

ORAL

NO. 1456 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – HOMES FOR THE ELDERLY

Can Government state if it is their intention to begin constructing the second home for the elderly, similar to Bishop Canilla, in the current financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Government expect the construction contract tender to be awarded this calendar year.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1456 OF 2004

HON C A BRUZON:

Could I ask the hon Minister for Housing if this contract refers specifically to Bishop Canilla House and not necessarily to the homes for the elderly that are being planned on The Sands near the Coach Park?

HON J J NETTO:

I notice a bit of confusion in the hon Member's question. This is a particular Bishop Canilla style for senior citizens adjacent to The Sands plot of land on the other side of the road.

NO. 1457 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – ALLOCATION PROCEDURES

Can Government state if it is their view that there is a need to introduce changes to the housing allocation procedures that will improve the system?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Yes, Government expect to make an announcement of major reforms during the remainder of this year.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1457 OF 2004

HON C A BRUZON:

I trust that these reforms will see the light of day. I know that it is not an easy issue but I do believe that during the course of the tenure of office of the GSD administration there have been many promises made, and many statements made about schemes and so forth, I do hope, for the benefit of many, many people on the housing waiting list, that these reports will materialise into actual solutions to the problem. Are the Government not aware of the problems we have had?

HON J J NETTO:

I do not quite clearly see the actual question itself. However, the fact of the matter is that in the last four years there already have been changes to the allocation rules, but as my main answer referred to, the Government propose to do major reforms in terms of the housing allocation rules and indeed of the Ordinance.

ORAL

NO. 1458 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – APPLICANTS MEDICALLY RECOMMENDED

Can Government state how many of the 24 applicants that were identified as medically categorised in answer to Question 587.2004, have now been allocated homes, giving a breakdown of their medical category and date of completion?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question No. 1459 of 2004.

NO. 1459 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – APPLICANTS MEDICALLY RECOMMENDED

Can Government state how many applicants on the housing waiting list are medically recommended, giving a breakdown of their medical category?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

In answer to Question No. 1458, three applicants in the medical 'A' list have been allocated a flat since March 2004 as follows: two in April and one in July.

In answer to Question No. 1459, a total of 21 applicants are on the housing waiting list and medically categorised as follows:

Medical 'A'	-	5
Medical 'B'	-	7
Medical 'C'	-	9

ORAL

NO. 1460 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – WAITING LIST

Can Government state how many applicants are on the housing waiting list to date, giving a breakdown of their flat requirements?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question No. 1461 of 2004.

NO. 1461 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – PRE-LIST

Can Government state how many applicants are on the pre-list for housing to date, giving a breakdown of their flat requirements?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

The number of applicants on the housing waiting list to date is 540, broken down by flat requirement as follows:

1RKB	-	279
2RKB	-	55
3RKB	-	128
4RKB	-	68
5RKB	-	9
6RKB	-	1

In answer to Question No. 1461, the number of applicants on the pre-list to date is 545, broken down by flat requirement as follows:

1RKB	-	347
2RKB	-	39
3RKB	-	110
4RKB	-	44
5RKB	-	3
6RKB	-	2

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1460 AND 1461 OF 2004

HON C A BRUZON:

Is the Minister aware that the numbers are increasing and not decreasing?

HON J J NETTO:

Yes, I am aware.

ORAL

NO. 1462 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – PENSIONER EXCHANGE LIST

In answer to Question No. 578 of 2004 this House was informed that, as at the end of March 2004, there were 275 applicants on the Pensioner Exchange List. Can Government state how many exchanges have now been completed for these applicants, giving details of room composition and date of completion?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Five applicants on the Pensioner Exchange List have been allocated a flat as follows:

3 x 2RKB	-	1 in March and 2 in September
2 x 1RKB	-	1 in September and 1 in October

NO. 1463 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – ASSET REGISTER

Can Government state if the Asset Register mentioned in answer to Questions 570 and 571 of 2004 concerning properties on the voids list, has now been completed?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

No.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1463 OF 2004

HON C A BRUZON:

Does the Minister have any idea as to when it will be completed, because in answer to the questions that I put to him in the last House, information could not be provided to the Opposition because of the Asset Register not being ready?

HON J J NETTO:

I do not think that is quite accurate and probably if the hon Member looks to Hansard, he will probably find that I gave an exhaustive explanation as to what really is the function of the Asset Register. That said, I have to once again, I suppose, say that the database for the Asset Register is currently being established by carrying out internal and external surveys of Government properties. This will however be on an on-going process and will never really be completed as it will have to be reviewed on a continuous basis to keep it up to date through the passage of time. Ministry for Housing personnel carrying out duties which are then recorded in the survey for the Asset Register do not only perform this function. Such staff are also engaged in the production of Government tenders, monitoring of contracts, technical advice to Buildings and Works on an on-going basis.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can the Minister say how far they have gone in the Asset Register the first time round? Presumably, from the answer he has given, when they finish the lot they will go back again but, how have they gone in the first attempt?

HON J J NETTO:

Standing as I am in the House, I can recall some conversations which I have had with the person in charge of this particular unit, and I think a high level of external surveys, something to the tune of about 80 per cent of external surveys have been carried out, but the hon Opposition Member should not rush to conclusions very easily, in the sense that it does therefore follow that given the speed of doing the external surveys that the internal surveys will be as quick, because it all depends on the state of the property, what particular type of survey, and there are surveys which one can do for half an hour and then there are dilapidated surveys which I understand are very time consuming. So, the hon Member should not rush in that particular sense. I have always said in these kinds of debate, and I have said it a lot of times in this House, doing an Asset Register of Government properties, which we are talking about being the largest landlord in Gibraltar, is not something that one can do in five minutes, nor in three months, nor even a year. I think Hansard will show that I have said on many occasions that to do a proper Asset Register, as explained to me, will take a number of years actually, to take it to the level and the degree that it ought to be done. Hopefully, once it is done, it is not only important for the Government to be able to say this is the state of our property, but indeed some of the other things which we have seen year after year, after year in terms of when Principal Auditors have submitted their accounts here, like I think today has been the case, that historically speaking we have never been able to reconcile much of the problem that we have. That is another element of doing the Asset Register but not the only part.

ORAL

NO. 1464 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – POST-WAR FLATS

Can Government state how many of the 52 post-war flats that were identified as vacant, in answer to Question 568/2004, have been allocated, giving details of room composition and date of allocation?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 1465 and 1466 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1465 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – PRE-WAR FLATS

Can Government state how many of the 35 pre-war flats that were identified as empty, in answer to Question 567/2004, have been allocated, giving details of room composition and date of allocation?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 1464 and 1466 of 2004.

NO. 1466 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – PRE-WAR FLATS

Can Government state how many pre-war housing units have been allocated during the months of May, June, July, August and September of 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Since 1st March 2004 a total of 34 post-war flats have been allocated as follows:

March	-	10
April	-	4
May	-	6
June	-	6
August	-	3
September	-	5

The room composition is as follows:

1RKB	-	6
2RKB	-	12
3RKB	-	10
4RKB	-	6

In relation to the answer to Question Nos. 1465 and 1466, since 1st March 2004 a total of 21 pre-war flats have been allocated as follows:

March	-	9
April	-	5
May	-	3
June	-	3
September	-	1

The room composition is as follows:

1RKB	-	2
2RKB	-	12
3RKB	-	5
4RKB	-	2

In relation to Question Nos. 1464 and 1465, the computerised updates change on a regular basis and, therefore, since previous addresses were not administratively kept at the time, it follows that without such information the dates and corresponding properties are unavailable.

NO. 1467 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

BUILDINGS AND WORKS DEPARTMENT

Can Government state the result of the discussions with the Union regarding the move into a proposed Authority for the Buildings and Works Department?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Such discussions are on-going.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1467 OF 2004

HON L A RANDALL:

Could the Minister provide a date by which he considers they could be finalised?

HON J J NETTO:

No, there is not such a date as to when they should be finalised. As I said, the discussions are on-going, I think for the time being they are going well, but for any person who has got experience in dealing with industrial relation matters through negotiations, they will know that just because negotiations are going well it does not mean that they will end well. All I am saying is that they are on-going and apparently, at the moment they are going well.

HON L A RANDALL:

How often are these discussions taking place? Are they taking place once a week, once a month, quarterly?

HON J J NETTO:

The negotiations are not going by way of weekly, quarterly or monthly. We have had a number of meetings and more meetings are envisaged in the future.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Have any proposals been put to the workforce for them to vote on?

HON J J NETTO:

Not yet.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I think we should be clear about that. It depends whether for them to vote on is the purpose of the question. The Government have tabled proposals to the workforce. The Union has not yet invited the workforce to vote on them. If I could just de-segregate the two parts of the Question to make sure the answer is not misleading.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The proposals are in the hands of the Union but the membership have not yet been consulted on it, as far as Government are concerned.

HON J J NETTO:

That is correct.

ORAL

NO. 1468 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

BUILDINGS AND WORKS DEPARTMENT

Can Government state how many of the persons who applied for the vacancy of (a) carpenters; and (b) masons in the Buildings and Works Department were registered as unemployed with the ETB at the time of their application?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 1469 to 1474 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1469 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

BUILDINGS AND WORKS DEPARTMENT

Can Government confirm that all applicants for the vacancies of carpenters and masons in the Buildings and Works Department were persons resident in Gibraltar?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 1468 and 1470 to 1474 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1470 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDAL

BUILDINGS AND WORKS DEPARTMENT

Can Government state of the persons who applied for the vacancies of (a) carpenters; and (b) masons in the Buildings and Works Department in June, how many had the qualifications specified in (i) apprenticeship or (ii) (a) NVQ2 in plumbing or wall and floor tiling or (b) seven years experience as masons within the building trade in Gibraltar or (iii) NVQ level 2 in carpentry and joinery and in each case give a breakdown by nationality?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 1468, 1469 and 1471 to 1474 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1471 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

BUILDINGS AND WORKS DEPARTMENT

Can Government state how many vacancies of (a) carpenters and (b) masons in the Buildings and Works Department were open to applicants in May 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 1468 to 1470 and 1472 to 1474 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1472 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

BUILDINGS AND WORKS DEPARTMENT

Can Government state how many applications were received for the post of (a) carpenters and (b) masons in the Buildings and Works Department by the closing date of 11th June 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 1468 to 1471, 1473 and 1474 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1473 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

BUILDINGS AND WORKS DEPARTMENT

Can Government state how many of the applicants for the vacancies of (a) carpenters and (b) masons in the Buildings and Works Department were successful and give the nationality of the successful applicants?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 1468 to 1472 and 1474 of 2004.

NO. 1474 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

BUILDINGS AND WORKS DEPARTMENT

Can Government state how many of the applicants for the vacancies of (a) carpenters and (b) masons in the Buildings and Works Department were employed with (a) the MOD, (b) the Gibraltar Government owned joint venture companies, or (c) private sector employers, at the time of their applications?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answer to Question No. 1468

The number of persons registered as unemployed with the Employment Service was as follows:

- (a) masons – three; and
- (b) carpenters – three.

Answer to Question No. 1469

Only one Spanish applicant resident in Spain applied for the vacancy of mason; all the other applicants are resident in Gibraltar.

Answer to Question No. 1470

The information requested is as follows:

		British	Spanish	Portuguese	Moroccan
Carpenters	Ind App	11			
	NVQ Level 2	11			
Masons	Ind App	4			
	NVQ Level 2	5			
	7 yrs exp	3	1	1	3

Answer to Question No. 1471

There were three vacancies for carpenters and three vacancies for masons.

Answer to Question No. 1472

A total of 39 applications were received broken down as follows:

- (a) masons – 17; and
- (b) carpenters – 22.

Answer to Question No. 1473

Selection has not yet taken place.

Answer to Question No. 1474

	GOG	MOD	Joint Venture	Private Sector	Unemployed
Masons	-	1	2	10	4
Carpenters	2	1	6	9	4

NO. 1475 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

HOUSING – SCAFFOLDING

Can Government explain why scaffolding erected to paint and carry out repairs to blocks in Humphries and Varyl Begg Estates were recently removed before the works were apparently completed?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Scaffolding erected to carry out refurbishment works at Varyl Begg Estate was only removed on completion of the works. A similar situation applies in Alameda Estate.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1475 OF 2004

HON L A RANDALL:

Can Government state whether they are aware that the expectations of the tenants of the flats the blocks at Varyl Begg Estate were not met. They had expectations of painting and repair works which were not carried out.

HON J J NETTO:

No such expectation has been manifested to the Ministry for Housing, neither to officials, neither to my knowledge and recollection by the Tenants Association. So I do not know what expectation the hon Member might individually have been brought to his notice.

HON L A RANDALL:

I refer to representations which were made to me at Party Headquarters to the effect.

HON C A BRUZON:

Could the Minister for Housing answer me this question? Are the people engaged in putting up the scaffolding and removing scaffolding the same people who go to attend to peoples needs when there is a leak in a roof, or whether there is a problem in a house? I have got reports from people who have come to me with problems, with regards to difficulties they have in their homes, and in March of this year there is a letter from the Ministry for Housing which says that there were 986 cases on the list marked 'urgent'. So obviously there must be something wrong with the system.

HON J J NETTO:

The hon Member is confusing two separate issues. In relation to the scaffolding and to the works being referred to in the Question, this is by way of a contract. We are not talking about the works that BUILDINGS AND WORKS does. The contract at the moment is being carried out by GJBS. So therefore, it has got nothing to do with the work that BUILDINGS AND WORKS does. This is done by way of contract.

ORAL

NO. 1476 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

MUSIC CENTRE

Can Government state how much money has been given to date to the Music Centre at Straits – Vision House for its refurbishment?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HERITAGE, CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORT

Answered together with Question Nos. 1495 and 1496 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1477 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

THEATRE ROYAL

Can Government state whether any progress has been made in relation to the Theatre Royal?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HERITAGE, CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORT

Answered together with Question Nos. 1478 to 1482 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1478 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

THEATRE ROYAL

Can Government say whether the EU money already obtained for the Theatre Royal Project will have to be returned until the project commences again in the future?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HERITAGE, CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORT

Answered together with Question Nos. 1477 and 1479 to 1482 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1479 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

THEATRE ROYAL

Will Government state how much has been spent to date on the Theatre Royal project and whether there is any current expenditure other than that given to the landlords on an annual basis?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HERITAGE, CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORT

Answered together with Question Nos. 1477, 1478 and 1480 to 1482 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1480 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

THEATRE ROYAL

Can Government state whether the contractors with the original contract will be completing the Theatre Royal project once Government commences it again or will Government re-advertise for new tenders?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HERITAGE, CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORT

Answered together with Question Nos. 1477 to 1479 and 1481 to 1482 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1481 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

THEATRE ROYAL

Will Government be re-altering the design of the Theatre Royal Project?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HERITAGE, CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORT

Answered together with Question Nos. 1477 to 1480 and 1482 of 2004.

NO. 1482 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

THEATRE ROYAL

Will Government state how long it will take before the Theatre Royal project is to recommence?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HERITAGE, CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORT

In answer to Question Nos. 1477, 1480, 1481 and 1482:

As already announced by the Government, the Theatre Royal Project is currently under suspension – the question of progress and all other such considerations do not therefore arise.

In answer to Question No. 1478:

No, Sir.

In answer to Question No. 1479:

The total amount spent to date on the Theatre Royal project is £3,161,895.97. No other expenditure, apart from the agreed rental to the landlord, is envisaged.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1477 TO 1482 OF 2004

HON S E LINARES:

In relation to Question No. 1478 the Minister just answered 'No, Sir'. No, Sir as to whether the money has to be returned, or whether the money has been lost. Can the Minister explain what he means as in 'No, Sir'?

HON C BELTRAN:

The money does not have to be returned.

HON S E LINARES:

Will Government be re-applying for more money, more funds, in order to complete the Theatre Royal?

HON C BELTRAN:

The Government will be applying for funds as and when it feels that it is necessary to do so in respect of this or any other project.

HON S E LINARES:

In relation to Question No. 1479, the Minister has just confirmed that to date we have spent £3.161 million. Can the Chief Minister then state whether he was either misleading the public or misleading this House when he announced in Viewpoint about two weeks ago that the Government had spent just over £2 million, when he knew when he answered the previous question that I posed here, that it was £3.63 million that was spent on the Theatre Royal?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I cannot answer his question on a multiple choice basis if he is only going to give me the two choices that he has just described. In other words, to invite me to confirm whether I was misleading this House or the people of Gibraltar requires me to accept that I was misleading one or the other. The answer is that I was not doing either, and asked how much money has the Theatre Royal cost, my recollection is that I said over £2 million. Well, £3 million is over £2 million. If one imagines that these invoices come in from time to time, and I do not carry the actual project accounting on the back of my non-existent cigarette packet, the hon Member will realise that the fact that I give a figure which is actually accurate, an answer which is actually accurate, over £2 million, does not fall into either of the two categories that he has somewhat harshly offered me by way of choice.

HON S E LINARES:

Well, what was interesting at the time was that the question was not answered by the Minister for Culture, it was actually answered by the Chief Minister himself, who stated the actual amount that was spent. So he was quite misleading in the sense that he told this House that he had spent at the time, now it is over that, but at the time he had spent £3.063 million. That means £3,063,000. Then he goes on television saying just over £2 million. I am sure that either he lost his memory at the time or he was trying to mislead the public.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

At least he now offers me a third choice. A third, if he does not mind my saying, much more likely. Why he should think I would wish to misquote a figure, knowing that I am misquoting it having already put the correct figure in the public domain, if at least the hon Member could say that I knew privately what the right figure was and chose not to give it, then I suppose he could begin to spin his web of intrigue, but given as he quite rightly says I have already myself in this House publicly given the figure of just over £3 million, if several months later I get asked the question in a way for which I am unprepared and uncited and I give an answer which is correct in as far as it goes, then I think the hon Member might be willing, in one of his moments of greater generosity, to give me the benefit of the doubt as to the third option. In other words, it may be, if it is not more likely, that I simply did not recollect the right figure but that I knew the figure, rather than to suggest that I must have necessarily mislead one or the other or both. The answer is, one gets asked these things in a television programme, one does not have the information at ones fingertips and one gives the best answer one can, which was not inaccurate. Over £2 million includes the figure 'three'. Now, if I had remembered that it was £3,063,709.48, which is the figure I gave in the House, I would have given it. There is not a huge difference between the two amounts, for the purpose of the political point that the hon Member is making, which is as I understand it to be, that the Government have spent a considerable amount of money on the project which it has now placed in suspension. I accept and acknowledge and admit that, and the strength of his point, whatever it might be, does not turn on whether it is over £2 million or £3,023,000.40.

HON S E LINARES:

I just put it to him that I think he was trying to hide the real figure from the public when he was trying to announce it.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The real figure was published in the Gibraltar press when I gave it openly in this House. How could I possibly be trying to conceal the figure? I had already given it publicly.

NO. 1483 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

GOVERNMENT LOTTERY

Can Government state whether they have now decided on any changes to the structure of the lottery?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HERITAGE, CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORT

The recommendations given to Government so far do not highlight the need for any particular major change to the structure of the Lottery. No major change is therefore envisaged at the moment. The on-going discussions with the Lottery Committee, the Treasury and the Lottery Agents have however, highlighted the desirability for changes to the marketing strategy that may improve sales. A number of such measures have been agreed and are being implemented.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1483 OF 2004

HON L A RANDALL:

Is the Minister willing to share these recommendations with this side of the House?

HON C BELTRAN:

Yes, by all means. We are talking about ideas such as initial changes to include a new logo to be displayed by all agents and sub-agents, in order to clearly identify sales outlets, or a sales drive to promote the reserving of particular numbers, is one idea that has been mooted, perhaps linked to the customer car registration numbers and advertising material to ensure that the public is aware of the sales of lottery draws, location of main agents and such like.

HON L A RANDALL:

I am obliged to the Minister.

ORAL

NO. 1484 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GIBRALTAR SPORTS AUTHORITY

Can the Minister for Sport now confirm whether any agreement has been reached with the Union as to the transfer of staff to the Gibraltar Sports Authority?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HERITAGE, CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORT

Answered together with Question Nos. 1485 and 1486 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1485 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

VICTORIA STADIUM – NEW SPORTS HALL

Can the Minister for Sport now confirm whether the new Sports Hall will be fully operational by this Autumn?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HERITAGE, CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORT

Answered together with Question Nos. 1484 and 1486 of 2004.

NO. 1486 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

VICTORIA STADIUM – HOCKEY PITCH

Can the Minister for Sport confirm that the unresolved issues for the recruitment of adequate permanent staff is affecting the upkeep and maintenance routines of the water-based hockey pitch?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HERITAGE, CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORT

The question gives the false impression that there exist “issues” which remain unresolved. The new sports facilities will be run, serviced and maintained by employees of the Gibraltar Sports Authority. In any case, the upkeep and maintenance of the pitch are unaffected.

As regards the new Sports Hall, Government are aiming to open this facility as soon as possible.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1484 TO 1486 OF 2004

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Perhaps the Minister can be a little bit more specific when he says as soon as possible, because I recall and I have taken note of what he said during his Budget speech, when he said that the Sports Hall will be fully operational by this autumn. Can he confirm that? That is what he said in his Budget speech.

HON C BELTRAN:

Yes, I can confirm that but autumn is not over yet.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

When he said 'this autumn' I mean this autumn, we were in autumn already. Can he confirm that this is about to open and be fully operational?

HON C BELTRAN:

I do not think I said by the beginning of autumn, I said by the autumn, the autumn is still on.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

So when does the Minister consider the autumn to be finished?

HON C BELTRAN:

Well, I hate to give dates but I think that autumn is generally recognised as finished by 21st December I believe.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

So what he is saying is that it will be fully operational by 21st December.

HON C BELTRAN:

No, that is what the hon Member is saying. I saying during the autumn, or before. I am not sure, works go on, there are minor works, one has to make sure that all these sports fittings are correctly fitted, not least for health and safety reasons, I am sure all agree, so this is on-going. We are aiming for that, but these are works and it is difficult to control some of these things. So I am saying in the autumn but the autumn is still here, it has not gone yet.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Except that I am only mentioning autumn because those were the precise words that the Minister used during his Budget speech. Therefore, I am making him accountable for what he said. Reference the other question which is related to the upkeep and the maintenance routine of the water-based pitch, could the Minister please confirm whether he is aware of public announcements that have been made to the effect that the new hockey pitch is being used regularly and unsolved issues such as the recruitment of adequate permanent staff are affecting the upkeep and maintenance routines. This has led to concern for some sportsmen and sportswomen. Does he agree with that statement?

HON C BELTRAN:

I heard, I suspect she was listening but she has not heard my answer. In any case the upkeep and maintenance of the pitch are unaffected.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

That is precisely why I have actually what has come out publicly, because he says they are unaffected, and what is being said publicly is that it is being affected. Can the Minister confirm when do the Government intend to recruit staff for facilities like for example, the water-based pitch and also the Sports Hall, which we hope will be open by 20th December, whether by then they will have recruited permanent staff for the running of these facilities?

HON C BELTRAN:

We expect to have staff in place by then. The Government are talking to the Unions about the conditions of employment and so on and this is the situation at the moment.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Yes, but does the Minister not understand that we are talking about facilities, especially the water-based pitch and also the Sports Hall for which the Government have had ample time to employ people within the Gibraltar Sports Authority, and in fact it was the Chief Minister who said the following : *'the Sports Authority exists. The Government will proceed with the new facilities as soon as they are all ready in the Sports Authority with the new staff and that is not something that will be negotiated with the existing staff or anybody else'*. So therefore, what I am saying is, it appears that what the hon Member is saying is in conflict with what the Chief Minister said that the Government do not have to have the Authority, or the permission of the Government to employ people within the new facilities.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

As I have explained to the hon Lady on several occasions before, there are two exercises going on. One is the completion of the works in the new facilities, and they are still on-going, the administration block is still on-going, it has not been finished yet, part of them have been finished, the water-based pitch and the hall is more or less finished, although one end of it is a building site. All those facilities when they are ready will be run by the Gibraltar Sports Authority with new employees recruited directly by the Gibraltar Sports Authority. She is right in saying that that recruitment of staff has not yet commenced and I believe it is imminent. I think I recently saw papers that suggested that the job specifications and all that had now been agreed and the recruitment process for that is imminent. The second and separate issue which is where the negotiations with the Unions come in, is the question whether the existing staff and the existing facilities that they run are going to be injected into the Authority as well or not. Now, there is a slight connection between the two, even though I have just said that they are

unconnected, and that is that if the staff decides to join, if the second issue is positive. In other words, if existing staff and respectively the existing facilities are to join the Authority, that gives the Union an opportunity to influence the terms and conditions of employment of the Authority for the new employees, because it will obviously affect their transferring members if I could call it that. If they do not decide to go down that road, then there is nothing to negotiate with the Union. It is a new employer recruiting new employees and that new employer will decide for itself what the terms and conditions of employment are. We have been holding back the recruitment for the Authority employees, because if the existing staff are to join, then we need to make sure that the terms and conditions that are coordinated. Now, it is true that we could have proceeded with the recruitment of the Authority employees some time ago. We have held back because whether or not the existing staff join or do not join affects the nature of the process of the terms and conditions that we offer the new employees. In other words, if they join they have got to be agreed with the Union and that will affect the new employees as well. If they are not going to join then there is no need to negotiate terms for new employees with the Union. That is why we have been holding up, to see which of the two ways we needed to go. I hope that clarifies the situation. The hon Lady is factually correct but it is not through idleness that the facts are as she describes them.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Just one more supplementary. Then that means that from now until the end of autumn the process will have to be accelerated.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

We cannot hold back any longer to see whether the others join. We think we can wrap up the negotiations quite quickly with the others, so that in fact it is not going to affect, but because the project is now really complete, we need to get on with recruiting staff and therefore, we will now proceed whether or not we agree with the Union. I reckon if in two weeks from now we have not agreed with the Unions we may have to proceed anyway. Let me say that the terms and conditions are not unfamiliar to the Unions. They are terms and conditions which the Union have seen in other Authorities, so it is not a new process, but yes I agree with the hon Lady, as does my Colleague, that we cannot hold back any longer the recruitment for the Authority, it cannot be held up any longer by considerations whether the existing staff want to join. We have taken it to the wire basically.

ORAL

NO. 1487 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

YOUTH CONFERENCE CENTRE

Will Government state how many functions have taken place at the Youth Conference Centre 2003 and 2004 and what were the nature of these functions?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HERITAGE, CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORT

Answered together with Question Nos. 1488 to 1493 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1488 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

YOUTH CLUBS

Will Government state how many functions have taken place in Youth Clubs in 2003 and 2004 giving a breakdown by Youth club and what were the nature of these functions?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HERITAGE, CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORT

Answered together with Question Nos. 1487 to 1493 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1489 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

YOUTH SERVICE

Can Government state how many Youth Programmes of a general nature are currently being run by the Youth Service?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HERITAGE, CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORT

Answered together with Question Nos. 1487 to 1493 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1490 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

YOUTH SERVICE

Can Government state how many Educational Programmes are currently being run by the Youth Service?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HERITAGE, CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORT

Answered together with Question Nos. 1487 to 1493 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1491 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

YOUTH SERVICE

Can Government state how many young people are taking part in Educational Programmes currently being run by the Youth Service giving a breakdown by programme?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HERITAGE, CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORT

Answered together with Question Nos. 1487 to 1493 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1492 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

YOUTH SERVICE

Can Government state how many Educational youth trips have been organised by the Youth Service in 2003 and 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HERITAGE, CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORT

Answered together with Question Nos. 1487 to 1493 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1493 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

YOUTH SERVICE

Can Government state what are the ages of the young people participating in Youth Programmes provided by the Youth Service giving a breakdown by programme?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HERITAGE, CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORT

the Youth Service and its Youth clubs organise and run a series of programmes, functions, activities and trips which are primarily of an educational nature and are deemed by the users to be of interest and value whilst also being generally fun and entertaining. These programmes consist of a combination of these elements, that is to say, of educational and general interest.

I now hand the hon Member schedules with the statistical information he is requesting.

Answer to Question No. 1493 of 2004

Answer to Question Nos. 1487, 1488 and 1489 of 2004

USE OF YOUTH CONFERENCE CENTRE

In 2003 the Youth Conference Centre was used as follows:

Mondays to Fridays 9am to 1pm - St Theresa's nursery (Excl school & Public holidays)

Evenings and Weekends

By Government youth clubs	9 times Members meetings and project work
By Cheshire Home groups	4 times Group work and preparatory meetings
By Youth Service staff	7 times Induction and training sessions
By other Government department	2 Training, informative, induction
By Community groups	23 Committee and public meetings
By Sports Associations	9 Committee, training and general
By Counselling groups	9 Training, information and general
By Cultural, drama and interest Groups	34 Rehearsals, information and general
By Mother Theresa's group (on-going)	44 Educational, handicrafts and occupational
Total	<u>141</u> Sessions

Until the end of September 2004, the Youth Conference Centre was used as follows:

Mondays to Fridays 9am to 1pm - St Theresa's nursery (Excl school & Public holidays)

Evenings and Weekends

By Government youth clubs	9 times Members meetings and project work
By Cheshire Home groups	4 times Group work and preparatory meetings
By Youth Service staff	4 times Induction and training sessions
By other Government departments	15 Training, informative, induction.
By Community groups	6 Committee, training and general
By Sports Associations	9 Committee, training and general
By Counselling groups	21 Training, information and general
By Cultural, drama and interest Groups	29 Rehearsals, information and general
By Mother Theresa's group (on-going)	27 Educational, handicrafts and occupational
Total	<u>141</u> Sessions

Cont.....

**YOUTH SERVICE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES, FUNCTIONS AND ACTIVITIES –
2003/2004**

Dolphins Youth Club 2003

Trip to Sierra Nevada – Club Graffiti project – Fun day – Visit Lower St Michael's Cave – Cable-skiing – Ride in Police Launch – Visit local places of worship – Ten pin bowling – Fund-raising raffle – GBC open day.

Dolphins Youth Club 2004

Barcelona project – Indoor club redecoration project – Aqua park/Tivoli world – Cable skiing
(Club closed during summer months for complete refurbishment, new “safety” net for patio)

Note: The Youth Worker based at Dolphins youth club has also been instrumental in developing two summer projects involving under 12's.

In 2003 Jungle Jam – recycling of waste products to create a Jungle full of animals

In 2004, Recycle the Rock – using used paper to create a model of “The Rock”.

There were also a number of meetings with the neighbouring Tenants Associations, user groups who were given access to the club patio for supervised play and sports.

The full time Youth Worker was responsible for the Women's Issues group. (Cyprus)

Youth Centre 2003

Three kings floats – St Valentine's Disco – Planning of trip to Sierra Nevada – Hosted a group from Sweden

Fund raised for Cancer – Women in need awareness campaign – Beauty and health programme

Regular discos – Planning for trip to Aqua Park/Tivoli – Verbena for elderly people – Christmas preparations.

Youth Centre 2004

Three kings floats – On-going discos – Darts competition with local association – Computer and I.T link – Cooking programme – Planning trip to Aqua park/Tivoli – Foam parties – Verbena for elderly people – Club BBQ –

(Club was closed for one month for some refurbishment)

The full time Youth Worker was responsible for Rock Solid Conference.

Laguna Youth Club 2003

Planning for trip to Sierra Nevada – Regular discos – Club fishing outing – Club BBQ –
Trip to Aqua park/Tivoli

Participation in Election '03 Programme – Visit to Lower St Michael's Cave

Cont.....

Cont'd Answer to Question No. 1493 of 2004

Laguna Youth Club 2004

Cooking project – Outdoor refurbishment programme of ball playing area – Graffiti project – Collage – Planning for trip to Sierra Nevada – Club members disco – Planning for club outing to Tarifa & Cinecity – Computer and Internet link – Election '03 Project.

Plater Youth Club 2003

Anti-bullying programme – Planning for trip to Sierra Nevada – Parental involvement – Cooking project
Collecting for charity – Fishing outing – Club BBQ – General knowledge treasure hunt
Residential “La Jarandilla” – Election '03 – Member participation

Plater Youth Club 2004

Trip to St Michael's Cave – Football tournament – Planning for trip to Aqua park/Tivoli – Fishing outing – UNICEF project – Visit by British Forces Youth Club – Parental involvement – Member participation

The whole Youth Service was involved in the running of the Youth Pavilion at the fair and the Rock Solid Conference programmes

At all the clubs it is normal for sessions also to include facilities which are made use of as part of the above programmes, activities and functions, to provide for the educational but also fun elements of these. Generally these are demand led by the users themselves. On occasions, therefore, games sessions are programmed. These could be sporting or related to music, the internet et cetera; for which facilities are made available and trained staff supervision is provided.

Cont.....

Cont'd Answer to Question No. 1493 of 2004

Answer to Question Nos. 1490 and 1491/2004

Barcelona programme and visit	4 youths
Womens issues programmes and trip to Cyprus	5 youths
Active Citizenship Programme and visit to Brussels	10 youths

Answer to Question No. 1492/2004

2003

Trip to Sierra Nevada
Visit to Barcelona
Active Citizenship Programme and visit to Brussels
La Jarandilla
Womans Issues Programme

Answer to Question No. 1493/2004

The ages of the regular users of each of the four youth clubs participating in the programmes vary but are all within the 12 to 18 year age group.

Plater youth programme	-	(33)	18 girls and 15 boys aged 13 to 18 yrs
Dolphins youth programme	-	(26)	14 girls and 12 boys aged 13 to 18 yrs
Laguna youth programme	-	(48)	24 girls and 24 boys aged 12 to 18 yrs
Youth Centre programme	-	(20)	9 girls and 11 boys aged 12 to 17 yrs

These figures do not reflect occasional users and those young people who attend/participate in events such as discos, fund-raising or outings.

ORAL

NO. 1494 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

YOUTH SERVICE

Will Government state how much money has gone missing within the Youth Service this year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HERITAGE, CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORT

As a result of two burglaries a total of £5,584 were stolen from the Youth Service. The matter is under police investigation.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1494 OF 2004

HON S E LINARES:

When was it the Youth Workers realised that there was money missing, because you have stated that there was a break-in, and my subsequent question which I will put together was, I was going to say whether there had been a break-in and whether the premises had gone through substantial damage because of the break-in?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The hon Member I am sure will understand that both of those issues touch upon things that may arise in the police investigation, and it really would not be appropriate. I think the hon Member might be willing to exchange views with him on that issue privately to give whatever information he knows but I do not think it would be appropriate to answer those two questions, both of which may become relevant in an investigation.

HON S E LINARES:

I accept that answer.

ORAL

NO. 1495 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

MUSIC CENTRE

Can Government state who is currently running the Music Centre at Straits Vision House?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HERITAGE, CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORT

Answered together with Question Nos. 1476 and 1495 of 2004.

NO. 1496 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

MUSIC CENTRE

Can Government state who are the trustees of the Music Centre at Straits Vision House and when were they appointed?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HERITAGE, CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORT

A total of £53,000 has been allocated towards renovation and refurbishment works for the Gibraltar Music Centre at the former BFBS Building.

The Gibraltar Music Centre is run by its Trustees. This Trust, which was set up in September 2002, is a charitable one (not one appointed by Government).

I hand the hon Member the current composition of the Trust.

The composition of the Trust is as follows:

Mrs Lynn Griffith – Chairperson
His Lordship the Bishop the Right Reverend Monsigneur Caruana
Mr Solomon Levy
Mr David Dumas
Mr Jason Bellilo
Mr Eric Ellul
Mr Oliver Reed
Mr Wayne Smith

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 476, 1495 AND 1496 OF 2004

HON S E LINARES:

I appreciate the answer from the Minister. He has stated the amount allocated, he has stated the fact that there are Trustees, he has given me the list of Trustees, but one question which I think has been omitted is the fact that who is currently running it. Is it

the actual Trustees that run it or is it a person that the Trustees have contracted to manage?

HON C BELTRAN:

The Trustees.

NO. 1497 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

WORLD HERITAGE STATUS

On what date was the Government advised of Spanish objections to Gibraltar's bid for World Heritage Status and what is the current position on this application?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HERITAGE, CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORT

Government was informed of Spanish objections on 27 July 2000.

The current status of the bid is that the Gibraltar Government are continuing to develop their conservation programme and management plan for the long term protection of their important heritage assets. This is being done both as a requirement of the World Heritage Bid and also as a means of ensuring the long term protection of our Heritage. When the Gibraltar Government feel ready to proceed on this basis they will inform the United Kingdom Government accordingly and seek a slot for nomination. In the meantime, the Gibraltar Government will continue to liaise closely with the Gibraltar Heritage Trust in all matters of mutual interest.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1497 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Does that mean the application then has been withdrawn and is not there at the moment?

HON C BELTRAN:

The application is still there. I think the hon Member refers to the in principle agreement that exists with the State Party, the United Kingdom in this case, to nominate Gibraltar. There is an in principle agreement but no date has been finalised. We are working on specifications of the property to be nominated and the site management plan. This is the situation at the moment.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Minister clarify then what exactly Spain object to?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

There is no application as such. It is just that this precedes the hon Member's responsibilities for these matters. The United Kingdom has a prospective list of sites, and under current rules is allowed to put up one site from its prospective list by way of formal application per year, one site per year. So the question is at what stage do they give Gibraltar the berth. We are on that prospective list, we are on the UK prospective list. The question is in which year do we allow or ask the UK to allow Gibraltar to occupy its slot from its list. That is the issue that we have not yet finally made a decision on. The United Kingdom is willing to use one of its slots for Gibraltar. This is not one of the cases where because of the Spanish concern the United Kingdom is resigning from its willingness. Actually, we have a slight concern that if we allow Gibraltar to be nominated as a whole, the whole of Gibraltar as opposed to individual sites in Gibraltar, I have a concern which I have asked for a satisfaction on, on whether this might affect future development, both commercial and housing developments. In other words, what burdens, what restrictions does designating the whole of Gibraltar as a heritage site place on future development projects as opposed to just designated. For example, the King's Bastion or Moorish Castle which may have restrictions in relation to developments affecting the character of that site. Well, it seems to me that there is a big difference between agreeing to curtail your development possibilities around a particular site than restricting the development potential about the whole of Gibraltar because if one cannot alter the character of a designated site, and the designated site is the whole of Gibraltar, then technically anything that one does is capable of being argued and the question then still is open whether we go ahead with Gibraltar as a whole site, or whether rather instead of that go to a system whereby several sites in Gibraltar are designated, rather than Gibraltar as a whole. We are very anxious, not for insufficient gain, to curtail the liberty and the freedom of future governments, indeed the future freedom of this Government and also the freedom of future governments, to ensure Gibraltar's economic development through infrastructure and physical developments.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

I am grateful to the Chief Minister for the explanation that he has given, but my supplementary was what exactly did Spain object to then? Was it to our inclusion in the UK list?

HON C BELTRAN:

Yes, the Minister for Art at the time Alan Howarth, in a letter to Keith Azopardi in July 2000, stated and I quote *"I can confirm that the Spanish Ambassador at UNESCO has expressed his Government's concerns at the inclusion of the Fortress of Gibraltar in the UK's tentative list of prospective sites for their British counterpart David Stanton"*.

ORAL

NO. 1498 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

ART ADVISORY COUNCIL

Can Government state how many times the Art Advisory Council has met in 2003 and 2004 respectively?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HERITAGE, CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORT

The Art Advisory Council met once in 2003 and a meeting has for some time now been scheduled to take place in mid October 2004.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1498 OF 2004

HON S E LINARES:

As a clarification, could the Minister please answer the second part 2004? He said once in 2003.....

HON C BELTRAN:

A meeting has for some time now been scheduled to take place in mid October 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1499 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TERCENTENARY EVENTS

What is the cost to date, with a breakdown by event, of the Tercentenary events that have taken place?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HERITAGE, CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORT

It has not been possible to collate the very considerable statistical information required to answer this question. I shall endeavour to provide it to the hon Member within seven days.

ORAL

NO. 1500 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TERCENTENARY EVENTS

What is the total amount donated by private companies towards the Tercentenary events?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HERITAGE, CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORT

Answered together with Question No. 1501 of 2004.

NO. 1501 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

NATIONAL DAY

What was the cost, with a breakdown, of the Elton John concert held on National Day this year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HERITAGE, CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORT

The total amount donated by private companies is £360,000.

The cost to Government of the Elton John Concert has been a contribution of \$600,000 and £34,000 apart from that, for the covering of the Stadium pitch. These costs have been almost totally covered by the donations or sponsorship of private companies. Everything else was covered by the promoters.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1500 AND 1501 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In relation to the two questions, the £360,000 donated by private companies, is the Minister saying that that was for the Elton John event, that donation?

HON C BELTRAN:

No, not necessarily. It is a general account for events.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Minister say whether the \$600,000 were paid to the promoter, or were they paid to the artist?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Government insisted that its contribution had to be used to make a payment directly to the artist so that if the concert did not take place for any reason that was the fault of the promoter, the monies would not have been in jeopardy.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Therefore, how did the promoter make any money from this event? Was it from the sale of tickets?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I assume, given that the concert was such a success, that he did make money. If the hon Member is asking the question mechanically, in other words, how did he make money? He made money from the proceeds of sale of tickets. It cost much more than this to lay on that concert and the proceeds of the sale of tickets were for the promoter. This was a Government contribution over and above ticket sale revenues.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Was it the case then that there was only one promoter for this event, or one company that was interested in being a promoter?

HON C BELTRAN:

Yes, only one promoter.

HON F R PICARDO:

Just to clarify, only one promoter was interested in bringing Elton John, or only one promoter was interested in bidding for the Tercentenary concert to be held on National Day?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Tercentenary concert did not go out to tender, proposals were put by different promoters as to who they thought they could bring to Gibraltar, and the Government chose that the artist rather than the promoter. In other words, the Government, I cannot remember the names now by my children know all of these things, an Irish girls group the name of which I now do not recall, and there was another chap called Bryan Adams and Elton John, and the Government took the view that Elton John had the biggest chance of appealing to the widest cross section of age groups and therefore we chose the promoter that was offering Elton John, because the other promoters could not have delivered the other artists.

ORAL

NO. 1502 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TERCENTENARY – COSTS

Who was the successful tenderer in respect of Tercentenary promotional material, for what items and at what cost?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HERITAGE, CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORT

Answered together with Question Nos. 1503 and 1504 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1503 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TERCENTENARY – COSTS

How many parties submitted tenders for the supply of Tercentenary promotional material, who were they, what were the terms involved and what was the cost per item?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HERITAGE, CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORT

Answered together with Question Nos. 1502 and 1504 of 2004.

NO. 1504 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TERCENTENARY – COSTS

How many parties submitted a tender for the organisation, production and staging of a local talent variety show and other entertainment on the eve of the Tercentenary (3rd August) and what was the amount bid by the successful tenderer?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HERITAGE, CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORT

In answer to Question Nos. 1502 and 1503 no tender was allocated.

In answer to Question No. 1504, three parties submitted a tender. The amount bid by the successful tenderer, which was the lowest, was £44,250.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1502 TO 1504 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can I ask the Minister, given that there was no tender for promotional material, have the Government secured promotional material without going out to tender, or is it that there is no promotional material?

HON C BELTRAN:

No, there has been no promotional material.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I should say to the hon Members that the Government will publish an account of the Tercentenary expenditure showing all the items, once the last event has taken place, showing how much of it falls net to be borne by taxpayers.

ORAL

NO. 1505 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

Can Government state what was the number of persons receiving social assistance for each month of the second quarter of 2004, giving a breakdown of age and sex?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS

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

ANSWER TO QUESTION NO 1505 OF 2004

PERSONS IN RECEIPT OF SOCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE SECOND QUARTER 2004

QTR	MONTH	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL	18/25	26/35	36/45	46/60
QTR 2 2004	Apr-04	176	263	439	59	145	106	129
	May-04	176	264	440	69	145	103	123
	Jne-04	183	272	455	72	145	109	129

ORAL

NO. 1506 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

SOCIAL SERVICES – DISABILITY ALLOWANCE

Can Government state what is the criteria used to determine the eligibility of a disabled person to receive a disability allowance?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question No. 1507 of 2004.

NO. 1507 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

SOCIAL SERVICES – DISABILITY ALLOWANCE

Can Government state how many persons were in receipt of a disability allowance under the social assistance arrangements for each month of the second quarter of 2004, giving a breakdown of their sex and age?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS

Answer to Question No. 1506

As I have previously explained in reply to similar questions in this House, under the Social Assistance arrangements, a person is eligible to a disability allowance if that person has been permanently and severely disabled by a mental or physical disability from birth. However, the Director of Social Security has discretion to approve payment of this allowance, even if the applicant has not been severely and permanently disabled from birth. Each case is judged on its own merit.

Answer to Question No. 1507

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

Question 1507/2004

PERSONS RECEIVING DISABILITY ALLOWANCE FOR EACH MONTH OF THE 2ND QUARTER OF 2004

Months	0-10	11-20	21-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	61-70	Total	Male	Female
Apr-04	26	28	20	11	17	10	0	112	78	34
May-04	27	28	20	11	17	10	0	113	78	35
Jun-04	30	23	19	11	21	9	0	113	80	33

ORAL

NO. 1508 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

CLOSED LONG-TERM BENEFITS FUND

Can Government state what was the number of pensioners being paid or with entitlement to payment in each month of the second quarter of 2004 from the Closed Long-Term Benefits Fund giving a breakdown of pre-1969 Spanish pensioners and locally funded pensioners showing the number of Gibraltar/UK Nationals, Moroccans and other nationalities for each month?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS

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

Answer to Question No. 1508/2004

The following pensioners were in receipt of payments from the Closed Long-Term Benefits Fund from April 2004 – June 2004.

	APR-04	MAY-04	JUN-04
Pre-1969 Spanish Pensioners	6554	6536	6515
British Pensioners (Gib/UK Nat.)	4890	4885	4897
Moroccan Pensioners	1492	1501	1515
Other Nationalities	404	407	411
Total	13340	13329	13338

NO. 1509 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

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 for each month in the second quarter of 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS

The transfers made from the Open Long-Term Benefits Fund to the Closed Long-Term Benefits Fund for each month in the second quarter of 2004, are as follows:

April 2004	£900,000
May 2004	£900,000
June 2004	£1,000,000
	<u>£2,800,000</u>

ORAL

NO. 1510 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

CLOSED LONG-TERM BENEFITS FUND

Can Government state what was the income, expenditure and balance of the Closed Long-Term Benefits Fund for each month of the second quarter of 2004, 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 AND CIVIC AFFAIRS

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

Answer to Question No. 1510/2004

The income, expenditure and balance of the Closed Long-Term Benefits Fund for each month of the second quarter of 2004, showing the amount from UK and local funds and the expenditure to former Spanish Workers and to pensioners from local funds is as follows:-

CLOSED LONG-TERM BENEFIT FUND

<u>Fund Account –</u> <u>Opening Balance</u>	<u>30-Apr-04</u>	<u>31-May-04</u>	<u>30-Jun-04</u>
	£663,322	£493,397	£481,904
<u>“Local Account”</u>			
Opening Balance	£18,656	£27,798	£28,940
<u>Add</u>			
Transfers from the Open Long-Term Benefits Fund	£900,000	£900,000	£1,000,000
Other Receipts	£2,263	£1,960	£2,592
	£920,919	£929,758	£1,031,532
<u>“Spanish Account”</u>			
Opening Balance	£644,666	£465,599	£452,964
<u>Add</u>			
Receipts from DFID	£140,000	£180,000	£1,170,000
	£784,666	£645,599	£1,622,964
<u>Less</u>			
Pension Payments	(£319,067)	(£192,635)	(£1,006,073)
Closing Balance	£465,599	£452,964	£616,891
<u>Fund Account</u> <u>Closing Balance</u>	£493,397	£481,904	£667,576

ORAL

NO. 1511 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

OPEN LONG-TERM BENEFITS FUND

Can Government state what is the income, expenditure and balance of the Open Long-Term Benefits Fund in respect of each month of the second quarter of 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS

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

Answer to Question No. 1511/2004

The Hon the Minister for Social and Civic Affairs

The income, expenditure and balance of the Open Long-Term Benefits Fund in respect of each month of the second quarter of 2004 is as follows:-

OPEN LONG-TERM BENEFITS FUND

	<u>30-Apr-04</u>	<u>31-May-04</u>	<u>30-Jun-04</u>
<u>Fund Account – Opening Balance</u>	£11,726,379	£11,528,904	£11,220,084
<u>Add</u>			
Receipts	£783,568	£689,511	£658,211
	£12,509,947	£12,218,415	£11,878,295
Payments	(£981,043)	(£998,331)	(£1,089,527)
<u>Closing Balance</u>	£11,528,904	£11,220,084	£10,788,768

ORAL

NO. 1512 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

SHORT-TERM BENEFITS FUND

Can Government state what is the income, expenditure and balance of the Short-Term Benefits Fund in respect of each month of the second quarter of 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS

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

Answer to Question No. 1512/2004

The Hon the Minister for Social and Civic Affairs

The income, expenditure and balance of the Social Insurance (Short-Term Benefits) Fund in respect of each month of the second quarter of 2004, is as follows:-

SOCIAL INSURANCE (SHORT-TERM BENEFITS) FUND

	<u>30-Apr-04</u>	<u>31-May-04</u>	<u>30-Jun-04</u>
<u>Fund Account – Opening Balance</u>	£6,146,447	£6,112,077	£6,089,676
<u>Add</u>			
Receipts	£43,727	£40,254	£38,942
	£6,190,174	£6,152,331	£6,128,618
<u>Less</u>			
Payments	(£78,097)	(£62,655)	(£71,261)
<u>Closing Balance</u>	£6,112,077	£6,089,676	£6,057,357

NO. 1513 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

MOUNT ALVERNIA

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 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS

There are 94 elderly citizens awaiting a place at Mount Alvernia. 33 are occupying a bed at St Bernard's Hospital.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1513 OF 2004

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

As I always go and look back at answers to questions, I have noticed that at the beginning of the year in answer to Question No. 56 of 2004, the Minister said and I quote "*the breakdown of months, age and sex by the hon Member will be forwarded to her as soon as the information has been completed*". I must be honest that I did not ask for that information but seeing that the Minister was so kind to say that she would provide it, is she still in a position to provide it as she said in answer to Question No. 56 of January 2004?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

As far as I am concerned and I can recall she did ask that specific question and it was provided. I am pretty sure it was but I will double check for her.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

I have looked at the question is exactly the same as the one which I have just asked, and I did not ask any supplementaries because I have checked, we already have

Hansard. Anyway, if she checks and goes back and sees that she has very kindly offered to provide it, will she provide it?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Certainly, but I am sure we did.

ORAL

NO. 1514 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

ELDERLY CARE AGENCY

Can Government state what part of the contract of the Elderly Care Agency with ADA Ltd stipulates a condition that all of ADA Ltd's employees must be qualified and what qualifications are required?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1515 to 1517 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1515 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

ELDERLY CARE AGENCY

What is the experience that employees of ADA Ltd must have to meet the condition that if they are not qualified they must have "experience"?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1514 and 1516 to 1517 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1516 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

ELDERLY CARE AGENCY

Can Government state when ADA Ltd opened the vacancies for carers with the ETB and which qualifications were required from prospective applicants?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1514, 1515 and 1517 of 2004.

NO. 1517 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

ELDERLY CARE AGENCY

Can Government explain whether the payment to ADA Company Limited by the Elderly Care Agency is for an hourly rate per carer provided and if so what was the hourly rate in 2003/2004 and what is it currently?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS

Answer to Question No. 1514

Clause 3 of the contract with ADA Ltd states: "All care workers will be expected to have qualifications or recognised experience in care of the elderly". The qualifications required are: Certificate of achievement in geriatric nurse auxiliary or clinic nurse auxiliary.

Answer to Question No. 1515

Recognised experience means that a care worker must have worked in a Care Home, Hospice or Hospital and this must be confirmed by the previous employer together with a reference.

Answer to Question No. 1516

ADA first opened vacancies with the ETB in February 2002. More vacancies have been opened to date, the last one being on 7th October 2004. The answer to the latter part of this question has already been provided in Question No. 1514 of 2004.

Answer to Question No. 1517

ADA is not paid on an hourly rate basis. There is a contract sum to provide a certain number of hours a year.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1514 TO 1517 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

Presumably the contract sum for a certain number of hours a year is on a rate per hour?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

No, not necessarily.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can the Minister then tell me how many hours they are required to pay for the £160,000 we have got in the estimates and then I will work it out myself?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I will certainly do that. The contract provides 44 hours of care per day plus seven and a half hours daily on weekdays, that is a total of 18,010 hours per annum. But the hon Member must bear in mind that hourly rates differ, for example, if the carers work during the weekends.

HON J J BOSSANO:

During the weekends it is seven and a half hours, is it?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

No, it is an extra seven and a half hours weekdays.

HON F R PICARDO:

In relation to the qualifications we have been told that the Certificate of achievement or geriatric care or nursing auxiliaries. Given that most of the people who obtained employment with ADA were from Spain, what is the equivalent recognised qualification from Spain, given that so many of the employees hail from that territory?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I do not know the exact name of the equivalent, but I am aware that it is not possessed by anybody, at least any Gibraltarian who has applied for the post within ADA.

HON F R PICARDO:

Do the Spanish employees of ADA who have managed to obtain employment have that equivalent Spanish qualification or do they only have equivalent experience?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Actually the qualification is a Spanish qualification and for the purpose of the question we have translated it as best we can into English.

HON F R PICARDO:

What is the English qualification which the Gibraltarians do not have then?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

That is what I have just said, that I am not aware of the qualification is or, indeed, whether it exists in Gibraltar or not.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So in fact what we are being told is that in giving out this contract the Government put as a condition that they had to employ people who could only be Spanish because Gibraltarians do not have the certificate that was being asked for. It sound like that.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

No, it was the ECA not the Government, who sub-contracted to a company, albeit a Spanish one which was the only one who applied who had the requirements, and it is they who stipulated in the contract that they had to have either relevant qualifications or recognised experience, which I must say some Gibraltarians do have.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I know it is the Elderly Care Agency which is a Statutory body of which the Minister is the Chairman, so it is not good giving the impression that we are talking about a third party which she has nothing to do with. What I am asking is if in fact it is either experience or a certificate and we are being told that nobody in Gibraltar can have that certificate because it is a certificate one obtains in Spain, and people with Gibraltarian qualifications or UK qualifications would not have it, and that it is for the benefit of the House that we have been given an English translation. In fact, when the vacancies were opened in February 2002, presumably none of the people who were registered unemployed could possibly apply for those vacancies other than they had some experience which presumably they were unlikely to have in Gibraltar if this was a new thing.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I have said that I am not aware if there is any sort of equivalent qualification in Gibraltar. It might be the case that there is. At this moment in time I am not aware, I can find out for the hon Member.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Does the Minister know whether when the vacancies were opened in February 2002, ADA followed what seems to be the practice of 90 per cent of the employers which open vacancies, which is that they already had the people to fill the vacancies at the same time?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I would not know the answer to that.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Given that the purpose of the question is to see what opportunities for local employment have been created through this, would the Minister find out and let us know?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

What I can say is that when ADA first opened vacancies, as I say in the ETB in February 2002, they opened vacancies for carers for the company. It does not necessarily mean that those carers were used under the contract with ECA. ADA provides a service to the community at large, both privately and under contract with ECA. It might be that these particular vacancies were not for carers for the ECA.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I see. So in fact, then some of the people that are working for the Elderly Care Agency could have been in the employment of ADA when ADA was given the contract. Is that what the Minister is saying? They did not take people on to fulfil the contract necessarily.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

No, maybe ADA already had carers who were already registered in the ETB and I assume that when these vacancies came up, I do not believe that ADA already had sort of sufficient carers on the sidelines waiting for someone to take them on. I assume that vacancies were opened at that precise time as well.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Yes but given that we were told in a previous answer to a question from my hon Colleague that all the employees are Spanish, and that they residents in Spain, the Spanish residents in Spain to my knowledge are not normally registered with the ETB as unemployed in Gibraltar. If they are registered anywhere they would be registered on the other side, so they would not be able to find out about the vacancies of ADA in the ETB, because that is not where they go looking for work. So my question is, in fact, if the vacancies were opened for the purpose of registering the workers, is it that in fact they had the workers already and then they registered the vacancy and registered the contract, which is something a lot of employers do?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I can find out, I do not know the answer.

HON F R PICARDO:

Just on the question of this qualification. Is the Minister telling us that the contract between ADA and the ECA states only that workers, who work under that contract for the ECA through ADA, must have a qualification or recognised experience but that the contract does not actually itself provide what that qualification is, and that subsequently therefore, by agreement I suppose between the company and ECA, the qualification sought is this certificate of achievement, whatever it is in Spanish that has been kindly translated? That is the position?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Yes. The contract does not actually state what qualifications are required. It is ADA who stipulates the level of qualification that it requires for its employees.

HON F R PICARDO:

If the contract is with the ECA, what does the ECA want in respect of the people who are providing care to its clients so to speak?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

The proper qualifications or recognised experience.

HON F R PICARDO:

Given that the ECA is a Gibraltar body, what qualification of the United Kingdom or of Gibraltar does the Minister wish to see those individuals who work for her having, in order to take care of her clients, if I may call them that?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Whatever equivalent qualification exists in Gibraltar.

HON F R PICARDO:

Equivalent to what?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Equivalent qualification to the standard that is provided by the employees of ADA, or required by them.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is the standard being laid down by ADA or by the ECA?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

By ADA.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Can I just clarify? The contract is between ADA and the ECA. Now the domiciliary care is run by a Domiciliary Care Committee, who double check and are on top of every single carer. In fact they have the right, and they do, to check every single vacancy that comes out and to see the people that have applied whether they are up to scratch. That is something that they do, they are on top of all the carers that are employed by ADA.

HON J J BOSSANO:

If we ask the Government what is the requirement laid down by the Elderly Care Agency?, and we are told that the requirement laid down by the Elderly Care Agency is that people must have the qualification laid down by ADA. Is that the answer?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The position is that the Government have a contract with this company to provide the service, and that contract says in Clause 3 that all care workers will be expected to have qualifications or recognised experience in care for the elderly. ADA has decided what qualifications it is going to ask from its employees in order to satisfy that Clause, the qualifications part of it anyway. If what the hon Member is saying, as I understood him but I think I have already answered him off microphone, if he is getting at 'has the Elderly Care Agency itself sat down to define what qualifications it wants to enforce against ADA

under Clause 3', the answer is that I think it has not done that, but I think that it has just demanded qualifications and the contractor has in effect decided what the qualification is and the Elderly Care Agency appears to be content with that, but it is not their decision. One of the vacuums that there has historically been in Gibraltar is a failure to have specific qualifications in relation to social care of this sort. I suppose that will have to be looked at, but as far as we are aware, the Elderly Care Agency has not said to ADA, we require this, this or that qualification. The phrase 'or recognised experience' is precisely to allow, not to exclude Gibraltarians from access to ADA jobs, because Gibraltarians may have experience in care for the elderly even though they may not have qualifications.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Then the net result is that ADA might simply have come up with the qualification that their employees already happen to have, and said that is the standard that we want. So would it not be a good idea for the Elderly Care Agency itself to come to a view, as the customer, as to what it might want?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, I think the position is that the Elderly Care Agency appears to be content with the standard of labour and qualifications, so I suppose it is just dedicating its management resources to other things, given that it is content with that, but that does not preclude them and I agree that with him should not preclude them, from exercising their own judgement as to what the correct qualifications are. These people may be over qualified or under qualified, I agree with him. I think the Chairman of the Elderly Care Agency, I am sure, will take our views into account.

HON F R PICARDO:

Will the Minister come back to this House at the next Question Time, or at any other time convenient perhaps write to us, to tell us what the determinations of the Elderly Care Agency are in that respect, to put our minds at rest?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Minister, the Chairman of the Elderly Care Agency, accounts to me not to the hon Opposition Member. If the hon Opposition Members wants to ask her a question in future to see whether the hon Lady has taken steps or has not taken steps, he is of course free to do that, but there is not question of the Minister committing herself to come back to report to this House. For a start there is no procedure of this House that enables her to do that. I suppose she could make a formal statement in the House but there is not really a Parliamentary procedure in response to this Question and Answer Session. I think that the hon Member should just remember to make a note at the next Question Time to ask as question that gets to the same point.

NO. 1518 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

MINIMUM INCOME GUARANTEE

Can Government explain, if £500,000 had been spent on payment of the minimum income guarantee by December 2003, how is it that the cost for 12 months to March 2004 is £490,000?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS

It appears that in a supplementary question arising from Question No. 93 of 2004, the hon Member was given the erroneous impression that the figure of £500,000 was the cost until the end of December 2003. The figure was actually the estimated expenditure until the end of the financial year.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1518 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

I was given the erroneous impression because I actually asked whether it was a projection or whether that was the money that was being spent, and I was told it was the money that had been spent. It was just that it was a mistake, is that it?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Well, I will rephrase. The hon Member was given an incorrect answer.

ORAL

NO. 1519 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SOCIAL INSURANCE SCHEDULES

Can Government provide a breakdown for the return of social insurance schedules as at 30th September 2004, in respect of each quarter since quarter 1/01, giving the number of employees in the private and official sectors and the self-employed?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question No. 1520 of 2004.

NO. 1520 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SOCIAL INSURANCE SCHEDULES

Can Government provide a breakdown for the return of social insurance schedules as at 30th September 2004, in respect of each quarter since quarter 1/01, giving the numbers of employees in the private and official sectors and the self-employed, for persons entering insured employment in each such quarter?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS

Answer to Question No. 1519

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

Answer to Question No. 1520

At present the DSS computer system cannot provide the information requested.

Answer to Question 1520

Answer to Question No 1519 of 2004

Social Insurance Returns as at 30 September 2004

	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
Qtr.1/01	1252	14738	784	482	1062	9938	670	348	4241	85	38	559
Qtr.2/01	1262	15121	892	485	1068	10269	771	350	4291	84	38	561
Qtr.3/01	1277	15253	1160	486	1068	10431	981	344	4266	124	45	556
Qtr.4/01	1286	15026	1269	488	1061	10199	1105	345	4281	91	46	546
Qtr.1/02	1309	15491	981	814	1066	10571	895	615	4363	56	57	557
Qtr.2/02	1329	15579	1098	797	1066	10658	962	598	4362	98	57	559
Qtr.3/02	1345	15705	1346	796	1074	10780	1168	597	4357	131	57	568
Qtr.4/02	1356	15505	1406	790	1066	10517	1219	591	4426	118	57	562

"cont..."

"Contd Answer to Question 1519 of 2004"

Note:-

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1519 AND 1520 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is it that they cannot provide it going back to the beginning of this system of schedules? Would they be able to provide it, say, for the last quarter in September or does the Minister not know?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

No, I believe that the program has to be modified in order to be able to provide that information from the outset.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is it possible to do it for the most recent quarter? Or is it possible to do it, for example, from the current date on?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

No.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I suspect the problem is for persons entering insured employment in each such quarter. In other words, the reporting qualification is not programmed.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In the old days, it was possible for the hon Members to provide the insurance card issued new in each quarter or in each month, which is effectively the people who were entering the labour market and entering insured employment. I am surprised that a more sophisticated system is not able to do something that could be done with bits of paper and stamps stuck on it.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Well, it is possible to do it and as I say the DSS is looking at the possibility, the viability of having the program modified to be able to produce that information in the future.

ORAL

NO. 1521 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

DOMICILIARY CARE SERVICE

Can Government explain why the provision of £160,000 for the Domiciliary Care Service in 2003/2004 was not all spent by the Elderly Care Agency?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question No. 1524 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1522 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

MINIMUM INCOME GUARANTEE

Can Government give a breakdown for the number of pensioners in receipt of the minimum income guarantee showing the number receiving the single and married rates in bands of £5 up to the full amount as at December 2003?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS

Question No. 89 of January 2004 posed an identical question to which the answer was provided in schedule form.

NO. 1523 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SOCIAL INSURANCE – INSURED PERSONS

Can Government confirm that in the distribution of insured persons as at the end of each calendar year since 1996, the numbers include persons who may have only worked and been insured for only one week in each year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS

I confirm that those persons who may have only worked and been insured for only one week are not included in the distribution of insured persons, unless they were in insurable employment during the last week of each calendar year.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1523 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

So in fact, the count then is made up of the people who are at the end of December, and people who come in and out of the labour market during the year are not included in that total?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

That is correct.

NO. 1524 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

DOMICILIARY CARE SERVICE

Can Government state how many of the 12 people that were waiting to be assessed for Domiciliary Care as at the end of March 2004, identified in answer to Question No. 927/2004, are now receiving Domiciliary Care?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS

Answer to Question No. 1521

When a policy decision was reached to provide funds for Domiciliary Care, the ECA was provided with £160,000 for this purpose. When the ECA decided to put the service out to contract the expression of interest received was for a sum which fell short of £160,000. The ECA at that stage increased contract hours to an additional seven and a half hours of care on weekdays in order to maximise on the approved budget without overspending. In other words, without going over the £160,000 which had been approved. In addition, the full provision of the service was not given from the outset. This was phased in as and when referrals and assessments were made.

Answer to Question No. 1524

The 12 domiciliary care assessments were carried out after March 2004. None of these applicants have to date received domiciliary care.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1521 AND 1524 OF 2004

HON C A BRUZON:

Can the Minister confirm whether or not the people who are not waiting to be assessed but actually on the list already assessed and considered to qualify for domiciliary care, are these people receiving domiciliary care? Obviously there is a list of people that have been assessed and considered to qualify.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

No, there is still a waiting list for domiciliary care, but what I can say is that since the last question on the subject, some more people have received domiciliary care but there is still a waiting list.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is the fact that the amount spent fell short of £160,000, can I ask whether the £160,000 is the amount that is estimated in a full year would be required to obtain the 18,010 hours that the Minister gave me in answer to Question No. 1517 of 2004?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I assume so. Obviously not all that number of hours were covered, that is why the expenditure was less than £160,000 for reasons that I have just explained.

HON J J BOSSANO:

That was not my question. My question was, can the Minister confirm that in a full year the £160,000 would buy 18,010 hours?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can the Minister say, in fact, by how many hours short of 18,010 the service was provided in the financial year 2003/2004?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I would need notice of that question.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Given that that is the answer she has told me to the original question, which was to explain why the whole of the money was not spent, when she said that less hours were delivered than budgeted for because the matter was phased in, she does not know how much less it was?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

No, I know how much less it was in sort of cost but not in number of hours.

ORAL

NO. 1525 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

SOCIAL SERVICES – CHILDREN IN CARE

Can Government confirm that there are still five flats being used for children in care as a replacement for the Residential Home as indicated to this House in answer to Question No. 930/2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1526 to 1528 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1526 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

SOCIAL SERVICES – CHILDREN IN CARE

Can Government state if the two flats currently being used for children in care in Merlot House, Vineyards, are included in the five mentioned in answer to Question No. 930/2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1525, 1527 and 1528 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1527 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

SOCIAL SERVICES – CHILDREN IN CARE

Can Government state when they intend to move the service users in the flats in Merlot House, Vineyards, to their new Home?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1525, 1526 and 1528 of 2004.

NO. 1528 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

DR GIRALDI HOME

Can Government state if a decision on the future use of the respite unit at the Dr Giraldi Home has now been reached?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS

Answer to Question No. 1525

No. There are now six flats being used for children in care.

Answer to Question No. 1526

No flats at Merlot House are currently being used for children in care. The five flats mentioned in answer to Question No. 930/2004 did not include any Merlot House flats.

Answer to Question No. 1527

One of the service users housed at a flat in Merlot House, Vineyards, will move by the 18th October 2004. The Agency is trying to acquire a suitable flat in another location for the other service user currently living in Merlot House.

Answer to Question No. 1528

The respite service will revert back to Dr Giraldi Home very shortly after modification works to the unit are completed.

ORAL

NO. 1529 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – SPONSORED PATIENTS

Can the Minister for Health provide details of the new arrangements between the GHA and the Department of Health, regarding the payments for our Sponsored Patients' treatment in the UK, which now involve a sum of money rather than the number of patients treated?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question No. 1530 of 2004.

NO. 1530 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – HEALTH CARE RECIPROCAL AGREEMENT

Can the Minister now confirm what is the total amount of money which has been credited by the UK Department of Health to the Gibraltar Health Authority, as a result of the new arrangements for the Health Care Reciprocal Agreement giving a breakdown of the years the amounts relate to?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answer to Question No. 1529

As the hon Member may recall, the quota number was arrived at by dividing the total value to be credited to the Authority by the average cost to the UK of quota patients for the year of the account. The new system allows for the full cash value to be credited to the Authority without the application of any further formulae. This cash value is deposited by the UK Department of Health with Lambeth Primary Care Trust (PCT). This can be topped up as necessary from our own funds in the same way as we have been operating over the last few years. Lambeth PCT continue to act as our paymasters and pay the hospitals for the cost of the relevant treatment.

Answer to Question No. 1530

This year the UK Department of Health has credited us with £2.75 million. This allocation was based on agreed figures up to 2000/2001 and part payment on estimates and projections to March 2005. The breakdown in respect of the allocations for the period April 1993 to March 2001 is set out in the schedule that I now hand to her.

Answer to Question No. 1530 of 2004

YEAR	,000
1993/94	(£61)
1994/95	(£8)
1995/96	(£4)
1996/97	£263
1997/98	£3
1998/99	£25
1999/00	£328
2000/01	£402
TOTAL	£948

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1529 AND 1530 OF 2004

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

When we are talking about a total of £948,000 we are going back to the year 1993/1994, am I correct? This is the schedule which the Minister has handed to me.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

That is what the schedule says.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Now, in that case, can the Minister confirm whether the monies that have been provided in the Estimates for the Gibraltar Health Authority as regards sponsored patients takes into account the total of the figures from 1993/1994 to the year 2002 and 2001? Can he confirm, therefore, is that the reason why the actual for sponsored patients was £4 million and now the estimate for this financial year is £2.3 million?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I am not sure I understand the hon Member's supplementary. The system has changed with effect from a certain date. The figure that I have provided is up to the period 2001. We have agreed a figure of £2.75 million. That figure will be updated as and when further figures are available. Whatever other figure the hon Member has in front of her from previous questions, she should now update with this information.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Yes but what I am asking the Minister is whether in fact, and I think this is what he answered in the last meeting of the House when we expressed our concerns during the Committee Stage of the Budget, if he looks at the Estimates for the Gibraltar Health Authority on sponsored patients there is a figure there for this financial year of £2.3 million, and the actual figure for the year 2002/2003 was £4.1 million. In that figure, the enormous difference, is he taking into account these figures that he has provided me with, which is related to the sponsored patients estimate for this financial year?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Of course we are. This information I gave to the hon Member at Budget time. I explained that the figure for sponsored patients this year was abnormally lower than that for previous years, and I explained to her then that this was due to the fact that this new arrangement provides a cash credit which allows us not to spend so much money out of our own pocket as it were in this current year. Of course it takes it into account and of course one balances with the other.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Will it mean therefore, the next financial year the figure will also be lower than the £4.1 million?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No, it means nothing of the kind. It means that for the next financial year I will give her an explanation on the figures that appear in the Estimates, as and when they are provided to me and as and when I know the answers to whatever questions she asks me then. I cannot speculate on what the figures are going to be then or what her questions are going to be.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

But the Minister can say that, for example, the figures that he has given me come up to the year 200 and 2001. When he receives the figure for 2002/2003, he will use that figure to actually decrease the estimate for the sponsored patients?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes of course we will. The principle will remain the same.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Are these arrangements in fact affected by the consortium arrangement that the Health Authority has made with Jersey and Guernsey? If so, how?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No, it depends what the hon Member means by affected. They have come about as a result of the consortium arrangements and better cooperation with the other island territories and with Lambeth PCT. Essentially, nothing has changed except the calculation and the fact that financially we are marginally better off. In the past the system has been one where there has been a balancing of the books, UK has paid us for the patients we have treated in Gibraltar, we have paid UK for the patients we had treated there. Now the formula for calculating it can only have been worked out by an accountant with a view to saving the UK money, because if hon Members analyse what I said in the first paragraph of my answer, the system used to be one where the total value, in other words the total cost of dealing with our patients in the UK was divided by the average cost of quota patients. Now if one divides by the average cost of a patient, because some patients travel to the UK more than once, one is obviously dividing by a higher figure and the number that is then created is not a figure in pounds but a numerical figure and that is the number that we were entitled to patients for the following year. So in fact, we were getting a quota in numbers lower than it would have been if it would have been worked out in figures. The new arrangement is completely simpler.

The new arrangement is the amount that we are entitled to in pounds is the amount that we are paid without any fiddling. Fiddling implies malpractice, without any further mathematical adjustments. So I am satisfied that the new system is an improvement on the old system, it has been brought about because of the new consortium arrangements and we stand to get more money as the figures are adjusted. It takes them I do not know how many years to produce the figures, as the hon Member is well aware, and eventually the quota number will disappear completely and it will be just a straightforward balancing of figures in amounts of money.

HON J J BOSSANO:

But if in fact it is a question of an amount of money being credited, then is it not that the number of people that we send for that money dependant on how much we get charged by the hospitals or institutions that our patients get treated at? Is that independent of this formula and decided by the institution actually carrying out the treatment?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes, I trust the hon Member is not confusing the way the system works. This amount of money is not a cap on the amount of patients we can send to the UK. This amount of money is the UK's contribution. If we need to send more people, then again as I have said in the answer, the amount gets topped up as necessary, the amount held by Lambeth PCT and which they pay to the hospitals. If Lambeth run out of money in any given year on our behalf, we top it up from our own funds and hence the lower number in the sponsorship vote for this year. The amount to which we are entitled to does not in any way cap our ability to send people to the UK.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I know, the ability to send people depends on the amount of money that we have and nothing else, but it does cut the amount that they pay for presumably. If the United Kingdom under the old system said, 'we will pay for the first 50', what I am saying now is the £2.7 million or whatever might turn out to be more than 50 or less than 50 depending on what we get charged by different institutions. Is that the case or not?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

If one did the whole exercise in the way it was done before and applied the mathematical figure, yes, it is bound to be different. Which way it would work out to be different I could not say.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I was under the impression from the answers given previously, that the Minister was telling the House that this was more beneficial and that we end up getting more patients treated for our money than under the previous system. That is why my supplementary

says does that not depend on what the recipient institution that handles the patient charges us.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

It depends on that if one applies the previous years figures on which the calculations were done, to this years lot of patients, but if one works out on an apples for apples basis last years figures with last years patients, then we are better off. The hon Member is right, if working on last years figures we are entitled to 50 patients for the coming year, and in the coming year the hospitals put up their charges by 50 per cent, then yes it would work against us. If we look at the year in which the calculation was made then it has to work out to a slightly advantageous system for us. On a pure mathematical basis.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So in fact the arrangement does not do anything about what we can be charged, we get charged whatever is the market rate, is that correct?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

That is correct. Again, let me stress the market rate is the NHS rate in this particular case, and we have in this process, in this association with the consortium, we have come across cases in some leading hospitals where we were not being charged what the hon Member has called the market rate. We were being over charged and that is also now being corrected, but that goes back about a year or so.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can the Minister say, are these arrangements, I always understood that ours were as a result of the reciprocal arrangements that we had in order to give each other EU rights, going back to 1973, is it that Jersey and Guernsey had similar arrangements with the UK?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I do not know the answer to that question. Well, it depends what the question is. If the question is whether they have similar arrangements of sending sponsored patients to the UK, well yes, then the answer is yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In our case it started with our membership of the EU, that is the point that I am making. Since their arrangements in the EU are not quite like ours, I wondered if they had a similar historical background to this.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

They do not have an EU relationship with the UK for these purposes. The Channel Islands are only part of the EU for the purposes of the Single Market in goods.

HON F R PICARDO:

Just to clarify one of the things that the hon Gentleman has said in reply. He said when we run out of money in that pot we top it up ourselves. Rather, when the allocation of the amounts credited to us in the UK run out, we top that up ourselves. In the context of the new arrangements for Jersey/Guernsey and us, the 'we' in the hon Gentleman's reply relates only to Gibraltar or to the consortium?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No, only to Gibraltar. The 'we' in consortium terms is purely to give us greater clout with the hospitals and the other institutions and bilaterally they are done by the consortium in certain cases on our behalf, but it is not a joint arrangement.

ORAL

NO. 1531 OF 2004

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 1st April 2004 to the end of September 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 1532 and 1544 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1532 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – SPONSORED PATIENTS

Can Government confirm what arrangements are in place for the payment by the Gibraltar Health Authority regarding our Sponsored Patients being treated in Spanish Medical Institutions?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 1531 and 1544 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1533 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS

Can Government state how many medical practitioners are on contract with the Gibraltar Health Authority, specifying their specialities and the period of time of their contracts?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

The information requested by the hon Member is contained in the schedule that I hand to her.

Answer to Question No. 1533 of 2004

The number of medical practitioners on contract is as follows:-

Dr. Jose Antonio Ferrera de Lara	- General Practitioner	- 01.07.03 - 31.01.05
Dr. Andy Gupta	- General Practitioner	- 09.06.03 - 31.01.05
Dr. Francisco Mena	- General Practitioner	- 26.01.04 - 25.01.05
Dr. Ricardo Pinto Ocaña	- General Practitioner	- 04.03.02 - 03.03.05
Dr. Ma Luisa Poyatos	- General Practitioner	- 19.05.03 - 31.01.05
Dr. Chimene Taylor	- General Practitioner	- 26.01.04 - 25.01.05
Dr. Joseph Thoppil-Antony	- General Practitioner	- 23.04.03 - 31.01.05
Dr. Marguerite Vassallo	- General Practitioner	- 01.12.88 - 31.03.04

Dr. Javier Angel Aparicio Ledesma	- Cons. Psychiatrist	- 19.04.04 - 18.04.07
Dr. Tadeusz Biedryzcki	- Cons. Pathologist	- 01.03.01 - 28.02.07
Mr. Alan Brooks	- Cons. Gynaecologist	- 02.07.01 - 01.07.04
Dr. Macbool Haroon	- Cons. Ophthalmologist	- 08.06.95 - 07.06.08
Dr. Stephen Higgs	- Cons. Paediatrician	- 01.02.03 - 31.01.06
Dr. Richard Roberts	- Cons. Anaesthetist	- 27.05.03 - 26.05.04
Mr David White	- Cons. Gynaecologist	- 02.02.04 - 01.02.07
Dr. Vijay Kumar	- Cons. Dir Public Health	- 02.02.98 - 01.02.11

Dr. Melinda Brecknell	- SHO	- 21.03.01 - 01.02.05
Dr Muhammad Hashmi	- SHO	- 05.02.03 - 01.02.05
Dr Fareed Malik	- SHO	- 06.08.03 - 01.02.05
Dr Francisco Moya	- SHO	- 05.02.03 - 01.02.05
Dr Mohamed Pervez	- SHO	- 28.01.02 - 01.02.05
Dr Humberto Rodriguez	- SHO	- 03.08.04 - 01.02.05
Dr Iqbal Sayed	- SHO	- 05.02.97 - 01.02.05
Dr Sohaid Yasin	- SHO	- 14.12.98 - 31.10.04
Dr Paul Martin	- SHO	- 04.08.05 - 01.02.05
Dr Peinado Romero	- SHO	- 04.08.04 - 01.02.05
Dr Jose Maria Merida	- SHO	- 05.02.01 - 01.02.05
Dr Karina Janse Van Rensburg	- SHO	- 27.09.04 - 01.02.05
Dr Philip Fortgens	- SHO	- 04.08.04 - 01.02.05
Dr Nadeem Shuja	- SHO	- 25.02.97 - 01.02.05

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1533 OF 2004

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

I have noticed that this is a very long list which I will have to study but I have just noticed that there are GPs with contracts for a year. Can the Minister explain why because I have always understood contracts to run for three years?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I have not made any changes to the practice of the length of contracts or how there are signed in the time that I have been Minister for Health, so the hon Member has asked me how many practitioners are on contract and that is the list, and whatever the policy has been in the past remains the same. There has been a slight change to that, as I speak on my feet I am remembering something, in that a number of contracts were due to end at various periods during the current year and they have been grouped to end on the same or similar dates in January 2005, so that GHA can be better placed to make selection for continuation of services. In terms of the length of the period of contract, no change has been imposed by me since I have been Minister.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Then I am correct in saying that when I was Minister the contracts used to run for three years. Can the Minister confirm whether the General Practitioners that have a contract for a year, whether they form part of the actual complement of GPs?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes of course they do, the only medical practitioners we have are the General Practitioners and the more I think about it the more I think the answer to her question must be that they are still on three year contracts, but because some of these contracts were due to end during the course of this year, and because of all the changes that have taken place in the GHA, we have extended their contracts so that they end all more or less together so that GHA are in a better position to consider who should have their contracts renewed.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

I do not think so because I do not like mentioning names but I can see that there is a doctor here, a General Practitioner who was not on contract. He was engaged as a Locum, and now I see that he has a contract for a year. This particular doctor I was told previously by the Government, that he was engaged as a Locum, he did not have a contract. I am referring to two of them which are here on the list.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The question was, 'how many practitioners are on contract specifying their speciality and the period of time of their contracts?'. That is the answer that has been supplied. If the hon Member wants other information then I suggest she ask me either during Question Time or writes to me.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Yes, because I am telling the Minister, there is a discrepancy here with the information I was given previously as regards two General Practitioners. Perhaps the Minister was not Minister for Health but there are two in particular that I was told in this House by the previous Minister for Health, that they did not have contracts, they were engaged as Locums, and therefore I will write to the Minister.....

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

But with respect to the hon Member, she does not seem to realise that time moves on. That answer may well have been correct when it was given and they may well have been Locums, and since then they may well have been.... If they are here on this list it is because they are now on contract. The situation has obviously changed.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Therefore, if they are here on the list as having a contract for a year, it seems peculiar that everybody else is not there for a year, that was my original supplementary. Why? Is it that they form part of the overall complement, or is it that the post that they are occupying is not part of the complement? Seeing that I am not getting a reply I will write to the Minister and will ask him for the information in writing if that is acceptable to him.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Of course it is acceptable, but for the sake of clarity I will repeat what I said. I am aware that we made certain decisions during the course of the year linked to the review, linked to changes in the Health Service and linked to the fact that something like five contracts were ending in the last three or four months of this year, and because of that some contracts were given for a shorter period, others were slightly extended and if she looks on the list she will find that many of them, in fact all except two, end at the end of January 2005. That is not a coincidence, that is a deliberate extension adjustment of dates so that at that date GHA is better placed to decide which contracts to renew and how to renew them and the terms of the contract.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So we are being told in fact, that in the case of doctors, the arguments that have been used in respect of other grades in the Health Service that there was our legal

requirement under EU law to treat them as permanent employees once they had a series of short term renewable contracts does not apply?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The point is this. The hon Members will have noticed, perhaps they have not, that there are substantial changes afoot in the Health Authority. Included in those changes are the terms and conditions of employment of Consultants and General Practitioners. One cannot re-negotiate contracts easily if everybody has different termination dates, because otherwise there is not a date in which one can change everybody. That is why there has been a sort of tidying up exercise so that they all end up ending on one date. So from that date, the Government are able to all of them to say these are the new terms of the contract. That negotiation is at a very advanced stage with the Consultants. I am not sure whether it is advanced or just starting with the General Practitioners. There are indeed two General Practitioners, as the hon Lady says, Doctor M and Doctor T, who were given one year contracts, and they were given one year contracts and that one year contract has not yet expired. They are still in their one year contract, that is why they are different. They were given one year contracts at the time and they are still in that one year. That is why they are different, this is the answer to her, this is the point that she was going to write about. There is no need to her to write about it. Those two are engaged, following a difficult recruitment process, they were both given one year contracts if she will remember back to those circumstances.

HON F R PICARDO:

Can I just ask in relation to the party whose contract seems to have expired in March of this year, what is the position? Given that she would no longer appear to be on contract, has that contract also been extended to that date in the early part of next year?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I do not know the answer to that question, is the short answer. I do not want to say things where I might be wrong but I think there is a possibility that the person concerned might be on maternity leave, but I do not say that with any degree of certainty. I am not aware why that contract appears not to have been renewed.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

I have looked at the list now in a little bit more detail and I have seen that there are two more General Practitioners whose contracts have already expired. We have one who is a Consultant Anaesthetist, whose contract expired on 26th May, and then we have another one who is a Consultant Gynaecologist whose contract here is shown as having expired on 1st July 2004.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

All those contracts are under negotiation with all the Consultants.

HON F R PICARDO:

So are they in that case, are they holding over until.....

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I suppose so, I suppose that the personnel people would not have wanted to renew the contract on terms that were being re-negotiated, but we are at a very advanced stage in those negotiations and all the Consultants would end up with the same form of contract, which is not the position they are in today.

ORAL

NO. 1534 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – DIALYSIS UNIT

Can the Government confirm that the negotiations with the Medical Staff at the Dialysis Unit in La Linea for the provision of medical cover and nursing cover have now been completed?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 1535 to 1538 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1535 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – DIALYSIS UNIT

Can Government state whether any recommendations have been accepted by them from the report they commissioned, in relation to Dialysis Facilities in Gibraltar, which was carried out by Professor Terry Feast?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 1534 and 1536 to 1538 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1536 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – DIALYSIS UNIT

Can the Government confirm whether they know how much they will be paying the Dialysis Unit in La Linea for the provision of Dialysis facilities at the Europort Hospital by their Medical and Nursing staff?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 1534, 1535 and 1537 to 1538 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1537 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – DIALYSIS UNIT

Can the Government confirm whether they have finished the negotiations with the Medical Staff at the Dialysis Unit in La Linea for the provision of nursing cover with the option of provision of training for local nurses included in the package?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 1534 to 1536 and 1538 of 2004.

NO. 1538 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – DIALYSIS UNIT

Can the Government confirm whether they have finalised the negotiations with the medical staff at the Dialysis Unit in La Linea for the provision of Medical Cover regarding the Dialysis facilities in the Europort Building?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answer to Question No. 1535

Professor Terry Feast thought very highly of the dialysis facilities at La Linea and recommended that we should continue using that facility. However, Government are committed to provide the treatment to our patients in a local facility and have not accepted the recommendations contained in the report.

Answer to Question Nos. 1534 and 1536

The Gibraltar Health Authority has reached agreement in principle with the dialysis unit in La Linea for the provision of these services locally. No agreements have yet been signed and the financial details are therefore considered confidential at this stage.

Answer to Question Nos. 1537 and 1538

However, I can confirm that the arrangements being entered into include the provision of training of local nurses, all nephrological medical cover, including out-patient clinics and ward visits as well as the dialysis itself.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1534 TO 1538 OF 2004

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Can the Minister confirm whether the Gibraltar Health Authority is looking at a situation where at some stage our local personnel will be able to man the dialysis unit at the Europort Building?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

We are not in a position to say that. We are crossing one bridge when we come to it. At the moment the objective is that the existing service, which is provided physically in La Linea by the La Linea Clinic, will be in future provided physically in Gibraltar by the La Linea Clinic, on our machines, in our hospital. Now, whether that in future develops to the ability of the Gibraltar Health Authority directly employed staff to deliver the whole range of the service, depends on whether local medical people acquire the necessary skills or whether they do not. Some of the facilities may be able to be localised in that sense, others not. It is a desirable objective but whether it realistically will be achieved is something which is hypothetical and speculative at this stage. I suspect that it is going to be easier to sort of localise the nursing aspects rather than the medical aspects, where one could only re-do it by employing a Consultant nephrologist. That is really quite a way down the line, considering we have got just between twelve and twenty patients usually. So, as the Minister has said in his answer, it does include the provision of local training to nurses with a view to, as much as possible of the package, in future being provided in Gibraltar by Gibraltar staff rather.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Well I mentioned it because I got an answer in the previous meeting of the House, where the Minister actually said '*with the option of provision of training for local nurses included in the package*', that is why I asked the question.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

He has just said the same today.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

What I am saying is, that the Chief Minister is saying that it is hypothetical and it is this and the other, and all I am saying is that I put the question in because I got the reply from the Minister for Health in the last meeting of the House, when he actually said '*the dialysis unit in La Linea with the provision of nursing cover and we have the option of provision for training for local nurses included in the package*'.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

What is hypothetical is not the question about the provision of local nurse training, she has now had the answer twice to tell her that there is local nurse training provided. What is hypothetical is her supplementary this afternoon in which she asked whether this was all done with a view to in future the whole package being provided locally, not nursing, the whole package she asked. *'Does this mean that in future the whole package is going to be provided locally?'*

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

I did not say the whole package. Can the Minister say whether the negotiations are at a stage where the Government hope that they will be in place when the new hospital opens?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Negotiations are at a very advanced stage and it is really the question of drafting legal papers that is holding us up.

NO. 1539 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – PRIMARY CARE CENTRE

Can the Minister for Health now confirm, since he stated during this year's budget session, that the treadmill machine donated last year to the Primary Care Centre would be updated to a stress machine for use at the Europort Hospital, who will be operating it?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Government can confirm that the treadmill donated last year will be upgraded and used at the new facility for stress testing if prior authorisation is given by those who donated the equipment. Such authorisation has been sought but has not yet been given. Staff in the Medical Investigation Unit at the New Hospital will be responsible for its operation.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1539 OF 2004

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Again I thank the Minister for changing his mind to when I first raised the issue, when he said that the Government were not prepared to buy the additional gadgets, but again, he has now changed his mind and I am thanking him.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No, I am not sure how much the hon Member understands of this stress machine and the background to it, and how much she does not know about. What I said on the last occasion was that a treadmill had been donated, that it was not a stress machine which was the subject of her question, and that the Government were not prepared to buy the necessary software to convert it into a stress machine to be operated in the Primary Health Care Unit. If, given the right circumstances and following the medical advice we would be prepared to operate it in the right environment, and in those circumstances either the original donors can upgrade the equipment, or we will upgrade it and use it as a stress machine in its proper environment, which is the Hospital and not the Primary Care Unit.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

That means that when it is in the Hospital then we are talking that there will be two stress machines.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

If by that she means the one that is there now and the new one, then the answer is yes.

NO. 1540 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – DENTAL SERVICE

Can Government confirm whether Private Practice continues at the Dental Service of the Primary Care Centre?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Yes Sir.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1540 OF 2004

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Is the hon Member reading the question?

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Yes. Can Government confirm whether private practice will continue at the Dental Service of the Primary Care Centre?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, that is not the question of which we have had notice.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

That is not the question which I have in front of me. It is just continues.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

They are wholly different questions.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

This is how I phrased it.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I cannot see what she wrote, I can tell what has reached us. Can the Government confirm whether private practice continues..... The hon Member should just clarify which she means to us, that is all so that we know which question we are answering.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Will continue.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Let me answer both her questions. To the question in front of me which was as it is written in my Order Paper, '*can Government confirm whether private practice continues at the Dental Service at the Primary Care Centre?*' the answer would have been Yes, Sir, because it does continue at this moment in time. In answer to her re-phrased question as if it had come in a supplementary, the answer to whether it will continue, that is a completely different question and the answer to that is No Sir.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Just a point of clarification. We knew that it existed because I got an answer from the previous Minister for Health in answer to Question No. 302 of 2001 when he confirmed that there was private practice at the Dental Clinic at the Health Service, that is why. I just wanted to know whether it would continue. Thank you. So the answer is no it will not continue.

NO. 1541 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – DENTAL SERVICE

In view that the Minister for Health in answer to Question No. 829 of 2004 stated that the Healthcare Development Team had highlighted Dental Service staffing and waiting times for patients as being inadequate, whether it is still the GHA's intention to recruit additional staff?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

The Gibraltar Health Authority is conducting a full review of Dental Services to determine the appropriate mix of staff and distribution of resources between the Primary Care Centre and the new hospital. Any bid for additional resources will be considered as part of the 2005/2006 Estimates. That is the end of my written answer but I have just noticed something that I missed when the answer was being drafted. That is the word 'inadequate' as part of the question which is attributed to me in answer to Question No. 829. I have my answer to Question No. 829 in front of me and nowhere in that answer do I use the word 'inadequate'.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1541 OF 2004

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

No, I think it was the Healthcare Development Team that made reference to the situation at the Clinic. In any case, the answer that I got from the Minister in answer to Question No. 827 of 2004, he did say that several attempts were made in recent months to recruit additional staff in order to meet the increased demand that has arisen from the expansion and the development of the Dental Services, and it has proved unsuccessful. That is why I put the question in.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

That is correct. It had proved unsuccessful. If I remember rightly we were recruiting a Locum as well and that proved unsuccessful as well.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

But they will continue with their efforts.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I have already given the answer, that we are looking at the situation and we will decide with a view to the next financial year.

NO. 1542 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – E111 ARRANGEMENTS

Can the Government confirm whether they will be replacing the E111 arrangements for emergency treatment, in view of the new system which has been implemented in other EU Member States?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Yes Sir.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1542 OF 2004

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Can the Minister give an indication of when this will occur?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Well, we are currently starting an interim period which has been granted to a number of countries including the UK, to proceed with what has been called an interim E111, which in effect is the same or very similar form and it will be a paper E111. The main exception is that we need to issue one per member of the family instead of using one per family group. This interim system is valid until the end of December next year and the interim system will come into being some time between now and then. In fact, we are to a certain extent soft-peddling because we have been asked by the UK, who are not ready to bring in the new card themselves, to delay the introduction of our new E111 to coincide with theirs, but I suspect all things being equal we will see it happening towards the end of next year.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

I suppose that these arrangements will form part of the overall negotiations we are talking about between the UK and Gibraltar.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No it is beyond that. These are EU Directives which have now been formulated and the Commission has issued very specific instructions on the format of the card. It includes the cover of the fields, the shading effects, the font type to be used, the size of it, it is extremely detailed and we are now at the stage of actually having cards printed. We have equipment for it, it is moving on a common front across the EU.

NO. 1543 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – A & E DEPARTMENT

In view of the statement made during this year's budget session by the Minister for Health, can he now confirm when there will be a Senior House Officer permanently based from 5.00 pm to 9.00 am at the Accident & Emergency Department at the Europort Hospital, a recommendation made by the Nursing Review Team in 1997?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

The Government have commissioned reviews by the Gibraltar Healthcare Development Team of medical staff provision which includes appropriate staffing levels for Accident & Emergency services. Following receipt and consideration of these reports, Government will make decisions on future staffing levels for Accident & Emergency Services. Can I also add this to the end of my prepared text? But similar to my previous question, I again just noticed that I am attributed to have made a statement to the effect of changes in the question, and I have looked through my budget session statement and I find nothing there of my having made any statement to that effect.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1543 OF 2004

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

No, I think that nobody has accused the Minister of changing the question.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No, the hon Member misunderstands. The first line of this question, says '*in view of the statement made during this year's budget session by the Minister for Health*'. I am saying that I have my budget statement here and I have looked through it seriously and I find no mention of Senior House Officers of A&E or of the Europort Hospital in that context.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

I understand that and I know why, because when I was delivering my budget speech he intervened and he said 'yes, we *will have it at the Europort Building*'. That is why.

NO. 1544 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Can Government confirm whether they accept that they should provide the necessary financial assistance to those of our patients who require transplants when these can be obtained in Spanish Medical Institutions?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answer to Question No. 1531

As the hon Member is by now well aware, all patients are given the choice to be treated in Spain as opposed to the UK at the time of referral when considered appropriate by the referring Consultant. 168 patients out of 622 have elected to go to Spain during the period 1 April 2004 to end of September 2004.

Answer to Question No. 1532

This administration has not made any changes to the arrangements for payment to Spanish Medical institutions. The arrangements have been in place for many years and conform to the provisions of EU Regulations 1407/71 and 574/73. That is to say, the relevant EU form, usually the E112, is issued to the receiving institution in the name of the patient concerned. The costs are then settled with the UK in the normal manner. For diagnostic investigations where the receiving institutions are private, the expenses are settled directly by the GHA.

Answer to Question No. 1544

Patients who are sponsored for organ transplants receive the same level of maintenance that apply to them under the policy. This is regardless of whether the patients are referred to the UK or to Spain.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1531, 1532 AND 1544 OF 2004

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

When the Minister refers that these arrangements for payment are done in the normal manner, is he referring to the reciprocal agreements with the UK?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

It is done on the basis of the EU form through the Spanish institution which finds its way to the UK and back to Gibraltar, yes.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Then what happens?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Payments are settled between the UK and us. Spain reclaim from the UK and the UK reclaims from us.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is it not that the normal manner used to be that this was what financed these reciprocal arrangements for sponsored patients before? Does the Minister not know that in the agreement between the United Kingdom and Gibraltar, the offsetting element on the sponsored patients was in fact the use that we made of services in Spain, which was then shunted back through London as if we were tourists in the Costa Del Sol, and then the bill sent to us and offset against the patients we sent to the UK. So, if the system for sponsored patients in the UK has changed, how has that affected the arrangements for payment, which was previously offset against the sponsored patients?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I am not aware of what the hon Member is saying. The arrangements as he has described them have not changed. Using his words "shunted through Spain onto the UK and back to us". Those may indeed have been part of the reciprocal arrangements. If they were, they still are, I have stressed we have made no changes, but this is an area where the hon Member, I hope, will not press me too much but I would be happy to give him further information privately, I am quite happy to answer any of his questions but it is an area where it is not in our interests to discuss too much publicly.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am interested in the extent to which the new arrangements which were the subject matter of a previous question, with this pot of money being provided. Given that in the arrangements that have existed until now, until this new system was put in place, the quota was the result of the netting of the amount that we had to pay the UK which the UK had to pay to Spain, which then depended on the netting between UK visitors and Spain and Spanish visitors in the UK being ill. In that exercise there was a plus or a minus either in the direction of the UK or in the direction of Spain, and then a subsequent plus or minus as between us and the UK, in which if I remember correctly, we also included a figure for the number of visitors from Spain across the land frontier that were given treatment by us here, which would then be offset in the opposite direction. Now what I am asking is if all that was part of the formula for arriving at the quota of patients for which we did not have to pay, and there is no longer a quota of patients for which we do not have to pay, how does that fit with the pot of money that the Department of Health in the United Kingdom put at the disposal of the Government of Gibraltar having scrapped the formula?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes, the arrangements that have existed as the hon Member has described, continue to exist and have not changed. In as much as they formed the basis of the mathematical formula for calculating the quota, which as the hon Member knows is a number of patients, that basis of financial information remains, that exercise of gathering information remains the same, that has not changed. The only thing that has changed is that instead of telling us 'next year you are entitled to 50 patients free of charge', as from now, as from last year they are telling us 'next year you are entitled to £x for the treatment of patients', as opposed to a number of patients. That is what has changed. The process of reaching either the quota or the amount of money has not changed and remains the same.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So in fact what the Minister is saying is that the amount of money that is available each year is still the result of the exercise that used to be done to produce the quota which was number of patients as opposed to amount of pounds.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

That is correct.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

I would just like to thank the Minister for a letter I received recently regarding a patient who requires a transplant, I honestly mean it, but I think that with a little push in the position wonders can also be achieved. I would like to congratulate the Minister for a

letter I received recently, reference a patient in Gibraltar who requires a transplant in Spain, and he wrote to me about it and it is a matter that goes back to February when the patient came to see me. I am writing to the Minister and I am thanking him but I am also saying at the same time that with a little push from the Opposition, I think that wonders can be achieved as well.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is a lot of the injuries of life that the hon Member has to take, because when the Minister responds to a protest from the hon Member subsequently we are going to be exposed to the accusation that it is only through her intervention, then the temptation for the Minister not to put himself in that position again may become irresistible. I would just have left it at the thank you which would have conveyed all the necessary points.

ORAL

NO. 1545 OF 2004

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 April, May, June, July, August and September of 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

The financial information requested by the hon Member is contained in the schedule that I hand to her.

Answer to Question No. 1545 of 2004

April	£564.12
May	£1205.58
June	£1345.72
July	-
August	£2578.25
September	£284.66
TOTAL	£5978.33

ORAL

NO. 1546 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – ROUTINE OPERATIONS

Can Government confirm how many routine operations were cancelled at St Bernard's Hospital due to the non-availability of beds for April, May, June, July, August and September of 2004, giving a breakdown for each month?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 1582 to 1584 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1547 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

Can Government confirm what has been the total Revenue and Expenditure of the Gibraltar Health Authority for the current financial year as at the end of August 2004, giving a breakdown by head?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

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

Answer to Question No. 1547 of 2004

SCHEDULE						
GIBRALTAR HEALTH AUTHORITY						
Receipts						
Contribution from S A F						1,458,333.00
G P M S						7,924,858.00
Contribution from Consolidated Fund						9,375,000.00
Contribution from I & D F						200,000.00
Other Receipts						148,641.00
Total						19,106,832.00
Payments						
Personal Emoluments						
Salaries						£5,398,109.00
Overtime						£739,179.00
Allowances						£1,135,006.00
Gratuities						£383,839.00
Total						£7,656,133.00
Industrial Wages						
Basic						£407,057.00
Overtime						£190,818.00
Allowances						£4,302.00
Total						£602,177.00
Other Personnel						
Relief Cover						£777,517.15
Visiting Consultants Fees and Expenses						£46,994.45
Recruitment Contractual Expenses and Accommodation						£295,879.24
Total						£1,120,390.84
Employer's Contributions						
Social Insurance						£275,231.47
Recurrent Expenditure						
Prescribed Drugs and Pharmaceuticals:						
GPMS Prescriptions						£3,840,146.90
Drugs and Pharmaceuticals						£708,769.40
Total						£4,548,916.30
Equipment and Related Expenses:						
Medical Departments						£117,011.52
Medical and Surgical Appliances						£269,427.33
Hardware, Uniforms and Linen						£83,897.45
Patients Appliances						£44,036.15
Total						£514,372.45
Dressings, Medical Gases and Tests						£656,292.09
Provisions						£132,147.05

Cont'd.....

Cont'd Answer to Question No. 1547 of 2004

Laundry and Cleaning:					
Laundry Expenses					£186,640.40
Cleaning Expenses					£46,943.71
Total					£233,584.11
ICC Health Centre					£95,485.22
Motor Vehicle and Fuel Expenses					£24,047.74
Office Expenses:					
General Expenses					£31,020.64
Electricity and Water					£133,855.26
Telephone Service					£139,010.51
Records, Printing and Stationery					£15,364.85
Total					£319,251.26
Legal Fees					£39,750.85
Official Travel Abroad					£6,689.99
School of Health Studies Expenses					£87,112.07
Insurances and Claims					£763,234.80
Sponsored Patients					£988,691.77
Miscellaneous Expenses:					
General					£111,284.68
Contingencies					£0.00
Total					£111,284.68
Ambulance Service					£509,851.00
Registration Board					£55.00
Repairs and Maintenance					£54,857.52
Disposal of Clinical Waste					£50,631.00
Ex Gratia					£1,785.69
New Hospital Development:					
Rental					£2,123,680.00
Running Expenses					£16,484.50
Total					£2,140,164.50
<u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u>					
Equipment					£7,088.04
Computerisation					£16,926.82
Capital Works					£608.00
Total					£24,622.86
TOTAL					£20,956,760.26

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1547 OF 2004

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Can the Minister confirm whether the Government are expecting another deficit?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

What does the hon Member mean by another deficit?

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Are they going to go over the budget, are they expecting that?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

That is another matter. The Health Authority necessarily function to a deficit. The question is do the Government expect the Government subvention to need to be higher? It would be unusual if it were not the case, although we try to curtail but a lot of the Health Authority expenditure is demand-led and cannot be controlled. For example, the amount consumed in prescriptions or the amount of demand on the Sponsored Patient Scheme, and therefore the Government cannot say with any certainty whether or not there is going to be a higher degree of subvention.

ORAL

NO. 1548 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – PAIN CLINIC

Can Government confirm what will be the staff composition within the Pain Clinic of the Gibraltar Health Authority once St Bernard's Hospital is transferred to the Europort Building?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question No. 1549 of 2004

NO. 1549 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – PAIN CLINIC

Can Government confirm whether the Pain Clinic of the Gibraltar Health Authority will be transferred to the Europort Building?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answer to Question No. 1548

As part of the on-going work of the Healthcare Development Team there have been reviews of the Clinical Services but not all of these have yet been presented to the Government. Government are therefore not currently in a position to confirm the exact staffing composition after transfer to the new hospital.

Answer to Question No. 1549

The Government are pleased to confirm that facilities have been made available in the new Europort Building to accommodate the Pain Clinic, which will transfer with other clinical services to the new hospital.

NO. 1550 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – NUMBER OF PATIENTS

Can the Minister for health confirm whether he has now been able to find out why there are different statistics given for the same periods, in the Government Abstract of Statistics, the Healthcare Development Team Report of 2003 and in this House, something I pointed out to him during the meeting of 30th April 2004, when he requested me to write to him with the relevant information, to which I have not yet received a reply?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

I can confirm that the errors pointed out by the hon Member have been due to administrative errors. I can further confirm that an exhaustive recount of the data in question has provided the figures shown in the schedule which I hand to the hon Member. These figures, I am told, are now accurate.

Answer to Question No. 1550 of 2004

Question No. 782 of 2004 relates to GP attendances at the Primary Care Centre. The figures for 2000, 2001 and 2002 are 86619, 104951 and 91615 respectively.

Question No. 781 of 2004 relates to the total number of out-patient attendances at the Primary Care Centre. The figure for 2000 is 130810.

Question No. 818 of 2004 relates to the total number of in-patient admissions at St Bernard's Hospital. The figures for 2000, 2001 and 2002 are as follows –

2000

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
555	528	559	485	616	491	576	527	529	561	550	519	6496

2001

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
551	581	532	517	574	553	528	517	493	557	553	418	6374

2002

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
514	522	473	513	522	447	526	485	484	477	425	486	5874

Question No. 820 of 2004 relates to the total number of out-patient attendances at St Bernard's Hospital. I can inform the hon Member that in this particular case, the Statistics Office omitted to include part of the figures in their reports as these are made up of Casualty Attendances and Out-Patient Clinic Attendances. I can confirm that the figures for 2000 are as follows –

Casualty Attendances

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
1603	1631	1783	1590	2456	1733	1896	2023	1859	1747	1528	1529	21378

Out-Patient Clinics

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
1011	1239	1252	1075	1369	1229	1255	1332	1369	1235	1431	939	14736

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1550 OF 2004

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

I will need time to check them and then I will see whether they are correct.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Well, let me clarify to avoid.....

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

I know what the Minister is saying, that whatever has been given before is wrong. This is correct, is that what he is saying?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Well, yes, but more than that. The hon Member drew a distinction and highlighted the differences between the figures provided by the Healthcare Development Team, by the Statistical Office of the Government and by information provided in answer to questions. I can only respond for the accuracy of information which is provided in answer to questions, and even that has been proved to be partly wrong in the exercise that we have now given. To save her the trouble, these figures we believe are now accurate. They will show some minor differences between what I am giving her now and the information I have given in the House previously, and they will also show differences with what has been given by the Healthcare Development Team and by the Statistics Office. I cannot answer for that but I am told that they have now looked at the data exhaustively and that this is the accurate figure. I wish I could stand here confidently and say that if the whole exercise was repeated the numbers would turn out to be exactly the same. I think one has to put that comment in context because I do not want it to sound flippant either, and that is that this information is invariably compiled in the short period available to get the answers ready in time for the House of Assembly. It is usually done by people who are not statisticians, who are diverted from doing other jobs which in many cases are professionally medical jobs in order to provide this information. Therefore, the hon Members should understand that although we try very hard to be accurate in the figures that we provide, that it is not beyond the limits possible for errors to be made.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Therefore the Minister was trying to suggest that we were not being accurate and what he has now said is completely the opposite. In fact, it took me about two weeks to seek the information, and when I informed the Minister he was trying to suggest in the letters and the debate that we had in the House, that we were not being accurate but he did not understand that he had to sort of compare apple with apple. In fact since he talks so

much about apples with apples, I am now eating apples more than ever before. An apple a day keeps the doctor away.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes, I remember making the clarification that when the hon Member pointed to three sets of figures, I said they were different, I said that we could not take that at face value and one had to look at the questions that were asked or the information that we had been provided in each of those sets of figures, to make sure that we were comparing one particular fruit with the same fruit, in order to see whether they were accurate or not accurate. I asked her to pinpoint exactly what the information was. She did. We have now looked into it and it is obvious that errors had been made and that has been admitted today.

NO. 1551 OF 2004

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 April 2004 to the end of September 2004, specifying each month?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 1552 and 1559 to 1562 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1552 OF 2004

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 1st April 2004 to end of September 2004, specifying each month?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 1551 and 1559 to 1562 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1553 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – OUT-PATIENT ATTENDANCES

Can Government state what was the total number of out-patient attendances at the Primary Care Centre from 1st April 2004 to the end of September 2004, specifying each month?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 1554, 1557 and 1588 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1554 OF 2004

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 April 2004 to end of September 2004 specifying each month?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 1553, 1557 and 1588 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1555 OF 2004

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 April to the end of September 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Sixteen Psycho-Geriatric patients were admitted into KGV from 1st April to 30 September 2004.

NO. 1556 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – LABORATORY SERVICES

Since the Government, in answer to Question No. 828 of 2004, confirmed that there has been an increase in demand for most Laboratory Services, whether they intend to increase resources in this department?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

The Government have commissioned clinical reviews of all of their speciality services including Pathology. These reports are under consideration and Government will determine in due course whether additional staffing is needed.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1556 OF 2004

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

When the Minister talks of commissioning a report, is he referring to the Clinical Governance Audit?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

The same review that is being undertaken at the moment?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes, within the overall review, clinical reviews of all specialities are being carried out.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Obviously the Minister is aware that the extra demand sought is actually highlighted by the Team itself.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes. It is also true that new equipment as it comes on line is able to provide more sophisticated tests, and in some cases more work can be done, greater output provided with fewer human resources. So increased demand for tests does not necessarily equate to increased human resources in each particular case.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Just out of curiosity, I remember that the previous Minister for Health, the Hon Dr Bernard Linares, said that tests were being sent to a clinic in Barcelona. Is that still being done today?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

If it was being done then and there was a need for it over and above somewhere else, presumably it is still being done now. I would not be able to answer that.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Except I remember the previous Minister saying that they were doing it as an interim arrangement and they were not sure how it would work, because the actual samples had to be transported by aeroplane and therefore, the GHA would be monitoring the situation and that is why I was interested in whether it was still being carried out or not, whether it had been found to be successful.

HON DR B A LINARES:

I remember that the GHA was concerned that some of these tests, because of the lapse of time, could actually lose the quality and therefore it was necessary to have a speedy testing of these samples. They had found that Barcelona could offer that but I cannot remember the details of what exactly the types of tests were. Certainly there was an element of testing in a laboratory in Barcelona. The hon Member is right.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is this further study that is being done of the service, being done by the same people that are in the Clinical Governance Team, or by somebody else?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The team have brought in their own consultants to look at each particular speciality. For example, representatives from the Royal College of Surgeons would have been looking after the surgical speciality, and so on across the specialities, but the overall umbrella is that of the Health Care Development Team.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is the study on the Laboratory services still going on, or is it finished and they have made recommendations?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Recommendations have not been presented to the Government yet. I am not aware whether they have finished or it is still on-going.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is the service now operating at the full manning level or are there staff shortages currently, as compared to the complement that existed already?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I need notice of a question like that. I do not micro manage the laboratory of the hospital.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I think there is an issue amongst the staff there, that they feel that the volume of work has risen exponentially and that they feel that there is a case for additional staff. I have certainly seen papers to that effect. So, certainly if one asked the Consultant Pathologist and his staff members, they would undoubtedly argue that there is a need for more staff, and we are just having that view assessed by the Health Care Development Team before the Government form a view on that.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I believe that indeed the Health Authority Report that puts the number of tests done by the Laboratory, does show a significant increase.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

There is no doubt about it. The volume of laboratory work has grown very considerably over the years and the staff has not grown with it. What needs to be established is whether the improved technology has absorbed the additional volume or whether there is need for additional staff as well as the new technology.

ORAL

NO. 1557 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – PRIMARY CARE CENTRE

Can Government state what was the total number of GP attendances at the Primary Care Centre from January 2004 to September 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 1553, 1554 and 1588 of 2004.

NO. 1558 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – STUDY LEAVE

Can Government confirm what has been the expenditure for Study Leave, up to the end of August 2004, which is included in sub-head 30, School of Health Studies, and what amount was budgeted by the Gibraltar Health Authority for the full year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

The expenditure for Study Leave to the end of August is £50,856.53. The amount budgeted for the year was £150,000.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1558 OF 2004

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Am I correct, if my memory serves me right, that the amount that has been budgeted is about double what was budgeted last year?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

That is what I said a moment ago. The amount budgeted for the year was £150,000.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Then I asked the Minister to confirm whether it was just about double of what had been budgeted for the previous year. It has trebled since, not doubled because I have found the answer to the question. Does that mean that more doctors are being sent this year, because less were sent last year? Does the Minister know what the reason is for the trebling of the amount?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The amount budgeted is in direct proportion to the amount of Study Leave available to doctors to take up, which they need to do to keep up their continuing professional development. So according to the number of doctors it equates to a number of days of Study Leave which then equates to a figure in pounds. I think also in this figure this year, there has been, I am almost certain they have included in there, there is a provision in the National Nursing Conference that was held last month. I am almost certain that is so but I cannot guarantee that, which makes plain the difference as well, because the budget was of the order of £50,000 for the Conference. As I say, the amount budgeted for Study Leave is in direct proportion to the number of doctors and the number of days that they are supposed to take up, but this is something that they have to take up but they do not always take up if work does not allow them to. That is why the account is not fully overspent at the moment. Not fully spent.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Am I correct in understanding what the Minister has just said, that they have included in this figure the £52,000, the International Nursing Conference?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No, I said that the budgeted figure may include the Nursing Conference which was a study period in itself, but I am not sure.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

I see. Could he confirm that then in writing? If we are talking about a sub-head which is traditionally taken by doctors and not by nurses, and the sub-head is included within the School of Health Studies, it may be that the Minister is referring to the figure of the School of Health Studies and not the figure for the doctors.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

It could be.

ORAL

NO. 1559 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – NON-ENTITLED PATIENTS

Can Government confirm how many non-entitled patients have been admitted at St Bernard's Hospital during the months of April, May, June, July, August and September of 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 1551, 1552 and 1560 to 1562 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1560 OF 2004

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 month of April, May, June, July, August and September of 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 1551, 1552, 1559, 1561 and 1562 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1561 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – ELECTIVE SURGERY

Can Government state how many persons there are presently waiting for Elective Surgery in each speciality?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 1551, 1552, 1559, 1560 and 1562 of 2004.

NO. 1562 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – WAITING LISTS

Can Government provide the latest comparable waiting lists for public and private patients covering all specialities, giving a breakdown of each, for both out-patients and in-patients, which also includes those who require surgical interventions?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

The information requested by the hon Member is set out in the schedules attached.

Answer to Question No. 1562 of 2004

Answer to Question No. 1551

The total number of In-Patients admissions and the average number of patients per day during the period in question were:-

	In-Patient Admissions	Average No of patients per day
April 2004	482	154
May 2004	491	153
June 2004	527	156
July 2004	531	150
August 2004	446	144
September 2004	410	143
TOTAL FOR PERIOD	2887	900

Answer to Question No. 1552

	Clinics	A & E Clinic	A & E Dressing	Physiotherapy
April	1610	1612	544	597
May	1500	1840	586	631
June	1609	1899	644	569
July	1632	2070	702	599
August	1352	1902	759	513
September	1495	1855	677	525
Totals	9198	11178	3912	3434

Answer to Question No. 1559 of 2004

Non-entitled patients admitted at St Bernard's.

April 2004	8
May 2004	4
June 2004	7
July 2004	6
August 2004	6
September 2004	15

Cont.....

Answer to Question No. 1562 of 2004

Answer to Question No. 1560

The number of private in-patients seen to or treated during the period in question were:-

April	21
May	9
June	19
July	12
August	11
September	18
TOTAL	90

Out patient figures are not available.

Answer to Question No. 1561 of 2004

Ophthalmic	89
Orthopaedic	418
Gynaecology	47
Otorhinolaryngology	135
General Surgery	121

Cont.....

Answer to Question 1562 of 2004

Answer to Question 1562 of 2004

OUTPATIENT PUBLIC & PRIVATE WAITING TIMES

AS AT SEPTEMBER 2004

SPECIALITY	PUBLIC CLINIC	PRIVATE CLINIC	PUBLIC SURGERY	PRIVATE SURGERY
OTORHINOLARYNGOLOGY	Adults 6 Weeks Children 8 weeks.	1 Weeks.	Adults 24 Months. Children 12 Months.	No Waiting Time. Private surgery is rarely done in this specialty.
GENERAL SURGERY	20 Weeks.	1 Week.	Up to 1 Year depending on procedure.	3 Weeks.
GENERAL MEDICINE	7 to 9 Weeks.	2 Weeks.		
PAEDIATRICS	3 Weeks.	No Waiting Time.		
OPHTHALMOLOGY	6 Weeks.	No Waiting Time.	Routine Surgery 2 Months. Cataract Surgery 6 Weeks.	No Waiting Time.
ELDEROLOGY	1 Weeks.	No Waiting Time. No Private Patients seen during period in question.		
PAIN CLINIC	1 Week.	No Waiting Time.		
PSYCHIATRY	1 to 3 Weeks.	No Waiting Time.		
GYNAECOLOGY	Urgent cases 1 Day 1 Week for cases requiring attention soon. 4 Weeks for routine cases.	No waiting time.	1 week for urgent cases 3 weeks for cases requiring attention soon 12 weeks. for routine surgery	No Private Surgery is done.
ORTHOPAEDICS	Urgent cases 1 day. 2 Weeks for cases requiring attention soon. 4 months for routine cases.	3 Weeks.	Waiting time for public surgery varies from 2 Weeks to Years depending on intervention. Waiting time for Private Surgery is 4 weeks for minor surgery. Major surgery is not done privately.	

There is no waiting time for emergencies. The Gibraltar Health Authority has been able to obtain private patients waiting time under the Private Practice Agreement whereby Consultants are committed to provide information on private patients when requested.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1551, 1552 AND 1559 TO 1562 OF 2004

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

I note that in three specialities the waiting lists have gone up. In answer to Question No. 831 I was given ophthalmic as 55 and we have 89, orthopaedics has gone up to 418, gynaecology has come down, ENT has come down and general surgery has come up. So the situation has not improved that much. I beg your pardon if I delay the House, because I have something like eight questions that have been asked and I need to look at each one of them. I will be looking at the figures, as I always do, but I would like to take the opportunity of advising the Minister for Health that here again I have found another discrepancy as regards the answers that I have been receiving in this House in relation to the out-patient attendances at St Bernard's, and I put him on notice that I will be writing to him because I have done my homework and I realise that they do not coincide neither with the Abstract of Statistics, and neither with the Healthcare Development Team Report. Even though the Chief Minister says '*que soy pesa*', I think that he should congratulate me on being able to identify the discrepancies that there are in the figures. When we talk about the non-entitled patients in the hospital, can the Government confirm whether non-entitled patients refer mainly to patients who come in ships and are moored here in Gibraltar, or can they say that non-entitled patients are also being seen to from the hinterland?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

A non-entitled patient is one who is not entitled to treatment in St Bernard's Hospital by virtue of being a contributor to the GPMS Scheme, whatever the source.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

But if he comes in with a form from the hinterland surely he is entitled?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

If he comes in with a form then he is not a non-entitled patient, he is entitled.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Can the Minister confirm whether entitled patients are being seen in Gibraltar from the hinterland?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes, let me correct what I said before. All the jargon about GPMS plus the entitled patients from the EU, and if they come in bearing a valid E111 or E112, or whatever the forms are, then the answer is yes.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

On the E111 I should clarify, a new E111 is not a passport to health tourism. In other words, one cannot come in to get treatment with an E111. One is only entitled to rely on an E111 if one is in Gibraltar and the need for the treatment arises whilst one is here. If one is a resident in Spain one cannot just come in for medical treatment saying 'here is my E111, give me a kidney transplant' or something like that.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Will there be private patients being seen at the Europort Hospital when it is fully functional?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I think that question is the subject of another question on the order paper from the hon Member. The Government are looking at the whole question of private patients and I am not in a position yet to make a statement to that effect.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Can the Government confirm, as they did in the last meeting of the House, that there will be private beds at Europort?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The hon Lady has got to be in this area very careful to choose the right language in the right times. If she means private beds, private beds are different to private practice, see private beds could be occupied by non-entitled patients. The fact that they are non-entitled patients accessing a private bed does not necessarily mean in future that they will be regarded as private patients paying fees for the benefit of practitioners. See what I mean. Private practice is one thing and delivery of medical services to non-entitled patients is another thing. Now in the past non-entitled patients have often been seen as private patients by practitioners charging them private patients fees. That will end. In future, non-entitled patients who are charged fees will be charged fees by the Health Authority and there will be no private practice in that area.

ORAL

NO. 1563 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – ENROLLED NURSES

Can Government state how many Enrolled Nurses have now applied to be able to train up to the level of Staff Nurse?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 1564 to 1566 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1564 OF 2004

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 September 2004 with a breakdown by grade, giving the full-time equivalent of each grade?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question No. 1563 and 1565 to 1566 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1565 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – CONTRACT NURSES

Can the Government confirm how many contract nurses are employed by the Gibraltar Health Authority, at the end of September 2004, listing the speciality in which they are employed?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 1563, 1564 and 1566 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1566 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – NURSES TRAINING IN UK

Can the Minister for health confirm how many of our local nurses are presently in the UK for Specialist training to enable contract nurses to be replaced?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

The information requested by the hon Member is contained in the schedule attached.

Answer to Question No. 1566 of 2004

Answer to Question No. 1563 of 2004

9 Enrolled Nurses applied for the Conversion course.

Answer to Question No. 1564 of 2004

Director of Nursing Services:-	Vacant
Deputy Director of Nursing Services:-	1
Clinical Nurse Manager:-	6
Education Development Officer:-	1
Senior Nurse Tutor:-	1
Nurse Tutor:-	1
Nurse Practitioner:-	1
Charge Nurse/Nursing Sister:-	30
Registered General Nurses:-	99½
Midwives:-	13
Operating Department Practitioner:-	1
Senior Enrolled Nurses:-	5
Enrolled Nurse:-	87
Nursing Auxiliary:-	11
Nursing Assistant:-	91

Answer to Question No. 1565 of 2004

The number of contract nurses employed by the Gibraltar Health Authority is as follows:-

Clinical Nurse Manager:-	1
Education Development Officer:-	1
Nurse Tutor:-	1
Nurse Practitioner:-	1
Registered General Nurse:-	15
Registered Mental Nurse:-	4
Registered Sick Children's Nurse:-	3
Theatre Nurse:-	2
Staff Midwives:-	12
Operating Department Practitioner:-	1
Enrolled Nurse:-	8

Answer to Question No. 1566 of 2004

There are currently four local nurses presently in the UK undergoing specialist training.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1563 TO 1566 OF 2004

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

I note that the figure of the Enrolled Nurses that have applied to train up to the level of Staff Nurse is still nine. Can the Minister give a reason why so few have taken up the offer? It just does not make sense to us that there are so many enrolled nurses and only nine have applied.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I asked the same question myself, both of enrolled nurses themselves and also of the people responsible for running the course, and the answer was from the people running the course that it could be because of the level of difficulty offered by the course, and from nurses themselves, the feedback that comes to me is that they do not seem to be interested in doing, from all accounts, a long and difficult course. The facts are as they are, only nine have wanted to apply. We are in the process of trawling again, not for this course but for a future course, but if people are not interested they are not interested.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Except that will the Minister take on board the feedback that we have, that enrolled nurses come to us and they tell us that they are dissuaded from taking up the training because they are put off pay and they are given a grant, therefore their earnings come down.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I am not aware of that but I shall certainly take on board what she has just said.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

I will write to the Minister to remind him because these nurses come to us and they all seem to coincide that they lose money in the process.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I thank the hon Member. No one has brought that to my attention from within the GHA.

ORAL

NO. 1567 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – CT SCAN

Can the Government confirm whether the Radiographer sent to the UK for Specialist Training in relation to the CT Scan in the Europort Building has now finalised the course?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Yes.

NO. 1568 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – NEW MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

Can the Minister for Health confirm who are the new top people the GHA will be recruiting, and for what posts, in the closing months of this year and into 2005, something he stated during an interview with GBC on 16th August 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 1595 to 1597 of 2004.

NO. 1569 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

Since the Minister for Health stated in an interview with GBC on 16th August 2004 that there are many parts of the services on which he hears complaints on a continuing basis, can he also confirm whether he is aware that there are many patients who complaint that the GHA cannot find their records?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Government are aware that there has been a historical problem with regards to the tracking of patient records which persists to this day.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1569 OF 2004

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

The Minister has really not answered the question because I said is he aware that there are many patients who complain, and he has replied that this has been a historical problem. Well, we now have more patients than ever complaining that their records cannot be found. Can the Minister say why this is the case, and whether the Government intend to do anything about it?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

There are several assumptions in that supplementary which I do not accept. One, that there are ever increasing numbers, this is hypothetical as far as I am concerned so I cannot address a hypothetical situation which the hon Member is giving with no authority, other than what she thinks is the case. Secondly, neither do I accept that there are any more records being lost, or any less records being lost than when she was Minister for Health. As far as I am concerned the situation is of the same scale, of the same order because it is the same system, the same records are being run in the same way and there are no great differences to indicate that things are much worse or much better, but they will be better in the future.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Well, I was Minister for Health and I can assure the Minister that I had my office within the buildings of the Health Authority and very rarely did we have as many complaints as there are today. When the Minister says that the problem will not be as it is today, can he say what it is that the Government intend to do in order for the problem to be eliminated?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Before I do that, let me say that I am getting increasingly bored with hearing the hon Member plug the line '*in my day everything was tickety-boo and everything has gone wrong since the GSD came into power*'. All she needs to do is ask outside in the public and she will be dissuaded from this point of view. People know that everything was not 100 per cent when she was there and I do not want to raise the past but please, can we stop boring us with this statement '*when I was there everything was okay*'. What are we going to do for the future?, if the hon Member is interested, we are currently evaluating a new system, an electronic system for tracing records, which would replace the present system or non-system, which is one of manual tracking. In effect one tags the file and the system will tell where the file is, anywhere within the GHA premises, electronically, and will tell if the file leaves the premises and who was the last person to have possession of the file. Obviously it is more complex than that, but that is the overall picture.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

I have taken note of everything the Minister has said, but when he says that he is tired of listening to me going back to the past, I would remind the Minister that it was he who started going to the past and not me.

HON F R PICARDO:

Can I just ask the Minister, that tagging system will I assume relate to a physical document file, is that right? We are still going to have paper files with patient records in them?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

That tagging system to which I have referred is as applicable to physical paper files. Further down the line and do not expect me to put a date to it, but we are looking at electronic patient records as well but that is on the wish list at the moment rather than a likely development.

HON F R PICARDO:

Can I take it from that and from his answers that despite the politicking in both his answers, that in fact the hon Gentleman shares our concerns that records should go missing? Whether they went missing before 1996 or not, and after 1996, because this can cause serious problems for the patients involved. I know for example, that some friends of mine recently had that problem, involving a very young child, where the child was tested on a number of occasions. When a decision was to be made as to treatment, the records of the tests had been lost and the child had to go through the tests again, which for a child is very uncomfortable. Does the Minister share our concerns that whoever's fault it is, however historical it may be, these things are happening and they have to be resolved?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Of course I share the concerns, I would prefer to be advised by management that no record has been lost in the last year or whatever, and that the situation should continue. Of course I share the concern like any sensible person would do. The politicking which he refers to aside, which starts with the question, if he cares to read the original question again, but let us leave that for the moment. As I have stated in my answer, of course we are aware that there is a problem and of course we are seeking to resolve it.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Is the Minister referring to the new electronic system just to St Bernard's or Europort, or will it also include the Primary Care Centre?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I think we are but hon Members must realise that we are looking at things that are being researched at the moment, not things that are being tested and about to be implemented. So I urge the hon Member not to ask me at the next Question Session in two months time *'and when is the Minister going to implement the electronic system that he said at Question Time two months ago he was about to implement?'*. I am not saying that. I am saying we are evaluating the introduction of it. I know the hon Member too well, and I know that that is exactly what she will do at the next Question Time and she will phrase her question, *'in view of the statement made by the Minister at Question Time that a new patient system is about to be introduced, why is he taking so long to introduce it?'*. So to answer her question, it is being evaluated in the context of the new hospital and with a view to extending it to Primary Care, but it will be tested in the new hospital.

ORAL

NO. 1570 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – AMOUNTS PAID TO PHARMACISTS

Can Government state how much has been paid to the Pharmacists as dispensing fees during the present financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 1571 to 1581 of 2004.

NO. 1571 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – AMOUNTS PAID TO PHARMACISTS

Can Government update the figure, which was given as incomplete in answer to Question No. 794 of 2004, for the financial year 2003/2004, as to how much has been paid to Pharmacists as a result of the 15 per cent addition to the cost of medicines?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 1570 and 1572 to 1581 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1572 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – AMOUNTS PAID TO PHARMACISTS

Can Government confirm how much has been paid to Pharmacists during this financial year 2004/2005, as a result of the 15 per cent addition to the cost of medicines?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 1570, 1571 and 1573 to 1581 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1573 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – AMOUNTS PAID TO PHARMACISTS

Can Government say what was the amount paid to Pharmacists for the months of April, May, June, July, August and September of 2004 and the comparable figure for the same months in the previous year in respect of £1.80 per item prescription charged, regarding the medicines to which the sum applied?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 1570 to 1572 and 1574 to 1581 of 2004.

NO. 1574 OF 2004

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 13, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 of 2004, in respect of which £2.50 per item was paid by patients to the dispensing pharmacists?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 1570 to 1573 and 1575 to 1581 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1575 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – NUMBER OF PRESCRIPTIONS

Can Government now 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 2003/2004, in respect of which £2.50 per item was paid by patients to dispensing pharmacists, which was not given in answer to Question No. 790 of 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 12570 to 1574 and 1576 to 1581 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1576 OF 2004

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 13, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 of 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 1570 to 1575 and 1577 to 1581 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1577 OF 2004

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 11 and 12 of 2003/2004 as these were given as incomplete in answer to Question No. 791 of 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 1570 to 1576 and 1578 to 1581 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1578 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – NUMBER OF ITEMS

Can Government state the number of items that have been issued that exceed the three items which pay a total of £7.50, for the accounting periods 11 and 12 of 2003/2004 as these were given as incomplete in answer to Question No. 792 of 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 1570 to 1577 and 1579 to 1581 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1579 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – PRESCRIPTION CHARGES

Can Government state how much extra revenue the Gibraltar Health Authority has raised for periods 13, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 of 2004 as a result of their having increased prescription charges from £1.20 to £2.50?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 1570 to 1578 and 1580 to 1581 of 2004.

NO. 1580 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – PRESCRIPTION CHARGES

Can Government state how much extra revenue the Gibraltar Health Authority has raised for periods 11 and 12 of 2004 as a result of their having increased prescription charges from £1.20 to £2.50, which were given as incomplete in answer to Question No. 793 of 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 1570 to 1579 and 1581 of 2004.

NO. 1581 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – NUMBER OF ITEMS

Can Government state the number of items that have been issued that exceed the three items which pay a total of £7.50 for the accounting periods 13, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 of 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

The information requested by the hon Member is contained in the schedules that I hand to her. The information provided is in respect of complete periods only and in future, similar questions where periods are not complete, the answers will be held over for the next Question Time.

I would also ask the hon Member to note that the information she has requested in Question No. 1576 in respect of periods 1-6 of 2003/2004 has already been provided at an earlier meeting of this House. However, it has been assumed that the information that the hon Member is actually seeking relates to 2004/2005, and that information has been provided in the schedule.

Answer to Question No. 1581 of 2004

Answer to Question No. 1570

£339,802.20 has been paid to the Pharmacists as dispensing fees from 1st April 2004 to 18th July 2004.

Answer to Question No. 1571

The 15 per cent of the cost of medicines paid to Pharmacists towards transportation costs for the financial year 2003/2004 was £911,643.52.

Answer to Question No. 1572

The 15 per cent of the cost of medicines paid to the Pharmacists towards transportation costs for the periods 1-4 for the year 2004/2005 was £288,934.60.

Answer to Question No. 1573

2004
April – July 18th

2003
April – July 20th

Period 1	£83,118.60	Period 1	£76,104.00
Period 2	£84,344.40	Period 2	£76,316.40
Period 3	£83,417.40	Period 3	£77,274.00
Period 4	£88,921.80	Period 4	£77,943.60

The above information is sin respect of completed periods only.

Answer to Question No. 1574

Year 2003/2004

PERIOD	PRESCRIPTIONS	ITEMS	COST
13	5583	14011	£183,908.13

Year 2004/2005

PERIOD	PRESCRIPTIONS	ITEMS	COST
1	5621	14449	£183,986.16
2	5718	14526	£189,863.20
3	5681	14514	£187,535.77
4	6050	15338	£207,346.15

The above information is in respect of completed periods only.

Cont.....

Answer to Question No. 1581 of 2004

Answer to Question No. 1575

	PRESCRIPTIONS	ITEMS	COST
Period 11	6212	15410	£199,650.91
Period 12	5958	14989	£189,226.71

Answer to Question No. 1576

PERIOD	PRESCRIPTIONS	ITEMS	COST
(2003/2004)			
13	12549	44196	£513,053.08
(2004/2005)			
1	12756	46177	£544,501.56
2	13010	46858	£543,248.33
3	12807	46343	£538,030.25
4	13634	49401	£589,385.15

Answer to Question No. 1577

	PRESCRIPTIONS	ITEMS	COST
Period 11	13930	49262	£575,599.89
Period 12	12912	45338	£526,508.92

Answer to Question No. 1578

	<u>ITEM</u>
Period 11	3436
Period 12	3460

Answer to Question Nos. 1579 and 1580

When the prescription charges were amended, the Government made all medicines free for pensioners and additionally, after charging only for the first three items on the prescription, supplies all further medicines completely free of charge.

It is not possible to calculate the extra revenue raised within any degree of accuracy but it is estimated to be in the region of:

- a) £30,000 for periods 13 of ¾ and periods 1-4 of 04/05.
Periods 5 & 6 are incomplete.
- b) £14,000 for periods 11 & 12 of 03/04.
This updates Question No. 793 of 2004.

Cont.....

Answer to Question No. 1581 of 2004

Answer to Question No. 1581

2003/2004

Period 13	3248
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2004/2005

Period 1	3409
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Period 2	3406
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Period 3	3470
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Period 4	3708
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Some pharmacists still have to submit accounts for periods 5 & 6 and therefore these are not complete.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1570 TO 1581 OF 2004

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

All I can say is that I have something like sixteen questions here and it will be impossible for me to actually look at the figures at this moment in time, so I will be taking them with me and studying them more carefully. Can I just ask the Minister for some information as regards the dispensing fees on which I am still not 100 per cent sure? I remember that when the Hon Dr B Linares was Minister for Health, he did say that as regards the dispensing fee there was a maximum of £750,000 being paid to the pharmacists, and I think that the present Minister for Health has also confirmed that. Can he explain whether the £750,000 is shared equally with all the pharmacies, or are they given different fees, or is it shared equally? That is a question that I have always asked and I have not been given a reply.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I would need notice of that question. I can confirm that there is a cap of £750,000, how it is shared out I would need to research. Maybe my Colleague can give that information.

HON DR B A LINARES:

Yes, it is not a cake that is shared out in equal pieces. Obviously they are paid according to the number of dispensations, if I may call them that, each pharmacist has issued. Therefore some have dispensed many more items and prescriptions than others and therefore they will be paid accordingly. So it is not shared equally but then they all have to add up whatever they have received in dispensing fees and then it is where the capping of £750,000 comes into effect.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

I am not sure I have understood the answer. Perhaps I will write to the Minister and then he will be able to provide me with the information if he has not got it with him, because it seems to me an unfair system that if say a pharmacy actually dispenses more medicines than another one, is the Minister saying that he could get less than the other pharmacy?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No, what I understand my hon Colleague to have said is that the dispensing fee is in direct relation to the number of prescriptions dispensed. Therefore if one has a notional pharmacy that only dispenses ten prescriptions during the period, and another one that dispenses 100,000, then obviously the pharmacy that dispenses 100,000 will get 100,000 times the dispensing fee and the other one will only get ten times the dispensing fees. But overall, all the pharmacies, have a cap of £750,000.

ORAL

NO. 1582 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – SHORTAGES OF BEDS

Can Government confirm whether there still continues to be shortages of beds at St Bernard's Hospital?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 1546, 1583 and 1584 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1583 OF 2004

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 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 1546, 1582 and 1584 of 2004.

NO. 1584 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – ELDERLY CARE PATIENTS

Can Government state during the months of April, May, June, July, August and September of 2004, of the beds occupied by Elderly persons who have been formally discharged, how many fell 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 HEALTH

Answer to Question No. 1582

There continues to be periodic difficulty in finding beds for newly admitted patients at St Bernard's Hospital. Much of the problem is caused by the occupation of a significant number of medical beds by patients who have been deemed fit for discharge.

Answer to Question No. 1546

As a consequence some elective operations have been cancelled. Four were cancelled in April, seven in June and four in September.

Answer to Question Nos. 1583 and 1584

The additional statistical information requested by the hon Member is set out in the schedules enclosed.

Answer to Question No. 1584 of 2004

ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 1583

The number of long stay elderly patients are as follows:-

April	60
May	62
June	59
July	59
August	57
September	55

Cont'd Answer to Question No. 1584 of 2004

SCHEDULE TO QUESTION NO. 1584 OF 2004

APRIL 2004	10
MAY 2004	10
JUNE 2004	10
JULY 2004	10
AUGUST 2004	10
SEPTEMBER 2004	11

Of these the number of elderly persons living alone was as follows:

APRIL 2004	4
MAY 2004	4
JUNE 2004	4
JULY 2004	4
AUGUST 2004	4
SEPTEMBER 2004	5

All elderly patients require some sort of support be it physical, emotional or social.

All patients who have been officially discharged are able to be looked after.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1546 AND 1582 TO 1584 OF 2004

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

The Minister said in a statement that I have actually got here with me, that he would stick his neck out that the problem of the shortages of beds would be solved, is his head still on the chopping block?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I find difficulty in identifying that supplementary in line with what has been asked in the main questions.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

It is relevant to the question of shortages of beds, on which he was interviewed, I have got it here with me, and he said '*I will stick my neck out and that the problem will be solved by the end of the year*'.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I will have an explanation. The difference between putting ones neck out and putting it on the block, they are different acts. The hon Lady asked whether the neck was still on the block not whether the neck was still out.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

We will wait until the end of the year.

HON C A BRUZON:

Would the problem not be eased substantially if Mount Alvernia were to be completed? There are two floors still at Mount Alvernia not being used. I know I think it is nearly ready, maybe the hon Lady will confirm this. She told me in the House a few months ago that it would be ready in September and I can confirm that substantial progress has been made but there are still two floors that are not being used, and logically, if the two floors were completed quickly then some of the elderly people in the Hospital could move to Mount Alvernia.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The problem would be temporarily eased by that. The hon Member knows that a very substantial investment has been made in Mount Alvernia to increase its capacity

substantially, and that one of the things that the Government are planning to do, as the hon Lady gave in a previous answer, I think it was 33 elderly people occupying beds in Hospital are earmarked or are waiting to move to Mount Alvernia. That by itself would be a very temporary solution because the numbers would soon build up again, of elderly people in hospital. We might get rid of 33 or 40 but then elderly people would start going into hospital again and staying there. So by itself the extension of Mount Alvernia is not enough, it has to be accompanied by a variety of parallel action. One is the possibility of providing more residential care facilities, not just Mount Alvernia. The other is extending the provision of domiciliary care so that elderly people can stay in their homes for longer and not feel that they have to take refuge in hospital when they are actually not ill. A further plank of the Government's policy in that respect is to build more Bishop Canilla style housing, which has an element of shelter in the sense that there are wardens, resident wardens and all of that. All of these things, domiciliary care, further residential care, further sheltered accommodation, all these are ways of making it less likely that people have to be abandoned by their families in hospital, as a means of providing them with effectively, elderly residential care facilities which hospitals are not for. That does not mean the facility should be provided somewhere else. Unless we do all those things, which the hon Member knows are well in hand, simply providing an extra 50 beds in Mount Alvernia, which is about to happen, would accommodate the 30 or 40 that are presently blocking beds, if we could call them that, but they would soon be replaced by another 40 patients in St Bernard's Hospital if that is all that was done. That is why it is important to do much more than just that.

ORAL

NO. 1585 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – NEW HOSPITAL

Have Government now decided which employees will be re-generating the meals on each of the floors at the Europort Hospital after they are transported from the old wine factory area?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question No. 1586 of 2004.

NO. 1586 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – NEW HOSPITAL

Can Government now confirm whether they have finalised the arrangements that will come into place for meals to be provided to patients in the Europort Hospital when it becomes operational?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answer to Question No. 1586

The arrangements for the provision of meals to patients at the new hospital will be on the basis of a plated menu service.

Answer to Question No. 1585

There will be no re-generation of food required. Meals will be delivered straight from the kitchen to the wards and will be served on individualised trays.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1585 AND 1586 OF 2004

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

When we talk about the meals that will be cooked in the old wine factory area, have the Government already made arrangements who will be providing it and who will be transporting it to the Europort building?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

It depends what the hon Member means by having made the arrangements. The overall plan is there and is being implemented as and when things come on stream. If the hon Member is now going to ask me whether it is the existing staff in St Bernard's Hospital, the answer is yes as well.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

The existing staff will remain as members of the Gibraltar Health Authority, with the same contracts and conditions they have now?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

So when the meals are transported to the Europort Hospital it will be done by a private entity, am I correct?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No. It will be a GHA operation by GHA employees using GHA assets. May I correct that for the avoidance of doubt. For GHA read Government, because the facility may be expanded to provide food in other directions as well.

NO. 1587 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – NEW HOSPITAL

Can the Government confirm whether there will still be Private Ward facilities at the Europort Building?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Yes, the design of the new hospital makes provision for 10 beds in private ward facilities.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1587 OF 2004

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

So I suppose these will be used for non-entitled patients?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, but not necessarily exclusively. There is a difference between the bed and the medical service delivered. An entitled patient may choose to rent a very expensive bed and pay for it. It will not entitle him to any quicker medical service but he might find the bed more comfortable.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Does that mean that the private bed, being so much more expensive means that it is more luxurious than the others?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

As I recall, beds in the private corridor never were more comfortable. Why people chose to lie in them as opposed to in a ward bed is a matter of very peculiar personal preference, but there are some people who attach importance to it and if they want it the

facilities are there. That said, no decision has yet been made as to whether that will operate in that way or how it will operate. The answer is that the facility exists. If the Government want to operate a private ward facility it is there. No final decision has been made about whether it is going to be operational from the beginning, of course it has got to be staffed, and there are issues of that sort still for consideration but the facility is there in the design of the hospital.

NO. 1588 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – PRIMARY CARE CENTRE

Can Government confirm whether there have been any changes implemented to the appointments system which was introduced at the Primary Care Centre in the summer of 2003?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answer to Question No. 1588

At the beginning of August 2004, a new computerised appointment system was introduced. This software (Frontdesk) is specifically tailored for appointments in a Primary Care setting and was chosen amongst others by the Primary Care Co-ordinator, Administration and IT officer. This system allows the Gibraltar Health Authority to keep a record of statistics as well as strict control on advanced bookings.

Answer to Question Nos. 1553, 1554 and 1557

The statistical information requested by the hon Member in Question Nos. 1553, 1554 and 1557 are set out in the schedule attached.

Answer to Question No. 1588 of 2004

Answer to Question No. 1553

Out-patient Attendances 01/04/04 to 30/09/04

DEPARTMENT	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	TOTAL
AUDIOLOGY	121	373	280	213	0	198	1,185
DIETICIAN	80	64	70	70	95	94	473
CLINIC SISTER	1,264	1,243	1,165	1,247	1,224	1,597	7,740
SCHOOL HEALTH	377	876	326	357	224	323	2,483
SPEECH & LANGUAGE	271	174	152	67	120	196	980
MENTAL WELFARE	238	286	292	277	259	257	1,609
GP CLINIC	7,355	8,009	8,158	8,495	7,795	9,100	48,912
HOUSE CALLS	478	613	442	565	378	549	3,025
DENTAL	1,358	1,029	1,629	1,114	1,073	1,674	7,877
CHILD WELFARE	735	775	812	648	636	807	4,413
MIDWIFE	19	40	23	23	33	3	141
NURSE PRACTITIONER	178	230	333	236	222	345	1,544
DERMATOLOGIST	22	23	19	16	0	19	99
PHYSIO	81	93	95	105	378	NFA	752
OT	114	63	117	64	76	74	508
ORTHOPIST	80	87	145	110	64	122	608
OPTOMETRIST	170	123	115	162	83	105	758
DISTRICT	5,040	4,777	1,943	4,652	3,506	4,593	24,511
TOTAL	17,981	18,878	16,116	18,421	16,166	20,056	107,618

NFA: No figures available

Answer to Question No. 1588 of 2004

Answer to Question No. 1554

House-calls attended by GP's 01/04/04 – 30/09/04

April	478
May	613
June	442
July	565
August	378
September	549
	<u>3025</u>

NOTE: Calls received during working hours are recorded until 4pm. Night calls do not form part of these statistics.

Answer to Question No. 1588 of 2004

Schedule to Question No. 1557

The total number of GP attendances at the Primary Care Centre from January 2004 to September 2004 was 71,430.

DEPT	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	TOTAL
GP Clinic	7998	7397	9229	7355	8009	7215	8495	7795	7937	71,430

NO. 1589 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – HEALTHCARE DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Can the Government confirm, in view of the reply given by the Minister for Health in answer to Question No. 826 of 2004, that they do not agree with the comments made by the Healthcare Development Team in their report of September 2003, that District Community Services are under resourced and therefore are not well provided for?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

The answer remains the same as given in answer to Question No. 826 of 2004. The Government do not have to agree or disagree with comments made by the Healthcare Development Team in their Diagnostic Report.

The Gibraltar Healthcare Development Team uses international comparisons when looking at service provision. This is not the same thing as making formal recommendations for change but simply adds to the debate on the most appropriate form of provision for Gibraltar.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1589 OF 2004

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

So of course there will be instances where the Government agree with the recommendations and there will be instances where they do not agree with certain recommendations.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes, I think we have been down this route before. The hon Member seems not to yet have grasped the purpose of the Diagnostic Report and the work streams that have flowed from it.

ORAL

NO. 1590 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – CLINICAL GOVERNANCE AUDIT

Can Government confirm what type of accommodation is provided to members of the Clinical Governance Audit when they are in Gibraltar?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 1591 to 1594 and 1598 to 1600 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1591 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – MEDICAL REVIEW TEAM

Can the Government confirm since they announced in their Press Release of 27 July 2004, that they have accepted the third recommendation of the Medical Review Team which relates to scheduling surgery, that scheduling surgery in Gynaecology will commence as planned for this October?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 1590, 1592 to 1594 and 1598 to 1600 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1592 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – CLINICAL GOVERNANCE AUDIT

Can the Government confirm how much money they have spent up to date on the Clinical Governance Audit they commissioned with regard to our Health Services?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 1590, 1591, 1593, 1594 and 1598 to 1600 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1593 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – HEALTHCARE DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Can the Government confirm that once all the recommendations of the Healthcare Development Team are finally received by them, they will be made public in the form of a full report?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 1590 to 1592, 1594 and 1598 to 1600 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1594 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – CLINICAL GOVERNANCE AUDIT

Can Government confirm whether any member of the National Clinical and Governance Audit Team they have commissioned for our Health Services, have the Authority to issue instructions to staff members of the Gibraltar Health Authority?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 1590 to 1593 and 1598 to 1600 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1595 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – POST OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Can Government give details of the salary of the new Chief Executive post of the Gibraltar Health Authority?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 1568, 1596 and 1597 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1596 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – DIRECTOR OF NURSING SERVICES

Can Government confirm what is the salary of the post of Director of Nursing Services of the Gibraltar Health Authority?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 1568, 1595 and 1597 of 2004.

NO. 1597 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR

Can the Government give details of the salary of the post of Director of Human Resources for the Gibraltar Health Authority?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

The new Chief Executive of the Gibraltar Health Authority will be Dr David McCutcheon and he will be taking post on 20th October. The Director of Nursing Services and Patient Management will be Ms Karen Parsley and the Human Resources Director will be Mr Chris Wilson. They start work on 1st December. Three year contracts have been awarded with salaries of £106,000, £66,758 and £60,758 respectively. The post of Director of Nursing Services in GHA has been vacant for two years. The salary level of the post with its present duties and responsibilities is £40,595.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1568 AND 1595 TO 1597 OF 2004

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Can the Minister confirm whether I heard him correctly, did he say £106,000 or £160,000?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

£106,000.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Apart from the salary, are there any additional perks?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

What is a perk?

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Well, accommodation, things like that.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes, the usual conditions of contract officers. Accommodation in the same sort of accommodation and the usual conditions of a contract officer.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

I suppose that the salary will be taxed locally.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes, subject to local tax.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Can the Minister confirm whether it will be Category 3?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

I am glad that we have this information because in the interview the Minister said the details of the salaries, not something which is normally discussed for this area of employment. So I am glad that he has provided the information.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

At that stage we had not yet interviewed applicants. It would have been a little bit silly to advertise the level of salaries that we were or were not prepared to give, prior to those applications being received and the interviews taking place.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Can the Government confirm whether that salary will now be the salary for future Chief Executives?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Clearly not. These are not established posts. The Gibraltar Health Authority will always have these posts but this is people that the Government bring in to move Gibraltar quantitatively and qualitatively forward in the context of health development. We are paying for the importation of skills and expertise and it should not be assumed that these are the established salaries of these posts if they are re-provided in a different way in the future. Certainly not.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Can the Government confirm whether the salary that the Minister has just provided us with for the Director of Nursing Services, £66,000, can he say whether that salary is the same one that was there previously for that post?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No, this is a new post. The old post was Director of Nursing Services. The post, as it has been advertised and filled, is for Director of Nursing Services and Patient Management, and it has a completely new job description to what the old post had.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Will that salary remain for that post for the future, or will it be on the basis of the answer that I got for the Chief Executive?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The question is entirely hypothetical. The Government will pay what people doing the job is worth. This is the Gibraltar Health Authority, these people are being contracted to the Gibraltar Health Authority and the Government will make decisions, in the future, when these jobs need to be replaced, what needs to be paid to a future new recruit, perhaps we might have to pay more. We may be able to pay less, it is not a question of the Government now committing themselves to make this the salary. That would be absurd. The labour market place for people of these skills is competitive and it depends on how much demand there is for the services of people with these skills. Now, if she were to ask me 'do the Government hope that these posts can be re-localised at some stage in the not too distant future?'. The answer is that I sincerely hope that that is true and I hope that people make a career in Health Care management, go off and acquire skills and qualifications and come back so that the day is upon at some stage when we do not have to import this expertise. Certainly the position of the Government, and I

know the Opposition Members have a different view to which they are entitled, but our view is that health care management is a discipline that has moved on a long time, it has moved beyond the stage where it could just be done as another form of clerical and administrative function, and until Gibraltar has the sort of expertise available to it to do these things in a way that ensures that people get the best possible health service that our money can buy, we think it is right to bring these facilities in from abroad. I cannot tell the hon Member how much would be paid to these post holders in the future when they come to be replaced. These are three year contracts with these incumbents. After three years, it may be more or less, it is unlikely to be less but certainly the Government are not saying that these are now the going rates for these posts.

HON L A RANDALL:

Will the post holders be entitled to an ex-gratia payment on termination of their contracts?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, the Minister said that it was on usual Crown contract terms, and that is one of them.

HON L A RANDALL:

Can Government state the level of the ex-gratia payment? Is it a percentage of salary, or is it just a negotiated sum?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I think it is the usual Government contract rate, which I think is 25 per cent.

HON L A RANDALL:

Twenty five per cent of one year's salary or twenty five per cent of the value of the contract? That is three times £106,000.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is 25 per cent of annual salary, whether one pays annually or at the end of three years, it is 25 per cent of everything that one has earned.

HON F R PICARDO:

Twenty five per cent of everything that person will have earned will be 25 per cent of £318,000. Is it that or is it 25 per cent of one year's salary, £106,000?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

As the hon Members I am sure know, the standard terms for Crown contract officers is 25 per cent per annum of salary. So, basically, one adds up the total salary and in effect it is 25 per cent of the total one has earned. That is what all Government contract officers have always earned and in fact, it is quite good value compared to the cost of providing a pension for a permanent and pensionable officer, for which it is generally thought that the provision that would have to be made for a funded scheme, is more than 25 per cent per annum of salary, in order to provide a final salary scheme pension. Twenty five per cent is thought to be less than it would cost to provide an equivalent public sector type pension. Some public officers get it paid annually by concession but actually the contract stipulates that one gets it all on termination.

HON F R PICARDO:

Can the hon Gentleman confirm whether that amount is tax free?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

He is now stretching my memory. I have a suspicion that it is tax free because it is the equivalent of a pension. I believe that it is but I would have to re-check that. I think the standard terms are 25 per cent tax free but I would prefer that he did not rely on my memory. If he is interested I will confirm it to him. I think it is tax free.

HON F R PICARDO:

So in effect the total remuneration for the new Chief Executive at the end of the three years will be in the region of £400,000.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

If he has done the sums I am impressed. Yes it is this increased by a factor of 25 per cent. If that adds up multiplied by three, if that is the figure that he has mentioned yes. The hon Members now begin to realise what is the hidden cost of public sector occupational pension schemes. It actually costs much more than that.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

So really, we are talking about a situation that this gentleman will be the highest paid officer in the whole of the Government.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Probably not. I cannot remember what the salary package is of the Finance Centre Director but it cannot be far off this and has been in this order for many years already, I think. There or thereabouts.

HON F R PICARDO:

It is my recollection that the Finance Centre Director earns in the region of £80,000 or used to.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well that might have been, I believe that has not been his position for some time. Perhaps he can ask the question next time round about the Finance Centre Director's salary. In any case, that is not the point. The Government do not look at these things in terms of , there is a rate in the market for people with these skills and this expertise. In Gibraltar, either we want to carry on having our Health Service run the way it has historically been run over the last many years, or we want our Health Service run in accordance for a period of time, whilst it reforms itself, run in accordance with modern healthcare management techniques and we have made a policy decision that that is worth paying the market rate for those services. Frankly, in this day and age, it is not that huge a salary.

HON L A RANDALL:

Can Government confirm that Dr McCutcheon will be seconded from another health authority?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I do not see where the hon Member has had that impression from. There is nothing certainly that the Government have said, or the GHA have said that should give him that impression. The short answer to his question is no. He is on contract to the Government.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Mr Speaker with your leave I would like to clarify some information I gave in answer to supplementaries earlier on in this Session. In answer to Question No. 1595 on the salary of the new Chief Executive of the Health Authority, in supplementaries we had some discussion on the percentage of the gratuity due to the Chief Executive at the end of the three year term. Although I qualified that I was not certain but we talked about a percentage of salary and whether it was total salary of the three years or whether it was

per year. The correct information, I have checked the contract, the correct information is that we have agreed a lump sum of £35,000 payable at the end of the three years. It is a one-off payment and it is not tied to any percentage.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can I ask the Minister, does that apply to just one of the officers, the statement that he has just made?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

That applies to the Chief Executive about whom we had the discussion.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The other contract officers then get what the 25 per cent of their three year salary?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

We did not discuss the other contracts, we discussed only that one. The information is on that particular one.

ORAL

NO. 1598 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – HEALTHCARE DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Can Government confirm how many recommendations they have received from the Healthcare Development Team to date for implementation in our Health Services?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 1590 to 1594 and 1599 and 1600 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1599 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – HEALTHCARE DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Can Government confirm what are the recommendations they have implemented from the Healthcare Development Team and which are those they have not accepted to date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 1590 to 1594 and 1598, 1600 of 2004.

NO. 1600 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – HEALTHCARE DEVELOPMENT TEAM

In view of the Government's announcement that there will be a number of phases involved as to the recommendations made by the Healthcare Development Team, by which date do they expect all the recommendations to have been received?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answer to Question No. 1590

Members of the Gibraltar Healthcare Development Team are provided with the same accommodation as contract officers and locums employed by the Gibraltar Health Authority.

Answer to Question No. 1592

The Government have paid a total of £972,209.01 to date in respect of fees for the Healthcare Development Review.

Answer to Question No. 1594

Mr John Langan has been seconded to the GHA by the UK's Modernisation Agency as Joint Chief Executive and exercises the same powers and responsibilities as Mr Ernest Lima. This is a common arrangement in the UK for interim health service management.

Mr Frank McGurrin, who is not a member of the Gibraltar Healthcare Development Team, also exercises the same powers and responsibilities as Mr Joe Catania.

Answer to Question No. 1598

To date the Government have received nine reports from the Healthcare Development Team. A further six reports are scheduled to be delivered over the next three months.

Answer to Question No. 1593

Following acceptance by the Government of recommendations contained in a work stream report, the report itself is published amongst key GHA staff and union representatives for consultation. Following the consultation period the report is officially launched and information contained in the report is made public. Both the Complaints and the Scheduling reports have been subjected to this procedure, and a similar procedure will apply to the other reports.

Answer to Question No. 1591

Implementation of a work stream report is made up of a number of phases. The first phase is pre-implementation planning which involves a number of key tasks to ensure the successful launch of a new way of working. These tasks include the agreement of the new process, identification of new staff roles and communication with patients.

Answer to Question No. 1599

To date the Government, in consultation with the Healthcare Development Team, have accepted in principle all of the recommendations contained in the completed Phase II work stream reports which Government have received. The following work streams have been implemented:

1. Management Arrangements
2. Complaints

The following are in the pre-implementation phase:

1. Scheduling
2. Primary Care Appointments
3. Staff Appraisal and Training Needs Analysis
4. Redefinition of the Relationship with the Civil Service

The following works are undergoing further development work by the Healthcare Development Team:

1. Medical Staffing
2. Patient Re-Registration
3. Discharge

Answer to Question No. 1600

The Government expect to have received all of the recommendation reports from the Healthcare Development Team before the end of December 2004.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1590 TO 1594 AND 1598 TO 1600 OF 2004

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Can the Minister confirm how much Mr McGurrin is being paid and how much Mr Langan is being paid?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Both Mr Langan and Mr McGurrin are seconded by the Healthcare Development Team, by the Modernisation Agency and therefore are not on contract to the Government or being paid directly by the Government. They are part of the fees of the Healthcare Development Team.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

As I have so many questions being answered at the same time, I am not too sure whether the Minister mentioned anything in relation to scheduling surgery.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is there any special tax treatment in the case of these two gentlemen or are they paying normal tax as any other employee?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

They are not salaried employees.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well they are working in Gibraltar.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

But they are not salaried employees.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Somebody is paying them to work, no? Is that the advice the Government have, that the Tax Ordinance does not apply to them?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

As far as I am concerned they are seconded to me by the Healthcare Development Team.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is it that the Government do not know whether they have got taxable emoluments in Gibraltar?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Government are paying a fee to an external agency to deliver health reform advice. Part of that advice includes implementation advice and support. My understanding is that they are not in a relationship of employment in Gibraltar and that they are probably not paying tax personally in Gibraltar. Be aware they are not employed, they are deployed in Gibraltar by an organisation that is being paid a fee for the delivery of services by that organisation in Gibraltar. Rather like visiting consultants, not medical consultants. Rather like visiting engineering consultants, or architectural consultants or things of that sort. What the correct treatment of such people is under the Income Tax Ordinance I do not know, but that is the structure of the way the service is being delivered. Whether they are subject to taxation is not a matter that I am personally aware of.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I would imagine that the tax treatment of the persons that are working here for the company that is selling its services to the Government, will have been factored into the fee the Government is charged. Presumably the other gentleman who is getting £106,000 was not given the category whatever, he would have demanded a higher salary gross. Therefore one assumes that whatever they are getting paid by the agency must take into account the tax treatment, but it seems to me that if they are in fact working alongside, sharing a post in the Health Service alongside somebody else, Mr Catania or Mr Lima, every day of the week, all the year round, well they are more like detached workers than some other category. Detached workers, my understanding is, are made to pay tax in Gibraltar.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I was returning to answer the first part of the question that the Hon Miss Mari Montegriffo asked me in terms of scheduling. Her question in Question No. 1591 was that scheduling surgery in gynaecology will commence as planned in October, is that right?

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Yes that is right.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I said that scheduling was in the pre-implementation stage and I defined for her the pre-implementation stage. The first phase is pre-implementation planning, which involves a number of key tasks to ensure the successful launch of a new way of working. These tasks include the agreement of new processes, identification of new staff roles and communication with patients. That is where scheduling in gynaecology is at the moment. It is being implemented and it is in the pre-planning stage.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Except that as I read the Press Release further, the Minister said the new scheduling service for surgery will commence in gynaecology in October. It will be introduced in other surgical specialities. So I took it that it was starting already within gynaecology. Except that when he goes on to mention the other surgical specialities, ophthalmology, general surgery, urology, orthopaedics and ENT, these will start in early 2005 after the backlogs have been eliminated, and that is the question that I am putting to the Minister. Now, is he saying, because the Minister in answer to Question No. 1561 a little while ago, gave me the list of the people who are waiting for elective surgery. Therefore, it appears to me that if there are 418 people waiting in orthopaedics, and then he says in his Press Release that the scheduling surgery will commence after the backlogs have been eliminated, is he saying that it will start once the 418 are off the list?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes, the intention is to eliminate those long waiting lists and once we are down to manageable figures, then to introduce scheduling in the particular speciality. Scheduling will not cure the waiting lists.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

I know that, but if I am correct then, this is an exercise that would take quite a few number of months, because if we had a situation in April and in May where the waiting lists were lower in most specialities that I have been given, then the backlog will surely take much longer than what the Minister is saying. Is he saying early 2005? That is what he said in his Press Release.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

There is scheduling and there is waiting lists elimination. They are linked but not the same thing. The process of elimination of backlog, elimination of waiting lists, relies on two factors in addition to the scheduling process. One is the arrival on stream once we move into the new hospital, of a much larger amount of operating theatre resources, so that there will be more operating theatre resources available and therefore each speciality will get access to more operating theatre time than they get at the moment. Secondly, it has to be read in conjunction with the proposals in relation to the increase in the number of consultants, which means that there will be more people to perform the operations and provide the service. So, there are some disciplines in which the scheduling system can start to work already, in their existing facilities at St Bernard's Hospital and I think gynaecology has probably already been providing a degree of scheduling service, probably now for one or two months, but the main hospital based scheduling service will not come in with a vengeance until we are in the new hospital and the rate at which operations can be carried out in each discipline, will hugely increase because of (a) the availability of more operating theatre resources, (b) the availability of more keyhole surgery techniques, and (c) the availability of more surgeons and consultants to carry out these services with part of the scheme, involves increasing from single-handed consultants to double-handed consultants et cetera. None of that can take place in St Bernard's because there are not the additional operating theatres available, nor additional staff recruited.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Are the Government saying that scheduling surgery is being offered to new patients or to the patients that I have been told are on the list?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

That is a different issue. Scheduling simply means that the patient has a say in choosing a date convenient to the patient for doing the operation. It has got to be by appointment. It is not just a question of being told to come on 15th October or 2nd January and one may be on ones holiday and if one misses the slot, that is what scheduling means. Scheduling does not in itself provide additional resources to deliver more medical care. It is just a way of delivering whatever the amount of resource one has in a way that is convenient to the client in terms of the choice of date and (b) obliges the Health Authority to make sure that all the required back-up services are in place for the delivery of a particular choice. So for example, if the hon Lady and the Health Authority management schedule an elective, obviously this does not apply to emergency surgery which is immediate, we are talking about elective surgery. If the hon Lady schedules an operation for her to be done on 3rd March and the Health Authority confirm the 3rd March to her, then the Health Authority will make sure that all the resources that she needs, both before the operation, during her stay, for example a bed, and post operation, for example therapy and all of that, that all of that is already lined up and teed up to be delivered to her consistent with the date for the operation which has been given to her. That sort of coordination, which is really internal coordination within the Health Authority, has actually never been available before, and that is what scheduling means. This is not just about her date, it is about lining up behind the scenes all the

resources necessary to make sure that she will not be pushed around from pillar to post, from one department to the other, one is ready and the other is not. That by itself does not eliminate backlog. One can only eliminate backlog by having more surgeons and more operating theatre time, and that is how the backlog will be dealt with.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

I posed the question because I was confused, because the Press Release says that it will be introduced after the backlogs have been eliminated. Therefore, I thought that the hon Members obviously were saying, well if the backlogs are to be eliminated we are talking about the backlogs of the people who are on the list for elective surgery. Secondly, in that same Press Release, it does say as the Minister's statement that he is excited about visible real improvements to the quality of our health care and so on and so forth, he says secondly by the elimination of all backlogs of waiting lists. That is why I posed the question.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, and that press statement remains correct in the sense that one cannot offer people the choice of dates whilst one has a waiting list still on ones plate. In other words, dates will simply not be available for her to choose as a new patient, if the system is still clogged up with people waiting. So, the scheduling system will not actually operate properly until the backlog is fully removed. Now, not to say that it will not operate at all but it will not operate as it is intended to work until there is no backlog. The whole basis of the reform is that waiting lists will disappear. They will become a thing of the past. Now, when the new hospital arrives and the new staff that has to be recruited is recruited, the advice that we have is that the backlog can be eliminated very quickly and that the fully fledged scheduling process will actually start to operate quite quickly in the full sense, without prejudice to the fact that in the meantime there will be a degree of scheduling available. She is right in that it will not operate in accordance with the basis that the model is intended to deliver in the longer term, until the backlogs have been eliminated and that is a matter of weeks and a few months, we are not talking about years to eliminate the backlog. The procedure for the elimination of backlog that has been worked out talks about weeks and a handful of months and no longer than that. So that is the situation and we think the system will work very well but that there will be launching issues and there will be transitional issues and that we do not expect the system to work from day one, as it will eventually work when the backlogs have been ironed out of the system.

ORAL

NO. 1601 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

EMPLOYMENT – NUMBER OF GIBRALTARIANS

Can Government state how many of the Gibraltarians employed in the months of April to September 2004 were registered with the Employment Agency as unemployed giving a breakdown by age and sex?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 1602 to 1607 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1602 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

EMPLOYMENT – NUMBER OF GIBRALTARIANS

Can Government state how many Gibraltarians registered as unemployed with the Employment Agency in the months of April to September 2004 were registered as looking for part-time jobs giving a breakdown by sex and age?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 1601 and 1603 to 1607 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1603 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

EMPLOYMENT – MOROCCAN NATIONALS

Can Government state how many Moroccan nationals employed in the months of April to September 2004 were new entrants to the local labour market?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 1601, 1602 and 1604 to 1607 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1604 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

EMPLOYMENT – OTHER BRITISH

Can Government state of the “Other British” employed in the months of April to September 2004 how many were new entrants to the local labour market giving a breakdown by sex?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 1601 to 1603 and 1605 to 1607 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1605 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

EMPLOYMENT – SPANISH NATIONALS

Can Government state of the Spanish nationals employed in the months of April to September 2004 how many were new entrants to the local labour market by sex?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 1601 to 1604 and 1606 to 1607 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1606 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

EMPLOYMENT – SPANISH NATIONALS

Can Government state what was the total number of employment contracts for Spanish nationals registered with the Employment Agency in April to September 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 1601 to 1605 and 1607 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1607 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

EMPLOYMENT – NON-EEC NATIONALS

Can Government state how many non-EEC nationals in the months of April to September 2004 were new entrants to the local labour market giving a breakdown by nationality and job title?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

The statistical information that is requested by the hon Member is set out in the schedule attached.

Answer to Question 1607 of 2004

Number of Gibraltarians employed in the months of April to September 2004 and who were registered with the Employment Service.

April	Male	Female	Total
Under 18	3	4	7
18-24	11	5	16
25 and over	12	13	25
Total	26	22	48

May	Male	Female	Total
Under 18	0	2	2
18-24	5	5	10
25 and over	9	9	18
Total	14	16	30

June	Male	Female	Total
Under 18	1	4	5
18-24	16	6	22
25 and over	11	6	17
Total	28	16	44

July	Male	Female	Total
Under 18	1	1	2
18-24	8	8	16
25 and over	15	5	20
Total	24	14	38

August	Male	Female	Total
Under 18	1	1	2
18-24	11	7	18
25 and over	13	4	17
Total	25	12	37

September	Male	Female	Total
Under 18	3	4	7
18-24	11	15	26
25 and over	14	13	27
Total	28	32	60

cont..

Contd Answer to Question 1607 of 2004

Number of Gibraltarians registered as unemployed with the Employment Service in the months of April to September 2004, looking for part-time employment:

April	Male	Female	Total
Under 18	0	0	0
18-24	0	1	1
25 and over	0	15	15
Total	0	16	16

May	Male	Female	Total
Under 18	0	0	0
18-24	0	1	1
25 and over	0	13	13
Total	0	14	14

June	Male	Female	Total
Under 18	0	0	0
18-24	1	0	1
25 and over	0	10	10
Total	1	10	11

July	Male	Female	Total
Under 18	0	0	0
18-24	0	0	0
25 and over	0	9	9
Total	0	9	9

August	Male	Female	Total
Under 18	0	0	0
18-24	0	0	0
25 and over	0	13	13
Total	0	13	13

September	Male	Female	Total
Under 18	0	0	0
18-24	0	0	0
25 and over	0	14	14
Total	0	14	14

cont...

Contd Answer to Question 1607 of 2004

Number of Moroccan nationals who are new entrants to the Local Labour Market in the months of April to September 2004:

April	0
May	2
June	1
July	2
August	1
September	6

Other British nationals who are new entrants to the Local Labour Market in the months of April to September 2004:

	Males	Females	Total
April	29	18	47
May	35	24	59
June	31	31	62
July	35	25	60
August	30	26	56
September	39	29	68

Number of Spanish nationals employed in the months of April to September 2004, who were new entrants to the local labour market:

	Males	Females	Total
April	22	24	46
May	33	15	48
June	37	27	64
July	22	26	48
August	46	27	73
September	71	39	110

cont...

Contd Answer to Question 1607 of 2004

Number of Notice of Terms of Engagement for Spanish nationals registered in April to September 2004 :

April	2711
May	2738
June	2749
July	2779
August	2802
September	2840

Number of non-EEC nationals who are new entrants to the Local Labour Market in the months of April to September 2004:

April	Malaysia	Colombian	Czek	Ukrain
Manag.	1			
Prof.		1		
Ass. Prof.				
Admin			1	
Skilled				
Personal				
Sales				1
Plant				
Element.				

May	Canadian	Indian	S.African	Israeli
Manag.		2		
Prof.	2		1	
Ass. Prof.				
Admin				1
Skilled				
Personal				
Sales				
Plant				
Element.	1			

June	Polish	Canada	Malaysia	Israeli	Turk	American
Manag.						
Prof.			1			1
Ass. Prof.						
Admin					2	
Skilled	29			2		
Personal		1				
Sales						
Plant						
Element.						

cont...

Contd Answer to Question 1607 of 2004

July	Romanian	Ukrain	Thai	Israeli	Russia
Manag.					
Prof.		2			
Ass. Prof.			1		
Admin				1	1
Skilled					
Personal					
Sales					
Plant	1				
Element.	1				

August	Australian	Indian
Manag.		5
Prof.		
Ass. Prof.	1	
Admin		
Skilled		
Personal		
Sales		
Plant		
Element.		

September	Bulg	China	Indian	Slovak	Israel	Australia	Canada	USA	Japan	Russia	Turk
Manag.			1		1	2		1			1
Prof.				2		3	5			1	
Ass. Prof.							1				
Admin											
Skilled											
Personal											
Sales	1	2				1			2		
Plant											
Element.											

NO. 1608 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

EMPLOYMENT – WAGE SUBSIDY

Can Government state what was the expenditure by the Employment Agency on wage subsidy in the months of April to September 2004 and the number of people and of employers involved?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

The expenditure incurred by the Employment Service on wage subsidy in the months of April to September 2004 is as follows:

Year 2004	April	May	June	July	August	September
Expenditure (£)	2,695	13,288	8,989	16,474	6,610	10,068

Year 2004	April	May	June	July	August	September
Total of Employers	21	24	27	26	28	28
Total of Employees	24	29	34	34	29	29

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1608 OF 2004

HON F R PICARDO:

Can the Minister indicate why the expenditure fluctuates, as it does, when the number of employers and employees sometimes is steady? For example, in the month of July, the expenditure is in one instance £16,000 when we are dealing with 26 employers and 34 employees, and in the previous month of June the expenditure was half that when we were dealing with only one more employer and exactly the same number of employees.

HON DR B A LINARES:

The expenditure is very deceptive really because some of the bills go back on a previous entry. Different employees engaged in the scheme finish at different times in the six months. Their year of wage subsidy given to the employer ends in July or June and therefore, I think it is much more indicative in terms of the progress of the scheme to look at the number of employers and employees rather than the expenditure, which fluctuates for the reason I have just given.

ORAL

NO. 1609 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

EMPLOYMENT – NUMBER OF CONTRACTS

Can Government state how many employment contracts were registered with the Employment Agency for frontier workers in the months of April to September 2004 giving a breakdown by sex?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 1610 and 1611 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1610 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

EMPLOYMENT – SELF-EMPLOYED

Can Government state how many persons were registered as self-employed with the Employment Agency in the months of April to September 2004 giving a breakdown by sex?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 1609 and 1611 of 2004.

NO. 1611 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

EMPLOYMENT – NUMBER OF CONTRACTS

What was the number of employment contracts registered with the Employment Agency in respect of private employers excluding Government-owned and joint venture companies in the months of April to September 2004 giving a breakdown by nationality of employees?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

The statistical information that is requested by the hon Member is set out in the schedule attached.

I am very pleased to be able to provide data from the Employment Service registers concerning frontier workers. This was discussed in the last meeting and I explained there were difficulties with the computer, the Profile 2000 Programme, I want to express my appreciation to the officers in the Department who have now somehow re-arranged the programme to give us at the touch of a button the data required.

Answer to Question No. 1611 of 2004

Frontier workers registered with the Employment Service in the months of April to September 2004 broken down by sex.

	M	F	Total
April	2098	1476	3574
May	2136	1492	3628
June	2167	1510	3677
July	2180	1539	3719
August	2223	1580	3803
September	2274	1577	3851

Self employed persons registered with the Employment Service in the months of April to September 2004 broken down by sex.

	M	F	Total
April	436	217	653
May	442	221	663
June	446	224	670
July	452	227	679
August	455	227	682
September	455	231	686

Terms of Engagements registered with the Employment Service in respect of private employers excluding Government-owned and joint venture companies in the months of April to September of 2004:

	Gib.	Other British	Spanish	Moroccan	Other EEC	Other Non-EEC	Total
April	6527	3089	2538	993	549	512	14208
May	6560	3109	2576	1005	553	511	14314
June	6619	3136	2599	1004	561	511	14430
July	6697	3188	2622	1003	566	490	14566
August	6654	3225	2630	1006	576	487	14578
September	6639	3258	2696	1006	597	500	14696

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1609 TO 1611 OF 2004

HON F R PICARDO:

Can I thank the Minister for having written to me at the beginning of September, giving me that explanation and most of the data already requested up to the end of August, although I did not receive this set until after my Question had been filed? Can I ask him to turn his mind to the total figure of frontier workers and ask him to see whether he can in some way explain why there is a constant rise, that that curve always is going up, and whether the service has any indication why even in its constituent parts, for example, the Gibraltarians in that group, the Other British in that group are consistently going up?

HON DR B A LINARES:

The reason is that these are cumulative figures. The totals are cumulative figures and also behind it all, there is that eternal problem that I have explained before, the failure of employers very often to notify terminations, and that is why there is that increase, not terribly dramatic but certainly because of the accumulation of these registrations.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can I ask the Minister to look into something which I imagine he cannot answer now? This is, if he looks at the figure which he has given us say for August, or for April in terms of frontier workers, and the table he provided in writing which gave us a breakdown by nationality, it shows for example that between April and August, comparing the frontier workers and the breakdown by nationality previously provided in writing, it shows that the number of Spanish nationals that are registered as foreign workers is something of the order of 300 to 400 less than the total number of Spanish nationals registered. That would suggest that there is in the order of 300 to 400 resident Spanish workers. That seems a high figure and I wonder if that could be looked at?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Resident in Gibraltar so they are no longer foreign workers.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The Minister has given us in the previous answer a breakdown which shows the total, and then he has given us the frontier element, I imagine, of that total which is around 2,400 in the written answer which coincides with the component of Spanish nationals in the figure that he has given in answer now to the male/female division. In the answer he has just given, he gives us the male/female division and previously to that in writing he provided a figure of Spanish frontier workers where for example, in August it was 2,529. What I am saying is that if he looks at the figures in different months, he finds that something around 350 would appear to be by deduction the resident Spanish workers.

That seems to be a high figure compared to what I remember seeing in the past and I wondered if that could be looked at.

HON DR B A LINARES:

I certainly will because I share the hon Member's view that it seems a rather high figure of Spanish residents in Gibraltar.

HON F R PICARDO:

Following from the answer that the Minister has given in relation to my first supplementary, are we therefore to expect that that curve is now going to flutter a bit. We have seen a 10 per cent increase in the first nine months of the year across the board of frontier workers. If that is because of registrations, are we going to see that figure now plateau?

HON DR B A LINARES:

It should even out after notices of terminations are demanded and eventually achieved and obtained by the Employment Service, it should be evened out, but there seems to be a pattern as I say, not just with the frontier workers but with every other cumulative totals that we have here in these tables, there is that increase. We simply, to some extent, an enlightened guess is that it is because of the terminations.

NO. 1612 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

EMPLOYMENT – NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED

Can Government give a breakdown of male and female unemployed Gibraltarians aged 18 and over in the months of April to September 2004 receiving:-

- (a) Unemployment Benefit;
- (b) Social Assistance;
- (c) No payments giving a further breakdown of sex in each age group?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 1613 and 1614 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1613 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

EMPLOYMENT – UNEMPLOYMENT REGISTER

How many Gibraltarians were added to the unemployment register during the months of April to September 2004 giving a breakdown by age and sex?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 1612 and 1614 of 2004

ORAL

NO. 1614 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

EMPLOYMENT – NUMBER OF GIBRALTARIANS

Can Government state how many of the Gibraltarians employed in the months of April to September 2004 were registered with the Employment Agency giving a breakdown by age and sex?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

The statistical information that is requested by the hon Member is set out in the schedule attached.

Answer to Question No. 1614 of 2004

Gibraltarians aged 18 and over, receiving UB or SA or no payments for months April to September 2004, broken down by sex and age.

A. UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT

2004	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL	18/25	25+
APRIL	45	17	62	22	40
MAY	39	20	59	25	34
JUNE	38	27	65	22	43
JULY	38	38	76	26	50
AUGUST	45	40	85	31	54
SEPTEMBER	42	33	75	27	48

B. SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

2004	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL	18/25	25+
APRIL	89	40	129	22	107
MAY	88	41	129	25	104
JUNE	93	47	140	26	114
JULY	86	47	133	24	109
AUGUST	90	50	140	25	115
SEPTEMBER	93	58	151	27	124

C. NO PAYMENTS

2004	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL	18/25	25+
APRIL	46	51	97	33	64
MAY	52	49	101	31	70
JUNE	43	43	86	29	57
JULY	71	22	93	42	51
AUGUST	32	17	49	17	32
SEPTEMBER	66	57	123	67	56

Cont.....

Cont'd Answer to Question No. 1614

Number of Gibraltarians added to the unemployment register during the months of April to September of 2004, broken down by age and sex.

April	Male	Female	Total
Under 18	3	12	15
18-24	19	14	33
25 & Over	27	25	52
Total	49	51	100

May	Male	Female	Total
Under 18	3	8	11
18-24	24	15	39
25 & Over	26	25	51
Total	53	48	101

June	Male	Female	Total
Under 18	10	5	15
18-24	29	15	44
25 & Over	33	26	59
Total	72	46	118

July	Male	Female	Total
Under 18	5	6	11
18-24	32	21	53
25 & Over	45	21	66
Total	82	48	130

August	Male	Female	Total
Under 18	7	4	11
18-24	19	12	31
25 & Over	33	26	59
Total	59	42	101

September	Male	Female	Total
Under 18	9	15	24
18-24	44	43	87
25 & Over	44	40	84
Total	97	98	195

Cont.....

Cont'd Answer to Question No. 1614

Number of Gibraltarians employed in the months of April to September 2004 and who were registered with the Employment Service.

April	Male	Female	Total
Under 18	3	4	7
18-24	11	5	16
25 & Over	12	13	25
Total	26	22	48

May	Male	Female	Total
Under 18	0	2	2
18-24	5	5	10
25 & Over	9	9	18
Total	14	16	30

June	Male	Female	Total
Under 18	1	4	5
18-24	16	6	22
25 & Over	11	6	17
Total	28	16	44

July	Male	Female	Total
Under 18	1	1	2
18-24	8	8	16
25 & Over	15	5	20
Total	24	14	38

August	Male	Female	Total
Under 18	1	1	2
18-24	11	7	18
25 & Over	13	4	17
Total	25	12	37

September	Male	Female	Total
Under 18	3	4	7
18-24	11	15	26
25 & Over	14	13	27
Total	28	32	60

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1612 TO 1614 OF 2004

HON F R PICARDO:

In relation to Question No. 1612, can I just ask the Minister whether he has noted the quite dramatic increase in terms of females receiving unemployment benefit, where we have an almost 100 per cent increase, and females receiving social assistance where the increase is in the order of I think about 40 per cent or 50 per cent, whether he has analysed those figures in order to be able to understand how such sharp increases can be noted in a period of only six months?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I have not analysed these figures in detail because this information actually comes to us from the Social Services Department.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In answer to the question on the numbers of people added to the register, which is 100 in April, the number of Gibraltarians joining the register, it goes up to 195 in September, then if we compare that with the number of persons employed who were registered, how is it that the difference between these two figures is not actually reflected in an increase in the numbers still registered? What this indicates is presumably that people are stopping attending without having had a job, in almost as big numbers as those who stop attending because they have got a job. That would be the only deduction that I could make. If I may take as an example any particular month, for example, in the month of September this shows 195 people registered for the first time as unemployed and 60 people were removed because they found work, leaving 135 more than there were in August, in theory. Unless something else has happened to the 135, since in fact the unemployment figures that are published do not show such an increasing trend, it would imply that people in fact simply stop attending the ETB even without finding work.

HON DR B A LINARES:

This is what we call 'the lapsed', which means that they actually stop registering in the ETB as unemployed any more. That may explain it.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Given that in fact the figures are quite significant, because it would appear from the September example that I have quoted, if there is no significant change in the numbers out of work in September then we are talking about the lapse of numbering the employed by a ratio of 2 : 1. If the difference between the people that become unemployed and the people that get jobs is 135, which is the 195 minus 60, and most of them then disappear because they lapse, would the Minister consider the possibility perhaps for a period of time of keeping a record of the people that are lapsed to see if it

is that they find work on their own, because they may actually be joining the workforce but not apparently coming from the unemployed, because they have actually been unemployed but they have not taken the job at the time that the ETB still had them on their books as being unemployed. It may be for example that people have lapsed according to the ETB in September when really they have taken a job and their contract has not been registered, that kind of thing. So it might be worth monitoring for a number of months what is happening with the lapsed to see if in fact they are not really disappearing but actually getting work. Would the Minister agree?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Yes we have of course records of the lapsed people who do not turn up any more, but what the hon Member is suggesting that we somehow investigate the outcome, the final destination of these lapsed, whether they have actually found jobs for themselves which have not gone into our employment registers, which they should have done.

HON J J BOSSANO:

At least I am suggesting, if the Minister will consider, perhaps asking the officers at the ETB to try out for several months something like that to see if anything shows up. Given that it is surprising that twice as many people should disappear through being lapsed than disappear through finding work in a given month.

HON DR B A LINARES:

I understand the point made by the hon Member perfectly and I will put it to the officers in the Employment Service to try and follow this one up to see if they can shed any further light on these discrepancies.

ORAL

NO. 1615 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

EMPLOYMENT – NUMBER OF WORK PERMITS

Can Government state the number of work permits issued in the months of April to September 2004 giving a breakdown by occupation, sex and nationality?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 1616, 1617 and 1618 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1616 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

EMPLOYMENT – NUMBER OF CONTRACTS

Can Government give details of the number of employment contracts terminated in the months of April to September 2004, giving a breakdown by nationality and industry?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 1615, 1617 and 1618 of 2004.

NO. 1617 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

EMPLOYMENT – VACANCIES FILLED

Can Government state of the vacancies filled in the months of April to September 2004 how many were for part-time employment giving a breakdown by sex as follows:

- (a) Gibraltarians; and
- (b) Other nationals?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 1615, 1616 and 1618 of 2004.

NO. 1618 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

EMPLOYMENT – TERMS OF ENGAGEMENT

Can Government state how many Terms of Engagements were registered with the Employment Agency in the months of April to September 2004:

- (a) including directors; and
- (b) excluding directors?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

The statistical information that is requested by the hon Member is set out in the schedule attached.

Answer to Question No. 1618

Number of work permits issued in the months of April to September 2004.

April	Malaysia		Canadian		Ukranian		Czeck	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Manag.								
Prof.			1					
Ass. Prof.	1							
Admin						1		1
Skilled								
Personal								
Sales								
Plant								
Element								

May	Colombian		Moroccan		Israeli		Polish	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Manag.								
Prof.								
Ass. Prof.								
Admin					1			
Skilled	1						11	
Personal								
Sales			1					
Plant								
Element			1					

June	S.Africa		Polish		America		Israeli		Romania		Maroc		Malay		Turk	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Manag.																
Prof.					1											
Ass. Prof.																
Admin	1															
Skilled			22				1									1
Personal																
Sales													1			1
Plant																
Element									1		1					

July	Romanian		Ukranian		Russian	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
Manag.						
Prof.						
Ass. Prof.						
Admin			2			1
Skilled						
Personal						
Sales						
Plant	1					
Element						

Cont.....

Cont'd Answer to Question No. 1618

August	Israeli		Australian		Mor.		Canadian		Slovak		Thai	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Manag.			1		1							
Prof.							6		1			
Ass. Prof.			1									
Admin	1											
Skilled												
Personal								1				1
Sales			3									
Plant												
Element												

September	Slovak		Indian		China		Israeli		Japan		Moroc		Turkey		Bulgar		Austral		Russia	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Manag.			6								1		1							
Prof.	1																1		1	
Ass. Prof.																				
Admin																				
Skilled											2						1			
Personal																				
Sales					2				1	1					1		1			
Plant																				
Element											1									

Cont.....

Cont'd Answer to Question No. 1618

May-2004

Industry	Gibraltar	Other Brit	Spanish	Moroccan	Other EEC	Other Non-EEC	Total
Shipbuilding, repair, marine eng.	10	1	14		1	1	27
M/F of food, drink and tobacco			2	1			3
Printing & publishing	2						2
M/F n.e.c. (Clothing, et cetera)			1				1
Building & Construction	16	37	51		3	16	123
Electricity Supply		1					1
Water Supply		1					
Sea transport / shipping svcs	3						3
Port & Services							
Road transport & related svc	3	2	1				6
Post & Telecommunications	2						2
Air transport & related svc	1						1
W/sale-food, drink	2	1					3
W/sale fuel							0
W/sale-n.e.c	3	2					5
Retail Food	13	4	9				26
Retail drink & tobacco	1	1	1				3
Retail-clothing, footwear	8	1	2				11
Retail-h/hold goods	2	5		1			8
Retail-n.e.c	4	5	9				18
Hotels, hostels, guest house, etc	2	1	4				7
Restaurants, cafes, etc	11	8	13	5		1	38
Bars (Lic to sell alcohol)	1	6	6			1	14
Tourist svcs n.e.c., (inc Casino)	1	2					3
Banking & finance	9	4			2		15
Insurance & Real Estate	7	4	1				12
Legal, account, oth bus. Svcs	5	11	10		3		29
Public admin	17						17
Educa Services	1						1
Medical/health services	6	3					9
Welfare, Charity, religious svc	3	1					4
Entertainment & Sport	5	10			3	1	19
Repairs-Consumer goods	3	4	3			2	12
Police / Fire Services	4	4					8
Defence	6	3					9
Sanitary Services			1				
Services n.e.c (Inc Hairdressers)	13	2	12				27
Total	164	124	140	7	12	22	469

Cont.....

Cont'd Answer to Question No. 1618

June-2004

Industry	Gibraltar	Other Brit	Spanish	Moroccan	Other EEC	Other Non- EEC	Total
Shipbuilding, repair, marine eng.	10	1	13		1		25
M/F of food, drink and tobacco			2				2
Printing & publishing	1	1					2
M/F n.e.c. (Clothing, et cetera)	1						1
Building & Construction	14	23	59	2	4	22	124
Electricity Supply							0
Water Supply	3						
Sea transport / shipping svcs		1		1			2
Port & Services		1					
Road transport & related svc	5		2	2			9
Post & Telecommunications	1						1
Air transport & related svc							0
W/sale-food, drink	1		2	1			4
W/sale fuel							0
W/sale-n.e.c	1	1	2		1		5
Retail Food	12	2	9				23
Retail drink & tobacco	5						5
Retail-clothing, footwear		1	3			1	5
Retail-h/hold goods	2	1	3	1			7
Retail-n.e.c	15	6	10	2	2	4	39
Hotels, hostels, guest house, etc	4	1	1	2	2		10
Restaurants, cafes, etc	6	11	15	4		1	37
Bars (Lic to sell alcohol)	2	7		1	2	1	13
Tourist svcs n.e.c., (inc Casino)	7	1			1		9
Banking & finance	9	2					11
Insurance & Real Estate	8	3					11
Legal, account, oth bus. Svcs	48	21	6	1	5		81
Public admin	19			1			20
Educa Services	2	1					3
Medical/health services	4	1	1				6
Welfare, Charity, religious svc							0
Entertainment & Sport	6	15			5	1	27
Repairs-Consumer goods	2	2	2				6
Police / Fire Services	7	1					8
Defence	4	2					6
Sanitary Services		1					
Services n.e.c (Inc Hairdressers)	18	9	10	1	1	1	40
Total	217	116	140	19	24	31	547

Cont.....

Cont'd Answer to Question No. 1618

July-2004

Industry	Gibraltar	Other Brit	Spanish	Moroccan	Other EEC	Other Non- EEC
Shipbuilding, repair, marine eng.	8	1	15		4	
M/F of food, drink and tobacco	1					
Printing & publishing	2	1	1			
M/F n.e.c. (Clothing, et cetera)						
Building & Construction	20	25	43	4	3	26
Electricity Supply		1				
Water Supply						
Sea transport / shipping svcs	6	1				
Port & Services						
Road transport & related svc	2		3	1		
Post & Telecommunications	5					
Air transport & related svc						
W/sale-food, drink	4		3			
W/sale fuel						
W/sale-n.e.c	4	1	1			
Retail Food	17	8	10	1		
Retail drink & tobacco	4		1			
Retail-clothing, footwear	4	3	3			1
Retail-h/hold goods	4	1	2			
Retail-n.e.c	10		5	1		
Hotels, hostels, guest house, etc	3	2	1		1	
Restaurants, cafes, etc	3	8	18	7	3	
Bars (Lic to sell alcohol)	2	9	2	1	4	1
Tourist svcs n.e.c., (inc Casino)	2	2	1		1	
Banking & finance	10	3	1		2	
Insurance & Real Estate	5	3				
Legal, account, oth bus. Svcs	31	11	7		1	
Public admin	16	1	1			
Educa Services	1			1		
Medical/health services	4					
Welfare, Charity, religious svc	2	1	1			
Entertainment & Sport	14	19	1		5	1
Repairs-Consumer goods	5	6	3			
Police / Fire Services	2	3				
Defence	2	3				
Sanitary Services	2	1		1		
Services n.e.c (Inc Hairdressers)	14	6	17	2	1	
Total	209	120	140	19	25	29

Cont'd Answer to Question No. 1618

August-2004

Industry	Gibraltar	Other Brit	Spanish	Moroccan	Other EEC	Other Non- EEC	Total
Shipbuilding, repair, marine eng.	11	1	20				32
M/F of food, drink and tobacco				1			1
Printing & publishing	1	2					3
M/F n.e.c. (Clothing, et cetera)							0
Building & Construction	18	15	44	1	1	16	95
Electricity Supply	1		1				2
Water Supply	9						
Sea transport / shipping svcs	1						1
Port & Services	1						
Road transport & related svc	2						2
Post & Telecommunications	3						3
Air transport & related svc							0
W/sale-food, drink	13		1				14
W/sale fuel	2						2
W/sale-n.e.c	1		1		1		3
Retail Food	14	3	11		1		29
Retail drink & tobacco	6	1	1				8
Retail-clothing, footwear	6	4	1				11
Retail-h/hold goods	2						2
Retail-n.e.c	12	2	6		1		21
Hotels, hostels, guest house, etc	5	2	3	2	4		16
Restaurants, cafes, etc	7	12	26	2	2		49
Bars (Lic to sell alcohol)	4	11	1	2	1		19
Tourist svcs n.e.c., (inc Casino)	7	2	2				11
Banking & finance	14	2	1		2		19
Insurance & Real Estate	8	2	1				11
Legal, account, oth bus. Svcs	25	5	1	1	1	1	34
Public admin	24	3			1		28
Educa Services	4	1	1		1		7
Medical/health services	15	1	2				18
Welfare, Charity, religious svc	2	3					5
Entertainment & Sport	16	26			5	1	48
Repairs-Consumer goods	6	3					9
Police / Fire Services	2	3	1				6
Defence	7	2					9
Sanitary Services							
Services n.e.c (Inc Hairdressers)	27	9	33	3	1		73
Total	276	115	158	12	22	18	601

Cont.....

Cont'd Answer to Question No. 1618

September-2004

Industry	Gibraltar	Other Brit	Spanish	Moroccan	Other EEC	Other Non- EEC	Total
Shipbuilding, repair, marine eng.	3	2	14		2		21
M/F of food, drink and tobacco		2	1				3
Printing & publishing							0
M/F n.e.c. (Clothing, et cetera)			1				1
Building & Construction	13	17	35	4	6	2	77
Electricity Supply	1	1	4				6
Water Supply	1						
Sea transport / shipping svcs	3		2				5
Port & Services							
Road transport & related svc	1		2				3
Post & Telecommunications	3						3
Air transport & related svc	2						2
W/sale-food, drink	11		1				12
W/sale fuel	1						1
W/sale-n.e.c	1	1	1			1	4
Retail Food	6	3	4				13
Retail drink & tobacco	2						2
Retail-clothing, footwear	7	2	2				11
Retail-h/hold goods	1	2	1				4
Retail-n.e.c	10	3	6	1			20
Hotels, hostels, guest house, etc	6	6	6	3	4		25
Restaurants, cafes, etc	13	11	14	1	2	1	42
Bars (Lic to sell alcohol)	1	7	1	1	1		11
Tourist svcs n.e.c., (inc Casino)	4	3	1				8
Banking & finance	17	3	2		2		24
Insurance & Real Estate	10	3			2		15
Legal, account, oth bus. Svcs	33	10	4	2	2	1	52
Public admin	53	1		1			55
Educa Services	1						1
Medical/health services	7	3	1				11
Welfare, Charity, religious svc	5						5
Entertainment & Sport	17	16	2		2	1	38
Repairs-Consumer goods	7	2	2				11
Police / Fire Services	6	1					7
Defence	5	4					9
Sanitary Services	1						
Services n.e.c (Inc Hairdressers)	26	3	13	4	1		47
Total	278	106	120	17	24	6	551

Cont.....

Cont'd Answer to Question No. 1618

Part Time vacancies filled in the months of April to September 2004, by Gibraltarians and other nationals and by sex.

Gibraltarians	Male	Female	Total	Other Nationals	Male	Female	Total
April	5	25	30	April	22	39	61
May	14	28	42	May	27	36	63
June	20	29	49	June	37	49	86
July	24	45	69	July	31	66	97
August	18	27	45	August	23	50	73
September	7	30	37	September	31	49	80

Notices of Terms of Engagement registered with the Employment Service for the months of April to September of 2004, including directors and excluding directors.

	April	May	June	July	August	September
Including Directors	19868	19835	19987	20137	20120	20216
Excluding Directors	17925	18016	18174	18328	18315	18425

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1615 TO 1618 OF 2004

HON F R PICARDO:

Can I direct the Minister's attention to the front page of the statistical information provided, which is headed 'Answer to Question No. 1618' but is in fact the answer to Question No. 1615, which deals with work permits and a breakdown of occupation, sex and nationality. Can I ask him to look at the table provided for May, which refers to eleven Polish workers having been granted work permits as skilled workers I suppose? Can I ask him that figure increases to 22 in June, because the Immigration Control Ordinance which will provide that nationals from countries from the new Accession States will require work permits, has not yet been transposed and is in fact in this House, on what basis was the Employment Service requiring Polish nationals to obtain work permits to work in Gibraltar in May and June after Poland had acceded to the European Community and this House had not passed legislation reliant on the derogations from the Treaty in that respect?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Yes, I can see the point. There was this nebulous area between the May accession of the Central Europeans and the actual transposition of the derogation powers, but the Employment Service felt that at that stage we should still be requiring work permits as up to then. We actually discussed this in the last meeting of the House and I made it clear that we are still demanding work permits until such derogation powers were sought through legislation.

HON F R PICARDO:

I am not disputing the reasoning behind that, but on what possible legal basis could the service, which is a Government service, demand, seek or grant a work permit to somebody who is not legally obliged to seek such a work permit or cannot be the recipient of such a permit, because his nationality does not allow that, until such time until this House passes the Immigration Control Ordinance (Amendment)?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I understand the point that the hon Member is making. The Employment Service was given legal advice on this. I am not a legal man, I do not know the intricacies of the legalisms involved in the mechanics of the thing, but certainly the Employment Service acted according to what was deemed to be by legal advisers to be perfectly in order. I can see the point.

HON F R PICARDO:

Is the Minister's position then that any national of one of the Accession States, who has sought employment between May and such time as this House passes the Immigration

Control (Amendment) Ordinance, will be required even now to have a work permit, and that he is not a person who is entitled to obtain employment in Gibraltar?

HON DR B A LINARES:

That has been the practice yes, the whole question of the legality of the thing, but that certainly has been the practice and the Employment Service has acted, after all their function is not one of legal analysis, on the advice that they were given.

HON F R PICARDO:

Can I ask the Minister whether that advice was provided by the Chambers of the Attorney General?

HON DR B A LINARES:

We were in contact with the Legislation Support Unit throughout this period of time but I am not too sure whether the advice came from the Chambers of the Attorney General or from the Legislation Support Unit.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is the advice then that if a work permit is rejected, because presumably if the advice is that it is legitimate to require a person to have a work permit then therefore the discretion must exist to either grant it or not grant it, and the rules that apply in respect of people that do need work permits is that it can be rejected on the basis that there is available labour with the necessary skills? The advice is then that even before we change the law in this House to require them to have work permits if this can be done then why is it that we are having to change the law?

HON DR B A LINARES:

We are not changing the law, we are actually now consolidating our legal position by taking advantage of the derogation powers which are afforded by the European Directives.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The moment people join the European Union on 1st May, they are required by virtue of regulation going back to 1968, the freedom to go to any Member State to seek employment and therefore to obtain employment as a result, and we have no right to stop them except that there is a derogation and a period of transition for the new entrants this year, which is a three year one, and we are making use of that transition to legislate and we have the legislation in front of this House. Now if in fact we are already

doing what the transition period allows us to do without having exercised the derogation to so legislate, and that is perfectly okay, then why are we legislating?

HON DR B A LINARES:

It is a legal issue and I confess it is beyond me as a layman in that respect, but certainly I think from a layman's point of view it seems to me much more in order so we are not questioned as we have been questioned today how on earth did we demand that permit, seems to be much more formal and well established to now legislate as we are doing in this House to establish the need for work permits by these new accession countries, availing ourselves of the derogation powers. It seems now that it is legally established, above board so to speak.

HON J J BOSSANO:

That seems to be a bit of a theological argument not a parliamentary one. We support the continuation of the work permit because it gives us protection for our workforce which we think is a good thing, but from our position in this House, given the fact that the information we have been given in Question Time is that we are already demanding work permits, if we are able to do it, it does not seem to us to be so clear that what we are doing is within the law if the law that gives us the power to do it is not yet on the Statue Book. Simply to say that it is tidier that what we are doing without the backing of the law we should do with the backing of the law and that is why we are doing the legislation. It does not seem to be right. I think having raised it at this stage, perhaps the Minister will see whether this is something that can be dealt with when we come to that legislation, where there is in fact a clause on this business of the work permits and by then we can have a clear answer.

HON DR B A LINARES:

The legislation, the hon Member will know, is in connection with the Bill on Immigration Control. The actual issue of access to the labour market is being approved in terms of Regulations, and amendments to the Employment Ordinance through Regulations. Nevertheless, I suppose it may come in the general debate, the question of work permits and access to our labour market.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well the Minister perhaps may agree that there seems to be no other opportunity in which to do it. In fact in the Explanatory Memorandum, the Hon Mr Picardo has just pointed out to me, it says the Ordinance provides a transitional period will be applied until 30th April 2005, during which time the citizens of all these Eastern European countries will not have full European rights of free movement in Gibraltar. In particular, they will not have full European rights to work in Gibraltar, instead they will have to hold a work permit before being able to take up employment without the work permit. That is in the Explanatory Memorandum of the Bill that we have to discuss.

HON DR B A LINARES:

There is an opportunity then, as the hon Member suggests, to debate that issue of access to the labour market.

ORAL

NO. 1619 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

EMPLOYMENT – DETACHED WORKERS

Can Government state the number of workers that were registered with the Employment Agency as “Detached Workers” in the months of April to September 2004, giving a breakdown of their trade and nationality?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

The statistical information that is requested by the hon Member is set out in the schedule attached.

Answer to Question No. 1619 of 2004

Number of workers registered as "Detached Workers" in the months of April to September 2004:

April	Spanish	British	Other EEC	Other Non-EEC	Total
Managerial				1	1
Professional			7	1	8
Associate Professional					
Administrative					
Skilled Trades	15	1	2		18
Personal Services					
Sales & Customer Svcs.					
Plant Operators					
Elementary Occupations				1	1
Totals	15	1	9	3	28

May	Spanish	British	Other EEC	Other Non-EEC	Total
Managerial					
Professional	9	1		2	12
Associate Professional		2			2
Administrative					
Skilled Trades	7	2			9
Personal Services					
Sales & Customer Svcs.					
Plant Operators					
Elementary Occupations					
Totals	16	5		2	23

June	Spanish	British	Other EEC	Other Non-EEC	Total
Managerial					
Professional	20		4	6	30
Associate Professional			5	10	15
Administrative					
Skilled Trades	22		7	1	30
Personal Services					
Sales & Customer Svcs.				4	4
Plant Operators					
Elementary Occupations					
Totals	42		16	21	79

Cont.....

Cont'd Answer to Question No. 1619 of 2004

July	Spanish	British	Other EEC	Other Non-EEC	Total
Managerial					
Professional	11	2		5	18
Associate Professional			4	2	6
Administrative					
Skilled Trades	27		1	7	35
Personal Services					
Sales & Customer Svcs.		3		1	4
Plant Operators					
Elementary Occupations					
Totals	38	5	5	15	63

August	Spanish	British	Other EEC	Other Non-EEC	Total
Managerial					
Professional	4			1	5
Associate Professional	6				6
Administrative					
Skilled Trades	14			6	20
Personal Services					
Sales & Customer Svcs.					
Plant Operators					
Elementary Occupations					
Totals	24			7	31

September	Spanish	British	Other EEC	Other Non-EEC	Total
Managerial					
Professional	14				14
Associate Professional	7			2	9
Administrative					
Skilled Trades	26				26
Personal Services				1	1
Sales & Customer Svcs.					
Plant Operators					
Elementary Occupations					
Totals	47			3	50

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1619 OF 2004

HON F R PICARDO:

Just as a matter of interest and in relation to this question in future and other questions which relate to employment, how can we account for nationals of the five Accession States in future? Will we count them as other EEC or other non-EEC for the purposes of tables of this sort?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I think we will somehow have to create a new category which will be either non-EEC or EC with all the full rights of accession to work and to residence et cetera. We will have to create for the benefit of the Statistics, a new category relating to the new Accession countries. I imagine so, that is the best way to go about it.

HON F R PICARDO:

So other EEC existing and other EEC accession, something like that.

ORAL

NO. 1620 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

EMPLOYMENT – JOB CLUB

Can government state how many persons have used the facilities provided at the Job Club in the months of April to September 2004, giving a breakdown by sex and age?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

The statistical information that is requested by the hon Member is set out in the schedule attached.

Answer to Question No. 1620 of 2004

Number of persons who have used the facilities provided at the Job Club in the months of April to September 2004:

April	Males	Females	Total
Under 18	1	6	7
18-24	12	2	14
25 & Over	16	13	29
Total	29	21	50

May	Males	Females	Total
Under 18	3	7	10
18-24	10	6	16
25 & Over	13	22	35
Total	26	35	61

June	Males	Females	Total
Under 18	4	2	6
18-24	9	4	13
25 & Over	22	19	41
Total	35	25	60

July	Males	Females	Total
Under 18	6	2	8
18-24	8	7	15
25 & Over	16	11	27
Total	30	20	50

August	Males	Females	Total
Under 18	4	0	4
18-24	3	5	8
25 & Over	14	13	27
Total	21	18	39

September	Males	Females	Total
Under 18	5	10	15
18-24	16	17	33
25 & Over	17	25	42
Total	38	52	90

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1620 OF 2004

HON F R PICARDO:

The Minister will have noted that the total number of individuals using the Club, in particular for the periods of August and September, is I would say in particular for September considerably higher. Last year there were 54 people in September and now a total of 90 people in September. Is there an extraneous reason for that, is that perhaps as it is the beginning of a new school term, the time when people start if they are not going back to school, into employment using the services of the Club?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Yes, it could be quite a number of different factors. One of them may be precisely that. September after the respite of the summer months, the young people especially become more serious about their job seeking efforts, but remember we are talking here about seeking the facilities of the Job Club, it is not really centrally related to the number of unemployed or anything of the sort, just simply the number of people who decide to seek the counselling and the advisory and the information facilities given by the Job Club.

NO. 1621 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

EMPLOYMENT – NOTICES OF TERMINATION

Can Government state whether termination forms which are lodged late with the ETB are registered as termination on the date when the form was filed or when the employee ceased work?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Notices of Termination which are lodged late with the Employment Service are registered with the date that the employee ceased work.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1621 OF 2004

HON F R PICARDO:

Just for clarification, with the date stated on the form as the date when the employee ceased work, I imagine.

HON DR B A LINARES:

Yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In that case then presumably we would need to come back periodically to get an update on the figures that are given, because they are given as at the time that the question was answered but it is quite likely that there will be terminations coming after a given date, which relate to previous figures that have been handed to us. Is that correct?

HON DR B A LINARES:

In terms of unemployment figures?

HON J J BOSSANO:

In terms of facts when we have asked in a given year, the number of questions on the Order Paper that gives us by month the contracts opened and terminations registered. The terminations registered that were being given in answer to those Questions by month include presumably the terminations that are being put currently but will not include the ones that have still not arrived. So presumably those figures will need updating, is that correct?

HON DR B A LINARES:

They need to be re-adjusted.

NO. 1622 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

WORKS ABOARD THE ROTTERDAM

What steps have Government taken to ensure that the works aboard the vessel Rotterdam are carried out in a manner that is safe and in keeping with the Factories Ordinance and the Asbestos at Work Regulations and that any asbestos removed from the vessel is disposed of or treated safely?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

The Health and Safety Inspectorate is permanently in liaison with Cammell Laird in all aspects related to asbestos work on board the SS Rotterdam, as indeed it would be with any other employer in any similar circumstances. Meetings have been held with representatives from Cammell Laird and contracted parties, as well as the relevant authorities for example the City Fire Brigade and the Environmental Agency, in order to discuss aspects of the work. The due risk assessment and proper notification of work procedures have likewise been produced as required by the Health and Safety Inspectors. The Health and Safety Inspectors remain informed and aware of the works being undertaken and maintain monitoring procedures as deemed appropriate, including on-site inspections. It is consequently and permanently in a position that enables it to be satisfied that the works being conducted are within the bounds prescribed to ensure proper health and safety conditions all round.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1622 OF 2004

HON F R PICARDO:

How many on-site inspections have taken place to date?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I have not got the specific information with me but obviously a number of inspections, a number of visits on-site have been made because it speaks in the plural here.

HON F R PICARDO:

How do the Health and Safety Inspectorate remain constantly and permanently in a position to ensure that everything is carried out according to the Health and Safety Regulations? From the answer it does not appear that they have got somebody attached to the works or anything like that.

HON DR B A LINARES:

That is not the normal way. When they speak of constantly, it is constant attention obviously linking up as the need arises on an on-going basis. I would say perhaps the best expression is on an on-going basis rather than a continuous, I would say the difference between continual and continuous. If he can see what I mean.

HON F R PICARDO:

Would the Minister agree to provide after this House the number of inspections that have occurred? If that is agreeable.

HON DR B A LINARES:

Of course.

NO. 1623 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

GDC – TRAINING

Can Government provide a breakdown of the training and development courses provided by the Employment and Training division of the Gibraltar Development Corporation Ltd at a cost of £1,284,000 specifying the share of the cost of each course?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

The figure quoted in the question was a forecast outturn as published in the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for 2004/2005. The actual expenditure as calculated by the Department is £1,299,096.76p and I now hand the statistical information requested by the hon Member.

Answer to Question No. 1623

<u>2003/2004 (Other)</u>		
ITP	£397,703.14	
Mileage	£2,110.90	
Chamber of Commerce	£2,000.00	
Special Needs	£9,211.80	
Social Services Agency	£3,639.79	
Health & Safety	£26,880.87	
ACCA	£23,553.64	
School of Nursing	£112,008.44	
Telephone Account	£6,372.50	
Children from Abroad	£8,415.60	
Repairs	£38,629.15	
Civil Service	£277,670.88	
Books & Equipment GCFE	£16,484.51	
Care Consortium	£2,725.00	
Presentation of Certificates	£880.00	
IT Equipment	£8,552.96	
Conferences	£1,585.10	
Salaries	£133,024.25	
Counselling Skills (CSCT)	£2,894.50	
Business & Administration	£99.97	
ICSA	£15,813.00	
General Maritime Training (Private)	£5,004.57	
Expert in International Commerce	£1,000.92	
GBC	£5,582.50	
Gibraltar Business Management Programme 6	£21,116.50	
Taxation	£1,178.00	
Cammell Laird	£141,525.49	
GHA	£578.94	
Maritime Surveyor	£4,739.84	
Maritime Administration	£28,064.00	£1,299,096.76

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1623 OF 2004

HON F R PICARDO:

In the table that the Minister has kindly provided, there is a reference to the biggest item of expenditure being ITP. Could he tell us what ITP is?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I do apologise. When I first saw it I was stuck as well. It means Individual Training Programmes. Training Programmes which are provided for individual persons. It has nothing to do with ITC.

HON F R PICARDO:

Is the Minister in a position to tell us exactly what type of training the Civil Service has enjoyed for £277,000?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Yes, the training is in terms of business management, management certificates and diplomas which are provided by Durham University.

HON F R PICARDO:

In respect of children from abroad, is that training provided at the expense of the Gibraltar Government for children from abroad? Or training for locals in respect of the treatment of children from abroad?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I am not too sure, I have to confess that for the exact nature of these courses for children from abroad I would have to ask for information, if he wishes to know exactly what is being provided there.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In terms of the different amounts for different courses, is this the cost of the courses or are these payments by way of grant or maintenance to the individuals attending? Or is it a mixture of the both?

HON DR B A LINARES:

A bit of both really. In some cases it is payments. For instance, Durham University has to be paid for their courses, in terms of management courses. Hallam University has to be paid for their consideration, have to be paid a consideration for their courses to teachers in educational management, but in some cases for instance, the Cammell Laird training, it is allowances paid to the trainees, it is a bit of everything.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The item 'Salaries £133,000' that is whose salaries? It is not the salaries obviously of the people in the Gibraltar Development Corporation because that is shown in the Personal Emoluments.

HON DR B A LINARES:

I understood it to be the salaries given but I can see the point that that is shown in the Personal Emoluments. I will have to seek information on that one too.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Does this cover for example anybody that is sent to the United Kingdom to study that is not employed by the Government, and I would have expected would actually be getting a grant as a student, or not?

HON DR B A LINARES:

This does not cover grants given to students to study abroad. That comes under the Scholarship Awards.

HON S E LINARES:

When he mentioned the teaching management of education courses that teachers are doing, is it included in that list in the Civil Service list where the £277,000 odd is in the list, because there is another special needs but it is not a special needs course, that would be completely different, but would it be included in the Civil Service one?

HON DR B A LINARES:

It may be because it is not included in the Durham University courses on management, this is more specifically for educational management run by a different University, Sheffield Hallam and it is not listed there. So unless it comes from another vote within the Education Department's budget.

HON F R PICARDO:

What exactly is the amount spent in terms of Chamber of Commerce £2,000? Is that a grant to the Chamber of Commerce for it to fund its own training?

HON DR B A LINARES:

This is a course that is run in liaison with the Chamber of Commerce in terms of secretarial work and there is a grant given by the Government, I think in terms of allowances to the persons taking part in the course.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In terms of the fact that the total which is nearly £1.3 million, shows an expenditure of £400,000 over the original estimate and also a similar amount over the actual in the preceding year, and now is down £400,000 for the current year and that indeed the uncovered deficit in the GDC was £400,000, it all seems to be the result of this 50 per cent increase in the provision of these courses in this particular year, compared to the previous year which now seems down again. The ITP seems to be the one that comes closest to the total, but is there identifiable something that was done this year that is not being done currently and was not being done the previous year?

HON DR B A LINARES:

That exactly is the explanation. Some courses reach saturation point if I may put it that way and they come to an end that is not the same needed. In many cases this is demand-led and therefore some courses will not be restarted this coming financial year and some courses have been started during this financial year. Hence the differences in the budgeting of these courses.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Perhaps I have not explained myself properly. My question is this, if the Government in 2002/2003 spent £900,000 in the provision of these training and development courses, and in the last financial year 2003/2004 planned to spend the same amount, and in the current year is indeed spending even less than they did two years ago which is £870,000, what is the explanation for the 50 per cent increase that actually took place which was not planned, which is not currently taking place and which did not take place in 2002/2003? Is it something that is spread in the sense that for example the Civil Service spent a bit more and the counselling skills spent a bit more, or is it that there were specific things that are in this year that have not been in previous years and are not in the current year which in fact are big enough to account for the bulk of that £400,000, because it so happens that when we looked at the budget in the area where overspending had taken place, the amount that was overspending and covered in the GDC was exactly this, £400,000?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I think again it is a bit of everything. In some cases it is overspending because as the course developed there was need to finance and fund more generously than was forecast at the beginning. Also I think there may have been new courses, new initiatives, new projects which were started throughout this year because of demand, because it was seen to be necessary at that particular moment and that again would have led to an over-expenditure over the budget established. So it could be quite a number of factors which have led to this discrepancy between the total actual expenditure and the amount that was initially budgeted.

HON J J BOSSANO:

One of the things that I drew attention to in the Estimates when we debated this, was the fact that the contribution from the European Social Fund which had originally been estimated at £550,000 actually was forecast to have only reached £141,000, which is £400,000 less of income. I noted that the training and development courses which were identified as being EU projects was down from £360,000 to £211,000. Are the Government in a position to confirm whether in fact any of this it had originally been hoped it would be possible to finance as EU projects and then had to be shifted to local spending because that was not the case? Does the Minister know whether this has happened?

HON DR B A LINARES:

No, I do not quite know the process or mechanics of what actually happened in that situation. I suspect it is very much along the lines that the hon Member has just pointed out but I would have to check and verify that.

HON F R PICARDO:

Just to round off, can the Minister agree to provide in writing at some stage after this meeting, that clarification of what the Head of Expenditure 'Children from Abroad' is? I would be grateful for that.

NO. 1624 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

EMPLOYMENT – WAGE SUBSIDY

Can Government state whether in the months of April to September 2004 there has been any increase in the number of employers participating in the wage subsidy pilot scheme that was approved under ESF for persons who have completed a Drug Rehabilitation Programme and others who meet the categories stated in answer to Question No. 730 of 2002 now in operation?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question No. 1625 of 2004.

NO. 1625 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

EMPLOYMENT – WAGE SUBSIDY

Can Government state whether in the months of April to September 2004 there has been any increase in the number of persons that have been placed in employment, giving a breakdown by age and sex, in the wage subsidy pilot scheme that was approved under ESF for persons who have completed a Drug Rehabilitation Programme and others who meet the categories stated in answer to Question No. 730 of 2002 now in operation?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

In Question No. 80 of 2004 my hon Friend the Minister for Social Services, Mrs Del Agua in answer to that question stated that there were 10 employees and five employers as up to March 2004. If I may refer the hon Member to my answer to Question No. 1608 answered earlier on in this meeting, he will note a significant increase from those figures in March to those of April et cetera, April, May, June. The average over the April to September in terms of employers was 25 as opposed to five in March, and employees 29.4 as opposed to 10. So certainly an increase at that stage and after that, as can be seen from the table, the figures have remained pretty constant.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1624 AND 1625 OF 2004

HON F R PICARDO:

The Minister is not giving me a separate answer in relation to participants in the ESF. The answer refers me back to his answer to Question No. 1608 which is on wage subsidy generally, and the ESF is part of that or is exclusively that?

HON DR B A LINARES:

The ESF is an element in that.

HON F R PICARDO:

Can he tell me as I have asked, the number of employers and employees participating in ESF? So for example when he has told me that in April there were 21 employers I think, and 24 employees, how many of those were ESF? That is the answer I have traditionally been provided by the Minister for Social Services in relation to this particular question.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I think the hon Member is referring to the Venia scheme which is how he has sort of labelled it in previous questions. Maybe the confusion lies there that ESF is a general wage subsidy scheme.

HON F R PICARDO:

I have asked this question twice now in the two previous Question Times I have been present in this House and I have got a separate answer from the Minister for Employment in relation to wage subsidy schemes generally, and a separate answer from the Minister for Social Services and Civil Affairs in relation to ESF. My question is phrased in exactly the same way as it was for the first meeting of this House. As Hansard shows, I got a distinct answer in relation to ESF at that time and I think also at the second meeting for Questions this year. So I would be grateful if I could be provided with an answer specific to ESF so that I can continue to draw my trend lines.

HON DR B A LINARES:

Well the answers I have given is the way the Employment Service have understood the thrust of the enquiries. If there is something more to the information in respect of ESF specifically, certainly I will require the information from them.

HON F R PICARDO:

With respect to the Minister, this is surprising because whenever I have asked my question before it has not been interpreted in that way. It has been interpreted as distinct. I am quite happy if I can be provided the information within the next 10 days. I think it is information that is obviously available because it has been provided on two occasions before and I must say that it was provided when Mr Corby was Minister and when Mr Baldachino asked the same question. I think that this is information that has been provided now, at the very least since 2002, which is the genesis of the scheme.

HON DR B A LINARES:

I will try to provide the information.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can the Minister confirm whether the scheme still requires that anybody that is placed with an employer, whether it is Government or a private employer, has to take them on in full-time employment at the end of 12 months? Is that still a condition of the ESF funding?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I do not think it is. I think it is a one year subsidy to the employer who wishes to participate in this scheme, and as we explained earlier, the payment is made at the end of the year, obviously for an incentive to keep the employee but certainly I do not think there is any commitment to taking on the subsidised worker into full-time an independent type of employment.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I was under the impression that in fact the incentive was because it would lead to people entering into employment as it were, at the employer's expense instead of being subsidised employment. The subsidised employment was to encourage that to happen.

HON DR B A LINARES:

Initially for a year.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Yes, but I seem to remember that at one stage we were told that the system had been changed so that at the end of six months, they got paid extra for the second six months on the understanding that at the end of the year people would be given employment. If in fact, people work the full year, normally in an employer at the end of the full year they have got protection against dismissal. What happens then with the ESF people who have done the full year, they just become unemployed again or what?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I would not like to commit myself in giving a definite answer to that. Again, it is something that I need to investigate further. I apologise.

ORAL

NO. 1626 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT – WAGE SUBSIDY

Can Government give a breakdown of full and part-time Employment in respect of Table 11 of the 2003 Employment Survey Report showing employment in the Gibraltar Government and the MOD separately?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 1627 and 1628 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1627 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Can Government list the public sector entities that are included as part of the private sector in the 2003 Employment Survey Report and give the breakdown of the number of employees and industry classification of these entities?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 1626 and 1628 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1628 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Can Government give a breakdown of full and part-time employment in respect of Table 12 of the 2003 Employment Survey Report?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

The statistical information that is requested by the hon Member is set out in the schedule attached.

Answer to Question 1628/2004

Public Sector Entities included in the Private Sector by Employee Numbers and Industry, October 2003

	<u>Number of Employees</u>	<u>Industry</u>
Gibraltar Industrial Cleaners Ltd	32	Real Estate & Business Activities
GJBS Ltd	96	Construction
Gibraltar Community Projects Ltd	167	Construction
Gibraltar Development Corporation	170	Public Administration and Defence
Gibraltar Broadcasting Corporation	49	Other Services
Elderly Care Agency	151	Health and Social Work
Office of the Public Ombudsman	4	Real Estate & Business Activities
Social Services Agency	131	Health and Social Work

cont ...

Full-Time MOD Employees by Sex and Nationality, October 2003.

ALL SECTORS	ALL		GIBRALTARIAN		UK		MOROCCAN		SPANISH		OTHER EU		OTHER	
	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE
Public Admin.	696	302	681	295	0	0	10	4	2	2	2	0	1	1
TOTAL	696	302	681	295	0	0	10	4	2	2	2	0	1	1

Part-Time MOD Employees by Sex and Nationality, October 2003.

ALL SECTORS	ALL		GIBRALTARIAN		UK		MOROCCAN		SPANISH		OTHER EU		OTHER	
	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE
Public Admin.	12	60	12	60	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	12	60	12	60	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

cont...

Contd Answer to Question 1628/2004

Full-Time Gibraltar Government Employees by Sex and Nationality, October 2003.

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	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Manuf.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Elec/Wtr Supply	131	4	129	4	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Construction	289	13	256	13	2	0	28	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
Wholesale/Retail Tr.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hotels/Restaurants	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trans/Comm.	89	26	87	26	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Fin. Intermed.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Real Est./Bus.Ac.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Public Admin.	649	280	619	276	14	3	10	1	1	0	5	0	0	0
Education	171	297	166	292	3	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Health/Social Wk	230	438	169	345	35	78	5	1	10	7	2	6	9	1
Other Services	34	11	32	11	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	1,593	1,069	1,458	967	56	86	47	2	12	7	10	6	10	1

cont...

Contd Answer to Question 1628/2004

Part -Time Gibraltar Government Employees by Sex and Nationality, October 2003.

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	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Manuf.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Elec/Wtr Supply	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Construction	2	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whsle/Retail Tr.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hotels/Restrnths.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trans/Comm.	0	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fin. Intermed.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Real Est./Bus.Ac.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Public Admin.	0	23	0	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Education	0	167	0	166	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Health/Social Wrk	2	72	0	67	0	3	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	1
Other Services	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	4	272	1	266	1	3	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	1

cont...

Contd Answer to Question 1628/2004

Part -Time Private Sector Employees by Sex and Nationality, October 2003.

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	5	2	1	2	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Other Manuf.	9	15	1	9	2	2	1	1	5	3	0	0	0	0
Elec/Wtr Supply	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Construction	40	33	21	18	8	6	1	2	9	6	1	0	0	1
Whsle/Retail Tr.	96	428	48	265	10	46	13	8	23	97	0	4	2	8
Hotels/Restmnts.	90	173	15	30	24	48	5	12	28	73	11	9	7	1
Trans/Comm.	21	50	18	35	0	5	2	2	1	6	0	1	0	1
Fin. Intermed.	14	144	8	114	1	20	0	2	2	4	3	4	0	0
Real Est./Bus.Ac	316	297	294	228	11	19	3	7	4	39	2	3	2	1
Public Admin.	1	13	1	12	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Education	9	57	8	41	0	6	0	1	0	6	0	2	1	1
Health/Social Wr	3	46	2	32	1	9	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	1
Other Services	60	152	34	71	15	31	3	6	3	39	4	3	1	2
TOTAL	664	1,411	451	857	74	192	28	41	77	278	21	27	13	16

cont...

Contd Answer to Question 1628/2004

Full-Time Private Sector Employees by Sex and Nationality, October 2003.

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	266	13	108	8	30	0	22	2	85	3	20	0	1	0
Other Manuf.	106	45	58	31	9	7	15	1	21	5	1	1	2	0
Elec/Wtr Supply	113	15	97	15	6	0	6	0	2	0	2	0	0	0
Construction	1,312	58	442	31	302	13	141	2	325	10	82	1	20	1
Whsle/Retail Tr.	1,401	781	696	443	139	84	154	11	330	216	25	17	57	10
Hotels/Restrntr.	385	268	75	42	60	48	112	37	108	124	15	12	15	5
Trans/Comm.	542	175	382	130	68	21	35	3	48	17	9	4	0	0
Fin. Intermed.	444	635	254	447	97	122	5	1	28	33	45	20	15	12
Real Est./Bus.Ac.	546	537	320	360	110	96	24	5	59	57	25	14	8	5
Public Admin.	130	73	116	71	7	1	5	0	1	1	1	0	0	0
Education	6	26	5	17	1	6	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1
Health/Social Wrk.	66	280	55	201	3	22	0	3	8	49	0	5	0	0
Other Services	716	397	351	157	200	123	24	3	50	50	44	28	47	36
TOTAL	6,033	3,303	2,959	1,953	1,032	543	543	68	1,065	566	269	103	165	70

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1626 TO 1628 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

In the public sector entities in the private sector I note that the Regulatory Authority is not included. I think when I asked this question the last time it was not included and then I asked a subsequent question at the subsequent meeting where it was confirmed that it was indeed included as the private sector. Will the Minister not agree that if we are including the Ombudsman then it is logical that the Regulatory Authority, that is also funded by money provided from the Estimates, should be seen as a public sector entity in the private sector?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I do agree indeed. It should have been included and it must have been a slip not to have it included if it was agreed already at previous discussions that it was very definitely to be defined as a public sector entity in the private sector, which is very much the way the Regulatory Authority operates.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can I just clarify for the Minister. It was not included in the original answer I got the last time when I asked this about 2002, but at a subsequent meeting I raised it and it was agreed, but I think it must be referring to the original answer of 2002.

HON DR B A LINARES:

Yes, probably had a standard shopping list of these entities.....

HON J J BOSSANO:

Would the Minister accept that in fact I think the problem of asking for one single one is that when there are a number included in an industry, it does not identify the individuals which is the problem with the Statistics Ordinance, that is why I have grouped them. So perhaps I can at some stage be given the figures to be added to the ones that I have been given today.

HON DR B A LINARES:

Yes indeed.

ORAL

NO. 1629 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Can Government state in respect of October 2003 the number of employers registered with the ETB who were qualifying companies giving a breakdown by industry using the classifications used for the Employment Survey Report of October 2003?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question No. 1630 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1630 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Can Government state in respect of October 2003 the number of persons employed by qualifying companies and in each case how many were Gibraltarians, giving a breakdown by industry using the classifications in the Employment Survey Report of October 2003?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

The statistical information that is requested by the hon Member is set out in the schedule attached.

Answer to Question 1630 of 2004

<u>Industry</u>	<u>Number of Employers</u>	<u>Number of Employee Jobs</u>	<u>Number of Gibraltarian Employee Jobs</u>
Shipbuilding	1	209	90
Wholesale & Retail	3	96	55
Transport & Communication	2	10	5
Financial Intermediation	14	348	266
Real Estate & Business Activities	3	18	6
Other Services	5	194	29
TOTAL	28	875	451

ORAL

NO. 1631 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Can Government state in which area of the official sector the eight Gibraltarian frontier workers shown in Table 5 of the October 2003 Employment Survey Report are employed?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

The eight Gibraltarian frontier workers shown in Table 5 of the October 2003 Employment Survey Report were all employed within the MOD.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1631 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

Given that the Employment Survey Report is the result of the filling of the questionnaires by employers, presumably the fact that the report shows that no Gibraltarian frontier workers were employed by the Government means that the Government in returning the Survey say that there are none. Is that a logical deduction?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Absolutely. The returns from the Government Departments show that there were no Gibraltarian frontier workers under their employment. There is of course that element of doubt in respect of addresses which are given by employees very often in terms of local addresses, but I would not like to delve too much into that.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So in fact the Government have got nobody in their entire workforce that have got their residence registered with the employer as being on the other side of the border. That is the position?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Gibraltarians we were talking about. Yes indeed.

NO. 1632 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

QUALIFYING COMPANIES

Can government state in respect of the answer to Question No. 1299 of 2004 the number of employers in each of the industries identified in that answer?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

The number of employers in each industry identified as shown in answer to Question No. 1299 of 2004 is as follows:

Industry Identifier	Number of Employers
Financial Services	12
Gaming	5
Bunkering	1
Exporter of Motor Vehicle	1
Shipping	1
Company Management	6
Philatelic	1
Information Technology	1
Communications	2
Other	3

NO. 1633 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Do Government consider the figure in the October 2003 Employment Survey Report of 164 Gibraltarian frontier workers residing in Spain to be accurate?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

As the hon Member is aware, the Employment Survey is carried out on the basis of questionnaires completed and returned by all employers as required under the provisions of the Statistics Ordinance. As such, the accuracy of the statistics depends on the quality of the returns submitted by the employers themselves.

In overall terms, the Government are satisfied that the published figures are reasonable estimates of the number of persons in employment and their earnings as at October each year. The question requiring information in respect of frontier workers, particularly when it comes to Gibraltarians, has traditionally been one that presents employers with some difficulty since, as I explained before, many such employees also make use of local addresses.

The figure of 164 Gibraltarian employees recorded as frontier workers in the October 2003 Employment Survey Report is likely to be as accurate or otherwise as the equivalent figure of 138 published in the April 1996 Report and in other previous reports and subsequently as well.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1633 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

So effectively the Government do not have a clue whether it is accurate or not. Is that a correct summary of the position?

HON DR B A LINARES:

No I do not think it is fair to say the Government do not have a clue. We have given an explanation of the difficulties in establishing an exact figure. A difficulty which must have been encountered as well during the time that the hon Member was there. I think I am saying something that he was familiar with.

ORAL

NO. 1634 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Can Government state of the 1298 employers who were sent questionnaires in October 2003 how many were not included in 1082 employers who were sent questionnaires in October 2002 for the purpose of the Employment Survey and can Government give a breakdown by industry of these employers?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 1635 to 1637 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1635 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Can Government state how many employers have been sent questionnaires for the October 2004 Employment Survey Report?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 1634, 1636 and 1637 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1636 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Can Government state of the 1290 employers who responded to the October 2003 Employment Survey Questionnaire how many were not included in the 1043 who had replied to the October 2002 Questionnaire by February 2003?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 1634, 1635 and 1637 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1637 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Can Government state how many employers made a nil return in response to the October 2002 Employment Survey Questionnaire and how many of them were included in the 238 employers who registered a nil return in respect of October 2003?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

The statistical information that is requested by the hon Member is set out in the schedule attached.

Answer to Question No. 1637

A total of 307 employers were sent questionnaires in October 2003 that were not included in the Employment Survey in 2002.

No employer has been sent a questionnaire for the October 2004 Employment Survey Report.

A total of 304 of the 1290 employers referred to.

A total of 146 employers submitted a nil return in response to the October 2002 Employment Survey questionnaire and 64 of those were included in the 238 employers who registered a nil return in the October 2003 Employment Survey.

Industry Group	Number of Employers
Other Manufacture	7
Electricity and Water	2
Construction	13
Wholesale and Retail Trade	56
Hotels and Restaurants	25
Transport and Communication	17
Financial Intermediation	33
Real Estate and Business Activities	37
Public Administration and Defence	1
Education	3
Health and Social Work	4
Other Services	18
Nil Returns	91
TOTAL	307

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1634 TO 1637 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can I just say, in answer to Question No. 1635, the Minister says that no one has yet been sent the October Questionnaire. Do these things not normally go out in September so that people can fill them up in October?

HON DR B A LINARES:

No, I believe the normal practice is to send in November actually.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In November about the preceding month.

HON DR B A LINARES:

About the preceding month. It gives the employers time to give the exact figure, or as exact as possible, for the end of October of that year.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In terms of the 307 who were sent the questionnaire, it is welcome that the coverage should be so good for the October 2003 since it provides more accurate information, but is it that in fact the Statistics Office in previous years left these employers out or that they sort of became aware in 2003?

HON DR B A LINARES:

The explanation is that they have been more successful for the report of October 2003 than in previous years.

NO. 1638 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

EMPLOYMENT – CASUAL WORKERS

Can Government give a monthly breakdown of vacancies for casual workers opened with the Employment Agency by Cammell Laird or alternatively in the shipping industry for the months of April to September 2004 giving a breakdown of how many of these have been filled by Gibraltarians?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

The number of vacancies for casual workers opened in the shipping industry for the months of April to September 2004 broken down by how many of these have been filled by Gibraltarians is as follows:

	April	May	June	July	August	September
Total	31	8	14	26	12	25
Gib	9	3	7	9	4	3

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1638 OF 2004

HON F R PICARDO:

Does the Minister note that the proportion of Gibraltarians obtaining employment is very low? In fact, in June it is 50 per cent but in most instances it is well below 20 per cent.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, well it is not unusual. It depends on many factors, as the hon Member should be aware. It depends on the nature of the jobs being created. There is not a huge supply of Gibraltarian labour in many of the areas, where the economy from time to time generates demand. Shopkeepers, the construction trade, these are areas where the take-up of work in the private sector is predominantly taken up by non-resident labour, on any month where the jobs have been created. It is not unsurprising that the percentage of taking up jobs will be non Gibraltarian and indeed as the economy

continues to grow, given that the population is static and our unemployment rates are pretty static, as the economy continues to grow and the number of jobs in the economy continues to grow, it is a mathematical certainty that the percentage of the jobs occupied by Gibraltarians will fall, because our size, our contribution to the statistics is static and therefore the growth in employment is in effect being satisfied by labour from abroad, either from Spain or in the gaming industry from further a field than Spain. That is a reality and the Gibraltarians take a share of those jobs in accordance with the jobs that are suitable for the Gibraltarians that are available seeking jobs. So the simple situation that the hon Member describes is not itself the concern. I agree that the situation would be a concern if the jobs that were coming out into the market were jobs that Gibraltarian people could and should be doing, and that for some reason others were being preferred to Gibraltarians. That would be a worrying situation in which the Government are not free to take completely effective remedial action but which the Government would be interested in doing whatever it could lawfully do to redress that situation, but one cannot deduce that situation from a simple reference to the figures for which there might be a perfectly simple explanation.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I do not know whether it is because the Chief Minister has just arrived, but he has not cottoned on to the question, because that is hardly likely to reduce the time we spend in this House. He has given us a wide picture of the performance of the economy and the question is about casual workers in the Dockyard. So the Chief Minister thinks that the nature of the market of casual workers in the Shipyard is exactly the same principle as the gaming, the shop assistants, the construction industry and so on. Well, presumably does he not know that in fact the performance, I hope in fact that he is wrong. Will he not recognise that if indeed the whole of the rest of the private sector were to operate as the Shipyard we would have a situation where there are no permanent jobs, since 75 per cent of the workers are casuals in the Shipyard, and they get taken off, and they get laid off and they get taken back. So it is not different jobs. It is the same job on and off. In that area there is no reason why Gibraltarians who are on the register as unemployed should not be able to go in and work a few weeks as tank cleaners and that kind of thing, unless it is that they do not apply for the jobs. It is a different criteria but I think we are talking specifically of a peculiar sector which does not have the same characteristics as the remainder of the private sector.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, the characteristics may be different but the principle is the same. Each sector of the economy, be it the casual sector in the Shipyard, which I accept has, but look the gaming industry has a part-time culture, not a casual, a part-time culture and there are other sectors of the economy that have a requirement for skills that are not readily available in Gibraltar. So every different sector of the economy has its own labour requirement peculiarities, some of which make it more rather than less likely, others less rather than more likely, but Gibraltarians are either able or willing to participate in employment, either because it is not the sort of job one wants to do, or because it is casual and thankfully most people in Gibraltar have full time jobs or part-time. Same reason, people are not attracted to this. The sort of people that can do part-time jobs in this industry are the sort of people who need full time employment. If one is a housewife

willing to work occasionally, one cannot aspire to a job in Cammell Laird cleaning up a tank, it is a mismatch. Most people who can do this sort of work are the sort of people who are bread winners in their family and need full time employment. So the principle is the same. There are many economic activities in Gibraltar, and I think this used to be true before, which access to those jobs is always open to Gibraltarians but for a variety of reasons Gibraltarians choose not to or do not qualify for the employment. I appreciate that the question relates to Cammell Laird and to casual workers but the principle is the same. If the hon Member looks at the statistics that we publish in respect of the filling of vacancies generally in the economy, in the more general employment questions, he will see, I think from memory it hovers around the 50 per cent as well. There are months when it is more than 50 per cent and months where it is less. I am speaking from memory. I do not know if we have passed these questions already or whether they are still to come on the Order Paper but he will see that there is a very high proportion of vacancies generally in the employment market filled by non residents.

HON F R PICARDO:

Yes, but my original supplementary was to ask the Minister to note that it was answered by the Chief Minister. Perhaps I could ask him to factor into what he has told us the following. Looking at just one particular month, the month of September, 97 male Gibraltarians were added to the unemployment register. Of those 28 found employment. Cammell Laird opened 25 vacancies, only three were filled by Gibraltarians. Those are adult males, none of them are the type of individual who the hon Gentleman has suggested would not be looking for full time employment, even if it were casual. Looking at the statistics of employment at Cammell Laird over a period of a year and a half since January 2003, it is really quite surprising how low a proportion of Gibraltarians are actually able to obtain employment with that company. Given all that and given that we were provided with a statistic in answer to Question No. 1623 of spending on training which showed that £141,000 had been spent on training with Cammell Laird, is it not surprising that there is such a low proportion of Gibraltarians being able to access the vacancies of Cammell Laird? I certainly think it is.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The hon Member reveals by his last phrase the point that he is wanting to make but which is not sustained by the facts. It is not that Gibraltarians are prohibited from accessing, as he says, the jobs. The Gibraltarians are as free to access the jobs as anybody else, there is not any obstacle to their accessing the jobs. Nor do the statistics that he chooses to quote have the other effects that he is describing. Look, the fact that there were 97 people joining the unemployment register in September, of which he says 28 found employment, presumably from the figures that he has been presented which I do not have in front of me, one would have to analyse who those 97 were. Were they students, were they graduates looking for university? So one cannot extrapolate that figure to the 25 Cammell Laird vacancies which may have been for specialities that were not available in Gibraltar, may have been for part-time work as opposed to full time work, casual work, one cannot just from a simple extrapolation of the figures draw any conclusions like the hon Member is drawing. It may be possible to draw those conclusions from other factors in addition to the statistics. For example, if there was any evidence that Cammell Laird was discriminating against local residents in their

employment prospects, then that is something that the Government would be very concerned about. All I am saying is that one cannot draw those conclusions just from the statistics. I am not arguing the underlying principle that if it were the case that Cammell Laird were discriminating against locals, that would be a very worrying situation and one which the Government would wish to try and do all that they could. So it is not the principle that we are in disagreement on it is the question of whether that state of affairs can be deduced just from the statistics that the hon Member is managing. That is the only point that I am making. I am not challenging that if the position were as the hon Member is describing it would be serious. I think it would be if it were the case.

HON F R PICARDO:

I appreciate that there is therefore a measure of agreement across the floor but should the figures not at least put us on enquiry and should we not do something to monitor that. For example, would the Minister for Employment undertake to monitor the number of applications for vacancies for jobs opened by Cammell Laird, see how many are applied for by Gibraltarians and see how many Gibraltarians are rejected, so that we can get to the bottom of whether or not Gibraltarians are being discriminated against for something as simple as the fact that their labour is more expensive than those from abroad?

HON DR B A LINARES:

That monitoring process is carried out by the Employment Service. Notices of vacancies are given to us and there is no evidence of any blatant discrimination in that respect. Certainly not in terms of the level of wages.

ORAL

NO. 1639 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

EMPLOYMENT INJURIES INSURANCE FUND

Can Government state what was the income, expenditure and balance of the Employment Injuries Insurance Fund in the months of April to September 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

The statistical information that is requested by the hon Member is set out in the schedule attached.

Answer to Question No. 1639 of 2004

The income, expenditure and balance of the Employment Injuries Insurance Fund in the months of April to September 2004:

Employment Injuries Insurance Fund

	30-Apr-04	31-May-04	30-Jun-04	31-Jul-04	31-Aug-04	30-Sep-04
Fund Account- Opening Balance	£5,467,236	£5,407,872	£5,339,822	£5,337,226	£5,313,080	£5,339,394
Add Receipts	£37,647	£37,089	£47,307	£41,467	£71,708	£11,595
	£5,504,883	£5,444,961	£5,387,129	£5,378,693	£5,384,788	£5,350,989
Less Payments	(£97,011)	(£105,139)	(£49,903)	(£65,613)	(£45,394)	(£49,250)
Closing Balance	£5,407,872	£5,339,822	£5,337,226	£5,313,080	£5,339,394	£5,301,739

NO. 1640 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

EMPLOYMENT REGULATIONS (OFFENCES) ORDINANCE

Can Government state how many fixed penalties have been imposed on employers and in respect of how many employees in the months of April to September 2004 (giving a breakdown for each month) under the Employment Regulations (Offences) Ordinance, under which sections of the Ordinance, each penalty has been imposed and whether the penalties have been paid or the matter is being pursued through further prosecution?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

The statistical information that is requested by the hon Member is set out in the schedule attached.

Answer to Question 1640 of 2004

	Number of Inspections Carried out	Fixed Penalty Notice Issued in respect of Unregistered Labour	Fixed Penalty Notice Issued in respect of Terminations	Fixed Penalty Notice paid in respect of Unregistered Labour	Fixed Penalty Notice Paid in respect of Terminations	Fixed Penalty Notices Pending Payment	Cases Pending with Attorney General
Apr-04	18	1	0	1	0	0	0
May-04	24	2	0	0	0	0	0
Jun-04	38	2	0	3	0	0	0
Jul-04	44	6	0	4	0	1	0
Aug-04	33	0	0	1	0	1	0
Sep-04	44	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	201	11	0	9	0	2	0

cont...

Contd. Answer to Question 1640/2004

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 4 of the Employment Regulations 1994 (Duty of notify Director of vacancy).
- 6) Regulation 6 of the Employment Regulations 1994 (Duty to notify Director of intention to engage 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) Regulation 13 of the Employment Regulations 1994 (Duty to notify Director of termination).
- 9) Regulation 15A(4) of the Employment Regulations 1994 (Amended by L.N.100/94) (Duty to notify Director of temporary employment of Detached workers).
- 10) Section 3 of the Business Trades and Professions (Registration) Ordinance 1989 (Duty to Register).
- 11) Section 57(2) of the Income Tax Ordinance (Duty to give notice to the Commissioner that a person is chargeable for tax purposes).

ORAL

NO. 1641 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

EMPLOYMENT REGULATIONS (OFFENCES) ORDINANCE

Can Government state how many prosecutions have been commenced under the Employment Regulations (Offences) Ordinance in the months of April to September 2004, the date of filing of any such prosecutions and the penalties, if any, imposed by the courts in respect of any prosecutions which may have been completed?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with question Nos. 1642 and 1643 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1642 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

EMPLOYMENT REGULATIONS (OFFENCES) ORDINANCE

Of the 81 cases filed between July and September 2003 in respect of offences under the Employment Regulations (Offences) Ordinance referred to in the answer to Question No. 269 of 2004, how many have resulted in acquittals, how many have resulted in conviction (and what penalties have been imposed in respect of each) and how many are still pending?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 1641 and 1643 of 2004.

NO. 1643 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

EMPLOYMENT REGULATIONS (OFFENCES) ORDINANCE

Can Her Majesty's Attorney General state, in relation to the answer to Question No. 268 of 2004, how long the seven pending cases with him in relation to alleged offences under the Employment Regulations (Offences) Ordinance have been pending with his Chambers and whether a decision has been taken on whether to proceed or not?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answer to Question No. 1641

No prosecutions have commenced under the Employment Regulations (Offences) Ordinance in the months of April to September 2004, given that all Fixed Penalty Notices issued have been paid, except for two which are pending payment.

Answer to Question No. 1642

The 81 cases filed between July and September 2003 were never proceeded with by the Attorney General.

Answer to Question No. 1643

Five of the seven cases referred to were withdrawn by the Attorney General during the course of 2003 and the remaining two were not proceeded with.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1641 TO 1643 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

I wonder if the Minister would mind explaining a bit further for my benefit. Is it that when the Labour Inspectors pass this to the Attorney General it is because the employer is contesting whether in fact he has acted in breach, is it or is it not?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Not necessarily. It could be that or it could just be a simple failure to pay the Fixed Penalty Notice. One gets a Fixed Penalty Notice which says if it is paid the matter is left there and not proceeded with. If one does not pay, the papers go forward but the fact that it has not been paid does not mean necessarily that one is challenging the case. It simply means perhaps that one has just failed to pay and some people then pay when they are reminded and pressed. In other words, it is only holding out payment but it could mean that they are challenging it and wish to be prosecuted.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Because they believe they are right obviously.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well because they believe they are right.

HON J J BOSSANO:

That means they can defend themselves.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes absolutely.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In any of these cases that did not go forward, one of those in fact, we can understand if the employer paid rather than go to court even when it got to the final stage, that is fine, that is the logic of that situation but are there any cases where we did not proceed to the prosecution when the individual employer was challenging?

HON DR B A LINARES:

These are all cases where the payment of the penalty has not been made within a certain time, flexibility and reminders et cetera. Then of course, as the Chief Minister said, the matter has to be referred to the Chambers of the Attorney General for possible prosecution. This is the legal process involved.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

If I correctly understand the hon Member's supplementary, he is meaning to ask whether as a matter of policy a decision has been taken not to proceed to prosecution with any

person that has failed to pay the fine. Well, of course, once the Government pass the papers to the Attorney General, the decision of whether to prosecute is his so at that point it ceases to be a matter of policy decision, but I am not aware that the Attorney General has sought to frustrate the good administration of the Ordinance by declining to prosecute anybody who is in breach. There was once an issue here of whether people should or should not have their rights read to them, in the language of American movies, but that is a separate issue.

HON F R PICARDO:

Is it safe then to assume that of the 81 cases filed none were proceeded with because all were paid?

HON DR B A LINARES:

No, none were paid and they followed the process that has been explained of referring, addressing the matter to the Attorney General.

HON F R PICARDO:

We have also been told that those were not proceeded with so unless the Attorney General is trying to frustrate the good administration of the Ordinance, there must be a good reason for that. Is it that they were fined or cases filed which were improperly fined?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I cannot speak for the Attorney General.

HON F R PICARDO:

I appreciate that but there must be an explanation why these 81 cases have never been proceeded with. I mean, we are told in relation to the seven cases referred to in Question No. 1643, that five were withdrawn and two were not proceeded with, but for 81 cases not to be proceeded with at all, something must have happened. It is a fairly wholesale number.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I have given as much of an indication as I am willing to give of an issue that is outstanding.

HON F R PICARDO:

Perhaps then we are just misunderstanding each other. Those 81 cases are outstanding not proceeded with, they have not yet been proceeded with?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Exactly.

HON F R PICARDO:

Right, I appreciate that. We were told they were never proceeded with. If we are being told they have not yet been proceeded with, then that is a different matter.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, I do not know whether they are not proceeded with, I am not sure what the limitation periods are in terms of prosecution, or whether there are any or whether we are in danger of it. There may come a time when if they are not proceeded with, they may not ever be able to be proceeded with, but that is the issue. An issue by the way in which the Government have a different view to the one being expressed in some quarters within the Attorney General's Chambers but the matter is still outstanding. The view expressed to the Government is that when one is issued a Fixed Penalty Notice one has got to be read ones rights. We cannot understand why that should be the case with Fixed Penalty Notices in employment but not with Fixed Penalty Notices in traffic offences. So the fixed penalty notice is not a prosecution. It is saying to somebody 'we think you have done this offence', not that one has done it, we think one has done it. There is no adjudication. If one agrees that one has done it and want to pay, this is the fine that one can pay. If one does not think that one has done it, do not worry. In due course one may receive a summons and we do not see why one should have to be cautioned in those circumstances, but that is the view somebody has formed and that is the sort of way that we are grappling it at the moment.

HON F R PICARDO:

In fact, it is the summons that contains the statement of rights of the individual who may or may not be summoned, contains.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Attorney General is constitutionally responsible for the pursuit of prosecution and there is a limit to the extent which the Government can administratively or politically interfere. We can clarify the law if there is allegedly any doubt about what the law is but other than that it is persuasion.

ORAL

NO. 1644 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – BAYSIDE SCHOOL

Will Government state how many pupils left Bayside School in the academic year of 2000/2001, 2001/2002, 2002/2003 and 2003/2004 respectively after reaching the age of 15?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question No. 1645 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1645 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – WESTSIDE SCHOOL

Will Government state how many pupils left Westside School in the academic year of 2000/2001, 2001/2002, 2002/2003 and 2003/2004 respectively after reaching the age of 15?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

The statistical information requested is set out in the schedule attached.

Answer to Question No. 1645 of 2004

Answer to Question No. 1644

The number of students who left Bayside after reaching the age of 15 are:

2000/2001	16
2001/2002	4
2002/2003	37
2003/2004	5

Answer to Question No. 1645

The number of students who left Westside after reaching the age of 15 are:

2000/2001	31
2001/2002	31
2002/2003	38
2003/2004	23

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1644 AND 1645 OF 2004

HON S E LINARES:

One thing strikes me initially just by looking at the figures, that there is a big discrepancy between Bayside and Westside. There seems to be more females leaving school than there are males. Is this due to the opportunities that there might be in one school that there is not in the other?

HON DR B A LINARES:

There could be many factors involved. One of them may be opportunities. The fact is that many of the school leavers at 15 choose to go into training and this, by tradition historically, has not been particularly attractive to girls (I am speculating), who seek immediate employment in one of the traditional areas for girls at 15. As I say we could spend the day speculating even about psychological aspects of the whole thing but I would not like to sort of be categorical about the motivations.

HON S E LINARES:

Yes but when we talk about training we are assuming that the pupil has left the school to go into training, so therefore I do not think that would be the case in the sense that if one has more males going into training they will have to leave school at the age of 15. Whilst what I am saying is, for example, in 2003/2004 we had five boys or young adults to 23 girls or young adults leaving the school at the age of 15. It has nothing to do with whether the boys go on to the training and the girls do not but they leave school. I am saying whether it is to do with the opportunity that is actually being offered within the school not the training outside.

HON DR B A LINARES:

There are many factors but I would not say it is the opportunities offered within the school. I think it is also a question of motivation and incentive. I think again I am speculating that boys traditionally want to pursue further their schooling in many areas offered, in the one year course that is being offered to Year 10s in Bayside School, is very attractive. It is a very much hands on type of course with part-time training in the Construction Training Centre, that is particularly attractive to the boys and an incentive to stay on in school to benefit from that facility. Whereas the girls do not seem to be motivated in that line. As I say I am speculating into motivations which is a dicey area to speculate on.

HON S E LINARES:

Is there a one year course in Westside which would be, I would not say adequate because I would be being rather sexist then, that would be suitable for the girls in

Westside as there is in Bayside? The Minister has just said that in Bayside they go to the Training Centre and we are assuming here that the girls do not want to go to the Training Centre whilst boys do. Is there an equivalent of the one year course in Westside which would be suitable or adequate for the girls?

HON DR B A LINARES:

There is some equivalent, but as I say it is not as attractive it seems for the girls as it is for the boys.

ORAL

NO. 1646 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – LUNCH SUPERVISORS

Can Government state how many lunch supervisors are currently employed giving a breakdown by school?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 1647 and 1648 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1647 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – LUNCH SUPERVISORS

Can Government state what is the pupil/supervisor ratio giving a breakdown by school?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 1646 and 1648 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1648 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – LUNCH SUPERVISORS

Can Government state what are the current working hours of lunch supervisors?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

The statistical information requested is set out in the schedule attached.

Answer to Question No. 1648 of 2004

Answer to Question 1646

A total of 148 lunch supervisors are currently employed. The breakdown by school is as follows:-

Bayside	21
Westside	14
Bishop Fitzgerald	15
St Anne's Middle	13
St Joseph's Middle	11
Sacred Heart	9
Hebrew	2
St Mary's First	8
Notre Dame	12
Governor's Meadow	13
St Bernard's First	5
St Joseph's First	14
St Paul's First	11

Answer to Question 1647

Westside	22.9 : 1
Bayside	38.8 : 1
Sacred Heart	25.5 : 1
St Anne's Middle	29.8 : 1
St Joseph's Middle	30.3 : 1
Bishop Fitzgerald	28.9 : 1
St Paul's First	22.7 : 1
Notre Dame	14.6 : 1
Governor's Meadow	23.1 : 1
St Joseph's First	23.5 : 1
St Bernard's First	18.6 : 1
St Mary's First	19.3 : 1

Answer to Question 1648

The current working hours of lunch supervisors are as follows:-

Secondary and Middle Schools	-	12 noon – 2 pm
First Schools	-	11.30 am – 1.30 pm

ORAL

NO. 1649 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

TRAINING ADVISORY COUNCIL

Can Government state how many times the Training Advisory Council have met in 2003 and 2004 respectively?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

The Training Advisory Council met once in 2003 and twice in 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1650 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – POST 16 EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Can Government state how many times the Post 16 Education Committee have met in 2003 and 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

As explained to the hon Member in answers to Question No. 595 of 2004 and No. 247 of 2004, it was agreed with Mrs Sue Rogers of the NASUWT in UK at a meeting held locally about a year ago, that in the context of the Tomlinson Report on 14-19 Education in UK it was wise that we should all both Union and Government, await developments to consolidate in UK before we took any practical measures forward locally.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1650 OF 2004

HON S E LINARES:

So until the Tomlinson Report is published nothing happens. Are not the terms of reference of this Committee to see into what has been leaked from the Tomlinson Report, because the Tomlinson Report is not published yet?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Of course it is published.

HON S E LINARES:

What I am saying is that if it has been published, why has the Committee not met in order to discuss the Report?

HON DR B A LINARES:

The Tomlinson Report is now being submitted to Ministers in the UK. Decisions will have to be taken by Ministers in the UK and those are the developments, real developments in changing the structure and processes of the 14-19 education that we are awaiting. To be frank the ball is very much in the court of the Union at the moment, because it was Mrs Sue Rogers that asked us not to take any steps locally until we can evaluate what is happening in the UK, which is really what we have always done as the hon Member may know.

ORAL

NO. 1651 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – BISHOP FITZGERALD SCHOOL

Can Government state what their medium and long-term strategic plan is in relation to the acute overcrowding situation at Bishop Fitzgerald School?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question No. 1652 of 2004.

NO. 1652 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – BISHOP FITZGERALD SCHOOL

Can Government state how many toilets are currently available for usage for pupils in Bishop Fitzgerald School?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answer to Question No. 1651

The Government intend that the school will revert to the four-form entry that was originally envisaged, once the new school is built at the Fleet Pavilion site. This will eliminate the overcrowding which has existed lately when we have had to take in five-form entry intakes.

Answer to Question No. 1652

There are currently 13 toilets available for use by pupils and a further 12 new toilets are to be built very shortly.

ORAL

NO. 1653 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – SCHOOL CLEANERS

Can Government state what is the complement of cleaners giving a breakdown by school and whether they are on supply or permanent and pensionable status?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 1654 to 1657 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1654 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – SCHOOL SECRETARIES

Can Government state what is the complement of secretaries giving a breakdown by school and whether they work mornings, afternoons or are full-time?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 1653 and 1655 to 1657 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1655 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – CLASSROOM AIDES

Can Government state what is the complement of classroom aides giving a breakdown by school and whether they are on supply, contract or permanent and pensionable status?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 1653, 1654 and 1656 to 1657 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1656 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – CARETAKERS

Can Government state what is the complement of caretakers giving a breakdown by school?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 1653 to 1655 and 1657 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1657 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – INDUSTRIAL WORKERS

Can Government state how many industrial civil servants are employed by the Department of Education giving a breakdown by grade and what functions they perform?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

The statistical information requested is set out in the schedule attached.

Answer to Question 1657 of 2004**Answer to Question 1653**

School	P/T (20 hrs)	F/T (37 hrs)	P/T (30 hrs)	F/T (52 hrs)
Bayside	25			
Westside	23	1		
Bishop Fitzgerald	8			
St Anne's	9	1		
St Joseph's Middle	6	1		1
Sacred Heart	6			
Hebrew	2			
St Martin's		1	1	
Notre Dame	7			
St Mary's First	6			
St Joseph's First	7	1		
St Paul's First	6			
St Bernard's First	4			
Governor's Meadow	6			
College	4	1		
St Bernard's Nursery	1			

All the above posts are permanent. Should there be a supply at any time, then it means the person has resigned/retired and there is a vacancy which will be filled in or someone is either on annual leave or sick leave.

Answer to Question 1654

Bayside	2 full-timers
Westside	2 full-timers
Bishop Fitzgerald	1 part-timer (mornings only)
St Anne's	1 part-timer (mornings only)
St Joseph's Middle	1 part-timer (mornings only)
Sacred Heart	1 part-timer (mornings only)
Gibraltar College	1 part-timer (3 mornings + 1EO + 1AO)
Hebrew	1 part-timer (2 mornings only)
St Mary's First	1 part-timer (3 mornings only)
St Joseph's First	1 part-timer (5 mornings only)
Governor's Meadow	1 part-timer (5 mornings only)
Notre Dame	1 part-timer (5 mornings only)
St Bernard's First	1 part-timer (3 mornings only)
St Paul's First	1 part-timer (5 mornings only)
St Martin's	1 part-timer (4 mornings only)

Total number of school secretaries = 4 full-timers
11 part-timers
1 EO
1AO

Contd

Answer to Question 1657 of 2004

Answer to Question 1655

Name of C. Aide	School	Hours	Status	PT/FT
	Governor's Meadow First School	37	pp	FT
* = same person	Governor's Meadow First School	4Xp.m. 8hrs	supply	PT
	Notre Dame First School	37 hrs	pp	FT
	Notre Dame First School	37 hrs	pp	FT
	Notre Dame First School	30hrs	supply	FT
	Notre Dame First School	30 hrs	supply	FT
	Notre Dame First School	30 hrs	supply	for P&P
	Notre Dame First School	37 hrs	pp	FT
	Notre Dame First School	20+10ehrs	pp	FT
	Notre Dame First School	20 a.m.	pp	PT
	Notre Dame First School	16.25hrs	supply	PT
	St Bernard's First School	8 hrs	pp	FT
	St Bernard's First School	10 p.m.	pp	FT
	St Bernard's First School	16.25	supply	PT
	St Joseph's First School	37 hrs	pp	FT
	St Joseph's First School	30 hrs	supply	FT
	St. Paul's First School	37 hrs	pp	FT
	St Paul's First School	30 hrs	supply	for P&P
	St Paul's First School	30 hrs	supply	FT
	St Paul's First School	30 hrs	supply	PT
	St Paul's First School	16.25	supply	PT
	Hebrew Primary School	20 hrs	supply	PT
	Bishop Fitzgerald's Middle School	37 hrs	pp	FT
	Bishop Fitzgerald's Middle School	37 hrs	pp	FT
	Bishop Fitzgerald's Middle School	20 hrs	pp	PT
	Bishop Fitzgerald's Middle School	20+10ehrs	pp	PT
	Bishop Fitzgerald Middle School	30 hrs	supply	FT
	Bishop Fitzgerald Middle School	37hrs	pp	FT
* = same person	Bishop Fitzgerald Middle School	2 hrs	supply	PT
	Westside	30 hrs	supply	FT
	Westside	30 hrs	supply	FT
	Bayside	37 hrs	pp	FT
	Bayside	37 hrs	pp	FT
	Bayside	37 hrs	pp	FT
	Bayside/ St. Anne's	20/10 hrs	pp	FT
	St Martin's	20 a.m.	pp	PT
	St Martin's	20 a.m.	pp	PT
	St Martin's	20 a.m.	pp	PT
	St Martin's	20 a.m.	pp	PT
	St Martin's	20 a.m.	pp	PT
	St Martin's	20 a.m.	pp	PT
	St Martin's	20 a.m.	pp	PT
	St Martin's	20 p.m.	pp	PT
	St Martin's	20	pp	PT
	St Martin's	37 hrs	pp	FT
	St Martin's	20	pp	PT
	St Martin's	37 hrs	pp	FT
	St Martin's	37 hrs	pp	FT
	St Martin's	20 hrs	supply	PT
* = same person	St. Mary's	10 hrs	supply	PT
	St Bernard's Nursery	20 a.m	pp	PT
	St. Bernard's N. am/St. Bernard's S.	37 hrs	pp	PT
	St. Bernard's Nursery/ S. H.	37 hrs	pp	FT
	St Paul's Cathay	37 hrs	pp	FT

Contd

Answer to Question 1657 of 2004

Answer to Question 1656

There are a total of 20 School Attendants employed at present. The breakdown by schools is as follows:-

Bayside	2
Westside	2
Gibraltar College	2
Bishop Fitzgerald	1
St Anne's Middle	1
St Joseph's Middle	1
Sacred Heart	1
Hebrew	1
St Mary's First	1
Notre Dame	1
Governor's Meadow	1
St Bernard's First	1
St Joseph's First	1
St Paul's First	1
St Bernard's Nursery	1
St Paul's Nursery	1
St Martin's	1

Answer to Question 1657

School Attendants	20
Driver/Labourer	1
Labourers	5
Support Service Assistant/Driver	1
General Hand	1
Cleaners	<u>128</u>
Total	<u>156</u>

NO. 1658 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – PURCHASE OF STATIONERY

Can Government state what are the current procedures in relation to procuring stationery, equipment and other materials for schools?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Tenders are invited from both local and UK suppliers. After closing date, tenders are looked into by a Committee involving representatives from the three levels of schools and a Departmental officer.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1658 OF 2004

HON S E LINARES:

Is this a departure from last year or the previous years in which we had first of all direct buying, then we had tendering, and now we seem to have a mixture of both?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Now we have tendering. The only departure is that now we tender and invite tenders from local and UK suppliers.

HON S E LINARES:

Yes, but as the Minister well knows, before the tendering system it was a direct buying, schools and departments used to do direct buying. Then it was all tendering local buying and then it was tender.....

HON DR B A LINARES:

Tendering locally and in the UK.

ORAL

NO. 1659 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – PUPIL/TEACHER RATIO

Can Government state what is the pupil/teacher ratio in this academic year giving a breakdown by school?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 1660 and 1661 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1660 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – NUMBER OF PUPILS

Can Government say what is the average classroom size giving a breakdown by school and year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 1659 and 1661 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1661 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – NUMBER OF TEACHERS

Will Government state what is the complement of teachers in each school giving a breakdown by school, responsibility held and whether they are on supply or on permanent and pensionable status?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

The statistical information requested is set out in the schedule attached.

Answer to Question 1661 of 2004

Answer to Question 1659

Pupil/Teacher Ratio – 2004/05 (figures as at 30 September 2004)

School	p/t ratio
Governor's Meadow	17.39
St Joseph's First	17.56
Notre Dame First	16.93
St Bernard's First	13.67
St Mary's First	15.50
St Paul's First	18.00
Average First Schools	16.83
Bishop Fitzgerald	19.63
St Joseph's Middle	19.39
Sacred Heart	17.07
St Anne's	19.14
Average Middle Schools	19.10
Hebrew	14.60
Bayside	15.83
Westside	15.36
Average Secondary Schools	15.60

Cont.....

Answer to Question 1661 of 2004

Answer to Question 1661

School	No. of Teachers	Responsibilities
Governor's Meadow	18 f/t p&p	1 HT; 1DHT; MA2x4; MA1x4
St Joseph's First	18 f/t p&p; 2 p/t supply	1HT; 1DHT; MA2x5 MA1x3
Notre Dame	16 f/t p&p	1HT; 1DHT; MA2x4; MA1x2; SNx1
St Bernard's	9 f/t p&p	1HT; 1DHT; MA2x3
St Mary's	10 f/t p&p	1HT; 1DHT; MA2x3; MA1x1
St Paul's	16 f/t p&p	1HT; 1DGHT; MA2x4; MA1x1
Bishop Fitzgerald	26 f/t p&p	1HT; 1DHT; MA3x4; MA2x4; MA1x1; SNx2
St Joseph's Middle	18 f/t p&p	1HT; 1DHT; MA2x5; MA1x3
Sacred Heart	15 f/t p&p	1HT; 1DHT; MA2x5; MA1x3
Hebrew Primary	5 f/t P&P	1HT; 1DHT; MA2x1; MA1x1
St Anne's	22 f/t p&p	1HT; 1DHT; MA3x4; MA2x5; MA1x2
Bayside	62 f/t p&p; 3 f/t supply 1 p/t p&p	1HT; 3DHT; MA5x4; MA4x9; MA3x8; MA2x6; MA1x6
Westside	64 f/t p&p; 1 f/t supply 1 p/t p&p	1HT; 3DHT; MA5x4; MA4x6; MA3x11; MA2x5; MA1x7

Key: p&p = permanent and pensionable
p/t = part-time
f/t = full-time
HT = Headteacher
DHT = Deputy Headteacher
MA = Management Allowance
SN = Special Needs Allowance

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1659 TO 1661 OF 2004

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Minister state what criteria is being used to give supply work since we have a great number of qualified teachers either unemployed or awaiting employment by the Department of Education? Is there any specific criteria used?

HON DR B A LINARES:

The criteria used for the provision of supply work depends very much on the needs of the school that can make a case over and above their complement because of particular circumstances that require that additional support.

HON S E LINARES:

So therefore I presume that the Head teacher is the one that has a lot of say in determining the sort of teacher that needs to come in for supply work.

HON DR B A LINARES:

The Head teacher will make a bid but the decision is not taken by the Head teacher, it is assessed by the Department, advisers et cetera.

HON S E LINARES:

That is why I am saying that the Head teacher has a lot of say but obviously the ultimate decision comes from the Department of Education who employs the supply teacher. What I am saying is that there have been certain representations made to me that certain teachers are going in for example in Bayside to teach French and the teacher is a primary school teacher who has not got a clue of French, and is being employed on a supply basis when these pupils need at least somebody fluent in French.

HON DR B A LINARES:

I have no evidence of that type of anomaly and I am very surprised that it should happen at all. I think head teachers and Departmental officers are sensible enough not to commit that type of anomalous situation.

HON S E LINARES:

When applications come out for the teaching profession, that is every academic year there is a pool of supply, is there any preference to pick the teachers that are on a full-

time supply basis? Do they have preference to get the job at permanent and pensionable or everybody goes into the pool regardless?

HON DR B A LINARES:

The fact that a teacher has already been on supply for a year or two years is a factor that is taken into consideration, but not the only factor, also the needs of the school, the needs specially in subject areas and the subject qualification of teachers offering themselves for employment is also another very important factor.

ORAL

NO. 1662 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – CLASSROOM AIDES

Can Government state what is the ratio of classroom aides to pupils in the inclusion programme in this academic year giving a breakdown by school?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question No. 1663 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1663 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – INCLUSION PROGRAMME

Will Government state how many pupils are currently on the inclusion programme giving a breakdown by school and year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

The statistical information requested is set out in the schedule attached.

Answer to Question 1663 of 2004**Answer to Question 1662**

SCHOOL	NO. OF CHILDREN	CLASSROOM AIDES	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
FIRST SCHOOLS			
Governor's Meadow	5	1 Full time 1 part time	* same C.A.
Notre Dame	15	6 Full time 2 part time	
St Bernard's	4	2 Part time	Hd. Of St. B.N. (8 hrs support)
St Joseph's	1	1 Full time	
St Mary's	1	10 hours	*
St Paul's	5	3 Full time 1 part time	
Hebrew School	1		Support from VTS
MIDDLE SCHOOLS			
Bishop Fitzgerald	15	4 Full time 1 part time	2 hrs from*
Sacred Heart	2		10 hrs from St B.N.
St Anne's	10	1 Part time	BEST
St Joseph's	0	None	
SECONDARY SCHOOLS			
Bayside	17	3 Full time 1 part time	Part time BEST
Westside	4	2 Full time	
SPECIAL SCHOOLS			
St Martin's	7	2 Full time	Outreach Programme
GIBRALTAR COLLEGE	1	None	
TOTAL	88		

The ratio ranges from 1:1 to 1:6

We employ 23 FT C.A. and 9 PT C.A. = 27.5 Ft equivalent

The average ratio is 1:3

Cont'd.....

Answer to Question 1663 of 2004

Answer to Question 1663

First Schools	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Governor's Meadow	1	1	2	1	5
Notre Dame	1	3	5	6	15
St Bernard's	2	1		1	4
St Joseph's			1		1
St Mary's			1		1
St Paul's	2	1	1	1	5
Hebrew School				1	1
					32
Middle Schools	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Total
Bishop Fitzgerald	3	4	3	5	15
Sacred Heart	0	0	0	2	2
St Anne's	2	2	2	4	10
St Joseph's	0	0	0	0	0
					27

Gibraltar College	Yr 10	Yr 11	Yr 12	Yr 13	Total
	0	0	0	1	1
					1
St Martin's	Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Total	
	4	3	0	7	

Secondary Schools	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13	Total
Bayside	5	3	6	2	1	0	17
Westside	2	1	1	0	0	0	4
							21

Total 88

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1662 AND 1663 OF 2004

HON S E LINARES:

In relation to the classroom aides, they are all noted here as full time and part-time, are there not any supplies, or full time supplies or is it permanent and pensionable status? There does not seem to be any supplies, whilst the argument last time was that one cannot have full time permanent and pensionable classroom aides, because one year one might have 20 in the inclusion programme whilst the next year one might have 10 and therefore one does not need the same amount of classroom aides one year as opposed to the other.

HON DR B A LINARES:

The hon Member is confusing the term full time with permanence and continuity. Full time means the classroom aide works the full day not just half day. That is a full time job. There are supplies currently employed on a permanent basis for the reasons we have explained before and which the hon Member has repeated just now, that they are there for a particular purpose that may end at any particular moment of time, the need may not be there at a particular moment of time.

HON S E LINARES:

Has the Minister got with him whether they are on permanent and pensionable on supply terms? I agree with the Minister in the sense that I have not posed the question in asking how many are on supply, permanent and pensionable status, I understand that, but I am just asking now whether that information he has got available here, and if he has not is it possible to get it?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Yes the information there is not a distinction between permanent and pensionable and supply classroom aides was not asked for. I will by all means afford the information.

NO. 1664 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – CONSTRUCTION AND TRAINING CENTRE

Can Government state why trainees at the Construction and Training Centre were sent home for two weeks at the beginning of this academic year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Upon return from the August Bank Holiday weekend, that is on Tuesday 31st August 2004, the Gibraltar Construction Training Centre was found to be flooded due to a burst water pipe. It was therefore found necessary to release all trainees from training within the Centre in order to carry out emergency repairs.

The repairs which had to be carried out resulted in the replacement of the broken water pipe, drying out of waterlogged floors, drying and checking electrical installations, replacement of a collapsed ceiling covering an area of approximately 40 square metres which included the trainees' toilets.

These works were carried out in a satisfactory manner by staff from JBS and the Gibraltar Electricity Authority. However, due to the Centre operating summer hours during this period, their working time was reduced to practically only half days. May I say also in appreciation of the efforts of the instructors and the management that the students, the trainees were offered on the basis of their theoretical work, on their portfolios and the academic side of their training, to be in daily touch with the instructors in order to be able to carry on monitoring and guiding them in that aspect of their work which was not the hands on with machines and all that which would have been extremely dangerous.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1664 OF 2004

HON S E LINARES:

I was going to ask what other alternatives were found, because I understand it that the students actually went to the Centre and were sent home without any sort of alternatives to be found. I am glad that the Minister says that some alternatives were found. Not

according to the students but then again it could well be that the students misunderstood the alternative, but that is the actual information that I get from the students. They went there, it was flooded, there were lots of problems and they were just told *'look, I am sorry, I cannot deal with you just go home and then come back tomorrow and see how the situation is'*, and they did that for two weeks.

HON DR B A LINARES:

I am sure that there were some students who took advantage of the situation to take a bit of a respite of their work, and may have been in the first few days because of the confusion but certainly it is unfair, very unfair, not to express appreciation of the work done by the instructors and management in insisting on offering homework so to speak to the students, and coming back to them to check that they had followed and completed tasks of a written nature.

HON S E LINARES:

I would also like to put on record that I do appreciate the fact that the management of the Training Centre did as the Minister said, if they did have alternatives they did well, that is without question. What I am saying is the feedback that I am getting from the students and therefore I qualified it by saying maybe the students either misunderstood that they had alternatives to do or they did not want to do it anyway. That is what I am saying. Thank you.

ORAL

NO. 1665 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – GCSE EXAMS

Will Government state how many pupils sat GCSE exams in 2003/2004 academic year giving a breakdown by subject and by school?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 1666 to 1670 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1666 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – GCSE EXAMS

Will Government state how many pupils passed GCSE exams in 2003/2004 academic year giving a breakdown by subject and by school?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 1665 and 1667 to 1670 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1667 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – AS LEVEL EXAMS

Will Government state how many pupils sat AS level exams in 2003/2004 academic year giving a breakdown by subject and by school?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 1665, 1666 and 1668 to 1670 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1668 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – AS LEVEL EXAMS

Will Government state how many pupils passed AS level exams in 2003/2004 academic year giving a breakdown by subject and by school?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 1665 to 1667 and 1669 to 1670 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1669 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – A LEVEL EXAMS

Will Government state how many pupils sat A level exams in 2003/2004 academic year giving a breakdown by subject and by school?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 1665 to 1668 and 1670 of 2004.

NO. 1670 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – A LEVEL EXAMS

Can Government state how many pupils passed A level exams in 2003/2004 academic year giving a breakdown by subject and by school?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

The number of pupils who sat public examinations in 2003/2004 are as follows:

	Bayside	Westside
GCSE	177	162
A/S	82	115
A Level	78	80

I hand the hon Member tables giving details of numbers passing each subject for both schools.

Answer to Question 1670 of 2004

Answer to Questions 1669 and 1670

Bayside School

GCE 'A' Level Results - 2004

Subject	A	B	% A-B	C	D	E	% A-E	No of Passes	U	Total No of entries
Art & Design	1	2	43%	2	0	2	100.00%	7	0	7
Biology	3	4	39%	3	4	3		17	1	18
Business Studies	1	1	29%	0	2	2	85.71%	6	1	7
Chemistry	1	2	50%	1	1	1	100.00%	6	0	6
Computing	2	2	36%	3	3	0	90.91%	10	1	11
Economics	1	0	50%	0	0	0	50.00%	1	1	2
English Literature	3	6	32%	8	10	1	100.00%	28	0	28
French	2	3	56%	2	0	1	88.89%	8	1	9
Geography	0	0	0%	1	0	2	100.00%	3	0	3
History	2	0	17%	4	3	3	100.00%	12	0	12
Law	0	0	0%	0	1	0	100.00%	1	0	1
Mathematics	7	5	80%	3	0	0	100.00%	15	0	15
Physics	3	6	53%	2	5	1	100.00%	17	0	17
Product Design	1	1	18%	5	2	1	90.91%	10	1	11
Religious Studies	1	1	100%	0	0	0	100.00%	2	0	2
Sociology	4	2	43%	3	4	1	100.00%	14	0	14
Spanish	44	15	92%	4	0	1	100.00%	64	0	64
Sports Studies & PE	0	2	25%	4	1	1	100.00%	8	0	8
Totals	76	52	54.47%	45	36	20	97.45%	229	6	235

Contd

'A' Level Results

Contd Answer to Question 1670 of 2004

Contd Answer to Question 1669 and 1670

Westside School

GCE 'A' Level Results - 2004

Subject	A	B	% A-B	C	D	E	% A-E	No of Passes	U	Total No of entries
Art & Design	7	1	67%	2	1	1	100%	12	0	12
Biology	7	6	54%	6	0	3	92%	22	2	24
Business Studies	1	3	44%	1	3	0	89%	8	1	9
Chemistry	5	4	82%	2	0	0	100%	11	0	11
Economics	4	0	100%	0	0	0	100%	4	0	4
English Literature	5	4	47%	8	1	1	100%	19	0	19
French	1	1	15%	4	4	3	100%	13	0	13
Geography	3	1	50%	2	2	0	100%	8	0	8
History	6	9	68%	5	2	0	100%	22	0	22
History of Art	1	1	12%	4	8	2	94%	16	1	17
Mathematics	4	2	100%	0	0	0	100%	6	0	6
Physics	2	3	83%	0	1	0	100%	6	0	6
Psychology	0	1	50%	1	0	0	100%	2	0	2
Religious Studies	0	0	0%	1	0	0	100%	1	0	1
Sociology	0	1	50%	1	0	0	100%	2	0	2
Spanish	44	15	89%	7	0	0	100%	66	0	66
Sports Studies/PE	2	3	83%	0	1	0	100%	6	0	6
Totals	92	55	64.47%	44	23	10	98.25%	224	4	228

Contd

'A' Level Results

Contd Answer to Question 1670 of 2004

Contd Answer to Question 1669 and 1670

Summary of both schools

Total Passes	=	453
Total No of entries	=	463
Pass Rate A - B	=	59.40%
Pass Rate A - E	=	97.84%

Contd

Contd Answer to Question 1670 of 2004

Answer to Questions 1667 and 1668

Bayside School

GCE 'AS' Level Results - Summer 2004

Subject	A	B	% A - B	C	D	E	% A-E Pass	No of Passes	U	Total No of entries
Applied Mathematics	8	2	63%	2	1	1	88%	14	2	16
Art & Design	0	1	20%	1	2	0	80%	4	1	5
Biology	2	2	31%	2	1	0	54%	7	6	13
Business Studies	0	1	33%	0	1	1	100%	3	0	3
Chemistry	1	4	38%	3	1	1	77%	10	3	13
Computing	1	4	24%	2	3	3	62%	13	8	21
English Literature	7	6	54%	9	2	0	100%	25	0	24
French	2	5	30%	2	6	3	78%	18	5	23
History	2	1	27%	3	2	2	91%	10	1	11
Music	0	0	0%	1	3	1	100%	5	0	5
Phys Ed/Sports Studies	0	1	17%	2	2	1	100%	6	0	6
Physics	4	1	25%	6	2	0	65%	13	7	20
Psychology	0	1	20%	2	1	0	80%	4	1	5
Product Design	0	2	13%	1	3	4	67%	10	5	15
Sociology	4	3	44%	4	1	3	94%	15	1	16
Spanish	34	19	90%	6	0	0	100%	60	0	59
Totals	65	53	46%	46	31	20	84%	220	40	255

Contd

'A' Level Results

Contd Answer to Question 1670 of 2004

Contd Answer to Questions 1667 and 1668

Westside School

GCE 'AS' Level Results - Summer 2004

Subject	A	B	% A - B	C	D	E	% A-E Pass	No of Passes	U	Total No of entries
Applied Mathematics	4	2	60%	1	3	0	100%	10	0	10
Art & Design	3	1	36%	0	2	5	100%	11	0	11
Biology	1	5	19%	7	7	9	94%	29	2	31
Business Studies	0	1	4%	5	9	6	88%	21	3	24
Chemistry	1	4	28%	3	6	1	83%	15	3	18
Economics	0	1	25%	1	1	1	100%	4	0	4
English Literature	6	4	31%	5	15	2	100%	32	0	32
French	1	3	44%	4	1	0	100%	9	0	9
Geography	0	2	25%	1	1	2	75%	2	2	8
History	4	8	46%	9	3	2	100%	26	0	26
History of Art	1	0	20%	0	3	1	100%	5	0	5
Music	0	1	25%	0	3	0	100%	4	0	4
Sport & PE	2	1	27%	2	2	3	91%	10	1	11
Physics	2	1	60%	1	1	0	100%	5	0	5
Psychology	2	1	50%	3	0	0	100%	6	0	6
Religious Studies	2	1	100%	0	0	0	100%	3	0	3
Sociology	1	0	25%	0	1	1	75%	3	1	4
Spanish	62	13	93%	5	1	0	100%	81	0	81
Totals	92	49	48%	47	59	33	96%	280	12	292

Contd

'A' Level Results

Contd Answer to Question 1670 of 2004

Contd Answer to Question 1667 and 1668

Summary of both schools

Total Passes	=	499.6683
Total No of entries	=	547
Pass Rate	=	91%

'A' Level Results

Answer to Question 1670 of 2004

Answer to Questions 1665 and 1666

Bayside School
GCSE Results - 2004

Subject	A*	% A*	A	B	C	% A*-C	D	E	F	G	% A*-G Pass	U	No of Entries
Art & Design	1	4%	3	6	7	63%	6	2	2	0	100%	0	27
Business and Commercial Syst	0	0%	1	2	4	25%	11	6	1	1	93%	2	28
Business Studies	1	5%	2	6	9	90%	1	1	0	0	100%	0	20
Design & Tech:Product Design	0	0%	1	16	20	55%	24	5	1	0	100%	0	67
English	1	1%	15	32	77	74%	37	6	0	1	100%	0	169
English Literature	4	10%	9	17	10	95%	2	0	0	0	100%	0	42
French	17	38%	15	10	3	100%	0	0	0	0	100%	0	45
Geography	0	0%	5	2	5	86%	1	1	0	0	100%	0	14
History	5	15%	4	4	4	50%	7	6	3	1	100%	0	34
Home Economics (Food & Nutrition)	0	0%	0	0	8	80%	1	1	0	0	100%	0	10
ICT	6	8%	15	11	15	66%	13	6	2	2	99%	1	71
ICT - Short course	0	0%	0	0	0	0%	1	1	0	0	100%	0	2
Italian	2	25%	3	1	2	100%	0	0	0	0	100%	0	8
Mathematics	12	7%	16	36	60	72%	30	14	1	2	99%	1	172
Music	0	0%	0	2	4	50%	6	0	0	0	100%	0	12
Physical Education - short course	0	0%	0	0	0	0%	5	3	0	0	100%	0	8
Physical Education	0	0%	2	4	3	39%	11	2	0	1	100%	0	23
Religious Studies	3	2%	10	6	20	24%	39	33	21	22	96%	6	160
Science: Biology	2	10%	7	4	4	85%	2	1	0	0	100%	0	20
Science: Chemistry	1	5%	8	3	6	90%	1	1	0	0	100%	0	20
Science: Physics	1	5%	6	7	3	85%	3	0	0	0	100%	0	20
Science: Double Award	4	3%	8	20	72	87%	12	4	0	0	100%	0	120
Science: Single Award	1	1%	0	1	31	38%	23	16	12	1	99%	1	86
Sociology	1	14%	1	0	3	71%	1	1	0	0	100%	0	7
Spanish	101	58%	43	15	12	98%	3	0	1	0	100%	0	175
Totals	163	12%	174	205	382	68%	240	110	44	31	99%	11	1360

Contd

Contd Answer to Question 1670 of 2004

Contd Answer to Questions 1665 and 1666

Westside School

GCSE Results - 2004

Subject	A*	% A*	A	B	C	% A*-C	D	E	F	G	% A*-G Pass	U	No of Entries
Arabic	1	33%	1	0	1	100%	0	0	0	0	100%	0	3
Art & Design	5	12%	3	13	10	74%	8	2	1	0	100%	0	42
Business Studies	1	3%	6	4	8	54%	6	7	3	0	100%	0	35
Drama	0	0%	7	10	3	87%	2	1	0	0	100%	0	23
Economics	0	0%	6	2	4	80%	1	1	1	0	100%	0	15
English	1	1%	5	32	65	67%	34	15	1	0	100%	0	153
English Literature	30	37%	36	13	2	100%	0	0	0	0	100%	0	81
French	5	14%	10	14	4	94%	1	1	0	0	100%	0	35
Geography	2	7%	6	5	8	72%	2	4	1	1	100%	0	29
History	1	2%	14	10	11	71%	7	2	4	1	98%	1	51
Home Economics (CD)	1	3%	2	3	23	73%	4	6	1	0	100%	0	40
Home Economics(F&N)	0	0%	1	0	10	69%	3	1	1	0	100%	0	16
Mathematics	24	15%	11	39	35	69%	20	22	5	2	99%	1	159
Music	2	22%	0	5	1	89%	0	1	0	0	100%	0	9
Physical Education	6	17%	12	8	3	81%	6	0	1	0	100%	0	36
Religious Studies	3	4%	14	15	24	73%	15	5	1	0	100%	0	77
Religious Studies (Islam)	0	0%	1	0	0	100%	0	0	0	0	100%	0	1
Russian	1	100%	0	0	0	100%	0	0	0	0	100%	0	1
Science:Double Award	42	30%	22	26	38	90%	8	6	0	0	100%	0	142
Science:Single Award	0	0%	5	4	27	40%	25	17	6	5	100%	0	89
Spanish	102	64%	29	14	6	94%	6	1	1	1	100%	0	160
Totals	227	19%	191	217	283	77%	148	92	27	10	100%	2	1197

Contd

Contd Answer to Question 1670 of 2004

Contd Answer to Question 1665 and 1666

Summary for both schools

No of entries	=	2557
No of passes (A*-C)	=	1842
Percentage pass (A* - C)	=	72%

GCSE Results

NO. 1671 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – CONSTRUCTION AND TRAINING CENTRE

Can Government state how many students attended or are currently attending the Construction and Training Centre after leaving school at the age of 15 in the academic years of 2000/2001, 2001/2002, 2002/2003, 2003/2004 and 2004/2005 respectively?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

The number of students aged 15 who joined the Vocational Training Scheme, in 2000/2001 – 13; in 2001/2002 – 14; in 2002/2003 - 8; in 2003/2004 – 10; in 2004/2005 – 1.

Nine students attended the College at the age of 15 in the year 2000. Four did so in 2001, seven in 2002, 24 in 2003 and seven this current year, 2004.

NO. 1672 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – BLEAK HOUSE TRAINING CENTRE

Can Government state how many students attended Bleak House Training Centre after leaving school at the age of 15 in the academic years of 2000/2001, 2001/2002, 2002/2003, 2003/2004 and 2004/2005 respectively?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Bleak House Training Centre does not organise courses as such of any nature. Bleak House Institute is a facilitator of courses to a whole variety of entities, offering facilities and equipment and is used by training providers, not by the Bleak House Training Centre. For example, the Royal Bank of Scotland and the Gibraltar Society of Chartered and Certified Accountants, their training unit is housed in Bleak House and the training unit does provide basic courses in literacy and numeracy and ICT to the vocational trainees, those BTS trainees who are placed in employment but nevertheless do come for courses in literacy and numeracy and ICT at the Bleak House Training Centre. It is just a question of not understanding that fifteen year olds go to Bleak House as such for a particular full-time course, it is only there for certain courses and that is it. In that sense Bleak House is more of a training institute than a training centre.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1672 OF 2004

HON S E LINARES:

So what the Minister is saying is that there is not any records of the training unit which he has just mentioned, whether the pupils of that training unit are pupils that have just left school at the age of fifteen. There is no record of that?

HON DR B A LINARES:

What does the hon Member want to know, the number of vocational trainees?

HON S E LINARES:

That is what I have asked in the Question.

HON DR B A LINARES:

No, what the hon Member asked in the question was how many leaving fifteen go to Bleak House.

HON S E LINARES:

Yes and one of the things that they do in Bleak House is a training unit.

HON DR B A LINARES:

No the training unit actually helps them in the placements that they have with different employers, practical experience with training employers. The training unit actually also sponsors courses in literacy, numeracy and ICT to cushion and to support and give a bit of academic background to these trainees. If the hon Member wants to know how many of these students, I would say there are the number of trainees who are in the BTS scheme but I do not have the figure with me here and now.

HON S E LINARES:

Is it possible to have that figure?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Yes of course it is possible. We know exactly how many are in placement.

NO. 1673 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – GCFE

Can Government state how many students attended the GCFE after leaving school at the age of 15 in the academic years of 2000/2001, 2001/2002, 2002/2003, 2003/2004 and 2004/2005 respectively?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Nine students attended the College at the age of fifteen in the year 2000, four did so in 2001, seven in 2002, twenty-four in 2003 and seven this current year 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1674 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – GCFE

Can Government state how many students are currently attending the GCFE giving a breakdown by subject, accreditation to be obtained at the end of course and year they are currently at?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

The statistical information requested is set out in the schedule attached.

Answer to Question 1674 of 2004

Answer to Question 1671

The statistical information requested is set out in the schedule that I now hand to the hon Member.

Answer to Question 1672

The number of students aged 15 who joined the Vocational Training Scheme are:

2000/2001	13
2001/2002	14
2002/2003	8
2003/2004	10
2004/2005	1

Answer to Question 1673

9 students attended the College at the age of 15 in the year 2000; 4 did so in 2001; 7 in 2002; 24 in 2003 and 7 this current year 2004.

Answer to Question 1674

The College does not operate as a school, that is, whole cohorts of students do not necessarily progress through a particular course over an academic year. It is quite possible for a student to be in Year 3 of a particular course but yet only have joined the College that year. I am assuming that by accreditation you mean qualification – but just in case – I am providing the hon Member opposite with the Awarding Bodies as well.

Cont'd.....

Cont'd Answer to Question 1674

COURSE NAME	No of students	Remarks	Level	Awarding Body
AAT Foundation	8	Association of Accounting Technician – stage 1 done by level 3 students	1	AAT
Art & Design As	8	A' Level – level 3 programme.	3	Edexcel
AVCE Business Double Year 1	13	A'level – level 3 programme. TWO 'A' level equivalent	3	Edexcel
AVCE Business Double Year 2	6	A'level – level 3 programme. TWO 'A' level equivalent	3	Edexcel
AVCE Business Single Year 1	22	A' Level – level 3 programme.	3	Edexcel
AVCE Business Single Year 2	3	A' Level – level 3 programme	3	Edexcel
AVCE CBE Double Year 1	18	A' Level – level 3 programme. TWO 'A' level equivalent	3	Edexcel
AVCE CBE Double Year 2	4	A' Level – level 3 programme. TWO 'A' level equivalent	3	Edexcel
AVCE CBE Single Year 1	2	A' Level – level 3 programme	3	Edexcel
AVCE CBE Single Year 2	2	A' Level – level 3 programme	3	Edexcel
AVCE ICT Double Year 1	33	A' Level – level 3 programme. TWO 'A' level equivalent	3	Edexcel
AVCE ICT Double Year 2	17	A' Level – level 3 programme. TWO 'A' level equivalent	3	Edexcel
AVCE ICT Single in 1 Year	2	A' Level – level 3 programme	3	Edexcel
AVCE ICT Single Year 1	55	A' Level – level 3 programme	3	Edexcel
AVCE ICT Single Year 2	24	A' Level – level 3 programme	3	Edexcel
Business As	10	A' Level – level 3 programme. Bayside link	3	AQA
CLAIT New	53	Level 1 programme but level 2 students do this too.	1	OCR
Double Vocational GCSE in Art & Design	2	GCE TWO GCE equivalent	2	Edexcel
GCE "O" Level English	82	GCE	2	Edx / Camb
GCSE Maths	103	GCE	2	AQA
GCSE Spanish	15	GCE	2	AQA
Home Design	30	College devised module	1	College
Initial Award in Office Practice	30		1	OCR
Intermediate GNVQ Business	27		2	Edexcel
Intermediate GNVQ Construction & the Built Environment	17		2	Edexcel
Intermediate GNVQ ICT	48		2	Edexcel
Introduction to Art & Design	30	College devised module	1	College
Numeracy & Literacy	31		1	OCR
Practical Word Processing	30		1	OCR
Psychology A2	10	A' Level – level 3 programme	3	Edexcel
Psychology As	73	A' Level – level 3 programme	3	Edexcel
Sociology A2	5	A' Level – level 3 programme	3	Edexcel
Sociology As	12	A' Level – level 3 programme	3	Edexcel
Spanish A2	38	A' Level – level 3 programme	3	Edexcel
Spanish As	59	A' Level – level 3 programme	3	Edexcel
TEFL (SET)	2	English for Beginners as a foreign Language	-	Edexcel

Please note:

As with UK colleges, students freely choose the courses they feel will enhance their career prospects.

After our Diagnostic tests and interview they are placed into programmes that they are likely to succeed in and are happy to proceed with.

Students will generally register for more than one programme; this means that the figures on this page cannot be added up.

ORAL

NO. 1675 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – NUMBER OF PUPILS SUSPENDED

Can Government state how many pupils were suspended from school in the last academic year due to challenging behaviour giving a breakdown by school and year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 1676 to 1679 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1676 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – PUPIL REFERRAL UNIT

Will Government state how many pupils were taught by peripatetic teachers, from the Pupil Referral Unit since it was instituted to date giving a breakdown by school and year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 1675 and 1677 to 1679 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1677 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – PUPIL REFERRAL UNIT

Will Government state how many pupils were referred to the Educational Psychologist in the academic years of 2000/2001, 2001/2002, 2002/2003 and 2003/2004 respectively?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 1675, 1676 and 1678 to 1679 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1678 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – PUPIL REFERRAL UNIT

Will Government state how many pupils were referred to the Educational Psychologist for challenging behaviour in the academic years of 2000/2001, 2001/2002, 2002/2003, 2003/2004 and 2004/2005 respectively?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 1675 to 1677 and 1679 of 2004.

NO. 1679 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – PUPIL REFERRAL UNIT

Can Government state how many pupils are statemented and at what level giving a breakdown by year and school?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answer to Question No. 1675

The statistical information requested is set out in the schedule attached.

Answer to Question No. 1676

As explained repeatedly in answer to Question No. 228 of 2004, and even No. 574 of 2002 the model that has been adopted for this purpose in Gibraltar is referred to as the Behaviour Education Support Team (BEST). The team consists of three experienced teachers and a classroom aide. Between them they provide peripatetic support in all the Government schools. Children are supported in sessional basis either in small groups, one to one or in class support working with a group within the class, and it is difficult to give exact figures as requested by the hon Member concerning the number of pupils who attended, for a number of reasons. The allocation of support to schools is reviewed on an on-going basis, on a termly basis and can change. Therefore the numbers can fluctuate from one term to another and children can also receive support for different lengths of time, but total numbers for schools have not changed dramatically over the years but what has changed is the length of time of support that they are now receiving since the team, BEST team as we call it, Behaviour Educational Support Team, has increased for individuals and groups of children as the level of peripatetic support has also increased.

The principal Educational Psychologist does not run a referral system as such. He has an agreed protocol with schools which he visits two or six times per term, depending on pupil numbers on roll and also on the pupils registered as having special educational needs. Requests for advice on new pupils come in at a rate of about 150 per year but not all of them will warrant full assessment. Thus a medium sized school for instance

will raise an average of 10 new pupils in the year and these will join another 30 pupils who are on record or being reviewed.

In answer to the Question about the challenging behaviour. The hon Member should know that the term challenging behaviour is used only for the most extreme forms of conduct disorder and characterises really only about 2 per cent of the population. If there are 15 to 16 new cases of behaviour difficulties raised in one year, maybe there is only one which may warrant the classification of challenging behaviour. The great majority of cases are classified into other categories. (1) Behaviour and conduct difficulties; (2) learning difficulties; (3) social emotional problems. Apart from sensory and other disabilities which overlap with all three categories, 30 to 40 per cent of cases undertaken will have as a core issue the behaviour difficulties of the child.

In Gibraltar we do not adhere to the UK statutory Statementing of Special Educational Needs as these are, we find, laboriously bureaucratic, costly in administrative resources and above all unnecessarily prescriptive and over-formal. However, we do acknowledge formally when a child's needs are over and above what the school can normally provide from within its resources. There is a panel of assessors of each child that shows signs of difficulties that I have defined above. The breakdown required is provided in the schedule attached.

Answer to Question 1679 of 2004

Answer to Question 1675

Bayside	Westside	Bishop Fitzgerald	St Anne's	Sacred Heart
12	5	2	4	4
6xYr 8 2xYr 9 1xYr 10 3xYr 11	3xYr 9 2xYr 10	2xYr 4	4xYr 7	2xYr 6 2xYr 7

Total = 27

Answer to Question 1679

	2000/1	2001/2	2002/3	2003/4
New cases	140	160	155	158
New Behaviour problems	48	56	50	55
"Statements"	69	70	72	75

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1675 TO 1679 OF 2004

HON S E LINARES:

In relation to Question No. 1676 the Minister has said that there is an increase in peripatetic teachers. The last time I asked there were three. It has increased to what?

DR B A LINARES:

In May 1996 when this initiative was started there was only one teacher supporting all schools. She supported 60 to 70 pupils four days a week. In 2001 there was a second teacher who was engaged four days a week, primarily for the First School pupils and in 2002 a third teacher was engaged for three days a week. Last year, 2003, we added the support of a classroom aide.

HON S E LINARES:

So we have four now.

DR B A LINARES:

Four persons, three teachers, highly qualified teachers and one classroom aide who has shown experience in the field of special educational needs.

HON S E LINARES:

In relation to the statementing, it is surprising that the information cannot be given now and it is surprising in a way that the Minister says that we do not follow what is the code of practice as in the special needs, because I have asked this question before and I have had an answer. I have had a schedule actually stating the level exactly at which pupils are, even giving me a breakdown by school and by year. I have asked that question previously and I have had the whole schedule. It seems as if probably it has ceased now but I would urge the Minister to see in previous questions that he has answered this question and why he should not do so now.

HON DR B A LINARES:

I do not doubt the word of the hon Member but I have before me here all his past questions on the question of special educational needs and I do not find here any tables as described by him in detail of that type of situation, but certainly I do not doubt his word and I will look back to see if that type of specific and very detailed information, particularly also sensitive because we are dealing with individual children who could be easily identified in a small community like ours.

HON S E LINARES:

Yes, but last time the Minister gave me the list, it did not have any names, it did not have any specifics. One can say that in Westside there is one child at level 1, I am not going to go now and investigate who is the child who is at level 1. What I am saying is that this has been answered before, but I will also investigate and look in Hansard and show the Minister that it has been given before. I will do that.

NO. 1680 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – NUMBER OF PUPILS

Can Government state how many children are currently in years R, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 giving a breakdown by school, how many are entitled pupils and what are the sums payable by those not entitled?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

The statistical information requested is set out in the schedule attached.

All these are entitled to free education. There are 17 attending secondary schools and 12 attending first and middle schools who are not entitled to free education. The current fees are £864.23p per term for secondary schools and £648.17p per term for first and middle schools.

Answer to Question 1680

School	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
St Mary's	32	34	43	46	155
Notre Dame	49	58	58	72	237
St Paul's	75	58	69	68	270
Governor's Meadow	63	87	88	75	313
St Joseph's First	85	65	73	93	316
St Bernard's	30	30	37	26	123
Hebrew	7	14	16	5	42
Totals	341	346	384	385	1456

School	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Total
St Joseph's Middle	83	91	84	91	349
Bishop Fitzgerald	123	102	141	117	483
St Anne's	110	108	97	106	421
Sacred Heart	54	60	67	75	256
Hebrew	7	13	5	6	31
Totals	377	374	394	395	1540

School	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13	Total
Bayside	250	204	218	198	86	81	1037
Westside	235	197	191	180	118	85	1006
Totals	48	401	409	378	204	166	2043

First = 1456
 Middle = 1540
 Secondary = 2043
 Total = **5039**

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1680 OF 2004

HON S E LINARES:

Out of the 17 that are in the secondary, would the Minister say that most of them are MOD personnel or do the MOD personnel pay for their students?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Almost certainly. Most of them will be MOD children and they certainly pay the same rates as other non-entitled children.

NO. 1681 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – NURSERIES

Can Government state how many children attend full-time Nursery Education this academic year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

The total number of children attending Government nurseries this year is 248. Children attend either morning or afternoon sessions at the nurseries. There were 323 places available for nursery education this academic year 2004/2005.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1681 OF 2004

HON S E LINARES:

Out of the 248 are those split between those who go in mornings or afternoons, or is the Minister saying that there are 248 that attend morning.

HON DR B A LINARES:

Either morning or afternoon.

HON S E LINARES:

So basically the figure of 248 is split between some that do mornings and some that do afternoons. Correct? The figure of 323 that I have been given is the places that they have which would mean the morning and the afternoon sessions, correct?

HON DR B A LINARES:

The hon Member speaks of full-time nursery education but as he knows traditionally full-time nursery education has been a morning or an afternoon which is reasonable because small children at that age cannot sustain really whole days.

HON S E LINARES:

That is a matter of argument and opinion because most children of parents who are working all day attend nursery all day. They attend the Government nursery in the morning and then they are transported to another nursery, private usually, in the afternoon. So there is an element of opinion here.

HON DR B A LINARES:

It is up to the parents. We should not be a party to practices which are not seen to be educationally viable.

ORAL

NO. 1682 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – PARENTAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Can Government confirm whether the parental contribution system has now been abolished?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question No. 1683 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1683 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – PARENTAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Can Government confirm whether the abolition of the parental contribution will apply to all students currently studying abroad?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

The Government can confirm that parental contribution has been abolished as from this academic year and that it applies to all students in receipt of a Government scholarship, either mandatory or discretionary.

ORAL

NO. 1684 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – ST MARTIN’S SCHOOL

Can Government state whether the playground at St Martin’s School is now complete?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 1685 and 1686 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1685 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – ST PAUL’S SCHOOL

Can Government state whether the hall at St Paul’s is complete?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 1684 and 1686 of 2004.

NO. 1686 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – BISHOP FITZGERALD SCHOOL

Can Government state whether the temporary classrooms at Bishop Fitzgerald School are still in place and when they envisage the construction of permanent facilities in the said school?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answer to Question No. 1684

The playground at St Martin's School is not yet complete but the Department have been reliably informed that it will be by the end of this month.

Answer to Question No. 1685

The new Hall, together with five classrooms and the new nursery unit, are now complete in St Paul's School and have been in use since the start of this term.

Answer to Question No. 1686

The temporary classrooms at Bishop Fitzgerald School are still in place in the playground and the children continue to use the tennis courts adjacent to the school as one of their playgrounds. The Government do not envisage constructing extra teaching areas for the reason given in Question No. 1651 that we hope in the near future to alleviate the problem of overcrowding in Bishop Fitzgerald School. At present the two temporary facilities are used as a classroom and as a Library.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1684 TO 1686 OF 2004

HON S E LINARES:

In relation to Bishop Fitzgerald School where the Minister has said that they are using the tennis courts. Is it envisaged that these tennis courts will become permanently part of Bishop Fitzgerald School in the near future or will the school, once a new school is built somewhere else, and the temporary container or whatever classrooms are removed that Bishop Fitzgerald will revert back to its original surface area or area or that the tennis courts will be added to it?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The decision is not yet made and really depends on the extent to which the new school, how much additional capacity the new school, the new first and middle school which is planned for nearby, which is not intended to replace but to be an additional school, how much capacity that provides. In other words, Bishop Fitzgerald and Governors Meadow relieved of some of the pressure that they are presently under by some of the additional capacity of the new school may or may not need all the add-on facilities that they have had or it may be re-developed in some other way by allowing more playground space. It is one of the factors that will be decided when the design and capacity of the new school have been fixed and that in turn is considered next to the demographic projections for the next decade or so along those schools in Gibraltar. So both are possible. Either that Bishop Fitzgerald, how those two schools will then have the assets shared between them and whether it will be the same as now or a different permutation to now is one of the issues that remain to be decided.

ORAL

NO. 1687 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – SCHOOL LUNCHESES

Have Government conducted any enquiries in relation to the possibility of producing meals for children at school?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question No. 1696 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1688 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – DISCRETIONARY GRANTS

Can Government state how many discretionary grants have been given this academic year, that is, for September 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 1689 to 1695 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1689 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – MANDATORY GRANTS

Can Government state for what subjects the mandatory grants were awarded and the institutions that students will be attending or are currently attending?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 1688 and 1690 to 1695 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1690 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – DISCRETIONARY GRANTS

Can Government say for what subjects the discretionary grants were awarded and the institutions that students will be attending or are currently attending?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 1688, 1689 and 1691 to 1695 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1691 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – DISTANCE LEARNING GRANTS

Can Government state how much was spent in 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004 respectively in distance learning grants?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 1688 to 1690 and 1692 to 1695 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1692 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – DISTANCE LEARNING GRANTS

Can Government state how many people who applied in 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004 respectively actually obtained a distance learning grant?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 1688 to 1691 and 1693 to 1695 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1693 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – MANDATORY GRANTS

Can Government state how many mandatory grants have been given this academic year, that is, for September 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 1688 to 1692 and 1694 to 1695 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1694 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – DISCRETIONARY GRANTS

Can Government state how many of those who applied for discretionary grants were for second degrees, master degrees, doctorate or PGCE?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 1688 to 1693 and 1695 of 2004.

NO. 1695 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – DISTANCE LEARNING GRANTS

Can Government state how many people applied for distance learning grants in the years 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004 respectively?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answer to Question No. 1688

A total of 15 discretionary grants have been granted this year, tenable from September 2004.

Answer to Question No. 1689

The statistical information requested is set out in the schedule attached.

Answer to Question No. 1690

The statistical information requested is set out in the schedule attached.

Answer to Question No. 1691

The monies spent on new distance learning subsidies awarded in the period in question, breakdown as follows:

Academic year 2000/2001	£39,178.99
Academic year 2001/2002	£28,931.50
Academic year 2002/2003	£58,784.20
Academic year 2003/2004	£19,771.45
Academic year 2004/2005	£17,830.00

Answer to Question No. 1692

The figures for the number of distance learning subsidies awarded in the period in question break down as follows:

Academic year 2000/2001	32 subsidies awarded
Academic year 2001/2002	30 subsidies awarded
Academic year 2002/2003	48 subsidies awarded
Academic year 2003/2004	20 subsidies awarded
Academic year 2004/2005	14 subsidies awarded

Answer to Question No. 1693

A total of 175 mandatory scholarships have been awarded tenable from September 2004.

Answer to Question No. 1694

The breakdown of applications in the categories requested by the hon Member is as follows:

Second degrees	3
Masters degrees	19
Doctorates	3
PGCEs	17

Answer to Question No. 1695

The number of applicants for distance learning subsidies was as follows:

2000	40
2001	43
2002	53
2003	32
2004	34

Answer to Question 1695 of 2004

Answer to Question 1689

	Subjects being studied 2004	Institutions
	<i>Brackets indicate number of students following a course or attending an institution</i>	
1	Accountancy & Finance (6)	Anglia Polytechnic University
2	Accounting & Finance with Spanish (2)	Aston University
3	Accounting & Financial Management	Bournemouth University
4	Advertising & Film Studies	Bradford College (2)
5	American Studies & Spanish	Buckinghamshire Chilterns University College (4)
6	Architectural Design & Technology	Cambridge University (3)
7	Architecture (4)	Canterbury Christchurch University
8	Art & Design (8)	Coventry University
9	Art (Practice & History)	Darlington College of Arts
10	Biology	Grantham College
11	Business	Heriot Watt University
12	Business & Marketing Management	Kent Institute of Art & Design (6)
13	Business Management (3)	Kingston University (7)
14	Business Marketing	Lancaster University
15	Business Studies (3)	Leeds Metropolitan University (6)
16	Childhood Studies	Lincoln University
17	Cities, Environmental Design & Development	London Metropolitan University
18	Computer Animation & Special Effects	London School of Contemporary Music
19	Computer Networks and web Design	London School of Economics
20	Computer Science	London School of Economics & Political Science
21	Computing	London School of Theology
22	Construction (2)	London South Bank University
23	Counselling & Theology	Loughborough College
24	Criminology with Criminal Justice	Loughborough University
25	Criminology/Sociology	Manchester Metropolitan University
26	Dentistry	Middlesex University (2)
27	Design Animation	Newcastle University (2)
28	Design Crafts	Northumbria University
29	Drama & Professional & Creative Writing	Nottingham Trent University (9)
30	Early Childhood Studies	Oxford Brookes University (7)
31	Earth Sciences	Oxford University
32	E-Commerce	Queen Mary University London
33	Economics & Finance	Roehampton University of Surrey
34	Economics (3)	Sheffield Hallam (2)
35	Economics, Econometrics & Finance	Southampton Institute (8)
36	Education Studies & Spanish	Southampton University
37	Electronic & Communication Engineering	St Mary's College (9)
38	Electronic Engineering	Teeside University
39	Engineering	Thames Valley University
40	English & History of Art	Trinity College Carmathen
41	English & PE Teaching	University College Chichester
42	English & Spanish Law	University College London
43	English Education & Employment	University College Northampton
44	English Literature & Multimedia Journalism	University of Bath
45	English Literature & Politics	University of Birmingham (2)
46	English Studies/Film & Media Studies	University of Brighton (6)
47	Environmental Health	University of Bristol (2)
48	European Law	University of Buckingham
		Cont'd

Cont'd Answer to Question 1695 of 2004

Cont'd Answer to Question 1689

49	Finance, Accounting & Management	University of Cardiff (6)
50	Fine Art & Teaching + PGCE	University of Central Lancashire
51	Fine Art (2)	University of Derby (3)
52	Forensic Psychology	University of Durham (2)
53	French & Italian + PGCE	University of Exeter (2)
54	French & Russian	University of Hertfordshire
55	Geography & Planning	University of Hull (3)
56	Graphic Design	University of Kent Canterbury (5)
57	History & English	University of Leeds (4)
58	History & Politics	University of Leicester
59	History & Politics + PGCE	University of Lincoln
60	History (4)	University of Liverpool
61	Human Anatomy & Biology	University of Manchester (4)
62	Illustration & Animation	University of Newcastle (2)
63	International Business & Economics	University of Northampton
64	International Hospitality Management	University of Nottingham (3)
65	International Relations with Strategic Studies	University of Plymouth (5)
66	Law (11)	University of Portsmouth
67	Law with Business	University of Reading (3)
68	Law with English Literature	University of Sheffield
69	Law with Hispanic Law	University of Sterling (2)
70	Law with IT	University of Wales Institute Cardiff (6)
71	LPC	University of Warwick
72	Management Studies with Spanish	University of West England, Bristol
73	Marine Technologies	University of Wolverhampton
74	Mathematics & Physics	University of York (5)
75	Mathematics (4)	
76	Mechanical Engineering	
77	Medicine (3)	
78	Merchant Ship Operations	
79	Midwifery	
80	Modern Languages	
81	Money Banking & Finance	
82	Music	
83	Music Industry Management & Live Production (2)	
84	Music Performance & Production	
85	Occupational Therapy	
86	PGCE (3)	
87	Photography	
88	Physical Education	
89	Physics (3)	
90	Primary Education (9)	
91	Primary Teaching with History	
92	Psychology (4)	
93	Quantity Surveying	
94	Science	
95	Social Policy	
96	Social Work	
97	Sociology	
98	Sociology & Social Policy (2)	
99	Sonic Arts	
		Cont'd

Cont'd Answer to Question 1694 of 2004

Cont'd Answer to Question 1689 of 2004

100	Spanish & Italian	
101	Spanish & Tourism	
102	Sport Science (2)	
103	Sports & Exercise Science	
104	Sports Coaching Management	
105	Sports Management	
106	Sports Studies with Business	
107	Sports Technology	
108	Study of Religions & Theology	
109	Teaching	
110	Tourism Management	
111	War Studies	
112	Web Development	
113	Writing	
114	Yacht Manufacture & Surveying	

Answer to Question 1695 of 2004

Answer to Question 1690

	Discretionary Awards Subjects being studied 2004	Institutions
1	Catering	Guildford College
2	Drums and Contemporary Popular Music	Academy of Contemporary Music
3	Catering Food and Hospitality	Guildford College
4	Actuarial Science	University of Edinburgh
5	Hospitality and Business Management	Leeds Metropolitan University
6	Human Evolutionary Studies	University of Cambridge
7	Psychology of Child Development	University of Central Lancashire
8	Environmental Technology	Imperial College, London
9	Biomedical Science	University of Portsmouth
10	Tourism Studies	University of Wales Institute
11	Economics	University of London
12	Counselling	University of Surrey
13	Finance	Imperial College, London
14	Operatic Studies	University of Music and Performing Arts, Vienna
15	Mussic	Trinity College

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1688 TO 1695 OF 2004

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Minister explain why there has been a decrease, a great decrease, in discretionary grants this year? Last year, when I asked a question, there were 64. This year we have 15.

HON DR B A LINARES:

I can tell the hon Member that these awards are assessed by the Scholarship Awards Committee on intrinsic merits and there were 25 applications for discretionary awards in second degrees, masters and doctorates and 15 of the 25 were found to be meritorious intrinsically and were awarded. I have to add there a note that the 17 PGCEs which have also added to the figure in previous years, this year have not been awarded for the simple reason that the Department for Education and Skills in the UK are now funding all PGCE courses, tuition fees and really with a very generous maintenance grant of £6,000 so it was something that is a saving on the taxpayer locally and we thought it was not either fair or reasonable to fund the PGCEs which we have traditionally funded. That is another reason why the figure is lower this year.

HON S E LINARES:

So the Minister then is confirming that from the 17 who applied for PGCEs the 17 are actually going?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Actually being paid by the British Government.

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Government also explain why the numbers of distance learning grants have also been decreased? We had 32 awarded in the year 2000 and yet in the year 2004 we had 14. Can the Minister explain why again a decrease on this one?

HON DR B A LINARES:

There were 34 applications for new distance learning courses this year, 34 applications only and in fact we find that for distance learning 34 were granted.

HON S E LINARES:

How many applied in 2000?

HON DR B A LINARES:

The number of applicants for distance learning subsidies were this year 34 and 14 were awarded.

HON S E LINARES:

Whilst in the year 2000 the Minister said there were 40 applicants and 32 got it with the figure of £34,000 spent.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is it not the case then, that in the case of discretionary grants more people have been turned down this year than previously? Forgetting for a moment the PGCE who are really not being turned down because they are doing it paid for by somebody else. Of those that are paid from local funds, have more people been rejected who applied for discretionary grants or just a normal average?

HON DR B A LINARES:

It is a normal average. I gave the figures. There were 25 applications and 15 were awarded so that is more than 50 per cent.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In answer to Question No. 237 of 2004, the Minister said that 35 people had applied for discretionary post-graduate grants and 33 applications had been successful and two unsuccessful. That is almost 100 per cent yes. That does not seem to be the same this year. Is it that the quality of the candidates is less and their qualifications are not so good or what?

HON DR B A LINARES:

The Government leave that judgement entirely to the professional assessment board, the Scholarship Awards Committee. I can tell the hon Member that all recommendations, all the applicants who were recommended by the Scholarship Awards Committee this year have been granted awards.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So it is not that the Awards Committee had a smaller pot of money from which to make awards? It is not that the Awards Committee had a smaller pot of money in this budget.

HON DR B A LINARES:

The Scholarship Awards Committee does not look at any pot of money, they look at students, applicants, and judge them through interviews and track record and past degrees and assess them accordingly.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

If I could add. I would not want the hon Member to create a sort of jurisprudence on this issue. The Government do not take the view that funds for non-mandatory scholarships are unlimited. In other words, it is not the policy of the Government that everybody that applies for a discretionary scholarship that the Board considers appropriate should be sent, because that in effect is subject to the Board's adjudication. That is a second tier of mandatory scholarships subject to being approved by the Board. There is a financial figure written in to this area and certainly, it may not have arisen yet, but certainly for those of us that have to make the Government's budget balance at least or have surpluses at best, the idea that there is an unlimited pot of money for non-mandatory scholarships is certainly not the view that I take of things. It has not arisen yet and long may that continue to be the case. I think the House should also be aware of the context to which I make this point. That is that we are committed to continuing to pay the tuition fees for all Gibraltar university students even when they are increased substantially as they are to be, I think it will be with effect from the next academic year, which could result, different universities will increase their fees by different amounts, but it could be up to three times more in tuition fees than we are paying at the moment. That of course is for mandatory, discretionary and everybody else. So this is not the discretionary scholarships. The mandatory scholarships do operate in a non financially restrained environment. That is a pure demand-led expenditure on the mandatory but on the discretionary side they do not operate in a no financial restraints environment.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I suppose then one needs to qualify the previous answer which was in fact that the discretionary academic committee gets 50 applications and then decides whether they recommend all 50 or 20 or 10.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, it does not require to qualify the previous answer because apparently the Minister has told the House that the amount of money available enables them to fund all the ones that they wanted to recommend. This is what he has told the House. I therefore, relying on that, said that it has not arisen yet and I was just saying it because I did not want the hon Member to misinterpret the Minister's answer as meaning that that would necessarily always be the case. In other words, it has not operated yet and I said I hope it continues to be the case for many years but that this is not, the discretionary pot is not a bottomless pit of money.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well, would the Government not agree that it is most peculiar that the discretionary committee has made recommendations which fall within the amount that is in the pot? That in reaching that decision they have been guided purely by academic considerations without any knowledge of what is in the pot, because they are not put, that is what he also told us. That they do not take into account the amount of money available, that is the statement that has been made, and that somehow (*Interruption*). It is not on their minds because they do not decide to give less because there is less money, that is what we have been told.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I easily envisage the situation in which it might have to be on their minds. In other words, there is a figure which Government write in to how much is available. That may operate on their minds, I do not know if it operates on their minds or not.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well the Chief Minister does not know whether it operates on their minds and the other Minister does know that it does not operate in their minds, otherwise he has not been telling us the truth. He has told us quite specifically to a specific question, '*does this Committee take a decision as to how many discretionary grants they make depending on how much money they have got?*' The answer was '*no, they make their recommendation purely on academic grounds, we do not intervene and I do not know why they have recommended so many this year*'. That was the answer, the original answer given. Now, all I am telling the Minister, is would the Government not agree that if the academic committee decided this year to give less scholarships, not because there was less money, that they might arrive in future but it has not yet arrived. So without taking into account the amount of money that was available they decide to give less, but by some peculiar use of a crystal ball at the beginning of the year the Government reduced the available money from £120,000 to £47,000. Well that is what happened in this year's Budget. In last year's Budget they provided £120,000 in order to give new scholarships in September 2003, in the year 2003/2004 and this year they applied £47,000 for 2004/2005. Now is this the fact that less money is being spent, is this something that is driven by a decision that it is not an unlimited pot which we understand that can be a policy decision of the Government in terms of deciding, unlike the mandatory, we accept the mandatory by definition, if it is mandatory it has to be met. The discretionary is something that at any given point in time the Government can decide, 'well look we can afford so many or we cannot afford so many'. Now it seems that since the two are coinciding, that is are not coincidence, the decision to reduce the money taken independently from the decision to make the recommendation, both happen to be pointing in the same direction.

HON DR B A LINARES:

Perhaps I can convince the Leader of the Opposition if I tell him that all the applicants who were recommended by the Scholarship Awards Committee have been before me

and that all of them have been given awards, scholarship awards. Perhaps I can convince him if I say that the cost of that went well over the pot. In fact there was more money needed to cover all these recommendations of the Awards Committee and fortunately, in our budgetary arrangements, we have been able to fund over and above the £47,000 that the hon Member referred to in our original budget, in order to accommodate, in order to be able to provide awards for all those who were unrecommended by the Scholarship Awards Committee, but there is one point I would like to make a note of. The hon Member said 'is it the lowering of numbers this year? Is it that the quality of the applicants?' Well I would not like that to go on record. I am not in any way indicting the quality of the applicants because there are many factors that are taken into consideration by the Board. For instance, the relevance of their course with the needs of Gibraltar. That has nothing to do with the quality of the applicant, at least not the academic quality but certainly the needs of Gibraltar is one of the main considerations, one of the main criteria taken by the Board and some are rejected precisely because of esoteric types of courses that they choose, a degree in Beckham proficiency and that sort of thing.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I note, in fact, that the last statement from the Minister does not seem to coincide with the previous statement by the Chief Minister, who said we had not yet reached the stage of having to take a policy decision because the pot had been exceeded. This year the pot has been exceeded then.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I said that we had not yet had to take a policy decision of curtailing the number of grants available that had been approved by the Board, because the Government were unwilling to provide the funding. In other words, one could find oneself in a situation where the Government, just as we have allowed them subject to virement or a funding source which may end up coming back to this House as supplementary, I do not know how it is going to be done, just as we have allowed them to exceed this year the amount of voted funds in order to allow them to fund all the ones that they have been willing to recommend, there is no obligation on the part of Government to do that. We have done it this year and therefore the need has not arisen but it is possible that at some future date and at some future year, they may wish to recommend 50 and the Government may only be willing to fund 49, or 40 or 30. That possibility exists, it has not happened yet.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Given that in the scholarships budget last year there was quite a substantial under-funding for reasons which are not very clear, would in fact the position not have been attained that instead of the money being vired as we have seen, there was something in the order of £780,000 vired out of mandatory scholarships Head in July this year in the reallocations that have been tabled at this meeting of the House. If the House originally was asked to provide this money and it did, and for reasons that are not very clear to us because there was no indication last year of any cutback, the money was not all spent,

is that not something to bear in mind if it has been reallocated into other uses instead of being kept in the Scholarship Fund because it could easily. Given that we have got a Scholarship Fund, we could easily carry the money forward from one year to the other. It went into other expenses in the Education Department because it was reallocation within Head 1 from Sub-Head 7A and 7B to other Sub-Heads but can the Government say whether in fact the actual expenditure which is going to be higher than the £47,000, how that compares with the amount in the preceding year or do they not have that kind of information at hand?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I have not got the specific information with me.

HON S E LINARES:

Just as a point of clarification as well. It says in the Statement of Reallocation No. 6 2003/2004, which the hon Colleague is referring to. It is for Head 1A Education and Culture, that is no longer education and culture. Well, it is last year's – it would be right.

HON F R PICARDO:

Is there a process for appeal from the Board should an applicant be dissatisfied? Is there a process of appeal from the Board?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

As the hon Member knows well, there is a de facto appeal to the Minister, that people complain when their discretionary grant is not given to them because there is a growing tendency to regard discretionary grants as a matter of right. Hon Members should be aware, I am sure they are aware, that it is now much easier to get mandatory grants. Let me put it another way, it is now much easier to get into university than it used to be many years ago, and universities are doing many different types of courses and things like that. The accessibility to the mandatory grants through the normal university degree mainstream course is much more open now than it was say 10 years ago because they know the commercial imperatives that have been imposed on UK universities now. So there is not a formal, statutory procedure but I know that the Minister is approached by almost every unsuccessful applicant. That is not an appeals procedure but it does result in political pressure which is no doubt why the hon Members are asking these questions.

HON F R PICARDO:

The Minister in his first reply referred to the Board as a professional body, which of course it is not. It is a body made up of professionals but it is not a professional body and there could be a difference of opinion, could there not?, between the Minister and the political Government's view of what is relevant for the needs of Gibraltar and that body's view of what is relevant for the needs of Gibraltar. Therefore, has there been any

instance in the past three or four years of the Minister disagreeing with a decision of the Board and granting it himself so to speak?

HON DR B A LINARES:

There may be instances when the Minister, the Minister by the way is not a Member of the Board, when I say professional it is totally independent of the political body but the Minister may not agree sometimes in his own mind after all I have been an educator myself so I can actually assess these things also from an academic point of view. Certainly, I do not overrule the decisions of the Board and I make it very clear in my replies to all those letters, that I am not prepared to overrule the decisions of the Board except in extreme cases, which have never occurred, where there is transgression of the rules or a manifest injustice which in the area of discretionary awards is very difficult to exist. In any case, this has never been the case. What I have to confess I have often done, is actually some letter which seems to me to carry some sort of argument, pass it on to the Board to see if they can reconsider but certainly that is not the same as the Minister overruling the decision of the Board. By all means I am not prepared to do that.

HON F R PICARDO:

Has that sort of reference back to the Board resulted in the Board recommending individuals contrary to their initial recommendation?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Certainly not this year. I cannot remember, there may have been odd cases in the past but certainly not this year. As I say, they did recommend awards beyond the allotted sums.

HON F R PICARDO:

If the Board do not know the size of the pot, which is what apparently is the position, well they know the size of the pot but they sometimes recommend beyond that, are they told 'we will take a maximum of fifteen', for example? Are they told the number if not a monetary amount?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

They cannot be told a number because all these courses cost different amounts of money, but they are aware of the size of the pot and of course it remains Government policy that people should stick to their voted funds, but if they come back making a strong case and the Government can find the money from somewhere else, we would rather find the money from somewhere else than leave their recommendations unfunded.

HON F R PICARDO:

So if there is money, say there is £100,000 and 15 are recommended, are the 15 that are recommended simply stamped 'recommended' or are they categorised 'first recommendee', 'second recommendee' so that if we run out of money.....

HON DR B A LINARES:

They do actually in their assessment have a system of points, a pointage system related to different criteria and in that context they do have a rank order but at a certain stage they say this is it, they draw the line and from this point down they do not think there should be awards.

HON F R PICARDO:

The 10 who have not got it are from that line down this year?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Right.

NO. 1696 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – SCHOOL LUNCHES

Can Government say how the Department of Education monitors the situation in relation to children staying for lunch during the lunch break?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answer to Question No. 1687

The Department has made enquiries from Headteachers concerning their views and those of their staff and parents in relation to providing meals for children in schools. No external consultation has taken place so far.

Answer to Question No. 1696

The Department of Education and Training monitors the situation during the lunch break through the Headteachers who have responsibility for the children's welfare during this time in teamship with the Deputy Headteachers. Feedback is provided to the Headteacher by the lunchtime supervisors and the Deputy Headteachers. Representations, if felt necessary, are passed on to the Director for appropriate action.

The Department at all times attends to the views of individual parents, individually or collectively, whenever these are put to the Department directly.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1687 AND 1696

HON S E LINARES:

In relation to the providing of meals, the Minister stated that it is an internal enquiry which is being made and so far have not gone out to private individuals or companies to provide meals.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

That is not the answer that the Minister has given. The Minister has said that no external consultation has taken place so far, but the hon Member assumes that there is going to be a provision of school meals and that parents want it long before the Government come to consider how the service might be delivered, if the Government decide to deliver it, the first stage before all of that is to decide the extent of support that exists among parents for the service to be delivered. So this would be preceded by a consultation with parents, as we did when changing the school hours, there will be a consultation with parents about the possibility of the service. That is the external consultation which the Minister said had not taken place so far and not as the hon Member appears to have understood it, an external consultation with possible service providers.

HON S E LINARES:

I am glad the Chief Minister has answered the question because my question actually said "any enquiry" and therefore any enquiry, he has now just enforced that, that it could be any as in already doing the first part which is the internal one. The second part would be consultation with parents I presume, and the third part will be with providers.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is not for me to speculate what may be happening in the hon Member's mind but the question was 'have Government conducted any enquiries in relation to the possibility of producing the meals for children at school?'. That question does not suggest that the enquiries relate to the tender process of who is going to provide the service. Any enquiries in relation to the possibility of producing meals for schools, well the tender process is not about the possibility of producing meals for schools, it is to produce meals for schools not the possibility of producing meals. The enquiries that are germane to the possibility of producing meals for schools are enquiries leading to the policy decision of whether or not to provide meals at school. That is why the answer was drafted in the way that it has been drafted. The question does not suggest that it is directed toward the mechanical process of procuring a service after the policy decision has been made to provide the service. We are a long way from that stage and indeed the Government have not made the policy decision to provide the service. No such policy decision would be made without it being preceded by a consultation process and if the hon Member reads his party's last election manifesto he will see that it is couched on terms compatible with what I am now saying to him.

ORAL

NO. 1697 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – MARKETING, PROMOTIONS AND CONFERENCES

How much of the 2004/2005 £980,000 Tourism budget for Marketing, Promotions and Conferences has been spent as at 31st August 2004, giving a breakdown of the expenditure in question?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1698 to 1700 and 1732 of 2004.

NO. 1698 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – PROMOTIONS AND CONFERENCES

Can Government provide a breakdown of the £13,141.27p Miscellaneous Expenditure in respect of the spend of £1,025,706.18p allocated to Tourism, Promotion and Conferences for the year 2003/2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1697, 1699, 1700 and 1732 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1699 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – ADVERTISING

Following the answer to Question No. 967 of 2004, in respect of advertising by the Gibraltar Tourist Board, can Government provide a detailed breakdown of the £23,389 spent on “Special Features” showing the newspaper or magazine when the feature appeared, on what date and in exchange for what the sum was paid?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1697, 1698, 1700 and 1732 of 2004.

NO. 1700 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – ADVERTISING

Following the answer to Question No. 967 of 2004, in respect of £448,564.52p advertising expenditure by the Gibraltar Tourist Board, can Government provide a detailed breakdown of the following:

- (a) £182,479.69p spent on “brochure panels (UK)”;
- (b) £80,153.49p spent on “consumer awareness (UK)”;
- (c) £33,298.72p spent on “Spanish Market (Madrid) Spain”;
- (d) £25,968.30p spent on “Spanish Market (C.Sur) Spain”; and
- (e) £5,406.25p spent on “Spanish Market (Costa) Spain”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1697 to 1699 and 1732 of 2004.

NO. 1701 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – MINISTER’S OVERSEAS VISITS

Can the Minister with responsibility for Tourism give the dates when he has been away from Gibraltar on Government business from 3rd March 2004 to date, giving the event or function attended, the venue, the city and the country visited?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

I have been away on two occasions as follows:

Wednesday 23 rd – Friday 25 th June	Manchester tourism promotion
Sunday 12 th – Tuesday 14 th September	London: a series of meetings, including a UKGTA meeting.

ORAL

NO. 1702 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – TOURISM ADVISORY COUNCIL

How often and on what dates has the Tourism Advisory Council met since 19th February 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1747, 1790 and 1811 of 2004.

NO. 1703 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – HOTEL GRADINGS

Have Gibraltar's hotels been inspected in 2004 in respect of their star grading, by whom at what cost and with what results?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

The hotels were inspected by the RAC in 2004 at a cost of £3,050 and graded as follows:

Elliott Hotel	-	4 stars
Caleta Hotel	-	4 stars
Rock Hotel	-	4 stars and 2 dining awards
Cannon Hotel	-	1 diamond

The Continental Hotel did not receive a grading. The Bristol and Queen's Hotel do not participate in the grading scheme.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1703 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is it the case that these inspections take place on an annual basis?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes, these inspections take place annually and they are not announced. Obviously these inspections are done on an ad-hoc basis and then the gradings are assessed after the visit.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Are the Government aware whether the two hotels that are now not participating in the scheme, will participate at some point in the future?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

When we changed from the previous assessors to the RAC, there were certain criteria that has to be met and in the case of the Bristol and the Queens, they were both concerned that they would not meet certain criteria in order to meet their grading. They wanted a bit more time for that to happen and I think that hopefully next year all hotels will come on board, but they felt that they may lose their status within the hotel grading if the RAC enforced all criteria. Something like in order to have a three star there has to be a restaurant for example. In the case of the Bristol they do not have a restaurant, so they did not want to lose their three star rating as a result of that, but they are now looking into that possibility.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

There is no legal requirement for hotels to submit themselves to this grading scheme.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No there is not a legal requirement but let me say that my view and those of my Department is that all hotels should be graded. In fact, in our literature we will be specifying hotels that are actually graded by the RAC, which is an international grading system, and those that are not. I feel that those that are not graded actually stand to lose because the public will not feel that they are being in any way guaranteeing a certain level of service and quality of product.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In relation to who carried out the inspections, can the Minister explain why they moved from the previous company to the RAC?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

The previous company that did the assessment ceased trading.

NO. 1704 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – ST MICHAEL’S CAVE

Are Government now in a position to say what fee the Electricity Authority will charge for the maintenance of the sound and light system at St Michael’s Cave?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

The Electricity Authority have notified the Gibraltar Tourist Board that they are unable to maintain the sound and light system at St Michael’s Cave. They will not therefore charge a fee for this.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1704 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Minister confirm whether the system is actually being maintained by anybody at present?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes, the system will be maintained by in actual fact the original suppliers of the equipment, Electro Sonic Systems Limited in the UK, and we are in the process of signing a service agreement which will cover these requirements.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Since the warranty expired on the system, presumably the system has required to be maintained on several occasions. Is it the case that it has not been maintained by anybody and will be maintained by Electro Sonic in the future when the agreement is signed?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Up until now the actual sound and light system has been serviced by the Electricity Authority, to the best of our ability with input from Electro Sonic Systems Limited, but it became evident as time went by that the Electricity Department was unable to maintain the system adequately. So, we entered negotiations with the original supplier, which was not our preferred choice. Our preferred choice would have been to have had the Electricity Authority in Gibraltar doing it in-house, but we have had to go down this route and as I say we are in the process of finalising the details of an annual maintenance programme.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Our understanding is that, I remember coming out with this issue several times, there was a problem with the lighting, at the end of the steps, and I think at one point Thomson pulled out of sending tours up to the Cave because they thought it was not safe and tourists were falling over and they had these types of problems. Is it the case that these problems continue and will continue until the maintenance agreement comes into place?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No, there were some issues, the hon Member is right in saying, in respect of lighting at some of the steps et cetera. Those have been addressed and Thomson are back on board. In fact, before we actually undertook the exercise we actually got and sat down with the tour operators themselves to make sure that there was no misunderstanding in what we were addressing, and in fact they were quite happy with the rectifications and improvements that we have done. As I say, they now continue to offer tours including St Michael's Cave.

HON S E LINARES:

As a matter of interest I went to St Michael's Cave a week ago I think, with my daughter, there was absolute mayhem outside. I am aware there was a liner in the Port and therefore there must have been a lot of tourists being bussed up or taxied up, but there was mayhem outside the St Michael's Cave, which is worrying. I understand there are two security guards there who are supposed to be putting some order and control there, but they were neither doing so nor capable of doing so because of the amount of people and buses and taxis that are up there. Is there any way, or any long-term or medium-term plan in order to alleviate that problem as in traffic flow, which is what I would be thinking of? As one well knows, in the entrance of St Michael's Cave, the present entrance because the entrance used to be at the top and now it is at the bottom, there is like a hill going down which goes to the entrance of Lower St Michael's, there might be somewhere where the Government could look in the future to make a road down that way, where the buses or taxis can come up and then go down the other way. It is just a question that I was quite shocked at the amount. Quite frankly, I just parked my car to one side because the security guard was telling me to go up to Spur Battery and I said '*look, it is impossible, I cannot move*', so does the Minister not agree then that there is a case for actually alleviating the problem?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes, if the problem could be alleviated tomorrow I would definitely do something about it. It is a very complex issue, but at the same time we are victims of our own success in our tourism policy. I am glad that the hon Dr Garcia agrees that we do have a lot of people in the Upper Rock. Joking apart, when we do have a cruise liner in Port it actually becomes a nightmare up there and as the hon Member clearly pointed out, the security guards find themselves with lots of difficulty. We are now looking at the possibility of restricting access to the Upper Rock in certain areas, and we are also looking at possibilities of addressing the actual pricing of tickets et cetera, and I will shortly be entering some form of consultation with the industry to see how best we can sort that out. The last thing we want is to cause any financial damage to any particular sector of either the transport industry or tourism industry, but yes, it is coming to the fact that numbers are just increasing and therefore we need to address that.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Taking up the Minister on his last answer, the figures which he supplies me with for people who go to the Upper Rock have actually been going down and not going up. So, I know the hon Member has been there, he was there last week and saw the problem for himself but as there are less people going up, why is the problem more acute now? Secondly, if I can revert to the original question, the Minister said that Electro Sonic Systems Limited will be carrying out the maintenance. I forgot to ask the Minister earlier, what will that cost?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Well, on the first part of the question about numbers on the Upper Rock, I suggest the hon Member wait until we get the figures for the end of September because September was an extremely good month, well beyond the normality, so there he will find that we are xxxxx up with the figures. To be honest the point on the actual fees, we are currently in negotiations with the company, we have not finalised that, but let me say that we are talking of a maintenance fee of about £1,500 to £1,700 per annum for the maintenance. However, we have not yet concluded that because we are still discussing how certain maintenance and certain response to any fault to the system is going to be solved, and the level of promptness that we want that response to be because obviously that will have a cost. So we are trying to finalise that but we are talking roughly of about £100 and £150 a month.

ORAL

NO. 1705 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

AIRLINES WITH MOROCCO

Can Government say whether there is any prospect of a resumption of scheduled air links between Gibraltar and Morocco?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1706 to 1708 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1706 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

AIRLINE – GIBRALTAR/LONDON HEATHROW

Are Government holding discussions with any airline designed to re-open air communications between Gibraltar and London Heathrow airport?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1705, 1707 and 1708 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1707 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

AIRLINE – GIBRALTAR/SOUTH WEST REGION

Can Government say whether air links between Gibraltar and the South West Region of England remains under discussion?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1705, 1706 and 1708 of 2004.

NO. 1708 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

AIRLINES

Further to the answer to Question No. 1005 of 2004, with how many of the five airlines that the Government were in discussion with, do those discussions continue?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

The Government would wish to see a resumption of the air service with Morocco. However, it is for commercial operators to put in place scheduled air links.

Government are not in discussion with any airline wishing to operate between Gibraltar and London Heathrow airport. The possibility of air links with an airport in the south-west of England continues under discussion.

Discussions still continue with five airlines, as I said in answer to Question No. 1005 of 2004.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1705 to 1708 of 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Are they the same five airlines now as at that time?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes they are the same ones.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Has any progress been made in those discussions or are they still the same?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I must say that discussions are slow and there has not really been any major progress since the last Question Time in the House.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The last time that we discussed the question of air links, I remember the name of Flybe was mentioned as the name of the airline that was interested in flying to the south-west, it was one of the possibilities. So do Flybe remain as one of the five?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes, I have said they are exactly the same ones as they were last time and that included Flybe.

ORAL

NO. 1709 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

FLIGHTS GIBRALTAR/MANCHESTER

How many flights between Gibraltar and Manchester airport were timetabled and how many were cancelled on a monthly basis since operations commenced?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1710 and 1711 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1710 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

FLIGHTS – GIBRALTAR/LONDON LUTON

How many flights between Gibraltar and London Luton were timetabled and how many were cancelled on a monthly basis since January 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1709 and 1711 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1711 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

FLIGHTS – GIBRALTAR/LONDON GATWICK

How many flights between Gibraltar and London Gatwick were timetabled and how many were cancelled on a monthly basis since January 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

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 1711 of 2004

- (a) Flights time tabled per month between Gibraltar and Manchester airport.

Month	No of Flights
2003	
November	12
December	12
2004	
January	13
February	12
March	14
April	13
May	18
June	17
July	17
August	18
September	17

No flights were cancelled.

- (b) Flights time tabled per month between Gibraltar and London Luton airport.

Month	No of Flights
2004	
January	22
February	21
March	23
April	30
May	31
June	30
July	31
August	31
September	30

No flights were cancelled.

Cont'd.....

Cont'd Answer to Question 1711 of 2004

(c) Flights time tabled per month between Gibraltar and London Gatwick airport.

Month	No of Flights	Cancelled Flights
January	53	13
February	46	6
March	62	6
April	60	-
May	62	-
June	60	-
July	62	-
August	62	-
September	60	-

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1709 TO 1711 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In relation to the third table, to flights between Gibraltar and London Gatwick, from April in terms of the cancelled flights we know there are thirteen, in January six, in February six, in March six but from April to September does that mean there were no flights cancelled or does it mean they do not have the figures?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

It means that no flights were cancelled.

ORAL

NO. 1712 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – HOTEL ASSISTANCE SCHEME

Can Government say what amounts are due to Government in respect of loans and grants under the Hotel Assistance Scheme, listing the hotels in question and the amounts repaid as at 31st August 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

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 1712 of 2004

Name of Hotel	Amount of Loan	Amount Drawn	Amount Repaid as per Loan Agreement	Amounts Outstanding as per Loan Agreement
Bell Hotels Ltd	£1,000,000	£1,000,000	£175,000	£825,000
G & J B Hotels Ltd	£1,500,000	£1,450,000	£145,000	£1,305,000
Rock Hotel	£1,500,000	£1,425,790	£213,869	£1,211,921

ORAL

NO. 1713 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – 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 31st August 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

I presume that this question refers to the historical arrears of £923,748 owed by hotels. This sum has now been recovered by Government in full.

NO. 1714 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – REVENUE RAISED

Can Government say how much revenue has been raised on a monthly basis from April 2004 inclusive:

- (a) by charging coaches that use the coach park?
- (b) in admission fees to the Upper Rock?
- (c) in entrance fees to the Gibraltar Museum?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

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 1714 of 2004

Revenue raised by Government on a monthly basis, April 2004 – September 2004.

(a) Revenue from the Coach Park

Month	Amount
April 2004	£ 9,324
May 2004	£10,356
June 2004	£ 9,694
July 2004	£ 8,169
August 2004	£ 7,133
September 2004	£11,136

(b) Revenue from Upper Rock admissions

Month	Amount
April 2004	£198,813
May 2004	£198,421
June 2004	£190,362
July 2004	£226,387
August 2004	£237,827
September 2004	£255,409

(c) Revenue from Museum admissions

Month	Amount
April 2004	£3,401
May 2004	£1,224
June 2004	£1,554
July 2004	£1,602
August 2004	£1,930

The revenue for September 2004 is not yet available.

ORAL

NO. 1715 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – PERSONS INTERVIEWED

Can Government say of the number of persons who have been interviewed since March 2004 inclusive, who said that they had not 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 TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1716 and 1717 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1716 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – PERSONS INTERVIEWED

Can Government say how many interviews have been carried out with persons who said that they had not stayed at a hotel since March 2004 inclusive, on a monthly basis, stating where they were interviewed and the number interviewed at each location?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1715 and 1717 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1717 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – PERSONS INTERVIEWED

Can Government say how many interviews with persons who said that they had stayed at a hotel have been carried out since March 2004 inclusive, on a monthly basis, stating where they were interviewed and the number interviewed at each location?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

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 1717 of 2004

Answer to Question 1716

2004	Total Interviews	Airport	Port	Frontier	Marina	Coach Park
March	1768	7	43	1616	7	95
April	1764	12	55	1552	5	140
May	1739	7	19	1521	6	186
June	1831	28	33	1580	2	188
July	1883	27	127	1572	25	132

Answer to Question 1717 of 2004

(b) Interviews with persons staying at hotels and place of interview:

2004	Stayed at Hotel	Airport	Frontier
March	8	6	2
April	17	15	2
May	13	9	4
June	51	44	7
July	16	14	2

The information requested at Question 1715 is identical to that requested at Question 1716.

The information in respect of August and September 2004 is not yet available.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1715 TO 1717 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can I just say, in relation to the answer, it says that the information requested in Question No. 1715 is identical to that at Question No. 1716. Question No. 1715 requests the average length of stay in hotels, apart from the rest of the information, whereas Question No. 1716 does not.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes, the hon Member is correct. I will send him that information, I had read both questions as being identical. Sorry.

NO. 1718 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – SECURITY GUARDS

How many tenders were submitted in respect of the provision of a security guard service at various tourist sites, who was the successful tenderer and in what amount?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

The successful tenderer was Admiral Security (Gibraltar) Limited in the sum of £9,384.83p per month. Three tenders were received in all.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1718 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Minister say what amounts were bid by the other tenderers, or can he say at least whether this was the lowest tender?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes, I can tell him that this was the lowest tender but I do not think it is Government policy to actually publish the offers made by those who do not succeed.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Minister say what tourist sites are covered by the provision of these security guards?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes, they cover basically various points on the Upper Rock, like St Michael's Cave, Jews Gate, the entrance by the Moorish Castle, some areas up in Great Siege Tunnels.

ORAL

NO. 1719 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – UPPER ROCK SITE OFFICERS

Have the vacancies for the post of Upper Rock Site Officer advertised in June now been filled?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question No. 1720 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1720 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – UPPER ROCK SITE OFFICERS

How many persons applied for the post of Upper Rock Site Officer in response to the notice of 28th June, how many were Gibraltarians and how many vacancies were available?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

The Upper Rock Site Officer vacancies have been filled.

There were 24 applicants for the two vacancies. Two were British, the others were Gibraltarians.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1719 TO 1720 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Minister say which nationality took the two vacancies?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Two Gibraltarians.

ORAL

NO. 1721 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – SITU

What was the cost, with a breakdown, of the Gibraltar Tourist Board's participation in SITU tourist fair which took place in Barcelona in April this year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1722, 1723 and 1725 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1722 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – SITU

Can Government say who were the 23 journalists who attended the reception for the travel press hosted by the Gibraltar Tourist Board at SITU in Barcelona, and what media did each of them represent?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1721, 1723 and 1725 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1723 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – SITU

Can Government say how many travel articles on Gibraltar were published as a result of 23 journalists attending a reception at SITU in Barcelona in April and what were they?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1721, 1722 and 1725 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1724 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – HOTEL INDUSTRY

What direct representations have been made to the hotel industry in Gibraltar and when, following the Minister's statement in Barcelona in April that the challenge for the industry in Gibraltar is "to compete for business on price, on the basis of value for money"?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question No. 1728 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1725 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – SITU

How many persons made up the GTB delegation to the SITU tourist fair in Barcelona in April?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

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

SCHEDULE TO QUESTION 1725 OF 2004

Two persons made up the GTB delegation to SITC.

The cost of the GTB participation at SITC was:-

Cost of stand	Euros 710
Transportation of literature et cetera	Euros 448
On stand catering	Euros 195
Air tickets (2 persons)	Euros 387
Hotel (2 rooms)	Euros 1,067

The 22 journalists who attended the SITC reception for the travel press and the titles for which they work are:-

Magazine IH: Mercedes Moran
Hosteleria y Turismo: Esther Rodriguez
Hosteltur: Mercedes Tello
La Vanguardia
Diario Metro: Angels Mas
Air Classe: Virtudes Rodrigo
Revista Escapada: Miguel Rinon
Banca 15: Susana Gomez
Transporte Aereo y Turismo: Ma Fernanda Fernandez
Ejecutivos, Instituciones y Empresas: Ma Victoria Rojas
Guia Espanola del Transporte: Fernando Margareto
Viajes y Vacaciones: Isabel Conde
Nexotur: Pepita Hernandez
RNE: Pablo Ignacio Dalmases
Turismo & Ocio Magazine: Silvia Barrufet
Expoturismo: Victor Escribano
Mas Viajes: Marcos Melchi
Aviacion y Turismo: Maryan Ramos
Editur: Gloria Prunes
Viajeros por Tierra, Mar y Aire: Conchita Arregui
Europa Press: Javier Carrion
Lunas de Miel: Asela Olea

In addition, Nora Wasserman of Global attended the event.

Already a number of travel articles have appeared in the Spanish media, as listed below. However, the importance of events such as the travel press reception goes much further. They serve to forge links with important travel press publications, and their continued support of Gibraltar tourism in the long term is of key importance. Articles do not necessarily appear immediately after a media event : they continue to filter through over time. The list that follows is therefore expected to grow over the next few months:

Air Classe	July/August edition
Banca 15	June edition
Guia Espanola del Transporte	– Issue 161
IH	June edition
RNE	4 reports
TAT	May/June edition

The above articles and features are those of which the GTB is aware, as all titles are not monitored by the Madrid Office staff.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1721 TO 1725 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The Minister has listed the 22 journalists who attended from the different media in his answer, and he has also listed six media where articles or reports appeared, but it also mentions that this is something which is not monitored by the office in Madrid. How do the Government then monitor the effectiveness of this kind of marketing strategy?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

What I was trying to say there was that there may have been some other reports in the press as a result of that in the meantime, but that they had not been brought to our attention and we have not picked them up. Sometimes, normally it is normal practice that when the reporter appears in a feature in one of these magazines, complimentary copies are obviously sent to the Tourist Board but that does not always follow. Therefore, what I am saying is that all those that are listed there may not be the only reports that we have had. Obviously we do like to monitor. If we do have a reception we invite 22 journalist we do like to follow up but let me say that reports or features of this nature do not actually take, reporters do not come to an event and then the next day run off and write a report. Sometimes they can take as much as a year before something appears, or may not appear at all. So therefore that has to be borne in mind when assessing and analysing the information.

ORAL

NO. 1726 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – BEACH CONCESSIONS

Can Government say who was successful in respect of the application for Beach Concessions in respect of each beach in Gibraltar?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question No. 1727 of 2004.

NO. 1727 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – BEACH CONCESSIONS

Can Government say how many applications for Beach Concessions were received for the bathing season 2004 giving the amount paid to the Government, the name of the beach and the nature of the concession in each case?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

There were six applications for beach concessions. Five of them were successful as follows:

(1)	Camp Bay	-	Mr W Parody	-	Kiosk
(2)	Little Bay	-	Mr A de Bono	-	Kiosk
(3)	Eastern Beach	-	Mr G Parker	-	Kiosk
			Mr P J Parody	-	Kiosk
			Mr C Bond	-	Beach Rides
(4)	Catalan Bay	-	Mr C Bond	-	Beach Rides

The fees in respect of each of these concessions was £325.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1726 AND 1727 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can I just clarify in relation to the answer given? When the Minister mentions people who have kiosks, is it that they have a separate concession to the kiosk or is the kiosk the actual concession in which he is answering the question?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

The kiosk is a concession.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

So in respect of people who have canoes and that kind of thing, is that not?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

That is a beach ride which I have just mentioned.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Just to clarify further, is the £325 what a kiosk pays for all the summer in rent?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes I think that is the case. It seems very competitive to me and good value for money in this case.

NO. 1728 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – ADVERTISING

Can Government say what steps they are taking to monitor the success or otherwise of their objective to position Gibraltar as a new product within the long-weekend or “puentes” market in Spain?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

No further direct representations have been made to Gibraltar hotels by me since April 2004. The hotels are all well aware of the Government’s interest in making Gibraltar an attractive tourist destination for the Spanish weekend and “puentes” market. No further approaches have therefore been necessary.

The Gibraltar Tourist Board’s task is to promote Gibraltar as an attractive place to visit. Hotels can add value to a visitor’s time in Gibraltar if that person chooses to overnight in Gibraltar. The basis on which they can be successful is that of value for money. This is something which I have discussed with hotels, and they are in complete agreement. Naturally, when a hotel receives awards, for example for its cuisine, from a respected hotel grading association, this helps to convey the message to potential visitors.

All travel press initiatives in the Spanish market which the GTB designs are aimed specifically at the weekend and “puentes” market. It is extremely difficult to gauge the success of particular initiatives because the GTB does not sell any tourist products, so therefore we cannot look to see how many bookings are achieved from a particular advertisement or from a specific article in the travel press.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1724 AND 1728 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In identifying the need to compete on value for money as a challenge, was that because the Government consider that hotels in Gibraltar at the moment are not competitive and are not providing value for money?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes, hotels in Gibraltar are totally conversant and aware of the fact that they do not represent value for money when comparing themselves with hotels on the other side of the border. However, they do offer a good product, now more than ever, and the results of the hotels in recent times actually vouch for the fact that occupancy figures are higher and therefore success is there, which must mean value for money for those that come and visit us.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I think we ought to understand each other. The difference between the phrase 'value for money' and 'competitive'. I think it is probably more accurate to say that they are not competitive, I think they are value for money compared with other places, but to be competitive it is a question of price compared to their similar product in a neighbouring market place but they are value for money in the sense that what it costs one to stay here and what it costs one to stay in a hotel in London with the same facilities, it is cheaper here than in London. Competitiveness brings into hook the price that the competitor can offer in equivalence. I think hotels in Gibraltar in that sense are not competitive.

ORAL

NO. 1729 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – VISIT TO MANCHESTER

How many persons from Manchester's Travel industry attended the presentation given by the GTB in that city in June?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1730 and 1731 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1730 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – VISIT TO MANCHESTER

How many persons from Manchester attended the GTB exhibition and showcase held at Manchester Town Hall in June?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1729 and 1731 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1731 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – VISIT TO MANCHESTER

What was the cost, with a breakdown, of the GTB exhibition and showcase on Gibraltar held at Manchester Town Hall in June, how many persons made up the delegation and what posts do they hold?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

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

SCHEDULE TO QUESTION 1731 OF 2004

Seventy persons attended the trade presentation given by the Gibraltar Tourist Board in Manchester.

The large turnout from the general public at the GTB exhibition and showcase at the Manchester Town Hall consisted of about 600 persons.

The persons who made up the Gibraltar delegation at the Manchester events were:-

Hon J J Holliday	-	Minister for Tourism
Mr P Canessa	-	Chief Executive/GTB
Mr A Poggio	-	Director, Gibraltar Government Office in London
Mr M Sanguinetti	-	Sales Manager/GTB

They were assisted by the following staff from the London Office:-

Mr I Leyde	-	GTB Sales Manager (UK)
Mr O Yeats	-	Information Officer
Ms A Montegriffo	-	Placement Student, GTB London Office

The costs of the event were:-

Cost of stand, including installation and dismantling costs	£ 9,450
Catering : canapés and finger buffet	£ 5,385
Hire of Musicians	£ 615
Invitations, including postage	£ 1,140
Crystal paperweights, including freight charges	£ 744
Balloons and decorations	£ 194
Hotel accommodation and travel	£ 1,646
	<hr/>
	£19,174

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1729 TO 1731 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

According to the information supplied by the Minister, the cost of this event in Manchester was £19,174. Of that the catering was £5,300 which is about a quarter of the sum. It is described here as canapés and finger buffet. Can the Minister explain why that particular cost is so high compared to the overall cost of the event?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I cannot really explain apart from the fact that that was the cost of entertaining the 70 people from the trade who came for the presentation and then the dinner which followed after that. It included an element of canapés and it was a finger buffet actually more than a dinner although there were tables where people could sit down as well.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

I am tempted also, given that we have been talking about competitiveness and value for money, to ask after the £615 it cost to hire musicians. Was this for the dinner, was it for the stand or for what?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No, the hiring of the musicians was some form of small little orchestra that kept going throughout the exhibition while the general public were visiting et cetera.

ORAL

NO. 1732 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – ADVERTISING

On what dates and in what media did Government spend £4,854.40p advertising “Portugal and Morocco (GIB)”, showing a breakdown of the sum?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

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

SCHEDULE TO QUESTION 1732 OF 2004

When negotiating with publications over their advertising rates, it is usually possible to obtain significant discounts which can be negotiated by regular advertisers. The Government do not therefore wish to make public the exact amount which is spent on any particular insertion in a newspaper or magazine. Such information is considered to be commercially sensitive.

Answer to Question 1697 of 2004

As at 31 August 2004, £441,055 had been spent out of the marketing budget of £980,000 as follows:

Literature	£ 43,567
Trade Activity (UK brochure distribution)	£ 3,460
Media Activity	£ 18,845
Promotional material	£ 110
Advertising	£ 99,325
Trade Fairs	£ 40,442
Consumer Fairs	£ 4,290
Events	£164,567
Website maintenance	£ 4,314
Subscriptions, GTB London staff tourism promotion expenses, UKGTA meeting expenses, UK PR costs	£ 40,022
PR costs in Spain, travelling expenses in Spain	£ 13,587
Miscellaneous (press monitoring service, promotional trade support, banner stand, giveaways, insurance, et cetera)	£ 8,526

	£441,055

Answer to Question 1698 of 2004

The sum of £13,141.27 can be broken down as follows:

Morgan classic rally – drinks and tapas	£ 480.00
GibLive Music Society – rental of stage for	£ 200.00
Hire of PA system from The Studio	£ 785.00
Inaugural Cruise calls – payment of band and historical re-enactment group	£1,020.00
Aerial Photo shoot	£1,214.28

Cont'd.....

Cont'd Answer to Question 1732 of 2004

Photo shoot Catalina Celebrities	£ 109.00
Design, artwork, printing and file covers with new logo	£ 5,925.99
1400 stems of carnations (give away for visitors)	£ 210.00
Chiropractic Conference	£ 640.90
Cruise ship advertisement in Vox	£ 302.00
Rock Tour CAA Conference	£ 302.00
Miscellaneous travel expenses	£ 88.18
Seatrade subsistence costs	£ 839.84
Giveaways USA Custom Shop	£ 25.97
Taxi fares for passengers	£ 30.00
Editorial page	£ 550.00
Dinner (Casino)	£ 53.57
	<u>£ 13,141.27</u>

Answer to Question 1699 of 2004

The special features referred to in Question 967 of 2004 were:-

A special Gibraltar report in The Times
A series of features on Gibraltar in La Tribuna

Answer to Question 1700 of 2004

(a) Brochure panels were carried in the following UK newspapers and magazines:-

Media Mint Productions
News of the World
Daily Mail
Radio Times
Classic Travel
Readers Digest
M&S Magazine
Home from Home
Mail on Sunday
Daily Telegraph
Sun
Times Magazine
Telegraph Magazine
Daily Mail Weekend Magazine
Night & Day Mail on Sunday
Mail on Sunday
Manchester Evening News
Liverpool Echo
Sunday Times Magazine

(b) The consumer awareness campaign comprised advertising on taxis in London.

Cont'd.....

Cont'd Answer to Question 1732 of 2004

(c) The Spanish media which carried Gibraltar advertisements were:-

Ducal ediciones
Viajeros por tierra y mar
Expo Turismo
Mas revistas
TAT
Ediciones turisticas
Group Arthux
Yucapro (Spanish guide)
Temas 5
Ediciones Profesionales
Spot 90
Adsen
Guia de Viajes
Ediciones Conde

(d) A series of adverts was placed with Canal Sur television, over 6 months.

(e) The titles which carried advertisements were:

Top Holiday and Travel
ESTD 2003
123 Publication

Answer to Question 1732 of 2004

Advertisements were placed in Portugal in The News, an Algarve English-language newspaper.

There were no advertisements for Morocco.

More than one insertion was placed in certain publications.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1697 TO 1700 AND 1732 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In relation to Question No. 1732 which referred to advertising and special features, the Minister has replied, I am not sure if it is an answer to that question. Can the Minister clarify the opening paragraph to the schedule he has given me, what question does that refer to?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I think the opening paragraph is just the opening statement because there are questions on rates and we felt that it was commercially sensitive to actually give rates over the floor of the House in respect of particular contracts that are established. One never accepts the contract rate that is offered by any publication for advertising. These are negotiated depending on the frequency, on the timing, and therefore the published rates are not rates that are normally accepted or even agreed with those concerned. That was a general opening paragraph which actually applies to a number of these questions. In respect of Question No. 1732 which is specifically requesting in respect of advertising under the heading 'Portugal and Morocco', it refers to advertising in Portugal in an English language newspaper called 'The News'. Whilst in Morocco there had not been any advertising but we do have a heading called 'Portugal and Morocco' as a heading but not specifically because there has been advertising in that respect.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Would the Minister be willing to supply that information to the Opposition on a confidential basis in writing?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Does the hon Member actually mean spell out the advertising and the rates? Yes, it would be a laborious exercise but it can be made available. It is available.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In relation to Question No. 1697, one of the items in the breakdown is £4,300 spent on website maintenance. Is that the website of the Tourist Board here or the UK Office?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

This is the maintenance of the website in the UK, which is a specifically tourism website.

ORAL

NO. 1733 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – PRESS ON THE ROCK

Can Government provide the cost, with a breakdown, of the press on the Rock that took place in June this year, listing the journalists who came to Gibraltar and the media that they represented?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

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

SCHEDULE TO QUESTION 1733 OF 2004

The cost of the Press on the Rock visit was £5,994 broken down as follows:-

Ed Lacy Award (prize money)	£ 600
Ed Lacy Award (engraving trophy)	£ 60
Ed Lacy Award (expenses)	£4,571
Dinner for journalists	£ 500
Miscellaneous	£ 23
Prints	£ 180
Photography	£ 60
	<hr/>
	£5,994

The journalists who visited Gibraltar, and the media they represent were:-

Annie Bennett	Spanish specialist – nationals (freelance)
Phil Boucher	Travel Weekly (freelance)
Diana Groves	Prima
Matt Holmes	The Citizen, Gloucester
Anna Hyman	Motoring & Leisure
Jon Kelly	Daily Mirror
Samm Taylor	Daily Star
Stephen White	Western Daily Press, Bristol
Wendy Watts	Kent Messenger Series
Richard Williams	Selling Short Breaks & Classic Travel (freelance)

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1733 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In relation to the answer given to Question No. 1733, the cost of the Press on the Rock visit is £5,994. Of that I note that £4,571 of that amount refers to the Ed Lacy Award expenses. Is it that an award is given to somebody and this is a monetary award?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I am afraid that I actually spotted that myself only a few minutes ago. Really it should not have been the Ed Lacy Award. When we actually do Press on the Rock we contract a company in the UK who does public relations to actually pick the various medias. They accompany them here, they look after them, although the Tourist Board obviously look after them as well, but they are here for the duration of the Press on the Rock and then they go back with them even though they are accompanied by a member of our own staff. That is actually £4,275 so that is basically public relations. They actually do quite a lot of work in preparation for the visit in order to make sure that those that are coming are people that are going to give us the sort of result that we want when they go back. They actually then have the obligation to follow up in order that we do get, although they are not under strict obligations to deliver a report, they are actually able to monitor because they tend to have the right connections within the industry to ensure that we get as much positive press as possible.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Given the cost of that public relations company, could this work not be done by the Gibraltar Office in London?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No not really because one really needs to be in this specific area. We are talking of a company called Doug Goodman Public Relations, Doug Goodman is a well established public relations company who is well connected in the travel and press industry and they have been doing this for us now for a number of years and it has always paid well to have their involvement in the exercise. One must realise that the total sum of this exercise is £5,594, so the hotels join forces because they feel that they can benefit from this exercise. The airlines participate by giving us free tickets coming out. Local restaurants actually feed the contingent while they are out here on a sort of public relations exercise, so we all, both public sector and private sector, join forces to try and make this as value for money as possible, but on the other hand making sure that we get the right results when these people go back. At the end of the day we could have all of them coming out on a jolly and then going back and producing nothing, but this actually puts a stop to that to the best of our ability and so far when we have had them involved, and that goes back possibly four or five years now, we have noticed that they actually work. Actually Doug Goodman, the managing director of the company was a personal friend of Ed Lacy who was a very strong supporter of Gibraltar. So therefore he has a

certain amount of personal commitment to the project because Ed Lacy actually started coming out to Gibraltar when we first initially started to do this initiative. So there is a bit of personal commitment to the whole exercise as well. The reality is that £4,000 have people out here for four days and they bring out a party of at least two or three, is not really money in the UK for carrying out such an exercise.

ORAL

NO. 1734 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – ADVERTISING

Can Government say how and when Gibraltar's marketing strategies were evaluated and its advertising initiatives refreshed following the UKGTA meeting in Gibraltar in June?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question No. 1735 of 2004.

NO. 1735 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – ADVERTISING

How many initiatives is the UKGTA currently progressing work on and what are they?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

The Gibraltar Tourist Board is continually evaluating its marketing strategies. Following the UKGTA meeting in Gibraltar in June 2004, the structure and components of the marketing strategy were closely examined. This included examining the value and relevance of every item of marketing expenditure from the cost of exhibiting at different travel exhibitions, dedicated Gibraltar roadshows, the form of the UKGTA brochure, the media selected for advertising, the form of advertisements used, the advertising slogan for this year's campaign and so on. In examining the marketing expenditure, the advice of the Gibraltar Tourist Board advertising consultants and PR consultants was sought.

In addition, marketing trends in the UK were closely scrutinised and the confidential feedback and advice of the UK members of the UKGTA were closely considered.

The initiatives which the UKGTA are currently progressing, under the leadership of the GTB, are as follows:

1. preparation of a 2005 UKGTA brochure;
2. deciding at which regional travel trade shows and exhibitions Gibraltar should have a presence;
3. considering the 2004/2005 advertising campaign;
4. formulating an on-line advertising campaign;
5. UK tour operators are considering how best to support GTB initiatives, including travel trade press trips and familiarisation trips for travel agency staff;
6. Supporting educational strategies within UK for UK tour operators and travel agency staff to enhance Gibraltar's tourist product knowledge.

NO. 1736 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – CRUISE SHIPS

Are Government aware of the response of the Spanish Government to the representations made by MedCruise and the European Cruise Council following the news of a six months moratorium on cruise ships calling at a Spanish port after calling at Gibraltar?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

No Sir.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1736 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Are Government in a position to find out what the response has been?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

As far as I am aware, and I think I am correct in saying that the MedCruise part of the question has definitely not received any response. However, in respect of the European Cruise Council that is a different matter but we have had no feedback that there has been any reply either.

ORAL

NO. 1737 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

POST OF MARITIME ADMINISTRATOR

Has the post of Maritime Administrator now been filled?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1738 and 1739 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1738 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

POST OF MARITIME ADMINISTRATOR

How many persons applied for the post of Maritime Administrator advertised on 22nd July, and what nationality were the applicants?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1737 and 1739 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1739 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

POST OF MARITIME ADMINISTRATOR

What salary will be paid to the Maritime Administrator?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

The selection board for the post of Maritime Administrator has made its recommendations which are now being considered. There were ten applicants for the post. One applicant was Greek; the others were British. The salary for the post of Maritime Administrator is £54,325 per annum.

NO. 1740 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

PORT AUTHORITY

Can Government state the result of the discussions with Port Department staff regarding their possible transfer to a statutory Port Authority?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

The discussions are on-going.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1740 OF 2004

HON L A RANDALL:

When was the last time they met with the staff representatives?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

A meeting was planned last Thursday with myself. Unfortunately I was unwell and I was unable to attend the meeting. However, officials of my Department did meet with the staff representatives in order to progress negotiations.

NO. 1741 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PORT – NUMBER OF COLLISIONS

Can Government say how many collisions have taken place in the Bay of Gibraltar in the last twelve months, giving the date when the collision took place and the names and type of vessels involved?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

There were two collisions. On 20th May 2004, two bulk carriers collided. They were the MV SUN and the MV DAPENGHAI.

On 26th September 2004, the cruise liner VAN GOGH and the oil tanker SPETSES were involved in a collision.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1741 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Has this information normally compiled by the Port Department, regardless of whether the collision takes place on our side of the Bay as it were or on the Spanish side of the Bay, and where did these two take place?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Absolutely, if it takes place within the Bay of Gibraltar in our side or whatever, it is recorded of course.

ORAL

NO. 1742 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PORT AUTHORITY – CONFERENCES

In what capacity was the Gibraltar Port Authority or the Gibraltar Government invited to participate in the “1st Century Ports; Terminals; Bunkers; Logistics Conference” which took place in April?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1743 and 1744 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1743 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PORT AUTHORITY – CONFERENCES

What was the cost of Gibraltar's participation in the "21st Century Ports; Terminals; Bunkers; Logistics Conference" in April?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1742 and 1744 of 2004.

NO. 1744 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PORT AUTHORITY – CONFERENCES

What officials from the Gibraltar Port Authority or the Gibraltar Government attended the “21st Century Ports; Terminals; Bunkers; Logistics Conference” which took place in April?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Initially, an invitation was extended to the Chief Executive of the Ministry with responsibility for shipping to present a paper at the Conference. This invitation was subsequently withdrawn and the Port of Gibraltar were offered several free tickets for delegates to the Conference by the organiser.

The Bunkering Superintendent attended the Conference as a delegate.

There was no cost to Government of his attendance at this event.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1742 TO 1744 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Minister tell the House why the invitation was withdrawn?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

The organisers informed the Chief Executive at the Ministry that there had been a change in the programme, so therefore the issue that was going to be addressed by the Chief Executive was no longer on the order paper. I feel that they were fairly embarrassed about the whole thing and that there was definitely pressure to have them withdrawn.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

When the Minister says 'pressure' does he mean political pressure exercised by the Spanish Government in Madrid, is that it?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

We are speculating, I mean nobody gave us that as an excuse. The excuse was that there had been a change in the order paper and the topics being addressed so therefore the topic that the Chief Executive was going to address from a Gibraltar perspective was no longer a topic to be discussed, so therefore his presence was no longer required.

ORAL

NO. 1745 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PORT DEPARTMENT – POST OF SEAMAN/MECHANIC

Further to the answer to Question No. 1061 of 2004, has the vacancy for the post of Seaman/Mechanic in the Port Department now been filled?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Yes Sir.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1745 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Minister say what was the nationality of the person who filled the vacancy?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Gibraltarian I believe.

ORAL

NO. 1746 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PORT – SHIPS VISITS

How many ships have called at Gibraltar this year to date on a monthly basis for:

- (a) repair;
- (b) cargo?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1749 and 1750 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1747 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PORT ADVISORY COUNCIL

How often and on what dates has the Port Advisory Council met since it was set up?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1702, 1790 and 1811 of 2004.

NO. 1748 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PORT – DREDGING

Can Government say whether they have now taken a decision to proceed with the dredging of the Western Arm of the Port?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

The position has not changed since the hon Member last raised this matter in the House.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1748 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Does that mean that it has not gone up in the Government's scale of priorities which is what I recall was the answer last time?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

It means exactly what I said the last time the matter was raised, and that was precisely the case.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Does that mean that the other calls which are scheduled by the Queen Mary will also take place with them anchoring in the Bay and using tenders?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

That is correct.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The calls will be going ahead, they have not been cancelled?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

The call is going ahead and the same logistics as was undertaken in September when the Queen Mary arrived will be repeated again.

ORAL

NO. 1749 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PORT – BUNKERING LICENCES

Have any new applications for a bunkering licence been made since April 2004 and have any new licences been issued?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1746 and 1750 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1750 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PORT – BUNKERING

How many ships have called at Gibraltar since April 2004 on a monthly basis, for bunkering and how many tonnes of bunker fuel were sold each month?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

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

SCHEDULE TO QUESTION 1750

Questions 1746 and 1750

(a) Ship Calls at Gibraltar per month.

<u>PURPOSE OF CALL</u>			
<u>2004</u>	<u>Cargo</u>	<u>Repair</u>	
January	4	9	
February	5	4	
March	6	11	
	<u>Cargo</u>	<u>Repair</u>	<u>Bunkering</u>
April	5	6	435
May	7	7	491
June	2	5	453
July	6	12	422
August	2	2	379
September	3	7	426
Total	40	63	3532

(b) Volume of bunkers sold per month since April 2004.

April	170,275 tonnes
May	449,964
June	294,941
July	298,087

The figures for August and September are not yet available.

Question 1749

No new application for bunkering licences have been made since April 2004.

NO. 1751 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

JOHN MACKINTOSH SQUARE

What works were carried out by the contractor to the Piazza development after the official opening by the Princess Royal?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

After the official opening of the John Mackintosh Square development by the Princess Royal, the contractor undertook the following works:

- (i) paving of the floor of the Lobby of the House of Assembly;
- (ii) erected the handrails on the small steps leading to the House of Assembly, by the western façade;
- (iii) erected the bollards to the House of Assembly forecourt area;
- (iv) constructed the bases for the telephone booths;
- (v) repaved an area of footway that had been damaged by vehicles being driven on it;
- (vi) undertook snagging works such as grinding of identification marks on manhole covers and compaction and levelling of paving that were not up to the required standard;
- (vii) the specified light fittings for the public toilets have also been fixed and final kitting out of the janitor's room was also completed.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1751 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Was there any additional cost involved for those works?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

The only item that I have mentioned which was not part of the main contract was the paving of the floor of the Lobby of the House of Assembly, the rest were all included in the original contract. The only additional cost was in respect of that item.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is the Minister in a position to tell the House what the cost of that paving was?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

This item was always scheduled to be done. However, it was not part of the original contract. I have not got that information with me but I can make that information available to the hon Member if he wishes.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Can I just add something just to make sure my hon Colleague does not inadvertently. I think his answer is correct but I am not sure the final certification for that contract has yet been done. Although I am not suggesting that it is the case, it may be the case that additional overtime costs were incurred in order to finish certain tasks in time for the inauguration by the Princess Royal. So I am not saying that there was or that I think there was, or that I am aware of any such issue, I am not but I know that there was a last minute rush and that there was weekend working and working late into the evening. I do not know whether that entitles or does not entitle the contractor to make an additional claim for overtime in respect of this labour. So with that caveat, which I will confirm to the hon Member, the Minister's answer stands.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Yes, I would be grateful if the hon Members could confirm that situation to me. Has the development been handed over by the contractor to the Government already or not?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I believe that the contract has not yet been handed over completely. However, it is almost there.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In relation to the additional costs which we were discussing, I seem to recall when we debated this issue earlier that the project had been delayed and that there was a kind of penalty clause whereby the contractor would have to pay the Government so much money depending on the length of the delay. Can the Minister say if he has this

information available whether the contractor will end up paying more to the Government than the Government to the contractor for the additional work that took place?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I think we will not be able to confirm one way or the other until the contract is actually terminated and the final analysis is done of the work by the architect et cetera.

NO. 1752 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – WESTERN BEACH

Can Government say whether and if so when the kiosk at Western Beach was put out to tender?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

There is no kiosk at Western Beach.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1752 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is there a facility at the beach whereby food and drink is sold to the people who go to the beach?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

There are not any facilities on Western Beach.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is there a facility near the beach to which users of the beach avail themselves of?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

There are indeed facilities near the beach but not on Western Beach.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is the facility which is near the beach and not on the beach, was that put out to tender and if so when?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No, I will explain the situation. A certain gentleman approached the Gibraltar Tourist Board with the idea of obtaining a concession as a beach concession, like a lot of others during the bathing season. In fact, this concession was offered to him after his application but the gentleman concerned decided not to take the offer. He subsequently built up some form of kiosk in the adjacent land, which is not under the jurisdiction of the Gibraltar Tourist Board as such for beach concessions. When questioned by the Port Department he claimed he had a concession by the Gibraltar Tourist Board. For a while the thing was left in limbo in that the Port thought that the Tourist Board had done it, the Tourist Board thought that the Port had done it. It then subsequently came to light and by the time the thing had been brought to a head, the season was almost over. So that is how the matter developed but let me say that people on the beach and those that use the small boat owners facilities were actually quite keen with the facility because it provided a much needed facility to the area. So obviously this will not happen next year because everybody will be on alert but unfortunately that situation arose.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

So is it the case then that for next year this will be included in the general tender for beach concessions that we discussed earlier in this meeting?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No, the situation is one where the facilities were offered as a beach concession but was not taken up. He subsequently built up a facility in the adjacent area which does not come under the Gibraltar Tourist Board. So the facilities will be available again next year and applicants will be able to apply. Obviously the Port Department will keep an eye that a repetition does not re-occur.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Just as a point of clarification, the land in question comes under the Port Department not under the GTB but it is not MOD land, is that the case?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No, not at all. It is part of the jurisdiction of the Port.

ORAL

NO. 1753 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

CATALAN BAY

Has the tender for Phase 2 and Phase 3 for the beautification of Catalan Bay now been awarded, and if so to whom and for how much, showing the amounts bid by the unsuccessful tenderers?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

The Government decided not to proceed with the tender for Phase 2 and Phase 3 of the beautification of Catalan Bay. A new tender, for revised specifications, was advertised on 14th July 2004. It was awarded to AMCO (Gibraltar) Limited in the sum of £346,899.16p.

It is not Government policy to state the amounts bid by unsuccessful tenderers.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1753 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Government say whether the tender by AMCO was the lowest tender?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I am afraid I cannot confirm this. I believe it was but I will have to check this and maybe confirm the matter to him by writing to him. I believe it was but I would not say that I am absolutely sure that that was the case.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

I would welcome confirmation by writing.

NO. 1754 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

ALLOCATION OF VACANT UNITS

Have the tenders in respect of the vacant units at the following sites now been allocated, and if so to whom and for what purpose:

- (a) Lathbury Barracks units 1, 5, 10, 17, 18, 19, 23, 24, 26, 27 and 28;
- (b) Europa Business Centre unit F10A;
- (c) Governor's Cottage Camp unit 12;
- (d) Harbour's Walk, New Harbours units 73, 74, 90, 91, 98 and 102;
- (e) Harbour's Deck, New Harbours units 44b and 61?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

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 1754**ALLOCATION OF TENDERS FOR VACANT UNITS****(a) Lathbury Barracks Industrial Park**

Unit no	Awarded to	User
1	Triay Stagnetto Neish	Store
5	Parcee Investments	Wholesale Store
10	A Berrak & A Lagrieh	Carpentry Workshop
17	Hammonds Ltd	Store
18	Ross Co Ltd	Warehousing, Offices and Showroom
19	Duncan Borg	Store
23	Nebig Constructions Ltd	Store
24	Colomendy Ltd	Store
26	E A Management Ltd	Workshop
27	D Menez	Store
28	Not allocated	

(b) Europa Business Centre

Unit no	Awarded to	User
F10A	Not allocated	

(c) Governor's Cottage Camp

Unit no	Awarded to	User
12	Not allocated	

(d) Harbour's Walk – New Harbours

Unit no	Awarded to	User
73	Gibtelecom Ltd	Operations Headquarters
74	Gibtelecom Ltd	Operations Headquarters
90	Not allocated	
91	Not allocated	
98	Not allocated	
102	Micro Business Systems	Office/Store/Showroom

(e) Harbour's Deck – New Harbours

Unit no	Awarded to	User
44B	Techtrolec	Office/Store
61	Not allocated	

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1754 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Because there are five different areas, in relation first to the Lathbury Barracks Industrial park, is it possible for the Minister to say whether the people who were awarded tenders were in fact the highest, the ones who would pay more, or were these fixed amounts they had to pay?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

The criteria that was used by the Government in the allocation of these premises did not only take into consideration the possible premium that was being asked, because in some cases there was no premium offered at all, so therefore the criteria used by the Government in order to select the successful tenderers were based on the nature of the business, the employment generating that these facilities would facilitate, the vacating of existing premises, whether the business was a new or an existing business and these criteria were all used in order to be able to select that. There was an element of obviously taking the premium into account but it was not the only criteria.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In terms of creating employment, of the 10 at Lathbury Barracks that were allocated, eight were allocated as a store. Is that because they had a storekeeper or a warehouse manager or something and they created employment in that respect?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

They could have done. Obviously if additional storage meant possibly additional distribution facilities and therefore additional people being employed. As I said, employment was not the only criteria either.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In relation to the Lathbury Barracks, there was unit 28 which was not allocated. The unit at Europa Business Centre was not allocated. The one at Governor's Cottage was not allocated and there are three units at Harbours Walk that were not allocated and one at Harbour's Deck. Is that because nobody was interested in the units and if that was the case would the Government put this out to tender once again?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Well, the tender invited interested parties to apply for a specific unit and then put an order of preference. In some cases there was no interest actually expressed for a specific unit so what we have done is that we have instructed LPS to write to all those

that were not successful and offering them the empty units that are left, with the hope that some of these will be taken up. However, for example, in the case of Harbour's Deck, New Harbours, which is unit 61 that has not been allocated because the Government may be requiring this for its own use to relocate a particular organisation into that unit, so therefore it is pending that decision.

NO. 1755 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

EUROPA POINT

When do Government expect to commence and complete the improvements to Europa Point that were announced in the Budget of 2003?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

No date has as yet been set for commencing the improvements to Europa Point.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1755 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is it the intention of the Government to commence the project in this financial year?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

There is a programme in place which we are now trying to put together which will meet the requirements that the Government want to see up in Europa Point. There may be some aspects of that that may actually commence this financial year but the project that we are looking at is very much an overall scheme for the whole area and therefore this will need to be phased in over a period of time.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

At the Budget of 2003 the Minister mentioned the provision of extensive car parking, the replacement or perhaps demolition of the existing structure which was there, which is a shop or something, and replacing that and improvements to the actual mound as well. Has the nature of the project changed or are the Government seeing it in the same way as it was in 2003?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

The nature of the project is similar to what has been described but I would not want to commit the Government to any particular details of the scheme because it is still on the discussion and drawing board for possible changes.

ORAL

NO. 1756 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

UPPER ROCK

Following the last Question Time in this House, can Government say on what date were the slopes of the Upper Rock last cleaned, by whom and at what cost?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

The slopes on the Upper Rock are cleaned by Master Service (Gibraltar) Limited every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at a cost of £4,422..50p per month.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1756 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In the answer the Minister has given, the use of the word 'slopes' obviously does not mean the road or the hill, it means the actual slopes where there are trees and bushes and all that, is that what the Minister is referring to?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

That is correct.

ORAL

NO. 1757 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

CONFERENCE ASSISTANCE

Can Government list the conferences that they have assisted with, sponsored or co-sponsored since April 2004 inclusive, showing the dates of the conferences in question?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

The extensive factual information requested by the hon Member is set out in the schedule attached.

Answer to Question 1757 of 2004

**CONFERENCES WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HAVE ASSISTED WITH, SPONSORED
OR CO-SPONSORED SINCE APRIL 2004 INCLUSIVE**

RIMS (Risk and Insurance Management Society) annual conference and exhibition, San Diego, USA, 18-21 April 2004.

Lloyds TSB Gibraltar Insurance Seminar, Caleta Hotel, 20 May 2004.

Luxembourg Rendezvous Viennial Risk Management and Risk Financing Conference and Exhibition, Luxembourg/Kirchberg, 12-13 May 2004.

AIRMIC (Association of Insurance and Risk Managers), Manchester International Convention Centre, Manchester, UK, 14-16 June 2004.

VCIA (Vermont Captive Insurance Association) annual conference and exhibition, Burlington, Vermont, USA, 10-12 August 2004.

Swiss independent portfolio manager's seminar, Finance Centre conference room, Europort, 9 September 2004.

Gibraltar Bankers' Association annual conference, Caleta Hotel, 29 September 2004.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1757 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The Minister has given me a list which has seven conferences on it. Of the seven, three were in Gibraltar. I think that is the first time that conferences have been included in the list which are not in Gibraltar. Is this because the Government have attended the conferences themselves or they have assisted the organisers to actually hold the conference?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I raised the same issue yesterday myself when I saw this answer because it was prepared in my absence when I was unwell, but I think the interpretation that had been given to this by the Finance Centre Director was that if, for example, they were participating in an insurance conference and seminar and they had a stand and possibly participants from the Gibraltar Finance Centre participated as speakers or at a round table discussion or whatever, they felt that they had assisted in the conference. I do not think it implies any financial sponsorship as such. So therefore the answer may or may not be correct depending on one's interpretation of what one is trying to seek. There have not been any financial contributions in any of those.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The information I was trying to seek is the same, this question is normally one which comes up at every meeting of the House. Is it that the question has been handed to the Finance Centre Director to answer this time and before was answered by somebody else?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Not at all. I really do not understand his interpretation of this, the answer that I would have given for this was that there had not been any assistance in terms of financial assistance in any of these conferences. However, his interpretation on this occasion has been such, I did not want to change the answer because I was not sure but I did check yesterday and that was the answer that I was given, that their assistance had been in terms of participation in terms of stands or discussions, or speakers or whatever at that conference.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The Minister amongst other points will see that the question makes no reference to the Finance Centre or to Finance Centre issues firstly. For example I know that the Calpe Conference which I think is organised by the Government and which took place within since April, the question says since April 2004, that conference is not on the list which the Minister has supplied me with.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Well if I may suggest to the hon Member that I write to him with the information that he is seeking, which has always been traditionally what has always been replied and not the way it has been replied on this occasion. Let me say that when the question asked 'can Government', obviously that includes the Finance Centre as well.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

I would be grateful if the Minister could write to me and clarify those points, and yes of course the Government includes the Finance Centre but obviously the other departments as well that may be involved in organising conferences.

ORAL

NO. 1758 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GRAND PARADE

Who are the current owners of the land at Grand Parade?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1759 to 1768 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1759 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GRAND PARADE

Who conducted the Geological Survey and the Topological Survey at Grand Parade that received a £60,000 grant from the Government as revealed at the last Question Time in this House?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1758 and 1760 to 1768 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1760 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GRAND PARADE

What were the conclusions of the Geological Survey and the Topological Survey of Grand Parade and will Government make these public?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1758, 1759 and 1761 to 1768 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1761 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GRAND PARADE

What share, if any, of the £60,000 cost of the Geological Survey and Topological Survey of Grand Parade was not borne by the Government?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1758 to 1760 and 1762 to 1768 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1762 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GRAND PARADE

On what date were the results of the Geological Survey and the Topographical Survey of Grand Parade submitted to the Government?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1758 to 1761 and 1763 to 1768 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1763 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GRAND PARADE

On what date were proposals first made to the Government for the construction of an underground car park at Grand Parade?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1758 to 1762 and 1764 to 1768 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1764 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GRAND PARADE

Who will own and operate the underground car park at Grand Parade when it is ready?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1758 to 1763 and 1765 to 1768 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1765 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GRAND PARADE

What revenue will Government make as a result of agreeing to the construction of an underground car park at Grand Parade?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1758 to 1764 and 1766 to 1768 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1766 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GRAND PARADE

What will be the projected cost to the Government of the construction of an underground car park in Grand Parade?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1758 to 1765, 1767 and 1768 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1767 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GRAND PARADE

On what terms and conditions have Government agreed to the construction of an underground car park at Grand Parade?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1758 to 1766 and 1768 of 2004.

NO. 1768 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GRAND PARADE

On what date did the construction of an underground car park at Grand Parade go out to tender?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

No concession has as yet been granted to any entity to own and operate an underground car park at Grand Parade. A particular company, Grand Developments Limited first made a proposal to Government in February 1999. They made an application for assistance under the Gibraltar Enterprise Scheme to carry out a geological survey and a topographical survey and to prepare a design for the project. A grant in the sum of £44,800 was given broken down as follows:-

- | | | |
|----|----------------------|---------|
| 1. | Geological Survey | £ 3,000 |
| 2. | Topographical Survey | £ 360 |
| 3. | Scheme Design | £41,440 |

It is for the company to appoint its consultants, and their reports are for the use of the company and not for submission to Government.

The issue of potential revenue to Government from an underground car park at Grand Parade, or the costs – if any – to the Government do not as yet arise. The project has yet to be finalised, so it is premature to enquire about tenders for its construction.

The land at Grand Parade is owned by the Government.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1758 TO 1768 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

There are a number of questions which the Minister has answered together so I will go through them with any supplementaries that may arise. The first one is the application for planning permission to construct a multi-storey underground car park appeared at the

beginning of August, I certainly do not recall having seen an application for planning permission from a company to construct something on land which is not theirs. Is this the first time that this has happened? Can the Minister say whether this is the case this time?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No this is not the case. An outline application can be submitted by any individual or company for a project which may be constructed on land that does not belong to it at the time of submitting the application. So there is nothing irregular about the application which the hon Member describes was submitted in August.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

If one is a potential investor with a potential development scheme of some sort, the Government can enter into an agreement as landlord, as owner of the land, to sell the land or even to authorise the scheme or even to say that they will support the scheme in the DPC, but the Government are not the DPC and therefore cannot guarantee or agree to issue a planning permission. So it is not infrequent that people test whether a planning permit is likely to issue before they commit themselves legally and financially to pursue a project. It is not just the financial costs of the acquisition of the land, developing these projects to the stage of planning permission often takes quite a lot of expenditure in terms of fees and investigation, and developers like to know that at least so far as outline planning is concerned, because that is where issues of principle would need to be raised by DPC, so it is not unusual and it is certainly not unique to this case. It is inevitable.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Do we understand from that that there is already an agreement for the sale of the land?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

There is not an agreement yet, there is a proposal. They are still at the feasibility stage, the Government have indicated in principle that provided subject to surveys and subject to future operational methods, in other words, how are they going to operate the car park in the future, and subject to construction implementation approval. In other words, what degree of disruption is going to take place, for how long, to existing facilities whilst the project takes place. Subject to being satisfied on all of those things, which have not yet happened, the Government have indicated that in principle they would be willing to see an underground car park built in Grand Parade. Negotiations have started but they have certainly not been completed or I do not think anywhere near being completed.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

I mentioned earlier that I had not seen this formula or this procedure before, because the normal practice, certainly since I have been shadowing this department, is that something comes out to tender, an area in the sea front or a plot of land, then companies submit a tender with proposals as to what they are going to build on it, then the Government select one of the tenderers. In this particular case, from what the Chief Minister is saying, this project will not go out to tender. If it proceeds it will be done by the company that submitted the proposal in 1999. Is that the case?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

That is the correct. The Government's policy, as the hon Member knows, is that disposal of Crown lands is normally done by tender but from the very beginning we have made it clear, back from 1996, that an exception would be made to projects which were substantial and in the economic or social interests of Gibraltar. If somebody comes with a project to spend many, many millions of pounds in building a multi-storey car park, one cannot turn round and say 'hang on, it is a jolly good idea, let me put it out to tender to see if we offer the idea to somebody else instead'. So if the project is large enough and unique enough and the idea of the developer rather than something that the Government want to achieve on that land, then an exception is made. In fact since 1996 there have been very few exceptions to that and I cannot presently think of one but I think there has been one in the past even though I cannot recall now what it is.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

One of the issues which arises from this, from an examination of the plans which were made public, is that under Grand Parade there are a series of World War II tunnels or tunnels of some kind which the Minister may have wanted to open to the public at some point as a tourism project of some heritage value, where would a project which involves the construction of an underground car park leave the tunnels and the facilities which are already there?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

My understanding is that the project does not actually impinge on any of these tunnels with the exception of Ragged Staff Tunnel which may be part of the actual underground car parking facility. However, this was sort of mentioned at the last meeting I had with the developers and they have not come back to me with a firm commitment as to whether they would or not be pursuing that option.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The Minister mentioned that proposals were first put forward in February 1999 to the Government. Can the Minister explain what happened to them in the last six years, have they been on the shelf and the Government have finally decided that it is a good idea to have this project going ahead?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No, during this time the company has been given clear decisions from the Government but obviously they have been looking at the feasibility of the project, the financing of the project, the actual structural requirements, the concerns expressed in respect of the tunnels, a number of issues that they have had to address during this time and that is the time that they have taken to come forward. They are now in the near completion stages of taking a decision and that is where we are.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

On the point of ownership, one of the questions related to who will own and operate the car park, I cannot recall the Minister's answer on that particular point. Is it that that has not been agreed between the Government and the company at this stage?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

The principle of the matter is that the underground car park will be operated by the developer. However, the terms under which they will operate and for the purpose which they will operate it is still under final discussion, because one of the issues that obviously the Government are keen to address is facilitating parking facilities for those that live in the area, on an on-going basis and not find itself to have an underground car park where it is only for day visitors for example, who wish to use the car park. It is looking after the social interests of the area as well.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Just to establish the point, the land will be sold by the Government to the developer. That is to say, they will have to pay for it. It is not in exchange for building the car park and operating it and providing a facility that they will get the land for free.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No, the Government are negotiating a premium for the lease of the land for a period of time, under normal practice.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

I move on now to the questions on the survey of the land. The size of the area of the actual car park, is that the size of the whole area of Grand Parade as it is today?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Well it depends what is meant by Grand Parade. If what is meant is the actual square, yes, it covers underground all areas with the exception of the area around the Cable Car where there are obviously foundations and things which have to be kept clear, and I think the Barbary Ape Kiosk in the corner which is not affected by the scheme.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Does the Minister have with him, and if not if he could supply the information, the actual surface area which is involved of land? Both at ground level and then the levels that go beneath. In square metres or feet, what is the surface area of the land?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I have not got that information with me but I can tell him that the surface area which exists today will remain as is. In other words, what we see today will remain. Possibly with some alterations in some levels but the area as such will remain the same, and then there will be three levels underneath that, providing approximately 1,200 car parking spaces.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Would the Minister be willing to write to me and let me know what the actual surface area of the land is going to be?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Government have no difficulty providing him with geographical information about Gibraltar, namely the square metres of the existing Grand Parade area, which I understand is what he is asking. My Colleague is in some doubt as to whether he is asking for the square metres of each floor of the proposed development, which I do not understand him to be asking. If he is, it is premature to give him that because it is still only a proposal but he can have that in due course as soon as it is fixed. In the meantime what we will give him is the superficial dimensions of the existing Grand Parade.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

What we are after really is the plot of land which is going to be given to the developer to be able to build the car park, that surface area.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, it will be a plot of land on the surface. The surface has not been given to them, we will have to make the surface available to them to remove temporarily so that they can build underneath it, but the surface will remain a public piece of land, free car park. In other words, of course there will be disruption on our surface but we are not alienating the surface. So, the area that will be the subject matter of the agreement would be the area underneath our surface.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In square metres, presumably because they need to remove the surface in order to build the levels that go underneath it. That would be the square metre area that we are interested in having. The surface area of the project which would be the ceiling or the roof of the car park I suppose.

HON S E LINARES:

As a matter of interest, would this affect Tiny Tots Nursery?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes.

HON S E LINARES:

When the Chief Minister says yes, that means that they will be given another allocation in order to use that surface area as well.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The question was not whether they will have to be permanently relocated. The question was whether they would be affected. The answer is that they will be affected, at least during the construction phase.

HON S E LINARES:

So the next subsequent question is are they going to be moved, reallocated?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, I think there is need for a temporary relocation which the developers would have to undertake to do at their expense but the present proposal does not envisage any need for a permanent relocation.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Reverting to the original questions on the geological survey and the topographical survey. One of the questions asked whether the Government would be willing to make the conclusions of those surveys public?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

These surveys belong to the company, they do not belong to the Government. Therefore they have not even been made available to us. Obviously our own technical people would need to assess those surveys if they are meant to be part of the construction material and obviously those will be analysed in due course, but there is no need for them to submit any surveys to us at this stage.

ORAL

NO. 1769 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

MARINA BAY

On what date was outline planning permission granted in respect of the Tradewinds development at Marina Bay?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question No. 1770 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1770 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

MARINA BAY

How many representations were made to the Development and Planning Commission in respect of the application for planning permission for the Tradewinds project at Marina Bay?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Outline planning permission was granted on 28th June 2004. No representations were received from the public.

ORAL

NO. 1771 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

ROCK HOTEL

When was the environmental impact assessment in respect of “The Rock Gardens” project at the Rock Hotel submitted to the Government and on what date was planning permission granted?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

The Town Planner determined that no Environmental Impact Assessment was required for the project. Outline planning permission was granted on 14th July 2003.

NO. 1772 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Do Government now have a target date for the publication of the draft Development Plan?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

The target date is early 2005.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1772 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Minister say at what stage of preparations the project actually is at this moment in time?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Well, the draft has already been completed. I have actually read the draft as Chairman of the Development and Planning Commission, there have been some adjustments and alterations that are being made, there will be a draft that will be submitted to all members of the Development and Planning Commission in order to have their input and in fact other Government Departments as well. We intend to carry out a full environmental impact assessment study on the development plan to ensure that any areas which may be suggested or earmarked in any particular way in the plan, will be pointed out to us ahead of publication and then there will be public consultation before the document becomes valid and in place.

ORAL

NO. 1773 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING COMMISSION

How many meetings of the Development and Planning Commission have taken place since 22nd April 2004 and on what dates?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Six meetings have taken place on the following dates:-

26th May 2004
8th June 2004
18th June 2004
7th July 2004
29th July 2004
23rd September 2004

NO. 1774 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

MARINA BAY

Can Government say whether outline planning permission has now been granted in respect of the application from Marina Bay Complex Limited to construct a multi-storey car park/commercial development and if so when?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Outline planning permission has not yet been granted.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1774 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Minister say whether the Development and Planning Commission are actually looking at the project for some particular reason which has caused this delay in granting planning permission, or is it just a normal procedure?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

The Government are not willing to give this sort of information in respect of the administrative stage of any particular application.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is the Minister in a position to say whether the fact that outline planning permission has not yet been granted is perhaps linked to any representations which have been made?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Can I just clarify this because this is a matter of Government policy? The position is that the Government are not technically answerable in this House for the Development and Planning Commission, but nevertheless because the Minister is the Chairman, the Government's policy is to be as accountable as is proper in this House for the affairs of the DPC, even though we are not actually accountable at all as a Government. The DPC is not the Government, it is a separate statutory body, independent of the Government. As I say, as the Minister is the Chairman and our policy is for Elected Members of the Government to be accountable for everything that they do and participate in, we answer questions but going as far as it is proper to go, without offending the rights of individual citizens to confidentiality in the conduct of their affairs. So, for example, the hon Member has seen that in respect of DPC we answer questions about whether planning permission has been given or not, and we answer questions about the public participation in the process, about whether there had been any responses for example to the public consultation process, whether any member of the public has objected, and about whether the Town Planner has or has not ordered an environmental impact assessment. When it comes to the particular administration handling of a particular application, with a name and a project that can be identified, we think people are entitled to have their business with the Government administratively handled other than in the public gaze. The hon Member is entitled to the results of the process and to the Government's input into the process, but I think citizens are also entitled to confidentiality in their conduct of their affairs with the Government. So we draw the line and hon Members will see that there is a cluster of questions just coming up on the Order Paper, which have been clustered together because they fall on the wrong side of the line, where we think the hon Member is asking for details about where exactly a particular application now lies, and we think that that strays onto the wrong side of the line of where we think it is proper for us to account on this matter.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Then I will ask the two questions which the Chief Minister has said the Government are willing to answer in relation to these projects. That is, in relation to this particular one, whether any representations were made, which the Minister normally answers and the other question which he mentioned, whether any objections had been raised by anyone?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I do not have the information that the hon Member is seeking on this particular project and I cannot recall as I stand here the answer to these. I am happy to let him have the information but I will have to do so by writing to him.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

If the Minister could write to us with that information I would be grateful.

ORAL

NO. 1775 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING COMMISSION

How many representations were received by the Development and Planning Commission in respect of the application for planning permission by Casemates Development Limited to erect three additional storeys?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Five.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1775 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The Minister presumably is free to say whether these were supportive or whether there were objections.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

There were five objections.

NO. 1776 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING COMMISSION

At what stage is the Development and Planning Commission's consideration of the following and what representations, if any, have been received in each case:

- (a) 34 Cornwall's Lane – two additional flats and associated facilities;
- (b) British Lines Road – microwave antenna link station;
- (c) Units 7 and 8 Watergardens – take-away business Class A3;
- (d) 26-32 George's Lane – demolish existing building and construct five storey residential building with lock-up garages;
- (e) 14 John Mackintosh Square – refurbish existing building and add further accommodation at roof level;
- (f) B Block Europa Road – build an extension?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1777 to 1782 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1777 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Can Government say at what stage is the application for planning permission at 11/15 Turnbull's Lane by Turnbull Enterprises Limited to extend the building and convert it to a hotel?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1776 and 1778 to 1782 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1778 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING COMMISSION

At what stage is the Development and Planning Commission's consideration of the application for planning permission by Monaco Ocean Village Limited to construct a pontoon, and how many representations have been received in respect of this project?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1776, 1777 and 1779 to 1782 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1779 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING COMMISSION

At what stage is the Development and Planning Commission's consideration of the application for planning permission by Monaco Ocean Village Limited to construct a wooden boardwalk next to Waterport Wharf from the Coachpark to Ocean Village with small cafes, and how many representations have been received in respect of this project?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1776 to 1778 and 1780 to 1782 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1780 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING COMMISSION

At what stage is the Development and Planning Commission's consideration of the application for planning permission by Ocean Village (Gibraltar) Limited to add a Sea Aquarium at the Spa Building Ocean Village, and how many representations have been received in respect of this project?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1776 to 1779, 1781 and 1782 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1781 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING COMMISSION

At what stage is the Development and Planning Commission's consideration of the application for planning permission for 65 residential units and car parking at Sir Herbert Miles Road?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1776 to 1780 and 1782 of 2004.

NO. 1782 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING COMMISSION

At what stage is the Development and Planning Commission's consideration of the application by 21st Century Rock Limited to provide a funicular installation from Casemates to Rock Gun?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

As the Chief Minister has already said, the Government do not think that it is appropriate to provide in this House such details relating to the administrative handling of individual cases.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1776 TO 1782 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The asking of this particular question, at what stage the application is, is something that I have been doing when for example, previous Ministers used to answer these questions and if I recall their answer used to be that for example the development licence had been granted or that outline planning permission had been granted, at what stage the application was. Is this a new policy?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is a new policy because of the extent to which the hon Member is taking, in effect he is asking for a report here on a quarterly basis of the conduct of the DPC's administrative business in every case in front of it. We do not think that is an appropriate exercise. There are elements of his questions which could have been answered, well in some of his questions there are elements that could have been answered but we do not have the information here and we will give to him. For example, in one or two of his questions I just heard read, he has asked whether representations have been received or not. That information is okay because that involves public participation in the process, and that information will be provided to him at the end of the day whether planning permission

has been granted or not. The Government are certainly willing to consider a system of gazetting planning permissions when they have been granted so that there is a public record of whether an application has been granted or not. That sort of system might be an improvement but I do not think we can deal with it on a case by case basis in this House. I do not think it is appropriate really for this House to be debating the affairs of individual commercial entities, as opposed to examining the system. The hon Member is free to ask us, given what our policy is about accounting for the DPC, whether we think the DPC works efficiently or whether we think that systems within the DPC can be improved. Questioning in all that area is fine. Seeking a case report on individual peoples applications I think is straying too far in the areas of Parliamentary scrutiny. The hon Member has said that initially that was not, when he was only asking about the major projects, and when this line of questioning started it was limited to the major commercial type projects and had not strayed into somebody wanting to build a balcony in George's Lane or whatever it is the question about George's Lane. If that is to be the extent of his interest then the Government have got to draw a line to make sure that individuals are given some measure of protection for the confidentiality of their affairs.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The Chief Minister is correct, my Colleague has obtained for me the last copy of Hansard which is from January this year and there were questions asking at what stage, for example, was the consideration of the construction of two houses at the northern end of Both Worlds for instance, the question which was answered. There were other questions relating to different projects. Little Genoa at Catalan Bay for example.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The two houses at Catalan Bay raised major issues of Government policy. There are issues about development at the foot of that particular Rock face which raised substantial issues of Government policies and I think that would be legitimate. That raises issues not about that particular application but generally about the development of that area.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

I have also realised that the question which relates to the funicular installation which is the cable car project from Casemates to Rock Gun, which has been tabled this time, was actually tabled in exactly the same way last time in January and an answer to the question was given. Perhaps if the Government make that distinction between private individuals wanting to put up a balcony and large projects, could they not answer those that relate to large projects and not the ones that relate to private individuals?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, I think having been forced into a policy decision by the extent of the hon Member's detailed interest, it would be very difficult for the Government to alter the application of the policy on a case by case basis, because there would be grey areas. I think there are

cases of development applications where it is perfectly legitimate for the hon Member to express an interest. For example, the funicular just to use the latest one that he has mentioned as an example, that is a matter worth debating in this House whether it is a good or a bad idea regardless of the planning process. The hon Member might wish to formulate his questions more generally in relation to what is Government policy or are the Government aware whether any planning issues arise from this project, which we could try and answer in terms of Government policy but without standing in the shoes of the DPC and without dealing with the question as a question on somebody's planning application in detail. So it is perfectly legitimate for the hon Member because these are projects that ultimately have got to be approved not just by the DPC but indeed by the Government themselves something like the funicular railway. That is a perfectly legitimate area for the hon Member to put questions to the Government about and I am sure he will be able, quite easily, to formulate the questions which get more or less the same information as he is seeking about them, without focusing the questions about being questions about at what stage is this in the DPC's consideration. As formulated the question actually asks us to give a snapshot of where the DPC's internal deliberations is on a particular issue. Not even just asking for a stage report. At what stage is the Development and Planning Commission's consideration? A proper answer to that question for example, might include 'well they are split, four of them think it is a good idea, three of them think it is not a bad idea. They have agreed to meet next week to see if they can thrash out their differences'. It is not the sort of area that we think it is appropriate to get in, but I am sure the hon Member in respect of the major economic type projects, these are some of the larger residential projects, I am sure can re-formulate his questions in a different language which will not incur on the Government's new policy. I accept it is a new policy.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In relation to the questions that have been tabled in this House for example, there are a number of them relating to Monaco Ocean Village, there is one relating to the funicular project which we have already mentioned, there is a total of five at least that relate to these large projects. There is in fact one or two questions where I actually bundled together the smaller projects which are essentially residential. The second point I want to make, when I have asked this type of question of the Development Appeals Tribunal, originally this was dealt with by the Hon Mr Britto, now it is the Hon Mr Vinet who deals with it, the answers that we were given in relation to the Development Appeals Tribunal was that a case was still under consideration, it was pending or it was waiting for information from the applicant or from the Government, simple short answers like that. I take the point the Chief Minister has made in relation to.....

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is still under consideration is not a particularly informative answer to the hon Member.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

No, but it included at what stage the consideration was, whether it was waiting for information from the Government or from the applicant. I understand that this is a new

policy and the Chief Minister has explained the situation well but given that there are a number of questions that relate to larger projects and not to smaller personal projects as it were, would the Government be willing to supply the answers to those questions in writing?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, I think having made the policy I do not think we should draw a distinction between writing or not writing. The hon Member raises the question of the microwave link and people living near it wanting to know about it. Well, that is taken care of by the fact that the Government have introduced a public consultation process. Whoever submitted this application has had to advertise it, and the neighbours as he call it, I would be very interested if I were a neighbour in this planning application, they have had their opportunity to, assuming that the advertising requirements are extensive enough, most people will have heard of it and will have expressed their views if they want to. I remit the hon Member to the last answer that I gave him to his previous supplementary which is that the Government do not want the burden of having to judge on each case, whether it is a large or a small project, whether it is a private individual that deserves protecting or a commercial operator that does not, in terms of confidentiality both are entitled to confidentiality. What we are trying to do is to strike the right balance between the proper level of accountability in this House and the protection of individuals. If the hon Member wants questions answered about specific projects, I think the best way for him to proceed would be either to strike the question in the context of has this been granted or not granted yet. Basic stage information like that is not too difficult. Has it been granted or has it not yet been granted? He will have noticed that those questions have been answered this morning a few moments ago. As to whether a particular application has been granted or not granted, that is all right, that does not reveal any sort of information, but if he wants a sort of an account of the issues in the internal discussion by the DPC, that is where we have a problem. I can see him nodding and shaking at different stages of my point. If that means that he can live with that distinction and that he can accommodate it by altering the wording of his questions, then there would not be a difficulty between us.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Certainly the questions will be altered but it is not that we are requesting an internal account of what is going on inside the DPC. It is simply that when this question was asked in the past the answer used to be the development licence has been granted, or the outline planning permission has been granted, there used to be a series of answers I used to get from the two Ministers that were responsible.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Now he has asked specific questions about a specific licence. If in another question he asks has this licence been granted and then in respect of another development he asks at what stage is the consideration, we have got to assume that there is an intended difference between the two questions. If he was just interested in respect of 21st Century Rock whether the licence has been granted, he would have formulated in the same

language as he did the previous questions. There is an assumption therefore that there is a difference of language. I do not know if that distinction used to take place originally, I do not recall it.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can I then move on to some of the other issues that arise from the questions?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I am delighted to say to the hon Member, we are willing to answer him in writing, these questions in relation to the ground rules that we are informally establishing now. So I think the Minister can write to him saying whether these applications that we have given him this answer to, have been granted yet or not granted yet.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In relation to Question No. 1777, which is the one for a conversion to a hotel, could I make a general enquiry as to the process? That is to say, if somebody wants to set up or open a hotel, is planning permission all they need, or do they need anything extra from the Tourist Board?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I think there are two aspects in this. One is obviously the planning, which will mean that they would have to be subjected to an application through the Development and Planning Commission. Then the other would be a possible change of use, which they would have to seek from Government as landlords.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The Tourist Board itself would not need to have an input in this decision making, is that the case?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No they would not but it may be the case that for example, Land Property Services if they have a situation where an application is made for a change of use, it would come to Land Management which I chair myself, so therefore I would have an input in the matter.

ORAL

NO. 1783 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DEVELOPMENT AID CERTIFICATES

Can Government list the companies and projects that are in receipt of development aid, giving the name of the project, its location, the date the certificate was granted, and the amount?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1784 to 1787 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1784 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DEVELOPMENT AID CERTIFICATES

How many development aid certificates were granted in the last financial year and in respect of what projects?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1783 and 1785 to 1787 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1785 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DEVELOPMENT AID CERTIFICATES

Can Government list which companies in receipt of development aid certificates have used those certificates to conduct duty-free importations to Gibraltar, giving the name of the project, the date the certificate was used, and showing what was imported in each case?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1783, 1784, 1786 and 1787 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1786 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DEVELOPMENT AID CERTIFICATES

Can Government list the companies and projects which currently have development aid and have not used it all up by the tax year ending in June 2003, showing the amounts remaining in each case?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1783 to 1785 and 1787 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1787 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DEVELOPMENT AID CERTIFICATES

How many applications for development aid certificates in the last financial year have not been granted?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

The extensive factual and statistical information requested by the hon Member is set out in the schedule attached. However, I take the opportunity just to point out that the information in respect of Development Aid applications, when these are granted these are Gazetted, so therefore the information is put in the public domain so most of this information is there.

SCHEDULE TO QUESTION 1787

All 9 new applications for development aid certificates made in the 2003/04 financial year were granted.

The projects were as follows:-

APPLICATIONS UNDER DEVELOPMENT AID ORDINANCE

PROJECT
1. Construction of a six-storey building with parking on part of the ground floor and two executive suites on the sixth floor at site – 55 Line Wall Road
2. Installation of an oil and polluted liquid waste treatment plant with laboratory at North Mole
3. Construction of four blocks of apartments with fifty-four residences, plus landscaping gardens with swimming pool at Cormorant Wharf, Queensway
4. Construction of four houses and forty-three apartments plus landscaped gardens and swimming pool at Gun and Ordnance Wharf
5. Redevelopment of 227/231 Main Street into a five storey building – commercial premises on ground floor, office or storage at 1 st floor and residential on 2 nd , 3 rd and 4 th floor
6. Residential development known as Europlaza of 157 units with 272 car parking spaces at Plot A Europort
7. Construction of ten houses and thirteen apartments plus external works and swimming pool at Building A Royal Naval Hospital, Europa Road
8. Conversion of the former Barrack Building at Town Range into 11 houses, offices, garages and car parking spaces
9. Installation of replacement equipment to continue to offer a state of the art commercial mobile digital radio service

None of the applicants used their development aid certificates to import goods or materials into Gibraltar free of import duty.

Companies cannot have development aid that is “not used up” as aid is granted on a tax relief basis on completion of the project.

“cont...”

"Contd Answer to Question 1787 of 2004"

The projects that are presently in receipt of development aid are as follows:-

Name of Company	Name of Project	Location	Date of Certificate	Amount
Sharrock Shand Developments Ltd	Conversion of former Barrack building into 11 houses, offices, garages and car parking spaces	Town Range	1 st July 2003	40%
Queensway Quay Development Co Ltd	Construction of 10 houses and 13 apartments plus external works and swimming pool	Building "A" Royal Naval Hospital, Europa Road	1 st July 2003	40%
Pebble Properties Limited	Construction of a residential development, to be known as Europlaza, of 157 units with 272 car parking spaces at Plot A.	Europort	1 st July 2003	40%
17/25 Giro's Passage Developments Limited	Construction of a six-storey office building with parking on part of the ground floor and 2 executive suites on the sixth floor	55 Line Wall Road	1 st July 2003	60%
Silverlake Limited	Redevelopment into five storey building comprising commercial premises on the ground floor, either commercial, office or storage at first floor and residential second, third and fourth floors	227/231 Main Street	1 st July 2003	40%
Sand Key Properties	Construction of 12 residential flats on two floors	39 Glacis Road	6 th July 2004	40%
Queensway Quay Marina Ltd	19 Luxury houses – constructed on reclaimed land	Reclaimed land	6 th July 2004	20%
Taylor Woodrow (Gibraltar) Ltd	Construction of 4 houses and external works	Sandpits Vaults	2 nd August 2004	20%
Taylor Woodrow (Gibraltar) Ltd	Construction of 20 apartments, swimming pool	Rock Hotel, Staff Quarters, Europa Road	2 nd August 2004	20%
International Casino Gibraltar, Gala Casino	Essential structural repairs and internal alterations	7 Europa Road	2 nd August 2004	100%

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1783 TO 1787 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The answer says there are nine applications for Development Aid and he has listed the nine of them. Then he also says that none of the applicants have used the Development Aid Certificates to import goods or materials into Gibraltar free of import duty. Does that also apply to building materials that they import?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

That is correct.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In relation to Question No. 1787, the Minister has supplied a table showing the projects that are currently receiving Development Aid. The last column on that table refers to the amount and it says 40 per cent on some, 60 per cent on others, 20 per cent on others, does that percentage relate to the cost of building the project?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

That percentage refers to the actual amount of development aid that is being granted to the applicant in respect of the project.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, the amount of the capital investment subject to development aid. That is the percentage of, yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In the comment to the answer to Question No. 1787, it says companies cannot have development aid that is not used up as aid is granted on a tax relief basis on completion of the project, but not used up can also mean that they have not exhausted the amount of aid granted. That is to say, that since finishing the project their level of profits, which I think is what they are allowed to have free of tax. If a project costs say £1 million and they have 40 per cent, am I right in thinking that they do not get taxed until the profits have exceeded £400,000, is that correct? Then the Development Aid surely is used up when they have exhausted the £400,000 tax free element. It is difficult to understand why.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

That is the interpretation of the words 'used up', I do not know how else it is interpreted. That would have been my interpretation had I seen the question, yes, that is true. In other words, this is carried forward, this tax relief if we can call it that is carried forward and eventually it is all used up, to use the language of the question, and I suppose it is possible by looking at the files and the tax payers behind each of these companies, but it would have to be done on a one file at a time basis to see whether they had used any of theirs up yet and how many they still had left. It is possible, we would have to think about it whether that would be proper information to give away or whether it is the sort of information about a tax payer's tax affairs which the Income Tax Ordinance prohibits the publication of. It is something we will have to think carefully about before we give that information, but I understand what the information is that he is seeking and I suppose it is technically collatable.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Would the Government not agree that of course it is relevant in terms of the Government's revenue, to what extent developers that are tax payers are going to start paying full tax or not paying full tax at some date in the future?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, if one were interested in a simple cash flow exercise, in other words, when will all this come back on stream? Yes, but I think in practice none of these companies ever pay any tax because these are companies that are in effect most of these are development they are not let out on future rental scheme. Most of these schemes are sold and the sale proceeds either exhaust or do not exhaust. In other words, the profit upon which tax might be payable either exhausts or does not exhaust the development aid relief. It is only when one has a company that is building for long-term rental that eventually there might be an income stream which is no longer sheltered by development aid. Actually, from the point of view of Government revenue and development aid, and income coming back on stream much more relevant than shelter from income tax, it is shelter from rates, because that does kick in later on as an income stream that is alienated. Rates income and all these new properties. Eventually that does come back on stream and that is a much more relevant future income stream issue than corporate taxation on profits by the developing company.

ORAL

NO. 1788 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

IMPORTS – COMPUTERS

What was the value and number of computers imported into Gibraltar since March 2004 inclusive on a monthly basis?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1791 and 1792 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1789 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

SALE AND IMPORTATION OF COUNTERFEIT GOODS

Who have Government consulted and on what dates when considering legislation against the sale and importation of counterfeit goods?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

The Government intend to introduce copyright and trade mark legislation shortly in response to EU obligations. This will address issues of counterfeit goods. Draft legislation is being finalised. The Government will then decide whether there should be a consultation process, and if so, what form this process should take.

ORAL

NO. 1790 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL

How often and on what dates has the Business Advisory Council met since it was set up?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1702,1747 and 1811 of 2004.

NO. 1791 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

IMPORTS – PRIVATE MOTOR VEHICLES

What was the value and number of private motor vehicles imported by:

- (a) individuals;
- (b) licensed dealers;

on a monthly basis since March 2004 inclusive?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1788 and 1792 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1792 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

IMPORTS – GOODS VEHICLES

What was the value and number of goods vehicles imported by:

- (a) individuals;
- (b) licensed dealers;

on a monthly basis since March 2004 inclusive?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

The extensive factual and statistical information requested by the hon Member is set out in the schedule attached.

SCHEDULE TO QUESTION 1792

(a) IMPORTATION OF PRIVATE MOTOR VEHICLES

2004 Month	Vehicles Imported By:			
	Individuals		Licensed Dealers	
	Number	Value (£ thousands)	Number	Value (£ millions)
March	22	77.0	664	7.4
April	25	64.6	593	7.1
May	23	99.3	791	9.9
June	21	76.1	568	7.1
July	21	50.7	644	7.9
August	20	86.2	883	8.8

(b) IMPORTATION OF GOODS VEHICLES

2004 Month	Vehicles Imported By:			
	Individuals		Licensed Dealers	
	Number	Value (£ thousands)	Number	Value (£ millions)
March	1	-	6	10
April	2	9	11	45
May	4	16	5	27
June	2	1	4	23
July	2	2	5	16
August	1	-	3	34

(c) IMPORTATION OF COMPUTERS

2004 Month	Value of Computers £
March	873,989
April	1,245,801
May	1,205,166
June	792,279
July	597,030
August	377,650

It is not possible to provide the number of computers imported as it is individual components that are imported and not fully assembled computers.

ORAL

NO. 1793 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Can Government list the parties who have applied for Gibraltar Government funding since 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 COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question No. 1794 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1794 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

EU FUNDING

Can Government list the parties who have applied for EU funding since 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 COMMUNICATIONS

The extensive factual and statistical information requested by the hon Member is set out in the schedule attached.

SCHEDULE TO QUESTION 1794 OF 2004

Answer to Question 1793 of 2004

Two projects have been so submitted. They are as follows:-

- (1) Request for £7,311 grant from Dorcas Fashion Designs for attending international fashion shows.
- (2) Request for £30,000 loan from Risso Bakery Ltd for a “Craft” bakery.

Answer to Question 1794 of 2004

APPLICATIONS FOR EU FUNDING

Fifteen applications for EU Funding have been received since the last question time in the House. Twelve applications were for ERDF Funding under the Gibraltar Objective 2 Programme (2000-2006) and three were for ESF Funding under the Gibraltar Objective 3 Programme (2000-2006).

ESF PROJECTS

CTC – Intake 10	(Dept of Education & Training)
ESF	£270,931 (45%)
GOG	<u>£334,863</u> (55%)
	£605,794

(Training Course in the Construction Trades)

CTC – Intake 11	(Dept of Education & Training)
ESF	£199,364 (45%)
GOG	<u>£243,700</u> (55%)
	£443,064

(Training Course in the Construction Trades)

ETTS 2004	(Dept of Education & Training)
ESF	£350,688 (45%)
GOG	<u>£428,620</u> (55%)
	£779,308

(Training Course in the Engineering Discipline)

Cont.....

Cont'd Schedule to Question 1794 of 2004

ERDF PROJECTS

Project Sponsor	Status	ERDF Funding	Purpose of Grant
Car Clinic Phase II	Approved	£2,416.00	Purchase of Equipment Import Duty.
Colours Hairdressers	Approved	£875.00	Rent subsidy scheme (12 months) Plumbing Works.
Grave Services	Approved	£590.00	Purchase of Equipment.
Easi-Print	Approved	£2,611.00	Purchase of printing press and payment of freight, installation charges and Import Duty.
Look Hair and Beauty	Approved	£2,843.00	Construction of mezzanine floor.
Express Repairs	Approved	£1,302.50	Purchase of Key Cutting Equipment, Payment of Import Duty, Fitting-out works.
Sandwich Bar	Under Consideration	£4,539.00	Fixtures & Fittings, Equipment, Door & Fire Safety, Promotion & Advertising, Import Duty.
General Signage	Approved	£4,345.00	Purchase of Printer and Accessories and payment of Import Duty.
Risso Bakekry T/A Emmanuels	Under Consideration	£19,340.00	Building and renovation works and purchase of specialised equipment
Public Bus Infrastructure Phase I	Approved	£162,500.00	Improvements to Bus Stops and Temporary Bus Depot.
Dietetic Health Clinic Phase II	Approved	£5,000.00	Building works, Purchase of equipment Marketing and Advertising.
Pet Clinic	Approved	£4,239.00	Equipment for car wash Dog wash system Installation works Duty
		£210,600.50	

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1793 AND 1794 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In relation to Question No. 1794 which relates to EU funding, the first ERDF project shown on the list relates to an application that was approved involving the purchase of equipment, import duty. Is it that the Government refund the import duty or the EU refund the duty? How does that work?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No, what would happen in this case would be that they would pay the import duty and we would reimburse that import duty but in the form of a loan or a grant or whatever has been approved under the scheme. So there would be no exemptions being issued at all, it would have to be paid and then reimbursed.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

It would be reimbursed from EU money not from Gibraltar Government funds?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Well in the case of this particular application it is EU funds, yes.

ORAL

NO. 1795 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

FERRY ASSISTANCE SCHEME

When was the last time any company benefited from the Ferry Assistance Scheme and for what purpose?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1796 and 1797 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1796 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

FERRY ASSISTANCE SCHEME

What criteria does an applicant have to meet in order to benefit from the Ferry Assistance Scheme?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1795 and 1797 of 2004.

NO. 1797 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

HEAD 104 – SUBHEAD 1

Can Government provide a breakdown of the £185,000 forecast outturn for 2003/2004 in respect of Head 104 Sub-Head 1 for Airlines, Ferry and Hotel Assistance Schemes?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

The Ferry Assistance Scheme consisted of providing a rebate for the ferry operator in respect of passenger tax paid by ferry passengers on the Gibraltar-Tangier route at a time when the route appeared to be precarious and the Government wanted to ensure a continuity of service. The rebate was necessary until the Government decided to amend the legislation that provided for the payment of passenger tax by ferry passengers by abolishing this tax for the time being.

The only company to benefit from this scheme was Turner's, the operator of the Gibraltar-Tangier ferry. The totality of the rebate paid to Turner was £87,921 in November 2003. No further payments have been made since then and none are envisaged.

The breakdown of £185,000 is as follows:

Airline Assistance	£ 3,153
Ferry Passenger tax rebate	£ 87,921
Ferry Terminal works	£ 26,594
Hotel Assistance	£ 66,621

NO. 1798 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

FRONTIER STATISTICS

Can Government say whether all the data for the Frontier Statistics Table that is supplied to the Opposition is collected at the frontier and tell the House who is responsible for gathering such data and for compiling it?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

All the data for the Frontier Statistics Table supplied to Opposition Members is collected at the frontier and is gathered and compiled by Security and Immigration Limited.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1798 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Minister confirm that that data includes the cars, coaches and pedestrians coming into Gibraltar?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

That is correct. That includes everything that is included in the table that I supply the hon Member on a monthly basis.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Minister then explain why I was told at Budget time that coaches were counted at the coach park and not at the frontier?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

There is a count of coaches at the coach park which is done by the Gibraltar Tourist Board in order to account for revenue and ticketing admissions that have to be paid by coaches on entering the coach park. There could be coaches coming in through the frontier that do not actually go into the coach park and therefore there may be a slight variation in numbers, but both are accountable differently. The figures that are supplied to him come from Security and Immigration which have the total figure.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

I am grateful for this information because it confirms the position with what I thought was the position in June or July when we discussed this during the Budget. I remember the explanation I was given at Budget time was that there were less coaches coming in to Gibraltar because the counting was being done at the coach park rather than at the frontier. We had a situation where the coaches were coming in to Gibraltar, dropping off tourists, driving around Gibraltar, picking up tourists and going back without being counted, but as I understand it now the position as he has explained it today and not as what was explained to me in June, which is that they are also counted at the frontier by Security and Immigration Limited.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

That is correct.

ORAL

NO. 1799 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GDC – EU PROJECTS

Can Government state how much of the £1.477 million estimated to be spent on EU projects by the GDC in 2004/2005 is expected to be met from EU funds?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1800 to 1802 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1800 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GDC – EU PROJECTS

Can Government state how much of the £1.448 million forecast outturn spent on EU projects by the GDC in 2003/2004 was met from EU funds?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1799, 1801 and 1802 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1801 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GDC – EU PROJECTS

Can Government state how much of the £1.469 million estimated to be spent on EU projects by the GDC in 2003/2004 was expected to be met from EU funds?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1799, 1800 and 1802 of 2004.

NO. 1802 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GDC – EU PROJECTS

Can Government state how much of the £1,461,833 spent on EU projects by the GDC in 2002/2003 was met from EU funds?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

The answer in each case is 45 per cent, as this is the percentage grant rate given to the GDC in respect of EU projects.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1799 TO 1802 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can the Minister then explain why the revenue shown in the Accounts of the Gibraltar Development Corporation does not reflect that 45 per cent ratio?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I am afraid I do not have a copy of the Estimate Book in front of me to be able to verify what the hon Gentleman is saying.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well then, would the Minister agree that if he had a copy in front of him and he looked at page 121, he would see that in respect of 2002/2003 which is the subject of Question No. 1802, where the expenditure came to £1,461,833 the amount collected was £419,000, that the estimate for 2003/2004 was £550,000 when the total amount estimated came to £1.469 million and the forecast which actually was just below the estimate at £1.448 million actually shows that the contribution from the ESF was only £141,000? So there is no correlation to the 45 per cent that the Minister has said should be applying in the four figures quoted in the four questions.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I take the point that the hon Member is making. My understanding is that although 45 per cent is the contribution made by the European Union in respect of these EU projects, what actually may happen is that the receipt of these are not actually correlated to the expenditure on any particular year, in that claims that are submitted to the European Union will be done after the project has been finished. So therefore the actual receipt of the funds may come later. I can tell the hon Gentleman that there is a substantial amount of money owed to the Government in respect of EU funding in terms of the ESF projects because in the year set projects our applications actually go through the United Kingdom and not directly to Brussels. So therefore we are subjected to the timing and timetable of the Department of Trade and Industry in the UK, so therefore the funding when reimbursed to us as a receipt, which I assume is what appears in the Estimates, are well behind the expected time scale of the initial expenditure in the first place.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The Minister is aware that the projects that we are talking about are training schemes by the Employment and Training Unit in the GDC. I am aware that in the Improvement and Development Fund it says one has to complete the project in order to be able to claim because if the project does not get completed one can not claim, but if there is a situation where the Construction Training Centre is spending £71,000 on EU projects then are they getting 45 per cent of £71,000 or are they not? Is the Minister conscious of the fact that I have actually raised this a number of years and been given the same kind of answer that it is delays and that it is sort of carried forward but I do not know how far into the future this is being carried but we always seem to have shortfalls every year.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I can tell the hon Member that that is exactly the situation and it was only recently that I asked that those within the EU Unit would bring exactly the accounting of all this because I cannot accept that certain claims that have been made quite some time ago should be delayed to the extent that they have. In fact, I have had correspondence with the Department of Trade and Industry in the UK who have assured me that it is nothing to do with our application, it is part of their own logistics in getting in because we just form part of a much bigger project within the UK. So therefore in order to compile all the information coming in from all different areas, we just have to wait. Although we are complying with the timetabling not everybody is so therefore we need to wait for this. I can tell the hon Member that the figure owed to us is in excess of £1 million as we speak today, and it is obviously something that was of concern to me having come into office into the Trade and Industry for the first time and finding this figure still outstanding, and actually looking into some of these going back to 1999, 1998 and I thought what is going on here? Is it something that we are not doing correct? Is it something that we are not submitting our application in proper order and we are not being informed? So we tackled the whole thing head on and this is the reply that we have had. Everything is in order but it is just a matter of, I understand that recently we have had correspondence from them saying that the matter now is being cleared because we are now reaching a

point where certain schemes have to be brought up. So the last 20 per cent apparently of the funds that are available in respect of a particular objective project need to be finalised fairly soon, so hopefully we will get this backlog up and running fairly soon.

HON J J BOSSANO:

This sort of figure of about £1 million, would that be up to the end of the last financial year or would it be up to an earlier date than that? Does the Minister know?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

The figure basically goes back I think to 1998/1999 and it goes up to last March.

ORAL

NO. 1803 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

KONVER PROJECTS

Can Government state of the £2,007,847 spent on Konver projects to 31st March 2003 how much was met by EU funds?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1804 and 1805 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1804 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

KONVER PROJECTS

Can Government confirm that there has been no expenditure on Konver projects since 31st March 2003?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1803 and 1805 of 2004.

NO. 1805 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

KONVER PROJECTS

Can Government list the Konver projects, with the cost of each in respect of which it expects to receive £900,000 from the EU in the current financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

The Konver II Programme terminated on 31st December 2001, as the submission of claims in respect of eligible expenditure is concerned. There has, consequently, been no expenditure on Konver projects since then.

Up to 31st March 2003, Government spent £5,919,492 on Konver projects, and of this £2,502,188 was met or is being met by EU funds.

The Government expect to receive £500,000 from the EU and not £900,000 as incorrectly stated in the Estimates for 2004/2005 this financial year. This amount refers to the Konver II Programme as a whole and not to any specific projects. It consists of the final 20 per cent payment from the EU in respect of the programme. The payment is still pending because the UK's final programme report has not yet been ratified by the EU Commission.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1803 TO 1805 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

What the Minister says is the final 20 per cent payment, what he is saying is that we already received in the I&D Fund 80 per cent of the share of the £5.9 million, is that correct?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

That is correct.

ORAL

NO. 1806 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INTERREG PROJECTS

Can Government state of the £12,920 spent on Interreg projects to 31st March 2003 how much was met from EU funds?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question No. 1807 of 2004.

NO. 1807 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INTERREG PROJECTS

Can Government state of the balance to complete of £1,800,000 on Interreg projects by the I&D Fund what is the allocation in respect of programmes (IIIA) Gibraltar/Morocco, (IIIB) Western Mediterranean, (IIIB) South West Europe and (IIIC) South?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Of the £12,920 spent on Interreg projects to 31st March 2003, 50 per cent was met by EU funds.

Of the £1.8 million allowed for Interreg projects in the Improvement and Development Fund, the allocation in respect of each programme is as follows:

Interreg IIIA Gibraltar/Morocco	£567,568
Interreg IIIB Western Mediterranean (MEDOC)	£565,364
Interreg IIIB South West Europe (SUDOE)	£565,364
Interreg IIIC South	£101,558

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1806 AND 1807 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

Are these sums the sums that the projects will have budgeted inclusive of the Government of Gibraltar's contribution?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is the EU share of this then 50 per cent of each of those sums?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

It is.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Are these projects that were in the Estimates this year then on-going already, have any of them started so far? Has any start been made in spending any of those sums?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes. The Gibraltar/Morocco and the Western Mediterranean and South West Europe are all on-going projects which have already initiated. The South (IIIC) has yet not commenced.

ORAL

NO. 1808 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

TQS

Can Government state what were the “technical problems” referred to in answer to supplementary questions to Question No. 1029 of 2004 which have prevented TQS from completing the computerisation works it has undertaken on behalf of the Government?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question No. 1809 of 2004.

NO. 1809 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

TQS

Can Government state when it is expected that TQS will be able to finalise the computerisation works it has undertaken on behalf of the Government?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

It is difficult to state with precision exactly when TQS will finalise the computerisation works it is undertaking for the Government.

Five systems have already been developed and they are live. A further five are at different stages of development, and will come on stream as and when they are ready later this year and in 2005.

The Hansard for the session of this House at which Question No. 1029 of 2004 was answered is not yet available, so it is not possible to see precisely what exchanges were made in response to supplementary questions.

What I can say is that TQS have not yet prepared a system specification for one of the systems that they need to develop and until such time as this is ready, it will not be possible to progress this particular system.

The lack of a system specification for this programme may well have been described as a “technical problem” in answer to Question No. 1029 of 2004.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1808 AND 1809 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can the Minister say which is the system that is still without a system specification?#

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I am afraid I cannot with the information I have available in front of me but I will make it available to him if he so wishes.

NO. 1810 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

COMPUTER HACKING

Can Government say when they intend to specifically outlaw computer hacking in or from Gibraltar?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

No Sir.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1810 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Minister say whether this is something that the Government would like to do?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, the Government can say that it is something that they are considering the need to do and how it is best dealt with. It exists as a proposal but it is not yet decided how it will emerge or still less when it will emerge which is the purpose of the answer given to his specific question. I suspect it will emerge at some stage.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The Chief Minister says that it exists as a proposal, does this mean that draft legislation is being considered or has it not got to that stage yet?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

A specific legislative proposal has not yet been put up to Ministers for policy consideration.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Do the Government consider that this is a matter which should be dealt with with some priority given that computer hacking is something that affected Government's own computers at one stage?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Lots of things are important and priorities, it does not mean that the Government rush in to do them immediately. Nor are the Government so naïve as to think that simply passing laws eliminates the problems which the hon Member imagines to exist. The Government have no evidence that there is computer hacking taking place from Gibraltar and therefore it is not urgent in the sense that there is no known ill known to be happening. I agree that if it were happening it would be an ill but it is not known to be happening and therefore it is not urgent in that sense. I suspect that if it were happening from Gibraltar then probably some of Gibraltar's existing laws may be sufficient to deal with the problem, although I accept in a much more clumsy way than specific legislation would enable the law enforcement agencies to do. So we are not arguing that there is not a need for it, or rather, we are not arguing that in the technological age in which we live introducing legislation would not be a worthwhile thing to do, we think it would be. Is it a priority in the sense that the Government think that there is a big problem in this area which legislation would snuff out and which needs to be snuffed out? The answer is that we have no such evidence. The hon Member is aware that it is going on and perhaps he would just like to bring it to our attention. So it will emerge in the ordinary course of the Government's legislative programme and I cannot honestly say that it will emerge in the sense of priority that the hon Member appears to think that it deserves.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In relation to the question of priority it is simply because one of the essential requirements for example, in relation to I remember the Electronic Commerce Directive and the Electronic Signatures Directive, was the question of computer security, that it was essential to have that framework first. In fact, implementing those two directives assumed that we had the framework for computer security already in place and we did not. I think it was in 2001 we implemented the Electronic Directives. Secondly on the question of whether it is happening, there was an occasion where the Government's own computers were open to hacking through Trojan viruses that were planted in them and I remember the Hon Mr Britto at the time issued a press statement on the subject. In relation to the third point, whether the existing law would cover it or not, I also recall asking the Hon Mr Britto that question specifically and the answer was that at the moment computer hacking in Gibraltar was not illegal. It is in that context that the question of priority arises. Do the Government not accept that at least in relation to the EU Framework of legislation which already exists, it is something that should be put into place?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I am aware that the hon Member has these concerns. All the legislation in the world will not physically prevent the hacking of computers through the injection of viruses. The suggestion that even enforcement of legislation let alone the mere existence of legislation would protect anybody or add any layer of security against viruses which are inevitably done by people from outside Gibraltar which we could not reach anyway, I think is a non sequitur of logic. As to whether computer hacking is legal or not, that is I do not remember that my hon Colleague that he has mentioned having said so, but certainly it is not a legal opinion that I would rush to. It depends what one does. Whether computer hacking involves criminal damage to somebody else's property I would have thought is certainly arguable. Whether it is as part of the hacking one lifts somebody else's intellectual or just simple data information and whether that does not amount to theft of the information is also arguable. I would not concede, without proper research, that computer hacking in Gibraltar is not illegal. Whether it is appropriate for us to have a legal seminar on the point across the floor, but certainly I would not rush to that concession if indeed it has been made. Legislation making computer hacking in Gibraltar more explicitly illegal, if I could just put it that way, I do not think it is legal now, probably, but even if we accept that more specific legislation is desirable, that is not part of the security framework. In other words, the security frameworks required in relation to data protection is something which the onus is on the processor of the data. Yes, I got the impression perhaps I misunderstood the hon Member when he was suggesting that legislation to outlaw computer hacking was part of the framework of the security that it was assumed would be in place.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

I will just clarify. The context in which I made those remarks, for example, in the United Kingdom they have the Misuse of Computers Act which makes it illegal for people to access computers to hack them, to change the data that is already contained in those computers. That is the context in which I made the question.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

That is the sort of legislation that would emerge when we get around to doing what he calls 'making hacking illegal legislation' in Gibraltar. That is the sort of legislation that would emerge.

NO. 1811 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

E-BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL

How often and on what dates has the E-Business Advisory Council met since it was set up?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

The Port Advisory Council met 16 times as follows:

2000	-	10 th October, which is when it was launched
2001	-	6 th February, 13 th March, 3 rd May, 2 nd August, 4 th October
2002	-	24 th January, 19 th March, 2 nd July, 25 th September
2003	-	13 th February, 29 th May, 24 th July
2004	-	12 th February, 6 th May, 2 nd September

The E-Business Advisory Council met three times, on 9th March, 26th April and 8th July 2004.

The Business and Commerce Advisory Council met three times, on 4th March, 6th June and 30th September 2004.

The Tourism Advisory Council met twice since 19th February 2004, on 13th May and 23rd September 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1812 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

COMPUTER LANGUAGE RPG2

Can Government state whether any Government employees are instructed on the use of the computer language RPG2?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

There are seven Government officers.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1812 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

These are all seven employed in the IT Section of the Government, is that correct?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No, I do not know exactly where they are but I can tell the hon Member that one of the Higher Executive Officers in my own Department is one of them, and he pointed that out to me when we were answering the question, but I believe this language is now obsolete and no longer used.

ORAL

NO. 1813 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

ACTION PLAN E-EUROPE 2005

Can Government state whether they have now filed with the European Commission their intention regarding the switchover from analogue to digital TV as part of Action Plan E-Europe 2005?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question No. 1814 of 2004.

NO. 1814 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

EU – ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

Can Government state whether they still intend to implement this calendar year the EU regulatory directives for the electronic communications sector?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

As I said in reply to Question Nos. 291 and 1066 of 2004, work on the transposition of the new regulatory package is at a very advanced stage and is expected to be completed soon. The Government intend to implement these directives this year.

The Government have not filed with the European Commission their intentions regarding the switchover from analogue to digital TV. There has been no change in this regard since the reply given to Question No. 1066 of 2004.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1813 AND 1814 OF 2004

HON L A RANDALL:

Do the Government intend at any stage to file with the European Commission their intentions?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I think that the Government will file this at some point in the future.

ORAL

NO. 1815 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

SMITH DORRIEN BRIDGE

Can Government state when was the last time that tests were carried out on Smith Dorrien Bridge to determine the condition of the bridge and the maximum load it could support and what were the results of the test?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES

All highway structures are routinely inspected, the frequency of such inspections being dependant on the type, size, configuration and exposure of the structure. Smith Dorrien Bridge is one such structure. The last routine inspection of this structure was undertaken in January.

This showed that the bridge remains in a good structural condition. Maintenance work is periodically carried out and of course this will continue to be the case.

NO. 1816 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

DUDLEY WARD TUNNEL

Can Government state whether there has been any progress with regard to their assessment of the full viability of their preferred option for the remedial works that will enable the re-opening of Dudley Ward Tunnel for vehicular traffic?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES

Following the Government's selection of their preferred option from the various alternatives submitted by the consultants, a programme of ground investigation works was initiated. Progress continues to be made in the undertaking of such work, the results of which will confirm or otherwise the viability and constructability of the preferred option. Such exploratory works additionally provide the necessary data for use in the design that will follow. Until such time as all the required data is obtained, we will not be in a position to confirm the full viability of the proposed works.

ORAL

NO. 1817 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT

Can Government state whether they are now in a position to proceed with the tender for the sewage treatment plant?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES

Answered together with Question Nos. 1819 and 1820 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1818 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

CEMETERY

Can Government state whether they have now arrived at a decision regarding a programme of on-going embellishment, up-keep and maintenance of the cemetery?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES

As in my answer to Question No. 690 of 2004 I reiterate that there is no specific embellishment scheme but that as part of the on-going up-keep and maintenance of the cemetery Government continue to look at various options that may enhance the state of the cemetery. In this context and as I stated in my contribution to the Budget Session in the House earlier this year, specific consideration is currently being given to the repaving of all pathways using pavia blocks. Design works is now at an advance stage and outline proposals will shortly be available for Ministerial consideration.

ORAL

NO. 1819 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT

Can Government state whether it will be possible to obtain EU funding to meet part of the cost of the proposed Sewage Treatment Plant?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES

Answered together with Question Nos. 1817 and 1820 of 2004.

NO. 1820 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT

Can Government state whether the feasibility study on what is required to comply with EU requirements on sewage treatment has been completed and whether they propose to make the result of the study public?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES

Despite our best efforts, it has not been possible to secure EU funding for the proposed sewage treatment works. Funding was however obtained for the three studies undertaken to generate the necessary data required for the preparation of the tender, namely the Flow and Load Survey, the Sea Outfall Study and the main Sewer Study. The Main Sewer and Flow and Load Studies have now been concluded. The Sea Outfall Study was completed some time ago all but for a very small element which could not be undertaken without some essential data resulting from the Flow and Load Survey, this latter study having only very recently been completed.

Government have no intention at present to make public the results of any of these studies.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1817, 1819 and 1820 of 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can the Minister say how much was obtained from EU funding for these studies?

HON F VINET:

I do not have that information with me at present, but I will happily forward this to the hon Member.

NO. 1821 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

ROAD WORKS

Can Government state what areas of Gibraltar's public highways they resurfaced during the course of the quarter ended 30 September 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES

A section of Transport Road by the junction with South Pavilion Road was resurfaced between the 1st and 2nd September 2004.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1821 OF 2004

HON L A RANDALL:

In view that in answer to Question No. 693 the Minister said that there were no plans, could he then let me know what is the criteria that is used to resurface certain areas when there are no plans to do that, who takes the decision to do that?

HON F VINET:

That is a decision taken by the Highways Engineer.

HON L A RANDALL:

Can the Minister confirm then that there are no forward plans, no plans are agreed to resurface Gibraltar's public highways, they are just done at the whim of whoever is responsible?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I think the hon Member's supplementary raises the next question on the Order Paper.

HON L A RANDALL:

In answer to Question No. 693 which covered the period forward looking for the quarter ended 30 September 2004, I was told that there were no plans to resurface any part or any area of Gibraltar's public highway. Now we learn today that the area of Transport Lane has been resurfaced. What I am asking is, are these decisions taken by the person responsible, without any consultation? Surely there must be forward plans to determine what areas are going to be resurfaced, well in advance of them taking place.

HON F VINET:

The fact that there may be no plans to resurface a particular part of the highway in relation to a particular quarter does not mean that the decision will be taken within that quarter to do so. In fact, in answer to the following questions, the hon Member will see that there are some forward planning issues.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I think it may be that my hon Friend has not understood the point that the hon Member was seeking. As I understand it was this. I think the hon Member is expressing surprise in the form of a question that there is not some planned, phased programme, almost a routine basis for this. The answer is that that does not exist. What does exist is a series of projects that the Highways Engineer would like to do and then the Government provide a sum of money, which we vote in the Improvement and Development Fund every year, and he has got to do what he can with the amount of money provided. If one goes and asks the Highways Engineers *'do you have road resurfacing projects that are ready and you would like to do and that you think need doing?'* I am sure he will say yes and give a very long list of them, but he has got to stick to the funding that is provided to him. Within that, he, I suspect in consultation with others not just he, they decide what prioritisation to give the projects within the funding available in a year. From time to time things arise as a matter of urgency which have to be done and jump the queue, but there is not a long programme with dates attached. There is a list of work that needs to be done and it gets done in accordance with the funding provision and the funding availability the Government make available each year from the Improvement and Development Fund. I think that is a more accurate description of how the system works than to suggest that there is no programme at all or to suggest that there is a particularly sophisticated one.

HON L A RANDALL:

What is the criteria that is used to resurface the area? Is there not a plan of the areas that are in greater need of resurfacing than others and those take priority?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, the criteria is a mixture of aesthetics and safety. Some resurfacing works are safety driven and need to be done because the surface may have become unsafe.

Some resurfacing takes place because other works have been done in the area and has damaged, sewage works or something, other works to the highway. Some of it is done in connection with beautification schemes, but it is usually either safety or beautification. Obviously safety takes priority so if the Highways Engineer identifies a road the surface of which he thinks is unsafe, that would take priority over an expenditure motivated purely by a desire to beautify or to smarten up.

HON F R PICARDO:

I would hate to pre-empt Question No. 1850, but I think it is important in the context of what has just been said and with that fresh in our minds, that I ask the Government how does all this fit in with the much vaunted programme for the resurfacing and maintenance of our roads, which once completed will lead the Government to amend our law so that people can sue the Government when they suffer accidents on our roads, to which the Chief Minister very recently referred in his Viewpoint interview and to which he has referred before?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, as the hon Member says he should not pre-empt the answer to Question No. 1850. I would have thought even he could be patient enough for another 40 minutes. If I answer him now it will almost certainly take us into the ground which I know he will want to cover in answer to Question No. 1850. So we can either deal with it now and withdraw that question or wait until that question comes up. In other words, we are just going to repeat ourselves.

HON F R PICARDO:

I would much rather deal with it now because I would like us all to have fresh in our memories what the Chief Minister has just said about the absence of a programme for the refurbishment of the highways. I am sure in 40 minutes time all we will have is an argument about what he said 40 minutes ago.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well let us have the argument now, because it has not taken 40 minutes for him to forget what I have just said 40 seconds ago. I have not said that there was not a programme for the maintenance of the highway, I have said that there is a programme, there is a list of projects that the Highways Engineer wants to do and thinks needs doing, but he has to marry that with the annual amount of funding provided in the Improvement and Development Fund each year. That is what I have said. I specifically stood up to dispel the notion that there is not a programme rather than to deny or admit the lack of one. There is a programme but it is not a programme which is fully funded with dates on a progressive basis. The Government, which every year have to decide how to allocate capital resources to all the various demands on the Improvement and Development Fund, decide how much capital to allocate to the road resurfacing programme. That commitment, that quantity of resources that we allocate every year, is not driven by the

desire to put us as quickly as possible into a position where we shall be willing to change the law of Gibraltar to give citizens that slip on the highway the right to sue the Government for damages, which is the subject matter of Question No. 1850, and certainly I have no difficulty in admitting to the hon Member that when we say we will change the law when we think that the state of the highways is brought up to standard, that he should not read into that and we are working, busting a gut to do that as quickly as possible. In other words, we have not accelerated the amount of resources and the quantity of resources that we provide but nor will we wait until each last highway is done before changing the law when we come round to changing the law. In other words, at some given point we will take a view and we will say 'on the whole, even though there are still areas where the highway is not up to scratch, on the whole there has now been sufficient progress in highway investment to safely enable the law to be changed'. If we were to do it before then we would open the floodgates to a plethora of legal claims from which we admit we are presently taking shelter. If one believes that citizens should be free to sue the Government on every occasion that one suffers an accident on the highway, then it is fair to conclude that we are sheltering from that situation by not changing the law. We have not introduced the law ourselves, it has been the law for many years, for many decades, but certainly we are in no hurry to change the law so as not to remove that protection from the Government. We make no secret of that fact that at the end of the day it is not our money, it is the taxpayers money. I think before the protection is removed from the taxpayer, I think the Government have an obligation to ensure that the highways are in a state, more or less, where an accident will be a normal accident and not a result of decades of under-investment in our roads. That is the Government's position and it will remain the position. The hon Member can ask me periodically, I am sure he will, are the Government satisfied that we are now ready to change the law, and I will tell him what the Government's view is on each occasion. We are not there yet.

HON F R PICARDO:

Is it fair then to say that road refurbishment so to speak is dealt with on the basis of safety and aesthetic need on the one hand, and alternatively, on the basis of a wish list which the Highways Engineer has of what he would want dealt with, with greater alacrity.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

That is not an unfair way of putting it. It is not necessarily 100 per cent accurate but yes, it is the gist of the situation. The hon Member should not underestimate the amount of progress that is made. He must not think of progress in that direction to be limited to when one sees roads being resurfaced. Every time a piece of Main Street is pedestrianised and resurfaced, Casemates, Mackintosh Square, these all contribute to renewal of parts of the public highway to which the laws that he refers apply. So it is not that it is limited to the resurfacing works done under the resurfacing sub-head. Much of the other urban regeneration, many of the sub-heads the Minister for Trade and Industry and the Minister for the Environment, some of their Heads in the Improvement and Development Fund for street beautification also deliver highway works.

ORAL

NO. 1822 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

ROAD WORKS

Can Government state the areas of Gibraltar's public highways they intend to resurface during the quarter ending 31 December 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES

Answered together with Question No. 1823 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1823 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

ROAD WORKS

Can Government state the areas of Gibraltar's public highways that they intend to resurface during the quarter ending 31 March 2005?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES

Beautification and resurfacing works will shortly commence at Catalan Bay Village, from the junction with Sir Herbert Miles Road to the existing paved area. Beautification and repaving works will also shortly commence at Irish Town, from John Mackintosh Square to the junction with Market Lane and as part of the works Cloister Ramp will also be resurfaced. Both projects will be completed during the first quarter of 2005.

ORAL

NO. 1824 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

PARKING BAYS

Can Government now provide the reason why parking on some of the bays reserved for disabled drivers are restricted to 12 hours a day?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES

The restriction of 12 hours has been imposed on those disabled bays that have been requested by users specifically for work related purposes. Such users do not reside within the said areas and will therefore not be making use of such bays outside working hours. This arrangements maximises the availability of parking in such areas.

ORAL

NO. 1825 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Can Government state what was the size of the workforce of Community Projects as at close of business on 31 March 2003?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES

Answered together with Question Nos. 1826 and 1827 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1826 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Can Government state what was the size of the workforce of Community Projects as at close of business on 31 March 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES

Answered together with Question Nos. 1825 and 1827 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1827 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Can Government state what is their policy regarding employment at Community Projects?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES

The workforce consisted of 175 plus six management staff and 167 plus six management staff as at the close of business on 31 March 2003 and 31 March 2004 respectively.

There is no specific policy regarding employment at Community Projects Limited.

ORAL

NO. 1828 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

BUS SERVICE

Can Government state the number of paying passengers that were transported by the Gibraltar Bus Company in April 2004 and what was the amount paid in fares by these passengers?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES

Answered together with Question Nos. 1829 to 1833 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1829 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

BUS SERVICE

Can Government state the number of paying passengers that were transported by the Gibraltar Bus Company in May 2004 and what was the amount paid in fares by these passengers?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES

Answered together with Question Nos. 1828 and 1830 to 1833 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1830 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

BUS SERVICE

Can Government state the number of paying passengers that were transported by the Gibraltar Bus Company in June 2004 and what was the amount paid in fares by these passengers?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES

Answered together with Question Nos. 1828, 1829 and 1831 to 1833 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1831 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

BUS SERVICE

Can Government state the number of paying passengers that were transported by the Gibraltar Bus Company in July 2004 and what was the amount paid in fares by these passengers?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES

Answered together with Question Nos. 1828 to 1830, 1832 and 1833 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1832 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

BUS SERVICE

Can Government state the number of paying passengers that were transported by the Gibraltar Bus Company in August 2004 and what was the amount paid in fares by these passengers?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES

Answered together with Question Nos. 1828 to 1831 and 1833 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1833 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

BUS SERVICE

Can Government state the number of paying passengers that were transported by the Gibraltar Bus Company in September 2004 and what was the amount paid in fares by these passengers?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES

The extensive factual and statistical information requested by the hon Member is set out in the schedule attached.

Answer to Question No 1833 of 2004

The total number of passengers transported by the Gibraltar Bus Company in each month, from April to September, together with the corresponding revenue for each month is as follows:

MONTH	NO OF PASSENGERS	REVENUE
April	36,269	£16,963
May	104,414	£64,543
June	117,884	£70,720
July	128,478	£78,536
August	140,699	£87,998
September	118,841	£73,998

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1828 TO 1833 OF 2004

HON L A RANDALL:

Can the Minister confirm that the revenue is on a cash basis and not on an accrual basis?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The revenue is on a cash basis. The company only collects the money as people pay their fares as they board the bus.

HON L A RANDALL:

I say this because as an example in September they carried 119,000 passengers and the revenue was £74,000 which is more than 60p per passenger. If somebody pays for a ticket for the whole year, that is shown as revenue in the month that they paid them?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

That distinction is not drawn by the accrual or cash issue. I do not think the company have started selling season tickets yet. I do not think there is any revenue in relation to season tickets. If £73,998 divided by 118,841 is more than 60p per ticket, unless there is a revenue from another source.

HON L A RANDALL:

As long as the Minister can confirm that that is what the passengers paid for during that month that is all I need. Thank you.

ORAL

NO. 1834 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

BUS SERVICE

Can Government state the frequency of the buses that service bus route No. 4 to cater for school opening hours?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES

Answered together with Question Nos. 1835 and 1836 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1835 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

BUS SERVICE

Can Government state the frequency of the buses that service bus route No. 4 to cater for school closing hours?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES

Answered together with Question Nos. 1834 and 1836 of 2004.

NO. 1836 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

BUS SERVICE

Can Government state the frequency of the buses that service bus route No. 4 outside school opening and closing hours?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES

Bus route No. 4 operates the following schedule in the mornings to assist school children on their way to school. Travelling from Both Worlds towards town, buses leave at 08.05 am, 08.25 am and 08.45 am. These being regular scheduled times.

Travelling from Rosia towards town buses leave at 8.05, 8.20, 8.25 and 8.45. The 8.05, 8.25 and 8.45 as I have said, are regular scheduled times, whereas the 8.20 is an extra bus added to cater for the demand.

On the return trip buses leave at 15.25, 15.45, 16.05 and 16.25 arriving at Referendum House bus stop around 10 minutes later. At 15.48 an additional bus allocated to this route arrives at the Referendum House bus stop. The Company also deploys an additional bus at 15.45 to Orange Bastion to pick up its first passengers.

At all other times the bus operates at 20 minute intervals.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1834 TO 1836 OF 2004

HON L A RANDALL:

Can Government confirm that they are satisfied that the frequency described is sufficient to meet demand at those times?

HON F VINET:

The frequency, as well as all other elements of the bus service, is continually monitored and improvements will be made as and where they culminate, but at present the company, I am informed, is satisfied with present arrangements.

HON L A RANDALL:

I ask these questions because I have received a number of complaints as to the fact that the frequency is not sufficient, and there are times, there are only instances not general but instances, where it has been reported that people have had to wait in excess of an hour to get a bus on their way into town from the area of Bayside. I am not saying that this is general but more than one person has come to me to report this fact. Could the Minister ask the Gibraltar Bus Company to look into the matter?

HON F VINET:

I have had no knowledge of those instances referred to but I will certainly enquire from the Bus Company as to the reason.

ORAL

NO. 1837 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

GIBRALTAR INDUSTRIAL CLEANERS

Can Government state how many vacant posts there are in Gibraltar Industrial Cleaners and for how long have they been unfilled?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES

Answered together with Question Nos. 1839 to 1841 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1838 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

MOTOR VEHICLE CENTRE

Can Government state whether the dispute involving Examiners at the Motor Vehicle Licensing Department has been resolved?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES

The driving and vehicle examiners have submitted a claim which Government continue to consider not to be reasonable or justified and it has therefore not been met. As a result, Examiners continue to decline to carry out certain of their responsibilities, this being despite the fact that these have been carried out in the past. The situation remains under review and Government will shortly be deciding on what action to take.

ORAL

NO. 1839 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

GIBRALTAR INDUSTRIAL CLEANERS

Can Government state whether they intend to fill the current vacancies at Gibraltar Industrial Cleaners?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES

Answered together with Question Nos. 1837, 1840 and 1841 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1840 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

GIBRALTAR INDUSTRIAL CLEANERS

Can Government explain how the vacant posts in Gibraltar Industrial Cleaners have recently been covered other than by supply workers?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES

Answered together with Question Nos. 1837, 1839 and 1841 of 2004.

NO. 1841 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

GIBRALTAR INDUSTRIAL CLEANERS

Can Government state whether persons that have provided supply cover for vacant posts at Gibraltar Industrial Cleaners will have priority in being considered for the permanent filling of the vacant posts?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES

There are presently five vacancies for refuse collectors which the company intends to fill. In January 2004 the company agreed that the complement of Gibraltar Industrial Cleaners should be 35 in number. Prior to January 2004 there had not been an established complement.

Cover work has traditionally been undertaken by a combination of employees of Gibraltar Industrial Cleaners and supply workers, this continues to be the practice today.

The supply cover workers will not have a categorical priority when being considered for filling the vacancies but there is no doubt that their experience due to having been given the chance to cover will afford them an advantage when facing the selection board.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1837 AND 1839 TO 1841 OF 2004

HON L A RANDALL:

Has a date been set by which time the five vacancies will be filled?

HON F VINET:

No.

HON L A RANDALL:

Is this likely to be soon, within six months? Can the Minister give an indication?

HON F VINET:

I cannot give an indication as to the precise dates. What I can say is that the Company does intend to fill them and I would assume it is sooner rather than later, but I cannot give a precise date.

HON J J BOSSANO:

When the Minister says that the complement of the company is now 35 and there was not one before. Was there not throughout a manning level per lorry? The Refuse collection vehicles.

HON F VINET:

From my recollection there was a manning level per lorry. I cannot recall what the exact number was.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In fact, is it not the case that when the refuse collection lorries are under-manned is when they need to bring in somebody to maintain that manning level?

HON F VINET:

There is a manning level for lorries and when there is a shortage supply workers are brought in.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So in fact, the Minister is confirming that the supply workers are not in relation to this complement of 35 but in relation to the manning level that the lorry requires to operate. For example, if it were to be five and somebody is missing for sickness or any other reason, then somebody is brought in so that the lorry goes out with five people. That is the case, is it?

HON F VINET:

Yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

When the Government say they have used the company's old employees as well as supply workers, is it that they bring people who are off duty in or that if a lorry goes out under-manned people are paid extra to cover the work of the missing bodies?

HON F VINET:

I believe it is a combination of the two.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So what is it, if nobody is available then the short-handed vehicle gets paid extra because they are doing the work of the people who are missing? Is that correct?

HON F VINET:

That is correct.

NO. 1842 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

OESCO

Can Government confirm whether the number of units of electricity projected to be purchased in the current financial year from OESCO is the same as in the last financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES

No.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1842 OF 2004

HON L A RANDALL:

Can the Minister reveal whether it is more or less and the number of units that is projected to be purchased?

HON F VINET:

There is a 5.9 per cent reduction compared with the same period last year.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So in fact, is it then that the Government estimate on page 125 in Appendix D, is that a reflection that they expect to pay the same amount for less electricity? In Appendix D the amount paid last year was £6.379 million and the budget for this year is £6.4 million. So if that includes an estimate which involves buying less electricity, it must follow that they are expecting to be paying more per unit.

HON F VINET:

It is not a question of the Government expecting to pay less or more per unit. Perhaps if I can give some background information to this it might be useful to the Opposition Member. During the financial year 2003/2004 the units purchased from OESCO totalled £73,283,410. During the first six months of 2003/2004, April to September both inclusive, the units purchased amounted to £37,770,890. During the current financial year, 2004/2005, during the same first six months the units purchased have been £35,551,390, which as I said represents a 5.9 per cent reduction for the same period last year. The availability of generators at each power station, and of course the electricity demand from consumers, dictates the production by each station.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am grateful for that information. Does it then mean in fact, that the figure that they put in the budget did not assume a reduction? It was just a figure put there based on what had been spent before?

HON F VINET:

In a way there is no scientific way of knowing what the final outcome will be because it depends on consumers, and how much demand there is or there is not from consumers.

HON F R PICARDO:

That figure provided is of units purchased from OESCO, not necessarily of units of electricity used in Gibraltar generally, just purchased. So in effect Gibraltar may be using more electricity this year than last year but were purchasing less.

HON F VINET:

Yes.

ORAL

NO. 1843 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

SALE OF ELECTRICITY

Can Government state what was the amount of revenue collected from the sale of electricity in the current financial year to August and the amount billed in the same period?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES

The amount of revenue collected during the current financial year up to 31st August 2004 was £4,525,933.78p.

The amount billed during the same period was £4,865,124.85p.

NO. 1844 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY

Can Government state what was the share of the electricity supplied to customers in the last financial year, which was purchased from OESCO, and the amount charged by the Gibraltar Electricity Authority to customers for supplying this electricity?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES

The share of the electricity supplied to customers in the last financial year 2003/2004 by OESCO was 56.7 per cent.

Customers are charged according to the tariff applicable to them. The tariff rates charged to customers is the same irrespective of the source of production.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1844 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

On the basis of that answer it would be a reasonable calculation to say that 56 per cent of the £11.3 million of sale of electricity to consumers would be the income obtained by the Authority from re-selling that electricity. Is that accurate?

HON F VINET:

Yes, it would be correct to assume that 56.7 per cent of all the revenue might be attributed to units purchased from OESCO.

HON F R PICARDO:

How does the fact that we are purchasing less electricity from OESCO impact upon the fact that OESCO have been given permission to start a new engine, a third engine at its

power station down at the Europa Business Park? With all the environmental effects that that will have.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The hon Member may know that OESCO had a historical contractual right to establish a new engine, which was postponed at Government request for many years. When the contract came up for renewal, it was done on the basis of the additional contract because the increase in supply has been such that they were having problems programming the maintenance of their machines. The fact that they have got six or seven machines does not mean that they can all be running at the same time. There needs to be outages for maintenance of machines, outages for breakages of machines, and there is an end given time we have a certain percentage of generating capacity on line. So it is not just a question of whether they had generating deficiencies in terms of capacity, but rather the level that they were operating at. In other words, the percentage of their capacity that was constantly in use in order to supply demand simply did not allow them enough stand down time with their other machines, to maintain them and repair them et cetera. So that explains the need to give them a contract for an additional machine. Gibraltar as a whole, including our own machines, was approaching the level of safety, not safety in terms of safety, un-safety but rather of security I suppose would be a better word, of demand and supply. In other words, the less spare capacity one has the more exposed one is to power cuts and insufficiency of generation if something catastrophic happens to one of the machines. In other words, there is a margin, a buffer that has to be provided and the increase of consumption, the demand for electricity in Gibraltar rises every year by three or four per cent or something of that order, and that has absorbed most of the cushion that we had before, most of that buffer. So the creation of an additional machine with OESCO plus whether that restored part of the buffer and of course that is why we are now looking at the investment in an additional new generator capacity. Not only to renew equipment, which is reaching its end of life date, but indeed also to provide additional generating capacity which is now needed.

HON F R PICARDO:

Am I able to read into that that OESCO will be operating only two machines at once, or will it in effect be operating all three at the same time but at different levels?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, it really is not possible.....

HON F R PICARDO:

I accept of course that the Chief Minister cannot answer for OESCO but in its relationship with the Government.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, it is not quite as simple. It is not just a question of the capacity, the number of machines and the capacity per machine. That is not how the industry works. In addition to the information I have already given about necessary spare capacity and downed capacity because of repairs and maintenance, there is also the question that these machines have an optimum operating level. In other words, they might be able to generate at such and such rate but I think from memory that they are at their most efficient in terms of fuel consumption and emissions if they operate at seventy odd per cent of capacity. So it is not just a question of multiplying the machines by the capacity of each machine, each machine has an optimum operating point which is lower than its maximum. So OESCO, concerned to save costs obviously, want to operate its machines as closely as possible to that optimum. There is a huge number of factors that combine to determine the number of machines, the size of the machines that Gibraltar needs to have in order to satisfy a demand, which I think is running at about 21 or 22 megawatts at peak times.

ORAL

NO. 1845 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY

Can Government state how many units of electricity were purchased from the MOD for £95,000 in the last financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES

The number of units that could have been purchased from the MOD for £95,000 in the last financial year would have been approximately 1,047,670.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1845 OF 2004

HON L A RANDALL:

Why did the Minister say 'could have been purchased' rather than were purchased?

HON F VINET:

The reason is that we have had to extrapolate the number of units that could have been purchased for £95,000 simply because this amount does not reflect any actual payment. The actual payments to the MOD during the last financial year was £99,400.13.

ORAL

NO. 1846 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY

Can Government explain why the cost of the electricity purchased from MOD is estimated to increase threefold to £300,000 in the current financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES

The estimated cost of purchasing electricity from the MOD is in the order of £300,000 per annum. The forecast outturn for the last financial year shows the actual payments made during that financial year. The reason for this is that payments are close to £254,000 was not made until after the end of that financial year.

ORAL

NO. 1847 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY

Can Government state what is the unit cost of the electricity provided by (a) MOD (b) OESCO and (c) produced by the Gibraltar Electricity Authority?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES

Based on the overall amounts paid in recent times, the following are the approximate average costs per unit (kWh) of electricity provided by the following entities:-

(a)	MOD	9.07 pence per unit
(b)	OESCO	9.37 pence per unit
(c)	GEA	9.99 pence per unit

ORAL

NO. 1848 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

EUROPA INCINERATOR COMPANY LIMITED

Can Government state what new activities Europa Incinerator Company Limited proposes to undertake in respect of which it applied for a disposal of waste licence in July 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES

With the recent conversion of the Los Barrios tip from a purely landfill site to a recycling/landfill facility, our waste has now had to be separated before it can be transferred. Europa Incinerator Company Limited has now assumed some such responsibility and now receives and handles that waste that cannot now be mixed in with the domestic refuse. The Licence applied for and obtained allows them to handle such waste which includes bulky items of furniture and large plastic items.

NO. 1849 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

WASTE DISPOSAL – COLLECTION POINTS

Given the answers provided to Question No. 682 of 2004 and the photographs (taken on two separate dates in the area of Calpe and Willis' Road) and sent to the Minister for the Environment, will the Government now act to take action to avoid the unsightly accumulation of rubbish at open refuse collection points which, as can be seen, attract rodents, cats, apes and other animals, by redesigning these collection points in a manner that will allow for rubbish to be deposited in collection points which cannot be easily accessed by animals?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES

The position remains as explained in answer to Question No. 682 of 2004 and there are no immediate plans to change the system designed and introduced by the GSLP when it was in Government. Nevertheless, the matter remains under constant review.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1849 OF 2004

HON F R PICARDO:

I am grateful to the Minister for indicating that the matter remains under constant review. As I pointed out last time, there was a manifesto commitment on the part of not him in 1996 but certainly his party colleagues, and I know that they are not answerable for their past manifesto commitments because they have been re-elected subsequently whether or not they complied with them. To deal with these unsightlinesses, and this is something that we all agree with, it is something that we all want resolved, what I am asking the Minister to do and I am urging him to do is to act to contain these rubbish areas, such that stray cats, monkeys and the like do not have access to them. I realise that many of these refuse collection points in town are in areas where we have vehicle thoroughfares. Those are actually not the ones most affected by animals ripping open their contents. It is in the areas at the base of the Upper Town and higher parts of the Upper Town where the apes are actually attacking these refuse points, strewing the rubbish everywhere, there are photographs that are attached to the question to prove that. Can I persuade the Minister to somehow go back to his Department and ask them

to look at a potential way of resolving this? I have already proposed what I think is the way of resolving it, which is to encase these rubbish collection points into small huts. They are already surrounded by walls, all they need is a small roof-like structure and a door. Can I persuade him to do that?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

We had a lengthy discussion about this and we do agree that there is a problem here. The answer is not intended to give the impression that we do not, and indeed to one side the novel technique of attaching photographs to Parliamentary questions, the mind boggles to where that might lead. Anyway, leaving that question to one side, indeed there was a better photograph I saw recently in the Chronicle or one of the other newspapers. There was a photograph actually of apes doing precisely what the question suggests that they do. So it is not that we do not acknowledge that there is a problem but identifying the problem is easier than finding a solution that does not make the systems unusable to use or harder to use for the users, harder to use for the refuse collectors, more of a health hazard in terms of confined spaces. The answer to his question is yes, the Minister will do as he suggests which is to ensure that his officials continue to try and find a viable, workable course of action that if not eliminates at least diminishes to the greatest possible extent the spectacle of having wild animals rummaging through household refuse and scattering it about. They have not come up with an answer yet, at least if they have they have not put it up to the Minister or to Ministers generally to make a policy decision on it, but it remains under review. It means what I interpret by the answer, remains under constant review, means that they are seeking a solution and might one day soon come up with one and we will hasten to share it with him when they do.

HON F R PICARDO:

I am grateful for the Chief Minister's interpretation because of course, the answer I was given was the position remains as explained in Question No. 682, the matter remains under constant review. In Question No. 682 it started with there are no plans to change that system and then reminded us all that it was a GSLP system.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The system set up for collection points is different to what we subsequently went on to discuss in supplementaries to that question, which is much what we are discussing now. We discussed the lids and covers and all of that sort of thing which does not go to the system of central collection points.

HON F R PICARDO:

Can I just remind the Minister that this is not just an issue of unsightliness, although in some areas, in particular where there is access to an egress from the Upper Rock, our tourists are also seeing this, but there is a serious issue here as to hygiene. Children play in the area in which I have taken photographs and I admit it is the area very close to

my house when I saw that accumulation, children play just there. The plastic bags are ripped open in that area, apes are in that area and they are very wild animals and they have been known not yet to bite any child but certainly to chase them and attack them, and to keep this matter more than just under constant review but to try and do something positive about dealing with this issue as soon as possible.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I have not interpreted the hon Member's intervention on this subject, either on this occasion or on the last occasion, as politically opportunistic. That is not the basis with which I have dealt with his interventions. Let me say that dealing with the problem is not just a question of dealing with the rubbish, it is also a question of dealing with the animals themselves and can something be done about preventing the apes from wandering down. We are told that they do that because there are too many of them, which requires them to be culled, but every time we propose culling the apes the Leader of the Opposition accuses me of murder. Let me also say that there is a refuse collection point which relates to my house in Irish Town or round the corner in Fish Market Road, into which apes do not stray, which very often does not look dissimilar to that. So it actually does not require apes and rodents to have a central collection point looking something like that. Although I have to say that these are particularly bad and obviously it suggests that bags have been consciously ripped open by presumably apes. I have not assumed that the hon Member ripped the bags up himself in order to facilitate the photographs so that he could then bring them. That thought had not crossed my mind, I hasten to add.

NO. 1850 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

PUBLIC HIGHWAYS

When (giving a specific date if possible) do Government expect that they will be satisfied with the state of the highways such that they will be ready to amend the law in order to ensure that Gibraltar law is in keeping with UK law on the Government's public liability for defects on the highway, given that the Chief Minister has stated that this is only "a small way away"?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES

I refer the hon Member to the reply given by the Chief Minister in reply to Question No. 1821.

NO. 1851 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCY – AIR QUALITY

Can Government now state where they have determined they will site the equipment to enable the Environmental Agency to monitor continually and properly air quality in Gibraltar and when any monitoring station or stations for this purpose will commence operations?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES

A preliminary assessment of air quality within Gibraltar commissioned by Government in 2003, concluded that in order to fulfil our obligations under the Public Health (Air Quality Limit Values) Rules and the Public Health (Air Quality) (Ozone) Rules, which transpose the EU Air Quality Framework Directive and subsequent three Daughter Directives, two monitoring stations would be required.

The first of these should monitor nitrous oxide, sulphur dioxide, particulates (PM₁₀ and PM₂₅) lead, carbon monoxide and benzene and be located “at a roadside location on a major road and close to key power generation point sources”. The second should monitor ozone and nitrous oxides and be located at a “suburban/rural background location”.

Government have accepted these recommendations and the two monitoring stations have now been ordered. It is planned to site the first of these stations at Rosia Road, possibly within the Gibraltar Electricity Authority compound at the north end of Rosia Road. A number of technical matters are still being considered before a final decision is made. This location, or an alternate one in the vicinity, would fulfil the above-mentioned criteria in that it would be at a major road (Rosia Road) and close to power generation point sources (MOD and OESCO Generating Stations). The second monitoring station will be located at Bleak House car park as a “suburban background location”.

These sites have been selected in consultation with the Environmental Agency, representatives of the consultants who carried out the preliminary assessment of air quality and the suppliers of the monitoring stations as being the best available locations.

As previously stated, the monitoring stations have now been ordered and we are aiming to start monitoring by the beginning of the year. This, I am told, is a very tight deadline

since the equipment cannot be bought off the shelf, but must be manufactured to our precise specification, it also has to be fully commissioned in UK and then transported, installed and again commissioned here in Gibraltar before monitoring can begin. However we are working hard to try and meet our target.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1851 OF 2004

HON F R PICARDO:

Will the Government, once they have set up these stations, be publishing the information collected from them?

HON F VINET:

Yes, as I have indicated on a number of occasions in this House, the results of the air quality monitoring will be published in a specified website.

HON F R PICARDO:

Given that the report to which the Government referred, has already indicated that based on the situation in the UK and other European countries, it is likely that with the new methodology for monitoring particulate matter, that PM₁₀ which is a carcinogen will be exceeded in Gibraltar, what action do the Government intend to take if those are the results of their first monitoring process?

HON F VINET:

If that were the case, we would have to seek the advice of the Environmental Agency.

HON F R PICARDO:

That is the advice. In a report prepared by the Ombudsman in Case CS-57, the Ombudsman was given sight of the very Environmental Agency Air Quality Report dated December 1998, and it is that report that indicates that the PM₁₀ is likely to be exceeded. So surely, given that six years have passed since the Government have been told that when it simply changes the methodology for measuring air quality, and bring it up to date, the PM₁₀ is likely to be exceeded, surely the Government will have in place a programme of what to do. Or do they not?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

When it has been established that it will be exceeded, by that time the Government will most certainly have a plan in place, yes.

HON F R PICARDO:

The Ombudsman has already found that the complainant's grievance in that case, relating to the measuring and monitoring of pollutants in Gibraltar, was sustained. To an extent the Ombudsman has already found that there are serious issues to concern the Government, even before the air quality monitoring station is put in place. In paragraph 22 of his report, which has been laid in this House already, the Ombudsman says that the complainant's concerns that the Agency was deliberately misleading him were also valid when comparing the advice given to him and the advice given to the Ministry for the Environment. Those are very serious findings of the Ombudsman, which is a body that I know the Chief Minister respects. Given those findings are already there, and they have been there for some time, have the Government not already taken a decision on what they will do when the PM₁₀ is found to be exceeded?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, the hon Member is confusing the subject matter of the complaint. The maladministration found in that case was, in effect failure to monitor in accordance with the directive which already requires the monitoring to take place. That was the subject matter of the Ombudsman's Report. In other words, that a directive by which Gibraltar is bound, required Gibraltar to have started monitoring some time ago, and indeed we are still not in compliance with that because we still have not started monitoring. This is one of the things that we are late on the scene about. That was the subject matter of the Ombudsman's complaint. That was a sustained case, the sustained case by the Ombudsman, and the Government are dealing with it. We have accelerated, as the Minister has explained to extraordinary lengths in his answer, the Government are dealing with that. We cannot comply with it any faster than we can get the equipment here. He can ask if he likes why we did not start sooner, but now that we have started this is the quickest that we can do it. By the end of the year and we are not certain that even that is viable. The issue of whether there is in fact in Gibraltar exceeded any of the European Union Directive parameters for various substances in the atmosphere, is a wholly different issue, where the Ombudsman has not said anything of the nature that the hon Member has said, and the Environmental Agency Report to which he is referring, speculates and prognosticates that it will be likely to exceed. That is a hypothesis that has yet to be established. If it turns out to be a correct hypothesis and when measured that is in excess of the European Union Directive parameters, which may or may not be the case, then the European Directive says what has to be done about it. This is not a matter of Government domestic policy or choice or whether we want to be a good or a bad Government, or whether we respect or do not respect the Ombudsman or whether we monitor. The hon Member should not assume however, it is a legal obligation, exactly, but to obey what?

HON F R PICARDO:

To abate.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. That is what the hon Member has got to be a bit more careful with, because the hon Member should not assume that the regime established by the directive is that each and every moment of exceeding by each and every scheduled substance requires acts to be taken. In respect of some of them I recall the regime is to monitor and to see whether it is a passing event or whether it is a sustained, and depending on the seriousness of the substance I think there are different degrees of strictness of the way one can react. So it is not just an absolute issue of whether the reading is exceeded on each of them one has to immediately eliminate the source, the source may not be eliminatable. The hon Member says what are the plans, but very often the source cannot be eliminated overnight. So I think it is important that the administration of the directive, which at the moment I admit is completely deficient in the sense that we are not monitoring, the absence of monitoring does not lead to deficient administration if in fact there is no exceeding, but we do not know whether there is exceeding of the substance. We think that there is not because at the end of the day the hon Member will remember that the European Union Directive only requires one of these monitoring stations every 25 square kilometres of territory. If we were in England, or in Spain, or in Germany, we would not have our own station because there is one in La Linea which is not 25 kilometres away. So if we were part of Spain, or if both we and La Linea were part of the United Kingdom, there would be a monitoring station in La Linea and we would certainly not have one. Now, the La Linea monitoring station, which is the one that covers Gibraltar but for the fact that we are in a different Member State and want to have our own, does not indicate readings in breach of the territory. It would be most unusual for La Linea's atmospheric temperature to be less polluted than ours, given that they suffer in the direct path of prevailing wind, downstream in a westerly from the Refinery. I am sure the hon Member has often driven round the Bay and seen how it all blows over La Linea except in a north-easterly wind, which thankfully are rare, they do not blow in our direction. So it would be most unusual, I do not say impossible, I suppose one could have a locality in Gibraltar which is particular, but if it would be most surprising if the La Linea monitoring station were not already picking up a situation in La Linea which ours were going to pick up in relation to Gibraltar, given that the requirement of the directive is one for every 25 square kilometres. It is not impossible but we would be very surprised if our micro environment here were more polluted than the one in La Linea, but we will wait to see, we may be wrong.

ORAL

NO. 1852 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EAST SIDE DEVELOPMENT

Can Government confirm that building debris continues to be dumped at the East Side reclamation area?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES

Yes. The rubble tip located in the eastern reclamation area continues to accept builders' rubble.

NO. 1853 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EAST SIDE DEVELOPMENT

Have Government identified an alternative site to be used for the dumping of builders' debris when the East Side Reclamation area is no longer available?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES

Several sites remain under consideration. No final decision has yet been made.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1853 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

In terms of these possible alternative sites, is it something that would need preparatory work? What I am trying to establish is whether one needs a decision a certain time ahead of when one needs to be using it?

HON F VINET:

I can answer that supplementary by explaining that we are looking for sites where the reclamation will be able to be put to some useful purpose for development. The areas being considered by the Government are as follows. I believe I may have given this answer in a previous meeting of the House. The area of the decommissioned MOD water storage tanks north of Dudley Ward Tunnel, the area to the northwest of the runway, the area between jetties and other areas within the Port.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, my Colleague made a slip of the tongue which I think prevented the Leader of the Opposition from understanding the first part of his answer in which he meant to say that the Government were finding a way of making the rubble useful by applying it to reclamation rather than making the reclamation useful, which I think is what he said. In

other words, the finding of a site that is a reclamation site, that rubble builds something rather than is dumped.

HON J J BOSSANO:

If they identify such a site, would it not make sense therefore to move there as soon as that is available, given that presumably they are not getting any advantage any more out of the existing site? The existing site is not getting any bigger by virtue of the building rubble that is being put there, is it?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is getting taller. It is getting quite frightening to drive round there. This is not a question of seeking advantage. Let me say to the hon Members that this is one of our more intractable problems, because even the three sites that my Colleague has mentioned, would not be solutions for very long. The filling-in of any one of those three sites, even the filling-in of all three of those sites, would probably provide for not more than a year's worth of rubble tipping. Now that we are more environmentally conscious than we used to be, all of us, for example the whole area of coastline on this side of the Rock from say Rosia Bay all the way round Europa Point up to Shirley's Cove near the Caleta Palace, all on the other side, all that is untouchable in terms of reclamation, it is the last remaining virgin rock coastline of Gibraltar. It really is a big, big problem which I know the Technical Services Department has been struggling for three or four years now looking for a viable long-term, something that is rather going to be like the East Side, something that will provide several years rather than just for several months, and we have not come up with a solution yet.

NO. 1854 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

INTEGRATED POLLUTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL DIRECTIVE

Will the Government confirm that in complying with the requirements of the Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control Directive the best available technology required in respect of any new electricity generating engine to be used in Gibraltar?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES

The formulation of the question is somewhat confusing.

I can confirm that any new generating plant installed for the Government of Gibraltar will conform to the relevant regulations and directives appertaining to the type of plant to be installed.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1854 OF 2004

HON F R PICARDO:

The Leader of the House remembers that we have had this debate before. I am pleased that he does because he will recall that the last time that we had this debate his position was that he did not like the phrase 'best available technology' because that implied, to use his words, that I suppose we would have to go to NASA or something, but we will be going for the sort of technology that communities of our size are using in Western Europe for the generation of their electricity. What I was keen to get the Government to confirm, is that the Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control Directive does actually require best available technology and this is the phraseology used within the directive. In fact in answer to Question No. 13 of 2004 the Chief Minister told me that I was asking about the types of standard which were not yet implemented in Gibraltar, but he will recall that two days later when dealing with another issue, in fact it was confirmed that that directive had been transposed in Gibraltar. So can I just ask the Minister to confirm that in his view now the definition of 'best available technology' does not mean the costliest most advanced technology but a necessary balance between what is available with regard to the cost, and what is the best pollution prevention option open to the operator, not necessarily the Government.

HON F VINET:

As I have already said, whenever a new generating plant will conform to the relevant regulations and directives.

HON F R PICARDO:

Does that include any new engine to be started by OESCO, given that its third engine scheduled to commence operations in this calendar year, has not yet been started?

HON F VINET:

If that is covered by the directive the answer is yes.

NO. 1855 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

CEPSA REFINERY

What measures did the Government take to ensure that the emissions of the recent fire at the CEPSA refinery were monitored and were not toxic to the general public in Gibraltar?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES

The fire incident at the refinery was monitored. Given the direction of the fire and the distance no measures were taken.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1855 OF 2004

HON F R PICARDO:

What emissions were detected coming from the fire in Gibraltar, if any?

HON F VINET:

None were detected.

HON F R PICARDO:

Is that because we have not got the equipment to monitor air quality in Gibraltar, even in these circumstances?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The answer to the question is that no measures were taken. Therefore if no measures were taken, when he asks again were any detected, I suppose he must only be referring did we smell anything. I mean, it was not monitored, no equipment was deployed, it was

not thought to be necessary. It is not that we have readings, if we had I would give him the results, but there were not any readings taken. I do not know what he means, perhaps I am misunderstanding his supplementary. We have admitted that no readings were taken and therefore we could not have detected anything.

HON F R PICARDO:

I think that the obvious issue is this. There was a fire in the refinery. It appears from the answer provided that somebody looked up and said 'oh the smoke seems to be going in the other direction, no need to take any action'. Now, as I understand it although I wish things were as simple as that, there could have been emissions resulting from that fire which are not visible to the naked eye, and which despite the plethora of the dark smoke going in another direction might have been toxic to the general public in Gibraltar. Did we monitor that or did we not monitor that, and is that because we have not got the equipment and it is coming and we will be able to answer the next one?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not know whether the scenario that he has described is physically possible. In other words, whether it is possible for smoke to blow in one direction and toxic fumes to blow in the opposite direction, I do not know. A more credible way of describing the risk might be to say, what if the wind had suddenly changed and then we would have had both the smoke and the toxic. That is a more credible threat that he could articulate his point around. It is by the grace of God that the wind is blowing in the other direction. Even then it could suddenly change I suppose. The refinery is in Spain. Whatever we may think of Spain politically it is not a third world backward country. It is a Member of the European Community, responsible to comply with exactly the same directives as we comply with and to measure air monitoring in the same way as we do with the same responsibilities to their local populations as we have to ours. If there had been any toxicity of the sort that the hon Member is describing, the Spanish would have identified it for themselves and had there been any danger to surrounding populations, I do not suppose they dislike us so much that they would not have given us advance warning. I do not think it is part of their plan to exterminate us and therefore I assume, we are not living on an island, this is not in Mars, if there had been the sort of danger that the hon Member is formulating his questions around the hypothesis of, then we would have been informed by the responsible party which is Spain. This community has neither the size nor the resources, financial or technical, to measure the atmosphere for everything in it that might conceivably be a risk to us at any time from whatever source. At the end of the day that is not the way, there have been fires in the refinery before. What went up in the refinery was a petrol bowser. In the days of the hon Members in Government, I remember that a whole tanker exploded in the refinery and there was a huge fire. I do not suppose any measurements were taken then, or any measures taken then. That was a hugely larger fire. By the way I do not know if our monitoring station measures for the sort of things that he fears might be found in fires. There is a list of substances, as he knows, in the directive for which the monitoring station will monitor in the future. It is not everything but that is not the position. At the moment we have no standing atmospheric measurement facility. I understand that the Environmental Agency have hand-held equipment for some of the more basic rudimentary things, but it is not a hugely deployable resource in the circumstances which the hon Member is describing.

So the political answer to his question is no, that it was not felt necessary to take particular precautions in that situation, and to a certain extent we do rely on the responsibility of the neighbour to pass information, because at the end of the day what we need to know is also what they need to tell their own public in the immediate vicinity.

HON F R PICARDO:

I am grateful for that, I think that deals really with the issue of whether there was any monitoring taking place or not quite exhaustively. Can I just take the Chief Minister up on this issue of the level of monitoring and the standard of monitoring across the way. He will recall that in the not too recent past, when there was an emission which was not a smokey emission that was visible from Acerinox, it was only reported when the German monitoring station picked it up. Although those in the area of Acerinox et cetera and all the professionals there knew, no statements had been made to the general public in that respect. He may also be aware, as I am, that the Bucket Brigade has not yet made its results public but that those results of its monitoring in the area apparently are very worrying and not gratifying. So it is in that context, that I am trying to seek this information and I trust that in future we will be in a position to monitor this type of event, if only with our then standing air quality monitoring stations which will monitor, as I understand it the Minister can correct me if I am wrong, all the types of emissions that would be dangerous to health and which are identified.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Minister said nothing of the sort. The hon Member is going to be very disappointed if he thinks that that is what the air monitoring station will do. Look, towns of 28,000 people on the planet do not each have their radioactivity monitoring facilities, and as he knows from the long answer that the Minister gave him in answer to Question No. 1851, my understanding of it is that radioactivity is not one of the issues that is monitored.

HON F R PICARDO:

I did not mean that we would be monitoring for radioactivity. For the type of explosion that occurred at the oil refinery, the type of emission that would come from that would be monitored by air quality stations because that would monitor for benzene et cetera, et cetera.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, those are the things that it would monitor but I misunderstood the hon Member. I thought he was suggesting that had we had our monitoring station at the time of the Acerinox, we rather than the Swiss would have caught the Spaniards out. That is not the point that he was making. Well, we all look forward to our monitoring station, I agree. It will be a useful addition to our facilities.

ORAL

NO. 1856 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

EU GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS TRADING SYSTEM

When do Government expect to publish legislation to transpose into law in Gibraltar the directive establishing the EU Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading System?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES

The Government expect to publish legislation to transpose into law in Gibraltar the directive establishing a scheme for Greenhouse Gas Emissions Allowance Trading within the Community by the end of the year.

NO. 1857 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE

When do Government expect to publish legislation to transpose into law in Gibraltar the Water Framework Directive?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES

The Regulation transposing the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) was published on 7th October 2004.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1857 OF 2004

HON F R PICARDO:

The hon Gentleman will know that this question was posed before that and I have not yet actually seen the Gazette. He will excuse me if I am about to in my supplementary in any way raise an issue which has already been dealt with in legislation, but it is true and fair to say that both of these directives are now well outside their transitional period. Is there a particular reason why it has taken Government time to transpose these pieces of legislation? Do they involve a large measure of expense on the part of the Government?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not think it is that long overdue frankly, I think the United Kingdom themselves have only put it in recently. I do not know, if he has got the directive there he might be able to point out what the due date is. I do not think it is particularly long overdue. There has been an issue in the past, these things come past No. 6 where we filter them for political issues as opposed to issues to do with the subject matter of the directive which are dealt with in the Department, and there was an issue about something, I cannot remember the name of it now, the water table administration or something. The directive creates a river basin authority, in other words, they were river basin based rather than national territory based and we were concerned that that should not, in our case, lead to Spain exercising any pretext of the Water Directive and the water basin which was regional, to

take responsibility as to the water basin, and we were able to save that and we have got our own river basin, it is called the river basin but it is not limited to rivers, confusing. That was the only political issue that I was aware of and I do not think that that delayed transposition in itself because this arose pretty early on. So I do not think we are particularly late.

HON F R PICARDO:

Can I just take it from that, that when I see the published Regulation, I will see that Gibraltar will have its own River Basin Authority?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, I think the Regulation is drafted on that basis, which has been accepted by the UK who I think, I am not sure whether there is a notification requirement, but in any case the United Kingdom Environmental Department, whatever it is called, has accepted that we are our own River Basin Authority and will notify accordingly. Absolutely.

HON F R PICARDO:

Which rivers come within the ambit of the Authority?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I did say misnomer, river basin does not mean just rivers. Gibraltar has got its own water table and surface water, and underground water, all of which are included in the definition of River Basin Authority. We have got the aquifers in the politically sensitive so called disputed ground and all that. There are important political issues in this directive.

NO. 1858 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

RGP – CM'S PROTECTION

What has the cost of members of the RGP accompanying the Chief Minister when he has travelled abroad on each occasion in the past eighteen months that the Chief Minister has been accompanied by members of the RGP outside Gibraltar, whether on official business or personal?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

It is not appropriate to give the information in respect of each occasion and would probably in any case be too difficult to get the information together. The overall cost for the past 18 months has been £28,306.60.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1858 OF 2004

HON F R PICARDO:

Obviously that cost to the taxpayer sometimes occurs when the Chief Minister is travelling outside Gibraltar on personal business. Does he consider that to be an appropriate way to spend taxpayers money?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I am sorry that the hon Member does not think that the safety of the Chief Minister of Gibraltar is worth £28,306.60 over an 18 month period, but that to one side, the Chief Minister does not cease to be the Chief Minister by virtue of the nature of the business that he is conducting. I have never heard the proposition put by anybody that is subject to personal protection policies that their personal protection is lifted depending on whether he is going privately, socially or on official business. It is a distinction that anybody involved in the field of security and protection provision would regard as wholly irrelevant. What I can tell the hon Member are two things. First of all that there has been no change in the policy of the circumstances in which the Chief Minister is provided with personal protection when travelling abroad, since I have come into office there has

been no change. In other words, the principle that is applied to me is the principle that has been applied to the previous Chief Ministers. Secondly, that these decisions and judgements are not made by me. I do not ask the RGP to provide me with personal protection, there is a long standing policy and they make the decision. I think that their decisions frankly, and their judgements are very well made and I think it would be wholly inappropriate for the Chief Minister of Gibraltar to be wandering around in Spain without any measure of personal protection, which in Spain is afforded even to local mayors.

HON F R PICARDO:

Is the Chief Minister then telling this House in the course of his intervention that he feels that he needs that protection in Gibraltar and outside Gibraltar?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

What the Chief Minister has said to the House is exactly what he has said to the House. I do not think I have used any words which are too long for anybody to understand and there is no need for the hon Member to re-interpret, still less to ask me to repeat what it is that I have said. What I have said is what I have said. If he chooses to misinterpret it or misrepresent it or misquote it, that is a problem for him and not a problem for me. What I can tell him is that there has been no change in the policy. If the hon Member is trying to insinuate that there has been a change in the policy, he is mistaken. Now, he may not approve of the Chief Minister of Gibraltar going to Spain for personal purposes. If that is the point then I do not agree with him. I think it is entirely appropriate for the Chief Minister, yes, because the hon Member may say if he did not go to Spain on personal jaunts then there would be no need to provide him with personal protection. Of course that would be a view.....

HON F R PICARDO:

Point of order. I have not said that I do not believe that the Chief Minister should not go to Spain on personal jaunts. I have not said that. The point of order is that the Chief Minister has said that I said that. I have not said that.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Chief Minister has not said that he has said that. The Chief Minister has said that that is what he might think. So, points of order are not a procedure whereby the hon Member has a right to interrupt me. I think the correct procedure is that he should identify what the point of order is so that the Chair can decide whether or not his intervention raises a point of order, but of course if he splurges it out before explaining the point of order, then his purpose is served. That is not in accordance with the Rules of the House.

So I really have nothing to add. I think that this is entirely appropriate, it is entirely correct, I am delighted with the level of personal protection that I receive. Whether or not I need personal protection is not a judgement for me, just as it has not been a

judgement for previous Chief Ministers but the hon Member should be aware that the purpose of personal protection is not just, perhaps not even, to protect the Chief Minister from assassination or things of that sort. The purpose of personal protection is also to protect the subject of the personal protection from embarrassing situations that are embarrassing because of the nature of the office that he holds. It is not just about personal security. It is about protecting the office holder from embarrassing situations that might not be embarrassing for any normal citizen but could be embarrassing if it happens to somebody who holds this office. So the answer to the hon Member is that.

HON F R PICARDO:

I would not want the Chief Minister for one moment to think that simply because of the holder of the post, I do not think the Chief Minister of Gibraltar is deserving of protection if his physical integrity is in any way going to be under attack, but can I just ask him to confirm that in fact although he insisted the policy has not changed since 1996 when he took office, that in fact the Chief Minister of Gibraltar from 1988 to 1996 did not have a bodyguard. So in fact in 1996 things did change. Does he accept that?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No I do not, I think it is wholly untrue, and before the hon Member is prompted by things whispered in his ear, he should be careful. When the previous Chief Minister visited Morocco, he was accompanied by a full deployment of personal bodyguards, and when the previous Chief Minister, now the Leader of the Opposition sitting next to him, went for a holiday to the Marbella Club in Marbella, he was accompanied there by personal protection officers. So what the hon Member says is wholly untrue. Now it may be that the previous Chief Minister of Gibraltar did not enjoy going to Spain for personal reasons as much as I enjoy it, and therefore the need for him to have personal protection officers in Spain may have been less in quantum, but that is a product of the frequency with which we have each chosen to go to Spain and not a variation of the principle.

HON F R PICARDO:

From 1988 to 1996 the Chief Minister did not have with him every day a bodyguard in Gibraltar all the time. Whilst this Chief Minister has a policy to have a bodyguard with him in Gibraltar all the time. That is a change in policy, is it not?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, the previous Chief Minister may have chosen not to have had a personal protection officer in Gibraltar, which itself was a departure from the then established position which is that Chief Ministers before that had had it. I simply chose to follow the established precedent and not the practice of my immediate predecessor. Look, there are many things that this Chief Minister and this Government do differently from the previous Members opposite and we do not necessarily regard the conduct and precedents set by the previous Members opposite as being worth following. Much is done differently. Amongst that I think that the office of the Chief Minister deserves that sort of

consideration, as happens with the Mayor of La Linea, the Mayor of Los Barrios. I am not saying that I do it just because they do it, but this is not science made in Gibraltar. This is generally the practice and I do not see why we should seek to downgrade the status of the office of Chief Minister in that way. Having said that let me tell the hon Member, I do not know if the previous Chief Minister used to walk the streets as frequently as I do, but let me tell him that there are often situations where the Chief Minister could be put in an embarrassing situation when he does that. Let me tell him that in the case of Gibraltar, I choose to dispense with the personal protection officer when I am off duty. I do not feel threatened, there is no area of Gibraltar where I do not feel free to go by myself at any time of the day or night, and therefore this is a question of the office and not of me. So that when I am deposited at home, at whatever time I get home, if I then go out in the evening or at the weekends I go out on Saturday mornings onto Main Street with my wife, I have no personal protection officer for that. That is a matter of choice, I would be entitled to have it if I wanted to, I choose not to do it.

HON F R PICARDO:

Can we take it from what the Chief Minister has said that our newly appointed Mayor will soon also be enjoying a PPO to ensure that he is also at the same level of the mayors of the Campo?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I assume the question is a joke.

HON F R PICARDO:

Like the answers.

ORAL

NO. 1859 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

CM'S VISITS OVERSEAS

Can the Government state what is the total number of occasions on which the Chief Minister has travelled to the United Kingdom in the past 12 months and what has been the total cost of travel and accommodation in respect of such travel both in respect of the Chief Minister and those who have travelled with him, giving a breakdown per trip?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1860 of 2004.

NO. 1860 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

PROSPECT UNION'S TORQUAY CONFERENCE

Can the Government give the cost, with a breakdown, of attendance by the Chief Minister at the Prospect Union's Torquay conference in May 2004 giving the offices of those who might have attended as part of the Government delegation?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answer to Question No. 1859

The information requested is in the schedule attached.

Answer to Question No. 1860

In respect of the Torquay conference the Chief Minister was accompanied by his Press & Media Director and one of his Private Secretaries. The total costs were:

Air Fares	£2,651.30
Accommodation	£ 969.22
Other	<u>£ 373.60</u>
	£3,994.12

						Air fares Accommodation Other	
						£	£
04/10/2003	Conservative Party Conf/ C24 NY				CM/MD/CS	10,927.50	665.87
19/10/2003	RAC Club Finance Centre Lunch/ Eastside/ Gib Day				CM/PS(L)/MD	2,438.40	1,019.41
07/12/2003	Foreign & Commonwealth Office/ Home Office				CM/PS(L)	3,117.20	844.08
27/02/2004	Foreign & Commonwealth Office/ Tercentenary event				CM/CS/PS(L)/Mllamas/MD/PS(P)	4,461.10	3,843.42
18/05/2004	Prospect Conference, Torquay				CM/MD/PS(L)	2,651.30	969.22
19/05/2004	Foreign & Commonwealth Office						373.60
26/05/2004	Secretary of State				CM/CS/PS(L)/PS(P)	3,208.80	921.78
08/06/2004	Committee of 24				CM/CS/MD	6,883.20	292.71
22/06/2004	Rotary Club Madrid				CM/MD	640.00	206.00
05/06/2004	Jewish Museum Exhibition				CM/PS(P)	2,511.57	1,858.18
23/07/2004	Gib Dinner at Naval Club				CM/PPS	125.00	
23/09/2004	Foreign & Commonwealth Office				CM/CS/PS(L)		
26/09/2004	Labour Party Conference				CM/PS(P)		
04/10/2004	Conservatives Party Conference				CM/CS/MD		
06/10/2004	UN 4th Committee				CM/CS/MD		

£36,964.07	£10,620.67	£1,992.20	£49,576.94
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SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1859 AND 1860 OF 2004

HON F R PICARDO:

Can the Chief Minister tell us how many people travelled with him to the Conservative Party Conference last year? Is it the same body that travelled with him to the Committee of 24?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I cannot remember who came to the Conservative Party Conference with me last year, but usually because it coincides with the trip to New York, it is the same people. That is the usual practice but I cannot remember who came with me last year. Usually it is the Chief Secretary because he is the one who comes with me to New York, and normally we go from one to the other.

HON F R PICARDO:

That is the column who tells me who it was, the central column tells me, is that right?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes.

HON F R PICARDO:

MD is Media Director?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes.

HON F R PICARDO:

The bracket after PS, how should I interpret that?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

That is the Private Secretary for Legal Affairs, Mr John Reyes.

HON F R PICARDO:

And the P?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

There are several Ps on the page. The P by the word is Private Secretary, the P in brackets after PS is the Private Secretary for Policy and Projects, Mr Figueras.

HON F R PICARDO:

What is the CS?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Chief Secretary.

ORAL

NO. 1861 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX – PAYE

Can Government confirm whether in the information provided regarding PAYE tax payable by private sector employers, those employees who have short term contracts with different employers in a given tax year are treated as different individuals in arriving at the total number of employees involved?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1862 of 2004.

NO. 1862 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX – PAYE

Can Government state whether the figure of 2,600 employees in respect of whom PAYE was deducted for the year 2001/2002 by MOD, persons in receipt of an MOD pension are included, and if so, can they state the breakdown between pensioners and persons still in employment and the relevant amount deducted for PAYE from each group?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answer to Question No. 1861

I can confirm that for the purposes of the statistical information provided in this House regarding the Income Tax Office database, total number of employees is the total number of PAYE deduction cards received.

Answer to Question No. 1862

I can also confirm that MOD pensioners are included. The analysis requested is as follows:

	Approximate No.	Approximate Tax Deducted
Pensioners	1500	£0.3 million
Employees	1100	£4.0 million

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1861 AND 1862 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

In respect of the answer confirming the information in Question No. 1861, the result of that means of course that the changes in the numbers that are given as employees in respect of whom the tax has been collected by the private sector does not necessarily

show that there are more employees from one year to the next. It could be movement between employers. If an employee spends the whole year with the same employer as opposed to having more than one job in a year, the apparent numbers of employees go up, is that the case?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, this is why the Government do not use the PAYE statistics as being the principal source of statistics for numbers of jobs, absolutely. If an employee, never mind about moving from one job to the other, if an employee is doing three jobs at the same time it would appear three times, because there would be a different card sent in by each of his three employers and that will appear as three job appearances. This is why the hon Member may notice that when this information is given in answers, I think the recent practice has been to refer to the phrase 'employee/deduction cards', to signal the fact.

ORAL

NO. 1863 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX – CORPORATION TAX

As at the end of September 2004 how many companies, in each tax year 1995/1996 to 2003/2004 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. 1864 and 1865 of 2004.

NO. 1864 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX – CORPORATION TAX

As at the end of September 2004 how many companies had been assessed by the Commissioner of Income Tax without having made a return of taxable profit:

- (a) above £35,000; and
- (b) below £35,000

for each of the tax years 1998/1999 to 2003/2004, what was the tax assessed and paid in each case and for each category and each year and what were the amounts assessed and paid by qualifying companies?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1863 and 1865 of 2004.

NO. 1865 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX – CORPORATION TAX

As at the end of September 2004 how many companies had declared taxable profits:

- (a) above £35,000; and
- (b) below £35,000

for each of the tax years 1998/1999 to 2003/2004, 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

The very substantial amount of statistical information that the hon Member has requested is contained in the schedule attached.

Answer to Question 1863

	1995/96 £m	1996/97 £m	1997/98 £m	1998/99 £m	1999/00 £m	2000/01 £m	2001/02 £m	2002/03 £m	2003/04 £m
Assessed	15.8	15.6	19.8	25.4	88.7	27.1	27.1	29.7	25.4
Discharged	5.6	4.9	9.0	12.3	74.2	13.7	12.0	14.3	9.1
	10.2	10.7	10.8	13.1	14.5	13.4	15.1	15.4	16.3
Paid	9.5	10.3	10.3	12.5	13.6	12.8	13.6	12.6	15.1
Outstanding	0.7	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.9	0.6	1.5	2.8	1.2

Answer to Question 1864

COMPANIES OTHER THAN QUALIFYING COMPANIES

Year of Assessment	1998/99 £	1999/00 £	2000/01 £	2001/02 £	2002/03 £	2003/04 £
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Under £35,000

No of Companies assessed	797	632	374	425	532	549
Total assessed (i.e. total tax Payable)	1.6m	1m	0.7m	0.9m	1.4m	1.4m
Total Paid	1.2m	0.7m	0.3m	0.3m	0.4m	0.3m

Over £35,000

No of Companies	46	38	12	22	31	39
Total assessed (i.e. total tax payable)	2.8m	2.9m	0.4m	0.6m	1.3m	2.7m
Total Paid	2.8m	2.5m	0.1m	0.3m	0.8m	2.1m

QUALIFYING COMPANIES

Under £35,000

No of Companies assessed	7	11	9	7	15	-
Total assessed (i.e. total tax payable)	9k	11k	11k	3k	21k	-
Total Paid	1k	0.7k	-	-	1k	-

Over £35,000

Total assessed (i.e. total tax payable)	18k	22k	11k	6k	0.2m	-
Total Paid	-	-	9k	-	-	-

No of Companies assessed	1	2	3	1	7	-
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Cont'd.....

Answer to Question 1865

Answer to Question 1865

COMPANIES OTHER THAN QUALIFYING COMPANIES

Year of Assessment	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04
	£	£	£	£	£	£

Under £35,000

No of Companies assessed	201	270	335	367	304	229
Total assessed (i.e. total tax Payable)	0.5m	0.5m	0.8m	0.9m	0.8m	0.5m
Total Paid	0.5m	0.5m	0.7m	0.9m	0.7m	0.4m

Over £35,000

No of Companies	64	79	121	105	107	95
Total assessed (i.e. total tax payable)	5.4m	8.4m	10.3m	11.6m	12.8m	16.2m
Total Paid	5.2m	8.3m	10.3m	11.1m	11.5m	16.0m

QUALIFYING COMPANIES

Under £35,000

No of Companies assessed	5	8	5	7	1	1
Total assessed (i.e. total tax payable)	2k	4k	2k	4k	0.2k	0.1k
Total Paid	2k	4k	2k	3k	0.2k	0.1k

Over £35,000

No of Companies assessed	9	16	22	19	5	-
Total assessed (i.e. total tax payable)	0.9m	0.9m	1.4m	1.2m	165k	-
Total Paid	0.9m	0.9m	1.4m	1.1m	165k	-

ORAL

NO. 1866 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX – LOW INCOME EARNERS

Can Government state whether anyone has yet received the low income earners tax credit announced in the 2001 budget?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1867 and 1868 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1867 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX – LOW INCOME EARNERS

Can Government confirm whether the low income earners tax credit applies only in respect of assessable income that is earned, as opposed to investment income?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1866 and 1868 of 2004.

NO. 1868 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX – LOW INCOME EARNERS

Will Government be able to assess the effect of the tax reduction once the low income earners tax credit has been applied to all eligible tax payers for the tax year 2001/2002?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Four hundred individuals in respect of each of the years of assessment 2001/2002 and 2002/2003 have now, through the Tax Credit allowed on their assessments, benefited from the Low Income Earner's Tax Credit announced in the Government's 2001 Budget.

Since April 2004 when the hon Member last sought information on the Tax Credit there has been acceleration in the issue of PAYE assessments. It is therefore expected that substantially more individuals will obtain the benefit of the Tax Credit in the coming months.

Assessable income, for all the purposes of the Income Tax Ordinance and subsidiary legislation, includes earned and unearned income.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1866 TO 1868 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am aware that assessable income means both. The reason for the question is that the Chief Minister described it as low income earners and therefore I wondered whether the fact that it was earners as opposed to recipients for example, meant that it was limited to income earned by working and not investment income.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It does not mean that, otherwise one could have a situation where somebody could have a huge unearned income, a low earned income, and he would get this and may be a millionaire.

HON J J BOSSANO:

That was not the point that I was making. The point I was making is not whether the investment income would be discounted but whether the investment income would be eligible. That is to say, if somebody has no earned income and it is all investment income, do they still get the low income earners?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I completely misunderstood as I think the drafter of the answer has. I think the answer is not but I would have to check that. In other words, if one has no earned income but unearned income only and it is below the threshold, can one get the tax credit. I am not sure what the answer to that is, I think not but I would have to check.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well in fact the original question, Question No. 1867, was in fact asking precisely that because the title of the credit is Low Income Earners Credit and therefore I wondered, it was not very clear at Budget time but in April it seemed to raise a point. In terms of the 400 that have been able to obtain the credit for 2001/2002 and 2002/2003, I assume that these are in fact more or less the same people and that their assessments have been done for the two years. Is that the likely answer?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I believe that that is the case. They have been done for two years at a time.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Question No. 1868 I do not think has been answered, which was to say when the exercise was completed would the Government be in a position to give an answer on the total cost of this?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, if by the effect of the tax reduction he means will the Government be able to compute the cost to the Government of the give-away, the answer is I suppose so, yes. I will have to check whether the computer is set up but as it is a tax credit, in other words it comes off the tax bill, one literally multiplies by the number of people. Except I suppose there may be a number of people who get part credits.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Will the Government note that I am just signalling it so that if it something that needs to be done, if the Government have got no objection to doing it, then it should be done so

that we do not find that when I ask retrospectively for the information that it is not possible to do because it was not envisaged? So that is the point of the question.

ORAL

NO. 1869 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CATEGORY 2 INDIVIDUALS

Can Government state as at the end of September 2004 what was the number of High Net Worth or Category 2 Individuals with a tax liability of £10,000 or less in respect of each of the tax years 1995/1996 to 2003/2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1870 to 1872 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1870 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CATEGORY 2 INDIVIDUALS

Can Government state what was the amount payable, paid and outstanding as at 30th September 2004 for each tax year 1995/1996 to 2003/2004 by High Net Worth or Category 2 Individuals with a liability to tax of £10,000 or less?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1869, 1871 and 1872 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1871 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CATEGORY 2 INDIVIDUALS

Can Government state what was the amount payable, paid and outstanding as at 30th September 2004 for each tax year 1995/1996 to 2003/2004 by High Net Worth or Category 2 Individuals with a liability to tax of more than £10,000?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1869, 1870 and 1872 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1872 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CATEGORY 2 INDIVIDUALS

Can Government state as at the end of September 2004 what was the number of High Net Worth or Category 2 Individuals with a tax liability of more than £10,000 in respect of each of the tax years 1995/1996 to 2003/2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The information sought regarding the assessment and collection of tax payable by High Net Worth and Category 2 Individuals for the years 1995/1996 to 2002/2003 is contained in the schedule attached.

Answer to Question 1872.

	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03
Individuals with liability of £10,000 or less	48	56	72	84	109	141	152	151
	£M	£M	£M	£M	£M	£M	£M	£M
Tax Payable	0.49	0.57	0.72	0.83	0.97	1.21	1.35	1.44
Tax Paid	0.41	0.49	0.68	0.79	0.89	1.13	1.28	1.35
Outstanding	0.08	0.08	0.04	0.04	0.08	0.08	0.07	0.09

Individuals with liability of £10,000 or more	7	19	39	41	31	38	39	36
	£M	£M	£M	£M	£M	£M	£M	£M
Tax Payable	0.14	0.39	0.78	0.82	0.61	0.72	0.70	0.65
Tax Paid	0.10	0.17	0.29	0.38	0.43	0.49	0.46	0.55
Outstanding	0.04	0.22	0.49	0.44	0.18	0.23	0.24	0.10

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1869 TO 1872 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

I note that the 1995/1996 figures show no change for the tax payable although some change to the tax paid which shows that even now it is still possible to collect from as far back as that. There are changes in the tax payable from 1996/1997 on. Is there any way of getting an indication of how far back they go in identifying that there are people who are liable? I can understand that the thing may not be paid on time and may be paid late but I would have thought, knowing how many people are in the category, it would immediately tell the numbers that would be liable to pay.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I am not intimately familiar with the mechanics of how this is administered but of course, we can have a tally of the number of certificates issued so we know how many certificates are in issue and that number I suppose can be given. In fact I think it is sought in another question, but not everybody sort of remains live so to speak, some people go away and do not pay any more. So there is the number who pay, albeit late, who regardless of when they pay is not necessarily 100 per cent of the number of certificates in issue. In other words, people may just disappear from the scene without handing in their certificates.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I understand that but if I may give the Chief Minister an example. In the answer he gave me to Question No. 1432 for example, there were 21 shown for 1996/1997 who were liable to pay £430,000 and they had paid £110,000 in April this year for the year 1996/1997 which is going back quite a long way. I would not be surprised to see changes in the last couple of years but we are going back to 1996/1997. On this occasion the numbers liable are down from 21 to 19, the amount that is payable is down from £430,000 to £390,000 and the amount collected is up from £110,000 to £170,000. Now I can understand that since my last question six months ago £60,000 has been collected which is good that it should be possible to collect £60,000 going back to 1996/1997 but what I cannot understand are the other changes.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I am afraid I cannot help him with that except by speculating that if the number of people have gone down it may be that during the interim period the Commissioner has been able to establish that some outstanding certificates are not here at all or may even have been surrendered. I know that there is a clean-up exercise going on right now to try and get down to the real and try to eliminate redundant certificates still in issue.

ORAL

NO. 1873 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX – PAYE

As at the end of September 2004 how many employers had not yet returned their 2002/2003 Employer's Declaration and PAYE Certificate and what is the estimated number of employees?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1874 to 1880 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1874 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX – PAYE

As at the end of September 2004 how many employers had not yet returned their 2003/2004 Employer's Declaration and PAYE Certificate and what is the estimated number of employees?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1873 and 1875 to 1880 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1875 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX – PAYE

As at the end of September 2004 how many of the employers who had returned their 2002/2003 Employer's Declaration and PAYE Certificate had not paid the full amount PAYE deducted and what was the shortfall?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1873, 1874 and 1876 to 1880 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1876 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX – PAYE

As at the end of September 2004 how many of the employers who had returned their 2003/2004 Employer's Declaration and PAYE Certificate had not paid the full amount of PAYE deducted and what was the shortfall?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1873 to 1875 and 1877 to 1880 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1877 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX – PAYE

As at the end of September 2004 how many employers had returned their 2003/2004 Employer's Declaration and PAYE Certificate and what was the total amount of tax deducted and the number of employees involved?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1873 to 1876 and 1878 to 1880 of 2004.

NO. 1878 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX – PAYE

Can Government now state what was the amount of tax collected in PAYE in the financial year 2003/2004 by areas of employment as follows:

- (a) MOD;
- (b) Gibraltar Government;
- (c) Government Owned/Joint Venture Companies; and
- (d) Private Sector Employment?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1873 to 1877, 1879 and 1880 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1879 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX – PAYE

Based on the 2002/2003 Employers Annual Statement Declaration and Certificate submitted up to 30th September 2004 what was the PAYE payable by area of employment and number of employees as follows:

- (a) MOD;
- (b) Gibraltar Government;
- (c) Government Owned/Joint Venture Companies; and
- (d) Private Sector Employment?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1873 to 1878 and 1880 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1880 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX – PAYE

Based on the 2003/2004 Employers Annual Statement Declaration and Certificate submitted up to 30th September 2004 what was the PAYE payable by area of employment as follows:

- (a) MOD;
- (b) Gibraltar Government;
- (c) Government Owned/Joint Venture Companies; and
- (d) Private Sector Employment?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Although I am going to give a full answer, I am sending a copy of it to the hon Member so that he does not have to make a note of all the information I am going to read out.

Answer to Question No. 1873

As at 30 September 2004, 305 employers had not yet returned their 2002/2003 Employer's Declaration and PAYE Certificate. The estimated number of employees deduction cards affected is 511.

Answer to Question No. 1874

As at 30 September 2004, 555 employers had not yet returned their 2003/2004 Employer's Declaration and PAYE Certificate. The estimated number of employees deduction cards affected is approximately 6700.

Answer to Question No. 1875

Based on the 2002/2003 annual PAYE Employer's Return received at the Income Tax Office by the 30 September 2004, 170 such employers owed PAYE totalling £1.7 million.

Answer to Question No. 1876

Based on the 2003/2004 Annual PAYE Employer's Return received at the Income Tax Office by the 30 September 2004, 296 such employers owed PAYE tax totalling £4.1 million.

Answer to Question No. 1877

A total of 1527 returns for the year 2003/2004 had been received at the Income Tax Office by the 6 October 2004. The total PAYE tax deducted and payable was £41.4 million. The PAYE Deduction Cards are presently being inputted into the database and it is not possible to provide a figure of the cards received to date.

Answer to Question No. 1878

Following reconciliation of the Income Tax Office records and Treasury Books I can confirm that the figures as provided by Question No. 1418 of 2004 are final and conclusive.

Cont'd.....

Answer to Question No. 1879

Based on the 2002/2003 Employers' Annual Statement, Declaration and Certificate submitted up to 6 October 2004 the information sought is as follows:

	£million	Approximate No. of Employees/Deduction Cards
(a) MOD	4.7	2650
(b) Gibraltar Government	21.1	6050
(c) Government Owned and Joint Venture Companies	3.1	700
(d) Private Sector Employment	32.7	16800
	<hr/> 61.6 <hr/>	<hr/> 26200 <hr/>

Answer to Question No. 1880

Given that 555 Employers' PAYE Declaration and Certificates for the tax year 2003/2004 have not yet been returned, any figures produced of PAYE payable would not be accurate enough to give meaningful information of the breakdown of PAYE payable by the different sectors which the question seeks. I would therefore invite the hon Member to seek this information at a later Question Time.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1873 TO 1880 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

I know that in fact the 555 seems to be higher than has been the case now for a number of years in terms of the returns normally by October which is when we have the Question Time. In fact I think the Principal Auditor in the Accounts that have been tabled today commented in respect of last year's figures that they were up on the preceding year. Do Government have any idea why this should be happening?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No I do not have any idea why it is happening and I have not yet had a report to me that the situation is getting worse, I have not actually read the Auditor's Report myself yet but accepting the hon Member's analysis without checking it, accepting it as being correct, it seems as if employers are taking longer to send in their returns. Certainly, if that were the case, then the Government would wish something to be done about it because ultimately it affects cash flow. It does not ultimately necessarily affect revenue but certainly cash flow and with it the possibility of having to draw down on facilities unnecessarily and things of that sort.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I also note in fact, from comparison with similar questions put in other years that also in respect of the 2002/2003 returns which in the answer that I was given in March this year there were 310 employers who had not returned, and the figure now is 305 which means they only had five in the last six months. That again, I think the Government should note seems to be a slower rate of return than has been the case when I have asked in respect of previous years and the improvement after six months.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Is that six months or twelve months?

HON J J BOSSANO:

Six months. We are talking about the previous financial year and when I asked in March this year, Question No. 1423, the answer was 310 had not yet returned. So only five have done it in the last six months. At that rate we will be in the next election.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I am grateful to the hon Member for his analysis. I will certainly take it up.

NO. 1881 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

HARBOUR VIEWS

Can Government state whether they still expect to commence this calendar year the remedial works to the podium at Harbour Views?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

It is unlikely that the works will physically commence this calendar year. The Government remain in discussions with the new management committee of Harbour Views as to the nature of the works to be undertaken. The works then have to be specified and put out to tender. Indeed, since this answer was printed, I can tell the hon Member that I actually met with the Harbour Views, I was not aware that there was a meeting in my diary for yesterday lunch time, and they have now agreed with the previous Committee's choice of the options for works available, so that is now firm and in the bag. So the Government are now in a position, as of lunch time yesterday, to start the process of specification and tendering. It is now just a question of how long that takes rather than any discussion. In other words, the discussion part of the answer has been overtaken by events.

NO. 1882 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – CHILTON COURT

Can Government state when they intend to start allocating the housing units in Chilton Court?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Housing units at Chilton Court have not yet been transferred by MOD to the Government. This is not scheduled to occur until April 2005.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1882 OF 2004

HON C A BRUZON:

When I asked a previous question in the House a few months ago concerning Chilton Court, I asked the Chief Minister if Government would consider allocating some of the ground floor flats in Chilton Court for the elderly in Gibraltar, his answer was that they would consider that but that his preferred choice would be that the houses for the elderly would be allocated from the new second home for the elderly built in the same or similar style as Bishop Canilla. What worries me, and I will ask the Government now, do they share my concern that homes for the elderly are taking far too long? If Chilton Court allocation is going to take that long and the Chief Minister suggested that he would consider allocating some of the ground floor flats for the elderly, it is a concern.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not share the hon Member's somewhat ungenerous assessment that housing for the elderly is taking too long. Indeed we were the only party with a manifesto commitment to build Bishop Canilla when we built it. So to say to the only party that has ever built specialist housing of this sort that it is taking too long to build its second batch, coming from the benches of a party that never did it in the eight years that they were in office, I think is unduly harsh a judgement on our performance but the Government obviously share his analysis that these are a good thing and that more are required and that is

evident by the fact that we have moved on to build the second batch, which in fact is a much greater number than Bishop Canilla. I think Bishop Canilla was 86 or 90 and here we are talking of 140. So it is a very large second dose of specialist and sheltered, specially designed, wardened housing for the elderly. Now, all that is a different issue to the one that I think is at the root of the hon Member's question which is, I think what he has said is capable of being interpreted as meaning regardless of the new specialist housing, which I note to boot he thinks is taking too long, should the Government not use ground floor accommodation in all its housing stock for the elderly. Given that every time a flat stays empty on a ground floor, it is a useful opportunity to put an elderly person there who may not get one of the new houses, there are only 140 of them, there may be more than 140 demand. I see the virtue of that, I do. If the Government are going to allocate these houses I think it would be sensible to pencil in so to speak, the ground floor ones for any elderly person that may anyway in any case be destined or scheduled to get a house, even if it means advancing their entitlement by a few months. I agree with that analysis and having said that I agree with that analysis of his I should also add that the Government have not yet made a decision as to how and to whom and for what purpose the Chilton Court flats will be allocated. There are several possibilities. One possibility is to just use it for people on the waiting list. Another possibility is to use it to decant people from pre-War housing in the Upper Town so that that can then be sold off to this scheme that the hon Member knows that the Government have of selling off old stock housing cheaply to low income home earners which they can then fix themselves. There are some blocks of Government houses in the Upper Town that are substantially vacant but may have one or two tenants left in it. One possibility, and I only lay it before the House as a possibility and not as something that has been decided, is that these flats at Chilton Court offer the possibility of re-housing those one or two tenants so that the whole pre-War house can then be sold off to buyers, to home owners. The main message is that a decision has not yet been taken.

HON C A BRUZON:

Of course I would remind Government that Chilton Court will only have, if my memory serves me right, 33 apartments. This seems to be a small number of available apartments to solve what I consider to be a very big housing problem. My point being that it is taking far too long.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

If the hon Member just wants the last word I am very happy to concede it to him. There is not a question there, I will not suggest to answer. Look, in my opinion the size of the housing problem is not measured by the number of people on the housing waiting list, because even if there was only one person on the housing waiting list, to that person the problem of homelessness is the same as it is to the 300 others that he might be accompanied by. Therefore, when he says that the housing problem is too big, the Government's policy is to provide housing on acceptable terms to as many people as possible. We do not say 150 to 200 waiting list is acceptable, 300 is too big, as if there were something magical about the 200 figure. In other words, 199 can be made to suffer but 203 people are too many. That is not the Government's view. That is not how we measure the size of the housing problem in Gibraltar. We just take the view that there is a continuing demand for housing that needs to be satisfied and the Government

cannot let up until the demand has been satisfied and that is our approach to it. As to whether he thinks we are taking too long, that is another issue. I have heard that argument before in respect of new building but I have not heard it used before in respect of Government rental stock, where we are the only Government really to have significantly contributed to the available stock through the building of new flats. Fine, I accept that it was a general comment in relation to housing generally and not specifically.

NO. 1883 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – LOW COST UNITS

Have Government proposed to any developer to date that as a condition of obtaining a development site they have to build low cost housing units, what does this cost amount to in the case of a 3RKB and 4RKB unit and what is the respective floor areas of such units?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Government have begun to deploy this policy. It has featured, for example, in the Eastside Project negotiations. It is too early to give the other details which he seeks.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1883 OF 2004

HON C A BRUZON:

I get the impression, and I will try after my supplementary comment to put it into a question so that I adhere to Standing Orders, I get the impression that the Government come up with a lot of schemes and make comments to the effect that they are very advanced, that they have reached a very advanced stage. What I would like to ask the Chief Minister, is it not a reasonable question to ask what is the likely cost of these units, if the impression given to me in the past is that these things are in a very, very advanced stage? Surely he ought to know that.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not recognise in the hon Member's statement, whether he converts it into a question or not, the reality is that the Government have not made many statements about the subject matter of this question which is getting developers as part of their grant, to build low cost housing. That is a statement in our manifesto and in the Budget speech that it would be done. It is being done but he has to understand that the leading process for these developments is a long time and that no projects have been announced since those statements were made. The one major housing project which is under negotiation

includes this element, so I know he thinks that we announce lots of things and do not do enough. It is not a judgement let me say which I share but I know that he is of that view, but I do not think that this is an example of it. This is not an example of it. He cannot yet point to a development that has proceeded since we adopted this policy and which has not included a requirement to provide affordable housing. Now, entirely hypothetically, which we should not be incurring in in Question Time as he knows from Standing Orders, but whilst we are permitted by the Chair to engage in hypotheses in Question Time, let me tell him that what the Government mean by this is not that the developer should have to subsidise the housing but rather that they have to sell it at cost. In other words, that they are not allowed to make a profit on it so that there is affordable low cost housing meaning that there is housing which does not have a land cost element to it, which does not have a developer's profit cost built into it and therefore can be sold at the cheapest possible price which can be no less than the cost of construction. That is what it means and that is how it will emerge when the first example of that emerges. So that is the answer to his hypothetical question of what does low cost mean. If the Government then want to make it more accessible to people than selling it to them at the cost of construction with no land element included, that is a matter for the Government. We can then offer the 50/50 scheme or some other such scheme to make it cheaper for the buyer but we cannot expect a developer to sell for less than the cost of construction. Enough that we require him to make an investment with no possibility of a return. That is the sense in which the private sector can be made to contribute to the affordable housing scheme policy.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is it not a fact that although the Chief Minister has today used affordable and low cost as if they were interchangeable.....

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, I have not used affordable, they used it. Well, I may have done this afternoon.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Now, that is what I mean, in the last five seconds. I was going to remind the Chief Minister, perhaps he will agree with me, that in fact in a previous question when we were asking about low cost and affordable, what he told us was that the affordable element was on the basis that different people would be able to afford different shares in a house. That is what affordable meant. When the Government said they would be providing affordable housing and I asked them what affordable means, they said that that depends on how much money one has got, different people can afford different things. That is what the question was and the record of Hansard that is already published will show them that was the answer at the time. So therefore, putting the concept of affordable now that it has been defined on one side, would it not be reasonable to expect that if the Government say to a developer 'I want you to build as part of the deal x number of low cost housing', the Government presumably would have a specification. It would not just be that they are sold at what it costs because.....

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Of course the Government have a specification.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Right. Therefore that specification has an order of cost attached to it. Otherwise if one just says to the developer 'build what you like and as long as you do not charge a profit', well selling at cost price and producing low cost houses are not the same thing. Would the Chief Minister not agree?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Absolutely I agree and that is exactly the situation so that is not the nature of the question. When the Government engage in negotiations with developers, for example in the context of the Eastside development, the requirement would be that they build and sell at cost housing to specifications dictated by the Government and to a category of purchasers specified by the Government. The hon Member is entirely right in the first part of his question too, that the Government have said that affordable is not, affordability is subjective, one can afford what one can afford. The Government cannot affect the cost of construction in Gibraltar. What we can do is find other means of allowing access to home ownership by people who cannot even afford the cost price. The way that we have done it is that we have modified their 50/50 scheme to have a formula of so many times household income and allowing the buyer to buy whatever share that provides even if it is less than 50 per cent. In other words, one will always be able to buy some share, it may not be 50 per cent if one can not afford it, but one will be able to access home ownership by purchasing a smaller percentage, in other words a percentage that one can afford. That is our way of closing the gap between affordability and cost. Obviously it will not close it for everybody but it will certainly allow access to many people who would not have access if it were a strict 50/50 albeit at cost. The previous examples of home ownership have been 50/50 on the basis of a developer's profit. That was the Westside experience for which they are responsible and which was a very significant contribution to the concept of home ownership. What has happened since to alter the ground rules which made that a viable scheme at that time, is that the costs of construction have risen much faster than earnings. In other words the gap of affordability is getting wider. So therefore we have to deal with it in a way that is relevant to closing that gap. The only way we have come up with is instead of being a 50/50 it is a variable percentage home ownership scheme. That is the way that we plan to do it. None of which is intended to disagree, I think the hon Member's analysis is entirely correct.

NO. 1884 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

LEISURE CENTRE – KINGS BASTION

Can the Minister for Sport now confirm whether there are any new developments as to the long-standing promised conversion of Kings Bastion to a Leisure Centre, since a Leisure Centre was promised in their Manifesto of 1996?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I notice the glee and the frequency with which the hon Lady likes to remind us all that we have been in breach of this particular manifesto commitment since 1996, despite which the electorate nonetheless re-elect us. I shudder to think what their electoral fate will be when we go to the electorate with all our manifesto commitments honoured, if they re-elect us notwithstanding the fact that we do not provide something.

The position remains as explained to the hon Lady when she last asked this question in this House. Government fully expect to implement this manifesto commitment during this term of office.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1884 OF 2004

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Can the Chief Minister say, because in answer to Question No. 46 of 2004 he said that if the negotiations with the MOD, which are referred to in the question, can be brought about to an end quickly, the answer to the question is yes. If on the other hand the negotiations have not come to a favourable conclusion quickly, then the answer is that we will peel that aspect of the project away from it and proceed around those negotiations. Can the Chief Minister say whether he will peel away the part which belongs to the MOD or not? He did say that if that occurred it would change the nature of the project.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The answer is that the hon Lady has the answer to her question already then. I said that one thing would happen if we successfully concluded the MOD negotiation and that another thing would happen if we did not successfully negotiate through the MOD negotiations. She knows that since we said that we have successfully concluded the MOD negotiation on the lands deal. Yes, she does know the answer because the lands deal includes the football ground which was an essential part of the question that she was alluding to last time. In other words, yes, she obviously does not remember the use that she is making of references to earlier questions. The possibilities were this. The Kings Bastion is already in Government hands. There are development proposals for the area of Navy 1, the one nearest the generating station. Had we not done a deal with the MOD which included transferring the Navy 1 to us, we would have had to carry on and do the leisure centre in isolation, which we could do because it is ours already, but if we did have the Navy 1 we could include it in the context of a wider negotiation in the context of the development of the surrounding in Navy 1 area. The MOD lands deal has now been done, and as she will have noticed it includes the transfer of the Navy 1. So one of the two options that she herself described has occurred. Therefore the answer is that there is no need to peel off.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Have the Government already come to a preferred option of whether the leisure centre will be run by the Government or run by the private sector?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well I cannot answer the question if she uses the word 'run', but if she means operated for the account of, then the answer is it will be operated for the account of the Government. In other words, we may not run it ourselves but it will not be a private venture. Either the Government run it or contract somebody to run it for the Government, but it will not be a private sector venture once it is up and running.

ORAL

NO. 1885 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PROMOTION OF HERITAGE

Can Government provide a breakdown of the forecast outturn of £20,000 in respect of Promotion of Heritage issues for the financial year 2003/2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The information requested by the hon Member is set out in the schedule attached.

Cont'd. Answer to Question 1885 of 2004

Answer to Question 1885

Meals & Receptions	£ 1,192.49
Printing	£ 3,522.00
Lectures (Rita Benitez Mota)	£ 888.31
Grants (Mr Seruya)	£ 5,000.00
Accommodation	£ 187.00
Insurance	£ 2,000.00
Moorish Castle - Consultancy	£ 3,750.00
Air fares and transport	£ 2,690.57
	<u>£19,230.37</u>

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1885 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

There is a grant of £5,000 to an individual, can the Chief Minister say what that was for?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It says Mr Serruya there in brackets, I think that is a gentleman who wrote a book about the Royal Gibraltar Regiment's uniforms or Gibraltar Defence Force or something like that.

ORAL

NO. 1886 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

EUROPORT – PARKING FACILITIES

Can the Government confirm how many car parking spaces they have bought from the developers of Europlaza which will be used for persons accessing the Europort Hospital and what category of persons will be able to use them?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1887 and 1888 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1887 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

EUROPORT – PARKING FACILITIES

Can Government state how much they have paid the developers of Europlaza for the provision of car parking spaces to be used for the Hospital at the Europort Building?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1886 and 1888 of 2004.

NO. 1888 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

EUROPORT – PARKING FACILITIES

Can Government confirm how many car parking spaces will be available at the Europort Hospital, and who will have access to them?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The hon Lady has perfected the technique of asking and answering her own questions. In one question she says can the Government confirm how many car parking spaces they have bought from the developers of Europlaza which will be used for persons accessing the Europort Hospital? In the very next question she asks what category of persons will be allowed to use the car parks? The answer, as she rightly identifies herself, are persons accessing the Europort Hospital.

The number of parking spaces that Government have agreed to purchase is 85. They are intended for use as public car parking for visitors to the hospital. No decision has yet been taken about how that will work.

The value applicable to this transaction is £650,000.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1886 TO 1888 OF 2004

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

How is the value made up?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I am not sure I understand the question. It is the agreed value of the asset that the Government are purchasing. I think it is based on cost. It is the cost to the developer of producing that floor which they are just going to hand to the Government.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Will that consideration be paid by the Government in cash to the developer?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, that is why the words 'the value applicable to this transaction' have been used rather than just the cost. There is a possibility that this consideration will be paid in the form of a discount from a premium due on another project. So it is a cost to the Government whether it is actually paid in cash or deducted from a sum that is otherwise payable to the Government, is just a book keeping issue. Suffice it to say that the cost to the Government, whether through payment or through failure to collect, is £650,000.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Has that premium already been agreed?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

The quid pro quo with the developer, can the Chief Minister say what exactly is the other deal that they have come with the developer?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It hardly arises as a supplementary to this question. No I cannot. I can but I will not, it is not appropriate.

NO. 1889 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – NEW HOSPITAL

Can the Government state what plans they have, if any, for the buildings of St Bernard's Hospital once it is transferred to the Europort Building?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The matter is currently under consideration.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1889 OF 2004

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

When the Chief Minister says 'under consideration' does that mean that they are talking to private developers?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No it does not. It means that the Government now have a unique opportunity to regenerate a large area of the Upper Town, which is the area of St Bernard's Hospital and the area of the adjoining vacant Police Barracks buildings. These sites together represent a large percentage by area of the Upper Town. It is therefore a once in a lifetime opportunity to use that as an opportunity to regenerate the Upper Town and repopulate it, and that the Government wish to consider how that is best done as an internal policy matter, not in negotiation with anybody else. There are many competing interests. I think I have revealed in this House before today that one of the uses that is a front runner for part of the St Bernard's Hospital building is as further homes for the elderly, not as in Bishop Canilla but as in residential home, but there are other areas. One of the things that need to be decided is which building should be demolished. Obviously the historic Colonial Hospital should not be demolished and I have never heard anybody suggest that the Mackintosh Wing should be demolished, but there is a whole lot of outline ramshackle buildings that have been attached over the years and therefore the question is which if any of those should be demolished and do what with

the space. There is a unique opportunity now because of the two sites being side by side, to take a holistic approach to the regeneration of that whole part of the Upper Town. I think that needs to be carefully considered. Indeed not only carefully considered by the Government but the Government envisage a public consultation process with interested groups to seek their input into that decision.

HON F R PICARDO:

Assuming that the Chief Minister uses the word 'holistic' starting with a 'w' and not an 'h' he will recall that parts of the Police Barracks area are still tenanted. Is there any advance plan as to what will happen to the tenants who still remain there?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not consider myself to be a master of the English tongue, but I do not think there is any version of the word 'holistic' which starts with a 'w'. I think even when it means in whole it is still spelt with an 'h' at the front and not with a 'w'. Assuming that we mean that, I am not sure I have understood the hon Member's question. Holistic means taking into account the whole of the area available and what is the best use of the space, what mix of uses to put in. Housing – should housing be private or public, should it be developed by the Government or developed by the private sector? In addition to housing should there be other uses? I have already mentioned one, the possibility of the school St Bernard's School. There are those who advocate that.....

HON F R PICARDO:

My question was not what the project would entail. That is for a consultation process later. What is going to happen to the people who are still tenants of the Police Barracks area because there are still a lot of families in the block closest to the hospital?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

That is not at the moment in my definition of the site that is available for holistic. It may become available. The Government may try to seek to persuade those families to relocate, voluntarily if they want to. If they do not want to they could stay and then we would be talking about, I think the hon Member is describing the Inspectors Block as it is called. Yes, the one in which there are tenants. In other words the most northerly blocks, those are called the Inspectors Block. The ones that are vacant I think are called just the Police Barracks. Fine, either we have St Bernard's Hospital site and the Old Police Barracks plus or minus the two blocks which are presently occupied, depending on whether the tenants are interested or are not interested in being re-housed. That would be their choice, certainly the Government would not force them to be re-housed if they would prefer to stay there.

HON C A BRUZON:

I assume we are still on Question No. 1889. If we are I would like to ask a supplementary question which I hope I will be allowed to introduce at this point. As reference is made to the question of transferral of the whole, both the patients, the staff, the equipment from St Bernard's Hospital to the new hospital at Europort, how long do Government expect this operation to take? I think the question is important, because if we are being told that the hospital will be operational as from 1st February, and if it is going to take three months then they should be starting now.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I am not clear. Is that a supplementary question to how long it is going to take to migrate one medical facility to another, or is it a question about the fact that we should start now deciding what the future use is for St Bernard's Hospital site?

HON C A BRUZON:

It is simply a question that I am attempting to be allowed to ask as a supplementary, because reference is made to the question of once it is transferred to the Europort Building. As we have been allowed to talk about things that are not directly connected, I think my colleague has introduced an important issue concerning the Old Police Barracks, I am now trying to ask a question which I think is important. It somehow may be indirectly connected with Question No. 1889. That is, what was said in the first part of the Chief Minister's comment, I want to know how long will the move take from St Bernard's to the new hospital?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is a health service question rather than a property management question, all right I understand now. Well, it is certainly a very wide supplementary but still. The position is that the migration process is gradual, so he can ask me how long it will take to complete, because one of the issues that arises when migrating a hospital from one site to another is that one cannot discontinue the provision of facilities. One cannot say no one can have an X-ray because for the next three days we are dismantling the X-ray from St Bernard's and carrying it down to the new hospital. That is why migration of hospital facilities from one site to another is such a complex thing. One can never be without any of the facilities so one ends up for a period of time with having facilities in two places not in one. That said, I hope he has understood that it is a gradual phased thing this migration transfer, I think the actual migration process takes I think somewhere between four and six weeks.

HON C A BRUZON:

When the Hon Mr Britto said, I think, correct me if I am wrong, that the hospital would be fully operational in February, what does that mean then? That the two hospitals will be working together but that the new hospital will not be fully operational.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It means that the new hospital will be fully operational by 1st February. That is the current target date, well I would call it more than a target date, that is the current expectation.

HON F R PICARDO:

So the migration is finished then in February or would the migration have started then?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

We can express the same view in fifteen different ways until the hon Members are satisfied that we are not being clever with language. The new hospital will not be fully operational if all that had happened by 1st February was that the migration process had just started. It might be partly operational but it would not be fully operational.

HON F R PICARDO:

No, because the migration process should not really start until the new hospital is fully operational , I imagine?

MR SPEAKER:

I think we have gone a far distance from what the question started off with, next question.

ORAL

NO. 1890 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – NEW HOSPITAL

Can the Government state how much they can expect the hospital within the Europort Building to cost them once they have concluded the financial deal with the Royal Bank of Scotland (Gibraltar) Ltd?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1891 of 2004.

NO. 1891 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GHA – NEW HOSPITAL

Has any additional work been carried out during the current year on the Europort Building conversion for the hospital, and if so, what is the additional cost?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

It is not yet possible to provide the information requested since the final cost of construction has not yet been certified under the Construction Contract. I think there have been additional works however. That is the sort of non financial part which I can answer. For example, I think it has been this calendar year, not this financial year but interpreting his question as meaning calendar year I am aware, for example, that the location of the mortuary (I think we have discussed this in the House before) has moved from the basement to the ground floor. I know that there was a cost attached to that but I cannot tell him what that cost was yet.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1890 AND 1891 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

The question really is in the context of the cost figure that was given at the time of the Estimates. So I would not know whether that element was already reflected in that cost figure.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

What I am really trying to find out is if that figure has changed, if the figure that was given at the Estimates has changed?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not think that it will have changed by virtue of additional works but it may not be cast in stone because remember that the administration of a building contract is in the hands of the architect who has to certify. He goes certifying on a monthly basis during the course of the construction but then he has to do a final certification and until he does that one does not know what the cost of the construction contract is. Even in respect of works that had already been certified and covered under monthly certificates before. The Government have a ball park figure, which I would prefer not to publicised at this stage, of what we think the current level is but it would not be any figure on which he could rely. He could at best only regard it as our current ball park estimation.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Given that the Chief Minister is reluctant to give that figure, does that mean that it is not the figure that he quoted before which was something like £54 million? When I asked about the rent shown in the Estimates the Chief Minister will recall that I was told that this was in relation to a cost of the project of £54 million.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

There is confusion here in the hon Member's mind. His question relates to the costs of conversion of the hospital. The other figure, the figure that he has mentioned which I do not from memory recognise but if that is the figure that I mentioned, that must have included things that are not cost of conversion. For example, the cost of acquisition of the building originally might take the figure up to that order, but without now having in front of me a note of how that figure that I mentioned is constituted, I hate to commit myself to whether that particular figure has risen or fallen. Let me put it this way, I have not been advised since the Budget Session that the nature of the financial exposure to this project has altered substantially.

NO. 1892 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

TRANS-BORDER INSTITUTE

Can Government state what is the current state of affairs in relation to the Trans-border Institute after the sacking of Mr Oda and whether Government had any say in the matter?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The status of the Trans-border Institute remains as it has always been. Mr Oda is the representative of the Spanish side. We are no more entitled to a say in their choice of their representative than they are in the choice of ours – who is Mr Clive Finlayson.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1892 OF 2004

HON S E LINARES:

The Government give up £20,000 to Knightsfield Holdings for the Trans-border Institute and the sacking of Mr Oda was one which he was an employee, because I do not reckon that there is another employee other than Mr Oda who is organising every function to do with the Trans-border Institute. Knightsfield Holdings get £20,000 give it to the Trans-border Institute and surely either Mr Finlayson who is the one in charge of Knightsfield Holding or Government actually who give in £20,000 have a say as to not a representative but an employee, because he was employed by the Trans-border Institute.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

First of all let me say that I am delighted that the hon Member has finally subscribed to the principle of cross-border Institute and is now interested in its affairs. Secondly, the Government's voted funds do not go towards his salary. It goes towards the organisation of events. Mr Oda is not the Government's employee, he is the Spanish designated representative. We have Mr Clive Finlayson of Knightsfield Holdings. If, in the unlikely event that the Government of Gibraltar should want to sack Mr Finlayson, if

indeed that is what has happened to Mr Oda, but in the unlikely event that the Government should wish to sack Mr Finlayson I would not expect the hon Member to be arguing that the Mayor of Tarifa should have a say in that. Now, I have a personal view about what has happened to Mr Oda and if I am correctly discerning from his question what the hon Member's view on the matter is, and I think we probably coincide as to the view, but it is not an issue in which the Government of Gibraltar have been consulted. Were it a matter in which we felt that we had a say as equal partners, which is what we are in the Trans-border Institute, we would not have allowed it to happen.

HON S E LINARES:

As a matter of record, is the fact that I ask about the Trans-border Institute does not mean that I am in favour or against the Trans-border Institute. I have not indicated either way. It is just that it is £20,000 that comes from the Estimates of Expenditure which I am interested and which I think the whole of the Opposition is interested to know exactly.....

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is not for his salary.

HON S E LINARES:

No but it is to do with the Government putting into the Trans-border Institute, whether it is for salaries or for functions, for conferences, for whatever, the Government do give in £20,000 to this Institute and this is my interest. Where does the money go and how is it spent? That is why I am asking the question.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The hon Member is fully entitled to question the Government about how public funds are spent, but I do not accept that for the purposes of this issue it makes no difference whether Gibraltar public funds go towards paying Mr Oda's salary or not. If Gibraltar public funds went to entertain Mr Oda's salary, then I think the Gibraltar Government would be entitled to a say about how anybody employed with those funds is treated as a matter of decency and propriety, but if the Gibraltar public funds are not used for salaries but used to sponsor Trans-border Institute events in Gibraltar, and Mr Oda is not an employee of the Government of Gibraltar or the Gibraltar Government's designated person in the Trans-border Institute, in other words, Mr Oda is the Mancomunidad's equivalent of our Mr Finlayson in the Institute. Therefore in those circumstances we do not think it raises an issue for it. Let me say that as I recognised when I spoke in the Sociedad Marisol or whatever they are called, some dinner that I went to a few months ago in the Casino Calpe where I noticed that Mr Oda was present, I took the opportunity to comment on this issue and to thank him for his hard work and to recognise the huge role that he has played in the creation of the Trans-border Institute and its works. So we are certainly no supporters of any maltreatment of Mr Oda, which is not to say that we are in a position to prevent it. The answer to the hon Member's question in any event is that we were not consulted. Either because we were not entitled or out of courtesy or for

any other reason, we were not consulted. Indeed, we read about it in the newspapers like him.

ORAL

NO. 1893 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

COMPANIES REGISTER

Of the companies wound up by the Court further to the petitions advertised on Tuesday 6th July 2004, how many were trading at the time that the petitions were filed and of those, how many employees did each of them have registered at the ETB at the time?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

According to the records at the Employment Service, two were still active (trading) at the time, although none had any employees. The director of one of these companies was still under contract.

ORAL

NO. 1894 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

IMPORT DUTY

How much money has been collected in import duty as a result of the enactment of the Development Aid (Amendment) Ordinance 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1895 of 2004.

NO. 1895 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

IMPORT DUTY

What was the amount of import duty paid on building materials on a monthly basis since April 2004 inclusive?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

No import duty has been collected following the enactment of the 2004 amendment to the Development Aid Ordinance.

The import duty collected on building materials are:

April	£29,336
May	£39,921
June	£46,675
July	£26,252
August	£28,593
September	£44,409

NO. 1896 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TERCENTENARY EVENTS

Can Government say whether there are any more Tercentenary events planned for outside Gibraltar and if so what are they?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

There are no more Tercentenary events as such, but the Gibraltar Day this year, which is an annual event, will have a Tercentenary theme to it, however there would have been a Gibraltar Day whether it would have been the Tercentenary or not, that is why I say it is not really a Tercentenary event. This Tercentenary year Gibraltar will participate for the first time in The Lord Mayors Show in the City of London and also the Philatelic Exhibition at the invitation of the Royal Philatelic Society on 21st October 2004. I do not know whether that makes them Tercentenary events but they are two things that might not be happening were it not for the Tercentenary.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1896 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Chief Minister tell the House which of those events, if we can classify them as Tercentenary events, is the one that the Foreign Secretary may attend?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, as far as I am aware he has not offered to sit on the Gibraltar float in the Lord Mayors Show and unless without my knowledge he has done so, I am aware that he has been invited and the event which I think in his mind is the one that he would accept attending is the Gibraltar Day, which is the Gibraltar Tercentenary Day in London this year. So it is a Tercentenary event but I just did not want the hon Members to come back to me saying 'ah, well that is not a Tercentenary event because it happens every year'. It would happen every year but not in this Tercentenary format. So for example, the changes are this year that there is no dinner but a larger reception.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Will there be separate receptions for the Finance Centre and for the Tourism industry as well?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No.

ORAL

NO. 1897 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TERCENTENARY EVENTS

What was the cost, with a breakdown, of the Tercentenary Gibraltar-American Council event that took place at the Lotos Club, New York, in June this year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1898 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1898 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TERCENTENARY EVENTS

How many persons attended the Tercentenary Gibraltar-American Council event at the Lotos Club, New York, in June this year and who were they?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The total cost was \$4,034.92. Eighty-two persons attended. Mrs Franklin D Roosevelt Jnr, chairperson of the Gibraltar-American Council, presided. Members of the Council attended as did several ambassadors, one former member of Congress. The former United States Commissioner of Internal Revenues, the President of the American Foreign Policy council, historian Arthur Schlesinger Jnr., and editor of the Wall Street Journal and Mrs Anne Eisenhower-Flotti, granddaughter of President Eisenhower, amongst those eighty-two. Also attending were two United Nations ambassadors and three high-ranking officials of the United Nations Secretariat, and of course yours truly the Chief Minister.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1897 AND 1898 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can I thank the Chief Minister because that is a comprehensive list. I do not think he has given me the eighty-two people in that summary but can he say who the ambassadors were, what country they were from?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

One of them was the Chairman of the Committee of 24. The other I cannot remember but certainly the Chairman of the Committee of 24 was one of them, who is from I cannot remember either. I think it was St Lucia but I may be wrong.

NO. 1899 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

HEAD 105 – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INDUSTRY AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Can Government give a breakdown of the following forecast outturns for 2003/2004:

- (a) £67,000 Head 105 Sub-head 1 EU Interreg 2000/2006 programme;
- (b) £187,000 Head 105 Sub-head 2 EU Objective II 2000/2006 programme;
- (c) £138,000 Head 105 Sub-head 6 Upper Rock Improvements and Maintenance;
- (d) £282,000 Head 105 Sub-head 7 Beaches Improvements and Maintenance;
- (e) £1,457,000 Head 105 Sub-head 9 Tourist beautification projects;
- (f) £254,000 Head 105 Sub-head 10 Other development projects?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1900 to 1906 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1900 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

HEAD 104, SUBHEAD 5

Can Government give a breakdown of the £206,000 forecast outturn for 2003/2004 in respect of Head 104 Sub-head 5 for Port Infrastructure facilities and equipment?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1899 and 1901 to 1906 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1901 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

HEAD 105 – SUBHEAD 3

Can Government give a breakdown of the £107,000 forecast outturn for 2003/2004 in respect of Head 105 Sub-head 3 Gibraltar Enterprise Scheme?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1899, 1900 and 1902 to 1906 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1902 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

HEAD 6D, SUBHEAD 4(b)

Can Government provide a breakdown of the £27,000 forecast outturn for 2003/2004 in respect of marketing and Official Visits of the Ship Registry?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1899 to 1901 and 1903 to 1906 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1903 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

HEAD 8-A, SUBHEAD 20

Can Government provide a breakdown of the £43,000 forecast outturn for 2003/2004 at Head 8-A 20 Research, Development Studies and Professional Fees?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1899 to 1902 and 1904 to 1906 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1904 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

HEAD 8-A, SUBHEAD 16

Can Government provide a breakdown of the £352,000 forecast outturn for 2003/2004 at Head 8-A 16 Government Lobbying, Hospitality and Travel showing in addition official travel by the Chief Minister, by Government Ministers, by Civil Servants and by GDC employees?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1899 to 1903, 1905 and 1906 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1905 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

HEAD 8-A, SUBHEAD 15

Can Government give a breakdown of the £840,000 forecast outturn for 2003/2004 at Head 8-A 15 Private Sector fees for legal advice showing the legal firm or lawyer that the amounts were paid to, the date of payment and in respect of what?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1899 to 1904 and 1906 of 2004.

NO. 1906 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

HEAD 8-A, SUBHEAD 8(d)

Can Government give a breakdown of the £50,000 forecast outturn for 2003/2004 at head 8-A 8(d) Private Sector fees for legal drafting showing the legal firm or lawyer that the amounts were paid to, the date of payment and in respect of what?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answer to Question Nos. 1899 to 1902

The Government do not think it appropriate to give all this information. It is simply too voluminous. The hon Member is, in effect, asking Government to publish a Nominal Ledger of all the transactions processed during a financial year which the Government are not willing to do. However, if he wants a subtotal in respect of any particular item of expenditure I will endeavour to obtain that information for him.

Answer to Question Nos. 1903 to 1906

This is more possible in respect of Question Nos. 1903 to 1906 in respect of which I now give him a schedule setting out the breakdowns in respect of those questions which do not amount to a Nominal Ledger type request. Several pages there of breakdown of those Heads which are in effect single item Heads, like legal fees and things like that, he has got a list there of the cases, but where he asks for a breakdown of a Sub-head, which includes many different things, it is in effect a Nominal Ledger and the only way one could in effect do it is to give him copies of the Government's books in that respect.

CONT'D ANSWER TO QUESTION 1906**Answer to Question 1905**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Law Firm</u>	<u>Case</u>	<u>Amount</u>
May-03	Hassans	The Agrani Project	£ 12,525.00
Jun-03	Hassans	30 Cornwalls court, planning appeal & enforcement	£ 15,000.00
Jun-03	Hassans	53 Europa Road	£ 430.00
Jul-03	Hassans	Elderly care handbook & disciplinary procedure	£ 1,000
Oct-03	Hassans	Argani Satellite communications	£ 3,000.00
Dec-03	Hassans	Moreno 2000 Ltd	£ 2,610.00
Dec-03	Hassans	CTS application for Telecom licence	£ 500.00

<u>Date</u>	<u>Law Firm</u>	<u>Case</u>	<u>Amount</u>
May-03	White & Case	The Kennel Club	£ 7,293.32
Jun-03	White & Case	State Aids/Tax Financial Services	£ 1,187.20
Jun-03	White & Case	State Aids/Tax Financial Services	£ 3,639.87
Jul-03	White & Case	State Aids/Tax Financial Services	£ 1,421.28
Jun-03	White & Case	EU Law & Policy regarding taxation	£ 735.00
Aug-03	White & Case	State Aids/Tax Financial Services	£ 1,508.31
Sep-03	White & Case	Services Rendered, June 03	£ 6,026.34
Oct-03	White & Case	Services Rendered, July & August 03	£ 1,296.51
Jan-04	White & Case	Professional Services, September & October 03	£ 12,173.64
Jan-04	White & Case	Professional services, January 04	£ 802.00
Jan-04	White & Case	Professional Services, November 03	£ 5,095.17
Mar-04	White & Case	Professional Services, December 03	£ 4,119.47
Jun-03	White & Case	Professional Services, February & March 03	£ 4,242.71

<u>Date</u>	<u>Law Firm</u>	<u>Case</u>	<u>Amount</u>
May-03	Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton	Tax Reform & ECJ State issues & Aviation issues	£ 101,343.47
Jun-03	Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton	Telecommunications & Datatronix	£ 8,873.80
Feb-04	Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton	Professional Services, 1/2/03 to 21/10/03	£ 93,424.03

<u>Date</u>	<u>Law Firm</u>	<u>Case</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Jun-03	Triay, Stagnetto, Neish	Luis Gilbert Vs HMAG	£ 26,434.00
Aug-03	Triay, Stagnetto, Neish	Island Project, Queensway Quay	£ 16,200.00
Aug-03	Triay, Stagnetto, Neish	MH Bland & Co Ltd	£ 87,346.55
Oct-03	Triay, Stagnetto, Neish	Tender for Buses	£ 920.00
Dec-03	Triay, Stagnetto, Neish	Steelmac Vs HM General for Gibraltar	£ 17,000.00

<u>Date</u>	<u>Law Firm</u>	<u>Case</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Jul-03	Mr David Vaughan	Challenge to the savings directive	£ 7,100.00

Cont'd.....

CONT'D ANSWER TO QUESTION 1906

Cont'd Answer to Question 1905

<u>Date</u>	<u>Law Firm</u>	<u>Case</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Aug-03	Mr M Llamas	GKI Vs FCI, Challenge to the savings directive	£ 26,520.00
Nov-03	Mr M Llamas	GFA Vs UEFA	£ 9,860.00
Feb-04	Mr M Llamas	Gib Olympic Committee Vs IOC	£ 13,785.00

<u>Date</u>	<u>Law Firm</u>	<u>Case</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Aug-03	Mr Beloff & Mr Herberg	Male Juries in Gibraltar	£ 57,500.00
Nov-03	Mr Beloff	GFA Vs UEFA	£ 45,413.69

<u>Date</u>	<u>Law Firm</u>	<u>Case</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Aug-03	Raymond Pilley	Extradition proceedings, Mr R Soneji	£ 5,000.00

<u>Date</u>	<u>Law Firm</u>	<u>Case</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Sep-03	Attias & Levy	Steelmac Vs HM AG's Chambers	£ 15,890.00
Sep-03	Attias & Levy	Repossession Unit 3 Superport	£ 6,104.00
Oct-03	Attias & Levy	Edgar Smart trading as Julian Ent Ltd appeal icw Tobacco licence	£ 310.00
Dec-03	Attias & Levy	Rock financial services, Investor compensation scheme ordinance	£ 12,420.00

<u>Date</u>	<u>Law Firm</u>	<u>Case</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Sep-03	Triay & Triay	Gib Elec Authority & Ecclesal Ltd Trade Licensing Authority appeal	£ 66,280.00
Nov-03	Triay & Triay	Legal advice for Minister for Housing icw Panorama article	£ 1,216.00
Dec-03	Triay & Triay	Gibraltar Coinage, Professional Services	£ 6,015.00
Jan-04	Triay & Triay	Preparation of draft agreement for Gib Sports Authority	£ 10,425.00
Feb-04	Triay & Triay	Moreno 2000 Vs Collector of Customs	£ 9,568.00

<u>Date</u>	<u>Law Firm</u>	<u>Case</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Sep-03	GFA	GFA Vs UEFA	£ 3,394.59

<u>Date</u>	<u>Law Firm</u>	<u>Case</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Oct-03	Charles A Gomez & Co	Extradition proceedings, R Soneji	£ 5,640.00
Feb-04	Charles A Gomez & Co	Professional services, Independence of Gib Judiciary	£ 2,250.00

<u>Date</u>	<u>Law Firm</u>	<u>Case</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Oct-03	Sector Corporate Services	Gibraltar Bus Company	£ 521.00

<u>Date</u>	<u>Law Firm</u>	<u>Case</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Nov-03	Mr A Lewis	GFA Vs UEFA	£ 8,974.35

<u>Date</u>	<u>Law Firm</u>	<u>Case</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Nov-03	De Pfyffer Associates	GFA Vs UEFA	£ 28,627.09
Feb-04	De Pfyffer Associates	Gib Olympic Comitè Vs IOC	£ 19,838.79
Cont'd.....			

CONT'D ANSWER TO QUESTION 1906

Cont'd Answer to Question 1905

<u>Date</u>	<u>Law Firm</u>	<u>Case</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Dec-03	KPMG	Flights icw EU tax Reform	£ 54.50

<u>Date</u>	<u>Law Firm</u>	<u>Case</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Feb-04	Quest Services	Louis Gilbert Vs HMAG	£ 360.00

Total:	£839,414.68
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CONT'D ANSWER TO QUESTION 1906**Answer to Question 1906**

Lawyer/Legal Firm	Description	Date Payment	Amount
KPMG	Tax Reform	May 2003	£ 2,812.00
Allen & Overy	Tax Reform	October 2003	£ 8,172.30
Allen & Overy	Tax Reform	November 2003	£ 1,049.24
Hassans	Tax Reform	May 2003	£ 2,420.05
Michael Llamas	Consumer Credit	May 2003	£ 6,630.00
Michael Llamas	Competition Regulation	July 2003	£ 4,420.00
Michael Llamas	Eurovote	July 2003	£ 1,785.00
Michael Llamas	Electronic Communications	January 2004	£18,000.00
Michael Llamas	Advice EU Legislative Matters	January 2004	<u>£ 4,930.00</u> <u>£50,218.59</u>

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1899 TO 1906 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In relation to Question No. 1902 for example, which is £27,000 and relates to official travel by the Ship Registry, how is that particular entry different to official travel by Ministers or by the Chief Minister or similar questions which have been asked and answered?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, I suspect only because the way that information is kept. I appreciate it relates to the same subject matter – travel, but there is obviously not a separate Sub-head. I do not know, it must be mixed up with other things. The information has not been provided to me even in supplementary information form. What question number was that specific one?

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Question No. 1902. The way I would imagine this happened is when figures are put in the Estimates there is a breakdown of that figure somewhere.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I shall ask, I will find out whether that particular item is one that might have been provided and it has just been lumped in with the ones that could not be provided.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In relation to Question No. 1903, there is an item of expenditure there for £5,200.50p in respect of the revision of General Orders. Can the Chief Minister tell the House who is carrying out that revision and who the sum was paid to?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I am speaking from background information because this is a project that the Chief Secretary is engaged in and not me, but I think it is being done on a consultancy basis by a retired Senior Civil Servant. I do not mind telling him privately who it is, I do not think it is appropriate to name him across the floor of the House.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In terms of this revision of General Orders is it that there is a Government policy as to what they want to see changed in General Orders and that is why it is being revised?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Not Government at a political level certainly. This is an exercise that the Chief Secretary is running with, I am not myself personally aware, policy decisions will have to be obtained but we certainly do not have any Ministerial input into that. I do not know what the proposed changes are and indeed whether the Government will agree with them or not. In any event I suppose they will have to be negotiated or discussed with the Trade Unions involved. So this is something that is, I suppose, at an internal proposal stage.

NO. 1907 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

HEAD 106 – PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND ESSENTIAL SERVICES

Can Government give a breakdown of the following forecast outturns for 2003/2004:

- (a) £144,000 Head 106 Sub-head 1 Government furniture and equipment;
- (b) £1,265,000 Head 106 Sub-head 2 government buildings, works and structures;
- (c) £285,000 Head 106 Sub-head 5 Government computerisation programme;
- (d) £81,000 Head 106 Sub-head 10 Gibraltar Broadcasting Corporation equipment?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1908 and 1909 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1908 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

HEAD 8-A, SUBHEADS 21 AND 22

Can Government provide a breakdown of the following forecast outturn for 2003/2004:

- (a) £188,000 Head 8 – A 21 National Day;
- (b) £166,000 Head 8 – A 22 2004 Tercentenary?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1907 and 1909 of 2004.

NO. 1909 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

HEAD 8-A, SUBHEADS 4(d), 4(e) AND 8(e)

Can Government provide a breakdown of the following forecast outturn figures for the financial year 2003/2004:

- (a) £17,000 Head 8 – A 4(d) Official entertainment;
- (b) £15,000 Head 8 – A 4(e) Visiting delegations and Government receptions;
- (c) £8,000 Head 8 – A 8(e) Publications?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I apologise for dealing with these questions separately because frankly they could have been tagged on to the last batch because the answer given is the same one. I cannot tell him why they have been separately bundled. Again these are items which require simply too minute and voluminous detail which the Government could only really give by publishing its Nominal Ledgers of all items charged to the general subheads. That would not be appropriate, but I repeat the offer that if the hon Member wants to know how much money has been spent on any particular item, then I will endeavour to have that information obtained for him. For example, I think he understands what I am offering, if there is one item of buildings or works or one item of furniture in the sense how much has been spent on No. 6, that pulling information out can be done.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1907 TO 1909 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In relation to certainly the others, certainly in relation to Question No. 1908, the breakdown of the forecast outturn in relation for National Day. It is a question I have asked three times in successive years and they were answered once by the hon Lady and the other times I am not sure by who, but that breakdown has certainly been provided to the Opposition several times in the past.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, that particular item has been provided in very general form, not as a breakdown of a forecast outturn. There are dozens and dozens, not to say hundreds of small items go up to make that and it may be that in the past somebody has just lumped these together and converted it into five or six heads and said so much on catering, so much on this and so much on that. The hon Member should understand, as I am sure he does, that the Civil Service has five days to get answers together for these questions and that in effect what all these questions call for is for a compilation of a Government accounting book keeping process on dates chosen by the hon Members in the formulation of their questions. The Government system is geared up to provide information in the way that we do it in the House at Budget time and in the Accounts. To provide breakdowns requires either giving the Nominal Ledgers over to the hon Members or alternatively, for somebody to sit down and analyse those Nominal Ledgers, condense the information into in effect new generic subheads and on this occasion he has asked this in respect of more than a dozen heads and subheads. I think in the past when the question has been answered it has been the only item that he has asked for a breakdown of, National Day. If he is particularly interested in the National Day one, I will try and get that pulled out for him and then see if there is some form of condensed version that can be provided to him. The only other thing that the Government could do is print out the computer Nominal Ledgers and just pass them over, but that is literally giving him copies of the Government's accounting books. That is what the Government's accounting books are.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In the course of that answer the Chief Minister said that we were asking for this information on a particular day, as if the Government were being asked what is the expenditure as at September this year or anything else. This is the forecast outturn presented with the Estimates and therefore if the Government have spent £285,000 on computers in the last financial year, what is the difficulty in saying what was bought for that £285,000?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I can repeat everything that I have just said if he would like me to, but I know that he has understood it. The Government can press a button and produce this information but what emerges from the printer is the Nominal Ledger for this item which could run into dozens and dozens of pages. That is tantamount, in the days of non-computerisation, to saying to the hon Members 'here are the books of account of the Government'. Not the Government's accounts audited by the Principal Auditor, not the Estimates, not the Forecast Outturn broken down as the law requires into the subheads that it is broken down, but in effect here are the Government's ledgers and we do not think it is appropriate to do that. I think no Government in the world is required to publish its books. What Governments are required to publish is the audited accounts of the Government of Gibraltar and the Estimates in the form required by law. The hon Members through their questions in effect require the publication of the Government's books of account and we just do not think it is appropriate or reasonable.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well, I do not know about that but in time we will find that it is not unusual that when we were debating the Estimates for any one of those items where there are rows of Civil Servants behind them with masses of papers, to be given a breakdown of what it was that the House was voting the money for. In fact, what we had is a question about the result of last year where there are a number of items that exceeded the original estimates. If one is spending £1.25 million on Government buildings it should not be too difficult to identify. Not down to the last screw and say two pence for putting a screw in this door, three pennies for putting a washer on a tap.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

That is how the information exists.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Yes, but presumably in asking for a breakdown, if it is the word 'breakdown' that is causing a problem then perhaps we will find a different word to use instead of breakdown there. I would have thought that to go from one extreme of having to identify every nut and washer that has been used out of the £1.25 million to be able to say 'well look, £500,000 was spent on painting Varyl Begg blocks'. One can say that without having to say of which so much was for paint, so much was for scaffolding, so much was for labour.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Then they should ask the questions in a different form.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Will the Chief Minister not consider looking back at previous questions and he will find that breakdowns have not caused the same sort of breakdown of the Civil Service on previous occasions.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

These answers are not new and the Hon Dr Garcia will recognise that I have given him these answers before and that there are some Heads for which I have not given him a breakdown and there are some Heads for which I have given him a breakdown, exactly as I have done today. This is not the first time that the hon Members hear the answer that this is too voluminous and in effect requires the publication of the Government's Nominal Ledgers, and that I offer to give subtotals. This is a standard response that he has had over several Question Times now, going back I do not know how long but several times ago. That aspect of it is not new. Now, I accept, which is why we make the offer that I make in the second half of my question, that there are some Heads that

lend themselves more than others to the condensation of the information. For example, it may be that the Government buildings is one of them. If all the hon Member wants to know is on which buildings did the Government spend and how much was it on each building, well that question can be answered. It requires a little bit of administrative effort but it is certainly capable of being answered, I would have thought within five days. If he asks for a breakdown without specifying what breakdown he wants, then we have to assume that he wants whatever breakdown the Government have. Whatever breakdown the Government have is the Nominal Ledger. In other words, in his terminology every last screw and every last nail.

ORAL

NO. 1910 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

IMPORT DUTY

How much import duty has been collected from persons entering Gibraltar through the non-commercial gate at the land frontier on a monthly basis from April 2004 inclusive?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1911 of 2004.

NO. 1911 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

IMPORT DUTY

How much revenue has been collected from import duty on computer products on a monthly basis since the new rate of 6 per cent took effect?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answer to Question No. 1910

The amount of import duty collected from persons entering Gibraltar through the non-commercial gate at the land frontier on a monthly basis from April 2004 is as follows:

April 2004	£13,264.98
May 2004	£11,292.58
June 2004	£15,432.54
July 2004	£11,273.72
August 2004	£11,580.90
September 2004	£11,530.92

Answer to Question No. 1911

The amount of revenue collected from import duty on computer products on a monthly basis since the new rate of 6 per cent took effect is as follows:

July 2004	£42,153.05
August 2004	£30,686.65
September 2004	£46,331.67

ORAL

NO. 1912 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – 50/50 SALES

Can Government state if there has been any further response to the current offer for sale of Government 50 per cent share of the co-ownership homes with a 5 per cent uplift, giving the same breakdown as was given in answer to Question No. 1136 of 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The information requested is in the schedule attached.

Answer to Question 1912

	Total Letters Sent	Total sum of Government share	Replies Received "Yes"	Total sum of Government share	Replies Received "No"	Total sum of Government share	No Replies received yet share	Total sum of Government share
Brympton	36	£1,014,815.46	9	£241,976.81	2	£51,840.00	25	£720,998.65
Harbour Views	400	£8,264,284.06	39	£765,905.03	52	£1,072,632.61	309	£6,425,746.42
Montagu Crescent	152	£4,022,567.45	20	£532,446.34	11	£287,798.53	121	£3,202,322.58
Montagu Gardens	307	£8,983,003.71	22	£646,480.77	31	£900,595.75	254	£7,435,927.19
Sir William Jackson Grove	167	£3,197,602.59	15	£257,619.21	13	£240,943.43	139	£2,699,039.95
Westview Park	82	£1,848,982.94	14	£303,320.07	8	£181,570.32	60	£1,364,092.55
*	1144	£27,331,256.21	119	£2,747,748.23	117	£2,735,380.64	908	£21,848,127.34

* Includes amendments to database to record minor errors detected since previous report

Cont Answer to Question 1912

<u>Estate</u>	<u>Number of Completions</u>		<u>Funds received</u>
Brympton	8		£213,176.81
Harbour Views	22		£420,990.16
Montagu Crescent	10		£292,216.32
Montagu Gardens	8		£237,233.07
Sir William Jackson Grove	5		£83,742.15
Westview Park	5		£106,579.82
	58		£1,353,938.33

ORAL

NO. 1913 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

FINANCIAL SERVICES OMBUDSMAN

Given the answer to Question Nos. 446 of 2004 and 1254 of 2004, what progress has been made by the Government in relation to the possibility of establishing a Financial Services Ombudsman?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Government are not currently engaged in this possible policy initiative. The question of progress does not therefore currently arise.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1913 OF 2004

HON F R PICARDO:

The Chief Minister will no doubt be aware, because I made a cross reference to the earlier questions, that in this question he did tell me in January that this was a matter which was being considered. Am I to take his answer now as a determination of the issue in that it is no longer being considered or simply that this is not an issue that is being driven as a priority?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not know if there is anybody beavering away at a proposal. I am not and no proposals have been put up to me. If there is somebody working on this somewhere on the lower echelons of Government I cannot tell him, but it is not something that the Government at a more senior or Ministerial level is actively engaged in. I know that lots of people would like to see it and I also know that lots of people do not want to see it if they have got to pay for it. I suspect it is something that will happen at some stage but it would be wrong of me to give him the impression that the show is on the road so to speak because that is not the situation at the moment. It might change.

ORAL

NO. 1914 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

FINANCE CENTRE

What was the cost of the reception, giving a breakdown, hosted by the Chief Minister at the Finance Centre offices at Europort on the occasion of the retirement of Mr Brian Morris?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The cost of the reception hosted by the Chief Minister at the Finance Centre offices at Europort on the occasion of the retirement of Mr Brian Morris was £900.

NO. 1915 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

FINANCIAL SERVICES

In relation to financial services, can the Chief Minister give the dates in the months of April to September 2004 when he has been away from Gibraltar on Government business relating to Financial Services, giving the event or function attended, the venue, the city and the country visited, the names of any officials or other persons travelling with the Chief Minister and a breakdown of the cost of each visit?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Chief Minister Trips – Finance

	Air Fares & Travel	Accommodation	Other
	£	£	£
14/06/2004 Michael Llamas & Beating Retreat CM/CS/PS(L)	5,551.59	2,526.55	-
14/07/2004 Brussels CM/CS/PS(L)	3,276.94	1,518.58	-
06/09/2004 Brussels CM/CS	-	Not yet billed	-
22/09/2004 Brussels CM/CS/PS(L)	-	Not yet billed	-
	<u>8,828.53</u>	<u>4,045.13</u>	<u>0.00</u>

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1915 OF 2004

HON F R PICARDO:

Can I ask the Chief Minister to just repeat in relation to the first read-out, the total. I have a note that he said £5,000 but I did not get the rest of it.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, I am not prepared to read it out again but I am happy to give him a copy of the answer so that he can do his arithmetic in his own time.

HON F R PICARDO:

Even better. I see that this question has solicited a response which provides information as to travel which was not provided in answer to Question No. 1859 which was an all-encompassing question which did not discriminate between his travel in respect of financial services or otherwise. Am I correct to say that in order to have the correct answer to Question No. 1859 I am to read both of these schedules together and those will show me all the travel in the past twelve months, including in relation to financial services from April to September 2004?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, what it shows is that the hon Member has got to understand the nature of the questions that he asks. Question No. 1859 asked for the Chief Minister's travel to the United Kingdom, which this question does not.

HON F R PICARDO:

I do appreciate it even though I have asked that question, because as the Chief Minister himself has indicated the first item of expenditure in this Head relates to a trip to the United Kingdom, which is not provided for in the answer provided to Question No. 1859. So in those circumstances am I right to assume that I need to consider that particular trip as part of what should have been the answer to Question No. 1859 if this House is not to be misled?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, he does not have to assume that.

HON F R PICARDO:

In that case, how should I interpret the reference in this answer to a trip obviously to the United Kingdom as the Chief Minister himself has indicated, which is not referred to in the schedule that I was given in answer to Question No. 1859?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well I do not know without consulting my diary whether in fact my trip on 14th June was to the United Kingdom or was to Brussels. I am thrown by the reference to Beating of the Retreat in the explanations, but I certainly recall going to Brussels in June because that is when we did the deal with the DG competition. So it may be that all those four trips were to Brussels and not any of them to London.

HON F R PICARDO:

In that case, seeing that this question relates to financial services, has the Chief Minister only travelled to Brussels in relation to financial services in the past months since April?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

According to those of my officials who put this information together, apparently so.

ORAL

NO. 1916 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

FINANCIAL SERVICES

Can the Government give the cost, with a breakdown, of attendance at the International Monetary Fund's 5th Annual Workshop on the IMF's Co-ordinated Portfolio Investment Survey for small Economies with International Finance Centres held in Guernsey on 25th to 27th May 2004, giving the offices of those who might have attended as part of the Government delegation?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1917 to 1923 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1917 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

FINANCIAL SERVICES

Can the Government state when they were invited to attend the International Monetary Fund's 5th Annual Workshop on the IMF's Co-ordinated Portfolio Investment Survey for Small Economies with International Finance Centres held in Guernsey on 25th to 27th May 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1916 and 1918 to 1923 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1918 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

FINANCIAL SERVICES

Can the Government give the cost, with a breakdown, of attendance at the International Investment Offshore Fund & Product Awards held at the Victoria Park Plaza in London on Thursday 20th May 2004 giving the offices of those who might have attended as part of the Government delegation?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1916, 1917 and 1919 to 1923 of 2004.

NO. 1919 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

FINANCIAL SERVICES

Can the Government give the cost, with a breakdown, of attendance at the Association of Insurance Risk Managers held between 14th to 16th June at the Manchester International Convention Centre giving the offices of those who might have attended as part of the Government delegation and the names of any private sector firms who accepted the Government's invitation to use the Government's stand as their base for the duration of the conference?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1916 to 1918 and 1920 to 1923 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1920 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

FINANCIAL SERVICES

Can the Government give the cost, with a breakdown, of attendance at the Vermont Captive Insurance Association annual conference and exhibition held in Burlington, Vermont, USA between 10th to 12th August 2004 giving the offices of those who might have attended as part of the Government delegation?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1916 to 1919 and 1921 to 1923 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1921 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

FINANCIAL SERVICES

Can the Government give the cost, with a breakdown, of attendance at the OECD Global Forum on Taxation hosted by the German Government and held in Berlin between 3rd and 4th June 2004 giving the offices of those who might have attended as part of the Government delegation?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1916 to 1920, 1922 and 1923 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1922 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

FINANCIAL SERVICES

Can the Government give the cost, with a breakdown, of attendance at the Luxembourg Rendez-Vous risk management and risk financing conference held in Luxembourg between 12th and 13th May 2004, giving the offices of those who might have attended as part of the Government delegation?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1916 to 1921 and 1923 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1923 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

FINANCIAL SERVICES

Can Government give the cost, with a breakdown, of attending all and any conferences which related or were considered to relate to financial services in the months of April to September 2004, giving the offices of those who might have attended as part of the Government delegation?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The information the hon Member has requested is on the schedule attached.

Answer to Question 1923

Answer to Question 1916

Mr Guy Canessa, Marketing and Liaison Officer of the Finance Centre attended the IMF's 5th Annual Workshop held in Guernsey on 25th – 27th May 2004. The workshop was funded by the Bank of Japan. The Finance Centre incurred the following expenses:

Hotel at Gatwick airport for 1 night (24/5/04)	£ 59.66
Subsistence for 1 night (Outer London)	£ 45.33
Travel Expenses	£ 16.00
Total:	<u>£120.99</u>

Answer to Question 1917

The International Monetary Fund extended an invitation in writing to the Financial Services Commission on 22 March 2004. The Invitation was passed on to the Government of Gibraltar by the Financial Services Commissioner at that time.

Answer to Question 1918

Government did not attend on this occasion and therefore no cost was involved.

Answer to Question 1919

The Finance Centre attended the Association of Insurance Risk Managers International Convention (AIRMIC) in Manchester held between 14th – 16th June 2004.

The following 2 (two) persons made up the Government delegation:

Joseph Macano	Director Licensing Unit
Guy Canessa	Marketing and Liaison Officer

Cont'd.....

Answer to Question 1923

The breakdown of the costs is as follows:

Exhibition Costs	£4,944.00
Flights	£ 401.00
Accommodation	£ 538.00
Subsistence	£ 324.00
Travel Expenses	£ 58.00
Courier	£ 229.00
Total:	£6,494.00

The Gibraltar stand displayed materials provided by a number of Gibraltar insurance related companies.

In addition a Gibraltar accountancy firm used the stand for part of one of the days to introduce UK clients to insurance services in Gibraltar.

Answer to Question 1920

The Finance Centre attended the Vermont Captive Insurance Association (VCIA) annual Conference and exhibition held in Burlington, Vermont, USA between 10th – 12th August 2004.

The following 2 (two) persons made up the Government delegation:

Joseph Macano	Director Licensing Unit
Guy Canessa	Marketing and Liaison Officer

The breakdown of the costs is as follows:

Exhibition Costs	£1,246.00
Flights	£3,486.00
Accommodation	£1,002.00
Subsistence	£ 448.00
Travel Expenses	£ 148.00
Courier	£ 746.00
Total:	£7,076.00

Cont.....

Answer to Question 1923

Answer to Question 1921

Mr James Tipping, Finance Centre Director, attended the OECD Global Forum on Taxation hosted by the German Government and held in Berlin between 3rd and 4th June 2004.

The breakdown of the costs is as follows:

Flights	£ 279.00
Accommodation	£ 165.00
Taxis (Malaga transfer et cetera) & Expenses	<u>£ 247.00</u>
Total:	£ 691.00

Answer to Question 1922

The Finance Centre attended the Luxembourg Rendez-Vous Risk Management exhibition in Luxembourg between 12th – 13th May 2004.

The following 3 (three) persons made up the Government delegation:

James Tipping	Finance Centre Director
Joseph Macano	Director Licensing Unit
Sabrina Ramagge	Executive Officer

The breakdown of the costs is as follows:

Exhibition Costs	£4,097.00
Flights	£ 730.00
Accommodation	£ 856.00
Subsistence	£ 566.00
Courier	£ 587.00
Expenses	<u>£ 589.00</u>
Total:	£7,425.00

Cont'd.....

Answer to Question 1923

Answer to Question 1923

The Finance Centre attended the Risk and Insurance Management Society exhibition and conference held in San Diego, USA between 18th – 22nd April 2004.

The following 4 (four) persons made up the Government delegation:

James Tipping	Finance Centre Director
Joseph Macano	Director Licensing Unit
Guy Canessa	Marketing and Liaison Officer
Chris Collins	Head of Insurance Supervision (FSC)

The breakdown of the costs is as follows:

Exhibition Costs	£ 2,303.00
Flights	£14,218.00
Accommodation	£ 2,958.00
Subsistence	£ 304.00
Courier	£ 1,330.00
Expenses	<u>£ 953.00</u>
Total:	£22,066.00

The Finance Centre attended the Association of Insurance Risk Managers International Convention (AIRMIC) in Manchester held between 14th – 16th June 2004.

The following 2 (two) persons made up the Government delegation:

Joseph Macano	Director Licensing Unit
Guy Canessa	Marketing and Liaison Officer

The breakdown of the costs is as follows:

Exhibition Costs	£4,944.00
Flights	£ 401.00
Accommodation	£ 538.00
Subsistence	£ 324.00
Travel Expenses	£ 58.00
Courier	<u>£ 229.00</u>
Total:	£6,494.00

Cont'd.....

Answer to Question 1923

The Finance Centre attended the Luxembourg Rendez-Vous Risk Management exhibition in Luxembourg between 12th – 13th May 2004.

The following 3 (three) persons made up the Government delegation:

James Tipping	Finance Centre Director
Joseph Macano	Director Licensing Unit
Sabrina Ramagge	Executive Officer

The breakdown of the costs is as follows:

Exhibition Costs	£4,097.00
Flights	£ 730.00
Accommodation	£ 856.00
Subsistence	£ 566.00
Courier	£ 587.00
Expenses	<u>£ 589.00</u>
Total:	£7,425.00

The Finance Centre attended the Vermont Captive Insurance Association (VCIA) annual Conference and exhibition held in Burlington, Vermont, USA between 10th – 12th August 2004.

The following 2 (two) persons made up the Government delegation:

Joseph Macano	Director Licensing Unit
Guy Canessa	Marketing and Liaison Officer

The breakdown of the costs is as follows:

Exhibition Costs	£1,246.00
Flights	£3,486.00
Accommodation	£1,002.00
Subsistence	£ 448.00
Travel Expenses	£ 148.00
Courier	<u>£ 746.00</u>
Total:	£7,076.00

Cont'd.....

Answer to Question 1923

The Finance Centre also attended the following conferences held in Gibraltar.

Thursday 20th May 2004

Lloyds TSB – Gibraltar Insurance Seminar held at the Caleta Hotel. The Chief Minister and Finance Centre Director attended as speakers. There was no cost to Government.

Thursday 9th September 2004

Swiss Independent Portfolio Managers Seminar held at the Finance Centre conference room. The Finance Centre Director made a presentation. There was no cost to Government.

Wednesday 29th September 2004

Gibraltar Bankers Association Annual Conference held at the Caleta Hotel. The Chief Minister attended as speaker. James Tipping, Joseph Macano and Guy Canessa were also in attendance. There was no cost to Government.

ORAL

NO. 1924 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

FINANCE CENTRE NEWSLETTER

Can the Government give the cost of producing and printing the Finance Centre Newsletter?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1925 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1925 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

FINANCIAL PRESS VISIT

Can the Government give the cost, with a breakdown, of the financial press visit to Gibraltar organised by the Government and held between 22nd to 24th June 2004 giving details of all the events organised as part of the said visit?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The information the hon Member has requested is on the attached schedule.

The Finance Centre produces four newsletters per year. The last issue had a print run of 3,500 at a cost of £1,809 (printing and design).

No other costs are involved as the Finance Centre provides all the content.

Answer to Question 1925/2004

The costs of the event organised for the visit of the UK financial press held between 22nd – 24th June 2004 were as follows:

11 (Eleven) Journalists		
	Accommodation at the Elliott Hotel	£ 2,156.00
	Flights	£ 1,327.00
	Coach Transfers and Rock Tour	£ 351.00
22/6/04 -	Reception at Elliott Hotel to meet members of Finance Centre, Finance Centre Council and Government Media Director	£ 518.00
23/6/04 -	Presentation held at Finance Centre – Coffee Break	£ 37.00
-	Lunch at 'La Mamela Restaurant'	£ 453.00
-	Dinner at 'Claus on the Rock'	£ 526.00
24/6/04 -	Interview with the Chief Minister	
-	Light Lunch at 'Café Solo'	£ 91.00
Total:		£ 5,459.00

Full Itinerary

Financial press visit to Gibraltar, Tuesday 22 – Thursday 24 June 2004

Tuesday 22 June

14.30 Please proceed directly to one of the BA check-in desks at North Terminal, Gatwick, show your passport and you will be issued with a boarding pass and return ticket. The group reference number for your e-ticket is **ZIOQAJ**. If arriving on Gatwick Express from Victoria, please take monorail from South Terminal to North Terminal and go up the escalator on the right.

16.05 BA6906 Depart Gatwick **19.50** Arrive Gibraltar
Transfer to Elliott Hotel by coach

21.30 Welcome drinks and buffet dinner at Elliott Hotel
Financial Services Commissioner and Supervisors, Finance Centre Council members, President of Chamber of Commerce, Chairman of Federation of Small Businesses and Government Media Director in attendance.

Welcome remarks by James Tipping, Finance Centre Director

Cont'd.....

Answer to Question 1925

Wednesday 23 June

Presentations at Finance Centre conference room, 761 Europort

9.30 James Tipping, Finance Centre Director

10.15 Marcus Killick, Financial Services Commissioner

11.00 Coffee break

11.15 Tony Provasoli, Finance Centre Council Chairman

Each slot includes 15 minutes for questions and answers,

12.00 Visit to major new derivatives trading floor in Europort

13.00 Lunch at La Mamela, Catalan Bay

15.30 Rock Tour

20.00 Dinner at Claus on the Rock hosted by Finance Centre Director, Financial Services Commissioner, Finance Centre Council Chairman, Government Media Director, Joe Macano and Guy Canessa in attendance

Thursday 24 June

10.00 Chief Minister Peter Caruana's press conference at No. 6 Convent Place. James Tipping, Joe Macano and Guy Cancesa in attendance.

12.00 Light lunch at Café Solo, Casemates Square, for those wishing to attend.

Rest of day for meetings, networking or discovering Gibraltar.

19.15 Transfer to airport **20.45 BA6907** Depart Gibraltar **22.20** Arrive Gatwick.

ORAL

NO. 1926 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

QUALIFYING COMPANIES

Can the Government confirm whether the companies which were 'Qualifying Companies' are to be treated for the purposes of taxation as 'Exempt Companies' or whether they are to be required to 'submit to the normal corporation tax regime'?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1927 of 2004.

NO. 1927 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

QUALIFYING COMPANIES

How many qualifying companies were sent the memorandum from the Finance Centre Director asking whether they were prepared to 'submit to the normal corporation tax regime' and of these:

- (a) how many replied;
- (b) of those who replied (i) how many replied that they were prepared to pay the 20 per cent to 35 per cent tax; and (ii) how many replied that they were not; and
- (c) did the replies indicate that all companies in a particular industry had the same approach to the request to pay tax at the rate of 20 per cent to 35 per cent?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Government are currently engaged in relation to this matter with holders of Qualifying Status Certificates. It would not be appropriate to comment further at this stage. No one has yet been required to 'submit to the normal corporate tax regime'.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1926 AND 1927 OF 2004

HON F R PICARDO:

Can I ask the Chief Minister what has changed since he announced in this House that it was likely that the Exempt regime would be applied to all Qualifying Companies?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I have no recollection of having ever announced that. I remember saying that the letter to which he refers and which was leaked by a now identified recipient, had not been sent to all the Qualifying Certificate holders but to those who by virtue of the low amount of

tax that they had been paying over the years might be content to go to a normal corporate status. The letter from which the hon Member quotes and which he cites, asked them the recipients, who were not all the Qualifying Certificates, this letter did not go to the ones who clearly would have difficulty by the size of the company, the size of the employment and the amount of their profits, the ones who did receive it who were the ones who from the amount of tax they have been paying over the years seemed to be insubstantial and therefore might not mind going to the normal tax regime, they were asked to reply stating whether or not that would cause them difficulty or not. That was the question that they were asked.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is this the group that the Chief Minister is in discussion with, that he does not want to give information because he is talking to some group or companies?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, Qualifying Status Companies are being dealt with almost on an individual basis, because they all have different circumstances, different needs, different tax structures, different ownership structures subject to different international tax considerations, and therefore the Government are doing it almost, certainly in the case of the larger ones, certainly on a case by case basis. In respect of the ones that the Government had not intended to deal with in one to one meetings, this letter was sent. The letter invited two replies. One, yes I have no difficulty with going on a normal tax basis, here is my Qualifying Certificate; or yes, it does cause me problems and I would like to meet you – which is what the letter asked for. It said ‘please let us know if it causes you any difficulty so that we can discuss this with you’. That is the position. Now of the people that received the letter there have been some replies and the replies have been of all types. Now they are being worked through one at a time and dealt with accordingly.

HON J J BOSSANO:

What is the difficulty, for example, in answering the bit that says how many replied? How is that going to affect the negotiation?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

How many replied, no, when I was last told five or six had replied. It was not all companies, he also asked how many people got that letter and he has not complained that he has not had that answer. I think from memory the letter went to about 30, but that is from memory. It is of that order but it may be slightly more or slightly less, but it did not go to any company with substantial economic activity or track record of employment, or high tax bill and therefore high profitability.

ORAL

NO. 1928 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

QUALIFYING COMPANIES

Can Government now state how many qualifying companies were trading in the tax year 1998/1999, 1999/2000, 2000/2001, 2001/2002 and 2002/2003?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1929 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1929 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

QUALIFYING COMPANIES

Can Government state whether there has been any reduction in the number of (a) trading; and (b) active qualifying companies since the answer to Question No. 1300 of 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The information requested is in the attached schedule. I should say to him that for the purposes of the records of the Finance Centre Director, Qualifying Companies remain registered as active until such time as the company or its representative notifies him to the contrary. For the purposes of the Income Tax Office companies remain classified as trading until such time as the Commissioner is satisfied that the company no longer trades. The schedule that he has got is drawn up on the basis of the Commissioner of Income Tax definition of trading. In other words, until such time as the Commissioner is satisfied that the company no longer trades.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1929**ANSWER TO QUESTION 1928**

<u>TAX YEAR</u>	<u>No. of Qualifying Companies trading</u>
1998/1999	65
1999/2000	74
2000/2001	79
2001/2002	74
2002/2003	67

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1929

	Active	Trading
April 2004 (Question 1300 of 2004)	122	84
October 2004	102	65

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1928 AND 1929 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

Presumably, since the consultation process is almost on a one to one, it ought to be able to establish who is active and who is trading on the basis of having to meet up with them.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, all that will come out in the wash of this process which is very time-consuming because there is not a one size fits all. Bear in mind that if the Government just give everybody tax exempt status there is a pretty substantial loss of revenue. On the other hand there are some companies who cannot live with exempt status and that is the need for a little bit of tailor making.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In fact, substantial revenue in the light of the answers we have been getting on the breakdowns, in fact the revenue does not seem to be more than a couple of million pounds. They are insubstantial in the context of £200 million, we are talking about one per cent of Government revenue, yes?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

That is not insubstantial. Next time they ask me how much the cocktail party for Mr Morris retiring costs at £900, I will remind him that if £2 million is not substantial then he should not be questioning me about things that only cost £900. I think £2 million is substantial and worth saving if we can. I am not saying that it would be fatal to Government finance if we lost them.

ORAL

NO. 1930 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EXEMPT COMPANIES

Can Government now state what was the total number of persons employed by Exempt Companies in October 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2003 giving a breakdown by industry and nationality?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The information required by the hon Member is set out in the attached schedule. Sorry, it has not been provided to him, it has been provided to him only as at September 2004 and I have a note here to the effect that it has not been possible in the time available to provide the information requested as at October in each of the years that he has asked, by which I suppose they mean that they are working at it and will produce it in due course.

Answer to Question 1930

According to the Employment and Training Board the total of persons employed by Exempt Companies as at September 2004 was 680.

A breakdown by industry is as follows:

Financial Services	293
Gaming	376
Bunkering	6
Other	5
	<hr/>
TOTAL:	680

A breakdown by nationality is as follows:

Gibraltarian	218
Other British	277
Irish	15
Spanish	42
Swiss	11
Portuguese	6
Danish	2
Australian	3
German	13
French	11

Cont'd.....

Answer to Question 1930

Italian	7
Malaysian	2
USA	5
Norwegian	1
Greek	1
Belgian	2
Moroccan	2
Swedish	1
South African	1
Israeli	17
Dutch	7
Antiguan	11
Austrian	4
Brazilian	2
Chinese	1
Finnish	1
Indian	14
Japanese	1
Russian	1
Czech	1
	<hr/>
TOTAL:	680

It has not been possible within the allocated time frame to provide the above information as at October 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2003.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1930 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

I hope that the Chief Minister's interpretation that that is what it means is what it means, because that is the answer that I got in March in answer to Question No. 1320 and then it was that they had obviously not had time in the five days' notice of the question to produce the answer. I interpret it to mean that they were working on it, as he is doing now, and therefore I have assumed that they have now been working on it for six months and five days.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Obviously not.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can the Government confirm that when they said the last time 'it is not possible within the allocated time frame' and I took that to mean that it would eventually materialise and that has not happened, can I put a different interpretation to the same phrase this time or am I likely to see it happening this time?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not know. The Government's position is, as he well knows by the reams of information provided to him, that if it can reasonably be provided without a disproportionate administrative effort, which is what the conventions of this House provide, then it should and will be provided. I had interpreted the answer in the same way as him but I hesitate to give him a formal assurance that it will be provided until I can find out, which I will do, how much effort is required to actually put it together. I will have somebody communicate that to him. If it requires a huge, huge trawl through we may rely on the rule that then entitles us not to produce the information. If, on the other hand, it is just a question of a couple of hours work by somebody, then I see no reason why it should not be done and provided. So, although my interpretation is the same as his, since he is now asking me for a formal commitment in effect a formal commitment that it will be produced, I would rather hold that until somebody can tell me what actually is involved in putting this together. I do not know where these records are held.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I would assume that this is the Employment and Training Board from the format in which it is, because in answer to Question No. 1320 in the last meeting of the House, the information was provided by the ETB and this says according to the Employment and Training Board, that is the answer that I have been given. So I have naturally assumed that these are the records in the computer of contracts of employment still live.

Therefore, presumably the computer is capable of dishing out, particularly the sophisticated computer which is Profile 2001.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Let me say, looking at I would expect the numbers to be showing in growth because as at September 2004, 376 of them were in the gaming industry. So I suspect that he will find if these numbers are provided to him, that there has been movement. It is not just a question of my saying to him 'well there has not been much change'. I think there will have been change but I will let him know in the next day or two whether he can expect to receive this information, and if so, how long we think it will take to give it to him.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In the context of the numbers that the Chief Minister has mentioned, I am assuming of course that since the question is about exempt companies for example in the gaming industry not everybody is an exempt company presumably. So in fact this figure is not the whole of the gaming industry.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Only the exempt gaming industry.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Only the exempt gaming industry that is why I have not been surprised by this figure.

ORAL

NO. 1931 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION

What are the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding entered into between the Financial Services Commission and the Malta Financial Services Authority announced by the FSC on 30th June 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1932 to 1935 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1932 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION

What are the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding entered into between the Financial Services Commission and the UK's Financial Services Authority announced by the FSC on 31st August 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1931 and 1933 to 1935 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1933 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION

Are Government aware of any further Memoranda of Understanding to be entered into by the Financial Services Commission with the financial services regulatory authorities of any other states or territories?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1931, 1932, 1934 and 1935 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1934 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION

How do Government believe that the Memorandum of Understanding entered into between the Financial Services Commission and the UK's Financial Services Authority will assist the investors in TEP plans given that many of those who have such plans and who have approached the FSA in relation to the UK parties involved in such plans have, to date, been told that the FSA cannot assist them in any way and have actually been referred to the Gibraltar Ombudsman?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1931 to 1933 and 1935 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1935 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION

Can Government say under the Memorandum of Understanding signed by the FSC in August, what additional information will have to be provided by the FSC to the UK Financial Services Authority?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Financial Services Commission is wholly independent of the Government. The Government are not accountable for its actions or for it. However, I can tell the hon Member that the FSC does not seek Government's approval either as to the entering of MOUs with overseas regulators or their contents. The Government are considering whether this is an appropriate state of affairs.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1931 TO 1935 OF 2004

HON F R PICARDO:

Are the Government telling the House that they are not aware of what the terms of the Memoranda of Understanding with Malta and the FSA are?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I am telling the hon Member now that I am not aware of the contents, but that even if I were, I would not be willing to account to the hon Member in this House for it because it is not Government business. The hon Member would have to ask the Financial Services Commission directly. I am not willing to explain, justify, inform about or still less defend the actions of a body that is entirely outside of my control and influence.

The last part of my answer, because the Government accept that the Regulator is independent of the Government in regulation but when it comes to entering into agreement with authorities in a foreign country, we think that there are political aspects there about which I think the Government should be consulted regardless of the

independence of the authority. So that is why I say we are considering the appropriateness of this state of affairs.

HON F R PICARDO:

Can I take it from that answer also that the Government are not aware of any other Memoranda of Understanding that may be pending signature on completion by the FSC, or whether any other Memoranda of Understanding which may not have been publicly announced actually exists and signed by the FSC?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Correct, and I say that both as Chief Minister and as Minister with responsibility for the Finance Centre.

ORAL

NO. 1936 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

PROTECTED CELL COMPANIES

Have any applications to form a Protected Cell Company been submitted in the months of April to September 2004 which remain pending consideration or which have been rejected?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1937 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1937 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

PROTECTED CELL COMPANIES

Can Government state how many Protected Cell Companies are registered in Gibraltar in the months of April to September 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Government are not aware of any applications to form a Protected Cell Company which remain pending consideration or which have been rejected between the months of April to September 2004.

In the months of April to September 2004, one Protected Cell Company appears as registered. No new Protected Cell Companies have been registered in this period.

ORAL

NO. 1938 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

TAX EXEMPT COMPANIES

How many tax exempt companies have terminated their tax exemption certificates in the months of April to September 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1939 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1939 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

TAX EXEMPT COMPANIES

Can Government state how many tax exempt company certificates were issued in the months of April to September 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The information the hon Member has requested is on the attached schedule.

Answer to Question 1939 of 2004

Answer to Question 1938

In the months of April to September the following number of companies terminated their certificate.

April	135
May	99
June	33
July	11
August	33
September	36

“Terminated their tax exemption” is interpreted by the Finance Centre as companies which have returned their certificate and no longer require their tax exempt status.

The higher numbers in April and May reflect a seasonal trend following the end of the financial year.

Answer to Question 1939

During the months of April to September 2004 the following exempt company certificates were issued:-

April	60
May	86
June	123
July	71
August	137
September	143

ORAL

NO. 1940 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

COMPANIES REGISTER

How many companies have been removed from the Companies register in the months of April to September 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1941 to 1943 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1941 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

COMPANIES REGISTER

Can Government list the companies formed in Gibraltar in the months of April to September 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1940, 1942 and 1943 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1942 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

COMPANIES REGISTER

Can Government state how many companies have been redomiciled out of Gibraltar in each month of each calendar year since 1996 to 2003?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1940, 1941 and 1943 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1943 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

COMPANIES REGISTER

Can Government state how many companies have been redomiciled out of Gibraltar in each month from January 2004 to the end of September 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

With the caveat that I made the last time he asked Question No. 1941, and although he accepted at the time, he has not corrected the terminology of the question. When he asks 'can the Government list the companies formed in Gibraltar in the months of April to September?', I presume that he is asking for the number of companies and not the list of companies by name. On that basis the information that he has requested is set out in the attached schedule.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1943

Answer to Question 1940

The following Companies were removed from the Companies Register in the months of April to September 2004:

April	197
May	186
June	337
July	310
August	203
September	321

Answer to Question 1941

The following Companies were formed in the months of April to September 2004:

April	241
May	175
June	686
July	272
August	314
September	221

CONT. ANSWER TO QUESTION 1943

Answer to Question 1942

The Registrar has issued notices in the Gazette that the following numbers of companies have applied to him for consent to redomicile to another State.

The Registrar gives consent 30 days after the notice is issued, and consent is given almost without exception.

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
January	0	0	0	2	0	1	3	9
February	0	0	0	11	2	2	1	6
March	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	8
April	1	0	0	0	0	5	1	8
May	0	0	0	0	0	4	4	7
June	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	12
July	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	7
August	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	11
September	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	18
October	0	0	3	1	0	1	7	48
November	1	0	3	0	1	0	2	275
December	5	0	5	29	5	2	4	202
TOTAL	7	1	13	45	11	18	27	611

Cont'd.....

CONT ANSWER TO QUESTION 1943

Answer to Question 1943

The following Companies have lodged applications for consent to re-domicile out of Gibraltar between the months of January 2004 and September 2004:

January	142
February	102
March	93
April	38
May	22
June	33
July	49
August	21
September	56

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1940 TO 1943 OF 2004

HON F R PICARDO:

There seems to be, in relation to Question No. 1941, an inordinately high number of companies formed in June. Are the Government aware of any reason for this?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, yes, the Government are aware that in June an inordinately high number of companies were formed.

HON F R PICARDO:

My supplementary actually said are the Government aware of any reason for this? That is not the question that has been answered.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, the Government are aware of why that figure is inordinately high and do not consider it appropriate to comment about it.

HON F R PICARDO:

Can the Chief Minister inform the House of the reason why he does not consider it proper to comment further?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, I could not do that without telling the reasons.

HON J J BOSSANO:

It is not that June is a high month for company registrations?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No.

ORAL

NO. 1944 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

BANKING SECTOR

Can Government state how many persons were employed in the banking sector in Gibraltar, giving a breakdown by bank and by nationality (showing how many are Gibraltarian) in the months of April to September 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1945 and 1946 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1945 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

INSURANCE INDUSTRY

What is the total number of persons employed in the insurance industry in Gibraltar giving a breakdown by company and by nationality (showing how many are Gibraltarian) in the months of April to September 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1944 and 1946 of 2004.

NO. 1946 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

BANKING LICENCES

Can Government state whether any new applications for banking licences have been received in the months of April to September 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Most of the information requested by the hon Member is given to him in the schedules printed. I see that the person who has put this material together has correctly thought that it is inappropriate to give the information broken down by name of company. So whereas the numbers and the nationality are given, the breakdown by company name is not. The answer to Question No. 1946 which is textual and not statistical, has been added to the schedule.

In answer to Question No. 1946, applications for banking licences are made to the Commissioner of Banking appointed under the Banking Ordinance 1992, the Commissioner is also the Commissioner appointed under the Financial Services Commission Ordinance 1989. The Commissioner does not, as a matter of policy, disclose the existence of applications currently under consideration, as to do so may make it possible for the applicants to be identified by some third parties. As such the Government have neither sought nor obtained from the Commissioner such information.

The Financial Services Commission, however, publishes both through its own website as well as through the Gazette all authorisations granted and revoked. From that information it is clear that no authorisation has been granted during the period in question.



ANSWER TO QUESTION 1946

Answer to Question 1944

Banking

NATIONALITIES																
Months	No. of Employers	No. of Employees	Danish	Dutch	French	German	Gibraltar	Irish	Italian	Maltese	Moroccan	Other British	Portuguese	Spanish	Swedish	Swiss
Apr-04	15	642	18	6	2	9	454	2	1	1	2	100	1	34	1	11
May-04	15	640	17	6	2	9	451	2	1	1	2	101	1	35	1	11
Jun-04	15	657	17	6	2	9	463	2	1	1	2	104	1	36	1	12
Jul-04	15	679	18	5	2	9	488	2	0	1	2	102	1	36	1	12
Aug-04	15	677	18	5	2	9	487	2	0	1	2	102	1	35	1	12
Sep-04	15	674	17	5	2	8	484	2	0	1	2	104	1	34	2	12

These figures have been provided by the Employment and Training Board and might be slightly inflated as some employers do not always deregister employees once they leave the company. However, we have been informed by the ETB that the insurance industry and banking sector are generally compliant.



CONT ANSWER TO QUESTION 1946

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1945

Insurance

Months	No. of Employers	No. of Employees	NATIONALITIES								
			Belgium	Czech	French	Gibraltarian	Irish	Other British	Portuguese	Spanish	Indian
Apr-04	34	208	1	1	1	126	1	65	1	12	0
May-04	34	210	1	1	1	131	1	62	1	12	0
Jun-04	34	211	1	1	1	130	1	64	1	12	0
Jul-04	34	220	1	1	1	130	1	73	1	12	0
Aug-04	34	219	1	1	1	127	1	74	1	13	0
Sep-04	33	221	0	1	1	126	1	76	1	14	1

These figures have been provided by the Employment and Training Board and might be slightly inflated as some employers do not always deregister employees once they leave the company. However, we have been informed by the ETB that the insurance industry and banking sector are generally compliant.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1944 TO 1946 OF 2004

HON F R PICARDO:

This question has been asked in this House on a considerable number of occasions and the Chief Minister himself has answered me twice in my period in this House, this is now a new formulation of an answer. I would be grateful if the Chief Minister could indicate why there is now a change in policy in terms of answering this question?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

There is no change of policy by us, although he is right in identifying that there has been a change in policy. There has been a change in policy by the Financial Services Commission. I have to say that I do not share the views of the Financial Services Commission on this matter and it is an issue which we are going to raise with him. I think that the Government of Gibraltar are entitled to know what licence applications there are, if only for economic management purposes. I will not make any partisan provocative statements but suffice it to say that I think it is time that we all aspired to regaining a greater measure of control over our financial services industry.

ORAL

NO. 1947 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

CATEGORY 2 INDIVIDUALS

Can Government state how many individuals joined the register of people with Category 2 status in Gibraltar as at the end of the months of April to July 2004 and how many have applied for that status since the coming into effect of the new Qualifying (Category 2) Individuals Rules 2004 made under the Income Tax Ordinance and published on 20th July 2004 and how many were registered?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1948 and 1949 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1948 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

CATEGORY 3 INDIVIDUALS

Can Government state how many individuals joined the register of people with Category 3 status in Gibraltar as at the end of each year from 1996 to 2003 and each of the months of April to September 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1947 and 1949 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1949 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

CATEGORY 4 INDIVIDUALS

Can Government state how many individuals joined the register of people with Category 4 status in Gibraltar as at the end of each year from 1996 to 2003 and in each of the months of April to September 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The information that the hon Member has requested is set out in the attached schedule.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1949

Answer to Question 1947

During the months of April to July 2004 the following numbers were registered as Category 2 individuals.

April 2004	6
May 2004	3
June 2004	6
July 2004	6

The new Qualifying (Category 2) Individuals Rules 2004 were published on the 29th July 2004 but take effect from the 1st July 2004.

As from the 1st July 2004 to date we have received 15 applications for Category 2 status, 12 of which have been registered.

Answer to Question 1948

The Qualifying (Category 3) Individuals Rules were introduced in June 1998. They replaced the Relocated Executives Possessing Special Skills legislation.

During the years from 1998 to 2003, the following numbers of individuals were granted Category 3 status.

1998	5
1999	5
2000	14
2001	23
2002	26
2003	46

During the months of April to September 2004 the following numbers of individuals were registered.

April	Nil
May	3
June	6
July	2
August	Nil
September	8

Cont'd.....

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1949

Answer to Question 1949

The Qualifying (Category 4) Individuals Rules were introduced in November 1999. During the years 1999 to 2003 the following numbers were registered as Category 4 Individuals.

1999	Nil
2000	11
2001	9
2002	7
2003	7

During the months of April to September 2004, 8 individuals were registered – 5 in June 2004 and 3 in September 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1950 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GDP FIGURE

Can Government state what was the income from employment in the Income method of calculation of the 2001/2002 GDP?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1951 to 1963 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1951 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GDP FIGURE

Can Government state what was the income from self-employment in the Income Method of calculation of the 2001/2002 GDP?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1950 and 1952 to 1963 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1952 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GDP FIGURE

Can Government state what was the income from rent in the Income Method of calculation of the 2001/2002 GDP?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1950, 1951 and 1953 to 1963 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1953 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GDP FIGURE

Can Government state what was the income from company profits in the Income Method of calculation of the 2001/2002 GDP?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1950 to 1952 and 1954 to 1963 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1954 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GDP FIGURE

Can Government state what was the income from gross trading surplus of Government enterprises in the Income Method of calculation of the 2001/2002 GDP?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1950 to 1953 and 1955 to 1963 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1955 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GDP FIGURE

Can Government state what was the income from stock appreciation in the Income Method of calculation of the 2001/2002 GDP?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1950 to 1954 and 1956 to 1963 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1956 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GDP FIGURE

Can Government state what was the level of consumers' expenditure in the Expenditure Method of calculation of the 2001/2002 GDP?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1950 to 1955 and 1957 to 1963 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1957 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GDP FIGURE

Can Government state what was the level of expenditure on gross domestic fixed capital formation in the Expenditure Method of calculation of the 2001/2002 GDP?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1950 to 1956 and 1958 to 1963 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1958 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GDP FIGURE

Can Government state what was the level of expenditure on export of goods and services in the Expenditure Method of calculation of the 2001/2002 GDP?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1950 to 1957 and 1959 to 1963 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1959 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GDP FIGURE

Can Government state what was the level of expenditure on import of goods and services in the Expenditure Method of calculation of the 2001/2002 GDP?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1950 to 1958 and 1960 to 1963 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1960 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GDP FIGURE

Can Government state what was the residual error between the Income and Expenditure Methods in the calculation of the 2001/2002 GDP?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1950 to 1959 and 1961 to 1963 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1961 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GDP FIGURE

Can Government state what was the level of subsidies in the Expenditure Method of calculation of the 2001/2002 GDP?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1950 to 1960, 1962 and 1963 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1962 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GDP FIGURE

Can Government state what was the level of taxes on expenditure in the Expenditure Method of calculation of the 2001/2002 GDP?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1950 to 1961 and 1963 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1963 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GDP FIGURE

Can Government state what was the level of expenditure of Government final consumption in the Expenditure Method of calculation of the 2001/2002 GDP?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The information that the hon Member requests, which as he knows is traditionally given in tabular form, is contained in the attached schedule.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1963

£ million

INCOME METHOD	*	2001/02
INCOME FROM EMPLOYMENT	B	272.17
INCOME FROM SELF-EMPLOYMENT	C	48.25
GROSS TRADING PROFITS OF COMPANIES	C	65.14
GROSS TRADING SURPLUS OF GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES	A	4.36
RENT	C	81.32
TOTAL DOMESTIC INCOME	B	471.24
<u>LESS</u>		
STOCK APPRECIATION	C	-1.06
GDP (FACTOR COST)	B	470.18

£ million

EXPENDITURE METHOD	*	2001/02
CONSUMERS' EXPENDITURE	B	222.87
GOVT. FINAL CONSUMPTION	A	152.27
GROSS DOMESTIC FIXED CAP. F',MTN	C	58.12
TOTAL DOMESTIC EXPENDITURE	C	433.26
EXPORTS OF GOODS AND SERVICES	C	656.52
IMPORTS OF GOODS AND SERVICES	B	-541.71
RESIDUAL ERROR		-21.20
GDP (MARKET PRICES)	B	526.87
SUBSIDIES	C	5.46
TAXES ON EXPENDITURE	A	-62.15
GDP (FACTOR COST)	B	470.18

ORAL

NO. 1964 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GDP FIGURE

Can Government state in respect of each year's GDP calculation 1995/1996 to 2001/2002, of the amount attributed to Gross Trading Profits how much was obtained by grossing up the corporation tax received in a given year and how much was in respect of the addition of an estimated amount in respect of profits not yet assessed to tax?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The information requested by the hon Member is set out in the schedule attached.

Answer to Question 1964 of 2004

	<u>£ million</u>		
	<u>Gross Trading Profits</u>	<u>Estimate of Profits not yet Assessed</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1995/96			
1996/97	39.64	5.0	44.64
1997/98	40.00	5.0	45.00
1998/99	48.57	5.0	53.57
1999/00	50.36	5.0	55.36
2000/01	55.91	5.0	60.91
2001/02	63.64	1.5	65.14

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1964 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

I notice that the 1995/1996 line is blank, is there a reason for that?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I am not aware what the reason is but I can only speculate that that year was not covered by the exercise that we did which I think started in 1996/1997 if I recall. That is the only reason that I can speculate.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I accept that the exercise did not cover that year but in the explanation that I was given as to how it was calculated there was no indication that the method of calculating Gross Trading Profits had changed in 1996/1997. I would understand it if in fact the formula of grossing up plus estimating profit started in 1996/1997, if that is not the case then of course there is a logic to starting then, but if the same formula was being used in 1995/1996 then I cannot see why it is not there. Perhaps the Chief Minister can establish whether it is the case that the formula was different before.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I will try and find that out.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I imagine the Chief Minister does not know but if I ask him the question then he can probably find out, or he may know. In grossing up the trading profits do I take it that this is based on the tax yields at 35 per cent and then this figure is the 100 per cent of that figure? This is following up the question that I asked how this was calculated at the last meeting of the House which is when I was told that it was a combination of these two things, grossing up the company profits shown that I have got from answers to other questions and therefore I am interpreting that to mean that if a figure is £35 million then the grossed up profit is £100 million, on the basis that the tax is 35 per cent. Can he confirm whether that is right?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I think that is. The only distorting factor is capital allowances would interrupt the straight line extrapolation of, in other words, the tax yield is 35 per cent of a figure and it is that figure that the hon Member wants. So what figure is that amount of tax (35 per cent) would be the gross trading figure. What I do not know is how they accommodate capital allowances, which of course distort that mathematical calculation, because of course if

one has capital allowances one is paying less tax but still making the profit. So subject to that, I think the hon Member is right. That is what I do not know, whether they make an allowance for allowances. In other words, whether they write back into profits what is not paid in tax by virtue of the operation of capital allowances and things of that sort.

ORAL

NO. 1965 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GDP FIGURE

Can Government state what was the share of GDP taken up by public expenditure in 1999/2000 and in 2000/2001?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1966 to 1968 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1966 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GDP FIGURE

Can Government state in respect of which year the share of GDP taken up by public expenditure in the UK was 42 per cent?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1965, 1967 and 1968 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1967 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GDP FIGURE

Can Government state what was the source of the calculation of the GDP share taken up by public expenditure in UK quoted in this year's budget?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1965, 1966 and 1968 of 2004.

NO. 1968 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GDP FIGURE

Can Government explain how the share of GDP taken up by public expenditure was calculated to arrive at the 29 per cent in 1997/1998, 30 per cent in 1998/1999 and 31 per cent in 2001/2002?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answer to Question Nos. 1966 and 1967

The figure of 42 per cent in respect of public expenditure as a proportion of GDP for the UK is taken from an article written by the Guardian's political editor, Michael White, on May 27th 2004. This rate is quoted to be that as at that date. I am just looking through the article to see whether it cites his source, but it appears to be correct because it is the number that is bandied around in the House of Commons, in debates between the Shadow Chancellor and the Chancellor. So I suppose if it were not right the House of Commons equivalent of the Opposition Members would have spotted the error by now.

Answer to Question Nos. 1965 and 1968

The share of GDP taken up by public expenditure for the period 1997/1998 to 2001/2002 is shown in the table attached.

Answer to Question 1968 of 2004

	<u>£ million</u>	<u>1997/98</u>	<u>1998/99</u>	<u>1999/00</u>	<u>2000/01</u>	<u>2001/02</u>
(1) Government Final Consumption (£m)		100.41	109.54	119.56	134.86	152.27
(2) GDP (£m)		364.51	393.23	409.89	433.61	470.18
(1) as % of GDP		27.6	27.9	29.2	31.1	32.4

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1965 TO 1968 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

I take it from this paper that what I am being told is that the figures that are being provided today have been calculated by using the figure of Government final consumption in the expenditure method calculation of the GDP, am I right?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes and of course Government final consumption as he probably knows is limited to the recurrent expenditure and not to the capital expenditure, in order to make it comparable to the 42 per cent figure.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I do know that, but in fact that was not how the figure was calculated in his statement in the budget because the figures here are not the same as the ones he gave in the budget. My question which says can Government explain how the share of the GDP was calculated to arrive at 29 per cent in 1997/1998 and here we have got that by using Government final consumption we get 27.6 per cent of a GDP of £364.51 million. In his budget statement which was prepared beforehand, so it was not something that he calculated on the spot, he quoted 29 per cent in 1997/1998. That is why I wondered if it was a different method of calculation. Obviously I would have been able to work this out from the figures that have been published.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is not a different method of calculation, it is applying the same calculation to a slightly different based figures. The percentage figures calculated cited at budget time do differ slightly from the finalised National Income account figures because the percentages used at budget time were taken from the expenditure figures in the Estimates, whereas the percentages now shown use the National Accounts definition for Government expenditure. So for example, at budget I quoted 28.8 per cent for 1997/1998, in fact the figure quoted now is 27.6 per cent and so on and so forth. So the figures being quoted now are in every case, except 2001/2002, very slightly lower by usually 1 percentage point or less but in the case of 2001/2002 the figure being quoted now is one and a half per cent higher. The reason apparently is that the figures given to me for the budget are taken from the Estimates of Expenditure.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The figure that is taken from the Estimates which was used in the budget is the annually recurrent expenditure out of the Consolidated Fund?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Does the Chief Minister know whether that is comparable to what has been used in the United Kingdom to arrive at the 42 per cent?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Technically speaking the figure which is most purely comparable to our figure of 32.4 per cent for 2001/2002 would in the UK produce a comparable figure for 2003 of 38.2 per cent. The figure in the UK of 42 per cent is the figure as a percentage of public spending which includes net capital expenditure. In other words, net investment, net capital expenditure not gross capital expenditure. So it is somewhere in between my position and his but slightly nearer his in terms of the inclusion of an element of capital expenditure. In other words, the 42 per cent figure is recurrent plus net investment not gross investment.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Let me say I have not expressed any preference for any particular method so I am not sure, all I am trying to do is establish the comparability of the figures. I am not saying that 42 per cent is too low or too high or any other figure.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not mind giving the hon Member a copy of the page out of the UK blue book, which I have used to identify which is the most precise comparable figure so that he can do the exercise that I have just done on my feet.

ORAL

NO. 1969 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Can Government explain why in the October 2003 Employment Survey Report Summary in Point 2(A) the average annual earnings in respect of all employees is given as £16,766.49p as at October 2002?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1970 of 2004.

NO. 1970 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Can Government state what was the distribution of average annual earnings in respect of all employee jobs as shown in Table 16 of the October 2003 Employment Survey Report showing separately the distribution in the case of:

- (a) MOD;
- (b) Gibraltar Government; and
- (c) Private Sector employers?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answer to Question No. 1969

Point 2(a) of the Survey Summary in respect of the October 2003 Employment Survey should read:

“Average annual earnings in respect of all employee jobs increased by +3.9 per cent, from £16,802.96p to £17,460.44p in October 2003.”

This average annual earnings figure for 2002 is consistent with the figure published in the October 2002 Employment Survey Report and with the figure shown in Table 17 of the October 2003 Employment Survey Report.

Answer to Question No. 1970

I pass on to the hon Member a schedule containing the information requested.

Distribution of Average Annual Earnings of Private Sector Employee Jobs, October 2003.

£ PER ANNUM	ALL EMPLOYEE JOBS			ALL MALE JOBS			ALL FEMALE JOBS		
	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME	TOTAL	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME	TOTAL	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME	TOTAL
0 - 999	0	11	11	0	2	2	0	9	9
1,000 - 1,499	0	30	30	0	7	7	0	23	23
1,500 - 1,999	0	34	34	0	11	11	0	23	23
2,000 - 2,499	17	170	187	0	14	14	17	156	173
2,500 - 2,999	40	182	222	31	49	80	9	133	142
3,000 - 3,999	60	297	357	34	69	103	26	228	254
4,000 - 4,999	120	450	570	68	302	370	52	148	200
5,000 - 5,999	60	226	286	28	43	71	32	183	215
6,000 - 6,999	137	171	308	39	37	76	98	134	232
7,000 - 7,999	252	114	366	90	32	122	162	82	244
8,000 - 8,999	746	94	840	327	20	347	419	74	493
9,000 - 9,999	490	64	554	254	27	281	236	37	273
10,000 - 10,999	690	61	751	454	12	466	236	49	285
11,000 - 11,999	541	30	571	347	4	351	194	26	220
12,000 - 12,999	787	38	825	508	8	516	279	30	309
13,000 - 13,999	567	18	585	365	4	369	202	14	216
14,000 - 14,999	513	23	536	347	5	352	166	18	184
15,000 - 17,499	1,133	25	1,158	686	5	691	447	20	467
17,500 - 19,999	781	21	802	545	6	551	236	15	251
20,000 - 22,499	637	9	646	480	4	484	157	5	162
22,500 - 24,999	445	4	449	324	1	325	121	3	124
25,000 and over	1,320	3	1,323	1,106	2	1,108	214	1	215
TOTAL	9,336	2,075	11,411	6,033	684	6,697	3,303	1,411	4,714

Distribution of Average Annual Earnings of Gibraltar Government Employee Jobs, October 2003.

£ PER ANNUM	ALL EMPLOYEE JOBS			ALL MALE JOBS			ALL FEMALE JOBS		
	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME	TOTAL	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME	TOTAL	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME	TOTAL
0 - 999	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1,000 - 1,499	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
1,500 - 1,999	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	2
2,000 - 2,499	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2,500 - 2,999	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3,000 - 3,999	10	2	12	0	0	0	10	2	12
4,000 - 4,999	2	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	2
5,000 - 5,999	1	3	4	0	0	0	1	3	4
6,000 - 6,999	9	137	146	3	1	4	6	136	142
7,000 - 7,999	4	19	23	3	0	3	1	19	20
8,000 - 8,999	1	9	10	1	0	1	1	9	10
9,000 - 9,999	8	12	20	3	0	3	5	12	17
10,000 - 10,999	15	26	41	2	1	3	13	25	38
11,000 - 11,999	28	12	41	11	0	11	18	12	30
12,000 - 12,999	94	10	104	35	0	35	59	10	69
13,000 - 13,999	76	8	84	21	0	21	55	8	63
14,000 - 14,999	87	9	96	62	1	63	25	8	33
15,000 - 17,499	181	8	189	58	0	58	123	8	131
17,500 - 19,999	226	6	232	101	0	101	125	6	131
20,000 - 22,499	209	6	215	104	0	104	105	6	111
22,500 - 24,999	234	2	236	136	0	136	98	2	100
25,000 and over	1,476	4	1,480	1,053	1	1,054	423	3	426
TOTAL	2,662	278	2,938	1,593	4	1,597	1,069	272	1,341

Distribution of Average Annual Earnings of MoD Employee Jobs, October 2003.

£ PER ANNUM	ALL EMPLOYEE JOBS			ALL MALE JOBS			ALL FEMALE JOBS		
	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME	TOTAL	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME	TOTAL	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME	TOTAL
0 - 999	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
1,000 - 1,499	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	4
1,500 - 1,999	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2,000 - 2,499	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
2,500 - 2,999	0	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	2
3,000 - 3,999	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	4
4,000 - 4,999	2	9	11	2	3	5	0	0	0
5,000 - 5,999	4	13	17	2	5	7	0	6	6
6,000 - 6,999	7	16	23	0	0	0	2	8	10
7,000 - 7,999	11	5	16	0	1	1	7	18	23
8,000 - 8,999	10	6	16	2	0	2	11	4	15
9,000 - 9,999	3	1	4	0	0	0	8	6	14
10,000 - 10,999	14	1	15	6	0	6	3	1	4
11,000 - 11,999	80	5	85	32	0	32	8	1	9
12,000 - 12,999	65	1	66	30	1	31	48	5	53
13,000 - 13,999	56	0	56	30	0	30	35	0	35
14,000 - 14,999	70	0	70	42	0	42	26	0	26
15,000 - 15,999	171	0	171	113	0	113	28	0	28
16,000 - 16,999	116	0	116	90	0	90	58	0	58
17,000 - 17,999	80	0	80	64	0	64	26	0	26
18,000 - 18,999	47	0	47	38	0	38	16	0	16
19,000 - 19,999	262	0	262	245	0	245	9	0	9
20,000 - 20,999							17	0	17
21,000 - 21,999									
22,000 - 22,999									
23,000 - 23,999									
24,000 - 24,999									
25,000 and over									
TOTAL	998	72	1,070	698	12	708	302	60	362

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1969 AND 1970 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

Then I take it that the answer to Question No. 1969, which is why it has that other figure, is because it was put in there by mistake.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes.

ORAL

NO. 1971 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

RGP – VACANCIES

How many applications were received in respect of the Official Notice advertising vacancies for the posts of Police Constable in the Royal Gibraltar Police Force which appeared on Friday 21st May 2004 and how many were employed in respect of the said posts?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Forty-one applications were received and for some reason they do not want me to say how many were employed. I can say that three did not meet the requirements of the advert, 20 failed the entrance exam, one withdrew the application and 17 candidates were interviewed but it does not go on to tell me how many were actually employed. I will try and get that information for him and pass it on to him.

ORAL

NO. 1972 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

SALE OF S/Y PERKEO

What have been the proceeds of the sale of the S/Y “Perkeo” sold by auction on 14th July 2004 and have any such proceeds been earmarked or ring fenced exclusively for investment in respect of law enforcement?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The S/Y “Perkeo” was not sold by auction as the reserved price was not met. It was subsequently sold by private sale for £81,579, the full proceeds of which are expected to be received by the end of October 2004. Government have not made a decision as to the use of the funds. Other than Special Fund Rules, there is no provision for hypothecated Revenue in our system of public finances.

ORAL

NO. 1973 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

RGP – REMUNERATION

Are Government committed to parity in respect of the pay of serving and retired officers of the Royal Gibraltar Police?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1974 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1974 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

RGP – REMUNERATION

Have Government taken a decision on whether to rely on the Limitation Ordinance in respect of the claims or potential claims of retired and serving officers of the Royal Gibraltar Police in relation to the incorrect application of parity arising more than six years ago?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Government are committed to the principle of parity, as applied to Gibraltar under the local parity agreement in respect of all pay reviews for serving officers for which they are responsible. In respect of claims of failure to honour parity by previous administrations, the Government consider each case on its merits and fairness to both sides. In the Government's view the current issues raised by retired officers do not raise issues of parity.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1973 AND 1974 OF 2004

HON F R PICARDO:

Can I ask the Chief Minister whether he is going to answer specifically the issue of the Limitation Ordinance in Question No. 1974 or is that an issue that is also considered not wholesale but in relation to the merits of each of the claims made?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Government are certainly not going to commit themselves here in this House as to what legal defences they will keep open in the event that they are faced with a legal claim which they consider to be unmeritorious.

HON F R PICARDO:

I am not asking for that, if my question suggested that I apologise. I am asking whether the Government have made a decision to say that any application to them for relief in terms, I am not talking by way of legal suit but in terms of representation, will simply be met by a statement that they will only make themselves responsible in respect of liabilities no more than six years old, or whether they will take a different attitude to claims, not in terms of legal suit.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

If anybody other than a lawyer were asking me that question I could attribute it to ignorance, but since it is a lawyer asking me that question I cannot distinguish it from the answer that I have just given. The statute of limitation necessarily only applies by way of legal defence to a claim. For the hon Member to try and separate the question of the Limitations Ordinance from the question of legal claim is nonsensical.

HON F R PICARDO:

What I am asking the Chief Minister, in fact as he is a Silk I think it is appropriate for me to call him the Honourable and Learned Gentleman when we are being noble to each other, but in this instance of course as a result of his answer I will limit myself to calling him the hon Gentleman, is whether he will deal with claims made to him by retired officers simply by turning them away if those claims relate to periods longer than six years ago. That is what I am asking him.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The temptation to say to the hon Member that I have already answered his questions is almost irresistible but I will go the extra mile in trying to resist it. It seems self-evident, even to those Government Members who are not lawyers, that if the Government choose to entertain a claim ignoring the question of the party's legal rights, then necessarily the question of the Limitation Ordinance does not arise given that the Limitation Ordinance is about legal defences to otherwise valid claims in law. I assume the hon Member knows what the Limitation Ordinance is. Therefore I cannot make sense of the distinction he is trying to draw and that is the last answer that I will give him on the matter. As to whether he should call me honourable and learned colleague or Member because I am a Silk, I think he will find that the epithet learned applies to all lawyers, one does not have to be a Silk, which means that even I have to call him learned.

HON F R PICARDO:

Given that I am not going to be given any other answer in relation to the substantive issues, I will just get on my feet to say that the Parliamentary rules say that honourable and learned attaches in Parliament only to somebody who is Silk. So he does not yet have to afford me that distinction.

NO. 1975 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

ENVIRONMENTAL EMERGENCIES

Will the Government be publishing and circulating information on what procedures citizens should follow in the event of an environmental emergency?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

It is not clear what the hon Member means by an environmental emergency. Many civil contingencies have potential impact on the environment. As I have already said publicly the Government intend to publish a guidance leaflet to citizens relating to accidents and other emergencies. It is not focused on environmental issues.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1975 OF 2004

HON F R PICARDO:

Can the Government give an indication of when they expect that publication to be made available to the public?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, I am not in a position to give a meaningful indication now. I think I am on record as saying that we hope to do it before the end of the year.

NO. 1976 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

EUROPEAN BORDERS AGENCY

Have the Government now taken legal advice on the feasibility of challenging the planned exclusion of Gibraltar from the workings of the European Borders Agency?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Not yet.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1976 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Does it follow from that answer that the Government will be taking legal advice on this question?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In the statement that the Government issued, they referred to mounting a legal challenge in the UK courts, does that suggest they will take the action against the British Government and not against the European Commission or the Council or whoever it may be?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

That is what he should read from any decision to commence actions in the UK courts. We could only take action in the UK courts against the UK Government.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Chief Minister say when they intend to commission somebody to actually produce that legal advice and who they have in mind perhaps?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes well, the deed is done now. Course of action is already on the way so it is not urgent in that sense. It is important but not urgent. The Government's resources for the consideration, conception, management and mounting of legal actions are presently fully occupied with the tax reform case and the Regional Selectivity case, and as soon as that case has got over, the heavy pleading stage which is basically the filing of the application and the defence and the reply to the defence, then we can start devoting or rather Michael Llamas can start devoting his attention to this matter. It is not just a question of taking legal advice, one has got to put together a brief to counsel, which is necessarily a long and complex document given that if we do take action against the British Government it will be based on considerations of whether they are discharging their legal obligations under the Constitution to discharge our foreign affairs.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The Government statement which was issued on 30th July also mentions the fact that the EU took the view that because the Agency was a Schengen external borders measure, and UK had opted out of Schengen, therefore the UK could not participate in it as of right. The Government statement said that the UK rejected that decision, both in respect of itself and of Gibraltar and that it would challenge that decision in the ECJ. Are the Government in a position to say whether the UK itself is now going ahead with that challenge?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well it has not challenged it yet and I think the hon Member, I do not know if I said it at the time, I think I did but I was sceptical about whether they would in the event do it or not. If I did not say it in the House I think I said it in an interview. That is what the UK Government's position is, I doubt or rather I have a doubt about whether they will in fact initiate that legal action as opposed to settling for their cooperating status from which of course we are excluded. It suits us that they should take action because if they take action it could result in our inclusion if they win.

NO. 1977 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

SINGLE EUROPEAN SKY

Have Government now received legal advice on the feasibility of challenging the exclusion of Gibraltar airport from the Single European Sky?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The position remains as I think I have told him in the past, although I have not checked this out that the Government have received preliminary advice. I think I told him that last time. We have not yet firmed up that advice in terms of final advice.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1977 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is the Chief Minister in a position to say who the advice was received from and perhaps give the House an indication of whether it will allow the Government to proceed with the action that they politically intended to take?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is some time since I looked at this but I think that the advice was that the Government did have a course of action that they could pursue. I do not recall at what level it expressed the prospects of success and of course having a course of action open to one is very different to whether one will win it or not. In a sense one is procedural and the other is substantive. These are both areas where we are determined to embark on a course of litigation in the exclusion of Gibraltar from aviation measures, and the exclusion of Gibraltar if the Borders Agency Regulation is as a first precedent, are not areas that Gibraltar can afford to leave unchallenged if it possibly can mount a challenge.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In relation to the Single Sky, the action would presumably also be against the United Kingdom up against the Commission or the Council and will that be in UK courts or would it be in the European Court of Justice?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

There we have the option to do both. The reason why we do not think we have an option to take action against the Council in the Borders Agency Regulation is that of course that is a measure that does not in European law extend to UK or Gibraltar because it is a Schengen measure. So there our complaint is that the UK has agreed to cooperate with it notwithstanding that we are excluded from it. That is a complaint that we can level at the UK. It may not be a complaint that we can level at the European Council who have in effect excluded us from a Regulation that they say does not apply to us any way. So in that sense the textual exclusion of Gibraltar is superfluous. Their position is that it does not apply to the UK or Gibraltar anyway because it is a Schengen measure and we are outside the Schengen Borders Chapters.

ORAL

NO. 1978 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

GIBRALTAR GOLD COIN CO LTD

What was the total cost to the Government of defending the case brought by The Gibraltar Gold Coin Co Ltd?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1979 of 2004.

NO. 1979 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

UNFAIR DISMISSAL

What were the legal costs of defending the case of unfair dismissal brought by John Gomez?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answer to Question No. 1978

The Government did not incur any costs in the defence of the Gold Coin case because the defence was conducted on the Government's behalf by the Attorney General who does not levy fees against the Government.

Answer to Question No. 1979

The information as to the cost of defending the unfair dismissal case brought by John Gomez against the company, I think it was called Gib Procurement Limited, is not yet known.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1978 AND 1979 OF 2004

HON F R PICARDO:

In light of that I will want to put the question again even within the next six months just to keep tab on that.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I should add that the Government consider that the ruling in the John Gomez case is completely erroneous but given the size of the damages awarded, we have thought it inappropriate to invest further tax payers money in trying to seek a reversal of it, since we do not think that we would recover the full amount of the additional costs even if we

won an appeal. So the Government have decided to take it on the chin even though we think that the case and the decision is eminently appellable.

ORAL

NO. 1980 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

TAX REFORMS

With whom did the Chief Minister meet in respect of the EU Tax reform legal case on his trip to London of 26th May 2004, what was the outcome of the meeting, who attended with the Chief Minister and what was the cost of the trip?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1981 to 1983 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1981 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

TAX REFORMS

With whom did the Chief Minister meet in respect of the EU Tax reform legal case in London on Wednesday 19th May 2004, what was the outcome of the meeting, who attended with the Chief Minister and what was the cost of the trip?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1980, 1982 and 1983 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1982 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

TAX REFORMS

With whom did the Chief Minister meet in the EU Commission in respect of the EU Tax reform legal case in Brussels on 15th June 2004, what was the outcome of the meeting, who attended with the Chief Minister and what was the cost of the trip?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1980, 1981 and 1983 of 2004.

NO. 1983 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

TAX REFORMS

With whom did the Chief Minister meet in the EU Commission in respect of the EU Tax reform legal case in Brussels on Tuesday 7th September 2004, what was the outcome of the meeting, who attended with the Chief Minister and what was the cost of the trip?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Chief Minister does not meet with EU officials in relation to the EU Tax Reform legal case. Meetings in relation to that case in Brussels would be with the Government's own legal team and in London would be with the Government's own legal team and UK Government officials and lawyers in relation to the coordination of each Government's separate cases in relation to the Tax Reform case.

Meetings with EU officials would relate to the Exempt Status dossier rather than the Tax Reform dossier. As to the costs I think they have all emerged in answer to previous questions. Have they not?

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1980 TO 1983 OF 2004

HON F R PICARDO:

No, in fact the meetings referred to in Question Nos. 1980 and 1981 which are obviously Financial Services related meetings, are not reflected in the answers to Question No. 1915 which was the question on the Chief Minister's travel in relation to financial services. I think that they are in the answer to Question No. 1860 but they are not in the answer to financial services. The question also asked what the outcome of the meetings was, I wonder whether the Chief Minister will deal with that issue.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, to tell him that it is not appropriate to give him a meeting by meeting, blow by blow account of what transpires in meetings in which I take part. It is just wholly

inappropriate. These are meetings in the context of to consider, plan and make decisions as to lines to take in the conduct of these two issues. It is wholly inappropriate for the hon Member to expect me to give him, if he wants to come to meetings with me he should ask, I did not agree of course but that would be the way to find out what transpired at the meetings.

HON F R PICARDO:

Statements are made to the media that the Chief Minister is going to make these trips, the Chief Minister gives press interviews on his return from these trips saying a little but not much of what has transpired, it is for that reason that in this House I am asking him what was the outcome of those trips. I certainly do not think it is not appropriate. This is an issue that concerns the financial services industry in Gibraltar. The Chief Minister is spending a lot of time, as can be seen from the record of the trips he has done on these issues, and I would ask him to reconsider giving the House at least the flavour of what it is that the outcome of these meetings was. Was it positive, negative? I would ask him to consider that.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Chief Minister goes away on trips and when he comes back he says in public all that it is appropriate to say in public. It is not any more appropriate to say things in public in the media than it is to say them public here. Both are public and the Chief Minister does not withhold information because he does not want to say it. He withholds information from publication when he considers that it is not in the interests of Gibraltar to put it in the public domain. The judgement is the same whether it is published in the media or published in this House. So we shall have to agree to disagree about what is appropriate and what is not. We are the ones elected to make decisions about what is in the public interests of Gibraltar and he is just going to have to accept our judgements.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can I ask the Chief Minister whether following his latest excursion to Brussels is he still in a position to say we are going to continue issuing Tax Exempt Certificates for the time being. That has not changed?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well Tax Exempt Certificates continue to be issued.

ORAL

NO. 1984 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

TAX REFORMS

What is the present state of the legal proceedings (Court of First Instance register number 240836 and allocated case number T-211/04) against the EU Commission following the latter's rejection of the Government's tax reform proposals?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Government have filed their claim and the Commission has filed its defence. We now have I think until some date in November to reply to the defence.

NO. 1985 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

TAX REFORMS

When will the Government provide the Opposition with the details of their tax reform proposals?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I have made a full statement in this House about the Government's proposed Tax Reform Proposals. Therefore I do not accept the implication of the hon Member's question which is to the effect that it has not yet been given. It may be that the hon Member meant to ask "When will the Government provide to the Opposition copies of the detailed legislation that would be required to implement the Tax Reform Proposals?". In that respect the position remains as previously explained in the House, namely, that the Government do not consider it appropriate to do so until and if the Government are free to implement that policy – which as the hon Member is aware is not presently the case. In other words, there is a statement in the House explaining the outline and the principles of the Government's tax reform proposals but not the full nitty gritty detail but the principal contents of the proposal. It is also true that the Government have had to draw up, prematurely really, very detailed legislation and therefore having to make very detailed decisions for the purposes of legislation that would be required to implement that policy proposal. We had to do that because it is a requirement of the notification procedure to the European Union. In other words, when one notifies a tax scheme one cannot just notify an outline, one has actually send them copies in draft of the legislation so that they can see every nook and cranny of it, so to speak. That is what the Government have done. The Government may not proceed with that legislation, may not be allowed to proceed with that legislation depending on the outcome, and in those circumstances we think it is premature and unnecessary to publish that legislation to unleash a debate about the detail of proposals and legislation which may be wholly academic. We will have plenty of opportunity to debate it if it is going to become legislation. In other words, it has to be published as legislation and it has to go through the legislative process, some of it is subsidiary legislation but most of it is not, and therefore it will go to the legislative process which will include giving copies to the Opposition and debate just like anything else. To publish it now is in the Government's view completely unproductive.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1985 OF 2004

HON F R PICARDO:

We have already found ourselves in this House this year in a position where the Government have cleared with an external body the terms of the legislation they are going to bring to this House, and then when that legislation comes to this House, although it is published and the Opposition have an opportunity of scrutinising it in technically the normal way, we are not able to influence it in the normal way because the Government have already agreed the letter of it with somebody else. That happened in relation to the European Parliamentary Elections Ordinance which had been cleared with the UK. We are going to be in pretty much the same situation if the Government clear their primary legislation at least with an external body, in this case the European Commission, and when it comes to this House we are not able to influence in any way however positively the Government might receive any suggestions that we make. It is for that reason that I would ask whether the Government are in a position to reconsider their answer, given that that detailed proposal has already been published to the Commission, to the United Kingdom and to all the Member States of the European Union who have representation in the Commission and have a copy of that legislation, but the Opposition do not. Can the Chief Minister at least address that point?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes I will address it only to repeat the Government's position which I will just do by reference and not actually repeat it that that is not the position which the Opposition will find themselves. In other words, it is not the case that once the Commission approves, if it approves which of course it is refusing to do, but should it approve the legislation, so this is sort of hypothesis on hypothesis, should it approve the legislation it is not the case that the House is then just a rubber stamp and in effect the European Commission has become the legislature. The House of Assembly will be perfectly free to modify that legislation provided it does not modify it in a way which would infringe State Aid Regulations. The legislation is not sent for approval in the sense that once they have approved that we are not free to modify it. That is not the position. The position the hon Member has described is not the case. Therefore the legislature's legislative role remains in tact, including its ability to modify the draft legislation the Government publish in Bill form. Of course the Government are not going to agree to any amendment and would use our majority to prevent any amendment moved by the hon Members that would prejudice the Commission's approval by incurring in a breach of the State Aid Regulations. So the Government do not approve. Giving the legislation to the Opposition is not the same as giving the legislation to a multi-lateral national organisation, international organisation like the EU where we are obliged to give it as part of an established legal procedure. This is not publication, this is a Government going through an EU administrative process. It is not open for debate, nobody can publish it, nobody can adopt public statements based on the position that they have read and that would not be the case if we gave it to the Opposition. What I remember saying, I think it was in answer to the Hon Dr Garcia but I do not recall if it was him or somebody else, he may recall whether it was to him, was that when it was appropriate to publish the legislation, namely if the Government had been freed to proceed with that policy if they wanted to, and if they were allowed to, but the Government in recognition of the

complexity would not give five days or would not publish it the minimal seven days notice, but we would give as much notice as possible of publication. That commitment remains that we will as soon as it becomes the policy of the Government to proceed with that legislation, and as soon as the Government are legally free to implement that legislation if they choose to, the Government will then give the draft legislation because it will then not be a hypothetical exercise. It will then just be a question of time before this House has to consider it. At the moment this House may never have to consider that legislation and therefore in that context we think it would be premature and unnecessary to publish the legislation.

HON F R PICARDO:

Can I then at least persuade the Chief Minister to commit himself to a date on which he will give the Opposition that which he has already committed himself to give the Opposition, namely, the submissions of his Government and of the UK Government in support of those proposals. He will recall that he has told us that he was going to give us that. He told us in fact that he was quite happy to give us the submissions of his Government. He then told us that he was seeking confirmation from the United Kingdom Government that he could let us have their submissions and that he would not let us have his submissions until the UK Government had agreed that we could have their because he thought that it was more reasonable and given that obviously that second filter is not proving as easily persuadable as he has so that we should see the submissions. Can I first of all ask him whether he is now in a position to tell us that those submissions of the UK are to be given to us? Second, if they are not, can we at least have his which he has agreed to give so that we have an element of greater understanding of what the issues are? Especially given that we are now at the stage where the proposals in respect of which those submissions were made have actually been rejected.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well I do not know what I have lost sight of the position of the UK's attitude to the making available. I do not think that has come through. I am not sure it is being pursued with any great urgency but certainly I do not think it has come through. Whether the Government should then give the hon Members the Government's own submission, we will have to consider. I will reconsider the matter because there is a fair amount of cross reference to the submissions of each Government. We will consider that and we will consider whether subsequent events, in other words the fact that the Commission has made the decision and the fact that that decision is now the subject matter of a legal challenge, raises additional issues or not. If it does not then the Government remain free to give their submissions.

HON F R PICARDO:

I am not asking the Chief Minister to publish it. What the agreement was, was that those submissions would be provided in confidence. Can I at least persuade him, if he has to, to black line those parts of his submission which make reference to the UK submissions. We are quite happy to accept it unless we are going to get whole pages of black, we are

quite happy to accept that so that we could at least try and find our feet in relation to those submissions. Can I persuade him of that?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The hon Member has persuaded me to give it active consideration.

NO. 1986 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

TAX REFORMS

What are the “interim arrangements” which the Government have asked the EU Commission to agree (and announced to have been agreed between the Government and the EU Commission DG Competition in June 2004) pending the outcome of the legal proceedings commenced by the Government against the EU Commission in respect of the latter’s rejection of the Government’s tax reforms proposals, and will the said “interim arrangements” last until the outcome of the said legal proceedings or until 2010, whichever is the earlier?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

This matter remains under negotiation with the EU Commission and until those negotiations conclude it is neither appropriate nor in Gibraltar’s interest to comment as requested by the hon Member, except to say that the objective is to ensure the continuation of Exempt Status on agreed terms until our legal right to replace it with something else is adjudicated upon by the European Courts.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1986 OF 2004

HON F R PICARDO:

Can I persuade the Chief Minister to give us the details or an indication of what those interim arrangements are, in confidence, given that that would not affect the interests of Gibraltar?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, he cannot persuade me.

HON F R PICARDO:

On what possible basis? Does he believe that sharing information of that sort confidentially with the Opposition would not be in the interests of Gibraltar?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I have given him an answer. He has asked me whether I am willing to share with him information and the answer is that I am not.

ORAL

NO. 1987 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

TAXATION OF SAVINGS ORDINANCE 2004

Can Government state if they now expect the Taxation of Savings Ordinance 2004 to come into effect in January 2005, July 2005 or on another date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Government expect it to come into effect on 1st July 2005.

ORAL

NO. 1988 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

POLICE AND CRIMINAL EVIDENCE ACT 1984

Given the answer to Question Nos. 424 of 2004 and 1241 of 2004, have Government now received and considered any feedback from the group or Committee set up to consider the possibility of implementation of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I received a report on 5th October this year and I have not yet considered it.

NO. 1989 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

EAST SIDE DEVELOPMENT

Given the Chief Minister's statements to the effect that electricity generation plants may be moved as part of the Eastside Project, will the Government:

- (a) make a statement clarifying which is the new possible site for the location of power stations;
- (b) state whether it will only be the publicly owned power station that will move or whether provision will also be made to move the OESCO power station; and
- (c) state the order of costs involved in such a move and whether the Government will be meeting the cost itself?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

It is not appropriate to comment on on-going commercial negotiations. When they are concluded the Government will of course make a full appropriate statement. All these issues are at present hypothetical.

ORAL

NO. 1990 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

INCOME TAX – PETITIONS TO WIND-UP

In respect of how many of the Companies in relation to which Petitions to Wind-Up by the Supreme Court were issued by the Commissioner of Income Tax and advertised on Tuesday 6th July 2004 has a Winding-Up Order been made by the Supreme Court, stating the names of any companies which have been wound-up, and has a Provisional Liquidator been appointed over any and if so which?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The information requested is on the attached schedule.

Answer to Question 1990 of 2004

Following the advertisement placed by the Income Tax Office in the local press on the 6th July 2004 the Supreme Court ordered the winding-up of the following companies.

<u>Name of company</u>	<u>Date of Winding-up Order</u>
Best Bread Limited	15 July 2004
Central Cold Stores Limited	15 July 2004
Dataline (Gibraltar) Limited	15 July 2004
Japcol Imports Limited	15 July 2004
P & M Recording Studios Limited	15 July 2004
Rentokil (Gibraltar) Limited	15 July 2004
Tetouan Limited	15 July 2004
Jab Limited	28 September 2004
Manse Limited	28 September 2004

Although the Official Receiver has as yet not appointed a Provisional Liquidator for any of the stated companies, it is expected that appointments will shortly be made in respect of all the companies.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1990 OF 2004

HON F R PICARDO:

The narrative at the base of that question says that although the Official Receiver has, as yet not appointed a Provisional Liquidator for any of the stated companies, it is expected that appointments will shortly be made in respect of all the companies. Should that not be a reference to Liquidator and not Provisional Liquidator?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes.

ORAL

NO. 1991 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX – CORPORATION TAX

Can Government state how much of the £19.5 million estimated receipts from company tax for the financial year 2003/2004 was attributable to exempt companies previously shown as other company tax?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1992 to 1994 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1992 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX – CORPORATION TAX

Can Government state how much of the £19 million forecast outturn for receipts from company tax for the financial year 2003/2004 was attributable to exempt companies previously shown as other company tax?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1991, 1993 and 1994 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1993 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX – CORPORATION TAX

Can Government state how much of the £19 million estimated receipts from company tax for the financial year 2004/2005 is attributable to exempt companies previously shown as other company tax?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1991, 1992 and 1994 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1994 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX – CORPORATION TAX

Can Government state how much of the £19,383,733 actual receipts from company tax for the financial year 2002/2003 was attributable to exempt companies previously shown as other company tax?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The information requested is given on the attached schedule.

Answer to Question 1994.

The analysis required by the hon Member regarding Company Taxes (Corporation Tax) and Other Company Tax (Exempt Company Tax) is as follows:

	Estimate 2004/2005	Forecast Outturn 2003/2004	Estimate 2003/2004	Actual 2002/2003
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Company Taxes	17.0	17.0	17.0	16.93
Other Company Tax	2.0	2.0	2.5	2.45
	19.0	19.0	19.5	19.38

NO. 1995 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

LAND PROPERTY SERVICES

Can Government state whether they have now concluded a new contract with Land Property Services, and if so, on what terms?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

A new contract has not yet been concluded but one is now imminent and I should add that the terms are on a cost plus basis.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1995 OF 2004

HON L A RANDALL:

Are the terms more favourable than those? I believe that that was the aim of the negotiations, to arrive at a contract which was more favourable to Government.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Obviously we think it is more favourable to us, because what we have done is that we have not renewed the contract on the old basis, which was a sum of money in which they were getting additional revenue and therefore making additional profit, regardless of extra work on their part, regardless of performance targets met in a way in which there was therefore no link between value for money for the taxpayer on the one hand and their revenue on the other. That has been replaced with a system where the Government agree their cost base, allow them a margin over cost but with us controlling the level of costs, they then have a set of performance indicators that they have to meet, if they meet they get certain bonuses or certain additional remuneration. So now we have a situation whereby there is a direct linkage between their benefits under the contract on the one hand, and the benefits to the Government from their performance on the other. So we think it is a much better deal for the taxpayer because this contains verifiable value for money and verifiable risk benefit to both sides. We actually think it is

fairer to the Government and we think it is actually still fair to Land Property Services and its employees, shareholders and directors.

ORAL

NO. 1996 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

GIBRALTAR BANK NOTES

Can Government state whether the system for the sale of banknotes via the internet is now operational?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

No. Gibraltar banknotes are not being sold via the internet, at least not by the Government.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1996 OF 2004

HON L A RANDALL:

Is it likely to be operational soon, or ever to become operational?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

A revised proposal for the sale of currency notes via the internet by the Gibraltar Philatelic Bureau Limited is expected to be submitted for consideration by the Government shortly.

ORAL

NO. 1997 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR COINAGE

Has Tower Mint begun the minting of Gibraltar coinage and when are the first coins expected into circulation?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1998 and 1999 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 1998 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR COINAGE

Has the formal contract with Tower Mint for the production of Gibraltar coinage now been signed and if so when?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1997 and 1999 of 2004.

NO. 1999 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR COINAGE

Are Government now in a position to explain the apparent increase in the cost of coins in 2002/2003?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answer to Question No. 1997

Tower Mint have indeed begun to mint Gibraltar coinage. The first consignment of circulating coins was received on 22nd September 2004 and were put into circulation on the same day.

Answer to Question No. 1998

The formal contract between the Government of Gibraltar and Tower Mint for the production and distribution of Gibraltar coins has not yet been signed, but this is to be concluded very shortly.

Answer to Question No. 1999

It turns out that there was in fact no increase in the cost of coins in the year 2002/2003. The increased expenditure during the year reflects increased orders in the number of coins for circulation.

ORAL

NO. 2000 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN

Can Government state whether the Employer's Contribution shown under Personal Emoluments in the Estimates of Expenditure 2004/2005 for the Public Services Ombudsman is all in respect of Social Insurance?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 2001 to 2003 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 2001 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GDC – EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Can Government state whether the Employer's Contribution shown under Personal Emoluments in the Estimates of Expenditure 2004/2005 for the Gibraltar Development Corporation – Employment and Training – is all in respect of Social Insurance?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 2000, 2002 and 2003 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 2002 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GDC – OTHER DIVISIONS

Can Government state whether the Employers Contribution shown under Personal Emoluments in the Estimates of Expenditure 2004/2005 for the Gibraltar Development Corporation – Other Divisions – is all in respect of Social Insurance?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 2000, 2001 and 2003 of 2004.

NO. 2003 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR REGULATORY AUTHORITY

Can Government state whether the Employers Contribution shown under Personal Emoluments in the Estimates of Expenditure 2004/2005 for the Gibraltar Regulatory Authority is all in respect of Social Insurance?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Employer's Contribution shown under Personal Emoluments of the Public Services Ombudsman, the Gibraltar Development Corporation – Employment and Training and Other Divisions and the Regulatory Authority in the Estimates of Expenditure for the year 2004/2005 includes both the Employer's share of Social Insurance Contributions and Pension Contributions.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 2000 TO 2003 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can Government say what are the respective figures of that sub-division which are shown separately in the cases of other statutory bodies?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes as follows:

Name of Organisation	Social Insurance Contribution	Pension Contribution
Public Services Ombudsman	6,200	10,300
GDC Employment	26,382	33,618
GDC Training	11,814	18,186
GDC Other Divisions	179,104	140,896
Gibraltar Regulatory Authority	8,000	15,000

ORAL

NO. 2004 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

HOUSING – SALE OF RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES

Can Government state what was the total number and total value of residential property sold, in respect of which stamp duty was collected in the financial year 2002/2003 and what was the amount of stamp duty paid?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 2005 of 2004.

NO. 2005 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

HOUSING – SALE OF RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES

Can Government state what was the total number and total value of residential property sold, in respect of which stamp duty was collected in the financial year 2003/2004 and what was the amount of stamp duty paid?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I regret I cannot give the hon Member this information because it appears that Land Property Services Ltd, the Government's agents, do not maintain analysed records of transactions in respect of which stamp duty is paid.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 2004 AND 2005 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well do the Government know how much stamp duty has been paid in each of those years which relate to the residential property sales, or they do not even know that? I mean they may not know the property and the numbers of properties but do they know how much money they have got?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well we both know because it is contained in the Estimates and the Accounts, how much was collected in stamp duty. What we do not know is how it is distributed between residential and non-residential property. Still less, what was the value of the underlying property transactions represented by those, one can take a rough calculation and assume on a straight line basis one knows what the rate of duty is, one knows the amount of duty, one could put a value on it, what one cannot do apparently is break it down into residential and non-residential.

HON F R PICARDO:

Or shares, if the Chief Minister will give way, because stamp duty is also payable on transfer of shares and it is in the same pot.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It might be possible, they have not said whether that is possible or not. I do not have a note as to whether it is possible to distinguish between stamp duty on property transactions and stamp duty on other dutiable transactions. That I can ask.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Presumably Land Property Services only deal with stamp duty on property transactions.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, they are Commissioners for Stamp Duty. They deal with stamp duties on everything. There are not that many other things actually.

NO. 2006 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

HOUSING – SALE OF RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES

Can Government state which Government owned companies received income from the sale of property in 2003/2004 financial year, listing the companies, the amount received, the number of properties and any amounts still due in respect of such sales?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Government-owned companies that received income from the sale of property in the year 2003/2004 are as follows:

<u>Company</u>	<u>Income Received from Sales</u> £	<u>Number of Properties</u>
Brympton Co-Ownership Company Limited	395,868	14
Gibraltar Co-Ownership Company Limited	2,327,079	107
G R P Investment Company Limited	1,341,678	55
Westside Two Co-Ownership Company Ltd	1,112,706	74
	<u>5,177,331</u>	

The total responses received from 119 prospective buyers including a desire to purchase their share of the property under the current offer for sale amount to £2.75 million. Of these, the total amount actually received is £1.35 million and the remainder, if indeed they proceed with the purchase, is made up as follows:

	£
Brympton Co-Ownership Company Limited	28,800
Gibraltar Co-Ownership Company Limited	846,218
G R P Investment Company Limited	173,877
Westside Two Co-Ownership Company Ltd	344,915
	<u>1,393,810</u>

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2006 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

The answer that has been provided seems to suggest that the balance due may not become due if the persons that have indicated an interest in buying do not proceed. Is the correct interpretation then that the balance is not really the balance of people who have already said 'yes we are buying' and paid part of the price? The people who have said they are going to buy have already paid the full lot, is that the correct interpretation?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes there is £2.75 million worth. The total responses received from 119 prospective purchases, including a desire to purchase that property or a share of the property under the current offer, in other words, not the historical this is the current information, under the current offer for sale amounted to £2.75 million. Of these the total amount actually received is £1.35 million and the remainder relates to people who have not paid anything. These things are not paid by instalments. If one buys, one buys and pays the lot so there is no possibility of balance to pay.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Let me say the way the answer is phrased does not make it very clear because it does not then tell me how many properties are involved in the £1.4 million that there is printed on the page. I assume the properties at the top have nothing to do with 119 prospective because there are more than 119 properties up there. So there is nothing to say how many of the 119 have paid the £1.39 million given that the Chief Minister has just said that they do not pay in instalments.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

That is correct.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The amount actually received is £1.35 million.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not know whether that information is contained in the schedule that I gave the Hon Mr Bruzon earlier. I would have to check that. Earlier I gave the Hon Mr Bruzon a schedule with the latest position on sales.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Yes but I think that particular schedule actually included the 119 prospective buyers and the value of the properties that those 119 prospective buyers would buy if they completed, but there was nothing there to say at what stage in the process they were. Given that the question is the amount of sales that have taken place in the financial year 2003/2004, the answer previously given gave the impression that they were subsequent.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

My interpretation of this is that really the bottom half is in a sense not information asked for, in that I think it relates to transactions which have closed since the end of the financial year. That was my reading of this and the hon Member may now be putting me in doubt. I think that the top half is the answer to Question No. 2006. That is what happened in the financial year 2003/2004. Then they have gone on to explain that there are still 119 prospective purchasers who were still left after March 2004, of which £1.35 million had since completed since 1st April. That is how I have understood this. If the hon Member thinks it is open to some other interpretation.....

HON J J BOSSANO:

The only thing is that the Chief Minister must understand that since the 1st April does not appear anywhere.....

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well only by reference to his question.

HON J J BOSSANO:

My question ends on 31st March. So the money that has been received, the total amount actually received, is that in the current financial year then? As opposed to the financial year 2003/2004.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

My interpretation of this answer, but of course I will have this clarified and I will confirm it to him by letter, is that the £5,177,331 was received in the financial year 2003/2004. The £1,393,810 was actually being received in the next financial year to which his question does not relate. That is my interpretation of the answer I have just given him, but since there is, I agree, some ambiguity I shall clear that up for him. I agree that the language of that second paragraph beginning "The total responses", is not at all clear.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So in fact the actual amount received is not the amount that was quoted of £1.393 million but £1.35 million. So perhaps he can also obtain the information as to how many of the 119, the £1.35 million accounts for.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, the £1.35 million has been received; the £1,393,810 is the not yet completed. If one adds £1.35 million and £1,393,810 I suppose one gets to £2.75 million, I have not checked.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The only thing is, two seconds ago the Chief Minister was saying that the amount received in the current year is the £1.39 million figure and I am now asking him if when he gets confirmation that this is the amount received from some of the 119 persons, I would be grateful if he tells me what is the distribution in terms of the four companies, the same as was done for the financial year where the numbers are given in the first half of the answer.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I will do that.

ORAL

NO. 2007 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

HEAD 7, SUBHEAD 6

Can Government give the breakdown of the source of receipts under Revenue Head 7(6) – Other Reimbursements – of £667,370 in the financial year 2001/2002?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 2008 to 2013 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 2008 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

HEAD 5, SUBHEAD 6

Can Government give the breakdown of the source of receipts of £600,000 estimated under Revenue Head 5(6) – Other Reimbursements – for the financial year 2002/2003?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 2007 and 2009 to 2013 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 2009 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

HEAD 5, SUBHEAD 6

Can Government give the breakdown of the source of receipts of £430,000 forecast under Revenue Head 5(6) – Other Reimbursements – for the financial year 2002/2003?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 2007, 2008 and 2010 to 2013 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 2010 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

HEAD 5, SUBHEAD 6

Can Government give the breakdown of the source of receipts of £487,517 under Revenue Head 5(6) – Other Reimbursements – for the financial year 2002/2003?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 2007 to 2009 and 2011 to 2013 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 2011 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

HEAD 5 – SUBHEAD 6

Can Government give the breakdown of the source of receipts of £500,000 estimated under Revenue Head 5(6) – Other Reimbursements – for the financial year 2003/2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 2007 to 2010, 2012 and 2013 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 2012 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

HEAD 5, SUBHEAD 6

Can Government give the breakdown of the source of receipts of £1,250,000 forecast under Revenue Head 5(6) – Other Reimbursements – for the financial year 2003/2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 2007 to 2011 and 2013 of 2004.

NO. 2013 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

HEAD 5, SUBHEAD 6

Can Government give the breakdown of the source of estimated receipts of £900,000 under Revenue Head 5(6) – Other Reimbursements – for the financial year 2004/2005?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Revenue Head – Other Reimbursements – is used for receipts that do not fall under the revenue classifications provided for in the rest of the Revenue budget. The revenue is collected from numerous Government departments.

Annual estimates of receipts under this Revenue Subhead are calculated on the basis of actual overall collections.

I hand the hon Member a breakdown of receipts collected under the Revenue Subhead – Other Reimbursements – for the years 2001/2002, 2002/2003 and 2003/2004.

Let me say, to help him interpret the lists that he gets that the headings do not correspond, these are just generic classifications. There are hundreds and hundreds of different entries for small amounts of money and this is just packing them up into recognisable Heads of Revenue.

Breakdown of receipts collected under Revenue Subhead – Other
Reimbursements by Departments

Financial Year 2001/2002

Civil Status	£	8,445.50
Gibraltar Regulatory Authority	£	42,178.00
Customs	£	116,198.25
Education/GCFE	£	1,163.28
Electricity	£	118,597.07
Fire Service	£	2,631.00
Gibraltar Health Authority	£	5,205.38
GSSL	£	844.46
Income Tax	£	5.04
Licensing/MVTC	£	545.00
Judiciary	£	298.16
Ombudsman Report	£	53.00
Other Treasury Receipts	£	178,444.21
Gibraltar Community Projects	£	1,222.51
Pension Contributions AQUAGIB	£	86,633.05
Police	£	8,718.93
Post Office	£	1,119.89
Secretariat/Publications	£	32,657.34
Social Affairs	£	113.00
Tax Exempt	£	1,250.00
Technical Services	£	6,548.86
Tourism + Transport	£	8,890.25
Treasury	£	45,617.34
	£	<u>667,379.52</u>

Cont'd.....

Breakdown of receipts collected under Revenue Subhead – Other
Reimbursements by Departments

Financial Year 2002/2003

Treasury	£	9,819.11
Customs	£	5,279.35
Police	£	8,982.51
Licensing/MVTC	£	2,591.00
Education/GCFE	£	20,773.11
Civil Status	£	21,827.75
Secretariat/Publications	£	16,268.05
Technical Services	£	2,237.00
Fire Service	£	2,665.80
Electricity	£	41,523.08
D.S.S.	£	249.48
Judiciary	£	16.61
Post Office	£	265.00
Tourism	£	51.28
Port	£	183.05
Gibraltar Health Authority	£	10,408.06
Gibraltar Regulatory Authority	£	50,616.00
Environmental Agency	£	399.00
Gibraltar Community Projects Ltd	£	7,252.49
GSSL	£	1,814.09
Pension Contributions AquaGib	£	82,764.92
Other Treasury Receipts	£	201,530.52
	£	<u>487,517.26</u>

Cont'd.....

Breakdown of receipts collected under Revenue Subhead – Other
Reimbursements by Departments

Financial Year 2003/2004

Buildings & Works	£	0.17
Civil Status	£	19,833.00
Culture	£	28,000.00
Customs	£	56,225.50
DSS	£	456.15
DTI	£	1,055.16
Education/GCFE	£	26,819.55
Electricity	£	647.16
Employment	£	175.00
F&DS	£	2,600.00
Fire Service	£	2,848.56
GHA	£	9,470.56
Gibraltar Community Projects	£	275.36
GRA	£	20.00
GSS	£	180.07
Housing	£	132.20
Income Tax	£	456.42
Judiciary	£	53,508.25
Licensing/MVTC	£	2,895.00
Other Treasury Receipts	£	34,544.08
Pension Contributions AQUAGIB	£	88,124.04
Personnel	£	4,768.46
Police	£	8,763.88
Post Office	£	451.09
Rent – Med Management	£	3,216.49
Secretariat/Publications	£	31,342.44
Technical Services	£	8,334.94
Tourism	£	9,542.50
Tourism & Transport	£	7,607.97
Treasury	£	868,954.91
	£	<u>1,271,248.91</u>

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 2007 TO 2013 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is it correct that this lists the recipient department?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, yes depends how he is using the word 'recipient'.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The receiver of the revenue.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, it lists the department that is the source of the revenue.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The source of the revenue in my question was intended to establish who was making the reimbursement to the Government. Does this give me who was making the reimbursement to the Government, or which department received the reimbursement?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

This is which department received the reimbursement. The question as he was asking, if he means who is the payer in to the Government from the outside world, then he is asking for sheets of paper with hundreds and hundreds of entries, some for miniscule amounts of money.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well then perhaps if I can limit myself to the amounts that are not so miniscule, is there an explanation why the reimbursements was originally estimated at £500,000 and the forecast outturn is £1.25million which is £750,000 more than the estimate?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

For which year?

HON J J BOSSANO:

For 2003/2004, the one that has just finished, in this year's Estimate Book, because if the £750,000 is made up of miniscule amounts then the whole of the 30,000 of us must be paying something to produce £750,000.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I think the explanation is likely to be the last item on his list, given the item is large enough to have an impact but I am just trying to find out if I can give him an explanation for that figure. There are a series of extraordinary items and any one of these could be the explanation. There are three items apparently that Treasury has charged a 5 per cent administration charge in respect of the sale of Government shares and co-owned properties, because they are administering the scheme for the companies, and they amounted to (this is in the year 2003/2004) £62,000 in February, £242,000 odd later on in February, another £127,000 in February, I am ignoring the smaller amounts, £330,000 also in February, that explains it. I think that is the extraordinary item that presumably had not been estimated at the beginning of the year and which I suspect accounts for the lion's share of that difference. I have not checked the additions, does it account for the lion's share or more?

HON J J BOSSANO:

Yes, it almost comes to £750,000. Can I ask then, £750,000 that the Treasury charged in February, for the sale of shares owned by the Government?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, this is something that I am discovering myself now, but it is the sale of, the Treasury administers the 50/50 scheme sale of Government share in 50/50 properties that we have been discussing earlier. They deal with the buyers, they deal with all, and I think the Government through the Treasury have basically charged the owner of the property, namely the Government company, a commission into the Consolidated Fund to reflect the fact that the Consolidated Fund is bearing the labour costs of administering the scheme. That is what appears. We are discovering it together.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well it is interesting of course because if we look at page 13 of the Estimates, had they not thought of that in February, in March the figure for the forecast deficit would have been £2 million instead of £1.3 million.

ORAL

NO. 2014 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GOVERNMENT DEBENTURES

As at the end of September 2004, 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 the Monthly Income Debentures and the Pensioners Monthly Income Debentures as at 30th September 2004 is as follows:-

Monthly Income Debentures	£28,919,000
Pensioners Monthly Income Debentures	£64,128,600

ORAL

NO. 2015 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

COMMUNITY CARE LTD

Do Government propose to repay any of the Loan Stock held by Community Care in cash when it matures in May 2005?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 2016 to 2018 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 2016 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

COMMUNITY CARE LTD

Has an agreement been reached with Community Care Limited as to the replacement loan Government will be issuing in May next year, by way of repayment for the existing loan stock?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 2015, 2017 and 2018 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 2017 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GOVERNMENT LOAN STOCK

How much of the Government Loan Stock maturing in May is held in the market and has to be repaid in cash?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 2015, 2016 and 2018 of 2004.

NO. 2018 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GOVERNMENT LOAN STOCK

Do Government intend to issue a replacement loan stock to the Gibraltar Savings Bank in replacement of the existing loan stock they hold which matures in May 2005?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

A total of £3.562 million of loan stock, by nominal value, is held by investors other than Community Care Trust and the Gibraltar Savings Bank. No final decision has yet been taken as to the precise manner in which the loan stock will be repaid, although it will be by some method of refinancing. It is unlikely that there will be any net reduction in public debt at that time. In other words, that we are not expecting to pay anything down in cash.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 2015 TO 2018 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

Presumably, the holders in the market.....

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Oh yes, they have to be paid in cash, but no net reduction in debt means that we hope to refinance that too. Not then, but we will borrow the money in order to pay them in cash.

HON J J BOSSANO:

When I was talking about repaying the existing holders in cash, whether it is the Savings Bank or Community Care or the market, obviously that did not necessarily mean that the cash could not be obtained by issuing loans to somebody else other than those three parties. So at the moment is the position then that the only party that will get the cash,

even if the cash happens to be the proceeds of another loan, is the market and that the other two are undecided, is that the case?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well it is undecided. The Government have been, in effect, moving cash to Community Care over the years through purchasing of loan stock of Community Care, as a means of reducing the capital erosion of the value of their stock which of course approximates to 100 the closer one gets to redemption, as a means of minimising that erosion we had over the years bought from them whilst the capital value was higher. Of course we now have to decide whether to place cash or a loan note with a rate of interest to be decided in Community Care, we have to see which suits them better because frankly it makes little difference to us whether the loan is from Community Care or whether the loan is from somebody else, it is going to make no difference to Government, it would be a way of massaging the interest coupon in favour of Community Care.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In the case of the £10 million which is held by the Savings Bank, which in fact is what was bought from Community Care in I think it was in three stages, their costs is a decision for the Government, have the Government taken a decision on that, on whether they want to carry on holding £10 million of Government stock in the Savings Bank?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well we are hoping that effectively the decision will be ours in both cases, since we are hoping that the trustees of Community Care will be guided by Government's advice. We have not taken a decision in either case but these decisions will be made in the next month or two. So it may be that by the time we come to the next Question Time, which I suppose will be some time before Christmas, it may be that these decisions will have been made.

ORAL

NO. 2019 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GOVERNMENT OWNED COMPANIES

Can Government give the breakdown by companies of the total cash holdings as at 31st March, 2003 held by Government-owned companies?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 2020 and 2021 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 2020 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GOVERNMENT OWNED COMPANIES

Can Government give the breakdown by companies of the forecast total of cash holdings on the 1st April 2004 held by Government-owned companies?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 2019 and 2021 of 2004.

NO. 2021 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GOVERNMENT OWNED COMPANIES

Can Government give the breakdown by companies of the estimated total of cash holdings for the financial year ending 31st March 2005 held by Government-owned companies?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answer to Question Nos. 2019 and 202

A statement showing a breakdown by Government-owned companies of the total cash holdings held as at 31st March 2003 and 31st March 2004 is attached.

Answer to Question No. 2021

The end-of-year (of this current year) estimated cash holdings of the Government-owned companies are not expected to be materially different from current balances, which is a statement that I would take with a pinch of salt because there may be, depends how far we get with the new housing projects maybe financed out of these balances, so there are projects in the air which may eat into some of these cash balances before the end of the financial year. So I would not put too much stock but that is the answer to Question No. 2021.

Answer to Question 2021

A breakdown of the cash holdings held by Government-owned companies as at 31 March 2003 and 31 March 2004 is as follows:

<u>Government-owned Company</u>	<u>Year Ended</u> <u>31/03/2003</u> <u>£'M</u>	<u>Year Ended</u> <u>31/03/2004</u> <u>£'M</u>
Gibraltar Land (Holdings) Ltd	0.4	0.5
GRP Investment Company Ltd	1.2	2.1
Gibraltar Commercial Property Company Ltd	0.7	1.2
Gibraltar Co-Ownership Company Ltd	5.1	5.2
Westside Two Co-Ownership Company Ltd	7.5	8.2
Brympton Co-Ownership Company Ltd	0.9	1.2
Gibraltar Information Bureau Ltd	0.3	0.3
Gibraltar Shiprepair Ltd	0.9	0.9
Gibraltar Industrial Cleaners	-	-
Gibraltar Community Projects Ltd	-	-
Gibraltar Investment (Holdings) Ltd	-	-
	<hr/> 17.0M	<hr/> 19.6M <hr/>

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 2019 TO 2021 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am not sure about the comment that the Chief Minister has made about not being very different in 2005, is not on the bit of paper that I have got. It must be on his, but in fact on page 14 of the Approved Estimates of Expenditure the expected figure for 2005 is £3.7 million less.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Oh I see what he means, he has not actually asked that question. Yes he has, Question No. 2021 asks for the estimated for 2005.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Yes, and if the answer is it is not likely to be materially different from the £19.6 million that it is at the end of four, all I can say is that in the Estimates presented in the House at budget time it was supposed to be £3.7 million less. Given that before £2 million was thought not to merit the adjective 'substantial' I do not see how £3.7 million is materially not different.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, these are based on revenue and expenditure and this is not like the Estimates whether we can give an indication of what the position is. It depends on how many people take up sales, how many people choose to buy their 50/50 shares and then it depends on whether the Government use the money for projects and for financing, but I agree. What he is saying is that there has already been a material difference.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Of £3.7 million.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes. Higher than what was estimated.

HON J J BOSSANO:

No, the point that I am making is that in my question I asked for the breakdown by companies on the 31st, the figure projected for the 31st March 2005. That is I was asking for a breakdown of how they arrived at the £16 million. If I am now told that the expectation at the end of this financial year is that it is not likely to be materially different

from the £19.7 million that there was on 1st April 2004, then in fact that is materially different from what has been published because it is £3.7 million more than the figure that I have been working on, which is £16 million. If we have been told that they expect to have £16 million I would have thought that to get to the £16 million they would have had to make assumptions about the companies in the breakdown, and that is the breakdown I have asked for in that question.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Financial Secretary tells me that the reason why it is higher than estimated is that they have made a provision for expenditure on the new housing scheme which has not yet taken place. In other words, that they are assuming about £3 million worth of expenditure from these funds on the new housing schemes, which I was not aware actually that they had made an allowance for in the Estimates.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So in fact the answer then is that the breakdown for 2004 is the one we should assume is the breakdown for 2005, is that the correct interpretation?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The breakdown of 2004 is an actual situation, that was the cash balance actually in hand. Now the estimate for the year ending March 2005 is materially different from the current balances so why does the hon Member say he is working on £16 million?

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well Question No. 2021 asked for.....

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I now follow what the hon Member is saying. The reason is, yes he is right, I see, the language is not entirely accurate. The current balance is £19.6 million yet in the accounts in the Estimates at the start of the year, we estimated that they would end at £16 million, which is indeed materially different from current balances contrary to what it says in the answer. I accept that that is so and the explanation, although it does not explain the error of language, the explanation why it is estimated to be £16 million at the end of March 2005 even though it is currently much higher at £19 million is because of this, it allowed for an expenditure of over £3 million on the new housing schemes which may or may not materialise frankly now before the end of March.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Since my original Question No. 2021 was to give a breakdown by companies of the estimated cash at the 31st March that is referring to the £16 million.....

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Do not do it like that.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well presumably when they pencilled in that the bottom figure would go down by £3 million, they must also have had in their minds whether it was going to be from the Gibraltar Information Bureau or Gibraltar Land Holdings, or from Westside Two. One of these companies must have been debited the £3.7 million in the Estimate? Or do they not even know which company is going to finance this? Well, when the Estimates were presented to the House, if I may ask the Chief Minister a question, if the House is being given on page 14 information that the total cash holdings of the Government companies are anticipated to come down by £3.7 million in the current financial year and it is obviously because those companies are expected to invest in housing a sum of one order, they must know, I know that this has not happened because it has been delayed or whatever, but they must have known which company was going to be doing the investing when they put that figure there. I do not see how else they could have made the estimate in the Treasury without knowing, or is it that the Government have not yet even taken a decision as to whether the company that is going to finance the investment is going to be the one that has most money for example, which happens to be Westside Two Co-Ownership or some other company?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well that is the question that I thought he had asked. I do not accept the censure implicit in the remark 'or is it that the Government have not even', there is no reason why the Government should not make that decision yet. As far as Treasury cash flow reserve planning is concerned, and future funding resources availability is concerned, this is just one pot and it may be that all of these balances will be required, not by the end of the financial year but by the end of the scheme as the housing scheme progresses, depending on how we decide to fund it. It may be that we may well end up using all that money. Certainly the first money to be used of course will be in the housing related companies, logically speaking. Westside Two Co-Ownership, Gibraltar Co-Ownership Company Limited and GRP Investment Company Limited, those are the companies but this is really one pot of money. It is true that once it gets spent it has to be debited to one or other because it has to be properly accounted for within the accounts of the company from which the money is withdrawn. So it is very important to the book keepers and then to the auditors of the company in question, but at Government level this is just a pot of money which is demonstrated by the fact that we account for it as if it were public reserves in the Government's Estimates. We just put Government-owned companies without bothering to distinguish monies parked in 100 per cent Government owned companies and which are available to the Government. How it is channelled in

and out is a matter for book keepers and accountants, but it is to be drawn at will by the Government which is why, given that they are in effect reserves of the Government albeit put in the company, that is how we deal with them in the Estimates. There is no reason why strictly speaking in the estimates when we are talking about reserves and public debts that is Consolidated Fund Reserves. We could theoretically exclude the Government balances from that figure but consistently with how we regard it as public reserves, we then show it here as if they were public reserves even if though strictly speaking they are not.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am well aware of that because that was a policy that was introduced a few years ago when that extra page was added, which is strictly speaking an informative sheet which does not form part of the Approved Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure or of the Reserves of the Consolidated Fund. I am well aware of all that, but if the Chief Minister is surprised that I should ask how is it that at this stage they still do not know, well if we are now six months into the financial year in which the decision had already been taken to spend £3.7 million in the year, which means that halfway through the year they might have been already past spending £1 million, I would have thought that they would have already earmarked at the beginning of the year how this was going to happen. So is it in fact the case that from the last remarks that the Chief Minister has made, that it may well be that the vehicle that is used for the investment is not any one of these companies and that simply the money is passed from one of these companies to that vehicle?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Absolutely. That is exactly what I meant because I should also add for his information that we are looking to further rationalise these companies and we are seeking to reduce them to the fewest number of Government property owning companies, which means that we will merge them and things of that sort. We would have done it already if it were not because these three co-ownership companies each are parties to trust deeds and I think they are party to mortgages, and we were looking for a way of dealing with this without having to sign all those documents, or one supplemental deed. What we want to do in effect is to end up with one holding company, one residential property owning company and one commercial property owning company, and further simplify the structure beyond this which is already itself a simplification. That is all in the sense of the corporate structuring. In terms of the money in the corporate structure, the Government regard and account in this House as if they were all sitting as part of the public reserve and that is the treatment that we give. In other words, we do not take advantage of the fact that they are in companies and that we could sort of beaver away in secret and not account. Yes, if we were not disclosing these balances and we were taking the view that these were company balances, theoretically the hon Members would not know what the money was being spent on until the accounts of these companies were eventually Tabled in this House, but long after the event. So the Government are being entirely consistent in that the money is in a company structure but we treat the money as if it were all in the hands of the Government, accountable through the Consolidated Fund, which is why it appears here. So, yes, the hon Member was right. In the Government's mind this is one pot currently £19 million and it is not segregated into different company names, because it is all moveable about. That need to move it all

about between one company and another will be further reduced when we shrink the companies from five or six into two or three.

ORAL

NO. 2022 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CONSOLIDATED FUND

Can Government state whether the forecast Consolidated Fund balance as at 1st April 2004 is still £26.985 million or has this figure now been revised?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 2023 of 2004.

NO. 2023 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CONSOLIDATED FUND

Can Government state what were the receipts of revenue giving a breakdown by Head, of the Consolidated Fund to 30th September 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The actual balance of the Consolidated Fund as at 1st April 2004 was £26.875 million

The figures for revenue receipts to the 30th September 2004 have not yet been compiled by the Treasury. Tentative figures are in the order of £74 million.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 2022 AND 2023 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can Government say the difference of £200,000 between the forecast estimate and the new revised figure, how does that change the total for revenue and expenditure that were previously shown in the printed Approved Estimates? That is to say, the £163,000 and the £165,000 income and expenditure. Is it that the revenue is higher or that the expenditure is lower than the figure quoted there?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It could be almost as many permutations of factors as the hon Member could care to speculate about. It could be higher revenue and lower expenditure, it could be higher expenditure but higher revenue by an even greater amount, the net effect is just over £100,000 to the good.

HON J J BOSSANO:

My question is quite simple, is the revenue figure now still £163.867 million and the expenditure £165.201 million or are there two different figures there? If they have the figures they have them if they do not they do not. I am asking for a breakdown of the £165 million.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I cannot tell him whether both or which of those figures have changed to produce the extra £110,000. We can get it.

ORAL

NO. 2024 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR PROVIDENT TRUST PENSION SCHEME

Can Government list the employers that contributed to the No. 2 Pension Fund in the year ended 31st March 2004, and further state for each employer the amount contributed and the number of employees covered by such contributions?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I hand the hon Member a schedule with the information requested.

Answer to Question 2024

Breakdown of Employers that contributed to the Gibraltar Provident Trust (No 2) Pension Scheme in the year ended 31 March 2004.

<u>Employer</u>	<u>Total Contributed</u>	<u>Total No of Employees as at 31/3/04</u>
The Office of the Ombudsman	£9,786.95	4
Gibraltar Regulatory Authority	£13,675.94	5
Gibraltar Joinery & Building Services	£95,990.55	75
Gibraltar Community Projects	£178,107.09	157
Gibraltar Development Corporation	£125,716.09	80
Social Services Agency	£49,137.25	53
Elderly Care Agency	£89,761.61	78
Citizen Advisory Bureau	£4,955.10	4
Gibraltar Electrical Authority	£12,784.56	21
Land Property Services Ltd	£712.58	4
Government Contracts	£775..30	1
Gibraltar Broadcasting Corporation	£3,731.76	2
	<u>£585,134.78</u>	<u>484</u>

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2024 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

I believe I am right without having checked the previous answer for the preceding year, I think Government contracts seems to be a new addition. Who is the employer there?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I think that it is an employee of the company that runs the Alameda Gardens, Wildlife Gibraltar. It might be because I remember them asking whether they could participate and I assume that this is them but it may not be.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I think that the last time the information was provided which was for the previous year, every single one were sort of Government-owned companies. This one of course is not, it is a Government contractor but it is privately owned, so would this be the first or the only one that has actually joined?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, be careful, a lot of these things are public sector but not Government. GBC for example is there he will have noticed, Government contracts, Land Property Services is also a Government contractor.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I do not think that one was there either.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

There are there examples of moving into the next tier which is Government contractors. The scheme is open to private sector companies and indeed it is a bit disappointing that more have not taken it up because this is a very cheap and cost-effective way for private sector companies to provide pensions to mobile low-paid workers. By mobile I mean the sort of worker that suffers a high churn in terms of job employer mobility, but there has not been a huge take up.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In terms of GBC, given that GBC has its own pensions system, are these because they are new entrants who do not go into the historical pension scheme, is that the position?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Correct. The GBC Pension Scheme is substantially under-funded as most final salary schemes are under-funded in Plc's and in the BBC for reasons the hon Member knows from reading the press. I think the Board of GBC is sensibly taking the view that new staff members in GBC should go onto the Provident Scheme and not onto the existing scheme, and indeed that is something that the Government welcome particularly if they are going to look to the Government to shore up the under-funding.

NO. 2025 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

I & D FUND

Can Government state whether they have drawn any part of the £5 million loan facility so far in the current financial year, intended to finance expenditure by the I & D Fund?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

No, it has not been drawn upon so far.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2025 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

Given that it is now halfway through the financial year, do the Government think they will need as much as £5 million in the second half?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, as things stand right now I think there is an intention to draw upon it quite soon. That might be avoided because of course proceeds of sale of Government properties may be higher, all these MOD properties coming up and all that thing so it is really a cash flow issue, whether the proceeds from the sale of the properties come in quickly enough to avoid having to draw down because this really is a balancing figure. There is a contribution from the Consolidated Fund which will be drawn on first, then there are sale of Government properties which is the other Head of Revenue and this really is the balancing figure that sort of mops up the residual situation. There are a lot of Government sales coming up in the next few months, I do not know how quickly they will be completed, whether they will be completed and the money will come in before the end in time for the Treasury cash management programme.

ORAL

NO. 2026 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

HEAD 102, SUBHEAD 1

Can Government state how much revenue has been received to date under Head 102 – Land and Building Sales and Leases – and give a breakdown?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

A total of £1.7 million has been received by Government under the Improvement and Development Fund, Head 102 Subhead 1 – Land and Building Sales and Leases as at 30th September 2004.

The sum of £187,302 relates to Commercial land sales and £1,543,129.77p relates to Residential land sales. In fact I can tell the hon Member that those figures are now higher. I am aware that there have been one or two substantial receipts under the first heading, Commercial Land Sales since that date.

ORAL

NO. 2027 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

HEAD 102, SUBHEAD 1

Can Government state whether they still expect to receive £6,000,000 under Head 102 from sale of Government properties in the current financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

It is still too early to predict the extent of proceeds from land sales planned by the Government, £6 million is still the latest amount estimated to be recovered in the current financial year and I regard that still as an eminently achievable target, given the amount of transactions in the pipeline

NO. 2028 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GARRISON LIBRARY

Have discussions for the transfer of the Garrison Library to the Government now commenced?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

No, not yet.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2028 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

What time frame do the Government envisage those discussions commencing?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

There is really so much going on at the moment that really in the context of the Lands deal that was really shunted to one side. This actually is an issue in which I dedicate a fair amount of blood pressure if not time. I feel very strongly about this issue, I am a passionate believer in the fact that the Garrison Library should be transferred to Government, so I really do look forward to getting stuck into that in due course. As I think we have discussed here tentatively before it is a potential alternative venue for this House with much more supporting offices available because there is the potential of Government allocating buildings in that area for support offices for the staff, for the House, for the Speaker, indeed for Members, which are not available here.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Given what the Chief Minister has last said, will he pursue this energetically and vigorously.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I will pursue it energetically from the moment that I get round to starting to pursue it. Yes I think it is one of the issues that perhaps the new Minister for Culture will take over just as soon as I can brief him, I will hand the file over to him.

ORAL

NO. 2029 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

EAST SIDE DEVELOPMENT

Who are the beneficial owners of MCB (Gibraltar) Ltd the company with whom the Government have signed heads of agreement in respect of the Eastside project?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

As far as the Government are concerned and aware, the beneficial owners of MCB (Gibraltar) Ltd are Multiplex of Australia, and Chelsfield plc of the UK.

ORAL

NO. 2030 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EAST SIDE DEVELOPMENT

Can Government state what is the area in square metres occupied by the commercial activities located next to the East Side Reclamation?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 2031 to 2034 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 2031 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EAST SIDE DEVELOPMENT

Can Government confirm that the commercial activities adjacent to the East Side reclamation area may require relocation as part of the development of that site?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 2030 and 2032 to 2034 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 2032 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EAST SIDE DEVELOPMENT

Have Government identified possible sites for relocating, if required, the commercial activities currently located adjacent to the East Side Reclamation area?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 2030, 2031, 2033 and 2034 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 2033 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EAST SIDE DEVELOPMENT

Do Government have an order of cost for relocating the commercial activities currently located adjacent to the East Side Reclamation area, if required?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 2030 to 2032 and 2034 of 2004.

NO. 2034 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EAST SIDE DEVELOPMENT

Would the cost of relocating the commercial activities currently located adjacent to the East Side Reclamation area be met by the developer of the area, the Government or a Government owned company?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The area in square metres occupied by the existing commercial activities is 11,700 square metres. Under the development proposal currently under negotiation all these activities would have to be relocated. The Government have tentatively identified relocation sites for each of them. The order of costs is still unquantified with any meaningful degree of accuracy but Government have a ball park figure in mind. The issue of who bears the costs is an element of the commercial agreement under negotiation. It would therefore be inappropriate to comment at this stage.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 2030 TO 2034 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

Would the Government think it inappropriate to reveal what the ball park figure is?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well yes, because we do not wish to put ideas in the minds of the people with whom we have to negotiate the relocation, and if they think that there is a pot they will all aim for a share of it and obviously the Government want it to cost as little as possible if it is going to affect the premium that we get for the rest of it.

ORAL

NO. 2035 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EAST SIDE DEVELOPMENT

Can Government state what is the area of the east side reclamation that is being made available for redevelopment?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 2036 of 2004.

NO. 2036 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EAST SIDE DEVELOPMENT

Is the area that is being offered for redevelopment in the east side reclamation the whole of the area at present reclaimed or does it involve additional reclamation taking place?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

This is straying into sensitive commercial areas under negotiation, the issue is negotiable and under negotiation. In other words, the developer puts up proposals and we consider whether we are willing to allow them to extend the site as required. Of course we are clear that there must be no encroachment either into the public beach at Eastern Beach, to the north, or to the Catalan Bay site to the south, so the scope for growth so to speak is necessarily outwards. So it is really just a question of to what extent, to what distance we are willing to allow them to reclaim.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 2035 AND 2036 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can the Chief Minister say what is the present area that is there now, which is Question No. 2035?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not think whoever put this answer together has interpreted this as asking for a figure in square metres. I think it has been interpreted to mean what is the description of the area, how far does it extend, made available for redevelopment meaning what are the areas under negotiation. If the question is asking for what is the superficial area in square metres of the existing reclamation zone then that information is available. In fact it is in my file but I am afraid I have not got it here.

HON J J BOSSANO:

But there is no problem of that being sensitive?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, whatever is there. What is commercially sensitive is the extent to which we may be willing to allow them to enlarge to do more.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is the answer then that subject to whether they will do more or not do more, the negotiating position is that all that there is there plus the 11,700 square metres would be the minimum as it were?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, subject to including therein, in a way which is under negotiation too, a free public car park to service Eastern Beach at one end and to service Catalan Bay at the other. In other words, the whole area is available but they have got to provide a minimum number of parking spaces for the beaches, separate access not in the development as such. Subject to that the whole area is available.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Would the Chief Minister be able to provide me then with the measurement of the whole area?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes.

ORAL

NO. 2037 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

MOD

Can Government say what was the amount that the MOD had to pay in cash on the book value of its property under UK accounting rules which resulted in a reduction in its spendable budget in Gibraltar in 2002/2003?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 2038 of 2004.

NO. 2038 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

MOD

Can Government say what was the MOD's spendable budget in 2002/2003?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Neither of these questions relate to matters for which the Government are responsible and the Government are not therefore accountable in this House, but I can tell the hon Member that the figure produced by the application of UK Treasury accounting rules to MOD Gibraltar's spendable budget is not known to the Government. I can try and explain to him what the Treasury rule is but I do not know how to apply this to the spendable budget. The hon Member should seek this information from the MOD directly. Last time I tried to find out on his behalf what the current side of the budget was, we had to write more than one letter.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 2037 AND 2038 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well, the reason why I am asking the Chief Minister is because in the statement that he provided in the House in answer to Question No. 1144 he mentioned this in his statement and therefore, I accept he is not responsible for the MOD but I think it has been the practice that when something is mentioned in the House then one can ask questions on the statement.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I think I mentioned it in the context of giving it as one of the reasons why it suited the MOD to unload the properties from its books. In other words, I can explain to the hon Member in a nutshell what the system is. The Treasury makes the MOD account, this is not just the MOD by the way all Government Departments, as a means of preventing or discouraging departments from sitting on un-needed real estate which they then have to spend money maintaining, the Treasury attaches a value to real estate property and

makes them deduct a percentage of that value from their annual budget. So, for example, if the figure is 5 per cent per year and the Treasury has £5 million worth of real estate, then 5 per cent of £5 million is £250,000 would have to be deducted from their spendable budget and sent in cash to the Treasury. That is the system. Now what I cannot tell him is what the mathematical calculation is and what figure it produces because I do not know at what values the MOD's real estate in Gibraltar is valued by Treasury for those purposes. Nor actually do I know, though it was once mentioned to me in the heat of a negotiating meeting, but as it was not relevant I did not note it, what was the percentage that they have to rebate, but that is the system but I cannot tell him by how much. This is the reason why it suited the MOD to suddenly abandon this pay me for assets principle because it was actually costing them money now to sit on it.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Apart from the fact that it has encouraged them to pass property over to the people of Gibraltar which is a good thing, presumably it will also mean that their spendable budget in Gibraltar will be higher than it would otherwise have been if they do not have to reduce it. Does that follow or not? My question is, would the Government not agree that in fact the implications of that presumably are that the MOD spendable budget will benefit in Gibraltar and that therefore it is good for the Gibraltar economy at the same time?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, correct. In other words, there is now a smaller sum of money that they have to pack off and not spend on things in Gibraltar. In other words, they have more money to spend in Gibraltar.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The Government of Gibraltar have not been able to obtain from the MOD what that might amount to?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, the truth is that we have not really asked. There are other benefits to the MOD budget from the lands deal. For example, there is I think it was £250,000 reduction in SILAU so there are other areas in which the lands deal delivers budgetary benefits on-going to the MOD.

NO. 2039 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

MOD

Can Government state what is the relocation costs they expect to meet in the current financial year in respect of the MOD land release and whether this expenditure is already provided for in the approved expenditure of the I & D Fund?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The exact relocation costs, we have got to be careful with the use of the word 'relocation' in this context, for all envisaged relocations which might need to be undertaken as part of the recent lands deal is not yet known.

As the lands deal was signed after the start of this current financial year there is no specific I & D Fund provision for this. I suppose I could add that there is one element of the lands deal which is in the lands deal but had already been agreed and that was the relocation of Coaling Island, the boats and that is already under way and I think there is provision for that in the I & D Fund. The only other project which is in fact already under way, which involves expenditure by the Government as a result to unlock the MOD land deal benefit but is not really a relocation as such, is that in order to obtain the release of some of the valuable villas we are reconverting some of the blocks in Four Corners into higher grade accommodation. In other words, the blocks in Four Corners were of a certain grade, the villas were for tenants of a higher grade in MOD grading terms and therefore we have got to convert the blocks in Four Corners to those higher grades. There are several million pounds of expenditure in total in that, phased over a number of years and JBS who was doing this work started on the blocks, the hon Member will see the scaffolding up as he drives past the taxi stand there in Winston Churchill Avenue. That is not a relocation cost as such but it is a cost of release of land.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2039 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

This work which is being done by JBS, presumably JBS will not have to pay for it itself. Is that being charged to the I & D Fund?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, the Government will pay but whether it will be the Government through the I & D Fund or whether it will be one of the companies, we will have to make that decision. Needless to say, the resale value of the properties that that expenditure releases is hugely greater than the cost of the works to secure their release.

ORAL

NO. 2040 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

MOD

Can Government state how many commercial entities were renting premises from the MOD in 2003/2004 and whether these tenancies have now been registered with the Rent Assessor?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 2041 of 2004.

NO. 2041 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

MOD

Can Government state what is the estimated yield of the rates that become payable by commercial entities holding MOD tenancies, in the current financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Nine commercial entities were renting premises from the MOD in 2003/2004 and they are all registered with the Rent Assessor.

The estimated yield assuming the benefit of the 20 per cent discount has been obtained through timely payments of the rates that become payable by such commercial entities in the current financial year amounts to £71,824. Let me say that although it is not a huge sum of money, the reason why we included this issue in the lands deal was not so much for the sum of money but rather that the companies who were competing with these companies in the private sector felt that they were on an unlevel playing field, that these people were saving rents, saving rates and therefore were able to compete in the market place. So the purpose of securing this was to eliminate that commercial disadvantage for their competitors.

ORAL

NO. 2042 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

MOD

Can Government state what was the amount payable by the MOD in lieu of rates in respect of the financial year 2003/2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The amount payable by the MOD in lieu of rates in respect of the financial year 2003/2004 was £2,478,779.58p.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2042 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

Given that the lands memorandum comes in at the end of the last financial year, I take it that this figure does not reflect any reduction as a result of any release of property. That will be seen in the current financial year, is that correct?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, it does not yet reflect any of those issues.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So any change would be reflected in the current financial year, that is the question?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes. I am told that it is about £1.99 million.

ORAL

NO. 2043 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY

Based on the expenditure incurred up to September, do Government anticipate any changes to the estimated expenditure for the current financial year by the Gibraltar Electricity Authority?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 2044 and 2045 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 2044 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

ELDERLY CARE AGENCY

Based on the expenditure incurred up to September do Government anticipate any changes to the estimated expenditure for the current financial year by the Elderly Care Agency?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 2043 and 2045 of 2004.

NO. 2045 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GHA

Based on the expenditure incurred up to September, do Government anticipate any changes to the estimated expenditure for the current financial year by the Gibraltar Health Authority?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

It is too early in the financial year to say whether or not there will be changes to the estimated expenditure by any of the entities mentioned by the hon Member. The Government expect spending departments, authorities and agencies to stick to approved levels of expenditure except where this is outside of their control. We are fast approaching the time in the financial year when we take a closer look at these things and either make new money available or start pressing the departments to find savings in their expenditure for the rest of the year, to make up for any over-expenditure in the previous year but that exercise has not yet taken place.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 2043 TO 2045 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

So the implication now is that in all three areas the expenditure in the first six months is in line with the estimates.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, not necessarily, we do not know. I have personally not yet looked at that although I will start looking at that now in the next month or so. If there is over-expenditure we will have to analyse what the cause of that over-expenditure is, whether it is caused by things that deserve to be funded by supplementary funding or whether it is over-expenditure of the sort for which they should be penalised in the sense of making them find savings in respect of the rest of the financial year in order to minimise the over-expenditure. Usually savings that we force on them towards the end of the financial year

do not normally cover the full amount of the over-expenditure, and the net residue usually emerge in the House as supplementary funding.