saying, “..we go to court..,” does it mean that this is an area where the Gibraltar Government can do it or will it have to be the UK Government ?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

No. I am told that this falls into the category of those cases like the one we recently fought in which we have lockers.



ORAL

**NO. 1077 OF 2002**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**OPEN/CLOSED LONG TERM BENEFITS INSURANCE FUNDS**

Is it the view of the Government that the current level of receipts by the Open/Closed Long-Term Benefits Insurance Funds are sufficient to meet its expenditure?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

At present rates of interest, and current levels of contribution arrears, payments out of the fund exceed receipts. The Government are shortly to commission an actuarial report to advise on funding requirements.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 1077 OF 2002**

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

So in fact until now when we have been told since 1996 that the Long Term Benefits Fund would need to have further resources provided because it was reducing it was presumably on the premise that arrears were being ignored because they were being mentioned for the first time?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

No, I do not think that is a conclusion that the hon Member can draw. I think that there has been a hope over the last few years that an improvement in the arrears position

would make a very significant contribution to the recurrent funding gap. I think from the top of my head there is something like £18 million of arrears of social insurance contributions. Some figure of that order which would make just recovering half of that a very significant contribution to the fund. Let me say that according to the information that has been provided to me by the Treasury the funding deficit is more or less of the order that it has been in earlier years and mid-nineties, it is beginning to creep up a bit, there is an actuarial review due, I think that the hon Members did not have the actuarial review that fell due in their time because it was at the time the fund was up in the air or the fund had been suspended. It was during.....

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

It was all frozen.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

Yes, exactly frozen, it was all during the interregnum but we will know how much the deficit, what the capital funding requirements are, of course, at a time of low interest rates one has got to put in more capital just to produce .....

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

The same income.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

.....but I suppose all this is taken into account by the actuaries and given the length of time over which the fund is going to be needed and all that I do not know what they are going to say but I clearly see that there is a need to inject capital funds into the Pensions Fund and the Government intend to do so, obviously the figure that we are asked to inject is something manageable, it will be injected in one lump, if it is not something manageable we shall have to put in place a programme over a number of years to bring the fund up to date. This funding deficit is something that is common throughout most state run schemes in Europe but I think that it is one of the areas that we should not leave as a problem to our future generations and we should be addressing refunding requirements at this stage as we go along and the Government intend to do that as soon as we have the actuarial report.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Did the Chief Minister say the actuarial report is due in this financial year or the next?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

No I did not think I said it either way I do not know when it is due. I am not sure if it is even a question of it being due and I think that the Accountant General or the Chief Secretary have simply decided that one is appropriate perhaps because of the growing funding deficit I do not know, as to whether it will actually be conducted and finished during this financial year or whether it will be started this financial year I do not know but I will keep the hon Member informed about that.

**NO. 1078 OF 2002**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**HOUSING STOCK**

Can Government explain the changes in the Government housing stock shown in the 2001 Abstract of Statistics?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

The figure in respect of the Government's pre-war housing stock shown in the 2001 Abstract of Statistics has been amended from 1,394 shown in 1997 to 831. This has been as a result of the revision of the pre-war housing list taking into account data obtained from the 2001 Census and removing properties which have been demolished, sold to tenants, et cetera. This revision, as explained in the footnote to Table 14, is ongoing and further changes may be made in future. The figure in respect of the years 1948 to 1952 has fallen from 671 in 1997 to 638 in 2001. This drop has been the result of the sale of Government properties to sitting tenants, for example, Shorthorn Estate. The figures shown in the 2001 Abstract for the years 1953 to 1977 are identical to those published in the 1997 Abstract. The 1978 to 1982 figure falls from 470 in 1997 to 401 in 2001 as a result of the sale of Rosia Dale. In respect of the years 1988 to 1992, the figure of 995 properties shown in the 1997 Abstract has been removed since they constitute properties constructed under the co-ownership schemes, some of which are in fact 100 per cent privately owned and the remainder 50/50, and therefore do not form part of the Government's housing stock exclusively. The 1993 to 1997 figure has been adjusted from 1,088 to 86 to reflect the 82 Government rented flats at Sir William Jackson Grove together with the four flats shown as Government stock in 1997 Abstract for the period 1995-1997. The 1998 to 2001 figure of 296 comprises the 88 units built at Bishop Canilla House together with the 208 units transferred to the Gibraltar Government at Edinburgh House, as explained in the footnote to Table 14 in the 2001 Abstract. I wish to take this opportunity to inform the hon Members that the general revision of the housing data is continuing and further changes could be made to the published figures in next year's Abstract.

## **SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 1078 OF 2002**

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Given that the 1997 Abstract had a footnote which explained that the figures included dwellings which were part owned and provided rent free to the co-owner was it a policy decision that this should not be considered to be Government housing stock?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

No it was a policy decision that it was inaccurate and therefore inappropriate to include under the heading Government Housing stock 50/50 properties. The phrase 'Government housing stock' has always meant housing available for rental to people on the Government Housing list for Government estates and things of that property. The fact that the Government owns through trustees a 50 per cent share of the hon Member's flat in Harbour Views does not render that Government's share of that flat part of the Government housing stock, the Government have no prospect of getting hold of it. It is not even renting it to him. Government are not deriving any income, it is not properly part of Government housing stock. Another approach would have been and I would have no difficulty with this to have changed the title of the whole issue so rather than call it 'Government Housing Stock' one could call it 'Properties in which Government have an ownership interest' or something like that then it would be accurate to put the homeownership properties and then with a footnote say, "...we only own half, 30 or 40 per cent of some of them," but whilst the figure that the statistic is projecting is Government Housing Stock, I think that the hon Member will agree that as that phrase is commonly used between us housing stock and it is understood, housing stock means housing stock owned by Government and available to the Government for rental to Government tenants and we just could not convince ourselves that it was appropriate to regard homeownership apartments in that category but to the extent of the policy decision has been to make sure that if the figure is trying to give information on one heading it should only give that information but there is no reason why it should not give information on other headings for example, if the Statistician wants to include next year Table 15 – Home Ownership Houses Built In Which The Government Has An Interest – fine, but as a different statistic so that each is accurate in the sense of the information that it is trying to convey.

• **HON J J BOSSANO:**

Then would the Government not consider that there should be a Table 15 given that there are going to be changes in the stock of co-ownership homes from the information we have had in the House that some are being offered for sale and investment is going to be in new property so that the statistics reflect the changing pattern of that.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

I do not know who decides what information is contained in the abstract, certainly no one has ever asked me whether this should be in or this should be out, I suspect that subsequent abstracts simply followed the model of the first abstract published in 1960, there may actually be a case for reviewing quite a lot of the content of the abstract as to whether some of the information in it is any longer relevant to modern Gibraltar in the form that it is provided and whether indeed there is another information that has become relevant in modern Gibraltar that is not in the abstract and certainly I suppose these decisions are made by the Statistician or the Chief Secretary, the hon Member wants to write to either of them and suggest that in next year's abstract they should have information on homeownership flats in which the Government has an interest certainly I would not object if my policy clearance is sought.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

The inclusion of the MOD houses that have been handed over which is shown presumably as the age of the building being from the date the Government got it I thought in fact that in the past they had been included in the year in which they were constructed because I seem to remember the table changing where the property in a respective year went up retrospectively as it were, that is to say, when the MOD handed it over it came into Government ownership in that year but it was not reflected as being of that age and the argument on accuracy would appear to hold as true for that as it does for the question of what is Government housing stock given that it is dwellings built. Well, they were not built the day the MOD released it.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

I know it has been included under 1998/2000 because it was subject during those years to a substantial expenditure in refurbishment but certainly the hon Member is right however much refurbishment has been done if they certainly were not built in that year I see that there is a footnote which we have already agreed is not an acceptable way of resolving other inaccuracies, there is a footnote that says that they were transferred to the Government in those years but the buildings were actually built between 1953 and 1957. The Statistician may want to deal with that figure differently next year I do not know.

ORAL

**NO. 1079 OF 2002**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**GHA – NEW HOSPITAL**

What are the financial arrangements to meet the cost of the conversion of the Europort Building into a hospital?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

The Finance for the project is being negotiated with a private financial institution. The structural arrangements for the financing package are currently under discussion between the Bank's advisers and the Government and their advisers. The intention is to pursue what can broadly be described as a PFI lease-leaseback arrangement.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 1079 OF 2002**

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Has an exercise been done by the Treasury to compare this with the cost of borrowing money under the Loans Empowering Ordinance and financing it that way?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

Yes, indeed, it is common knowledge, in fact a debate rages in the UK at this present moment in time. It is common knowledge that PFI arrangements, financing

arrangements are always more expensive than Government borrowing because the rate at which a Government can borrow in their own name is necessarily always going to be less than the cost at which a financial institution will lend in the context of a structure in which an element of risk is transferred to it. I have seen those figures as to the difference in cost, it is a difference but spread over the number of years that the financing arrangement would be in place, the Government do not consider it material in the sense of provoking the contrary decision given of course that as the Chancellor of the Exchequer is less willing to admit than I am it is a way of preventing this expenditure appearing and enhancing a public debt. Anyone that does not come out clean and say that is treating his audience a bit .....

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

That is what it is.....

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

I beg your pardon?

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

That is what it is.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

That is what it is, it is just a way of converting with an element of risk transfer to satisfy the accounting profession and the Public Audit Commission in the United Kingdom is just a way of converting a capital debt into an annual recurring debt servicing payment. Well, if it is legitimate for the Chancellor of the Exchequer it is legitimate for Gibraltar. If the costs had been massively greater there would have been an issue there but over the years I cannot remember if it is over 20 years the extra costs spread over that period is not I think such that would outweigh the benefits of keeping free the unused portion of our borrowing limits.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

But given that the ceiling has not been touched for such a long time there ought not to be a problem with raising that ceiling if the Government thought that it need to, there is no difficulty in that is there?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

I do not know if there is a difficulty we have not tried in fact I have recently asked the Financial and Development Secretary to start prodding and getting that ball rolling, certainly by the application of any internationally acceptable as I alluded to briefly



yesterday by reference to any internationally accepted measure of prudent borrowing limits given the size of the economy it could sustain more than £100 million and if it was the hon Member persuaded the British Government that it could sustain £100 million with the economy as he inherited it in 1989 I think even he, I know he is always keen to deny me the kudos of any economic growth but even he presumably would admit that it has grown since 1989 if only during the years that he was in office. I think that there are plenty of economic arguments that would sustain an increase in the borrowing limits, whether in the current political climate that would be forthcoming or not for extraneous political reasons is another matter.

ORAL

**NO. 1080 OF 2002**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**GOVERNMENT DEBENTURES**

As at the end of September, what was the value of Monthly Income Debentures and Pensioners Monthly Income Debentures issued by the Gibraltar Savings Bank?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

The value of Monthly Income Debentures and Pensioners Monthly Income Debentures as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2002, is as follows:

|                                      |             |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| Monthly Income Debentures            | £18,833,600 |
| Pensioners Monthly Income Debentures | £25,762,600 |

**ORAL**

**NO. 1081 OF 2002**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**INCOME TAX – CORPORATION TAX**

As at the end of September how many companies had declared taxable profit

- (a) above £35,000 and
- (b) below £35,000

for each of the tax years 1998/99 to 2001/2002, what was the tax assessed and paid in each category and can Government state in each category and for each year how many were qualifying companies and what were the amounts of tax assessed and paid by such companies?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question Nos 1082 to 1090 of 2002.

**ORAL**

**NO. 1082 OF 2002**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**INCOME TAX – CORPORATION TAX**

As at the end of September how many companies had been assessed by the Commissioner of Income Tax, without having made a return of taxable profit

- (a) above and
- (b) below £35,000

in taxable profit for the years 1998/99 to 2001/2002, what was the tax assessed and paid in each case, and for each categorically and each year what were the amounts of tax assessed and paid by qualifying companies?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question Nos 1081 and 1083 to 1090 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 1083 OF 2002**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**INCOME TAX – CORPORATION TAX**

As at the end of September how many companies in each of the tax years 1995/96 to 2001/2002 had been assessed for company tax, and what were the amounts of tax payable and paid in respect of each tax year?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question Nos 1081, 1082 and 1084 to 1090 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 1084 OF 2002**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**INCOME TAX – CORPORATION TAX**

What was the total amount of company tax collected in each month since March 2002?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question Nos 1081 to 1083 and 1085 to 1090 of 2002.

**ORAL**

**NO. 1085 OF 2002**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**INCOME TAX – PAYE**

What is the current estimated amount of PAYE payable in the tax year 2000/2001 by area of employment and the number of employees in each area as follows:

- (a) MOD;
- (b) Gibraltar Government;
- (c) Government owned and joint venture companies;
- (d) Private Sector employment?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question Nos 1081 to 1084 and 1086 to 1090 of 2002.

**ORAL**

**NO. 1086 2002**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**INCOME TAX – PAYE**

What is the current estimated amount of PAYE payable in the tax year 2001/2002 by area of employment and the number of employees in each area as follows:-

- (a) MOD;
- (b) Gibraltar Government;
- (c) Government owned and joint venture companies;
- (d) Private Sector employment.

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question Nos 1081 to 1085 and 1087 to 1090 of 2002.



**ORAL**

**NO. 1087 2002**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**INCOME TAX – PAYE**

What are the final figures on the amount of tax collected in PAYE in the last financial year by area of employment as follows:

- (a) MOD;
- (b) Gibraltar Government;
- (c) Government owned and joint venture companies;
- (d) Private Sector employers?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question Nos 1081 to 1086 and 1088 to 1090 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 1088 OF 2002**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**INCOME TAX – PAYE**

How much was collected in PAYE each month since March 2002?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question Nos 1081 to 1087, 1089 and 1090 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 1089 OF 2002**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**INCOME TAX – SELF EMPLOYED PERSONS**

Can Government state as at the end of September what were the amounts assessed in respect of self-employed persons for each tax year from 1995/96 to 2001/2002 giving the amounts discharged, confirmed and paid, and the number of taxpayers involved in each year?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question Nos 1081 to 1088 and 1090 of 2002.

**NO. 1090 OF 2002**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**INCOME TAX – SELF EMPLOYED PERSONS**

Of the amounts of tax payable outstanding in respect of self-employed persons for each tax year from 1995/1996 to 2001/2002 can Government say in respect of each year how many agreements to pay exist for each year and the total sum covered by such agreements?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Given that the hon Member appears keen to ask these questions frequently and at almost every opportunity and given also that the Government despite the very considerable administrative effort that it takes to put the answers together, is willing to answer the questions and provide this information I would sincerely urge the hon Member that we should try and come to some agreement whereby the Government provide this information to him outside of this House at periodical intervals that we can agree and that would give him the opportunity to place questions in the House on the basis of the information that he has already routinely received because it just seems pointless to use the mechanism of Question Time in the House to ask for statistical information. If the Government were unwilling to provide the statistical information then we would welcome Opposition Members resorting to the Question Time because it would give us the opportunity to fudge or to say, "...well you cannot have it because it is administratively burdensome," but as hon Members want the information and we are willing to provide it it seems unnecessary to have recourse to the mechanism of Question Time. All these questions seek purely statistical information relating to Income Tax administration. All the information requested is therefore contained in the bundle of schedules that I now hand to the hon Member.

### Answer to Question 1081

#### COMPANIES OTHER THAN QUALIFYING COMPANIES

| YEAR OF ASSESSMENT                      | 1998/1999<br>£ | 1999/2000<br>£ | 2000/2001<br>£ | 2001/2002<br>£ |
|-----------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| <u>Under £35,000</u>                    |                |                |                |                |
| No of Companies assessed                | 155            | 197            | 238            | 210            |
| Total assessed (i.e. total tax payable) | 367k           | 390k           | 536k           | 468k           |
| Total paid under                        | 330k           | 361k           | 535k           | 453k           |
| <u>Over £35,000</u>                     |                |                |                |                |
| No of Companies assessed                | 54             | 54             | 71             | 69             |
| Total assessed (i.e. total tax payable) | 6.3m           | 6.7m           | 8.7m           | 8.4m           |
| Total paid over                         | 6.3m           | 6.6m           | 8.7m           | 8.0m           |

#### QUALIFYING COMPANIES

|                                         |      |      |      |     |
|-----------------------------------------|------|------|------|-----|
| <u>Under £35,000</u>                    |      |      |      |     |
| No of Companies assessed                | 6    | 8    | 4    | Nil |
| Total assessed (i.e. total tax payable) | 3k   | 5k   | 2k   | Nil |
| Total paid                              | 3k   | 5k   | 2k   | Nil |
| <u>Over £35,000</u>                     |      |      |      |     |
| No of Companies assessed                | 11   | 19   | 8    | 1   |
| Total assessed (i.e. total tax payable) | 880k | 1.7m | 517k | 82k |
| Total paid                              | 880k | 1.6m | 414k | 82k |

**CONTD ANSWER TO QUESTION 1090 OF 2002**

**Answer to Question 1082**

**COMPANIES OTHER THAN QUALIFYING COMPANIES**

| YEAR OF ASSESSMENT | 1998/1999<br>£ | 1999/2000<br>£ | 2000/2001<br>£ | 2001/2002<br>£ |
|--------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
|--------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|

**Under £35,000**

|                                         |      |      |      |      |
|-----------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|
| No of Companies assessed                | 908  | 806  | 608  | 599  |
| Total assessed (i.e. total tax payable) | 1.8m | 1.4m | 1.2m | 1.2m |
| Total paid under                        | 1.2m | 0.7m | 0.3m | 0.4m |

**Over £35,000**

|                                         |      |      |      |      |
|-----------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|
| No of Companies assessed                | 52   | 50   | 27   | 38   |
| Total assessed (i.e. total tax payable) | 3.2m | 3.1m | 0.8m | 2.5m |
| Total paid over                         | 3.1m | 2.7m | 0.4m | 1.9m |

**QUALIFYING COMPANIES**

**Under £35,000**

|                                         |     |      |     |     |
|-----------------------------------------|-----|------|-----|-----|
| No of Companies assessed                | 18  | 18   | 14  | Nil |
| Total assessed (i.e. total tax payable) | 19k | 17k  | 11k | Nil |
| Total paid                              | 3k  | 1.5k | Nil | Nil |

**Over £35,000**

|                                         |     |      |      |            |
|-----------------------------------------|-----|------|------|------------|
| No of Companies assessed                | 2   | 7    | 12   | Nil        |
| Total assessed (i.e. total tax payable) | 18k | 0.3m | 0.5m | Nil        |
| Total paid                              | Nil | Nil  | 92k  | <u>Nil</u> |

**Contd**

**Answer to Question No 1083 of 2002**

|                 | 1995/96 | 1996/97 | 1997/98 | 1998/99 | 1999/00 | 2000/01 | 2001/02 |
|-----------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
|                 | £m      | £m      | £m      | £m      | £m      | £m      | £m      |
| Assessed        | 15.7    | 15.3    | 17.9    | 24.6    | 87.1    | 24.3    | 17.4    |
| Discharged      | 5.3     | 4.3     | 6.9     | 11.3    | 72.7    | 10.9    | 3.9     |
|                 | 10.4    | 11.0    | 11.0    | 13.3    | 14.4    | 13.4    | 13.5    |
| Paid            | 9.4     | 10.2    | 10.2    | 12.4    | 13.0    | 11.6    | 11.0    |
| Outstanding     | 1.0     | 0.8     | 0.8     | 0.9     | 1.4     | 1.8     | 2.5     |
| No of Companies | 1438    | 1411    | 1450    | 1422    | 1489    | 1429    | 1098    |

**Answer to Question No 1084 of 2002**

The Corporation Tax collected in each month since March 2002 (net refunds) was as follows:-

| <b><u>2002</u></b> | <b><u>£m</u></b> |
|--------------------|------------------|
| March              | 3.4              |
| April              | 2.2              |
| May                | 0.8              |
| June               | 4.2              |
| July               | 1.3              |
| August             | 1.1              |
| September          | 0.9              |

These figures are subject to Treasury Blocks reconciliation.

**Answer to Question No 1085 of 2002**

Based on the Employer’s Annual Statement Declaration and Certificate submitted up to 9<sup>th</sup> October 2002 the information sought is as follows:

|                                                     | £m          | Approximate<br>No of Employees |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------|
| (a) MOD                                             | 3.9         | 2,700                          |
| (b) Gibraltar Government                            | 14.5        | 5,200                          |
| (c) Government owned and joint venture<br>companies | 2.7         | 750                            |
| (d) Private Sector employment                       | 28.4        | 15,800                         |
|                                                     | <hr/>       | <hr/>                          |
|                                                     | <b>49.5</b> | <b>24,450</b>                  |
|                                                     | <hr/>       | <hr/>                          |

**Answer to Question No 1086 of 2002**

Based on the Employers’ Annual Statement, Declaration and Certificates submitted up to 9<sup>th</sup> October 2002 the information sought is as follows:

|                                                  | £m          |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| (a) MOD                                          | 4.2         |
| (b) Gibraltar Government                         | 2.3         |
| (c) Government owned and Joint Venture companies | 2.6         |
| (d) Private Sector Employment                    | 28.4        |
|                                                  | <hr/>       |
|                                                  | <b>37.5</b> |
|                                                  | <hr/>       |

The total amount of PAYE tax deducted is 37.5 m.

The PAYE Deduction cards are currently being processed and it is not possible at this moment in time to provide the number of deduction cards returned.



**Answer to Question No 1087 of 2002**

The total amount of PAYE collected in the financial year 2001/2002 is £55.4m analysed as follows:-

|     |                                              |             |
|-----|----------------------------------------------|-------------|
| (a) | MOD                                          | 4.2         |
| (b) | Government of Gibraltar                      | 20.0        |
| (c) | Government owned and Joint Venture companies | 2.5         |
| (d) | Private Sector Employment                    | 28.7        |
|     |                                              | ———         |
|     |                                              | <b>55.4</b> |
|     |                                              | ———         |

**Answer to Question No 1088 of 2002**

The figures (net of refunds) and subject to possible adjustments when reconciled with the Treasury Books are as follows:-

| <b><u>2002</u></b> | <b><u>£m</u></b> |
|--------------------|------------------|
| March              | 4.43             |
| April              | 5.61             |
| May                | 4.33             |
| June               | 4.09             |
| July               | 7.19             |
| August             | 3.84             |

**Answer to Question No 1089 of 2002**

|                 | <b>1995/96</b> | <b>1996/97</b> | <b>1997/98</b> | <b>1998/99</b> | <b>1999/00</b> | <b>2000/01</b> | <b>2001/02</b> |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
|                 | £m             | £m             | £m             | £m             | £m             | £m             | £m             |
| Assessed        | 7.7            | 8.0            | 9.6            | 10.1           | 44.2           | 10.0           | 3.1            |
| Discharged      | 4.9            | 4.6            | 5.6            | 5.8            | 39.5           | 5.0            | 1.1            |
| <hr/>           |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |
| Paid            | 2.8            | 3.4            | 4.0            | 4.3            | 4.7            | 5.0            | 2.0            |
|                 | 1.9            | 2.4            | 2.6            | 2.8            | 3.0            | 2.6            | 0.7            |
| <hr/>           |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |
| Outstanding     | 0.9            | 1.0            | 1.4            | 1.5            | 1.7            | 2.4            | 1.3            |
| <hr/>           |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |
| No of Taxpayers | 1177           | 1134           | 1158           | 1091           | 1060           | 927            | 467            |
| <hr/>           |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |

**Answer to Question No 1090 of 2002**

There are 227 taxpayers who have agreements to pay their tax liability for the years 1995/96 to 2001/2002.

The total amount still outstanding covered by these agreements for each year of assessment is as follows:-

|           | £m      |
|-----------|---------|
| 1995/1996 | 77,739  |
| 1996/1997 | 77,317  |
| 1997/1998 | 118,185 |
| 1998/1999 | 233,390 |
| 1999/2000 | 338,253 |
| 2000/2001 | 406,590 |
| 2001/2002 | 259,935 |

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 1083 TO 1090 OF 2002**

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

In Question No 1083 of 2002 the number of companies shows a change from the answer that was given to Question No 668 of 2002 in respect of past years and it raises exactly the same issue as happened in Question No 668 of 2002 compared to the answers I was given in 2001 and in Question No 668 of 2202 when I raised the question the Chief Minister did not know the answer but promised he would find out and he never came back to me. I think one of the problems that we have in saying, “yes we do not need to burden the House with seeking information which the Government are prepared to give, “ is that when we actually put it down as a question we get it and when we get promises he is going to follow it up it tends to get lost in the system. Can I remind the Chief Minister that many years ago he agreed that we would be provided monthly with the import duty figures and it never happens unless we remember after a gap of several months and call his office and remind the people concerned. It does not happen automatically so whilst I take note of the offer that he has made from our point of view if it works fine, but if it does not work we will come back to putting questions here. So I suppose he does not have the answer on this occasion since he did not have it the last time. If we take Question No 1083 of 2002 where I am asking an identical question to the one that I asked in Question No 668 of 2002 to see what changes if any are taking place in the collection of company tax for past years whilst I accept that, for example, for 2001/2002 and perhaps for 2000/2001 one would expect changes because they are fairly recent when I find that in 1995/1996 the number of companies shown as 1438 changes, but the assessment does not change I questioned how is it that I get given the

same figure for the assessment of £15.7 million but that assessment is in respect of different numbers of companies each time I get the answer because I do not understand how that happens. I could understand it if the number of companies went up and the assessed tax went up with the number of companies what I cannot understand is how the tax office has assessed 1,436 companies according to the answer given in April to be liable to pay £15.7 million and in September there are two more companies but the £15.7 million has not changed and if we go back to 2001 there were two questions and two different figures for companies with the assessment not changing and that was the supplementary last time and it is the same supplementary again because the same thing seems to be happening.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

I much regret that he was promised information that he has not received and I will see to it that the promise is kept promptly.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

In respect of Question No 1082 of 2002 where we have the assessment made on companies which have not made a return, can the Government explain for example, if we take the case of the qualifying companies and we go back to the earliest of the years here which 1988/1989 there are 20 companies that have been assessed to tax without having made a return the answer given in April was that as at April there were 25. If we take the answer to Question No 1081 of 2002 we find that the assessment were profits had been declared was 15 in April and is 17 now. I would have expected that if there is an assessment made in a company which has not made a return the only way the number could go down was because they did make a return so I do not understand how it is that in September we are assessing less qualifying companies to tax for 1988/89 than we were in April this year, do the Government have any idea what is going on?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

No I do not and I am not surprised that I do not because frankly I do not think it is reasonable to expect Ministers to have this degree of knowledge on the end of their fingertips about the minutiae of income tax administration which is the one area of Government in which Ministers conventionally least interfere. There must be an answer to that question, of course, which I suppose somebody in the Income Tax Department must know the answer to but I just do not think it is reasonable to pose a question of that degree of administrative detail as a supplementary to a Minister who has no contact or involvement whatsoever in the subject matter. I will make note of the hon Member's query of this and I will ask the Commissioner of Income Tax to produce the administrative answer.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

With all due respect I do not think it is just a question of minutiae and income tax, in almost every question it appears that the Ministers do not read the answers until they

stand up in the House and read them out because I would have thought that if the Chief Minister had looked at the answer that he has given me today it would have struck him as it has struck me that it is very peculiar that tax in respect of four years ago which qualifying companies are liable for six months ago should have gone down in six months. One would have expected if anything that the tax office would be catching up because the other peculiar thing which does not seem to have struck the Government and it has nothing to do with minutiae in our judgement or with the implementation of tax legislation is that there seems to be a very small number of qualifying companies paying any tax at all because we are saying that in 1989 there were only 17 companies that made a declaration, in 1988/89 out of 140. Given the interest that there is in the State Aid problem I would have thought it is very pertinent when we are looking at the risk to our economy of qualifying companies not being allowed to continue to monitor exactly what is the contribution that they are making and how many of them are paying so perhaps the other thing the Chief Minister can find out is how is it that so few of the companies of the 140 we were told by the Minister for Trade and Industry that are considered to be alive are being taxed, is it that the fact that they do not appear in answer to one question or the other means that no attempt has been made to tax them or that they have been found to be making losses or not having a profit. I think an answer to that question would be useful?

#### **HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

I have to say to the hon Member that we have very different views, obviously we have very different views of what is the role of a Minister in a government and we have very different views about what parliamentary Question Time is for. It is without precedent in western parliaments that Questions of this degree of administrative statistical detail should be asked time in time out. In any other parliament in Europe where this happened the press would have a field day of laughter. The Government I believe different to the attitude the previous Government's in Gibraltar would have employed and which we used to get when we used to try and ask questions was that it required too much administrative burden, we nevertheless go to the trouble of getting the administration to prepare detailed statistical answers for the hon Member. If to boot the hon Member thinks that Ministers having provided the detailed information are going to open themselves to cross examination on politically as opposed to administratively irrelevant detail he had better think again because he must think that Ministers have nothing to do with their time than to pour over with the same degree of obsession the detail of these things that he is interested in doing and good luck to him if that is what he enjoys we are perfectly happy to provide him with the information to do it but we are not going to take the same degree of interest in the detail that he takes and he is dead right if he thinks that with all these schedules of detailed numbers and tables that I stay up at home until six o'clock in the morning pouring over the answers then I have indeed, far from having any difficulty, I derive a fair amount of satisfaction and pleasure from telling him that I do not read them and I do not analyse them, I provide him with the information and then I answer for Government policy that arises in respect of the question what I am not willing to do is to be engaged by him in an off the hoof impromptu debate on complicated statistical information on the basis of whatever questions he wants to ask which I am obviously cannot conceivably be equipped to response without notice to the question. He can have his information, all the information that he wants but we are not going to allow him to use Question Time to engage in a detailed debate on what he

thinks are the inconsistencies in the detailed, statistical and administrative information that we provide him with.

As far as the substantive supplementary that he has asked is concerned, as far as the Government assesses the situation, he has asked, "surely it is relevant from the point of view of the threats, risks, attached to the State Aid business," the only qualifying companies that feature prominently in the Government's thinking in terms of the need to accommodate them in the context of the tax reform proposal are the qualifying companies with a physical operating presence in Gibraltar. In other words the qualifying companies that are actually part of the domestic economy providing employment in Gibraltar and he knows that there are one or two he may remember from his days in office that there are one or two that are not in financial services. That is about as much as I can contribute to that. There is a read across to the tax reform but frankly if we lost all the qualifying companies that were not physically present in Gibraltar it would not be the end of the world but we do attach importance to resolving the position and ensuring that the tax reforms are accommodated as reasonably as possible the several, some quite large, companies that operate in Gibraltar, I do not want to mention particular tax payers by name but there is one particularly big one that operates in four wheeled drive vehicles and there are others that operate outside the financial services industry where resident domestic qualifying companies are usually found in the finance centre but there are two or three quite big ones outside of the financial centre and they are the ones that cause the problems to the Government in the context of the tax reform. As to the questions that he has asked about these figures I will pass on these questions to the Commissioner of Income Tax and have somebody write to him with an analysis of the few numbers in respect of qualifying companies in respect of which tax has been paid. That was the essence of the hon Member's question, why so few?

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

I am going back several years because for 2001 and 2002 the answer is nil nobody has been assessed or made declarations so fair enough that is in the recent past that is a year ago but when we go as far back as 1988/89 and when we have been told in this House in answer to another question that there are 140 active trading qualifying companies and we are trying to make a judgement of the importance of this sector to our economy I do not think it is an unreasonable or an obscure statistical question to say, "well look if there is 140 how come so few of them seem to be assessed to tax?"

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

It is not that it is an obscure question it is just that it is unreasonable to expect Ministers to have at their fingertips the answer to such questions when the question relates not to Government policy but to the detail of tax administration. I suppose the answer when we ask will be something like, "well the others do not have an income or the others are not trading profitably." There is obviously an answer to this but it is an answer buried in the depth of tax administration an area in which ministers traditionally do not tread and it is just not reasonable to expect political ministers to have that sort of knowledge at their fingertips to provide off the spur of the moment without notice to a supplementary question that is the nature of the point that I was trying to make. If the hon Member accepts my offer to provide him with the statistical information on a written and

systematic basis outside the floor of the House outside of Question Time then questions which are today supplementary would become the principle question because he would have had the information and his question 1008 would be not give me the statistics but why are there so few qualifying companies being taxed, that would mean that I would have the answer for him here today because the Commissioner of Income Tax would have had to look into the question and provide me with the answer and that is the point that I am making, that by making us give purely statistical information as the principle answer to the principle question it incapacitates us from having briefs of the supplementary questions which are the issues he is really interested in getting to the bottom of.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

We are prepared to give that alternative a try but obviously the reason why the supplementary is a supplementary is for the reason that he has identified until I have seen the figures I do not notice the anomaly.

ORAL

**NO. 1091 OF 2002**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**INCOME TAX – PAYE**

Can Government say what action has been taken in respect of the 71 employers who had not made their 1996/1997 PAYE Returns by January this year and who were believed to be still trading?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question No 1092 of 2002.

**ORAL**

**NO. 1092 2002**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**INCOME TAX – PAYE**

Can Government now say whether the 71 employers who had not made a PAYE Return for 1996/1997 by January this year, had made PAYE returns for any of the tax years subsequent to 1996/1997?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

**Answer to Question No 1091 of 2002**

Out of the 71 employers who had not submitted their 1996/97 PAYE returns by January 2002, it has since been established that 11 employers had not traded during the year 1996/97. A total of 27 employers have now submitted their 1996/97 returns and the remaining 33 employers are currently or in the process, of being chased.

**Answer to Question No 1092 of 2002**

As at 9<sup>th</sup> October 2002, out of the 71 employers who had not made a PAYE return for 1996/97 by January this year, 53 employers have submitted returns subsequent to 1996/97.



**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 1092 OF 2002**

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

I do not know if the Chief Minister recalls, the supplementary that I put at that time was, "is it likely that the 71 will be appearing in subsequent years as the people who have not made the return?" and the answer is in fact 33 have made returns.

ORAL

**NO. 1093 OF 2002**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**INCOME TAX – PAYE**

As at the end of September how many employers had not yet returned their 2001/2002 Employers Declaration and PAYE Certificate and what is the number of employees affected?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question Nos 1094 to 1096 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 1094 OF 2002**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**INCOME TAX – PAYE**

As at the end of September how many employers had returned the 2000/2001 Employers Declaration and PAYE Certificate and what was the total amount of tax deducted and the number of employees affected?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question Nos 1093, 1095 and 1096 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 1095 OF 2002**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**INCOME TAX - PAYE**

As at the end of September how many employers had returned the 2001/2002 Employers Declaration and PAYE Certificates and what was the total amount of tax deducted and the number of employees involved?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with QuestionNos 1093, 1094 and 1096 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 1096 2002**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**INCOME TAX – PAYE**

As at the end of September how many employers had not yet returned their 2001/2002 Employers' Declaration and PAYE Certificates and what is the estimated number of employees affected?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

**Answer to Question No 1093 of 2002**

As at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2002, 215 employers had not yet returned the 2000/2001 Employers' Declaration and PAYE Certificate. The estimated number of employees affected is approximately 550.

**Answer to Question No 1094 of 2002**

As at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2002, a total of 1,626 Employers had lodged their 2000/2001 Employers' Declaration and PAYE Certificates. The total amount of PAYE tax deducted was £49.5 million and the number of employees was 24,401.

**Answer to Question No 1095 of 2002**

As at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2002, a total of 1,480 employers had lodged their 2001/2002 Employers' Declaration and PAYE Certificates. The total amount of PAYE tax deducted

is £37.5 million. The PAYE Deduction cards are currently being processed and it is not possible at this moment in time to provide the number of deduction cards returned.

**Answer to Question No 1096 of 2002**

As at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2002, 417 Employers had not yet returned the 2001/2002 Employers' Declaration and PAYE Certificate. The estimated number of employees affected was approximately 5,700 which includes 3,500 Government employees and pensioners details of which have not yet been returned by the relevant departments.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 1093 TO 1096 OF 2002**

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

I believe that when the notice comes out in the Gazette reminding employers of the legal requirement to return this it also reminds them that they can be made to pay a penalty I think it is of £10 per employee per month, is that ever made use of?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

I do not know, I do know that the Commissioner of Income Tax regards it as an administratively cumbersome statutory provision to implement. I do not know whether that means that he never applies it or whether he applies it in some cases but I know that the department is not happy with this business of calculating interests on a daily basis it is just unworkable.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

My recollection in fact is that it is a fixed penalty based on the number of persons whose cards have not been returned, it may well be that they do not think it would act as an incentive to produce a result but I am just wondering whether in fact it is being used at all?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

I will find out what the practice is on penalties and write to the hon Member.

ORAL

**NO. 1097 OF 2002**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**GOVERNMENT LOAN FACILITIES**

Have Government borrowed any funds from their loan facilities in the current financial year?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

No.

ORAL

**NO. 1098 2002**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**GIBRALTAR CHRONICLE**

Have Government now taken a decision on providing financial assistance to the Gibraltar Chronicle?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

No final decision has been taken because the Company has not yet agreed internally the necessary reforms to place it on a proper financial and commercial basis for the future.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 1098 OF 2002**

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Does that mean that the agreement that there was before is no longer there, I understood from the last time I raised this?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

The agreement as between the Chronicle and the Government Agreement, it is not a legal or commercial agreement, what the Government have agreed to do to assist the Gibraltar Chronicle Limited to survive given that the Government take the view that it is



an important part of the media institutions in Gibraltar was conditional, I think I told the hon Member the last time, it was conditional on the Government seeing a restructure of what is an unworkable management ownership structure, working practices structures and things of that sort so that at least the Government could say to the tax payers, "look we have saved the Chronicle on this basis but it has been fixed and it is not going to become a regular call on taxpayers' funds." The hon Member has some understanding of the human relations, industrial relations dynamics of this sort of process, things are discussed and agreed and then that agreement slips away and it is not delivered bearing in mind that the ownership structure of the Chronicle makes the shareholders an ultimate brokers the very people who are being asked to surrender some of their entrenched working practices and terms so the Gibraltar Chronicle is not the sort of company where management can actually manage because management is answerable to the shareholders but in this case the shareholders are the employees who management are trying to manage and that is being in a great part a contributor to why the problem disclosed in the answer that I gave to the original question exists.

ORAL

**NO. 1099 OF 2002**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**IMPROVEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT FUND**

What is the estimated expenditure from the Improvement and Development Fund to the end of September by Head of Expenditure?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question Nos 1100 to 1102 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 1100 OF 2002**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**I & D FUND**

What are the estimated receipts of the Improvement and Development Fund to the end of September by Head of Revenue?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question Nos 1099, 1101 and 1102 of 2002.

**ORAL**

**NO. 1101 OF 2002**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**CONSOLIDATED FUND EXPENDITURE**

What is the estimated Consolidated Fund Expenditure to the end of September by Heads of Expenditure?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question nos 1099, 1100 and 1102 of 2002.

ORAL

**NO. 1102 OF 2002**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**CONSOLIDATED FUND REVENUE**

What is the estimated Consolidated Fund revenue to the end of September by Head of Revenue?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

I now hand over to the hon Member the information requested.

**Answer to Question No 1099 of 2002**

The tentative expenditure of the Improvement and Development Fund from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2002 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2002 by Head of Expenditure, is as follows:

|              |   |                                          | £                 |
|--------------|---|------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Head 101     | - | Housing                                  | 2,121,760         |
| Head 102     | - | Education and Cultural Facilities        | 869,572           |
| Head 103     | - | Tourism and Transport                    | 1,584,973         |
| Head 104     | - | Infrastructure and General Capital Works | 4,943,986         |
| Head 105     | - | Electricity                              | 174,716           |
| Head 106     | - | Industry and Development                 | 276,139           |
|              |   |                                          | <hr/>             |
| <b>Total</b> |   |                                          | <b>£9,971,146</b> |
|              |   |                                          | <hr/>             |

### **Answer to Question No 1100 of 2002**

The tentative expenditure of the Improvement and Development Fund from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2002 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2002 by Head Revenue, is as follows:

|              |                                 | £               |
|--------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| Head 101     | - Contributions and loans       | -               |
| Head 102     | - Sale of Government Properties | 434,182         |
| Head 103     | - Grants                        | 37,952          |
| Head 104     | - Reimbursements                | 126,480         |
|              |                                 | <hr/>           |
| <b>Total</b> |                                 | <b>£598,613</b> |
|              |                                 | <hr/>           |

### **Answer to Question No 1101 of 2002**

The tentative expenditure of the consolidated Fund from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2002 up to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2002, by Head of Expenditure, is as follows:

| Head | Head Description                       | Amount (£) |
|------|----------------------------------------|------------|
| 1A   | Education & Culture                    | 9,579,097  |
| 1B   | Training                               | 185,794    |
| 1C   | Health                                 | 22,208     |
| 2    | Employment and Consumer Affairs        | 259,358    |
| 3A   | Housing – Administration               | 310,599    |
| 3B   | Housing – Buildings and Works          | 2,955,833  |
| 4A   | Environment                            | 2,980,749  |
| 4B   | Technical Services                     | 6,331,084  |
| 4C   | Electricity                            | 5,870,915  |
| 4D   | Fire Service                           | 1,274,360  |
| 4E   | Post Office                            | 769,784    |
| 4F   | Sport, Leisure and Youth Affairs       | 458,103    |
| 4G   | Broadcasting                           | 626,000    |
| 5A   | Social Security                        | 7,523,785  |
| 5B   | Social Services                        | 1,123,370  |
| 5C   | Prison                                 | 482,697    |
| 6A   | Tourism                                | 1,281,787  |
| 6B   | Transport – Airport                    | 195,284    |
| 6C   | Transport – Traffic                    | 510,416    |
| 6D   | Transport – Port                       | 1,077,300  |
| 6E   | Transport – Shipping Registry          | 129,302    |
| 7    | Trade, Industry and Telecommunications | 1,126,633  |
| 8A   | Secretariat                            | 4,919,053  |
| 8B   | Personnel                              | 275,398    |
| 8C   | Civil Status and Registration Office   | 226,833    |
| 8D   | Gibraltar Regulatory Authority         | 126,000    |

|                                |                                                |                    |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 9A                             | Financial and Development Secretary            | 85,336             |
| 9B                             | Treasury                                       | 2,341,170          |
| 9C                             | Customs                                        | 1,926,591          |
| 9D                             | Income tax                                     | 510,896            |
| 10                             | Law Officers                                   | 186,576            |
| 11                             | Police                                         | 4,039,326          |
| 12A                            | Supreme Court                                  | 266,799            |
| 12B                            | Magistrates & Coroners Court                   | 152,829            |
| 13                             | House of Assembly                              | 395,751            |
| 14                             | Audit Office                                   | 187,125            |
| 15                             | Supplementary Provision                        | -                  |
| 16                             | Contributions from Consolidated Fund – Reserve | 14,700             |
|                                |                                                | <hr/>              |
| <b>Total Consolidated Fund</b> |                                                | <b>£60,728,841</b> |
|                                |                                                | <hr/>              |

### **Consolidated Fund Charges**

| <b>Head</b>                    | <b>Head Description</b>   | <b>Amount (£)</b>  |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| 1                              | Statutory Offices         | 237,886            |
| 2                              | Judicature                | 297,903            |
| 3                              | Pensions                  | 6,775,157          |
| 4                              | Employer's Contributions  | 1,366,960          |
| 5                              | Public Debt charges       | 3,501,826          |
| 6                              | Public Services Ombudsman | 67,415             |
|                                |                           | <hr/>              |
| <b>Total Consolidated Fund</b> |                           | <b>£12,247,147</b> |
|                                |                           | <hr/>              |
|                                | Summary                   |                    |
|                                | Consolidated Fund         | 60,728,841         |
|                                | Consolidated Fund Charges | 12,247,147         |
|                                |                           | <hr/>              |
| <b>Total Expenditure</b>       |                           | <b>£72,975,988</b> |
|                                |                           | <hr/>              |

**Answer to Question No 1102 of 2002**

The tentative revenue of the consolidated fund from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2002 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2002 by Head Revenue, is as follows:

|                                            | £                  |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Head 1    Taxes                            | 43,742,765         |
| Head 2    Duties                           | 14,290,610         |
| Head 3    Rates                            | 3,175,032          |
| Head 4    Licences                         | 742,845            |
| Head 5    Revenue from Government Property | 1,722,900          |
| Head 6    Departmental Fees and Receipts   | 8,349,008          |
| Head 7    Government Earnings              | 1,808,966          |
| Head 8    Exceptional Item                 | -                  |
|                                            | <hr/>              |
| <b>Total</b>                               | <b>£73,832,126</b> |
|                                            | <hr/>              |

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS 1099 TO 1102 OF 2002**

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Head 102 shows expenditure in six months of £869,000 as opposed to the provision in the estimates of over £3 million is this an indication that in fact there is likely to be substantial underspend in this Head, in 102 the difference is £869,000 half-way through as opposed to £3 million for the whole year?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

From memory I cannot remember what those constructions were the Education and Culture facilities he already has the estimate but I suspect a lot of the underspend so far is related to the Theatre Royal on-going, was the Theatre Royal a part of that then?

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Yes that is £2 million out of the £3 million.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

And the other one was ....?



**HON J J BOSSANO:**

The capital work between school hours and other refurbishment comes to £700,000 in a year, there are other things on school buildings but certainly two thirds of the budget is the Theatre Royal.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

This is not usually the Head where they underspend, in other words the Education Department normally wants more rather than less money to maintain schools and things of that sort so I doubt very much they are underspending on school refurbishment to the extent that there is an underspending on school refurbishment it is usually due it is very rare to JBS having a workload, the work gets delayed and gets postponed to the next financial year. There may be I do not know still some humbly paid work done in respect of the school hours, halls and things but certainly everything that is earmarked for the Theatre Royal should be spent by the end of the year because I think that there is an end of the year deadline and I am certain that project is now up and running and I would be very surprised if there was a much larger expenditure on that .....

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

The other subhead was were I mentioned in Industry and Development were we have got something like £0.75 million as opposed to £1 million in the budget.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

I am sorry the hon Member has me at a disadvantage as I have not got the estimates in front of me I do not know what were the sort of projects that were in Head 106, is that the EU subhead, projects like the industrial park and things of that sort?

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Interreg, Konver, Gibraltar Enterprise Scheme, Heritage and Planning and there are a number of token votes for them and stuff like that but the £1 million is made up predominantly in new projects yes and we are talking about £0.75 million having been spent so far.

**HON K AZOPARDI:**

I do not have the list of projects, obviously there are on-going approved projects that from time to time I have given details in the House about and which include private sector projects and also public sector one. I am not sure if part of the tranche of this would be part of the Lathbury Barracks Industrial Park. I know we are keen to start phase II quite quickly once we have gone out to tender with this and I imagine that a big proportion of the spend for the rest of the year will be dedicated to that. I do not

anticipate that there will be underspend but we can simply make available a list of details of the particular projects to the hon Member if he is interested.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Last year there was quite an underspend because the provision in this particular Head in last year's estimate was £3 million and £2 million was spent. It seems we are going the same way this year but what the estimates showed and I think we commented on in the year is, for example, in the Gibraltar Enterprise Scheme originally £130,000 had been provided and £49,000 had been spent and there was £150,000 put in this year and at budget time the indication that we had when we looked at those figures was that because sort of the bills had not come in before the end of the financial year the vote for this year was higher but it does not look like it from the first six months.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

That seems to be true. I have to say that this business of the expenditure of EU funded projects is a constant problem on the one hand the Government have to work to deadlines because nowadays the rules for when one has to commit and spend the money by are much stricter than they used to be in previous programme documents like the one that the hon Member may have been familiar with when he obtained the first funding programme. On the one hand if the Government are going to say, ".....to make sure that all the money is spent we are using it all for public projects because the Government can then decide on the projects quickly and that way ....., " then the private sector says, "Well then the Government will be hogging all the funds so we wait, we publicise, we put out leaflets, we advertise and the private sector is actually remarkably slow in taking up these opportunities, some of them do, but there is not the sort of queue at the door so then the Government says, "We are running out of time we had better take the money over for the public sector," and I thought was just a Gibraltar problem but discussing this with DTI officials in the UK they tell me that this is throughout the community and throughout the UK with all the regions which have got funds that there are these problems of (a) reconciling the timescales with the distribution of funds between public and private on the one hand (b) deciding on the projects given the purposes for which the funds are available may not coincide with ones domestic priorities yet one has to match the funds, if they were all EU money one would say "just spend it regardless of whether it is a priority or not," but because one has to match it with Government funds one then finds oneself spending Government monies on projects that perhaps one would not have prioritised but which one decides to do so as not to lose the community funding and it is actually, I suppose a football manager with sort of six centre forwards to choose from would regard that as a nice problem to have but it is a problem which is constantly managed in the DTI by Francis Sheriff and an assistant which he now has for the purpose. There are projects, the Government are working on projects and there are finance centre projects. Government would not be so worried if there is an underspend from one year to another as against the Government's estimate. I think slightly more serious is if the underspend is against the European deadline so that the funding is lost.

ORAL

**NO. 1103 OF 2002**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**GDP FIGURE**

Are Government now in a position to say in respect of which financial year the GDP was estimated to be £450 million?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

The GDP figure of £450 million was a very preliminary estimate prepared by the Input/Output consultants in respect of the financial year 1999/2000 during the course of the Input/Output Study. This figure is now estimated by the consultants to be £417.5 million as published in the 2001 Abstract of Statistics.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 1103 OF 2002**

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

I must say I have not noticed that there was a figure published in the Abstract of Statistics on GDP.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

Yes there is and the hon Member might have heard me last night mentioning another figure for the following year which has not yet been published in the abstract obviously.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

These calculations then by the Input/Output study people are now considered to be what the final figures for those years?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

As the hon Member knows the Input/Output study are not National Accounts themselves, it is just an economic model, the National Income Accounts now on the basis of the systems had to be worked out and I understand from the Chief Secretary that they are being or have been worked out and are going to be presented to the me shortly. This figure of £417.5 million is the first fruit of the tools that Statistics had, the second one, the one that he heard me mention last night for the following year is the second fruit and I have asked the Chief Secretary to look into the point that we exchanged last time which is whether we are going to make any attempt to fill the gap in between.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

The figure given last night for next year was what £427 million?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

It was £433 million.

ORAL

**NO. 1104 OF 2002**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**GIBRALTAR COMMUNITY CARE LTD**

Can Government say as at the end of September what was the nominal and the market value of the holding by Gibraltar Community Care Ltd of 11.875 per cent 2005 loan?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

As at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2002 the nominal and market value of the holding by Gibraltar Community Care Ltd of 11.875 per cent 2005 Loan Stock, is as follows:

|               |   |                                              |
|---------------|---|----------------------------------------------|
| Nominal Value | - | £36,438,000                                  |
| Market Value  | - | £42,016,658 (exclusive of accrued interest)* |

\* Accrued interest as at 31<sup>st</sup> August 2002 is £1,446,289.

**NO. 1105 OF 2002**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**IMPORTS – PETROLEUM PRODUCTS**

What was the value and volume of imports of petroleum products each month this year and the comparable figures for last year?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Figures in respect of the imports of petroleum products are provided to the Statistics Office by the importers themselves. The figures are provided in respect of any given year and a monthly breakdown is not available. The information requested, on an annual basis, for 2001 is as follows:-

|      | <b><u>Imports of Petroleum Products</u></b> |                         |
|------|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
|      | <b>Quantity (tonnes)</b>                    | <b>Value (£million)</b> |
| 2001 | 2,574,436                                   | 288.2                   |

## **SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION 1105 OF 2002**

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

There is no figure then for the first nine months of this year, this is for the last calendar year I take it?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

Yes, they are not available monthly.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

I accept that but they do not have a figure for the nine months either?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

No.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Do Customs have anything to do with the imports of petroleum?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

I have asked the same question when I have seen the answer to this one. Customs Department apparently keeps monthly records of import of petroleum products, historically the Statistics Office has never used these for the purposes of determining the total level of imports in any month or year since they are subject to significant inaccuracies because they are just doing it on the basis of monitoring the flow of goods whereas the companies then submit the actual amounts that they have imported. I suppose it must have something to do with the fact that all this arrives in a bowser in bulk and then Customs how do they know how much there is in the lorry or how much there is in the ship and this is an area where I think customs rely, they do keep some sort of figures but they have always been found to be so way out compared to the figures provided by the companies that the Statistics Offices have never used them ever in any of these figures. I have asked "Well is it appropriate to have a system which is self-policing to that extent is there some other system that can be introduced that at least provides something that we should be entirely in the hands of the importers to tell us the quantities that they import?" This does not have an enormous revenue implication because most of this stuff is not duty payable anyway but there are elements of revenue attached I understand but they are not as significant as the value might suggest but still as a matter of good administration there ought to be some other system

in place and that is being looked at. The hon Member's supplementary coincides with my own reaction to hearing the answer.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

When would the 2002 figures then be available, how long after the end of the year are they likely to be provided to the Government?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

I will find out.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Can I ask finally in terms of the policy that was being looked at which I think is still being looked at, it was being looked at in 1996 and I think it has continued of introducing a levy and storage, presumably the volumes that go through Gibraltar is a relevant consideration in that exercise no?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

The William's Way transaction as it is called in internal Government jargon is now being looked at on a different basis to the basis it was being looked at when we arrived in office. It is no longer being looked at as a throughput fee which is the basis of what they were looking at for storage. It is now being done on the basis of a managed facility with the Government recouping the cost to it of that managed facility through increasing the duty on petroleum products to whatever extent we decide and indeed we have a few years ago added 3p to the duty rate per litre of white fuel and so the Government will raise the revenue by other means not necessarily by a throughput on the whole of the volume of petroleum products because it raises questions about the competitiveness of the port for the supply of bunkers et cetera .



ORAL

NO. 1106 OF 2002

THE HON J J BOSSANO

**IMPORTS**

What was the value of goods imported by land and sea, other than petroleum products each month since March 2002?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The information requested is as follows:

|        | £000's |       |
|--------|--------|-------|
|        | Land   | Sea   |
| March  | 3,320  | 4,498 |
| April  | 3,390  | 5,236 |
| May    | 4,353  | 3,470 |
| June   | 3,770  | 7,732 |
| July   | 5,547  | 6,419 |
| August | 4,108  | 5,419 |

## **SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 1106 OF 2002**

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

I was under the impression that there was now more stuff coming in overland than by the port. These figures seem to be very close to each other.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

Yes indeed I was just commenting that I am surprised at the level of the sea imports. I hope that the explanation for that is not something which I recently discovered that somebody wanted to treat as sea importation containers that arrive in Algeciras by sea were brought to Gibraltar by land and taken straight to the harbour for unstuffing in our harbour and sort of ignoring the land bit between Algeciras and Gibraltar and regarding it as a sea voyage to Gibraltar. I do not know if that issue was eventually resolved, I hope that the surprisingly high level of the sea figures is not explained by that because I remember when I heard this at the time thinking that this was a nonsense that the question is how they arrive in Gibraltar not how they arrive at some intermediate point in the international transport link but since we are both interested in the point I shall have it clarified and confirmed to him.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

I think in fact when the figures were provided in answer to my previous question which was up to March this anomaly was not there so it seems to have crept into this answer this time but I think that before there was a very noticeable gap between the sea and the land imports.

ORAL

**NO. 1107 OF 2002**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**SPANISH PENSIONERS**

Have there been any further exchanges between the European Commission and the UK Government since the UK replied on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2002, regarding the Spanish pensioners claim for revalued Social Security Pensions?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

To my knowledge there have been no further exchanges.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 1107 OF 2002**

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Is it reasonable to assume that if there had been the UK would have informed the Gibraltar Government or cannot we come to that?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

I cannot say with confidence that that would be so, certainly they have not informed the Government of anything.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

The last answer that I got indicated that the ball was in the court of the Commission because the UK had replied, so on the basis of the knowledge that is currently available it would appear as if the Commissioner has not answered the February letter, is that correct?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

I would have thought so because any reply on the part of the Commission would take the form of an infraction, pre-infraction letter which I am almost certain that the British Government would have wanted to bring to our attention if the infraction proceedings had actually been commenced.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

So the last exchange really is at the stage whether the Commissioner either moves down that route or does not, is that the case?

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

That is the fear yes.

ORAL

**NO. 1108 OF 2002**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**GIBRALTAR'S NEW CONSTITUTION**

When was the letter to the Secretary General of the UN on Gibraltar's new constitution delivered and has there been any response from his office?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

The letter was sent on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2002 and a reply has as yet not been received.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 1108 OF 2002**

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Was it just posted locally or was some other form of delivery adopted?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

Even the state of the local post office would not account for a reply not having been received since the 16<sup>th</sup> January 2002, I think it was just posted locally but if it was also sent by fax which is the usual practice, I do not know if the usual practice was followed in

this case. Normally my correspondence of this sort would go by fax copy and then the hard copy would follow in the post but I do not know if that has happened in this case.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Would the Chief Minister mind checking given that it is a letter from both of us and that we do not want to be here just waiting patiently for something that has got lost in the post?

ORAL

**NO. 1109 OF 2002**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**COST OF REFERENDUM**

What is the estimated cost of holding the Referendum and to which head of expenditure is the cost being charged?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

The Government will not provide information as to the cost of the Referendum until after the Referendum has taken place.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 1109 OF 2002**

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Is it that the Government do not want to say so in public for some particular reason?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

Principally that, we just do not want to, there is such childishness going on in the context of the sniping at our referendum, I do not know if the hon Member has had a chance to see the front page of this morning's Chronicle, there is an article in the Guardian about some e-mail doing the rounds in the Foreign Office - If Saddam Hussein has his 100 per

cent, Caruana now has something to aim for in Gibraltar - or words to that effect. Frankly it is just not in Gibraltar's interest to provide them with a figure that they can bandy about. They have already described it as eccentric, no reason to arm them with information to actually quantify the degree of eccentricity. They have already described it as a waste of money, do we really want to give Mr Hain the opportunity to stand up in the House, look and he is the spending....."as they did with our advertising campaign so there is no, quite apart from which I do not know. There are expenditures, there are as yet unquantifiable expenses in respect of the observers, there is unquantified expenditure in respect of the overtime being done by a lot of the civil servants in the preparatory work, the conduct of the vote, the conduct of the count, I do not think that anyone has focused on even producing an estimate of the cost.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

The other half of my question was, "to which head of expenditure it is being charged?" presumably there must be a provision in the estimates which was not there at the beginning of the budget which the Financial Secretary must be using to pay people. That presumably is not something that Mr Hain can make use of.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

It is obviously a matter for the Treasury whether at the moment it is being booked for example, there is a political development or something with Head under the Convent Place vote, I do not know what it is called the one that I pay all the usual.....

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Visiting delegations?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

Well political visits, it is a general head or whether it is being charged to a suspense account and it will be.....there is a head there it usually has about £100,000 in it if that helps the hon member spot it quicker or whether it has been held on suspense. Head 8 – Secretariat, subhead 25 (a) Referendum Expenses.....

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

New subhead.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

It is a new sub-head.



ORAL

**NO. 1110 OF 2002**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**REFERENDUM VOTERS LIST**

How many persons have been

(a) added to and

(b) removed from,

the Referendum Voter's List between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Drafts?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

There have been a total of 1352 inclusions and 238 deletions so far from the Referendum Voters List between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Drafts. The total number of voters in the first Draft List was 19,378 in the second Draft it was 20,492. The net difference is therefore an increase of 1,114.

ORAL

**NO. 1111 OF 2002**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**REGISTER OF GIBRALTARIANS**

Can Government say what changes have taken place in respect of the number of persons entered in the register of Gibraltarians since 23<sup>rd</sup> April this year given in answer to Question No 685 of 2002?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

In answer to Question No 685 of 2002 I said that there were a total of 35,244 persons entered in the Register of Gibraltarians on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2002. There were 35,768 persons entered in the Register as at 9<sup>th</sup> October 2002. This means that a total of 524 persons have registered as Gibraltarian between 24<sup>th</sup> April 2002 and 9<sup>th</sup> October 2002 inclusive.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 1111 OF 2002**

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Presumably these additions would have been reflected in the Referendum List?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

I assume that they registered as Gibraltarians in order to be entitled and to get on to the list, of the other sort of people that are on the list there were people who may already have been registered as Gibraltarians but who had never bothered to obtain an identity card given that the list of identity cards was the starting point of the list. There were quite a lot of people even though we had written a lot of them in through some of the other lists used but there were still people particularly younger people coming through who had not done so.

**ORAL**

**NO. 1112 OF 2002**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**CIVIL SERVICE – INDUSTRIAL WORKERS**

Have Government taken a view on introducing for industrial civil servants the same pay structure as is currently being negotiated for UK industrial civil servants?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

The Government intend to continue to adhere to the principles of pay parity with the UK. The current negotiations in the (MOD) UK are being monitored. The final agreement will be looked at with a view to implement locally as it affects and is relevant to the Government's industrial workforce on the same basis as in past years.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 1112 OF 2002**

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

This in fact I believe introduces new salary scales with points and a 37 hour week, does that not have an impact on the alternatives that were being considered by the Government for the Buildings and Works, will that mean that the alternative that was being put in front of the workforce would have to be revised in the light of this new structure?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

The exercise of comparing the offer with the new pay deal has not been done to see whether the offer is still an incentive, obviously if one needs something from people as he heard me say last night that one wants to incentivate out of them one has got to offer them more than they are entitled otherwise there is no element of incentive. The exercise of seeing where the new structure would leave the figures compared to the ones being mooted in the departmental restructure has not yet been done.

ORAL

**NO. 1113 OF 2002**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**NUMBER OF POSTS AT SENIOR GRADE**

Can Government say how many posts at senior grade level have been introduced to the public service since the beginning of this financial year, for which provision was not shown in the Estimates of Expenditure approved by the House?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Two posts.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 1113 OF 2002**

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Can the Government say where the two new posts are?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

Yes, one is the Chief Executive of the Social Services Agency and the other is the Assistant Chief Secretary at the Chief Secretary's Office.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Is the post of Assistant to the Chief Secretary in the civil service one in respect of which a particular union has got the negotiating rights or is that above the level the union negotiates?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

The job was presently being done by an SEO given the development of the work in hand and the way that the job has expanded particularly in the context of EU related work, the Chief Secretary advised that the job should properly be graded at Senior Officer level and the Government have accepted that recommendation. There has not actually been a negotiation. I assume from what I have just said it follows that it is a view taken on the nature of the post rather than any view taken on the holder of the post as to whether he is entitled on a personal to holder but certainly, well I can tell the hon Member from what I see of the post working on a day to day basis that compared with other posts which are SEO's and other posts which are Senior Officers I think that the Chief Secretary's assessment was right which is why he has been authorised to proceed with it. I am not sure where the negotiating rights come in, the hon Member knows that there is now much more flexibility I think for which he was responsible for introducing into the system.....

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Not with much success.....

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

I think the union's position Prospect is that they do not so much mind if the posts are shunted around so long as there is not a reduction in the net number of posts but this is an extra one.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

So that means that the SEO post is still there?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

No.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

It does not.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

No it means that one SEO post has become an SO post.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

And in terms of the filling of the post did that have to go out for people to apply or was it decided that the person who was already doing the job should be upgraded in post as it where?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

I think he has been upgraded in post, the Chief Secretary assures me and I think this was used recently a few years ago in the DTI in the case of Francis Sheriff, that there are provisions for the upgrading of posts in favour of the holder, in other words short to the creation of a vacancy which is then filled by advertisement that when a post is regraded it is regraded in favour and for the benefit of the incumbent of that post at that time and that it is not usual for there to be contest so to speak when there is a regrading of the post given that the job is being done at the level with the difficulty and level of responsibility which has been the subject of the regrading.



ORAL

**NO. 1114 OF 2002**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**FRONTIER FENCE**

Have Government now decided how they are going to replace the frontier fence?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

No. It is one of those projects that with all the other urgent things that have appeared on our radar screens has slipped down in our list of priorities. Let me assure the hon Gentleman that if he suspects that there is some sort of horizontal political issue here about whether the frontier fence is going to disappear or whether anybody is objecting to the frontier fence being refurbished please accept my assurances that there is no such issue. As far as the Government are concerned and no one has raised any issues, on the contrary this is a beautification project. It is just a question of whether we beautify the frontier fence first or the Europa Road, no one has raised any extraneous to beautification question in relation to this project there is therefore no sinister reason for the delay it is simple slippage in the project.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

The reappearance of the question is not a reflection that we think in this House that there is a sinister motive behind it, it is simply to find out if there has been any change since the question was last answered.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

The hon Member might say that and some people may choose to believe him but the fact that the Leader of the Opposition chooses to himself field the question relating to the

physical state of the frontier fence suggests that his concern is more than just whether it is beautiful or not beautiful but rather that it has some foreign affairs implication otherwise if the question were motivated simply by a desire to see the fence made more pretty I am sure it would be taken by those members of his team that normally ask questions on such issues.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

The question is not a reflection of our desires it is a question seeking information and the reason why I put it is because I put it the first time the matter was raised and I have carried on putting it and if the Chief Minister recalls what I have said at the beginning I cannot remember how long it was, that the only issue that concerned me was not what colour because it is likely to be blue and yellow anyway, but whether it should be done at the tax payers expense or by the MOD who in previous years always claimed it was their fence and his answer was that if we left it to the MOD given the present state of mind in UK they might decide to do away with it that is why I have kept an interest in it.

ORAL

**NO. 1115 OF 2002**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**HOUSE PRICES**

Have Government investigated the feasibility of monitoring house prices?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

No.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION No 1115 of 2002**

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

I take it that although it may not have been done the indication that it might be something worth doing if it was possible to do is still .....

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

Yes because the Government has Statistics Department, there are statisticians there, if monitoring house prices is an interesting worthwhile thing to do they should do it. There is no reason why the Government would not want housing pricing monitored it is true since we last spoke across the floor of the House there has not been any political

initiative taken at ministerial level to bring it about but there is no reason why it should not happen administratively in the Statistics Department if this is thought to be appropriate. I will try and have the matter put on somebody's agenda to see if at least somebody can give some thought to it.

ORAL

**NO. 1116 OF 2002**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**EUROPEAN OPEN SKIES**

Have Government now received a final opinion over the steps that need to be taken to challenge Gibraltar's exclusion from the European Open Skies?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Yes. It is currently under consideration.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 1116 OF 2002**

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

How long have the Government had the opinion?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

I do not know, I think late September.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

It was in September last year that the Government announced that they would be seeking such an opinion, is it that it has taken that long to put it together or .....?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

The Government do things as a matter of their policy and then really it is not for the Opposition to press us at the speed at which we must implement our own policies. If the hon Member wants to know dates in which Government receives internal confidential legal advice I am perfectly happy to share the information with him but frankly I do not think any issue arises of whether it has taken too long or too little time it is something that has taken along at the pace that these things take. I can assure him that a lawyer has not been working on the opinion for the full last 12 months it is not that it has taken 12 months because it has taken a lawyer 12 months to do it and if I told him last September that the Government would be seeking the opinion .....

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

The Chief Minister announced it publicly in a press conference that this was going to be something that had a high priority and that they would be taking steps to do it so they have had a year to find out.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

Yes and if it the hon Member's judgement that a year is too little or too late the Government do not rush into litigation of this sort nor is the Government going to rush into considering the opinion which raises many issues. The Government will take the matter slowly, there is no hurry, we are excluded, it is a long process anyway as he discovered when he tried something similar and this is something which is on the tracks. It is not the first item on the Government's priorities at this moment in time and it is something that goes forward in the ordinary course of business. We have received the opinion now, we have received a partial opinion a little bit earlier than this one, then it was finished off with this second opinion on a slightly different aspects of it, then there has been a need to go back to the lawyers that wrote the opinion asking them to clarify and build up the opinion on certain particular issues of it, the final ones have finally arrived the hon Member thinks that six months or seven months or 12 months is too long well it is a matter of opinion no one was treating this as a 100 yards sprint. If the Government decide to take legal action we will announce it and even if we decide not to take legal action we will announce it but at the moment we are not in a position to make an announcement as to when that might be, it will be one way or the other.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Does the legal opinion also provide a recommendation as to whether to proceed to take legal action or not or is that a separate issue?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

Lawyers do not normally make recommendations of that sort, they give a legal opinion on the basis of the brief or questions put to them and then most lawyers give an indication of prospect of success leaving it to the client to decide whether that degree of prospect, legal opinions are always cast in ifs and buts and caveats anyway, leaving it to the client to assess whether on the basis of the advice with a degree of certainty that it attaches to the advice which varies is worth pursuing and in this case it is a particularly fine judgement because it is very new legal thinking so not only is it subject to all the usual uncertainties of legal action but indeed we would be seeking to have recourse to pretty novel procedures to try and achieve it.

**ORAL**

**NO. 1117 OF 2002**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**EUROPEAN ELECTIONS**

What steps have been taken by the Government to seek Gibraltar's inclusion in the South West Region for the next European Elections?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Government have not yet specified a particular constituency to which it is seeking Gibraltar's addition. Therefore we have not taken any steps to seek Gibraltar's inclusion in the southwest region particularly. A further round of consultation between the Gibraltar Government officials and UK Government officials took place on questions relating to enfranchisement, logistics, generally on the 12<sup>th</sup> June 2002. During the course of the meeting it was made clear to the Government that the region of the UK to which Gibraltar would be added would be for the Electoral Boundaries Commission to decide and that the Electoral Boundaries Commission would consult the Government and they have not yet done so. Let me say as I am sure the hon Member is aware that MP's from all parties and from all regions are queing up to request that we should be added to their region and there is a raging debate, intraparty debate taking place between London, the southwest and the Midlands which has waded in .



## **SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 1117 OF 2002**

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

The reason why I formulated this question in this particular way as opposed to when I last raised it was because on the visit when there was that unfortunate photographic incident with Drake the Chief Minister was reported as having announced there that they wanted Gibraltar to be part of that region that is what the report said that he had said then so I thought a decision had been taken.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

No. What I said on that occasion was that the Government had formed the view that the southwest region would be appropriate, (a) because it was physically the nearest to Gibraltar and secondly because the Government felt that Gibraltar's participation in a predominantly provincial and rural constituency would give us a more visible participation than if we disappeared into an urban conglomerate like London where we would disappear in one borough so that is as far as my comments went I did not actually say that we were sort of putting in a bid let me say that what the hon Gentleman describes as an unfortunate photographic incident is something that I had chosen not to make a public comment on because the facts are not as they have been reported but I simply do not wish to dignify those that have chosen to put out those versions of the facts with engaging in a political debate. I think it is inappropriate for the Chief Minister of Gibraltar or for any Minister of Gibraltar frankly, given the effort that has gone in to building a carefully nurtured image for Gibraltar politically within the United Kingdom in the context of the current political battle that we are facing, the level of seriousness, democratic maturity that Gibraltar is trying to project abroad to risk it all going up in smoke by the Chief Minister of Gibraltar being photographed next to a man in fancy dress costume. Let me say that I was not the only one that declined to be photographed, MP's that were there Lindsay Hoyle for example took the same view. Serious politicians in England, Plymouth politicians do not get photographed with this man in fancy dress costume. So the suggestion that somehow offence was caused to the people of Plymouth is a complete figment of the imagination of the people whose allegations I had said I had chosen not to dignify with the response. No one has been put out by this remark indeed I understand that the man is quite controversial even in Plymouth and therefore if there are those who want to reduce the conduct of Gibraltar's very serious affairs to a pantomime they can do it certainly they cannot count with me in order to do it. I do not know if the hon Member knows but I arrived at Plymouth airport after a very hair-raising little flight in a very small aircraft that appears to fly too low for my liking and I disembarked from this aeroplane and I walked into the terminal and it is rather like arriving in Gibraltar or arriving at Heathrow or Gatwick. There is a whole sort of range of people in the arrivals lounge waiting for passengers to emerge and there I find sort of everybody's aunts and cousins waiting for their nephews and cousins and Francis Drake and a lady standing next to him sort of dressed as I suppose Sir Francis Drake's wife would have dressed at that time and these people were seriously standing there in the middle of the terminal hall and they actually wanted to drive me into Plymouth city dressed in this ridiculous costume. The costume is ridiculous not because

of anything that Francis Drake stood for but because it is ridiculous in the twenty-first century and therefore let me say that the decision which incidentally was communicated to them in advance contrary to some of the things that have been said that I did not wish to be photographed with Francis Drake is the correct one. There are people in Gibraltar with a different view I respect the different view in my judgement the interests of Gibraltar were best served by its Chief Minister not being photographed with somebody in fancy dress clothes of this sort and some people appear to have taken issue with the fact that they think I did not do so so as not to upset the people of Cadiz. That would be a jolly good reason for not doing it. If there is some particular interest of Gibraltar that is being achieved by doing it that people in Cadiz are being upset is too bad but to upset the people of Cadiz even if that were the reason, to avoid upsetting the people of Cadiz next to whom we live for absolutely no advantage to Gibraltar it would be in my opinion absolutely absurd and unnecessary. The people of Cadiz who feel that they were capriciously and whimsically sacked by Francis Drake at his leisure, one thing is not to offend the Spanish Government to which frankly we attach relatively little importance but a distinction surely should be drawn between not offending the Spanish Government and not offending the Spanish people particularly our immediate neighbours amongst the Spanish people with whom Gibraltar says we want to have good relations. Is that not what we say that we have no problem with the Spanish people that we want to be their friends, that our quarrel is not with the Spanish people but with the Spanish Government's aspirations so why should anybody think that it is worth offending those Spanish people for the sake of a photograph with Sir Francis Drake so I make absolutely no apology had that been the reason for my not taking the photograph, that would have been a perfectly good one and I would not have felt any need to make an apology for it, in fact it was not. Even the main reason, Lindsay Hoyle who took the same view of his photograph with him does not have any such concerns. Those are the reasons. I am glad the hon Member has given me the opportunity to say one or two things about the photographic incident.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

It was simply to locate the place where the statement was made, can I just ask in clarification of his lengthy explanation when he says he was not going to go into town on arrival dressed in that costume it is not that they expected him to dress in the same costume as well is it?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

Thankfully no, the proposal was that Sir Francis Drake in his uniform should chauffeur me with his wife sitting in the back next to me. As I did not go into the car I do not know whether she was going to sit at the back with me or at the front with him. In the event our London representative went with Sir Francis Drake and I went in the second vehicle which had been sent by the Golden Hind Association, two vehicles came and I went in the official one assuming that that was the official one and the official one was not the one chauffeured by Sir Francis Drake.

ORAL

**NO. 1118 OF 2002**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**SINGLE MARKET IN GOODS**

Can Government say whether there have been any further developments in the test case as to whether Gibraltar is excluded from the Single Market in goods?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

The indications that the Government have received is that the Advocate General's opinion is due in the Autumn.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 1118 OF 2002**

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Meaning anytime now?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

Yes.

**ORAL**

**NO. 1119 OF 2002**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**SUPREME COURT OF GIBRALTAR – JUDGMENT**

Since the answer to Question No 689 of 2002, has there been any instance of a Supreme Court judgment being accepted for enforcement in Spain?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

No. It is not that there has been no incidence in which a Supreme Court judgment has been accepted for enforcement. No does not mean that there has been some but they have not been accepted rather that there has been no request for the transmission to Spain of a Supreme Court judgment.

ORAL

**NO. 1120 OF 2002**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**REGULATION ON DENIED BOARDING COMPENSATION**

Can Government say whether there have been any further developments since May regarding Gibraltar's inclusion in the Regulation on Denied Boarding Compensation?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Following on from the Government's disclosure on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March this year of an arrangement between the UK and Spain under which directives applying to Gibraltar Airport are to be excluded from the application of EU Law, the decision was consequently (and as announced on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2002) to exclude Gibraltar from the Denied Boarding Compensation Directive. I am sure to the hon Member the language is a touch confusing even to me as I have been reading it and therefore it might also have been to him but the hon Member will recall the statement that the Government made in which we say that Britain and Spain had agreed that they would take one case at a time and if there were implications they would agree to suspend, this one was subjected to that principal and excluded and there have been public statements to that .

ORAL

**NO. 1121 OF 2002**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**INPUT/OUTPUT STUDY**

Can Government say what decisions have been taken in respect of the Input/Output Study since the report was submitted to Government on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2002?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

The study consultants visited Gibraltar in July this year to validate data and complete their work on the Report. A final draft Report was submitted last week and the Government hope to receive a final report for publication shortly whereupon the Government intends to invite the consultants to make a full public presentation of the report and demonstration of the computer models and its future use capabilities. So, in effect what they have done is that they have sent what they regard as a final draft for final consideration and we now want them to convert that very quickly into the final report and when Professor Fletcher was last out in Gibraltar I agreed with him that he would come out in the autumn to give a public presentation of the model and of the report et cetera.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 1121 OF 2002**

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Presumably then we will get the opportunity on that occasion to be able to ask him things that we may be interested in having clarified. I think we were told at a very early stage that when the time came when it was all completed there would be an opportunity to discuss what the model does or does not do or is intended to do.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

I suppose so I do not think a public presentation is going to present the hon Member with an opportunity to embark on a detailed cross-examination of the team, I am not sure that is what they have agreed to do but I suppose if it is open to the public the hon Member is free to attend the presentation.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Of course and I have every intention of doing so but the point is if he is going to be here for the public presentation presumably it is possible to arrange to see him.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

Yes absolutely, no I said at the presentation itself will not be an opportunity to engage in an exchange.

**ORAL**

**NO. 1122 OF 2002**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**2001 CENSUS**

Can Government now give the date when they expect to publish the results of the 2001 Census?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

The Government expect to be in a position to publish the final results of the 2001 Census towards the end of this year. Already some preliminary statistics on population and housing have been made public as part of the 2001 Abstract of Statistics.



ORAL

**NO. 1123 OF 2002**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**POPULATION FIGURES**

Can Government explain the discrepancies in the population figures published in the 2001 Abstract of Statistics attributed to provisional estimates based on the 2001 Census?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

There are no discrepancies in the published population figures. The population figure in respect of 2001 is shown in tables 1-3 of the Abstract of Statistic 2001 and stood at 28,231. Table 4 and 5 show the population categorised by age groups and by religion respectively and do not include the 745 UK-based civilians and the families of UK servicemen as full Census questionnaires were not completed by this group of persons as was the practice in earlier censuses thus these two tables give a population total of 27,486 that is 28,231 less the 745.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 1123 OF 2001**

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

I was looking at the fact that unlike previous Census figures that have been published in 1991 and 2000 the figure of population showed by the Census is in fact much higher

than the calculation that was made until then and this is contrary to the experience in the past is there an explanation for this, in every other occasion it has been the other way around inbetween Censuses the estimates of people moving in and out of Gibraltar tend to produce a higher figure because they record when they come in but they do not record when they disappear, on this occasion for some strange reason the Census shows an under-recording of this?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

I am not aware of any explanation the estimating basis may have swung the other way in the estimating techniques and now the annual estimates turn out to be underestimates rather than over estimates as in the past but a Census is a Census these are people who are in Gibraltar on Census night and in that respect the figures cannot be inaccurate it is not like the problems the United Kingdom has just got into ironically the comments of our Census with its own where they have been shown to be inaccurate because the Census was being done on the basis of a random sample and calculated accordingly. Next time somebody raises with me questions about the quality of our statistics I shall bear that to the front of my mind by way of response. This is actually a Census one person at a time but if there is some statistical administration reason why what used to be underestimations have become overestimations I will, just to satisfy his statistical interest.....

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

We are talking about something in the order of 1,000 in a population of 20,000 is not insignificant.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

I will find out.

ORAL

**NO. 1124 OF 2002**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**TREATY OF UTRECHT**

Have Government now received the final opinion from the constitutional expert they engaged to provide advice on the issue of the supposed constraint on the peoples right to self-determination by virtue of the Treaty of Utrecht?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Yes.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 1124 OF 2002**

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Can Government say how long they have had the final thing?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

No but this is an opinion that we have had for some time in draft the hon Member will recall that this is the opinion that comes down squarely in our favour on the issues but creates obstacles that have not yet been overcome as to a forum in which we have those issues aired.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

I understood when I last raised it which was quite some time ago that at that time that was not the final position, is it that there has been something further since then?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

Yes.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Is this a French Constitutional expert?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

Yes indeed.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

And that further opinion has been in the Government's position for some time but it does not take us any further in terms of identifying a possible argument?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

It does not take us any further on the forum issues.