

ORAL

**NO. 2046 OF 2004**

**THE HON C A BRUZON**

**HOUSING – GLACIS ESTATE**

Can Government state who is responsible for the cleaning and maintenance of Glacis Estate?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2047 to 2052 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2047 OF 2004**

**THE HON C A BRUZON**

**HOUSING – GLACIS ESTATE**

Can Government state if the rubbish chutes at Referendum House and Constitution House, in Glacis Estate, are cleaned at regular intervals?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2046 and 2048 to 2052 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2048 OF 2004**

**THE HON C A BRUZON**

**HOUSING – GLACIS ESTATE**

Are Government aware of the unhygienic state of the areas around the rubbish chutes at Referendum House and Constitution House?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2046, 2047 and 2049 to 2052 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2049 OF 2004**

**THE HON C A BRUZON**

**HOUSING – GLACIS ESTATE**

Can Government state what arrangements are in place for the carrying out of repairs to the lift at Brother O'Brien House, Glacis Estate?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2046 to 2048 and 2050 to 2052 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2050 OF 2004**

**THE HON C A BRUZON**

**HOUSING – GLACIS ESTATE**

Can Government state on how many occasions the lifts at Referendum House and Constitution House have broken down in the current financial year?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2046 to 2049, 2051 and 2052 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2051 OF 2004**

**THE HON C A BRUZON**

**HOUSING – GLACIS ESTATE**

Can Government state on how many occasions the recently installed lifts at the Glacis Estate have broken down in the current financial year?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2046 to 2050 and 2052 of 2004.

**NO. 2052 OF 2004**

**THE HON C A BRUZON**

**HOUSING – GLACIS ESTATE**

Can Government state which is the procedure the tenants have to follow to have defective lighting in the landing of Glacis Estate blocks attended to?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING**

Master Service (Gibraltar) Ltd is responsible for the cleaning and maintenance of Glacis Estate.

The rubbish chutes at both Referendum House and Constitution House are cleaned on a regular basis.

Government are aware of their extensive and successful programme of cleanliness. However, there might be, from time to time, some occasions whereby limited areas are targeted by indiscriminate users.

There is a maintenance contract with 'OTIS' for the repair of all lifts at Glacis Estate, including of course, Brother O'Brien House.

There have been a total of 228 breakdowns in the current financial year, amongst the four lifts installed in Referendum House and Constitution House.

There have been a total of 16 breakdowns in the current financial year amongst the five lifts in Glacis Estate.

Tenants should report any defective 'landing' lighting directly to the Reporting Office at the City Hall.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 2046 TO 2052 OF 2004**

**HON C A BRUZON:**

Who oversees Master Service in connection with the work that is to be carried out in Glacis Estate?

**HON J J NETTO:**

The Ministry for Housing have a Senior Manager who is in charge in overseeing and monitoring the state of cleanliness of Master Service.

**HON C A BRUZON:**

I have visited Glacis Estate regularly and I would like to ask the Minister for Housing maybe to visit the area himself. I am afraid that the state of Glacis Estate in terms of hygiene and cleanliness leaves much to be desired.

**HON J J NETTO:**

No, I do not agree at all. The fact of the matter is that we are continuously congratulated by the Tenants Association of the job well done by Master Service Ltd. They live there, they know what is going on there and they have a better inkling than the hon Member.

**HON C A BRUZON:**

Do Government have any plans to tackle the problem, which I admit is difficult, in the area surrounding the lifts and the chutes in Glacis Estate, where there are pigeons and nests and droppings which cause problems vis a vis hygiene?

**HON J J NETTO:**

Yes, this is an area which we will look into as well.

**HON C A BRUZON:**

Finally, could Government explain this OTIS firm that is responsible for repairing the lifts, is this company a Spanish company?

**HON J J NETTO:**

Yes.

**HON C A BRUZON:**

Is the Minister aware that there are sometimes difficulties in getting this company to attend to a problem quickly?

**HON J J NETTO:**

No, I do not agree, I think the hon Member is trying to suggest that because we had a problem with Brother O'Brien House in relation to one of the lifts that was faulty there but that is not the case. OTIS does provide a good service and they do attend,



with the exception of one case which was in Brother O'Brien House, which they did attend to the wrong block and the wrong lift. Having said that, they went back on the following day and what happened there was that in attending the fault in Brother O'Brien House, they had realised that acts of vandalism had been committed to some of the sensory electrical equipment there because some people had put in superglue in the connectors and they had to go back and order specific equipment for that particular lift, which took an extra couple of days. But if one takes away that particular incident alone the service is quite good.

ORAL

**NO. 2053 OF 2004**

**THE HON C A BRUZON**

**HOUSING – ALAMEDA ESTATE**

Can Government state who is responsible for overseeing that the public area outside Flat Nos. 1 and 2 of Victoria House, Alameda Estate, overlooking Rosia Road, is kept clean and in a proper hygienic condition?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING**

The Ministry for Housing and its cleaning contractor, Master Service (Gibraltar) Ltd are responsible.

**NO. 2054 OF 2004**

**THE HON C A BRUZON**

**HOUSING – MINOR WORKS**

Can Government state how many Government tenants are currently listed as requiring work to be done in their homes by the Housing Department as landlords, and give a breakdown of the numbers in pre-war and post-war housing?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING**

Current tenants awaiting minor works (response maintenance) is 1,756 as a whole. With regard to this category of works, our system does not differentiate between pre-war and post-war housing.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2054 OF 2004**

**HON C A BRUZON:**

When the Minister refers to these as minor works I understand that there is a list that refers to urgent works to be done. Are these urgent jobs also included in the 1,756?

**HON J J NETTO:**

Correct, amongst other categories of work, not just urgent.

**NO. 2055 OF 2004**

**THE HON C A BRUZON**

**HOUSING – ALLOCATION PROCEDURES**

Can Government state if they are now in a position to make an announcement of the major reforms concerning housing allocation procedures that they referred to in answer to Question No. 1457 of 2004?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING**

No. Government will make their policy announcement when they are ready to do so. The target date is the first quarter of next year.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2055 OF 2004**

**HON C A BRUZON:**

The reason for asking the question is because we were told last time that they would be in a position to make an announcement before the end of this year, that is my understanding.

**HON J J NETTO:**

Yes, that would have been our desire but things have slipped a bit and we are, as I said in my answer, hoping to do this in the first quarter of this coming year.

ORAL

**NO. 2056 OF 2004**

**THE HON C A BRUZON**

**HOUSING – APPLICANTS MEDICALLY RECOMMENDED.**

Can Government state how many persons are medically recommended (excluding those that are described as applicants on the Housing Waiting List) giving a breakdown of their medical category?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING**

Answered together with Question No. 2057 of 2004.

**NO. 2057 OF 2004**

**THE HON C A BRUZON**

**HOUSING – WAITING LIST**

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**

The total number of persons medically recommended is 231, broken down as follows:

Medical A	-	86
Medical B	-	63
Medical C	-	82

The total number of applicants on the Housing Waiting List who are medically recommended is 24, broken down as follows:

Medical A	-	6
Medical B	-	6
Medical C	-	12

**NO. 2058 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 October and November of 2004?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING**

The number of pre-war housing units allocated is as follows:

October – 2

November – 5

ORAL

**NO. 2059 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**

Answered together with Question No. 2060 of 2004.



**NO. 2060 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**

The number of applicants on the pre-list to date is 553, broken down as follows:

1RKB -	352
2RKB -	41
3RKB -	105
4RKB -	49
5RKB -	4
6RKB -	2

The number of applicants on the Housing Waiting List to date is 539 broken down as follows:

1RKB -	288
2RKB -	46
3RKB -	131
4RKB -	63
5RKB -	10
6RKB -	1

**NO. 2061 OF 2004**

**THE HON C A BRUZON**

**HOUSING – NUMBER OF REPOSSESSED FLATS**

Can Government say how many Government flats have been repossessed in the current financial year to date giving a breakdown of pre-war and post-war?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING**

The number of Government flats repossessed in the current year to date is as follows:

Pre-war - 2

Post-war - 7

ORAL

**NO. 2062 OF 2004**

**THE HON C A BRUZON**

**HOUSING – RENT RELIEF**

Can Government state what is the final figure of households on full rent relief for the financial year 2003/2004 and how many households have been assessed as entitled to receive the full amount for the financial year 2004/2005 to date?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2063 to 2066 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2063 OF 2004**

**THE HON C A BRUZON**

**HOUSING – RENT RELIEF**

Can Government state what is the final figure of households that had the level of rent relief reduced for the financial year 2003/2004 and how many households have had this benefit reduced in the current financial year 2004/2005 to date?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2062 and 2064 to 2066 of 2004.

**NO. 2064 OF 2004**

**THE HON C A BRUZON**

**HOUSING – RENT RELIEF**

Can Government state what is the final figure of households on rent relief that had this terminated during the financial year 2003/2004 and how many households have had this terminated in the current financial year 2004/2005?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2062, 2063, 2065 and 2066 of 2004.

**NO. 2065 OF 2004**

**THE HON C A BRUZON**

**HOUSING – RENT RELIEF**

Can Government state what is the final figure of households that were receiving rent relief in the financial year 2003/2004 and the comparable figure for the current financial year to date?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2062 to 2064 and 2066 of 2004.

**NO. 2066 OF 2004**

**THE HON C A BRUZON**

**HOUSING – RENT RELIEF**

Can Government state what is the final figure of households applying for rent relief in the financial year 2003/2004, the final number approved and the comparable figures for the current financial year to date?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING**

A total of 154 tenants were on full rent relief in 2003/2004, and to date, under this financial year 2004/2005, a total of 120 tenants are on full rent relief.

A total of 244 tenants had the level of rent relief reduced in 2003/2004 and to date, under this financial year 2004/2005, a total of 222 tenants have had their level of rent relief reduced.

A total of 214 households had their rent relief terminated in 2003/2004, and a total of 114 households have had their rent relief terminated to date, under this financial year 2004/2005.

A total of 792 households were receiving rent relief in 2003/2004, and to date, under this financial year 2004/2005, 737 households are receiving rent relief.

125 applications for rent relief were received in 2003/2004 out of which 98 were approved and 27 rejected. To date, under this financial year 2004/2005, 69 applications have been received out of which 60 have been approved and nine rejected.

ORAL

**NO. 2067 OF 2004**

**THE HON C A BRUZON**

**HOUSING – ARREARS OF RENT**

Can Government say since the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2004, how many tenants have entered into agreements to pay arrears of rent, what is the total amount of arrears covered by such agreements and do tenants entering into such agreements still have to pay the 8 per cent annual interest charge for the period that the arrears have been outstanding?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2068 and 2069 of 2004.



ORAL

**NO. 2068 OF 2004**

**THE HON C A BRUZON**

**HOUSING – ARREARS OF RENT**

Can Government say what is the total amount of rent arrears and the 8 per cent interest charge being demanded of tenants with rent arrears in the current financial year?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2067 and 2069 of 2004.

**NO. 2069 OF 2004**

**THE HON C A BRUZON**

**HOUSING – ARREARS OF RENT**

Can Government say how many tenants have been sent summonses for the payment of arrears of rent plus an annual interest charge of 8 per cent?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING**

A total of 125 agreements have been entered into with tenants for the recovery of rent arrears.

The total amount of rent covered by these agreements is £693,737.

Tenants entering into these agreements have not got to pay the 8 per cent interest charge.

The total cumulative amount of rent arrears as at 14<sup>th</sup> December 2004 was £2,886,198.

A total of 11 tenants have been sent legal claims in respect of the non-payment of rent. The 8 per cent interest charge is not included and does not form part of the above figure as this charge is only raised by the Treasury Department at the time that a legal claim for the recovery of rent is sent.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 2067 TO 2069 OF 2004**

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

In the event that they enter into an agreement, does the 8 per cent still apply?

**HON J J NETTO:**

No it does not apply.

**NO. 2070 OF 2004**

**THE HON L A RANDALL**

**BUILDINGS & WORKS DEPARTMENT**

Can Government provide an update on the on-going discussions with the Union regarding the move into a proposed Authority of the Buildings and Works Department?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING**

As stated in answer to previous questions, negotiations are on-going.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2070 OF 2004**

**HON L A RANDALL:**

Can the Government provide the number of times that they have met with the Buildings & Works Department since the answer to Question No. 1467 of 2004 which the Minister has referred to?

**HON J J NETTO:**

The Government are not in a position to give details of the negotiating process with the Union.

**HON L A RANDALL:**

Surely I have not asked for details. All I have asked is to be provided with the number of meetings that have been held to discuss this subject, not the subject matter.

**HON J J NETTO:**

We do not think that is a relevant question at all.

**HON F R PICARDO:**

With respect, the relevance of questions is determined by the Speaker not by the person purporting to answer the question.

**MR SPEAKER:**

I agree, the relevance is the Speaker's ruling. The Minister may answer any terms other than reference to relevance.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

The Minister has answered originally and that is that he does not think it appropriate. The hon Member interprets the word 'details' as meaning details of the subject matter and I do not think that is what the Minister meant by the word 'details'. I think by the word 'details' he meant details of the mechanical process of the negotiations as opposed to just the details of the substance of the negotiations he interpreted.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Would the Minister not agree that if he describes the process as on-going, one would expect that that means between the last question and this answer there would have been a number of meetings. If nothing has happened then it is difficult to see what on-going means. Is something regularly taking place or have things sort of come to an impasse?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

The hon Member's supplementary is predicated on a false premise. That is that negotiations only take place through meetings. Negotiations also take place through exchange of papers, through exchange of documents, through exchange of drafts which may not have been formed in a meeting but nevertheless is an on-going process of negotiation. Particularly when what one is doing is negotiating the terms and conditions of new terms of employment, where it is very much documented stuff.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

The answer then is that it is going on all the time.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

Yes.

ORAL

**NO. 2071 OF 2004**

**THE HON L A RANDALL**

**BUILDINGS & WORKS DEPARTMENT**

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

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING**

To date none.

**NO. 2072 OF 2004**

**THE HON C A BRUZON**

**SOCIETY FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED**

Can Government state if they have taken a policy decision, having discussed the matter with the Society for the Prevention of Blindness, to provide:

- (a) A Centre for the Blind;
- (b) A Mobility Officer?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS**

In a meeting between the Society for the Visually Impaired and myself, a request was made for the provision of bigger and more suitable premises for the Society. In principle, I agreed to assist them in identifying and acquiring such premises, and asked the Society to also look around for themselves and come back to me. Unfortunately, no suitable premises have been found to date which will cater for their needs.

Government have never committed themselves to providing a Mobility Officer for the Society. During the said meeting, the society mooted the possibility of bringing over from the UK a Mobility Officer, as and when required, to instruct their members in the use of mobility aids. However, this would only be possible once the premises had been acquired, and it was implicitly agreed that the Society, whose funds are thankfully healthy, would meet this cost.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2072 OF 2004**

**HON C A BRUZON:**

Could I ask the Minister if Government consider that there is a need for a Mobility Officer for the blind? I think the Minister has said that when premises are found, the two ideas have been connected, the actual premises with the Mobility Officer. Is there a need for a Mobility Officer? I think there is.

**HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:**

I do not think it is up to the Government to decide what the needs of charitable organisations are. As I said, if the Society feels there is a need, we did discuss the

matter and they themselves did not even feel the need arose to ask Government for a Mobility Officer. They feel one is required and they have the funds to pay for one.

**NO. 2073 OF 2004**

**THE HON C A BRUZON**

**SOCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Can Government state how many of the persons receiving social assistance in respect of each month of the third quarter of 2004, have been employed since and how many are still receiving social assistance, giving a breakdown of age and sex?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2074 and 2075 of 2004.



ORAL

**NO. 2074 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 third quarter of 2004, giving a breakdown of age and sex?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2073 and 2075 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2075 OF 2004**

**THE HON C A BRUZON**

**SOCIAL ASSISTANCE – 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 third quarter of 2004, giving a breakdown of their 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. 2075 OF 2004**

Answer to Question No.2073of 2004

**PERSONS IN RECEIPT OF SOCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE THIRD QUARTER 2004**

QTR	MONTH	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL	18/25	26/35	36/45	46/60
QTR 3 2004	Jul-04	177	271	448	70	145	107	126
	Aug-04	187	271	458	70	152	104	132
	Sep-04	185	290	475	75	153	112	135

**PERSONS EMPLOYED DURING THE THIRD QUARTER 2004**

QTR	MONTH	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL	18/25	26/35	36/45	46/60
QTR 3 2004	Jul-04	8	3	11	4	2	4	1
	Aug-04	2	2	4	1	1	1	1
	Sep-04	10	1	11	4	5	1	1

**PERSONS IN RECEIPT OF SOCIAL ASSISTANCE AS AT 14TH DECEMBER 2004**

AS AT	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL	18/25	26/35	36/45	46/60
14-Dec-04	198	292	490	83	151	116	140

cont....

**Cont. ANSWER TO QUESTION 2075**

Answer to Question No.2074 of 2004

**PERSONS IN RECEIPT OF SOCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE THIRD QUARTER 2004**

QTR	MONTH	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL	18/25	26/35	36/45	46/60
QTR 3 2004	JUL-04	177	271	448	70	145	107	126
	AUG-04	187	271	458	70	152	104	132
	SEP-04	185	290	475	75	153	112	135

cont..

**cont. ANSWER TO QUESTION No. 2075**

Answer to Question No.2075

**PERSONS RECEIVING DISABILITY ALLOWANCE FOR EACH MONTH OF THE 3RD QUARTER OF 2004.**

Months	0-10	11-20	21-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	61-70	Total	Male	Female
Jul-04	30	23	19	11	21	9	0	113	80	33
Aug-04	30	23	19	11	21	9	0	113	80	33
Sep-04	29	25	19	11	21	7	0	112	81	31

**NO. 2076 OF 2004**

**THE HON C A BRUZON**

**SOCIAL INSURANCE – 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 third quarter of 2004 from the Closed Long-Term Benefits Fund, giving a breakdown of the pre-1969 Spanish pensioners and locally funded pensioners showing the number of Gibraltar/UK nationals, Moroccans and other nationals for each month?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2077 to 2080 of 2004.

**NO. 2077 OF 2004**

**THE HON C A BRUZON**

**SOCIAL INSURANCE – CLOSED LONG-TERM BENEFITS FUND**

Can Government state how many persons with incomplete records they consider to be eligible to pay arrears of contributions since the Social Security (Closed Long-Term Benefits and Scheme) Ordinance 1996 was amended by this House on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2004? And how many persons, to date, have taken advantage of this further opportunity to pay arrears?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2076 and 2078 to 2080 of 2004.

**NO. 2078 OF 2004**

**THE HON C A BRUZON**

**SOCIAL INSURANCE – 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 third 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**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2076, 2077, 2079 and 2080 of 2004.



ORAL

**NO. 2079 OF 2004**

**THE HON C A BRUZON**

**SOCIAL INSURANCE – 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 third quarter of 2004?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2076 to 2078 and 2080 of 2004.

**NO. 2080 OF 2004**

**THE HON C A BRUZON**

**SOCIAL INSURANCE – 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 of the third quarter of 2004?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS**

Twenty persons have already taken advantage of this further opportunity to pay arrears of social insurance contributions. However, it is not possible to determine if there are others who are eligible unless they enquire or apply. The department could still receive such enquiries until the closing date which is 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2005, but we do not envisage that there will be many more.

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

**ANSWER TO QUESTION 2080**

**Answer to Question No. 2076/2004**

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

	<b>JUL-04</b>	<b>AUG- 04</b>	<b>SEP- 04</b>
<b><i>Pre-1969 Spanish Pensioners</i></b>	6489	6469	6458
<b><i>British Pensioners (Gib/UK Nat.)</i></b>	4906	4923	4918
<b><i>Moroccan Pensioners</i></b>	1517	1518	1514
<b><i>Other Nationalities</i></b>	420	423	427
<b>Total</b>	<b>13332</b>	<b>13333</b>	<b>13317</b>

**ANSWER TO QUESTION No. 2080**

Answer to Question No.2078 of 2004

The income, expenditure and balance of the Closed Long-Term Benefits Fund for each month of the third 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 BENEFITS FUND**

	<u>31-Jul-04</u>	<u>31-Aug-04</u>	<u>30-Sep-04</u>
<b><u>Fund Account -</u></b>			
<b><u>Opening Balance</u></b>	<u>£668,486</u>	<u>£545,969</u>	<u>£479,175</u>
<b><u>"Local Account"</u></b>			
Opening Balance	£51,595	£16,290	£73,610
<u>Add</u>			
Transfers from the Open Long-Term Benefits Fund	£900,000	£950,000	£950,000
Other Receipts	<u>£3,617</u>	<u>£1,550</u>	<u>£2,349</u>
	<u>£955,212</u>	<u>£967,840</u>	<u>£1,025,959</u>
<u>Less</u>			
Pension Payments	<u>(£938,922)</u>	<u>(£894,230)</u>	<u>(£954,538)</u>
Closing Balance	<u>£16,290</u>	<u>£73,610</u>	<u>£71,421</u>
<b><u>"Spanish Account"</u></b>			
Opening Balance	£616,891	£529,679	£405,565
<u>Add</u>			
Receipts from DFID	<u>£230,000</u>	<u>£230,000</u>	<u>£1,260,000</u>
	<u>£846,891</u>	<u>£759,679</u>	<u>£1,665,565</u>
<u>Less</u>			
Pension Payments	<u>(£317,212)</u>	<u>(£354,114)</u>	<u>(£872,542)</u>
Closing Balance	<u>£529,679</u>	<u>£405,565</u>	<u>£793,023</u>
<b><u>Fund Account</u></b>			
<b><u>Closing Balance</u></b>	<u>£545,969</u>	<u>£479,175</u>	<u>£864,444</u>

cont....

**ANSWER TO QUESTION 2080**

Answer to Question No. 2079

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

**OPEN LONG-TERM BENEFITS FUND**

	<u>31-Jul-04</u>	<u>31-Aug-04</u>	<u>30-Sep-04</u>
<b><u>Fund Account -</u></b>			
<b><u>Opening Balance</u></b>	£10,790,270	£10,746,508	£10,345,189
<b><u>Add</u></b>			
Receipts	£946,376	£659,011	£747,452
	<u>£11,736,646</u>	<u>£11,405,519</u>	<u>£11,092,641</u>
Payments	<u>(£990,138)</u>	<u>(£1,060,330)</u>	<u>(£1,032,050)</u>
<b><u>Closing Balance</u></b>	<u>£10,746,508</u>	<u>£10,345,189</u>	<u>£10,060,591</u>

**ANSWER TO QUESTION 2080**

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

July 2004	£900,000
August 2004	£950,000
September 2004	<u>£950,000</u>
	<u>£2,800,000</u>

ORAL

**NO. 2081 OF 2004**

**THE HON C A BRUZON**

**SOCIAL INSURANCE – 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 third 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.2081 of 2004**

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

**SOCIAL INSURANCE (SHORT-TERM BENEFITS) FUND**

	<u>31-Jul-04</u>	<u>31-Aug-04</u>	<u>30-Sep-04</u>
<b><u>Fund Account -</u></b>			
<b><u>Opening Balance</u></b>	£6,058,016	£6,030,362	£6,024,894
<u>Add</u>			
Receipts	£48,635	£41,959	£43,656
	<u>£6,106,651</u>	<u>£6,072,321</u>	<u>£6,068,550</u>
<u>Less</u>			
Payments	<u>(£76,289)</u>	<u>(£47,427)</u>	<u>(£64,018)</u>
<b><u>Closing Balance</u></b>	<u>£6,030,362</u>	<u>£6,024,894</u>	<u>£6,004,532</u>

ORAL

**NO. 2082 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 November 2004?

**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. 2082/2004

PERSONS IN RECEIPT OF MINIMUM INCOME GUARANTEE AS AT NOVEMBER 2004.

				TOTAL		COUPLE		SINGLES
				No		No		No
FROM	£115.00	TO	£120.00	1		1		0
FROM	£110.00	TO	£115.00	1		1		0
FROM	£105.00	TO	£110.00	0		0		0
FROM	£100.00	TO	£105.00	0		0		0
FROM	£95.00	TO	£100.00	0		0		0
FROM	£90.00	TO	£95.00	0		0		0
FROM	£85.00	TO	£90.00	13		0		13
FROM	£80.00	TO	£85.00	1		0		1
FROM	£75.00	TO	£80.00	0		0		0
FROM	£70.00	TO	£75.00	2		0		2
FROM	£65.00	TO	£70.00	2		1		1
FROM	£60.00	TO	£65.00	0		0		0
FROM	£55.00	TO	£60.00	26		0		26
FROM	£50.00	TO	£55.00	0		0		0
FROM	£45.00	TO	£50.00	4		0		4
FROM	£40.00	TO	£45.00	6		0		6
FROM	£35.00	TO	£40.00	21		2		19
FROM	£30.00	TO	£35.00	14		0		14
FROM	£25.00	TO	£30.00	16		0		16
FROM	£20.00	TO	£25.00	28		1		27
FROM	£15.00	TO	£20.00	32		2		30
FROM	£10.00	TO	£15.00	228		0		228
FROM	£5.00	TO	£10.00	19		2		17
FROM	£0.00	TO	£5.00	11		4		7
				425		14		411

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2082 OF 2004**

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

At one stage the original rules were that it was for the single pensioner households or pensioner households for a married couple, and I think at a later stage the Government said they were going to reconsider that criteria to allow for people who were not necessarily a married couple but who were both on social assistance. Has that actually happened, is this reflected in the figures?

**HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:**

What I can recall saying and which has been implemented is adding other categories to that list, another category that we included was for example if a married couple, or a single person for that matter, lived with somebody else who was either a pensioner or somebody on social assistance or long term unemployed, they would not be taken into account as living with the person and they would still be entitled.

ORAL

**NO. 2083 OF 2004**

**THE HON C A BRUZON**

**MOUNT ALVERNIA**

Can Government confirm that a new lift is being fitted in Mount Alvernia and if so when will it be ready for use?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2084 and 2085 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2084 OF 2004**

**THE HON C A BRUZON**

**MOUNT ALVERNIA**

Can Government state if they are satisfied with the present system of emergency exits at Mount Alvernia?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2083 and 2085 of 2004.

**NO. 2085 OF 2004**

**THE HON C A BRUZON**

**MOUNT ALVERNIA**

Can Government state if there has been any increase in the number of emergency exits at Mount Alvernia or has there been any improvement in connection with the emergency exits as part of the major refurbishment works that are being carried out there?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS**

A new lift is being installed. The lift will be fitted and commissioned by January 2005.

Government are satisfied that the ECA have put in place a system of emergency exits that has been recommended by the Supervising/Health & Safety Officer in conjunction with the Emergency Services.

There has been no increase in the number of emergency exits. However, following refurbishment, improvements have been made by compartmentalising different areas of the building with fire doors, which will avoid having to effect a mass evacuation in the case of a fire.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 2083 TO 2085 OF 2004**

**HON C A BRUZON:**

Can the Minister tell this House how many emergency exits there are in Mount Alvernia?

**HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:**

There are currently four.

**NO. 2086 OF 2004**

**THE HON F R PICARDO**

**ELDERLY CARE AGENCY**

Given the answers to Question Nos. 1514 and 1515 of 2004 and supplementaries thereto are Government now in a position to state what UK or Gibraltar qualifications they will require of employees of ADA Limited providing services under the contract between that company and the Elderly Care Agency?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS**

In answers to Question Nos. 1514 and 1515 of 2004 and supplementaries thereto, the issue of whether the ECA stipulated what standard it required of ADA employees was not fully determined and was left very much in the air.

Having sought further information, I can confirm that the ECA does in effect do this. The requirements are that any employee of ADA Ltd who provides care for an ECA recipient, must have a minimum of 180 hours of certificated training for care assistants and must have worked in a recognised hospital or care home for a minimum of three months. Alternatively, a care worker must have had a minimum of nine months experience working in a registered hospital or care home where the person in post will have been overseen by a qualified Sister or Staff Nurse. In the UK, these requirements currently translate, qualification-wise, into an NVQ level 2 in care, although the UK is now looking to achieve NVQ level 3 for all care workers by 2006. These are the standards used in the UK as set out by the Joint Advisory Group of Domiciliary Care Association in Surrey, of which the ECA is a member.

The Spanish equivalent of this qualification, which meets the requirements set out by the ECA, is the one which was loosely translated into English at the last House.

The ECA has been liaising with the School of Health Studies to look at the possibility of introducing NVQ certificated training in care in Gibraltar. If this comes to fruition, anyone who successfully completes the course will be able to compete for any domiciliary care worker posts that arise in the future.

**NO. 2087 OF 2004**

**THE HON F R PICARDO**

**SOCIAL SERVICES – UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS**

Can Government give a breakdown of male and female unemployed Gibraltarians aged 18 and over in the months of October and November 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 SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS**

I hand the hon Member the information in Schedule form.

**Answer to Question 2087 of 2004**

The following is a breakdown of unemployed Gibraltarians aged 18 and over for the month of October and November 2004.

**A. UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT**

2004	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL	18/25	25+
OCTOBER	29	36	65	25	40
NOVEMBER	34	40	74	24	50

**B. SOCIAL ASSISTANCE**

2004	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL	18/25	25+
OCTOBER	89	58	147	30	117
NOVEMBER	90	57	147	30	117

**C. NO PAYMENTS**

2004	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL	18/25	25+
OCTOBER	69	35	104	45	59
NOVEMBER	47	19	66	29	37



ORAL

**NO. 2088 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 October and November 2004?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS**

I hand the hon Member the information in Schedule form.

**Answer to Question No.2088 of 2004**

The income, expenditure and balance of the Employment Injuries Insurance Fund in the months of October and November 2004 is as follows:

**EMPLOYMENT INJURIES INSURANCE FUND**

	<u>31-Oct-04</u>	<u>30-Nov-04</u>
<b><u>Fund Account -</u></b>		
<b><u>Opening Balance</u></b>	£5,077,198	£5,081,733
<u>Add</u>		
Receipts	£56,086	£41,220
	<u>£5,133,284</u>	<u>£5,122,953</u>
<u>Less</u>		
Payments	<u>(£51,551)</u>	<u>(£38,135)</u>
<b><u>Closing Balance</u></b>	<u>£5,081,733</u>	<u>£5,060,818</u>

---

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2088 OF 2004**

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

In Question No. 2088 where the information was passed across, the column does not seem to add up to the figures there. Could the Minister look at that and see if there is an inaccuracy in the answer provided in writing? In the November figure for the Employment Injuries Insurance Fund, that shows that the receipts are £41,000 and the payments £38,000 for that month, but in fact if £38,000 is subtracted from £51,220 the answer cannot be £5,060,818. There seems to be an arithmetical error there. I wonder if that could be looked into and corrected if it is wrong.

**HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:**

I will certainly ask Treasury who prepares these answers to look into it.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

The receipts are in excess of the expenditure and the balance goes down, which is not the usual result.

**NO. 2089 OF 2004**

**THE HON S E LINARES**

**TRAFFIC FLOW**

Can Government state whether there has been an improvement in the traffic flow generally after the change of school hours and how this is monitored?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES**

The change in school hours has resulted in a marked improvement in the traffic flow at midday due to the reduced numbers of school children that are now going home for lunch. There has not, however, been any appreciable increase in volumes at 3.30 pm resulting from the earlier closing times of schools and neither has there been any significant difference in traffic volumes during the period between 4.00 pm and 6.00 pm. In the mornings the situation remains as normal as far as the effects of the school hours is concerned, although the introduction of the free travel for school children offered by the Gibraltar Bus Company has also had a very noticeable and positive impact on overall traffic flow at school opening and closing times.

The Royal Gibraltar Police handle day to day traffic issues and they are aware of any changes in traffic circulation patterns that may result, be they as consequence of any changes that may be introduced or otherwise.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2089 OF 2004**

**HON S E LINARES:**

Can the Minister explain what scientific way this is monitored by the Police Force?

**HON F VINET:**

No, I cannot explain what scientific way, if any, is utilised by the RGP. What I can tell the hon Member is that the RGP does conduct surveys, tests, I am not aware whether these are scientific or otherwise, and they in turn provide the information to the Department of Transport.

**HON S E LINARES:**

I would like to ask the Minister that apart from the RGP what other systems are in place by the Ministry of Transport to monitor the traffic flow after the change of school hours?

**HON F VINET:**

There is no separate system. We are given the information by the RGP.

**NO. 2090 OF 2004**

**THE HON L A RANDALL**

**SMITH DORRIEN BRIDGE**

Can Government state whether the report has now been concluded regarding recommendations on the maintenance work that needs to be undertaken on Smith Dorrien Bridge, and if so, provide the Opposition with a copy of the report?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES**

The report does not relate only to Smith Dorrien Bridge. It relates also to Orange Bastion Bridge and is part of the Government's on-going routine and periodic inspection of load bearing structures. This includes bridges with a view to their monitoring and the identification of required maintenance works. The report is now complete and the Technical Services Department is currently considering it. Government do not ordinarily make such reports available outside the Government.

**NO. 2091 OF 2004**

**THE HON L A RANDALL**

**DUDLEY WARD TUNNEL**

Can Government state whether they have now obtained all the data that they require to confirm the full viability of a proposal 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**

No.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2091 OF 2004**

**HON L A RANDALL:**

Have the Government got at least a target date by which this data and the report will be ready?

**HON F VINET:**

The process is on-going.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

Perhaps I should add for the sake of the completeness of the hon Member's understanding of this, the technical process of designing a scheme is on-going. The decision whether or not to invest the necessary amount of capital to implement it is a matter that will be taken in accordance with the Government's prioritisation of projects in due course. So I would not want him to get the wrong impression. In other words, it is not that the project will go ahead necessarily as soon as the technical works are finished. It is true that it cannot go ahead because the technical works have not finished, but the reverse is not necessarily the case either.

**HON L A RANDALL:**

That was my understanding and is my understanding, I just wanted to know when the report would be ready.

ORAL

**NO. 2092 OF 2004**

**THE HON L A RANDALL**

**CEMETERY**

Can Government state whether they are now in possession of outline proposals for Ministerial consideration to enhance the state of the cemetery?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES**

The outline proposals are not yet available. These will be submitted shortly for Ministerial consideration and for possible inclusion in next year's budget.



**NO. 2093 OF 2004**

**THE HON L A RANDALL**

**SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT**

Can Government provide an update of the status for the tender of the Sewage Treatment Plant?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES**

The various studies that were undertaken to generate the necessary data for inclusion in the tender documents have now been completed and we are presently at the stage of appointing a Technical Advisor for the project who will be assisting Government in the preparation of the tender documentation and subsequent negotiations that are to ensue.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2093 OF 2004**

**HON S E LINARES:**

Can the Minister state at what site the Sewage Treatment Plant will be located?

**HON F VINET:**

As I seem to recall I revealed in a previous answer to a question, on the site of the Brewery Crusher.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

As I can see, the hon Members are having difficulty locating the site of the Brewery Crusher, it is below the parapet wall along the road as one approaches the lighthouse. Opposite the Mosque, the other side of that road.

**NO. 2094 OF 2004**

**THE HON L A RANDALL**

**MOT TESTS**

Can Government state how many days they estimate elapse at this point in time between the day one applies for an MOT test and the day the test is carried out?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES**

At present there is no delay. Tests can be carried out on the day following the application for an appointment.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2094 OF 2004**

**HON L A RANDALL:**

Is that the case as well for those tests that the Examiners at the Motor Vehicle Licensing Department are not carrying out at the moment?

**HON F VINET:**

Yes, those are being carried out by the Supervising Examiner.

ORAL

**NO. 2095 OF 2004**

**THE HON L A RANDALL**

**MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSING DEPARTMENT**

Can Government provide an update of the dispute involving Examiners at the Motor Vehicle Licensing Department?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES**

Answered together with Question No. 2096 of 2004.

**NO. 2096 OF 2004**

**THE HON L A RANDALL**

**MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSING DEPARTMENT**

Can Government provide an update of the dispute involving Examiners at the Motor Vehicle Licensing Department?

**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.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 2095 AND 2096 OF 2004**

**HON L A RANDALL:**

Has there not been any movement or progress since the answer to Question No. 1838 of 2004, in which I was told that the Government would shortly be deciding on what action to take?

**HON F VINET:**

The situation remains the same. We are hopeful that progress will be made but the situation at the moment is as has been explained.

ORAL

**NO. 2097 OF 2004**

**THE HON L A RANDALL**

**OESCO**

Can Government state how many units of electricity they project to purchase from OESCO in the current financial year?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2098 and 2099 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2098 OF 2004**

**THE HON L A RANDALL**

**OESCO**

Can Government state the commencement and termination date of the contract it recently renewed with OESCO?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2097 and 2099 of 2004.

**NO. 2099 OF 2004**

**THE HON L A RANDALL**

**OESCO**

Can Government state the number of new engines that OESCO is obliged to install and operate by the termination date of the recently renewed contract?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES**

Subject to availability of generating plant at Waterport Power Station it is estimated that approximately 61,200,000 units of electricity will be purchased from OESCO in the current financial year.

The extension to the contract with OESCO was renewed on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2003 and has a duration of 8 years and 4 months from 9<sup>th</sup> June 2004, therefore the termination date would be 9<sup>th</sup> October 2012.

The new engine that is currently in the process of installation will represent the last one required from OESCO under the renewed contract.

**NO. 2100 OF 2004**

**THE HON L A RANDALL**

**PURCHASE OF ELECTRICITY**

Can Government state the number of units of electricity that may be purchased from the MoD for the £300,000 that they have provided for in the Budget for this financial year?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES**

The number of units that could be purchased for £300,000 would be approximately 3,307,000.



**NO. 2101 OF 2004**

**THE HON L A RANDALL**

**SALE OF ELECTRICITY**

Can Government state the amount of revenue collected from the sale of electricity in the current financial year to the end of November 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 the 30<sup>th</sup> November 2004 was £7,416, 673.49p.

The amount billed during the same period was £10,194,181.00.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2101 OF 2004**

**HON L A RANDALL:**

Can the Minister confirm that the consumption rate between the months of September and November has increased substantially? I say this because when I asked Question No. 1834 of 2004, I was given a figure of £4.9 million for the period ending in August. So for the additional three months the increase seems to be in the region of £5.3 million, more than for the first five months. Will the Minister just check the number and let me know. I suspect that it may not be correct.

**NO. 2102 OF 2004**

**THE HON L A RANDALL**

**WATERPORT POWER STATION**

Can Government state whether they propose to replace any of the three engines at the Waterport Power Station, and if so, by when?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES**

There are currently no plans to install replacement engines at Waterport Power Station.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2102 OF 2004**

**HON L A RANDALL:**

I am just somewhat concerned, with all these new developments there will be I assume an increase in consumption, so where is the present consumption going to be met by? Is it by one engine that is going to come on line at OESCO?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

No, obviously the hon Member has asked a different question to the one he may have intended to ask. The hon Member asked whether it was intended to replace any engines, by which we understood him to mean have any of the existing engines exhausted their shelf life and are they in need of replacing. The hon Member's supplementary, in contrast, relates to additional generating capacity to meet additional demand. The answer that he has had relates to the question as asked, namely the replacement of existing machines. The answer to the latter to his supplementary is that it is expected that additional demand, which is materialising even from the existing consumers let alone from the very substantial developments that are in the pipeline, will be met either from additional generating capacity at Waterport, as opposed to replacement, additional generating capacity at Waterport or, depending on how the negotiations for the East Side development goes, new generating capacity at a brand new power station. So the hon Member is right in supposing that there is a need for more generating capacity than exists at the moment.

**HON F R PICARDO:**

Can I just press the Chief Minister and ask him to clarify whether that potential new generating plant would be to cater only for the East Side of Gibraltar, as expanded or extended, or to cater for the whole of the town and replace Waterport.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

Yes, subject to a successful conclusion of negotiations, we envisage being able to close down the Waterport Power Station altogether and having a single power station with greater generating capacity than we have at the moment, all located in a new power station at a new site. Obviously to service the whole of Gibraltar, it goes without saying.

**HON F R PICARDO:**

Has that site already been identified or is it one of the things still subject to negotiation?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

No, the location of the site is not for negotiating with the developer, it is a matter for the Government to designate.

**HON F R PICARDO:**

Have the Government designated the site?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

The Government have a shortlist of two, which is rapidly becoming a shortlist of one in terms of preference but I would rather not be pressed right now on that location because the negotiations are at a critical level.

ORAL

**NO. 2103 OF 2004**

**THE HON L A RANDALL**

**GIBTELECOM**

Can Government state whether any entity is currently or was recently engaged in carrying out a due diligence exercise on Gibtelecom, and if so, for what purpose?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2104 and 2105 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2104 OF 2004**

**THE HON L A RANDALL**

**GIBTELECOM**

Can Government state whether it is still the intention of Verizon, its equity partners in Gibtelecom, to dispose of its equity holding, and if so, which are the entities that have shown an interest in acquiring its shares?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2103 and 2105 of 2004.

**NO. 2105 OF 2004**

**THE HON L A RANDALL**

**GIBTELECOM**

Can Government state whether they have any intention of disposing of their equity stake in Gibtelecom by the end of 2005?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES**

As is well know, Verizon wishes to sell its shareholding in Gibtelecom. Various potential purchasers have shown an interest. It would not be appropriate for the Government to identify these parties publicly at this stage. The Government are not seeking to dispose of their shareholding in Gibtelecom.

ORAL

**NO. 2106 OF 2004**

**THE HON L A RANDALL**

**GIBTELECOM**

Can Government confirm that none of the Directors of Gibtelecom received a fee and/or allowance for the services they rendered to the company for the financial year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2003?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES**

Answered together with Question No. 2107 of 2004.

**NO. 2107 OF 2004**

**THE HON L A RANDALL**

**AQUAGIB**

Can Government confirm that none of the Directors of AquaGib received a fee and/or allowance for the services that they rendered to the company for the last financial year for which accounts have been audited?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES**

I am advised that the Board of Directors of AquaGib, Gibtelecom and its subsidiaries do not receive any emoluments from the respective companies for their services as Directors. This information is set out in the notes to the latest audited accounts of the companies, which are filed at Companies House.



**NO. 2108 OF 2004**

**THE HON L A RANDALL**

**GIBRALTAR BUS COMPANY LIMITED**

Can Government state whether, in the interest of competition on the basis of a level playing field, they propose to offer to the competitors of the Gibraltar Bus Company Limited (GBCL) a site similar to the one that GBCL now occupies and on terms and conditions not dissimilar to those that GBCL enjoys?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES**

The Government have no such intention. Nor is there any issue of level playing field or competition since the two companies do not compete on any route.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2108 OF 2004**

**HON L A RANDALL:**

Will the Minister confirm that a commitment was made to the company to provide them with such premises way back in 1997?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

No, no such commitment was made to Calypso. Calypso was however told, as far as I am aware, that like any other commercial entity in Gibraltar in need of premises, if they identified Government premises they wished, they should put in a bid and Government would consider it. However, Government do not have a responsibility to provide them with premises just as we do not have such a responsibility to provide those that we do give premises to with premises. Regardless of whether the Government have a responsibility or not, the Government try to accommodate the needs of business in Gibraltar but it is up to business to identify particular sites and then ask the Government rather than expect the Government to find a site and offer it.

**HON L A RANDALL:**

With regard to competition, am I not correct in saying that both companies terminate a route at the frontier?

**HON F VINET:**

The fact that routes might terminate at a same location does not mean that they are the same routes.

**HON L A RANDALL:**

Actually, Gibraltar only has one route across the runway to the frontier, so if both are covering the same route there must be some form of competition for the passengers.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

It depends what view one takes of competition. In this industry competition means competing for the same passenger. One cannot compete for the same passenger unless one is seeking to persuade them to board one's bus at or at substantially along the same route. The passengers that board a bus with destination the frontier at the English Steps are not the same passengers who board a bus with the destination for the frontier at Market Place. Therefore the two routes are not in competition, but I should say in case the hon Member thinks that the answer requires or is based exclusively on the point of competition, the Government would not feel the compulsion that the question suggests that it should feel even if they were in competition. One is a Government-owned company which is receiving publicly owned garage space and the other is not. No one has suggested that there would be some requirement on the Government to treat all its competitors in the same way, but if another bus company wants the Government's assistance in having a bus depot, the Government want to support the other bus company as well, which provides a service to the public as well. It is not that the Government refuse to provide it with premises it is just that it is up to the bus company to identify, perhaps to bid for Government property on rent or purchase and then the Government will consider it.

ORAL

**NO. 2109 OF 2004**

**THE HON L A RANDALL**

**GIBRALTAR BUS COMPANY LIMITED**

Can Government provide details of the fare structure that was operated by the Gibraltar Bus Company Limited as at close of business on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2004?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2110 to 2115 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2110 OF 2004**

**THE HON L A RANDALL**

**GIBRALTAR BUS COMPANY LIMITED**

Can Government state the number of employees presently working for the Gibraltar Bus Company Limited, their grades and provide a breakdown of the annual salaries paid to these grades?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2109 and 2111 to 2115 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2111 OF 2004**

**THE HON L A RANDALL**

**GIBRALTAR BUS COMPANY LIMITED**

Can Government state whether any of the Directors of the Gibraltar Bus Company Limited receive a fee and/or allowance for the services they render to the company, and if so, what is the annual level of the fee and/or allowance?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2109, 2110 and 2112 to 2115 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2112 OF 2004**

**THE HON L A RANDALL**

**GIBRALTAR BUS COMPANY LIMITED**

Can Government state whether the Gibraltar Bus Company Limited contributes to a Defined Contribution or Benefit Pension Fund or Scheme for the employees of the Company, and if so, what is the level of the contribution as a percentage of basic salary?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2109 to 2111 and 2113 to 2115 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2113 OF 2004**

**THE HON L A RANDALL**

**GIBRALTAR BUS COMPANY LIMITED**

Can Government state whether the Gibraltar Bus Company Limited contributes to a Defined Contribution or Benefit Pension Fund or Scheme for any of the Directors of the Company?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2109 to 2112 and 2114 and 2115 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2114 OF 2004**

**THE HON L A RANDALL**

**GIBRALTAR BUS COMPANY LIMITED**

Can Government state the level of the insurance premium that the Gibraltar Bus Company Limited expects to pay in its first 12 months of operation and how much of this premium is in respect of its fleet of buses?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2109 to 2113 and 2115 of 2004.



**NO. 2115 OF 2004**

**THE HON L A RANDALL**

**GIBRALTAR BUS COMPANY LIMITED**

Can Government state what was the monthly level of consumption and cost of the fuel used by the Gibraltar Bus Company Limited in the months of April to December 2004?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES**

The information requested by the hon Member in Question Nos. 2109 and 2110 is set out in the written schedule that I hand to him.

The Gibraltar Bus Company presently has 42 employees.

Other than for the two Directors, there are presently nine different grades within the Company. Neither of the two directors of the Gibraltar Bus Company receive any remuneration over and above their basic salary, details of which have been provided in reply to Question No. 2110.

The Gibraltar Bus Company contributes 10 per cent of an employee's salary towards the Gibraltar Provident Fund in respect of those employees that have chosen to participate in the scheme. For their part, the employee contributes an additional 5 per cent or 10 per cent of their basic salary.

The Gibraltar Bus Company does not make any such contributions in respect of either of the two Directors of the Company. It is not in the commercial interest of the company to disclose the level of its insurance premiums since this will prejudice its ability to obtain the best rates available in the market. I am advised by the Directors of the Gibraltar Bus Company that up to the end of November 2004 the cost of fuel is £56,115.88p.

## ANSWER TO QUESTION 2115

### Answer to Question 2109 of 2004

#### FARES

Exchange rate Euro 1.6 = £1, exchange rate rounded upwards to the nearest 50c or 1 Euro.

	<u>Sterling</u>	<u>Euros</u>
Adult Single	60p	1.00
Adult Return	90p	1.50
Adult Day Pass	£1.50	2.50

	<u>Sterling</u>	<u>Euros</u>
Children Single	40p	0.70
Children Return	60p	1.00
Children Day Pass	£1.00	1.60

	<u>Sterling</u>	<u>Euros</u>
Senior Citizen Single	30p	0.50
Senior Citizen Return	50p	0.80
Senior Citizen Day Pass	80p	1.30

## ANSWER TO QUESTION 2115

### Answer to Question 2110 of 2004

2 Directors	£35,000
1 Garage Superintendent	£20,000
1 Marketing Manager	£20,000
3 Inspectors	£15,000
2 Office Administrators	£12,272
1 General Operative	£12,324
3 Chargehand/Drivers	£14,350
27 Drivers	£13,050
1 Panel Beater	£13,050
1 Labourer	£ 8,352

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 2109 TO 2115 OF 2004**

**HON L A RANDALL:**

That was the cost of the fuel, what was the level of consumption? The number of litres.

**HON F VINET:**

I regret I have not been provided with that information but I will certainly make it available to the hon Member later on today.

ORAL

**NO. 2116 OF 2004**

**THE HON L A RANDALL**

**AQUAGIB**

Can Government state the name of the undertaking that is responsible for the supply of fresh water to ex MoD Estates in the area of Europa Point?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2117 and 2118 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2117 OF 2004**

**THE HON L A RANDALL**

**AQUAGIB**

Can Government state the name of the entity that presently carries out the tests to determine that the quality of the water supplied by AquaGib is fit for human consumption and the name of the undertaking that previously carried out these tests?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2116 and 2118 of 2004.

**NO. 2118 OF 2004**

**THE HON L A RANDALL**

**AQUAGIB**

Can Government state whether fresh water supplied by AquaGib from its desalination plants will be extended to ex MoD properties in the area of Europa Point, and if so, by when?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES**

The Ministry of Defence is responsible for the supply of potable water to ex MoD Estates in the area of Europa Point.

Historically this part of Gibraltar was an area used for military and ancillary purposes and premises located therein have always been supplied by the MoD. When these areas were handed over for civilian use the MoD continued to supply these areas as agreed with the Government.

I am advised that the civilian water infrastructure is distant from the area, with the nearest suitable point currently being by the Casino at Europa Road.

Tests on the quality of water supplied by AquaGib Ltd are undertaken by AquaGib in compliance with EU Council Directive 98/83/EC concerning the quality of water intended for human consumption, as contained in the Public Health Ordinance.

Analysis under Schedule 2 – Check Monitoring, of the directive is undertaken at the AquaGib laboratory located at the Waterworks.

Analysis under Schedule 2 – Audit Monitoring, of the directive is undertaken at laboratories in the United Kingdom at Analytical and Environmental Services Ltd in Essex (previously known as Essex and Suffolk Water Central Laboratory). This company is part of the group of companies owned by Northumbrian Water Limited.

The Waterworks Laboratory and the Analytical and Environmental Services Ltd Laboratory (previously named Essex and Suffolk Water Central Laboratory) have carried out tests in respect of chemical parameters since the licence agreement with Lyonnaise Des Eaux Gibraltar Ltd came into effect.

Tests in respect to bacteriological parameters were undertaken up to 2002 in the St Bernard's Hospital Pathology Department, following which they have been undertaken at a new specially built Bacteriological laboratory at the Waterworks Analytical laboratory.

The Environmental Agency undertakes independent tests to those undertaken by AquaGib to ensure compliance with the Directive. The Chief Environmental Health Officer, as the competent national authority for the purposes of part III of the Public Health Ordinance (Water Supply) and the Public Health (Potable Water) Rules 1994, carries out a sampling programme. This programme is carried out to ensure the water meets the fitness and quality standards set out in the above mentioned EU Directive. During 2003, 86 samples were taken in compliance of these requirements. The Chief Environmental Health Officer also issues instructions to AquaGib to take such samples and analyses as he considers necessary and in accordance with the requirements of the above mentioned Rules and Directive. There have been no recent changes to these arrangements. Such tests are undertaken at the Gibraltar Health Authority's laboratories of Clinical Pathology and Public Health.

Recent developments, by AquaGib, of the civilian potable and seawater infrastructure has placed it in a position where it is now reasonably feasible for properties currently supplied by the MoD in the Naval Hospital area at Europa Road to be supplied by AquaGib.

Extensive works are required to supply these areas. These include the installation of new potable water pumping and potable and sea water distribution mains and the construction of a new potable water service reservoir within the ex Lathbury Barracks area. These works are currently on-going, funded by the Company and by appropriate contributions from the developers of the Cliftons development.

It is AquaGib's objective to continue to extend these potable and sea water mains to Europa Point to provide supply to ex MoD properties in the area. AquaGib do not at present have a projected completion date for this section of the work.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 2116 TO 2118 OF 2004**

**HON S E LINARES:**

Is the Minister satisfied that the quality of the water that is provided by the MoD is the same as the one provided by AquaGib?

**HON F VINET:**

The fact is that water supplied by the MoD has to meet the same standards as that provided by AquaGib, so the answer would be yes.

**HON S E LINARES:**

No, the answer is not whether they have to satisfy a requirement. What I am saying is the Minister satisfied that the quality is the same as the one provided by AquaGib currently?



**HON F VINET:**

It follows logically that if the water supplied by the MoD has to meet the same standards as that supplied by AquaGib, then we are confident that they both conform to the same standard.

**HON S E LINARES:**

Well what I am trying to ascertain is that AquaGib boasts that they have a better quality than the standards that are required. Therefore if AquaGib is saying that the water is better than the standard required, I am asking whether the standard that AquaGib is actually supplying now the rest of Gibraltar is the same, not that the requirement is the same as the one that they provide for the rest of their customers.

**HON F VINET:**

AquaGib is certainly confident that the water supplied by the MoD meets the requisite standards. I think there is always room for improvement and that is why AquaGib is keen to take over the supply of water from the MoD in order to improve the quality of that water even further.

**HON S E LINARES:**

Is the Minister aware that there was an occasion two or three weeks ago in which the water supply was all cut at Europa Point due to the fact that an excess of E-Coli was found in the water supply and therefore people are worried now whether the standard quality water that is supplied to them is not exactly the same?

**HON F VINET:**

Yes I am aware of the situation and the fact that one of the MoD tanks contained water that was not of the quality that it should be. Steps were taken to remedy the situation immediately. This was done successfully and with no, at least with only minor inconvenience to the customers affected.

**HON L A RANDALL:**

I wish to thank the Minister for his detailed reply to the three questions. However, it is not very easy to follow so perhaps he could confirm for me that the MoD is responsible for the supply of fresh water to ex MoD Estates in the area of Europa Point, and seeing that the bill for the consumption is received from AquaGib, is there some form of arrangement between the MoD and AquaGib whereby AquaGib bills for and then gives the collections back to the MoD for the consumption?

**HON F VINET:**

There are no actual monetary payments, it is done by exchange of water between AquaGib and then the MoD.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

It is paid for in water, in other words, as opposed to money.

**NO. 2119 OF 2004**

**THE HON F R PICARDO**

**WASTE DISPOSAL**

Have Government made any decisions on how to deal with the problem of rubbish being littered onto streets as a result of animals, including apes, cats and rodents, being able to access bins?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES**

The position remains as stated in answer to Question No. 1849 of 2004 of the previous House, namely that 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 and should it be considered necessary to undertake any works, the relevant department will be submitting proposals for Government's consideration.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2119 OF 2004**

**HON F R PICARDO:**

It is that final limb of the answer that I come to, as I did last time. I was told that the matter remained as it was but that it was under constant review. I think that there was agreement across the floor of the House that the situation was getting out of hand. What is that review producing in terms of action in order to try and rein in the problem?

**HON F VINET:**

Nothing as at present.

ORAL

**NO. 2120 OF 2004**

**THE HON F R PICARDO**

**AIR QUALITY MONITORING STATIONS**

Have Government now made a final decision on where they will locate the air quality monitoring stations?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES**

Answered together with Question No. 2121 of 2004.

**NO. 2121 OF 2004**

**THE HON F R PICARDO**

**AIR QUALITY MONITORING STATIONS**

When do the Government expect that their air quality monitoring stations will commence operations?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES**

**Answer to Question No. 2120**

The information requested has already been provided and so for the questioner to ask whether Government have “now made a final decision” is misleading to say the least. The hon Member already knows the air quality monitoring stations will be located as follows:-

One will be installed at the north end of Rosia Road within the perimeter wall of the Electricity Authority Consumer Division compound. This station will monitor oxides of nitrogen, sulphur dioxide, particulates (PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>25</sub>), lead, carbon monoxide and benzene and fulfils the criteria recommended by consultants that it should be sited at a “roadside location on a major road and close to key generation point sources”.

The second will be located at the northern end of the Bleak House car park and will monitor ozone and oxides for nitrogen. Again, the siting of this station will comply with the consultants recommendations for it to be sited at a “suburban/rural background location”.

Work in preparation of these sites has already started with the laying of the concrete foundations and provision of electrical and telephone services.

**Answer to Question No. 2121**

It is expected that the air quality monitoring stations will arrive in Gibraltar in mid January 2005 and that the first readings will become available a week later. The equipment is presently being commissioned and tested in the UK.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 2120 AND 2121 OF 2004**

**HON F R PICARDO:**

I am grateful. I would not have asked that question again unless I had been left with the impression last time that it was expected that those would be the sites but that no final decision had been made. I am very pleased to see that a final decision has now been made. The hon Gentleman knows my views about those sites. I do not think there is anything further to ask.

**HON F VINET:**

Perhaps I can clarify that at the last Session of the House what I said was that the air quality monitoring station would be expected to start operation in January but the sites had already been identified.

**NO. 2122 OF 2004**

**THE HON F R PICARDO**

**EU EMISSIONS TRADING DIRECTIVE**

Why have the Government only allowed seven days (between 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> December 2004) for the public to comment in relation to their Consultation document on the EU Emissions Trading Scheme?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES**

The EU Emissions Trading Directive (2003/78/EC) requires National Allocation Plans to be made available to the public for comments. The directive is silent on how long this consultation process should be, even though Commission guidance describes this as "a reasonable time frame".

There are commitments for our Plan to be submitted to the Commission before the end of the year. However, it has not been possible to finalise the Plan until early December 2004. It could therefore not be put out for public consultation until this date. It follows that neither has it been possible to provide for a longer consultation period if comments are to be considered and the final Plan forwarded to the Commission by the agreed date. In any case, Government are of the opinion that the seven day consultation period is adequate, reasonable and fully compliant with the terms of the directive.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2122 OF 2004**

**HON F R PICARDO:**

Can the Minister give an indication of how many parties have been able to respond in that period?

**HON F VINET:**

There has just been one response, namely from the Environmental Safety Group.

**HON F R PICARDO:**

Can I ask the Minister why it has not been possible to finalise the scheme until the beginning of December?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

I will try to give the answer to the hon Member in cryptic language because it is not something that I would wish to put in the public domain more clearly. It relates to the basis upon which the UK thought that Gibraltar's quota needed to be calculated in relation to the UK's, and the damaging effect that we thought that that would have on the regional selectivity arguments in the tax case.

**HON F R PICARDO:**

I will not press any further.

**HON F VINET:**

For the sake of completeness can I just add first of all that, for example, the seven days consultation period equals the same period utilised by Malta for example. Also the fact that we consulted DEFRA in the UK and DEFRA were of the opinion that seven days was perfectly reasonable and would meet the requirements of the directive.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

It is also worth the hon Members bearing in mind that this is not a consultation process on the legislation. This is a consultation process on the National Allocation Plan for emissions and there is not a huge amount. Basically it is the totality of the current emissions, it is not a huge issue upon which there is scope for a massive debate. It would have been different if we would have been talking about consultation on a whole piece of legislation.



**NO. 2123 OF 2004**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**AQUAGIB**

Can Government explain the nature of the pension contribution by AquaGib for the financial years 2001/2002, 2002/2003 and 2003/2004 in the sums of £86,633, £82,765 and £88,124 respectively, shown under Revenue Subhead – Other Reimbursements?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES**

At the time of the privatisation of the Water Supply Services employees had the choice to retain their status as Government employees and be seconded to the Company or to resign from Government Service and be employed directly by the Company on its terms and conditions of employment.

Clearly the Company pays the salaries of seconded personnel as well as Social Insurance contributions. They also pay the Government a percentage of basic salary in respect of each seconded employee to cover the pensionable entitlement accrued by seconded personnel in respect of the time they are seconded to the Company.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2123 OF 2004**

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Can the Minister say what is the percentage of the salary that has to be paid in respect of pension?

**HON F VINET:**

Twenty-five per cent.

ORAL

**NO. 2124 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**MOORISH CASTLE**

Is it still the policy of the Government to expand the Moorish Castle as a heritage and tourism site by moving the prison elsewhere?

**ANSWER**

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

Answered together with Question No. 2125 of 2004.

**NO. 2125 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**MOORISH CASTLE**

Further to the answer to Question No. 1885 of 2004 can Government say which company was paid £3,750.00 in respect of 'Moorish Castle – Consultancy', what did the consultancy entail and what were its conclusions?

**ANSWER**

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

The answer to Question No. 2124 is Yes.

In answer to Question No. 2125, the amount in question was paid to Prince Research Consultants Ltd.

The consultancy consisted of proposals in respect of a conservation policy plan and future development of the Moorish Castle site. The proposals are being considered.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 2124 AND 2125 OF 2004**

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

Can I ask the Minister then in what time frame they envisage this taking place?

**HON C BELTRAN:**

It is difficult to put a time frame to it. The Moorish Castle question is connected to the move of the Prison, it is the whole of the area so it is not just a time frame that is exclusive of the development of the Moorish Castle site itself.

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

In relation to Question No. 2125, can the Minister state if the actual report entailed or was to do with the moving of the Prison out of the Moorish Castle, or only with the heritage aspects of what to do with the Prison after the Prison had been moved out, is that the case?

**HON C BELTRAN:**

That is correct.

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

Is the Minister in a position to tell the House what it is that would happen in the Castle once the Prison had been moved out?

**HON C BELTRAN:**

The consultancy was about a possible conservation policy plan. Ideas in relation to this. It is a purely conservational plan. How to develop that area from a conservation point of view, albeit taking into account obviously the fact that it is a living site. It is a historic site but there is also an estate next to it within the walls and so on.

**HON C A BRUZON:**

The Minister will be aware, no doubt, that apart from the heritage problem there is also the social aspects to the question of the Prison as it is today. I would suggest, if I may, that something be done to put right some of the social aspects vis a vis the Prison in its present situation. I remember that the Minister for Social Affairs in a Budget speech a couple of years ago explained to the House that plans were very advanced and that I believe even funds were being put aside. Money was being put aside vis a vis the move of the Prison.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

With the greatest of respect to the hon Member, much as I take at face value his expression of concerns, based as I am sure they are in his case on sincere concern, the Prison has been in its present dismal state, if that is what he thinks it is, for many, many decades. At last Gibraltar has a Government willing to invest substantial sums of money which other Governments before it have not been willing to do, on the relocation of a facility in which there are not too many votes at stake and now we are being pressed whether we are taking three weeks or three months longer or shorter than we had indicated. It is not really, in our view, criticism that lies comfortably on the lips of a political party that obviously did not think there was very much wrong with the Prison, because if they had they would have themselves built a new Prison when they were in office. We believe, as they believe I am sure they believed at the time, that the Prison needed replacement. All these things are a matter of prioritisation of cash resources and the fact that they did not do it, I am sure does not mean that they did not think that Gibraltar needed a new Prison but there were other things that they wanted to do with the capital in priority to that in the eight years that they were in office. This is exactly our position except that we found a slot for it. Now it has taken longer to design, it has taken longer to conceive, it has taken longer to find a site, to approve the site, all these things take time. Now the project is nearly ready it is a question of when the Government decide to actually make the money available and get on with it in terms of the various projects that we have in the pipeline. We hope to be able to start as the answer has said but if we took longer than this, I do not think the hon Member's plea for speed is any stronger now than it

would have been had I made it ten years ago when I was sitting across the floor of this House and some of the hon Members were sitting over here.

**HON C A BRUZON:**

The point of my comment is based on the fact that Government have made certain pronouncements on the matter. Whatever happened ten, fifteen, twenty or a hundred years ago is another business. It is just that if Government have made certain pronouncements in their term of office, I am just asking them whether or not the things are going to be put into practice.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

The answer is yes.

**NO. 2126 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**TRAFALGAR BICENTENARY COMMEMORATION**

What events are planned for the celebration in Gibraltar of the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar next year?

**ANSWER**

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

Events being organised by the Gibraltar Government are of a sporting, heritage and cultural nature. These will form the bulk of the celebrations of the Trafalgar Bicentenary Commemoration. Details have not yet been finalised.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2126 OF 2004**

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

Are Government aware of any events of a military nature which might also take place as part of the Commemoration?

**HON C BELTRAN:**

Government are aware that the MoD have a number of events themselves.

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

Which Government Department is responsible for organising or coordinating these events?

**HON C BELTRAN:**

My department.

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

Is that through a special committee set up for this purpose or simply the officials or the Civil Servants who are there?

**HON C BELTRAN:**

No committees are necessary on this occasion. The Department engaged will do it themselves.

**NO. 2127 OF 2004**

**THE HON S E LINARES**

**GIBRALTAR MUSIC CENTRE**

Can Government confirm whether the lady who was managing the Music Centre at BFBS House is still doing so?

**ANSWER**

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

As I informed the House in answer to Question Nos. 1495 and 1496 of 2004, the Gibraltar Music Centre is a charitable trust (not one appointed by Government). The Music Centre is run by its trustees and it is entirely up to them to decide how to, and who will, manage its business.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2127 OF 2004**

**HON S E LINARES:**

Since the Government actually give money to this entity, I think it is just normal that we can ask questions on what is happening with the money that the trustees and, therefore, the person if they are employed or if they do it voluntarily, or whether the lady is actually doing it or not. It is a perfectly normal question.

**HON C BELTRAN:**

The hon Member is correct in saying the Government supports financially the Music Centre and all the arts generally in Gibraltar. It is very happy to do so but that is a different question totally as to who does the running or managing of a trust which is not a Government department. I think I am perfectly correct in saying that really it is not for me to say whether a particular person is in charge in the trust or not at this moment in time.



ORAL

NO. 2128 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

**HERITAGE ACTION COMMITTEE**

How often and on what dates has the Heritage Action Committee met in 2003 and 2004?

ANSWER

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

I hand the hon Member a schedule with the information he requests.

**Answer to Question 2128/2004**

The Heritage Action Committee has met on six occasions in 2003 and five in 2004 as follows:

2003	2004
20 <sup>th</sup> January	22 <sup>nd</sup> January
3 <sup>rd</sup> March	4 <sup>th</sup> March
23 <sup>rd</sup> April	6 <sup>th</sup> May
14 <sup>th</sup> July	20 <sup>th</sup> October
7 <sup>th</sup> October	30 <sup>th</sup> November
17 <sup>th</sup> November	

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2128 OF 2004**

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

When the Minister was quoted as saying in the Annual General Meeting of the Heritage Trust a few weeks ago that the Heritage Action Committee had not met in the last few months, what committee was he speaking of?

**HON C BELTRAN:**

There is only one Heritage Action Committee which is the one that is contained in the information handed over. They have been meeting except that over the summer recess usually it does not meet that often and on this occasion because of the Tercentenary events, a plethora of events that were taking place actually involved a number of members of this Committee so they were really getting on with the action that the Heritage Action Committee advocates.

**NO. 2129 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**HERITAGE ORDINANCE**

At what stage is the revision of the Heritage Ordinance?

**ANSWER**

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

This matter remains under Government consideration.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2129 OF 2004**

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

This matter has been under Government consideration for a considerable period of time if I remember correctly. Is the Minister in a position to say whether it is actually at the drafting stage, whether there is draft legislation before Ministers or it has not even got to that stage yet?

**HON C BELTRAN:**

There is draft legislation.

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

Is it possible for the Minister to say how long it will take for that draft legislation to come before this House?

**HON C BELTRAN:**

No it is not possible for me to say, nor can I say whether it will indeed come before the House.

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

I assume the Minister is considering amending the Ordinance by regulation then, is that the case?

**HON C BELTRAN:**

Not necessarily.

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

Or is it the case then that the draft legislation may not see the light of day because Ministers do not agree with it?

**HON C BELTRAN:**

The legislation has wide implications for the community. The draft legislation actually precedes me, there are a wide number of stakeholders and I am assessing the whole new piece of legislation, new for me.

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

Has the Heritage Trust been consulted and involved in the production of this document?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

I will rise to answer this supplementary because the events that are the answer to that question precedes my hon Colleague's responsibility for this matter. Yes, in the previous administration and with the previous Minister for Heritage, discussions took place which resulted in draft legislation but which had not been considered by other Ministers at the time of the Election. So the answer is yes there is draft legislation, yes there has been discussion between the Government before the last Election and the Heritage Trust but it never got to either me or indeed other Ministers before the Election was called and therefore that is where the matter now lies.

ORAL

**NO. 2130 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**VISIT BY THE CATALAN IPECC GROUP**

Can Government say why the media were refused access to the reception hosted by the Mayor and Minister for Culture and heritage on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2004?

**ANSWER**

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 2131 to 2133 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2131 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**VISIT BY THE CATALAN IPECC GROUP**

What was the cost of the reception hosted by the Mayor and Minister for Culture and Heritage for the Catalan IPECC Group on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2004?

**ANSWER**

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 2130, 2132 and 2133 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2132 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**VISIT BY THE CATALAN IPECC GROUP**

Can Government list the persons from Gibraltar who were invited to the reception hosted by the Mayor and Minister for Culture and Heritage for the Catalan IPECC Group on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2004?

**ANSWER**

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 2130, 2131 and 2133 of 2004.



**NO. 2133 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**VISIT BY THE CATALAN IPECC GROUP**

Can Government say where they plan to locate the plaque presented to the people of Gibraltar by the Catalan IPECC Group which was handed to the Mayor and Minister for Culture and Heritage on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2004?

**ANSWER**

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

The reception in question was hosted by the Mayor not the Minister. The Mayor is not answerable to this House and I am reluctant to set that precedent.

The position of Government with regard to the visit by the Catalan Institute, which I respected as Mayor, was to keep it low key.

As far as the plaque is concerned, this was presented to the Chairman of The Gibraltar Heritage Trust at the reception and, as far as I am aware, they have not yet decided where it will be located.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 2130 TO 2133 OF 2004**

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

Can I ask the Minister in his capacity as the Minister for Heritage and not as Mayor whether there are any plans or whether it is considered placing this plaque at the statue of Rooke in the area of Watergardens?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

Yes, I rise because in fact the Chairman has recently written to me on this subject. That proposal has been made and has been discussed and has been put to the Government, we are not in favour of it because it may lead, given the wording of the plaque, it may lead passers-by to believe that it was that Catalan organisation that erected the statue. We are not in favour of placing it there and therefore the matter will remain under review. But yes, the hon Member is right, that is one of the proposals that have been made.

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

The Minister in his original answer explained that a decision had been taken to keep the visit low key. Can the Minister expand on that point as to why that was the case?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

The hon Member knows, because I have said it many times myself, that whilst we regard normal exchanges with cultural organisations from other countries as being good, we do not believe in exaggerating their importance. Particularly not when it is the Government's view that it is not in Gibraltar's long-term political interests for Gibraltar and the aspirations of its people and our rights under international law to self-determination to be mixed up with, parcelled up with and associated with the rights of a region of a country whose people do not enjoy the same rights in international law. If the hon Member wants an example of the wisdom of the Government's policy on this matter and on how it does not serve Gibraltar's interests to have ourselves categorised with the Catalans, he need only refer to the unsuccessful application by the Skating Association to federate itself with the International Federation which in my view came a cropper only because it came before the Committee together with the Catalan application which was extremely controversial. Now, I realise that the hon Members have a different view of this issue and it is a different view, I can understand that there is room for more than one view on this issue, but that is the Government's view so the hon Member should not be surprised if we act in a way compatible with our view. He would presumably be surprised if we did not.

ORAL

**NO. 2134 OF 2004**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**THEATRE ROYAL**

Can Government say what is the area of the Theatre Royal site in square metres in respect of which rent of £60,000 per annum is being paid?

**ANSWER**

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 2135 and 2136 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2135 OF 2004**

**THE HON S E LINARES**

**THEATRE ROYAL**

Can Government give a breakdown of the expenditure for the year 2004 on the Theatre Royal?

**ANSWER**

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 2134 and 2136 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2136 OF 2004**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**THEATRE ROYAL**

Can Government confirm that the annual rent payable in respect of The Theatre Royal site forms part of the assessable income of the recipient for tax purposes?

**ANSWER**

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

The area is 1,440 square metres. The rent income is subject to the provisions of the Income Tax Ordinance. I hand to the hon Member a schedule showing the breakdown he seeks.

**ANSWER TO QUESTION 2136**

**Answer to Question 2135**

£ 21,000	Paid to Haymills. Final account payments; purchase of scaffolding; piling and reinforcing of existing structure and adjacent properties affected.
£69,118	
£47,217	
-----	
£137,335	

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 2134 TO 2136 OF 2004**

**HON S E LINARES:**

In the breakdown there seems to be the amount of £137,000 does not include the rent, does it because it is not there? Also the supplementary question to this will be, will the scaffolding and what is holding up the Theatre Royal at present, is it an on-going expenditure where the Government are actually paying the company to keep the scaffolding and the place safe until the project gets off the ground?

**HON C BELTRAN:**

That part of the question, yes. The project continues in that sense. The expenditure to make safe and so on continues obviously. The rent is not included in those figures because it is not rent on the Theatre Royal as it were. The question asked on the Theatre Royal.

**HON S E LINARES:**

Basically it was because I looked at the Estimates of Expenditure in the Draft Estimates and I asked the question in this House last time, and the Minister actually answered £98,000. Therefore I was assuming that £60,000 was going to the rent and the other £38,000 was to sort of contractors in order to keep the place safe, but I appreciate that I have been given this now as a breakdown.

ORAL

**NO. 2137 OF 2004**

**THE HON S E LINARES**

**YOUTH SERVICES**

Can Government state whether the police have concluded their investigation in relation to the stolen money from the youth services? Has there been any arrests or prosecutions?

**ANSWER**

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

The matter was reported to the Royal Gibraltar Police and is still in their hands. No arrests or prosecutions have to date been reported.



ORAL

**NO. 2138 OF 2004**

**THE HON S E LINARES**

**YOUTH SERVICES – LEADERS COURSE**

Can Government state how many out of those who completed the youth leaders course are currently involved in a voluntary and/or professional capacity respectively?

**ANSWER**

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

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

**Answer to Question 2138/ 2004**

**DETAILS OF TRAINEES FOR THE PERIOD 2001 / 2005**

In the year 2001 to 2002      14 people completed the training successfully  
3 help as voluntary leaders with the Youth Service and other groups  
3 are currently working as part time Youth Workers  
2 have been employed as trainees and start as full time youth workers this coming summer

In the year 2002 to 2003      13 people completed the training successfully  
3 help as voluntary leaders with the Youth Service and other groups  
2 are currently working as part time paid Youth workers

In the year 2003 to 2004      15 people completed the training successfully  
2 help as voluntary leaders with the Youth Service and other groups  
3 are currently working as part time paid Youth workers

Currently there are four voluntary leaders who are already involved in induction training programme for the same course this year ending in 2005.

The full training programme starts in February 2005 and will end towards the end of the year.

**NO. 2139 OF 2004**

**THE HON S E LINARES**

**YOUTH SERVICES – EXCHANGES**

Can Government state how many youth exchanges have been organised in the financial years of 2002/2003, 2003/2004 and 2004/2005 by the youth services?

**ANSWER**

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

In the period in question, one youth exchange with South American countries was organised for 2002/2003 but they subsequently, by they I mean the South American countries involved, cancelled it at the eleventh hour.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2139 OF 2004**

**HON S E LINARES:**

Therefore I assume that there has not been any other youth exchange since, because this was 2002/2003 they were organising one youth exchange, there has not been any in 2003/2004 (I am assuming) and 2004/2005? Correct?

**HON C BELTRAN:**

The hon Member assumes correctly.

**NO. 2140 OF 2004**

**THE HON S E LINARES**

**YOUTH SERVICES – EU FUNDING**

Can Government state how much money has been obtained by the youth service from the EU for youth programmes generally in the financial years of 2002/2003, 2003/2004 and 2004/2005 giving a breakdown by programme?

**ANSWER**

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

No funds have been sought from the EU in the period in question since the programmes undertaken, and there have been a number of them, did not fall within the criteria for EU funding.

**NO. 2141 OF 2004**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**VICTORIA STADIUM**

Can the Minister for Sport state when he expects all the works to the facilities regarding the water-based pitch to be completed?

**ANSWER**

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

Works to the changing and spectator facilities for the water-based hockey pitch are expected to reach practical completion some time between late February and March 2005.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2141 OF 2004**

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Can the Minister for Sport give an explanation why the works to these facilities have taken something like about three to four years to be completed? What has been the reason for the delays?

**HON C BELTRAN:**

I have only been in this House for one year so I am not really privy, I have information but I do not see problems arising two years before then. There have been works there and this is what happens when one has construction. Sometimes there are delays in some of the materials, the materials may arrive and they are not exactly what they are expected to be or not up to the standard we insist on and they are returned. The only type of problem that I have been privy to or seen.

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

For the sake of clarity if I could add to what my hon Colleague has said, that to avoid any doubt from anybody listening in, the water-based hockey pitch has been completed for quite some time, and has been in use for quite some time. The hon Member is asking purely about the changing and spectator facilities. Now the changing and spectator facilities are part of the overall project of what is happening at the Stadium and it is wrong for the hon Member to question us about specific delays on that particular aspect of the project. It is an on-going project and there

have been a number of issues including infrastructure issues which date back some time, but the project as a whole is not behind schedule, it is progressing as and how it has been scheduled by the Government and adjusted due to other priorities and other requirements.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Precisely that is why I have worded the question as I have. I am asking when the Minister for Sport expects the works to be completed to the facilities regarding the water-based pitch, not anything to do with the water-based pitch. Therefore, I would ask the Minister for example, if the facilities have not been completed to the water-based pitch as far as the changing rooms are concerned, what have the sportsmen and sportswomen been doing as far as changing rooms and showering facilities are concerned?

**HON C BELTRAN:**

A combination I suppose of different things. Some come with track suits and then go home and change at home, some change next to the stands, but I think the important point is that they have been enjoying first class, world level hockey pitch facilities. I mean, the changing facilities we wish to, as I say, have ready by hopefully February or March but I do not think that there have been huge delays with that in any way to make hockey difficult to participate in.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Well, I only mentioned the fact that there had been delays because the water-based pitch was completed nearly four years ago and that is why I am asking the Government why has it taken them so long after three years that the water-based pitch was completed, there have not been any facilities there for changing room facilities and showering facilities. Therefore that is why I was putting the question. Now can the Government confirm whether they are still using AMCO for the maintenance of that pitch?

**HON C BELTRAN:**

Yes, AMCO is still maintaining the pitch.

ORAL

**NO. 2142 OF 2004**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**VICTORIA STADIUM**

Can the Minister for Sport now confirm whether the new sports hall will be fully operational by this autumn, something he has said on two occasions in the last two meetings of this House?

**ANSWER**

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 2143 and 2144 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2143 OF 2004**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GIBRALTAR SPORTS AUTHORITY**

Can the Minister for Sport confirm whether they have now met with the union in order to arrive at an agreement with regard 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. 2142 and 2144 of 2004.



**NO. 2144 OF 2004**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GIBRALTAR SPORTS AUTHORITY**

Can the Minister for Sport confirm when the Government intend to advertise vacancies for personnel to be employed by the Gibraltar Sports Authority?

**ANSWER**

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

Works at the Tercentenary Sports Hall have now reached the stage of “practical completion” which, in the construction industry jargon means that the hall is ready for handover for operational purposes.

However, it is not possible to advertise vacancies for personnel to be employed by the Gibraltar Sports Authority until the negotiations with the unions regarding the conditions of employment for transferring and new employees, which have already started are concluded.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 2142 TO 2144 OF 2004**

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

So therefore the prediction that the Minister made during Budget time and during the last meeting of the House of Assembly that the hall would be fully operational by this autumn has not been complied with.

**HON C BELTRAN:**

No, the answer to previous questions referred to by the hon Lady, my answers have referred to completion of works and not dates for operational arrangements. My answer referred to completion of works, and they have been completed within the autumn deadline that we set ourselves.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

No, I think the Minister is mistaken. When I have put questions in the House previously I have asked precisely the same question. All that I have done on this occasion is say now, and my previous question was ‘can the Minister for Sport now confirm’ because he had confirmed it previously, ‘whether the new sports hall will be

fully operational by this autumn', and I remember specifically, because we have not got Hansard yet but I have got the information here that I have taken in shorthand, that he said that autumn did not necessarily mean it was October, that it could be middle or towards the end of December but I was not specifically referring to the works, I was referring to when the sports hall would be fully operational.

**HON C BELTRAN:**

The hon Lady is absolutely correct. Autumn does not mean October but I did not decide that. I said the works could continue until the end of autumn. She is also correct in saying that her question referred to operational, my answers on both occasions referred to completion of works if one checks once Hansard comes out, and I have been true to my word. The works have been completed within the autumn, even though she may have asked something differently.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

I have asked something different and therefore, I am smiling because it is incredible the Minister now tries to change the tone or the words of my questions. Therefore I will prove it to him. I was never, ever referring to the works being completed, I was referring to the sports hall being fully operational. If the Minister cares to look back at his Budget speech he also said that the hall would be fully operational and that is all that I am saying. I am actually quoting his words.

**HON C BELTRAN:**

I think I have made my point very clearly. I referred on both occasions to completion of works even though the hon Lady's question may have referred to something else.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

No, they did not refer to something else, they referred to what I have just said. Therefore I think that the present Minister for Sport should have learned from the previous Minister for Sport who, about three or four years ago as well said that the Europa Sports ground was being handed to the Government and the Government were going to hand it over to the Cricket Association. Now, these are the answers that we get from the Government, and it is in Hansard. I am not inventing the questions that are asked here before, I have got proof here and therefore will the Minister say that yes, he did say so and yes, that he has not met the deadline, that is all.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

The Minister cannot say that because it is not the case. The hon Lady is getting herself into something of a tizzy over this. Look, the hon Lady must not confuse her question with the answer that she got to them. It is true that when she has asked this question in the past she has referred to whether the sports hall would be ready for use or words to that effect, operation, but the Minister, prudent chap that he is, I am not wishing to catch his fingers in any slamming door, was careful to answer what he chose to answer, regardless of what he was asked. So notwithstanding that the hon

Lady may have asked whether it would be ready operationally, the Minister answered that the works would be completed by the autumn. Now that being the case, it is not a question of the Minister now trying to change the hon Lady's question, rather it is a question of the hon Lady not having listened carefully enough to the answer. The relevance of all of this is that she has said, with her very attractive smile all across her face, I have my wife's permission to be charming to her of course, and the reason why all this is relevant now is because she gleefully said to the Minister 'contrary to what you said to me in answer to previous questions you have not complied with your undertaking to have it operational by the autumn'. To which the Minister said 'I did not promise to have it operational by the autumn, I said that the works would be ready by the autumn', and he has complied with his word. So it is at cross purposes, the hon Lady is assuming that my Colleague's answer suggests that she did not ask the questions that she did. She did ask the questions that she did but the hon Lady is in turn also mistaken by assuming that the Minister answered the precise question that the hon Lady asked, which he did not. He answered a slightly different question which makes his answer today entirely correct.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Well, let me first thank the Chief Minister for saying that I have a beautiful smile. Secondly, I must congratulate him because he uses words that he tries to actually get everybody else listening here in the House, and outside of the House, trying to make out that the questions that I have asked have not been exactly the same as the Minister for Sport has been asked by me. Now, I remember distinctly and if I have put a question in this House that says 'can the Minister for Sport now confirm, now confirm', which means that the previous question was 'can the Minister for Sport confirm whether the new sports hall will be fully operational by this autumn?'. Now, I know what he said in his Budget speech and all I need to do now, is to go back and get the information and prove that what I have said is right, and if I am wrong I will apologise. But if he is wrong I hope he apologises.

I still have Question No. 2143 and 2144 which I have not asked supplementaries on. That is regarding the Government, whether they have met with the union in order to arrive at an agreement. I am not too sure because I got really not agitated and not confused but I was concerned by the fact that the Chief Minister said I had a nice smile and therefore he put me off the supplementaries that I had for the two other questions. Now that I have forgotten about the smile I am going to get down to the business of the House. Can the Minister say whether they have met with the union or whether they have submitted proposals with the Union and can he also say as regards the vacancies for personnel to be employed by the Gibraltar Sports Authority, when this will occur?

**HON C BELTRAN:**

Negotiations with the union have started of course and they are on-going, yes.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

I see, but as far as the Minister is concerned when he says 'on-going' does he mean that he has met with the union or that he has submitted proposals and they have not met?

**HON C BELTRAN:**

Actually I have done both.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

As far as Question No. 2144 is concerned, can the Minister for Sport confirm when the adverts will be coming out as far as the personnel that have to be employed to be members of the Gibraltar Sports Authority?

**HON C BELTRAN:**

I actually gave that answer in my reply but I shall repeat it for the benefit of the hon Member. It is not possible to advertise really vacancies for personnel to be employed by the GSA until obviously the negotiations with the union come to some conclusion, a happy one I hope, and it is looking like that.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

That seems to be conflicting with what the Chief Minister said in the last meeting of the House, he is nodding, when he said that employing people for the Sports Authority had nothing to do with the negotiations with the union as regards the present members of the people who are employed with the Government. Am I not correct?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

The hon Member is correct in what she has said except that it is not correct to say that it is inconsistent. What I said to the hon Lady was that they were different things and that if we could not reach agreement with the union then we would certainly press ahead but that if there was a prospect of doing it on a consensual basis, including the existing staff, then that was the Government's preference and we would hold out for as long as possible in giving as much time as possible to that negotiation so that when there was recruitment it was on an agreed basis. I think she will remember I made that distinction.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

So then the Government are not able to give a sort of date or an estimate as to when the Sports Hall will be functioning with new members of the Gibraltar Sports Authority if that is the case.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

Well, yes. We cannot give a date but I can tell the hon Member that we are not going to accept the new facility being ready with nets up and the ball bouncing around on the court, unused, for this reason. So we will certainly press the button before we allow the thing just to gather moss there by itself. That date has not quite arrived but we are now getting very close to the wire. That is certainly true and I think in the next

few weeks the Government would have to make the decision either to press ahead or to bring the negotiations to a head.

**NO. 2145 OF 2004**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GIBRALTAR SKATING FEDERATION**

Can the Minister for Sport give details of the support the Government have given to the Gibraltar Skating Federation's application to the F.I.R.S.?

**ANSWER**

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

The Gibraltar Skating Association met with the Sports Development Officer prior to their application and were offered the same support as has always been given to other Associations applying for membership of their respective International Federation, as well as written confirmation that they are recognised by the Gibraltar Government as the governing body of skating in Gibraltar. In other words, it went through the usual procedure of other Associations in the past who signified their intention of applying for membership of the International Federation.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2145 OF 2004**

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Can the Minister say what sum of money they provide to local Associations, is there a fixed sum of money that they provide to local Associations when they wish to go abroad to fight for Gibraltar's case to be accepted by an International Federation?

**HON C BELTRAN:**

No, there is no fixed sum of money. Some Associations want to be present at the International meeting where these decisions are taken, others are not necessarily so. Sometimes the venues for these International meetings of the Federations are prohibitive because they are so far away and expensive to get to and so on. So I think each case really has to be taken individually, because the circumstances change. There is no fixed sum.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

So will the Minister for Sport then agree, or disagree, with the public statement that has been made by the local Skating Association, that have said that the Government only offered them £500?

**HON C BELTRAN:**

That may have been the case but different Associations take decisions, they are independent bodies and they take decisions as to whether they want to be present at meetings or not.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Will the Minister not agree that in such an important subject as whether Gibraltar is being accepted internationally, which is really important as regards not only sport but our identity as a people, that £500 will get them to wherever they want to go to. Will the Minister not agree that that is not enough money?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

No, I do not think the hon Lady can deduce any of that. Certainly the Government do not mind admitting that there is no policy to automatically finance each and every Association that wants to go and federate itself to the International Federation. The Government make absolutely no apology for that and the Government deliver the advice based on the merits of each individual case, and based on the requests of each case, and then depending on how many such cases there are. Look if the hon Lady wants to know how much money the Government spends in what she calls the defence of the identity of the people of Gibraltar, she should be aware of the litigation that the Government are funding for two sports associations, in which tens of thousands not to say hundreds of thousands of pounds have been spent by the Government in conducting litigation on behalf of associations. So that is the measure and of course the hon Lady, if she is a roller skater, may wish to focus the whole Government's commitment with the eyes of what it does in the roller skating case, but the hon Lady knows enough to know that it would be entirely wrong and misleading for her to focus the Government's commitment to this political point by reference to whatever sum of money may have been given by the Government to the Skating Association.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

I have not done that, I have not compared what sums of money other associations get. The Chief Minister has and he has said that they spend hundreds of thousands of pounds. Well surely this is a case which is similar and it stands out, because they have not spent the money. The Government have not actually provided any money to this Association and therefore if the Chief Minister says that there are cases of other associations where the Government have spent loads and loads of money, then why is it that to this particular Association the Government have not provided the same hundreds of thousands of pounds that the Chief Minister has said that they have provided to other Sporting Associations. When we are talking about the same point, the same principle, whether it is three or four people we are talking about a principle that the Spanish Government, whether they are saying that they are so friendly and they want to cooperate, they are still blocking Gibraltar Associations to be able to join international federations. Therefore, I think that the Government should forget about the actual numbers of people concerned, whether it is roller skating or whether people do not roller skate any more, whether they do or they do not, I think it is the principle behind it and the importance it is to the identity of the people of Gibraltar.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

I think the hon Lady is entirely wrong and her question, if that is what it was, is full of political prejudice which she is not in a position to sustain. First of all, she is assuming that this is a case in which the refusal to grant permission or to admit the Skating Association is as a result of pressure from the Spanish Government. We have no information to that effect. Well the Spanish Government certainly objected to the Catalan application, I do not know why the hon Member thinks that she has the evidence for the fact, she may be right but certainly we have not been informed, certainly it is true to say that the Spanish Government objected to the Catalan application. Certainly it is true to say that both applications were refused. The hon Lady is assuming that there is, therefore that means that the Spanish Government objected to the Gibraltar application, as opposed to the International Federation saying 'if I cannot give both I will not give either'. That is the first thing that the hon Lady needs to take care of. The second thing that the hon Lady should take care of is to know that the Government do not immediately finance every case immediately. It depends on the state of the case, it depends if the matter has been challenged by Spain or not because the Government do not finance these things in order to facilitate the Association at a sporting level. The Government finance these things because of the political dimension of the matter. In other words, that sporting associations should not be kept out of their international sporting rights as a result of political activity and lobbying on the part of Spain, and only on cases where the Government receive evidence that that is the case, do the Government substantially finance the resistance at whatever level, whether it is judicial or extra-judicial. That is the Government's policy, it is not the policy of the Government automatically to finance the overseas trips of any Gibraltar sporting association or leisure association that simply wants to sign up to some international federation. Therefore the hon Lady has got to at least appreciate if not agree with that distinction. Therefore the Government do not agree with her implied criticism of this case and certainly, it is not unusual even without political interference for applications not to prosper the first time round. Therefore the hon Lady should also take into account that the Government choose their moment for the provision of financial assistance because it may often require more than one application.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

So therefore can the Government give a commitment that they have evidence that the Spanish Government, that if they have evidence that the Spanish Government are trying to block Gibraltar's application, they will give reasonable funding and financial assistance and whatever support is needed to this Association?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

The Chief Minister has said what the Chief Minister has just said. The hon Lady does not have to paraphrase it into different words for me. What I have said is perfectly clear and it stands.



ORAL

**NO. 2146 OF 2004**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – GENERAL PRACTITIONERS AND CONSULTANTS**

Can Government confirm whether it is their intention to renew those contracts which have expired or will expire in January 2005, for General Practitioners and Consultants?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2147 to 2160 of 2004.

**NO. 2147 OF 2004**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – CONTRACT OFFICERS**

Can the Government state the cost to the Gibraltar Health Authority, together with the addresses, and the type of public sector accommodation, which it is renting in connection with the medical profession who are on contract?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2146 and 2148 to 2160 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2148 OF 2004**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – CONTRACT OFFICERS**

Can Government state the cost to the Gibraltar Health Authority, together with the addresses and the type of public sector dwellings which it is renting to accommodate nurses who are on contract?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2146 to 2147 and 2149 to 2160 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2149 OF 2004**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – CONTRACT OFFICERS**

Can the Government give the cost to the Gibraltar Health Authority of the private sector dwellings which they are renting in connection with the medical profession who are on contract?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2146 to 2148 and 2150 to 2160 of 2004.

**NO. 2150 OF 2004**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – CONTRACT OFFICERS**

Can Government state the addresses, and the type of accommodation of the private sector dwellings the Gibraltar Health Authority is renting to accommodate nurses who are on contract?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2146 to 2149 and 2151 to 2160 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2151 OF 2004**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – CONTRACT OFFICERS**

Can Government state the cost to the Gibraltar Health Authority of the private sector dwellings which they are renting to accommodate nurses who are on contract?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2146 to 2150 and 2152 to 2160 of 2004.

**NO. 2152 OF 2004**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – CONTRACT OFFICERS**

Can the Government give the addresses, and the type of accommodation of private sector dwellings the Gibraltar Health Authority is renting for members of the medical profession who are on contract?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2146 to 2151 and 2153 to 2160 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2153 OF 2004**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – CLINICAL GOVERNANCE TEAM**

Can the Government provide the addresses and the type of accommodation the Gibraltar Health Authority has provided and continues to provide to members of the Clinical Governance team?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2146 to 2152 and 2154 to 2160 of 2004.



ORAL

**NO. 2154 OF 2004**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – CLINICAL GOVERNANCE AUDIT TEAM**

Can the Government give a breakdown of the cost to the Gibraltar Health Authority of the accommodation it has and continues to provide to members of the Clinical Governance Audit team?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2146 to 2153 and 2155 to 2160 of 2004.

**NO. 2155 OF 2004**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

Can Government state the address, the type of accommodation and the cost to the Gibraltar Health Authority, of the permanent accommodation it is providing to the Government's newly appointed Chief Executive whom they have engaged from outside Gibraltar?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2146 to 2154 and 2156 to 2160 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2156 OF 2004**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – DIRECTOR OF NURSING SERVICES**

Can Government confirm the address, the type of accommodation and the cost to the Gibraltar Health Authority, of the permanent accommodation they are providing to the incumbent of the new post of Director of Nursing Services and Patient Management, recently recruited from abroad?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2146 and 2155 and 2157 to 2160 of 2004.

**NO. 2157 OF 2004**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER**

Can Government provide the address, what type of permanent accommodation and its cost to the Gibraltar Health Authority, which is being provided to the incumbent of the new post of Human Resources Manager?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2146 to 2156 and 2158 to 2160 of 2004.

**NO. 2158 OF 2004**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – JOINT CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

Can the Government confirm the address, the type of accommodation and the cost to the Gibraltar Health Authority, which has been or is being provided to Mr John Langan, who was seconded as Joint Chief Executive of the Gibraltar Health Authority?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2146 to 2157 and 2159 and 2160 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2159 OF 2004**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – CONTRACT OFFICERS**

Can the Government confirm the address, the type of accommodation and the cost to the Gibraltar Health Authority, which is being provided to Mr Frank McGurrin?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2146 to 2158 and 2160 of 2004.

**NO. 2160 OF 2004**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – COST OF ACCOMMODATION**

Can Government confirm what is the final figure for accommodation, under sub-head 22 in the Financial Year 2003/2004 and the forecast outturn for the financial year 2004/2005 of the Gibraltar Health Authority?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

**Answer to Question No. 2146**

The performance of contract GP's will be reviewed by an external assessor and where satisfactory contract terms will be extended. Where unsatisfactory, contracts will not be renewed and posts will be advertised in the normal way.

No consultant contracts expire in January 2005. As and when consultant contracts expire in future the consultants performance will be reviewed and where satisfactory the contract renewed.

**Answer to Question Nos. 2147 to 2160**

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

**Answer to Question 2160 of 2004**

**Answer to Question 2147 to 2152**

**NURSING STAFF**

No of Flats	Type of Accommodation	Location	Total cost per month
4	2 x 2 Rooms, Kitchen & Bathroom 2 x 4 Rooms, Kitchen & Bathroom	Merlot House	£1,909:00

**MEDICAL STAFF**

No of Flats	Type of Accommodation	Location	Total cost per month
4	3 x 4 Rooms, Kitchen & Bathroom 1 x 4 Rooms, Kitchen & Bathroom	Merlot House, Portland House	£2,339:40

**PRIVATE SECTOR ACCOMMODATION**

**NURSING STAFF**

No of Flats	Type of Accommodation	Location	Total cost per month
15	11 x 2 Rooms, Kitchen & Bathroom 4 x 3 Rooms, Kitchen & Bathroom	Eurotowers, Watergardens Rosbay Court, Portland House West View Park, Sunnyside House	£4,642:50

**MEDICAL STAFF**

No of Flats	Type of Accommodation	Location	Total cost per month
14	5 x 2 Rooms, Kitchen & Bathroom 3 x 3 Rooms, Kitchen & Bathroom	Eurotowers, Watergardens Peninsular Heights, Montagu Gardens 6 x 4 Rooms, Kitchen and Bathroom	£11,385:00 Harbour Views, West View Park



**Contd Answer to Question 2160 of 2004**

**Answer to Question 2153, 2154, 2158 & 2159**

**CLINICAL GOVERNANCE AND F MCGURRIN ACCOMMODATION**

No of Flats	Type of Accommodation	Location	Total cost per month
4	1 X 2 Rooms, Kitchen & Bathroom 2 x 3 Rooms, Kitchen & Bathroom 1 x 4 Rooms, Kitchen & Bathroom	Eurotowers Sunnyside House	£2420.00

**NOTE:**

- a) three of these flats were occupied by Clinical Governance team members and Mr McGurrian who have now left Gibraltar.
- b) One flat remains occupied at Peninsular Heights by a Clinical Governance team member at a cost of £1000 pm.

**Answer to Question 2155, 2156 & 2157**

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE & HR DIRECTOR & DNS ACCOMMODATION**

No of Flats	Type of Accommodation	Location	Total cost per month
2	2 x 4 Rooms, Kitchen & Bathroom	Portland House	Rent levels not yet established for these Government owned flats

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 2146 TO 2160 OF 2004**

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Did I hear the Minister say that General Practitioners contracts do not expire on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2005?

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

No.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

No, the Minister did not say that or was he referring to consultants?

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

No I did not say that, but if the hon Member would like me to say it again. There are some GP contracts that expire at the end of January 2005 and those GP's have been assessed, and depending on that assessment the contract will or will not be renewed. There are no consultants which expire in January but when their contracts expire, they will also be assessed. In other words, putting it in a completely different way, there is now a new policy and there is no automatic renewal of contract as there has been up to now, and people will have to perform if they want their contracts renewed.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Can the Minister say who are the external assessors?

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

No, I do not know. When we say who are they, they are not internal to the GHA, we are bringing people in to do it.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

When the Minister is referring to the contracts being assessed by people who are external, what does he mean by people who are external assessors?

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

I would have thought the answer is pretty obvious. In the English language 'external' means not internal. It means people who are not inside and part of the GHA. Independent assessors.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

I see. So this is a new policy from the Government because it never was like that before.

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

That is what I said two minutes ago, that it is a new policy.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Have the Government engaged these independent assessors already?

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

This is not the Government, this is GHA doing its own thing at management level, this is not a Ministerial thing.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Presumably the policy decision then has been a recommendation from somebody that has been accepted at a political level. Is this not the case?

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

This is not a recommendation that has been given to the Government. This is management doing its job and accepted by me as Chairman of GHA. This is not a political decision, this is what corporations do everywhere else and instead of just renewing contracts automatically, we are now putting into place, if the hon Members look back at the review that the Opposition Spokesman for Health is so fond of deriding, they will remember that we are putting in appraisals, we are putting in a review of performances and that is exactly what I am saying. In future people, and doctors are no exception, contract officers will be required to meet to the levels, the standards expected of them. We are starting with those contracts that are due to expire now, and this will carry on in the future. There have been too many cases of standards not being met and we are trying to put this right.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Can the Minister then confirm, after what he has just said, why the consultant Director of Public Health was given 13 years in his contract?

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

I fail to see the relevance to any of the questions that have been asked. In any case, the Director of Public Health had his contract granted many years ago, well before my time and I am not even sure it is 13 years I thought it was 10. But maybe if the hon Member has more information than I have maybe it was 13. No, I do not see

what she is expecting me to say, it was done years ago. There is now a policy of assessing people. That assessment does not mean that the contract will not be renewed for 13 years. What we are talking about is how contract officers will have their contracts renewed.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

This policy will not apply to permanent and pensionable employees of the Health Authority, is that the case?

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

Obviously not.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

So it is not the case then, as I think we were led to believe in a previous House, that contract officers are entitled to equal treatment with permanent and pensionable officers?

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

I am not quite sure of the context in which that was said, but as far as possible I think it may have been said in relation to income and salaries, I am not sure, but as far as possible we try to deal within all other conditions the same with contract officers and with P&P officers. De facto, by definition, if a person is on contract he cannot be the same as someone who is permanent and pensionable. So they have to be treated differently. That does not mean, however, that the people who are on permanent and pensionable terms will not have to meet appraisals and assessments the same as the contract officers. If they were to be a consistent failure, then that would have repercussions.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

But presumably any employee of the Health Authority or any employee of any Authority or Government Department is subject to disciplinary procedures for failure to deliver his side of the contract in the terms of his employment contract. That presumably has nothing to do with this?

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

Absolutely not. To be clear, we are not talking about disciplinary procedures or actions taken for breaches of the disciplinary code. That is a separate issue altogether. Here we are talking about standards and faults and what we are saying is that we will be expecting doctors to do a number of things, like keeping up their professional education and development and performing to certain standards. That will be done in a number of ways, which is part of the review that is taking place and part of the recommendations of the review.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Yes, but that can only be applied, from the answer that we have been given, to persons who are on specifically defined contracts with a termination date and not people with open contracts of employment, because then there is not an automatic renewal date if they have got an open contract of employment.

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

There is no one, to my knowledge, with an open contract of employment. Everybody who has a contract has a termination date.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

No, the Minister obviously has not focussed on the fact that everybody that is employed in the Health Authority has got an indefinite contract of employment.

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

Now the hon Member is talking about permanent and pensionable.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

People who are permanent and pensionable have got indefinite contracts of employment. What I am saying is, given his previous answer, it means that the contract of employment that is indefinite and therefore subject to permanent and pensionable employment, has not got a renewal date, therefore there is no question of an automatic assessment of his performance or skills.

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

The hon Member is mixing termination of employment with assessment. What I have said is, that all consultants who are on contracts and all GP's who are on contracts, will be required to go through an appraisal process and will be required to go through an assessment of their performance. That will be conditional for the renewal of the contract. How that is applied to people who are on P&P is a different issue, and one for which I do not have full details in front of me because it is not the subject of the question. But talking in terms of contract officers and not in the hon Member's definition 'people on open contracts' which I take to mean permanent and pensionable, I am not talking about them I am talking about people on contracts. What we are saying is that they are contracted for a period of time and part of that contract will be that they need to fulfil a number of things and that will include measuring up to an acceptable standard which will be assessed. As it is, we are not inventing the wheel here, as it is everywhere else.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

I do not know whether we are inventing the wheel or not. The only thing is that the wheel does not seem to be the same wheel that we have had described to us before

in terms of the rights of people who are on contract, to promotion, to permanent and pensionable status, to being sent to the UK for training, irrespective of their performance or an assessment or the fact that when their contracts terminate they have no right to renewal, which is not what the law on employment says.

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

We are widening the question. The question is 'will the contracts of GP's and consultants that expire in January, will they be renewed?' We are not talking about going to the UK for this, that or the other. Those are red herrings. That is the question and the answer is that they will be renewed if they meet the assessment criteria.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

So is the Minister then saying that the recommendation that he has received and accepted as Chairman, only applies to GP's and consultants and that for example, none of the 49 contract Staff Nurses have to meet any performance targets to have their contracts renewed?

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

The question is on contract consultants and contract GP's and I have given the answer.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Yes I know that he has given the answer and I am asking a supplementary whether in fact there is one set of rules in terms of contract officers who are GP's and consultants, and a different set of rules for contract officers in other spheres of employment in the Health Authority. Either the answer is that there is or there is not or that he does not know or knows and does not want to tell me. I know the answer he has given me, I am asking a supplementary to that answer. Does it apply only to those two grades?

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

The answer is that I would need notice of that question because that is a much widening of the question which has been asked. I am answering the question that has been asked and I would need notice of the widening of the question.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

In the list that I have been given by the Minister, he mentions Harbour Views. Now, Harbour Views as far as I am concerned because I live there, one is not allowed to rent. Can the Minister explain why Harbour Views is mentioned in the list that he has just given me?

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

No, this is the list that has been provided to me by officials and I assume that it is correct. I am not familiar with the terms of Harbour Views and I assume that this is a private letting that has been rented.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Will the Minister undertake to look into it, because I live there and I am 100 per cent sure that one cannot rent, one is not allowed under the terms of the under-lease. Therefore, will the Minister look into it and provide me with the information, because he mentions here Harbour Views as regards the medical staff, number of flats 14 and I am convinced, because I have the under-lease and I have read it myself, that no one is allowed to rent in Harbour Views. Secondly, when he has given me the list in answer to Question No. 2160, I do not seem to have the answer. When I am talking about what is the final figure for accommodation under sub-head 22 in the financial year 2003/2004 and the forecast outturn for the financial year 2004/2005 of the Gibraltar Health Authority. I do not seem to have the answer to Question No. 2160.

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

The hon Member will appear to be correct. It seems the answer may have fallen off the back of the computer somewhere. I will supply her with the answer in writing. It is not an intentional omission on my part.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

I understand that, but it just so happens that in the previous House of Assembly the answer was not given to me either.

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

That may be the reason why it is not given now.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

The Minister has not given it to me in the previous meeting of the House and he has not given it to me now, but I would be grateful if he could provide it to me in writing.

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

Yes, I will provide the answer to Question No. 2160 in writing, whatever that answer will be. In terms of the Harbour Views issue, no I will not undertake to do what she has asked me to do. I will certainly investigate whether the GHA is in breach by renting property in Harbour Views, and if it is in breach I will arrange for it to be put right, but if there is a breach it is a breach of the owner of the flat who is renting in breach of his under-lease but I will certainly not allow GHA to be a party knowingly to the breach, having been brought to my notice I will certainly look into it.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

It would not be the case that the Government owns these flats and provides them?

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

It is possible. As I said the hon Members will hopefully realise that I do not sit down and work out all these addresses, I have better things to do than compile the statistics. Statistics are compiled for me. I take note of what is being said and I will check whether the GHA is in breach of any law, or any regulation, by hiring this flat. If it is we will obviously put it right.

**HON F R PICARDO:**

Can I just bring to the Minister's attention in that respect that the schedule also refers to Montagu Gardens. I think it is only Montagu Gardens and Harbour Views that are covered but I think he should direct his enquiries in relation to both of those Estates, for the reasons he himself has referred to.

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

I will indeed. As I say, and I stress for the avoidance of doubt to the hon Lady opposite so that she listens to what I am saying, I will investigate whether GHA is in breach. If GHA is not in breach then it is up to one of my colleagues, I will pass on the information to them or to the owner of the flat if they are in breach of the under-lease, to do whatever is right. I will make sure that GHA is not a party to any breach.

**HON F R PICARDO:**

Clearly GHA is not going to be in breach because it is not their lease but the issue we are asking to look at is whether GHA is a party to a breach by inadvertently renting.



ORAL

**NO. 2161 OF 2004**

**THE HON L A RANDALL**

**GHA – LABORATORY**

Can Government state whether a report was written by an agency from the United Kingdom, in respect of Quality Assurance of the laboratory of the Gibraltar Health Authority, and if so, what was the name of the agency that wrote the report?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2162 and 2163 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 2162 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

**GHA – LABORATORY**

Can Government state who is clinically in charge of the laboratory standards in the GHA?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 2161 and 2163 of 2004.

**NO. 2163 OF 2004**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – LABORATORY**

Can Government state whether they are concerned at the remarks made public recently by GBC, that laboratory services provided by the Gibraltar Health Authority, could well break down, in connection with a letter written by the Consultant Pathologist which was leaked to the media?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

**Answer to Question No. 2161**

No report in respect of Quality Assurance of the Laboratory of the GHA has been commissioned or received by the Government or by the GHA.

**Answer to Question No. 2162**

Dr T Biedrzycki has overall responsibility for the clinical areas and care of the patient.

**Answer to Question No. 2163**

As Government have already made aware in a Press Release issued on 19<sup>th</sup> November, and as the hon Member therefore already knows, the Government are aware that in September 2004, senior GHA Management had to intervene to clarify the long established respective roles and responsibilities of the Laboratory Manager and the Consultant Pathologist. Also in September, the Laboratory staff was depleted unexpectedly and unplanned, by three members due to absences on annual leave, interdiction and sick leave. This shortage was adequately addressed in the short term by locum staff and contract extension. Staff levels returned to normal by the end of September.

Furthermore, as with all other areas of GHA, the Pathology Department and the Laboratory are the subject of detailed outside scrutiny and review under the current healthcare review process. The report will deal with all aspects of the department.

Additionally, the work of the Laboratory is subject to both internal and to external quality controls. These quality controls show that biochemistry results of the GHA Laboratory are ranked above average when compared with over 300 other European Laboratories that also participate in this quality control assessment scheme.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 2161 TO 2163 OF 2004**

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Will the Minister not accept that the Healthcare Development Team Report identified that the Government needed to be aware that demand for most laboratory services had increased, in June 2003? Will the Minister not accept that when I asked a question the Government said that indeed laboratory services had increased in almost every area?

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

The trouble with the hon Member, as the Chief Minister said earlier on, is that she asks the question, does not listen to the answer or if she listens to the answer she either does not understand it or forgets it or ignores it, and then in the next House she asks exactly the same question. It has been explained to the hon Member countless times, that the report that she refers to from the Healthcare Development Team is a diagnostic report. It is not a report for action and therefore, it is not something that the Government or GHA, or anybody else, has acted on. It is a report of the diagnosis carried out by the Healthcare Development Team. Based on that diagnostic report, there have been 20 different work streams initiated. Most are in the process of being carried out, most are in the process of being finished, some have been finished, most are about to be finished, they are all going to be finished within three months and that is the process of recommendations the hon Member should be focussing on, and not the diagnostic report which are not recommendations for actions. I have explained this, the Hon Dr B Linares has explained this in the past, I seem to remember, and certainly both of us have explained it.

In terms of the staffing levels of the Laboratory, it has been said in answer to previous questions, if the hon Member will look at Hansard as she is so used to looking at she will see that the Government will look at the staffing levels as and when the Report of the Healthcare Review Team, the clinical reviews, are presented to the Government. Now if she persists in asking questions about the clinical review, and in my time in this House in the three Question Times that I have had, I have three times already said the same thing. The Clinical Reviews have not yet been presented to the Government, and that is true as I speak today. Therefore, until those Clinical Reviews and the work stream report and the recommendations of those clinical reviews come to the Government, that till those recommendations are accepted and then put to the GHA for action, it is pointless pointing to them and asking me what we are doing about them because we are not doing anything about them because there are no recommendations yet to do anything about. I am trying to explain myself as clearly and in as much detail as possible. The Chief Minister said some time ago that we knew that work had increased in the Laboratory. That does not necessarily mean that it needs more staff because by the nature of the reason and the nature of things, new equipment can do more tests and provide more results not necessarily needing more staff, but that we are committed to look at the reports of the Clinical Review Team, those clinical reviews, and to assess those recommendations as we are with all of the clinical areas, not just with the Laboratory. We will put those improvements as and when they come before us in recommendations. Those recommendations are the recommendations of the work streams. They are not of the diagnostic report which are not recommendations but purely an analysis.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Well, having mentioned the report of the Healthcare Development Team, now I move to the Pathologist himself. Therefore I would like to ask the Minister whether he agrees or he does not agree with the letter that he wrote in September, wherein he said that the Department could collapse, wherein he said it is ill-equipped, wherein he said the situation is chaotic, wherein he said the situation is dangerous, wherein he said that the staff morale is at rock bottom level. Now, will the Minister say whether he agrees with the Pathologist or not, or is he saying that the Pathologist is inventing everything he said in that letter?

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

What I will say is that the Pathologist when he wrote that letter, was expressing concerns that he had at that moment in time, back in August. I have in my hand a further letter that he has written, addressed to the Medical Director, in which he makes that absolutely clear and in which he says '*I have to inform you that the on-call service,*' which was the staffing problem that he had highlighted, '*which was my major concern, has returned to normality and that there are currently five people providing this service.*' The hon Member also asked about resources, which as I said was raised in that first letter, and the Pathologist says in the second letter '*obviously the move to the new hospital in the new year will improve the situation regarding laboratory equipment. In my original letter I was referring to the situation at St Bernard's Hospital.*' [Interruption] Hon Members may laugh when they are told things they do not like but the reality is that that letter that was leaked to the press, for whatever reasons it was written, that letter covered three issues. It covered management issues, it covered staffing issues and it covered resources issues. In the management issues there was some confusion, and as I said in my original answer it was addressed by management with immediate effect, both the Pathologist and the Laboratory Manager were called in by Senior Management and their respective positions clarified and that situation was solved on the spot within days. The staffing issues I have already said in my reply were solved by immediate action being taken on extending contracts and providing local cover and within three weeks the Laboratory was back to normal staffing levels. So the problem was solved back in September. Finally, on the resources, the lack of resources or outdated resources which the Pathologist said, I have yet to receive an adequate explanation on this because there is £400,000 worth of new equipment for the laboratory being installed in the new hospital, of which £400,000 those items which the Laboratory Manager and the Pathologist with responsibility for the clinical areas, have required or have asked to be put in the present laboratory in St Bernard's, those bits of kit are there in the laboratory now. So if the rest was allowed to go into the new hospital, presumably it was not that urgent when both these gentlemen were involved in the analysis. Be that as it may and without wishing to criticise them, the position today is that within weeks over £400,000 of new equipment will be available and in use in the new laboratory. That addresses the three issues in that area, rectified by a subsequent letter.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

When the Minister says it will be available in the new laboratory is he saying it will be available in Europort? Therefore if we are talking about the Pathologist saying in September that the department was ill-equipped, is the Minister saying that the

equipment will be available when the Europort hospital is fully operational? What happens in the meantime?

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

If the Government did not think that the present equipment needed to be changed they would not be spending £400,000. They would be spending the £400,000 on something else. Obviously the Government, with the advice of the Pathologist himself and others in the laboratory, agree that the equipment needs to be updated and needs to be changed, and that is what is being done. This is expensive equipment and it is not the sort of thing that can be put into a relatively small laboratory in the existing St Bernard's, some of it that was urgently needed was put in there, all of it does not fit and it is being installed in the new hospital. If the hon Member is saying to me why have we not moved into the new laboratory yet, that is a different issue, but what I cannot do is put all the new equipment into the old laboratory.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

So why did the Minister say when he was interviewed in the local media that he thought that the Pathologist had vested interests in the remarks that he had made in the letter that he had written.

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

These are the hon Member's words not mine. I do not have any recollection of having used the words 'vested interests' and I challenge her to tell me where I said that. I am trying to think on my feet, the only way that I could have meant was that he was trying to protect the vested interests in protecting his position. What I am saying is that I hope there is not the suggestion of vested interests in a financial term because I would never have said that, but it seems to me that there might have been a vested interest in protecting his position and therefore that is why he wrote the letter in the first place. That is a question to be asked to somebody else and not to me.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

But the Minister did say that he thought that the Consultant Pathologist's remarks that he had made, he had made them because he had vested interests, and I have here the copy of his interview. What does he say that the vested interests were due to what?

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

Again, the hon Member asks the question, listen to the answer then either ignores it, does not understand it or does not want to hear it. I have just explained, I obviously cannot remember what I said or what I meant exactly at the time, but it does not matter whether she has the text. What I am saying is, I cannot remember the context and I do not think that I am here to answer for interviews in the press, but the only context that I can think of that I may have said that, and I quite honestly think it is

totally irrelevant to the subject of the question, is that I may have said when asked why it had been written, that the gentleman may have felt it necessary, he had a vested interest in protecting his personal position. That is the only context that I can think of but I am not going to defend what I said in an interview in this House unless directed to do so by the Speaker.

**HON F R PICARDO:**

The point that I wanted to make is that the hon Gentleman actually started his answer to the hon Lady by saying that he had not said that, he had said that he had not said that there was a vested interest and now he is trying to see whether he can have his cake and eat it. Either he said it or he did not say it and if he did say it, then because that is the subject matter of the question that is being asked in this House, he should be directed to reply why he said that, or does he maintain that he did not say it?

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

I started off saying I did not say a vested interest and then I stopped, and I said hold on, if that was meant to imply that he had a vested interest (I do not remember what words I used), he had a vested financial interest then I certainly did not say that. What I may have said was that he may have had a vested interest in protecting his position, but quite honestly I honestly on my feet six months ago or two months ago whatever it was, I cannot recollect exactly what I said I do not even know what the question was and I still maintain that it is irrelevant to the question on the order paper.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

The Minister said *'I think that the Consultant Pathologist has a vested interest in defending his position'*.

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

That is exactly what I have said twice in the last five minutes, that I was talking about his position.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Does the Minister think that the present letter has anything to do with him having a vested interest in defending his position or the renewal of his contract?

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

I utterly reject the implications of that question and I refuse to answer it because there are implications on myself and on the Pathologist. All I will say is that the Pathologist's contract, to my knowledge, is not due for renewal in the immediate future, I have no idea when his contract ends, but it certainly, to my knowledge, it is not due for renewal. Mr Speaker with your permission, I will not continue to answer

questions on what is becoming a personal attack on someone who is not here to defend himself.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Let me make it absolutely clear that we are not attacking the Pathologist, we think he was a very brave man to write the original letter, and perhaps a less brave man to have written the second one. So there is simply no aspersions at all on that. We have to be satisfied that the concerns raised in the original letter have now been resolved, and is the Minister now saying that he is perfectly satisfied that there are now no problems in the laboratory?

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

It would take a braver man than me to say that there are no problems anywhere in the Health Service and I will not say that of the laboratory or of anywhere else. There are, as the Government have said many times, there are problems in the Health Service as there are in many other things in Gibraltar. There are problems in the Health Service and that is why the Government are investing so heavily in the new hospital, in a full review, in the top to tail changes that are being carried out. So I cannot stand up here and say the laboratory is perfect because it is not, and there are difficulties in the laboratory. What I am saying, that of the three issues raised by the Pathologist in that letter, the three have been addressed satisfactorily as he himself says. The management issue was addressed immediately, the staffing issue was solved within three weeks, it was addressed immediately and solved in the short term by employing extra people and then permanently within three weeks, and the resources issue that he highlighted, has been solved by the move into the new hospital and the new equipment there. In that sense, I am satisfied that the concerns he addressed have been addressed and have been tackled in the most professional and the best way possible.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

I believe we were told at one of the previous Houses that there was a study that had been conducted specifically of the laboratory as part of this review, and that in fact results had not been received. Can the Minister say whether those results have been received and whether things are happening in connection with that or not?

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

I made a reference to it a little bit earlier. There have been clinical reviews of all the clinical areas within the GHA, and that is a work stream in itself and that is one of the last work streams which some of those reviews have only lately been finished and the Government are still awaiting the final report from the Healthcare Development Team based on those reviews. These are reviews conducted, let us be clear, not by GHA, not by the Government, conducted by the Healthcare Development Team to give them the information on which to base the recommendations, and that recommendation report on the work stream has not yet come to the Government. That includes not just the laboratory but all other clinical areas.



**HON J J BOSSANO:**

The position is that the laboratory one has not yet arrived. Is that the case? Presumably some have been finished and some have not, the laboratory is one of those that is not yet finished, is that correct?

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

No, I do not think the hon Member is following what I am saying. What I am saying is that there is a work stream, I cannot remember the title of it, but there is a work stream that is called something like 'clinical review or review of the clinical areas', whatever the title is, and that is from memory I think there are 11 different clinical areas. Each of those clinical areas have been reviewed by people on behalf of the Healthcare Development Team and the reports have gone, I do not know whether all have gone or some have gone or most of them, although I suspect that most of them if not all of them are now in the hands of the Healthcare Development Team. The content of those reports into all the clinical areas compiling their own report as they are compiling the reports on all the other aspects that they are looking into, and that is the report that eventually will come to the Government, or the one we are expecting, their report on what those clinical reviews recommend.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

So perhaps the Minister will be patient and confirm it if I have understood him correctly this time. So all the reports have now gone to the team, or does he not know?

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

From memory I think that they probably have but I do not know because they do not come to me, I do not see them, they go to them and my understanding is that if they are not all already there they are about to be and they will be getting their report within weeks, the other side of Christmas.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

One of them is on the laboratory?

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

Correct.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Irrespective, what the Minister has said about the equipment side of the laboratory, is he saying that apart from that the Government are still awaiting recommendations from the Healthcare Development Team on the overall recommendations on the laboratory?

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

I am not sure that I follow that question, so I will say what the situation is and hopefully that will provide the answer. The Government are still expecting a number of work stream reports. One of those work stream reports is entitled 'review of the clinical areas' or some such language. It covers 11 different clinical areas including the laboratory. When that report comes to the Government it will include recommendations of the 11 clinical areas including the laboratory. That is the report that the Government are expecting on the laboratory. From memory I do not think the laboratory is addressed directly in any other of the work stream reports, but there may be side references to it, but the main one is in that work stream report that covers all the clinical areas.

ORAL

**NO. 2164 OF 2004**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – KGV HOSPITAL**

Can Government state whether there have been any previous incidents of a fire at KGV hospital in the last five years, and if so, how many and on what dates?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2165 and 2166 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2165 OF 2004**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – KGV HOSPITAL**

Can Government state whether there have been any recommendations or reports from the fire service, regarding the installation of equipment for fire prevention or for dealing with the onset of a fire in KGV hospital, and if so, the dates in which such recommendations or reports were made?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2164 and 2166 of 2004.

**NO. 2166 OF 2004**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – KGV HOSPITAL**

Can Government state whether there have been any reports of previous incidents of fires at KGV Hospital, in the last five years, and as a result any recommendations of the action required were made from within the hospital administration?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

There have been no reported incidents of fire at the KGV in the last five years other than the incident on 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2004.

In 1998 a review of fire systems at KGV Hospital was conducted by the City Fire Brigade. The report is dated 19<sup>th</sup> November 1998.

The City Fire Brigade and Independent Consultants Chubb Fire Security (Gibraltar) Ltd carried out independent different surveys throughout the GHA in June 2003 and January 2004 respectively.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 2164 TO 2166 OF 2004**

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Were the recommendations of the City Fire Brigade in relation to KGV, were they accepted by the Government and introduced by the Government?

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

In the immediate aftermath of the incident on 3<sup>rd</sup> December, GHA has taken immediate action to examine fire systems and the whole situation in regard to fire, not just in the KGV but also in other places in GHA. That review or that internal examination of systems is on-going and we are assessing what has been done in the past. The hon Member may appreciate that there may have been recommendations that say that there should be a fire extinguisher here, but that fire extinguisher may not be there but may be here, because someone has subsequently said put it somewhere else. An audit has been carried out to examine what the situation is today, and arising out of that audit there are a number of immediate actions that have been taken in the short term and longer actions that need to be taken in the longer term. That review is still on-going, the matter is sub judice by the Coroner, there is a

police investigation going on, there is a Fire Brigade investigation going on and the GHA itself, with its duty of care to patients and to staff, is carrying out its own investigation towards making sure its house is in order, and if it is not in order why it is not in order but it is premature for me to comment in this House on two aspects of it. One on the sub judice aspects of the case, which the hon Member is not asking about, and two on those aspects which are still under investigation internally. I do not have reports, I do not have the assessed situation in order to be able to answer minute questions. All I can say is that an immediate audit has been carried out in cooperation with the Fire Brigade, where things have been identified that need to be rectified they are being rectified immediately, in the immediate time frame, and where things have been identified that need to be remedied in the longer term, that is also being tackled.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

We are conscious that the recent incident is not something to be raised in this House until the full facts are known, but of course that does not alter what was the state of play before this incident occurred and whether in fact there was a report which was either acted upon or not acted upon. Not whether fire extinguishers had been a metre from the door or two metres from the door, but that would not require, would the Minister not agree, an audit of anything. Either there is a report somewhere which was considered and given effect to, or there is not. So (a) is there such a report?; and (b) has he been able to establish whether it was acted upon?

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

That is exactly what I have said, there is a report dated 19<sup>th</sup> November 1998 which is not just one item saying move this table from here to there, it details a number of things. That is the investigation that is currently being carried out that has not yet been completed, looking at those recommendations and establishing what was done at the time, what was not done, if things were not done, and why they were not done if they were not done, and what needs to be done, and that is what is being established. I cannot answer the question because I do not have the information yet. I will be in a position to answer it at a later stage in a later House but until that investigation is completed internally, and I repeat that there are a number of people investigating, it would be pointless for me to speculate on inadequate information. I will not speculate until I have the full facts.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

I am not asking the Minister to speculate. Presumably there are people who were there in 1998 when this report was made and who would be able to say either yes or no to a simple question like the one I am putting to the Minister. Has the Minister as Chairman asked that question? What happened with that report when it was made? Who did it go to? Was anything done or was it just sort of put to one side? That is all we are asking at this stage.

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

I understand the question and that is why the answer that I am giving is that it is not simply a question of saying the report says move the table and if so, who was told to

move the table and did he move the table. The report covers a wide number of things. There is an investigation going on at the moment identifying those individual recommendations and establishing if they were done, if they were not done, and why they were done or not done and I cannot answer at this moment in time until I have the results. It is not me carrying out the report, it is not me asking the question. Let me put it this way, the incident occurred at 3 o'clock or 2 o'clock in the morning, by 5 o'clock I was in St Bernard's Hospital and so were the senior management team, some of them had been there a lot before. Since then and with immediate effect the investigation started, within hours of the incident, and it is still on-going and I cannot answer the question because no one has given me a complete answer. It is not a simple question did some one move the table, the question is on all the recommendations in the report, and until those answers are given I am not in a position to provide the answers.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

With all respect to the Minister, he seems to have been contaminated by the illness that he accuses my hon Colleague of, that he listens to what I say and then he repeats the same thing as if I had said nothing. Well let me be more specific, can he say to whom the Fire Brigade addressed its report when it made it?

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

To the Chief Executive of the Gibraltar Health Authority.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

I see, and there are no records in the Health Authority of whether the Chief Executive did anything with that report? Forget the audit of going to the hospital and finding out where the fire extinguisher is, I am not asking about that and I am not asking about the incident. I am asking if there is a report and it goes to a body, then presumably that body must have somewhere some written note, minute or record or something of what happened with the report after it was received. Is that something that the Minister is aware of or not?

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

It seems that I am not the only one who is catching the virus that the hon Lady opposite has. I have already answered that several times, that is what we are investigating. Of course there is a paper trail, of course if there is a report and it is addressed to the Chief Executive of the GHA and it says do this and that and this and that, of course there is a paper trail and that is what is being investigated, what the reports contains and what was done and how it was done. I cannot speculate on what the answer is because I do not have the facts, and until I have reports on what the facts are, the hon Member may shake his head all that he likes but if he thinks I am going to answer and either make up the answer or imagine it or try to foresee what the answer is going to be, I am not prepared to do that. I will give the answer in this House when I have the information. At this moment in time I do not have that information to be able to give a substantive answer. When I have it I will give it, I do not have it at this moment in time.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

I am not asking the Minister for the voluminous answer that he will have eventually when the audit trail is complete. Just like I asked one specific question 'who did the report go to?', and he said the Chief Executive, then my second question was, 'is there a record whether the report was in fact ignored or action was initiated?' not the detail of the action but the policy reaction to the report.

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

That I can answer. I told the hon Member there is a paper trail, the report was obviously received, there are people who have exchanged correspondence on it and there is talk about what should be done or what should not be done, so yes, in that sense it was obviously accepted and it was obviously actioned. What is being investigated is the degree of the action.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

I see, but the Minister confirms that action was taken then but he does not know exactly what it was or to what degree it complied with the recommendation, but he can confirm that there was a response and there was action.

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

I confirm at this stage that the report was received and that people were dealing with the report and that there was action taken. What the degree of the action, whether that action was one per cent or 99 per cent, until I see it written in front of me that says this is what was done and this is what was not done, if in fact some things were not done or some things were done, until I see that as an assessment by people who were doing the assessment I cannot circulate but the report reached GHA from the Fire Brigade saying do this and do that. What I do not know at this moment in time is exactly what was done or what was not done. I do not want to speculate, I do not have the information.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Can the Minister also confirm that in fact he has said that there was no previous record of a report of a fire, so that report from the Fire Brigade was not as a follow-up to an incident. What was it a routine inspection? It was not prompted by an incident having taken place and the Fire Brigade having to attend, is that correct?

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

I honestly do not know the answer to that question. The question was have there been any fires in the last five years, there have not been any fires in the last five years but 1998 is obviously more than five years. I do not know whether the 1998 report was as a consequence of an incident or not. I remember hearing in conversations that there had been a previous incident some time in the past, more than five years previously, but that was not connected with this. Whether one thing followed the other or was as a consequence of the other I do not know.



ORAL

**NO. 2167 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 during the month of October 2004?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

Answered together with Question No. 2168 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 2168 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 during the month of November 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

No psycho-geriatric patients have been admitted into KGV during the months of October and November 2004.

**NO. 2169 OF 2004**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – KGV HOSPITAL**

Can Government confirm whether they have received any recommendations from the Clinical & Governance Audit team with regard to the KGV psychiatric unit?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

No.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2169 OF 2004**

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

This seems to conflict with the information that I was given by the previous Minister for Health, the Hon Dr Linares, who said that the audit would be looking at KGV and they would be making recommendations as regards KGV.

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

Instead of trying to catch the Minister out, the hon Member should phrase her questions more carefully. The question is 'have we received any recommendation?', and the answer is No Sir, as I said before, because this is part of the work service that looks at the clinical areas, that looks at the clinical reviews and the reports have not yet been received. The question is have the reports been received and the answer is no. If the hon Member wants to know if there has been a clinical review of the KGV psychiatric unit, then she should ask that and the answer to that is yes Sir, there has been and the Hon Dr Linares was right, but she should ask the question to which she wants the answer.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Well, if there has been then he has received it and that is my question. Can Government confirm whether they have received any recommendations from the Clinical & Governance Audit team with regard to the KGV psychiatric unit? That was my question.

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

The answer was no.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Therefore I will ask the Minister, are the Government expecting then to receive any recommendations from the Clinical & Governance Audit team with regard to the KGV psychiatric unit?

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

The answer is as I said a little while ago, that it is a work stream which includes all the clinical areas which includes the KGV psychiatric unit, and there has been a clinical review of KGV, as my hon Colleague said last year or in a previous answer, and it is part of the work stream called 'clinical reviews' or whatever the title is, the recommendations of which have not yet been received by the Government. Please would the hon Member listen to the answer because it will come up again. There are other questions in the order paper that ask the same question, and anywhere where there is a clinical review the answer is the same. No, we have not yet received the review, we are not expecting to receive the clinical review, we are waiting for the recommendations of the Healthcare Development Team and we have not received the clinical recommendations from the Healthcare Development Team.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

As usual the Minister always covers himself with the fact that everything that is wrong with the Health Services is going to be tackled by the Healthcare Development Team report. That is absolutely now, in my mind, correct when I say that whenever we ask the Government anything to do with the Health Services, they always go back and they always try to defend their position by saying '*well we have received it, or we are looking at it, or we will receive it and we will be looking at it*'. All I have said is a question that I have put saying 'can Government confirm whether they have received a recommendation?'. Now whether the Hon Dr Bernard Linares told me previously that they would be looking at it, well all that the Minister needed to say was yes Sir, they will be looking at it, they have not looked at it or they are looking at it and we will receive it in due time. That is all.

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

I will not be tempted into saying the same things that I have already said. The House has heard me and people listening on the radio will have heard me, that the question has been answered as asked, and then the supplementary has been answered when eventually it was asked by myself to myself and then repeated by the hon Member. What I cannot let go is the quip which the hon Member is so fond of making that the Government shield behind the Healthcare Development Report. The Government do not shield behind the Healthcare Report. The Government have had the guts, and I salute my Colleague the Hon Dr Linares for being the person to initiate it, he has had the guts to do what she was never prepared to do and what she never did when she was Minister, which is to examine the problems of the Health Service, which we all know existed both in her time, before her time and after her time, to tackle them in

depth, to look at them, and to be tackling them and to be solving them. She can pretend as much as she likes by throwing red herrings to the wind, as she does when she appears on television and she appears in interviews, the reality is that the Government are tackling the problem and the problem, as far as can be tackled, will be solved. It is no good for the hon Member now pretending she is not listening because that is what she usually does, and then she comes back with the same question, the Government are not hiding behind the report, the Government have had the guts to do the report, are accepting the recommendations, have accepted all of the recommendations that have been presented to date, are actioning the recommendations and whenever we say that we are actioning them, she then gets up and starts criticising what we are doing. When we have not yet done them or when we are about to do them, she gets up and criticises us for not doing it, and then she appears on television and says the Government are doing nothing. Well, the hon Member cannot have it each and every way. Either she accepts the fact that we have had the guts to do the report and that we are doing what needs to be done, or she does not. I know she does not like it but that is what is happening. What she cannot do is in one breath criticise us for saying the Health Services has problems, then to criticise us for employing experts to tackle it, then to criticise us for solving it by saying we are spending too much money in solving it, and then presumably when we start implementing the recommendations, she will change her tack as she does in other subjects, and she will be criticising us allegedly for taking too long to do it. She better make up her mind, either she wants the Health Services fixed or she does not and that is what the Government are doing, fixing it.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

The Minister, if he wishes to get on his high horse, then I will remind him that they have been eight years in Government and when we were in Government I did not require experts from outside to come to pay them thousands and thousands of pounds to fix our Health Services. That is the difference between that Government and when we were in Government.

ORAL

**NO. 2170 OF 2004**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – CONTRACT OFFICERS**

Can the Government confirm what salary Mr Frank McGurrin is being paid by the Gibraltar Health Authority, in view of the fact that they confirmed in answer to Question No. 1594 of the last meeting of the House, he was not a member of the Gibraltar Health Care Development Team?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2171 and 2172 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2171 OF 2004**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – CLINICAL GOVERNANCE UNIT**

Can Government confirm what is the actual value of the services being provided by Mr John Langan, through the Clinical Governance Unit, which is included in the overall cost to the Government of the Audit they have commissioned?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2170 and 2172 of 2004.

**NO. 2172 OF 2004**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – PA TO CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

Can Government confirm that a new post of personal assistant to Mr McCutcheon, new Chief Executive of the Gibraltar Health Authority, has been created?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

**Answer to Question No. 2170**

The cost to the Government of the employment of Mr F McGurrin was £57,451.75p. Mr McGurrin returned to the UK on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2004 on termination of his employment.

**Answer to Question No. 2171**

Mr John Langan was on contract directly to the Modernisation Agency of the NHS and not to the Government or to the GHA. The cost of his services are therefore included in the overall cost to the Government of the contract with the Modernisation Agency.

**Answer to Question No. 2172**

A post of Personal Assistant to the Chief Executive has not been created. However, the administrative support for the new executive team has not yet been finalised.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 2170 TO 2172 OF 2004**

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

When the Minister for Health mentions the figure of £57,451 in relation to Mr Frank McGurrin, who he says left on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2004, can he actually say for what period the £57,451 is related to?

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

From 1<sup>st</sup> April to 8<sup>th</sup> December of this year.



**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

If, as the Minister said in answer to Question No. 1594, that he was not a Member of the audit, how was he recruited?

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

By the Modernisation Agency.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

The Modernisation Agency, the first time we hear about this, is related to what, a UK modernisation agency?

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

No, the hon Member may be misunderstanding my answer. The Modernisation Agency is the part of the NHS which is contracting the Healthcare Development Team. It is a department, or a section, I do think I have used the words 'modernisation agency' before but I may not. To be clear, the Healthcare Development Team are part of the Modernisation Agency, which itself is part of the NHS, and when I say by the modernisation agency, technically I think I am right but it may be that they were contracted by the Healthcare Development Team rather than the Modernisation Agency. The point is that it is not the Government or the GHA.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

So Mr Frank McGurrin was paid £57,451 for a period of eight months, am I correct?

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

From 1<sup>st</sup> April to 8<sup>th</sup> December, whatever that period of time is in minutes, hours, days, weeks or months.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Is that after tax or before tax?

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

The cost to the Government of the employment of Mr McGurrin was £57,000. Whether that was before tax or after tax I would need notice of the question.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Can he not say what is the cost as regards the services being provided by Mr John Langan?

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

I have already answered that question.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

But he has not said the cost so he has not answered it.

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

I have already answered the question in my original answer. He was not employed by the Government or by the GHA.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Yes, and if he was employed by the GHA the Government must know what the cost is.

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

The Government contracted the Modernisation Agency who provided the Healthcare Development Team. The Healthcare Development Team does not consist of Mr Langan, it consists of a number of people. The numbers have shrunk and grown, or grown and shrunk over the period they have been here. They have included Mr Langan. The Government contracted the services of the Modernisation Agency for a lump sum, and that includes all the staff that they have decided to bring with them of their own choice.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

So what the Minister is saying is that even though they contracted the services of the Clinical Governance Unit, they do not know what is the cost to the Government of the services of Mr Langan?

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

That is not a cost to the Government. The cost to the Government is the contract of the Healthcare Development Team, which has been disclosed in this House in answer to previous questions. I cannot remember whether there are any in this particular order paper, there have been numerous questions on what the contract is costing, that includes the cost of Mr Langan plus all the other people who make up the Healthcare Development Team. It does not consist of one or two bodies, it consists of a number of bodies and that number has been changing as, for example, when the clinical reviews were being done, they have included more people who have been brought in to do the clinical review, and his costs are included in that overall sum. It is not an identifiable individual cost as the others or not, it is part of the overall contract.

**HON F R PICARDO:**

Perhaps the hon Gentleman can help us in this respect. What has been the tax treatment of any of those individuals who have been providing services in Gibraltar pursuant to that contract? For example, are they Category 3 or Category 4 individuals, like the new individual who has now been contracted?

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

I do not know the answer to that question, I would need notice of that question. It is not within my remit to enquire as to the tax position of the individuals who make up the Healthcare Development Team. I honestly do not know the answer to that question. Thinking about it, I suspect that it may have a UK tax element to this but I do not know I am speculating and I should not. This is a contract with the Healthcare Development Team. It is not payment to individuals.

**HON F R PICARDO:**

My understanding is that it is very much a Gibraltar tax, if somebody is providing services to Gibraltar and is earning monies in Gibraltar, earning an identifiable portion of monies which is what this debate is about, but certainly I have to accept his answer that he does not know what it is and that we should give notice of it. I am sure we will for the next time.

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

It is a matter for the tax authorities and not for me.

**HON F R PICARDO:**

With respect, in relation to that latest intervention, we were provided with the information in relation to the new contract but we were told that the individual would be, I think, Category 4 in relation to the three-year period. It is that type of question that we will want an answer to when we give notice of it.

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

Yes, it is a different situation altogether. The contracts of Dr McCutcheon and the other new members of the GHA, I think they were Category 2 and not Category 4 but again I am treading on areas that are outside my remit.

**HON F R PICARDO:**

They are Category 2.

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

Then let us forget it is Category 2. It is not.....

**HON F R PICARDO:**

Unless they are paid £2 million.

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

No, it might be Category 3 but it is not an area that I am very familiar with, I bow to the hon Member's expertise on that rather than mine, but the new members who are now being recruited are on a different arrangement. They are directly recruited, directly employed and directly contracted by the GHA and are being paid by the GHA. In the case of the other people who have come, the Government have been paying a lump sum to a corporate entity. How that corporate entity rewards its employees.....

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

As far as Question No. 2172 is concerned, I recall that the Minister said that the new post of Personal Assistant to Mr McCutcheon, who is the new Chief Executive of the Gibraltar Health Authority, has not yet been created. That is what he said.

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

No, has she said 'has not yet been created' or 'has not been created'?

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Not yet been created. That is what I heard the Minister saying.

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

No, that is not what I said. What I said was that the post has not been created. However, the administrative support for the new executive team, not just Dr McCutcheon but for the whole of the new executive team, has not yet been determined. So, it has not been created yet but I am not saying it will not be created. It may be created or it may not be created, but at this moment in time the strict answer to her question is no, it has not been created.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

If the Minister has mentioned the support team, are we talking about that the Government could actually employ more people than one as a support team, because if he has mentioned support team we are talking about more than one individual? Is that the possibility that could arise in the future?

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

Let us get the words right. I have not used the words 'the support team', the words that I used were 'however the administrative support for the new executive team has

not yet been finalised'. Now, that means exactly what it says, the new executive team which consists of three people, at the moment we are still juggling on what the support will be. In some cases the offices that they are moving into may already have, and in one case has, administrative support and does not need any more. In others it may need reshuffling of existing resources and in others it may mean employing new resources. Maybe in one, maybe in more than one, I do not know, that is being assessed at the moment. Now she will come back and ask me 'have the Government now decided whether how many.....' and when she asks me the next time round I will give her the answer as it is at that moment in time.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Well, he can mock me and he can make fun of whatever he wants to make fun of but if he actually says things in this House and he says that the Government have not yet decided and that there might be or there might not be administrative support, then obviously it is my duty as an Opposition Member, does he not agree, in the next House of Assembly meeting to come and say 'well what has happened?'. That is normal as far as an Opposition is concerned.

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

I have no quibbles with the hon Member doing her thing or her duties as an Opposition Member in whatever way she thinks fit. What I am resigned to, and that is why I was pulling her leg, is that knowing her style she will now enter into her computer the words of the question which will now reappear whenever she presses the return button of the computer, for the next few Houses of Assembly the question will regurgitate itself and the question will be 'has the Government, or has the GHA, or has the Government now decided what administrative support it will apply?' and I am saying to her that I am resigned to that question being asked for the next couple of Houses or until such time as the answer is given, because I look back on the record and the hon Member has asked so many questions today and over 50 per cent of them are exactly the same words that she was asking, not just the Hon Dr Linares but that she was asking the Hon Keith Azopardi before. It is just the same words with the dates changed.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

I mean as far as I am concerned I give up with him, but I have to keep on asking.

ORAL

**NO. 2173 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 5, 6 and 7 of 2004, in respect of which £2.50p per item was paid by patients to the dispensing pharmacists?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2174 to 2180 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2174 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 period 8 of 2004, in respect of which £2.50p per item was paid by patients to the dispensing pharmacists?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2173 and 2175 to 2180 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2175 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 5, 6 & 7 of 2004/2005?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2173, 2174 and 2176 to 2180 of 2004.



ORAL

**NO. 2176 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 period 8 of 2004/2005?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2173 to 2175 and 2177 to 2180 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2177 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 5, 6 & 7 of 2004/2005 as a result of their having increased prescriptions charges from £1.20p to £2.50p?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2173 to 2176 and 2178 to 2180 of 2004.

**NO. 2178 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 period 8 of 2004/2005 as a result of their having increased prescription charges from £1.20p to £2.50p?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2173 to 2177, 2179 and 2180 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2179 OF 2004**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – PRESCRIPTION OF ITEMS**

Can Government state the number of items that have been issued, that exceed the three items which pay a total of £7.50p for the accounting periods 5, 6 & 7 of 2004?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2173 to 2178 and 2180 of 2004.

**NO. 2180 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 £7.50p for the accounting period 8 of 2004?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

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

The hon Member should note that the information supplied is only in respect of complete periods where all pharmacists have submitted their accounts.

**Answer to Question 2180**

**Answer to Questions 2173 & 2174**

PERIOD	PRESCRIPTIONS	ITEMS	COST
5	5416	13384	£172,823.51
6	6162	16475	£222,760.61
7	Incomplete		
8	Incomplete		

**Answer to Questions 2175 & 2176**

PERIOD	PRESCRIPTIONS	ITEMS	COST
5	12266	43650	£515,749.79
6	14112	53435	£649,258.12
7	Incomplete		
8	Incomplete		

**Answer to Questions 2177 & 2178**

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 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 £11.5k for periods 5 and 6 of 2004/2005. Periods 7 and 8 are incomplete.

**Answer to Questions 2179 & 2180**

2004/2005	Items
Period 5	3117
Period 6	4295
Period 7	Incomplete
Period 8	Incomplete

## **SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 2173 TO 2180 OF 2004**

### **HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

It is a bit difficult to digest the information when I have been handed an answer to nine questions all in one go, but would the Minister not agree that the items, as far as Question Nos. 2173 and No. 2174 are concerned, have steadily been increasing and obviously therefore the cost?

### **HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

I have to say that I have utterly no sympathy for the hon Member's stomach or difficulties of digestion. I have offered to supply the hon Member with these figures on a periodic basis outside Question Time of this House so that she has the time to digest them and then she can come back and ask supplementary questions at leisure. It will save a lot of the time of this House and it would make the proceedings much more productive, from her point of view, because she would be able to ask as many supplementary questions as she wanted. However, to deal with the second part of her answer I do not have the comparative data in front of me so I cannot comment on her supplementary. If indeed she is right and the number of items is increasing it is obvious from that that the cost would be higher, and she asked me why and speculating, which I should not do, but from pure speculation if she is right it is obvious that there are a number of reasons. Firstly, on the increase of items is that demographically the population is increasing at the higher levels of age, there are more older people alive now than 20 years ago and those older people are living longer and they obviously take more medicines and more drugs than they tend to do when they are younger. It may also be due to the prescription habits of individual GP's where some GP's prescribe more and others prescribe less, and that changes over a period of time. Thirdly, that the costs have gone up is obviously due to two reasons. (1) If she is right and there are more items, then it follows de facto from simple arithmetic that the total costs will be higher, but it also follows that because the cost of drugs increases year by year, even if the numbers remain static, the costs themselves would increase.

### **HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Well, it seems that I do my homework more than what the Minister does because I have got all my figures here and I have spent hours analysing the statistics and I think that it is only fair to say that the Government and the Minister for Health should take an interest and should know what is happening as far as the policies that they have implemented, more so in relation to the £7.50p which people are now paying for items and after which they are free. Therefore, I would urge the Minister to do the exercises that I have done and he will see that the policy of having introduced the three items which pay a total of £7.50p and after which the patients do not require to pay for them, has had the opposite effect of what the Government intended to do originally, which is when they said in this House that they were increasing prescription charges to stop the so-called abuse of the system, and here we are with a Government who have introduced a system where people are only obliged to pay for three items after which everything else, apart from the three items, is free of charge. Therefore would the Minister not agree that if the items have increased it has been because the Government have introduced a system which has failed them?

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

What the Minister certainly agrees is that the electorate did not agree with the hon Member, who was predicating exactly that line during the last Election and obviously people did not believe her and did not take it into account. Be that as it may, the Minister takes a very great interest in the situation as regards prescriptions, especially because what is my concern is the total turnover in prescribed drugs and the cost to the GHA and to the Government, and that is where the Minister takes an interest and that is where the GHA take an interest. If the hon Member is patient, so that I can give her more information so that she can have more questions for the next time round, if the hon Member has patience and waits for the various work streams to come on stream, she will find that there is one which deals specifically on prescriptions and where we are doing exactly that. Examining not because she has brought it up but because two years ago when the works started, it would have been identified in the diagnostic report and it is part of the work streams and we are looking at prescription habits of individual doctors, how pharmacists dispense their drugs and quite a number of associated issues. Not the bee in her bonnet that the hon Member has, which she may or may not be right, I am not saying that she is not. She may or may not be right on the capping of the £7.50p but that is only one item on which she has the bee in her bonnet and she asks 10 or 15 questions in every House of Assembly. What we are looking at is the overall prescription picture and how that can be brought down whilst at the same time maintaining the service and giving people the drugs that they need without any restrictions on the prescription of those drugs. That is what we are doing and that is what needs to be addressed, not one little item in the whole menu.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

The one item that I have brought to the attention of the Government and having heard the Minister talking about the three items which pay a total of £7.50p, therefore what he has just said to me confirms that what I have said in this House previous to the hon Member being Minister for Health, and now according to the figures that I am getting confirms that we have been right, that the policy has failed. Not only has their policy failed the Minister is saying that they are going to look at the overall question of prescriptions, which then confirms to me that the figures that he has been providing plus his predecessors, confirm that the items that are above the three which pay a total of £7.50p have been increasing considerably, because now we have had two different policies and now with the present Minister for Health can he say why they are looking at the overall policy of the question of prescriptions? Why?

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

I have already answered.



ORAL

**NO. 2181 OF 2004**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – PAYMENTS TO PHARMACISTS**

Can Government state how much has been paid to the Pharmacists as dispensing fees from 19<sup>th</sup> July 2004 to end of October 2004?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2182 to 2186 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2182 OF 2004**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – PAYMENTS TO PHARMACISTS**

Can Government state how much has been paid to the Pharmacists as dispensing fees from 19<sup>th</sup> July 2004 to end of November 2004?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2181, 2183 and 2184 to 2186 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2183 OF 2004**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – PAYMENTS TO PHARMACISTS**

Can Government confirm how much has been paid to Pharmacists for periods 5, 6 & 7 of 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. 2181, 2182 and 2184 to 2186 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2184 OF 2004**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – PAYMENTS TO PHARMACISTS**

Can Government confirm how much has been paid to Pharmacists for period 8 of 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. 2181 to 2183 and 2185 and 2186 of 2004.

**NO. 2185 OF 2004**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – PAYMENTS TO PHARMACISTS**

Can Government say what was the amount paid to Pharmacists for the periods 5, 6 & 7 of 2004 and the comparable figure for the same periods in the previous year in respect of £1.80p per item prescription charged, regarding the medicines to which the sum applied?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2181 to 2184 and 2186 of 2004.

**NO. 2186 OF 2004**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – PAYMENTS TO PHARMACISTS**

Can Government say what was the amount paid to Pharmacists for period 8 of 2004, and the comparable figure for the same period in the previous year in respect of £1.80p per item prescription charged, regarding the medicines to which the sum applied?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

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

The hon Member should note that the information supplied is only in respect of complete periods where all pharmacists have submitted their accounts.

**Answer to Question 2186 of 2004**

**Answer to Questions 2181 and 2182**

Period 5	£78,570.00
Period 6	£96,183.00
Period 7	Incomplete
Period 8	Incomplete
Period 9	Incomplete

**Answer to Questions 2183 & 2184**

	<b>15% Importation</b>
Period 5	£67,271.71
Period 6	£84,685.84
Period 7	Incomplete
Period 8	Incomplete

**Answer to Questions 2185 & 2186**

	<b>2004</b>	<b>2003</b>
	<b>25 July – 10 October</b>	<b>27 July – 12 October</b>
Period 5	£78570.00	£80,960.40
Period 6	£96183.00	£75,857.40
Period 7	Incomplete	£84,340.80
Period 8	Incomplete	£84,475.80

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 2181 TO 2186 OF 2004**

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

When the Minister has just said that the Government would be looking at the overall question of prescriptions, is he also saying that they will be looking at the deal or agreement that they have with the pharmacists as regards the 15 per cent addition to the cost of medicines, because when we look at the figures we have seen from 1999 to 2003/2004 that there has been an increase of about £100,000 average in every financial year? Is he saying that they will also be looking at the agreement that they have with the pharmacists in view of the increases that have occurred from these years?

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

The word 'overall' in the English language has an obvious meaning, and that means everything in the context in which I answered the question and to which the hon Member is referring.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Will the Minister not accept that the figures which I have here in front of me which he has provided, that the 15 per cent addition to the cost of the medicines has increased dramatically to the tune of what I have said is £100,000 average every year?

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

Fifteen per cent of a certain number is bound to get bigger if the number gets bigger, and we established in the previous question that the number was getting bigger so it follows that the 15 per cent must also increase.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

The fact that it is getting bigger, are the Government saying that they are satisfied that it is getting bigger?

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

No.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Therefore, will the Minister confirm whether the agreement with the pharmacists has a review date?



**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

I do not know, I would need notice of that question, I do not know if it has a review date.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

I see, but when the Minister said he was looking at it overall he meant the overall and therefore he does not know whether the agreement with the pharmacists has a review date or not.

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

That is a non sequitur if ever I have heard one. This Minister has said several times already that he is looking at the overall prescription situation to see how it can be improved for everybody, the pharmacists, the patients and the GHA and that means that we can make savings, which I am sure we can, because there are obvious areas where without taking away any medicine that is necessary for anybody, savings should be made. I am sure that savings can be made but then to link it to whatever she linked it that I have now forgotten, was completely uncorrected. That is what the Minister is saying, we are looking at everything and that everything is everything.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

I cannot understand why the Minister says he is ignorant of the fact whether there is a review date or not when I have actually asked a specific question about the pharmacists and about the conditions in relation to the agreement that they have. All I am saying is, and I think the Minister should know or perhaps if he does not know perhaps he will inform me either through a letter or later in this meeting of the House, all I am saying is whether he knows when the review date of the agreement with the pharmacists is when, in a year's time, two year's time? That is all I am asking.

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

Okay, what I am answering is that I do not know if it has a review date, that it is not the subject of the question, that I need notice of the question and that if the hon Member wants to know then she has various courses open to her. She can wait until the next House and ask me the question again, phrased in a different way or ask me a different question, or she can write to me and ask me but this is not the subject of the question, it has nothing to do with dispensation of medicines, specifically what the review date is I do not know because I have not had notice of the question. If she wants to know she should write to me as she does so often and I will provide her with the information. I have already said that I do not think it has a review date, at least no one has told me that it has a review date.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

I will be writing to the Minister as I have just said, but when he says that he does not think that there is a review date, what does it mean that the agreement with the pharmacists have been made for how many years? Does the Minister for Health

know how long the agreement with the pharmacists has been made for? That is what I am asking, if he does not know, fine I will write to him and he can give me the information later.

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

Good, I look forward to the letter.

**NO. 2187 OF 2004**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – PAIN CLINIC**

Can the Government now confirm whether they know what the staff composition will be of the Pain Clinic once it is transferred to the Europort Building?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

The position is as stated in answer to Question No. 1548 of 2004.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2187 OF 2004**

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Which is that the Government are not sure yet. Is that correct?

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

No, it means that the situation is as given in answer to Question No. 1548 of 2004. It was actually answered together with Question No. 1549 and the answer is on the answer to Question No. 1549.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Yes, and what I am saying is that the answer to Question No. 1548 is that the Government were still not sure.

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

The hon Member seems to have a different answer to the one that I have in front of me. It says nothing about not being sure in mine.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

So what does the Minister's answer to Question No. 1548 say?

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

I am very tempted to say what used to be said to me when I was on the Opposition side of the House, that that is a public document and it has already been given to her, and when she asked the Question she was given a copy of the answer. So why is she asking me what the answer is? That is what I used to be told but as I criticised the treatment so I will have the grace, if she smiles again, I will have the grace to tell her what the answer was in Question No. 1548 because I have no difficulty in giving her the answer. So see, although she was claiming before that she does her homework, obviously she has not done her homework if she does not know what the answer was to Question No. 1548, why is she asking the question again? But I will give her the answer. The hon Member will be delighted to hear that as part of the ongoing work of the Healthcare Development Team there have been reviews of the clinical services but not all these have been presented to the Government. Government are therefore not currently in a position to confirm the exact staffing position after transfer to the hospital. However, the Government are pleased to confirm that facilities have been made available in the Europort building to accommodate the Pain Clinic which will transfer together with all the other services. That is what was said and that is the answer, that the Pain Clinic will be transferred and that it will be transferred with the staff that it has. I fail to see the question whether we know what the staff composition will be. The staff composition will be what the staff composition is at the moment subject to any recommendations that the Clinical Reviews produce in the future. That is the answer put pure and simply.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

That is precisely why I am asking the question, because he said subject to any recommendations and all I wanted to know was whether they had received the recommendations which would change the composition.

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

I said half an hour ago that we would come to another question where I would have to say that we still did not have the recommendations from the Clinical Review, and we do not have the recommendations on the Clinical Review and there will be other questions where the answer will be the same. The Pain Clinic will transfer with its staff as it is at the moment and subject to recommendations that we may or may not receive, subject to recommendations that we may or may not accept, the staff will change or might not change, but at the moment it will move with its staff to Europort. There is no magic in it.

**HON F R PICARDO:**

Is it not a fair question to say 'why have the Government not been able to coordinate the receipt of the recommendations before the transfer to the new facilities so that entry into the new facilities can be on the back of the implementation of those new recommendations?'. Is there a specific reason for that other than gross inefficiency?

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

Well that assumes there is gross inefficiency which obviously there is not. The answer is very simple because it is two separate processes. The new hospital is one process and the Clinical Review Team is another one. In an ideal world, I share the principle of what the hon Member is saying do not get me wrong, I have said myself when I took over the job I have said and I have said it more than once, 'I wish there was a years separation between one and the other'. I am not quite sure which is ideal to come first because both can be argued but it would have been preferable to have had a years separation either to settle into the new hospital before getting the results of the Clinical Review, or vice versa but we are where we are. The hospital has extended, the termination date has extended, the Clinical Review is on course and the two have, to my mind not fortunately, coalesced, but that is where we are and there is nothing I can do to change that.

**NO. 2188 OF 2004**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – MOD PERSONNEL**

Can the Government state whether they have been approached by the Ministry of Defence in order to explore the possibility of their personnel being able to access services provided by the Gibraltar Health Authority when St Bernard's Hospital is transferred to the Europort Building?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

No proposals have been made either to Government or the GHA.

ORAL

**NO. 2189 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 October 2004, which is included in sub-head 30, School of Health Studies?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2190 and 2191 of 2004.

**NO. 2190 OF 2004**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – STUDY LEAVE**

Can the Minister for Health confirm whether the figure of £150,000 he provided in answer to Question No. 1558 of 2004, as being the amount budgeted for this financial year, regarding study leave, relates only to medical practitioners or it also relates to the School of Health Studies, something he said he would look into at the last meeting of the House?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2189 and 2191 of 2004.



ORAL

NO. 2191 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 November, which is included in sub-head 30, School of Health Studies?

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 2191 of 2004**

**Answer to Question 2189**

The expenditure for study leave up to the end of October 2004 was £58,360.70

**Answer to Question 2190**

The expenditure for study leave includes all staff within the Health Authority both clinical and non-clinical grade.

**Answer to Question 2191**

The Expenditure for study leave up to the end of November 2004 was £61,094.70

**NO. 2192 OF 2004**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – PRIMARY CARE CENTRE**

Can the Government state whether users of the Primary Care Centre experience delays when making appointments over the telephone?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

Telephone lines for appointments are open from 8.30 am straight through to 3.00 pm. The many callers seeking appointments tend to do so during the first half of the morning and this causes unavoidable delays. The GHA is very aware of this situation and the whole process of booking an appointment at the Centre has been reviewed in work stream number 7 of Phase II of the Healthcare Development Programme. This work stream has made a number of recommendations regarding ways to improve the appointments process. A period of consultation is now under way with staff of the GHA and User Groups.

ORAL

**NO. 2193 OF 2004**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – PRIMARY CARE CENTRE**

Can the Government confirm the number of GP attendances at the Primary Care Centre for the year 2003?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2194 to 2200 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2194 OF 2004**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – PRIMARY CARE CENTRE**

Can Government state what was the total number of out-patient attendances at the Primary Care Centre during the month of October 2004?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2193 and 2195 to 2200 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2195 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 during the month of October 2004?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2193, 2194 and 2196 to 2200 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2196 OF 2004**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – PRIMARY CARE CENTRE**

Can Government state how many house-calls were attended to by Health Centre doctors during the month of October 2004?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2193 to 2195 and 2197 to 2200 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2197 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 during the month of November 2004?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2193 to 2196 and 2198 to 2200 of 2004.



**NO. 2198 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 during the month of November 2004?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2193 to 2197, 2199 and 2200 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2199 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 during the month of November 2004?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2193 to 2198 and 2200 of 2004.

**NO. 2200 OF 2004**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – OUT-PATIENT ATTENDANCES**

In view of erroneous statistics given in this House, can the Government confirm the total number of out-patient attendances at the Primary Care Centre for the years 2001, 2002 and 2003?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

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

**Answer to Question 2200**

**Answer to Question 2193**

GP attendances

90965

**Answer to Question 2194, 2195, 2198 & 2199**

<b>DEPARTMENT</b>	<b>OCTOBER</b>	<b>NOVEMBER</b>
Audiology	385	147
Dietician	90	83
Clinic Sister	2320	1637
School Health	298	283
Speech & Language	224	209
Mental Welfare	206	170
GP Clinic	8276	8605
Dental	1352	1658
Child Welfare	774	793
Nurse Practitioner	332	338
Dermatologist	185	-
Orthopist	114	121
Optometrist	121	86
<b>Total</b>	<b>15110</b>	<b>14653</b>

**Answer to Question 2196 & 2197**

**House Calls**

October 433

November 523

Cont.

**Contd Answer to Question 2200 of 2004**

**Answer to Question 2200**

Out-patient attendances PCC

<b>Clinics</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>
<b>GP Clinics</b>	91673	91615	90965
Nurse Practitioner	-	1373	6062
Dermatologist	-	28	229
Dietitian	727	897	863
Dr Higgs (Special Clinic)	-	-	88
<b>Eye Department</b>			
Orthoptist (Deidre)	-	1050	1453
Optometrist (Isabella)	-	42	799
<b>Child Welfare Clinic</b>			
Clinics	9373	9937	8645
<b>School Health Service</b>			
Immunisation Clinic	7915	8853	4636
<b>Nursing Duties</b>			
Nursing Clinics	9053	12206	13333
<b>Dental Department</b>			
Dental Clinics	15912	14358	16406
<b>Speech and Language</b>			
Clinics	2027	2338	3153
<b>Mental Welfare</b>	1102	1085	1093

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 2193 TO 2200 OF 2004**

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Does the Minister agree with the findings in the Healthcare Development Report that there is a 2 per cent compound annual growth rate as far as the number of GP attendances at the Primary Care Centre for the year 2003?

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

As has been said before in this House, the Minister does not have to agree or disagree with the contents of the diagnostic report, which is the work of the Healthcare Development Team on which the 20 work streams are based.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Does the Minister not know, has he not actually looked at the figures and seen that there is indeed a 2 per cent compound annual growth rate?

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

Not lately, no, my reading material has consisted of other things but if she claims that that is what the Healthcare Development Team did it says, then I presume it is correct. That is what they said, I have no reason to doubt the accuracy of their calculators.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

So he agrees with them then?

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

That is not what I said.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Well, if he always starts to mention the fact that there is being a review and that the Healthcare Development Team is looking at it, if they come up with a statement then he either agrees or disagrees with them.

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

I have said it before and I will say it again, the diagnostic report is not a recommendation to the Government, it is an analysis done by the Healthcare Development Team. I do not have to agree or disagree and this is something that goes back to my first Question Time when she asked 50 questions or thereabouts, all on the diagnostic report and we told her very clearly that the diagnostic report was

not a report of recommendations, it is the basis of an analysis on which the Phase 2 work has been carried out and it is not up to me to tell the hon Member whether I agree with any part of that report or whether I do not. What the Minister and the Government have to agree with is the recommendations emanating from the Phase 2 work streams that are based on that report. The report is a gathering of evidence and it is done by the Healthcare Development Team, and I have said it before and I apologise if I am being repetitive.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

I am not asking the Minister to agree with recommendations. This is not a recommendation from the Healthcare Report team, this is a statement that they are making that there is a 2 per cent compound annual growth rate in June 2003. Will he agree with that assessment? I am not saying that whether he agrees with the recommendation or not, I know full well what the Government have done with previous reports whether they agree or they do not agree with the recommendations, of course sometimes they will agree and sometimes they will not. We know, we have seen it in the past, all I am saying is whether he agrees that there has been a 2 per cent compound annual growth rate, that is all, I am not telling him to agree with the recommendation, I have not said anything about the recommendations.

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

I have already answered the question and I do not intend to say anything else on the matter.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

He has not answered it.

**HON F R PICARDO:**

With respect, I understand that the Minister is saying we as a Government have not gone through this part of the report and decided whether we agree or whether we do not agree with it, we have asked them to go on to the second stage which is to provide its recommendations where we will make a recommendation by recommendation of whether we agree with them or not, but I think that it is fair for the Minister to be asked a specific question in relation to a specific statement which arises in the first part of the Clinical Governance review and to ask him in this House whether in relation to that particular statement the Government agrees or disagrees with a particular remark. I understand that they did not want to take a position yea or nay in relation to the whole of the report but I think it is fair to direct their attention to one particular remark and to ask them what their view on it is.

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

Certainly whether it is fair or not fair is a different thing altogether but that it is certainly in the right of the Opposition Member to ask whatever she likes. The position which I have taken, and which I have taken before and which I will take again, is that the Minister or the Government do not have to form an opinion and that

is what I have said. Asking me the question three times, as the hon Lady has said asking me the question three times, will not make me change the answer. If that was the view of the Healthcare Development Team, fine, that was the view but there is no reason why the Government should take a view on any aspect of it.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Question No. 2200 says, 'In view of the erroneous information that has been given in the House, can the Government confirm the total number of out-patient attendances at the Primary Care Centre for the years 2001, 2002 and 2003?'. If the Government look at the answers that have been given in the House they will see that I have been given for 2003, which is the figure that I have here with me which I have simply added very quickly, is 152,397 and if they care to look at the Abstract of Statistics, which since I have pointed out to them all the different figures that have appeared in contrast to what has been given to me in this House and what has appeared in the Abstract of Statistics, they will see the Abstract of Statistics gives a figure of 181,507 and therefore I would ask the Minister to look and to see which is the correct figure.

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

We have been down this road before and I do not intend to go back and check every single figure that the hon Member has been providing in the last 20 years that she has been in Opposition. If she feels that a figure is wrong in the information that has been provided then I invite her to write to me and to say 'I think this figure is wrong for this reason' as she did in the past, I will then investigate this figure and I will confirm to her whether the figure that I have given in this House or my colleagues have given in this House have been correct or not correct. I cannot answer for the Abstract of Statistics or for the Healthcare Development Team, if she feels a figure given in answer to a question by myself or one of my predecessors is incorrect, then I invite her to write to me and I will investigate that figure but I am certainly not going to in answer to a question say, well all the figures for the Primary Care Centre for the years 2001, 2002, 2003, carry out a massive checking of every single figure not without an indication of why I should. If she feels that a figure is wrong I will get it checked but not a blanket question to check every single figure.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

It seems to me incredible that the Minister is sitting there and does not care whether the figures that he provides in this House are correct or not correct. Then when an Abstract of Statistics from the Government is published and I get a different answer with a different figure it seems to me incredible that the Minister is saying that I should carry out the exercise. It is his duty, he is on the Government side of the House, he is the Government, he is providing the figure to this House and what I am telling him is.....

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

Point of order. The hon Lady and the hon Gentleman of course are free to debate statistics for as long as they like, but honestly on a point of order I do not see that the hon Lady having just heard the answer that she has had from the Minister, how she can retort by saying it is incredible that the Minister does not care if the information



that he gives in this House is wrong. The Minister far from making it clear that he does not care whether the information given is right or wrong has told the hon Lady the opposite. The Minister has said to the hon Lady if she believes that any information that he has given in this House, he or any of his predecessors, is wrong then please write to him and he will have the matter investigated. Now how does she deduce from that, given her obligation to be accurate in this House, how does she deduce from that that it is incredible that the Minister does not care about the accuracy of the information he gives in this House.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Very simple, because if I ask in this House what are the out-patient attendances at the Primary Care Centre for the years 2001, 2002 and 2003 and I get conflicting figures, and I find out, how is it that he does not find out himself?

**MR SPEAKER:**

May I express a view of this line of questioning? The hon Lady has asked a question to which an answer has been provided, the hon Lady is perfectly entitled to query any discrepancies which she observes in the answer, the Minister has certain options open to him. He can answer those queries if he can there and then, he can say 'I do not know' or he can say the gist of the answer is 'give me the opportunity and write to me pointing out exactly where you see discrepancies and I will have it looked into'. Up to that point I think we have all understood but I do feel that Question Times, in my limited experience here, often tends to develop into mini debates on issues, the view expressed by the hon Lady afterwards about not caring, it is not for me to take a view on caring or not caring but that really boils down to debating points rather than pursuing questions in supplementaries. I hope that assists both sides.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

If the Minister provides a figure for me in the House for the year 2003, does he not check that that figure coincides with the figures given in the Government Abstract of Statistics which is totally different?

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

No, the hon Member for someone who has been a Minister in the past, seems to have an incredible lack of either memory or how things are done. The Minister is asked a question in the House by the hon Lady opposite, that question is then looked at by officials and the statistics produced. It is not checked with outside sources, it is produced by the GHA from within and the answer given and the answer that I have given today is a direct copy of answers that have been given in the past. She has asked me to confirm the figures for 2001, 2002 and 2003 and it is not that they have been re-calculated, it is that they have been copied from previous answers so I fail to see why she says there is a conflict. They are a direct copy of information provided in the past so therefore there is no conflict. If the hon Member thinks that the figures are inaccurate because they are not the same as figures she has seen elsewhere, then as my Colleague has said and I will say again for the last time, she can point out which figures she thinks may be wrong and I will get that particular figure checked and we will confirm or otherwise whether the previous answer was wrong or whether

it is not, but what I will not do is be invited and accept an invitation to check every single figure from time immemorial because the staff of the GHA have better things to do like looking after patients.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

I will write to the Minister because the figures that I have been given in the past do not coincide with the figures I have been given now in this House. So I will write to the Minister and I will also write to the Minister and give him the figures that appear in the Abstract of Statistics of the Government as well, which do not coincide either with this figure that I have been given today and the figures that I have been given previously, and I will write to him.

**HON F R PICARDO:**

I think, if I may, the one issue which remains outstanding is what happens in the circumstances when the Minister is written to, he diligently checks the figure and finds that the figure is wrong? He will inform his opposite number that the figure is incorrect but what happens then to the record in Hansard? I think we have to find a mechanism so that the record in Hansard is amended. Perhaps the easiest way may be for the Minister to copy his answer to the Chair and for the Chair to cause that to be included in Hansard. It is an issue which has come up before which is to ensure the figures are provided in Hansard. Where a Minister either through the mechanism of an Opposition Member writing to him or otherwise finds later that a figure provided in the House turns out to be incorrect, the Abstract of Statistics is another issue but where a Minister finds that an answer he has given in the House is incorrect and therefore that answer is in Hansard, I think it is fair to the public who may or may not wish to rely on that in future, to have something there which shows that that figure is incorrect and perhaps we should all apply our minds to how that happens.

**MR SPEAKER:**

Can not a suitably phrased question be put for Question Time for the next sitting of the House?

**HON F R PICARDO:**

Perhaps that is the only way to deal with it.

**MR SPEAKER:**

Will the Minister confirm that the answer given under number so and so was wrong and that the true answer is so and so.

**HON F R PICARDO:**

Perhaps.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

I want to say this so that it goes on record. The figures that I have been given today as far as the out-patient attendances at the Primary Care Centre for 2003, given today by the Minister, is 147,725 and checking on the figures that I have been provided with in this House for 2003, the figure is 152,397. Then we go to the Abstract of Statistics and the figure for that year is 181,507, so therefore I will let him know and I will write to him and I will tell him that the figures are incorrect again.

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

Let me reiterate what I said before that I am not answerable for the Abstract of Statistics, I will answer for the accuracy of the figures that have been given and if the figures are wrong I will correct them as I did the last time and they went into Hansard but I will not go and check the Abstract of Statistics, let us be clear.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

What I have said in my intervention is not referring to the Abstract of Statistics but referring to the question which relates to 2003 which was provided to me by his predecessor and which he has provided to me today, and they are completely different.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Is the Minister in a position to confirm whether the source of the information is the Abstract of Statistics is in fact the Health Authority or not? Normally, I have not looked at it myself, but normally in the Abstract it tells at the bottom where the information came from.

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

I suspect that it would be but we had this discussion the last time, first of all to say whether one is right and the other one is wrong one has to make sure that one is comparing apples to apples. For example, when we come to a question very shortly when the hon Member thinks she is asking one question and in fact she is asking another one. In this particular case if I had taken her questions literally, if we look at Question No. 2193 the hon Member asked me '*can the Government confirm the number of GP attendances at the Primary Care Centre?*'. Now that I have taken to mean and presumably because she has not challenged it, I have taken it to mean how many people go and see the doctors. It could also more properly be taken to mean how many doctors go into the Health Centre every day, so she should first of all make sure she phrases her questions correctly and secondly, if the Abstract of Statistics may not be providing the same basis for the calculation. That is the first thing that needs to be established and this happens in other questions.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

No the Abstract of Statistics does not indicate the number of GPs that see patients in the Health Centre.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

Can I just hopefully wrap this up? If it were to be established, subject to that caveat, if it were to be established that three official sources provide a different statistic for the same variable, then it would be perfectly legitimate for the hon Lady to say 'look, these are three Government sources of information, the GHA Report, the Minister in the House and the Abstract of Statistics, now which of the three is right?'. That would be perfectly legitimate. What the hon Lady should not do is assume that the information given in answers in Questions is wrong. It might be the Abstract that is wrong, there may be a difference between her question and what the Abstract of Statistics says, there is a whole sort of possibilities, or one of the other sources that she is reading from may be wrong, but if it is established once she has written to the Minister if it is established that there are different figures given for the same thing exactly in three different Government sources, then the Government of course would accept not necessarily the Minister for Health because his question may be right, it may be the Abstract of Statistics that is wrong and that is not his responsibility, unless of course the source is the GHA in which case he is ultimately responsible but we first have got to establish in an objective way that there is actually a contradiction in the statistics that have been provided. I suggest that the hon Lady without getting up now to repeat her point which we all now understand, writes to the Minister and explains why she believes that the information is inaccurate and the Minister will investigate and if we establish that there is a contradiction between the statistics of course the Government have an obligation to clarify the situation, inside this House as well as in correspondence to the hon Member.

ORAL

**NO. 2201 OF 2004**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – OUT-PATIENT ATTENDANCES**

Can Government confirm whether the statistics given for the years 2001, 2002 and 2003, in connection with the total number of out-patient attendances at the Primary Care Centre also include all the departments as given in replies to Question Nos. 781 and 1553 of 2004?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

Answered together with Question No. 2203 of 2004.

**NO. 2202 OF 2004**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – FRONTIER WORKERS**

Can Government state how many frontier workers are currently registered with the Primary Care Centre under the GPMS, and of these can they give a breakdown of Gibraltarians, Spanish nationals and other nationalities?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

A total of 5369 frontier workers are registered with the Group Practice Medical Scheme as at 14 November, 2004. While it is theoretically possible to give a breakdown by nationality it would involve a disproportionate amount of administrative effort to obtain these statistics and provide the answer in the form requested by the hon Member because patient records are not classified by nationality.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2202 OF 2004**

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Are these records computerised?

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

Not yet.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Is it the case that frontier workers register when they obtain employment in Gibraltar and start paying social insurance, and does anything happen if they leave or is this a reflection of a historical position and not necessarily a current position?

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

It is exactly the question that I have asked myself and I am investigating.

**NO. 2203 OF 2004**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – PRIMARY CARE CENTRE**

Can the Government confirm why in answer to Question No. 1553 of 2004, there are no figures available for patients attending Physiotherapy at the Primary Care Centre, for the month of September and if the figure is now available can they provide it?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

I can confirm that the statistics that I have given the hon Member in answer to Question No. 2200 in connection with the total number of attendances includes statistics from all the departments of the Primary Care Centre.

With regard to the statistics provided with answer to Question No. 1553 of 2004, the hon Member may have realised that four of the rows contained data in respect of visits to the community and not in the Centre itself. These were house calls by GP's, District Nurses, Occupational Therapists and Physiotherapists.

In order to avoid any further confusion, I have limited the information in answer to Question No. 2200 to conform strictly to what has been requested without the additional information.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 2201 AND 2203 OF 2004**

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

So this is where probably the explanation lies. If I get an answer to Question No. 781 where I have 13 departments of the Health Centre and then in answer to Question No. 1553 I get 18 departments, I get an extra five departments which were not included in answer to Question No. 781, but it surprises me that I should have house calls included in the out-patient attendances of the Primary Care Centre when always house calls have been the subject of another question.

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

That is precisely what I am telling the hon Member, that in the last answer in answer to Question No. 1553, she was given information over and above what she was asking for and in order to avoid confusion in answer to Question No. 2200 now, I have restricted it to calls and departments and visits to the Health Centre and not to

those in the community. Therefore physiotherapists should never have been in in the first place and now they have been left out completely.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

I suppose OT as well because that is the community as well?

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

I have named the four departments. House calls by GP's, by District Nurses, by Occupational Therapists and by Physiotherapists.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Fine but am I getting the figures now?

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

She has asked me to confirm whether the statistics include all departments as given in replies and the answer is yes, they include all departments. I am confirming it.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

No, but is the Minister saying then that I should subtract from Question No. 1553 the five departments that he is saying, house calls, physiotherapists and OT?

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

Can I suggest that the hon Member waits until she gets a written answer and then maybe she will follow it? Question No. 2201 is whether statistics given, she asked the question I do not have to read it, and similarly she has Question No. 2203. If I may I will repeat the answer because obviously she has not followed the answer. I will read the answer again. I can confirm that the statistics that I have given the hon Member in answer to Question No. 2200 a few moments ago, the list that she has in front of her, the schedule I have just given her.....

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

I have not got it.

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

In answer to Question No. 2200 a few moments ago I have given her the schedule. Of course she has got it, I have just given it to her. So I can confirm that that schedule contains the total number of attendances and it includes statistics from all the departments in the Primary Care Centre that she has always asked for. I have



eliminated the four departments that were put in by error in answer to Question No. 1553, so that she can compare with the previous answers that have been given.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

I will be writing to the Minister because they do not tally with previous answers. This is a nightmare. I remember the Minister's phrase when he said comparing apples with apples but here I am comparing apples that are rotten so I will write to him.

ORAL

**NO. 2204 OF 2004**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – NON-ENTITLED PATIENTS**

Can Government confirm how many non-entitled patients have been admitted to St Bernard's Hospital during the month of October of 2004?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

Answered together with Question No. 2205 of 2004.

**NO. 2205 OF 2004**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – NON-ENTITLED PATIENTS**

Can Government confirm how many non-entitled patients have been admitted to St Bernard's Hospital during the month of November of 2004?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

Fourteen and eight non-entitled patients have been admitted to St Bernard's Hospital during the month of October 2004, and November 2004 respectively.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 2204 AND 2205 OF 2004**

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

When we are talking about non-entitled patients can consultants decide what fees they charge the non-entitled patients?

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

Private practice no longer exists in the Health Authority.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

I see, then why are they not entitled?

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

This is the months of October and November and private practice finished on 1<sup>st</sup> December.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

So it means that from now on nobody is entitled to private practice.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

Well there is fee paying, but one pays the hospital not the doctor.

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

The hon Member should realise what non-entitled means. It is not the same as a private patient.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

Exactly, a fee paying patient.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

So the statistics for December, let us see if we have understood the answer correctly, will be fee paying patients, is that correct?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

Yes, as of 1<sup>st</sup> December nobody. If by the phrase 'private practice' what is meant is receiving treatment and paying a fee to the doctor, which is what most people understand by private practice, that will not happen after 1<sup>st</sup> December. There will continue to be non-entitled patients, not least in the Port visiting sailors, shippers and people of that sort, they will pay because they are not entitled to free care but they will pay the Health Authority not the doctor that delivers the treatment.

**NO. 2206 OF 2004**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – OUT-PATIENT ATTENDANCES**

Can the Government confirm whether the figures they have given in reply to Questions in this House, in connection with out-patient attendances at St Bernard's Hospital, for the years 2001, 2002, 2003, all include casualty and all out-patient clinics, and if not can the Government supply this information?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

Yes.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2206 OF 2004**

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

I will write to the Minister to give him different figures that I have been provided for different years in this House.

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

I have not provided any figures. She has asked me whether they include casualty and out-patients and the answer is yes Sir, what different figures is she talking about?

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

That the figures do not tally, does the Minister not understand that? I would like to dwell on this Question No. 2206 because in fact the figures that I have got for 2000, 2001 and 2002 all relate to clinics and casualty, and from then on I am given clinics, A&E, Dressings and Physio, so of course they do not tally because I am being given different departments every time I ask the question.

ORAL

**NO. 2207 OF 2004**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – IN-PATIENT ADMISSIONS**

In view of certain erroneous statistics given in this House, can Government confirm the number of in-patient admissions at St Bernard's Hospital for the year 2003?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2208 to 2211 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2208 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 during the month of October 2004?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2207 and 2209 to 2211 of 2004.

**NO. 2209 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 during the month of November 2004?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2207, 2208, 2210 and 2211 of 2004.



ORAL

**NO. 2210 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 during the month of October 2004?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2207 to 2209 and 2211 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2211 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 during the month of November 2004?

**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 2211**

**Answer to Question 2207**

In-patient admissions

2003	
January	542
February	515
March	542
April	520
May	518
June	480
July	499
August	533
September	500
October	496
November	531
December	509
TOTAL	6185

**Answer to Question 2208**

**In Patient Admissions**  
528

**Average No of patients**  
155

**Answer to Question 2209**

In patient admissions  
500

Average no of patients per day  
151

**Answer to Question 2210**

	Clinics	A & E Clinic	A & E Dressing	Physiotherapy
October	1365	1826	519	708

**Answer to Question 2211**

	Clinics	A & E Clinic	A & E Dressing	Physiotherapy
November	1386	1574	542	467

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 2207 TO 2211 OF 2004**

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

I am afraid I will be have to write to the Minister again because on this occasion he coincides with the Abstract of Statistics, which is 6,185 regarding Question No. 2207 but in relation to Questions that have been given in this House previously, the figure is different which is 6,179, so I will write to him.

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

Much as I love receiving letters from the hon Member, I would ask her to note that during January and February I will have a little minor distraction like the moving to a new hospital, so she will forgive me if I do not give a lot of attention to her letters for a little while.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

It does not matter because then if we have another meeting of the House I will put another question.

**NO. 2212 OF 2004**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – WAITING LISTS**

Can Government give details of the third review team recommendation which relates to the elimination of all surgical waiting list backlogs before the introduction of a scheduling system for planned surgery?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

To enable the implementation of a fully scheduled service for all planned surgery the backlog of patients currently on surgical waiting lists needs to be removed. This removal process is being managed in a variety of ways including the validation of all current waiting lists, the implementation of new theatre schedules and the recruitment of two Surgeons.

ORAL

**NO. 2213 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 October 2004?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2214 of 2004.

**NO. 2214 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 November 2004?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

Ten private in-patients were treated in St Bernard's Hospital during the month of October 2004 and six during November 2004.

Numbers of private out-patients seen or treated during this period cannot be provided as this data is not available.

**NO. 2215 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**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2216 of 2004.



**NO. 2216 OF 2004**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – PRIVATE PATIENTS**

Can Government confirm what criteria they use for considering patients wanting to access our health services, to be considered as private patients?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

**Answer to Question No. 2216**

As from 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2004 no private medicine is being practised within the GHA. Patients who are neither entitled to receive free treatment under the provisions of any legislation nor of a reciprocal agreement which may be in force, may be charged a fee payable to the GHA.

**Answer to Question No. 2215**

With regard to the rest of the information requested by the hon Member with regard to waiting lists, this is set out in the schedule that I hand to her.

Answer to Question 2216 of 2004

Answer to Question 2215

OUTPATIENT PUBLIC & PRIVATE WAITING TIMES

SPECIALITY	CLINICS	SURGERY
OTORHINOLARYNGOLOGY	Adults 6 Weeks Children 8 weeks.	Adults 24 Months. Children 12 Months.
GENERAL SURGERY	20 Weeks.	Up to 1 Year depending on procedure.
GENERAL MEDICINE	7 to 9 Weeks.	
PAEDIATRICS	3 Weeks.	
OPHTHALMOLOGY	10 Weeks.	Routine Surgery 2 Months. Cataract Surgery 6 Weeks.
ELDEROLOGY	1 Weeks.	
PAIN CLINIC	1 Week.	
PSYCHIATRY	1 to 3 Weeks.	
GYNAECOLOGY	Urgent cases 1 Day 1 Week for cases requiring attention soon. 4 Weeks for routine cases.	1 week for urgent 3 weeks for cases requiring attention soon 12 weeks. for routine surgery
ORTHOAEDICS	Urgent cases 1 day. 2 Weeks for cases requiring attention soon. 7 months for routine cases.	Waiting time for surgery varies 2 Weeks depending on intervention.

There is no waiting time for emergencies.

**NO. 2217 OF 2004**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – DISTRICT COMMUNITY SERVICES**

Can the Government confirm, in view of the reply given by the Minister for Health in answer to Question No. 826 of 2004 and No. 1589 of 2004, that they intend to improve resources within the District Community Services?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

It is Government policy to improve all services to the public whenever and wherever possible. Whether this requires an improvement in resources is a matter that needs to be considered on a service by service basis.

In respect of the District Community Service, the Government will consider this as part of the many and varied changes that are already taking place within the health service as part of the overall review being carried out.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2217 OF 2004**

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

I take it that the famous review again is looking at this matter, but will the Minister not agree that he has actually said previous to this Question on the same matter, that the Gibraltar Healthcare Development Team uses international comparisons when looking at service provision and that this is not the same as making formal recommendations for change, but it simply adds to the debate. Therefore, what the Minister is saying is that when it suits them they say that the Healthcare Development Team has international comparisons and therefore does not apply to the manner in which they arrive at certain recommendations, and it is up to the Government to decide whether or not they accept the recommendation or not.

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

It does not mean that at all. If the hon Member has quoted two answers to two previous questions and she has chosen one, in answer to Question No. 826 and the position remains the same, I have told her that the present complement of the District Nursing team is able to handle the existing workload.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

So if they are able to handle the existing workload it means that there is not going to be any change in the department.

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

That is a statement not a question.

ORAL

NO. 2218 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

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

**Answer to Question 2218 of 2004**

The persons presently waiting for Elective Surgery in each speciality are:-

Ophthalmic	20
Orthopaedic	404
Gynaecology	44
Otorhinolaryngology	153
General Surgery	129

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2218 OF 2004**

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

When the Minister issued a press release on 27<sup>th</sup> July saying that patients were able to, with the consultants, agree on scheduling, that press release said that that would be done once the backlogs were eliminated. Seeing that there is here, especially in orthopaedics 404, does it mean that the scheduling will be able to be carried out irrespective of whether there is a backlog or not, because that is what the press release said?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

The hon Lady has just asked that and has had the answer in the answer to the previous question. Amongst the means being employed to remove the backlogs are, and therefore enabling scheduling to commence, obviously one cannot schedule people whilst there are still people waiting historically. So before scheduling gets off the ground, before current patients can be scheduled, one has got to get rid of the people who have been waiting there for months. It is already working quite well in gynaecology but in orthopaedics it cannot start until the second Orthopaedic Surgeon comes on stream and they both have access to more operating theatres, both of which come with the move to the new hospital now in February, at which stage the 404 figure will start to fall rapidly to the point where the scheduling can then commence in orthopaedics. But the scheduling has already started in gynaecology for example, and in ophthalmology.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Therefore, what the Chief Minister is saying that when we look at ENT and we look at general surgery, the scheduling will not be able to start until the backlog is also eliminated but does it mean that there is only one at the moment and there is only one general surgeon, does it mean that the Government.....

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

Yes, the Government had various options to eliminate this. We could have gone down the route that we used for ophthalmology which is basically to bring in this team of visiting surgeons to operate.....

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

A theatre is not needed.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

Well, but that is different, it is simple, it did not need a theatre, it is a standard operation, it is a 20 minute intervention, after care is less important for these things. For general surgery and ophthalmology and I suppose ENT as well, we went the other way. We said better have permanent in-house resources but that requires a

second surgeon. There is no point in having a second surgeon until we have got more operating theatres, because at the moment they have not got enough access to theatre because they have got to share the theatre between all the operating disciplines. So once we have the new operating theatres and the surgery techniques started in the day surgery theatres that are also available in the new hospital, and the new second general surgeon has come, the scheduling system will begin. The scheduling system will not, if this is what she is getting at she is right, the scheduling system does not start from day one because from day one in the new hospital the first task is to beat down the historical waiting lists. When they are under control then one can kick off with the scheduling as has already happened in the two disciplines that I mentioned earlier, ophthalmology and gynaecology.



**NO. 2219 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 during the month of October 2004, giving a breakdown by sex and age?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2220 to 2222 of 2004.

**NO. 2220 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 during the month of November 2004, giving a breakdown by sex and age?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2219, 2221 and 2222 of 2004.

**NO. 2221 OF 2004**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – ELDERLY CARE PATIENTS**

Can Government state during the month of October 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 specifying sex and age:-

- (1) Elderly persons living alone;
- (2) Elderly persons needing support;
- (3) Others able to be looked after?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2219, 2220 and 2222 of 2004.

**NO. 2222 OF 2004**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – ELDERLY CARE PATIENTS**

Can Government state during the month of November 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 specifying sex and age:-

- (1) Elderly persons living alone;
- (2) Elderly persons needing support;
- (3) Others able to be looked after?

**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. 2222 of 2004**

**Answer to Question Nos. 2219 & 2220**

The number of long stay elderly patients during the months of October and November 2004 remained unchanged. The breakdown is as follows:-

**Age Groups**

65 to 70	=	3 females	0 males
71 to 75	=	3 females	3 males
76 to 80	=	6 females	3 males
81 to 85	=	23 females	3 males
86 to 90	=	10 females	2 males
91 to 95	=	7 females	0 males
96 to 100	=	2 females	1 male

Total number of females 54.

Total number of males 12.

**Answer to Question Nos. 2221 and 2222**

Ten patients have been formally discharged. Of these ten patients five elderly are living alone.

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. 2219 TO 2222 OF 2004**

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Can the Government confirm whether all of these patients will be moved to Europort or whether other arrangements will be made for them?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

I think as the hon Member has been told now on more occasions than I am sure she should need, some of these are being allocated beds in the extended wing of Mount Alvernia when that is available. The new facilities at Mount Alvernia.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Will the new facilities at Mount Alvernia be ready before the hospital actually opens?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

I remember that she asked that very question last time. The new hospital is opening in February, Mount Alvernia new wing is operating touch and go but that is no big deal, if Mount Alvernia is not ready they will have to be temporarily accommodated in the new hospital then.

**NO. 2223 OF 2004**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – ELDERLY CARE PATIENTS**

How many elderly citizens are awaiting a place at Mount Alvernia, and how many of these are occupying a bed at St Bernard's Hospital as at the end of October 2004, giving a breakdown of sex and age?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

Answered together with Question No. 2224 of 2004.

**NO. 2224 OF 2004**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – ELDERLY CARE PATIENTS**

How many elderly citizens are awaiting a place at Mount Alvernia, and how many of these are occupying a bed at St Bernard's Hospital as at the end of November 2004, giving a breakdown of sex and age?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

**Answer to Question No. 2223**

Thirty-six elderly citizens are awaiting a place at Mount Alvernia and are occupying a bed at St Bernard's Hospital as at the end of October 2004.

Breakdown of sex and age is as follows:

Female = 28  
Male = 8

65 – 70 = None  
71 – 75 = 1  
76 – 80 = 7  
81+ = 28

**Answer to Question No. 2224**

Thirty-nine elderly citizens are awaiting a place at Mount Alvernia and are occupying a bed at St Bernard's Hospital as at the end of November 2004.

Breakdown of sex and age is as follows:

Female = 31  
Male = 8

65 – 70 = None  
71 – 75 = 1  
76 – 80 = 7  
81+ = 31



**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 2223 AND 2224 OF 2004**

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

I would like to inform the Government that I have detected another error in previous Questions in this House. I will refer to my Question No. 56 of 2004 when the Hon Mrs Del Agua told me that there were 37 patients occupying a bed at St Bernard's Hospital. She then said that the information would be sent to my hon Colleague, the Hon Mr Bruzon, and lo and behold I look at the information and I look at the same month and the same year and she gives him the figure of 39. Could she please confirm by writing either to him or to myself whether the figure is either 37 or 39?

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

I am not sure I understand what she wants me to do. If she is saying that my Colleague has given her a different answer, is that what she is saying?

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Yes.

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

If she has already received an answer from my hon Colleague, I fail to see why she is asking me the same question again, to be perfectly honest. But if she has just to see whether we can give her different answers, then we shall have to consult and see why we have given her different answers.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

No, it is not that the Minister for Health has given me a different answer, it is the Hon Mrs Del Agua in answer to Question No. 56 of 2004 she answered a similar question and gave me 37 persons awaiting a place at Mount Alvernia for the month of December 2003. Then she wrote to my Colleague the Hon Mr Bruzon and for the same month and the same year she gave him the figure of 39. All I am saying is could she write and confirm that it is 39 or 37, that is all.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

The question arises from an answer to a Question that asks for the statistics in respect of October and November 2004.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

I thought I would take the opportunity since we are talking about the same, the elderly citizens. If we are talking about elderly citizens awaiting a place at Mount Alvernia and how many of these are occupying a bed, then I put a question in for these months but then I look at the statistics that I am given in the previous meetings

of the House. It is not that I have the time in this House to look. It was only about three months ago and all I am saying is that seeing we are talking about elderly citizens, I have just taken the opportunity of telling the Hon Minister for Social Affairs if she can confirm which figure is the correct one, because I have been given one and my hon Colleague has been given another.

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

Seeing that it is my question but I am not expected to answer, can I suggest to the hon Member that she writes to my Colleague explaining what it is that she wants to know?

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

I have gone one better this time. I am asking her to write to me to confirm whether it is either 37 or 39 in December 2004.

**HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:**

I cannot understand if the hon Member is saying that I provided her with an answer and in the same Session of the House I wrote to her Colleague with a different answer, if I have already provided a verbal answer why should I feel a need to write to her Colleague?

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

No, she has not understood. She wrote to him and previous to writing to him she gave me the figure. When she wrote to him and gave him what was supposed to be the same answer to the question that I asked, I got 37 and he got 39.

**MR SPEAKER:**

Miss Montegriffo, your experience of this House is far greater than mine is or ever will be, but I cannot see how the line adopted now falls into the category of a supplementary to the Hon Minister for Health on this Session. You are free to take it up in correspondence with the Minister for Social Affairs.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

It is only that it so happened that at the time that I asked this question a few months ago, it was not the Minister for Health that answered it, it was the Hon Mrs Del Agua.

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

It was a year ago.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

No it was not a year ago.

**MR SPEAKER:**

It was Question No. 56, a long time ago. We are now two thousand and something.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

It was Question No. 56 of 2004.

**MR SPEAKER:**

A long time ago.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Well, but all I am saying is that if I have taken the opportunity of looking.....

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

It was January of 2004.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

The question relates to 2003 and it was not put a year ago. Now if the Government are not interested fine, if they do not want to give me the answer then fine.

**MR SPEAKER:**

I suggest the hon Member write to the Minister who will then reply.

**HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:**

I will try to look at the answers and try to decipher what it is that she wants and if I can provide the information I will.

ORAL

**NO. 2225 OF 2004**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – ST BERNARD’S HOSPITAL**

Can Government confirm whether patients are still having to wait for several hours at St Bernard’s Hospital before being admitted, because of beds not being readily available for them?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2226 and 2227 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2226 OF 2004**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – ST BERNARD’S HOSPITAL**

Can Government confirm how many routine operations were cancelled at St Bernard’s Hospital due to the non-availability of beds in October of 2004?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2225 and 2227 of 2004.

**NO. 2227 OF 2004**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – ST BERNARD’S HOSPITAL**

Can Government confirm how many routine operations were cancelled at St Bernard’s Hospital due to the non-availability of beds in November of 2004?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

**Answer to Question No. 2225**

It is not usual for patients to have to wait for several hours for admission due to the unavailability of beds. Patients sometimes have to wait for results from tests carried out before a decision can be taken whether to admit. Once it has been decided to admit the patient in the majority of cases a bed is allocated within an acceptable period of time. Nevertheless and very regrettably, it is occasionally inevitable to have to wait for an extended period, especially if there are other patients who require admission of a more urgent nature.

**Answer to Question Nos. 2226 & 2227**

Nine elective operations were cancelled in October 2004 and none in November as a result of non-availability of beds.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 2225 TO 2227 OF 2004**

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

I am afraid that I have caught another discrepancy. This relates to Question No. 139 of 2004 and Question No. 229 of 2003, which gives for 2003, 21 operations cancelled. I have looked at the Gibraltar Health Authority Annual Report for the year 2003 and it gives 27 operations cancelled. I am referring to Question No. 2226 and, therefore, in answer to Question No. 139 of 2004 and in answer to Question No. 229 of 2003, for the year 2003 I have been given.....

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

Another point of order. The hon Lady asks a question for the month of October. When she is given a figure the next words that come out of her mouth cannot then be

'ah I have spotted another discrepancy because in 2003 you told me', she might say 'well thank you very much for the information in respect of October and November 2004. I have just noticed that last year you got it wrong when you answered this same question.' Her response to the figure for 2004, October and November, cannot be discrepancy.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

I did not say it was a discrepancy between November and October, but fine. What I will do then is I will put another question in next time and I will ask the Minister to confirm whether there have been 21 operations cancelled for the year 2003 as the information which I have been given in this House, or whether the Gibraltar Health Authority Annual Report for the year 2003 is correct, because we are talking about a difference of six.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

Ask a question about the Gibraltar Health Authority Report.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

No, it just proves that every time there is a report and I compare it with the information I am given by the Government, there are discrepancies everywhere.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

No, what it proves is that if notice is given of a question there is a chance that the person being questioned has the information available or the ability to rebut the allegations, otherwise we sit here quietly listening to the hon Member allege discrepancies when the answer may in fact be not that there is discrepancy but that the hon Member is not comparing apples with apples. The hon Lady sits there asserting that she has found discrepancies in 2003 and we have no alternative but to take her word for it, but that should not be interpreted by her as an acceptance by us that she is right. I bet in many of these cases there is an explanation for what she calls a discrepancy. In others there may not be. In others there may be an error, but the fact that we cannot now from memory tell her what happened in 2003 or the figures, proves nothing except the fact that she has not given notice of the questions that she is now seeking to ask in this House. That is all it proves.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

That is why I said that I would be writing to the Minister so that he could confirm which figure is correct.

**NO, 2228 OF 2004**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – MRSA INFECTION**

Can the Government confirm whether the Gibraltar Health Authority is looking at alternative hospitals in the UK to replace St Mary's in view of persistent reports of patients having suffered greatly due to MRSA infection?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

No, the GHA is pleased with the service offered to Gibraltar patients by St Mary's Hospital, Paddington.

MRSA and controlling the spread of infection is a major issue for all hospitals worldwide. According to the official Department of Health data, St Mary's actually has one of the lowest rates of MRSA infection for a specialist London teaching hospital.



**NO. 2229 OF 2004**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – SPONSORED PATIENTS**

Can the Government state, during this financial year, what has been the number of Sponsored Patients treated in the UK and at what cost, together with the comparable figures for the previous year?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

Answered together with Question No. 2230 of 2004.

**NO. 2230 OF 2004**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – PATIENT REFERRALS**

Can the Government state, during this financial year, what has been the number of patient referrals to the UK and at what cost, together with the comparable figures for the previous year?

**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 2230 of 2004**

**Answer to Question 2229**

The number of sponsored patient referred to the UK for the current financial year to date is 621. The cost identified to date is £1,174,905. (This figure is subject to change). The number of patient referrals to the UK for financial year 2003/2004 up to December 2003 is 574 with a cost on ex quota patients of £913,804.

**Answer to Question 2230**

The number of patient referrals to the UK for the current financial year to date is 913. The cost identified to date is £1,174,905 (This figure is subject to change). The number of patient referrals to the UK for financial year 2003/2004 up to December 2003 is 859 with a cost on ex quota patients of £913,804.

**NO. 2231 OF 2004**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – ALGECIRAS CLINIC**

Can Government confirm how much has the Gibraltar Health Authority spent in sending patients to the Algeciras Clinic for scans during the financial year 2004/2005 with the comparable figure for the same period last year?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2232 to 2234 of 2004.

**NO. 2232 OF 2004**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – MALAGA CLINIC**

Can the Minister for Health stage how much money was spent by the Gibraltar Health Authority with regard to patients being sent to the Malaga Clinic for scans in October of 2004?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2231, 2233 and 2234 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2233 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 November of 2004?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2231, 2232 and 2234 of 2004.

**NO. 2234 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 November of 2004?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

Question No. 2234 is not being answered as it is identical to Question No. 2233.

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

**Answer to Question 2234 of 2004**

**Answer to Question 2231**

The total amount spent in the financial year 2004/2005 in sending patients to Algeciras Clinic is £159,254.89.

The comparable figure for the same period last year is £192,603.95.

**Answer to Question 2232**

The amount of money spent by the GHA with regard to patients being sent to the Malaga Clinic for scans in October 2004 is £2,074.52.

**Answer to Question 2233**

The amount spent by the GHA with regard to patients being sent to Malaga clinic for scans in November 2004 is £870.52.



ORAL

**NO. 2235 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 during the month of October 2004?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2236 and 2237 of 2004.

**NO. 2236 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 during the month of November 2004?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2235 and 2237 of 2004.

**NO. 2237 OF 2004**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – SPONSORED PATIENTS**

Do Government agree that in view of the increased number of Sponsored Patients being treated in Spanish Medical Institutions, a suitable office to deal with their concerns, or subsistence and accommodation, should be opened in the hinterland in order to provide them with assistance?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

**Answer to Question Nos. 2235 and 2236**

All patients are given the choice to be treated in Spain as opposed to the UK at the time of referral when this is considered appropriate by the referring Consultant. 52 patients out of 163 have elected to go to Spain during the month of October 2004 and 46 patients out of 177 during the month of November 2004.

**Answer to Question No. 2237**

The Government are not considering opening an office to deal with Sponsored Patients in the Spanish hinterland.

**NO. 2238 OF 2004**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – MEALS**

Can the Government confirm how many employees will be involved in the production and transport of the meals to be delivered to patients in the Europort Hospital from the old wine factory area where the kitchen will be situated?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

Government can confirm that a total of 13 catering staff will be providing the service, which is the same number as at present. Transport of meals and domestic duties will also be provided within the current staffing provision.

ORAL

**NO. 2239 OF 2004**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – COMPLAINTS REVIEW PANEL**

Can the Government confirm how often the members of the new independent Complaints Review Panel have met to consider complaints from users of our health services?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

Answered together with Question No. 2240 of 2004.

**NO. 2240 OF 2004**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – COMPLAINTS REVIEW PANEL**

Can the Government confirm how many complaints have been lodged to the new independent review panel since it started to function to the end of November 2004, from users of our health services, specifying the date of each complaint?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

Up to the end of November 2004, no complaints have been referred to the Independent Review Panel. There has been no need for the Review Panel to meet.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 2239 AND 2240 OF 2004**

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Is it a condition of the Government that members of a panel have to be residents of Gibraltar?

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

No.

**NO. 2241 OF 2004**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – GYNAECOLOGY SURGERY**

Can Government confirm whether scheduling surgery in the specialty of Gynaecology was implemented last October and how many patients have taken up the offer?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

The preparatory work for the implementation of a pilot scheduled service in Gynaecology began in October. The essential work includes the development of new theatre schedules, new roles and responsibilities and patient information leaflets. The pilot initiative will go live in the New Year.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2241 OF 2004**

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Did the Minister say it would start in October or did he say that it would go live in the New Year? I did not quite understand.

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

The pilot has started, the preparatory work is being done and then the whole thing will go fully live in the New Year.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

So therefore, so far no patients have taken up the offer.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

There has been some scheduling already under the pilot scheme.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

If there have been some patients therefore, and I am asking how many there are, can the Minister say in the pilot scheme how many have taken up the offer?

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

I have not answered that part of the question because quite honestly it does not really make sense because there is not an offer and acceptance between bidding and buying here, the way scheduling takes place is that patients come in and they are allocated a slot. It is not a question of offering and agreeing to take up the offer. So strictly the answer to that is that no patients have taken up an offer where an offer has not been made.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Therefore can the Minister say how many people have taken up the slot offered? Or is the Minister saying that nothing has been offered yet? If the Chief Minister has said that there is a pilot scheme and that it has already started and some people have been offered a slot, if they have been offered have they accepted?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

With the word 'slot' she has to be careful. The way scheduling works is that instead of being put on a list for somebody who needs an operation and then going home and waiting to receive a letter in due course saying to come in on 31<sup>st</sup> June or such and such a date, there and then they try and agree a date before they go home, 'how about 23<sup>rd</sup> December is that convenient at 3 o'clock?'. There and then they make appointments rather than send one home and write informing when the intervention is going to be done. So it is not a sort of a slot, they are not slots it is done by agreement there and then. There have been people, I am sure that the Minister can write informing on how many people have been scheduled as opposed to written to informing.

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

It is still a pilot scheme, it is on-going.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Would the patients that have been scheduled, would they be people that have been scheduled between October and the end of this year, or would the scheduling have been in respect of what starts in January?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

I think it was between October and December.



**NO. 2242 OF 2004**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – ORAL SURGEON**

Can the Government confirm whether they agree that when the oral surgeon of the Gibraltar Health Authority is away from Gibraltar that a locum should be brought in to cover for this specialty?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

No.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2242 OF 2004**

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

The Minister must be aware that I have asked this question because of the case in hand that I wrote to him about, about a lady that had to be admitted and then on three occasions she was discharged because there were no beds, then she was offered a bed in Children's Ward depending on whether she fitted in the bed or not, then after the operation the patient got an infection and the oral surgeon left Gibraltar. I am sure he will remember about this case, and then the lady was told that she had to go to Cadiz because of the infection that she had and the nursing escort refused to go without a doctor because she might require a tracheotomy. Two hours elapsed before the patient was transported to Cadiz. After this horrendous story the Minister says that when the oral surgeon is away from Gibraltar there will not be a locum. Well I find it quite extraordinary because this is not what I think the lady was told when she complained. I think when she complained the new Complaints Procedure was not in place.

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

I am very well aware of the case. The patient concerned has come to me in my office and explained exactly what had happened to her, I in fact encouraged her to lodge a formal complaint because there were some aspects of what she told me that I found disturbing about the way she had been treated, not about the lack of an oral surgeon, and that complaint is as far as I know, I have not been notified that it is delayed, that complaint is in the process of being dealt with. The question is whether there should be a locum in all the time. There has never been a locum, there was not a locum when she was Minister and the statistics show that this was,

unfortunately, a series of circumstances compounded themselves to lead to this particular situation. The patient was transported to Cadiz where happily she was operated on and she was given the treatment and when she came to see me she was recovered from the experience but still upset enough to want to lodge a complaint. As I said I encouraged her to do it but it is like everything else, in relation to the size of Gibraltar, to the demands for this type of surgery and the statistics for this type of incidents, does not warrant the expense of having a locum in place. This is a one on one and we would have another locum in at the weekends as well. The expense does not warrant it when we have cover elsewhere.

**NO. 2243 OF 2004**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – DIALYSIS REPORT**

Can Government confirm what were the total expenses involved in the report they commissioned on dialysis, which was carried out by Professor Terry Feest?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

The cost of the report produced by Professor Terry Feest amounted to £10,115.23p.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2243 OF 2004**

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

I suppose that the Government did not agree with the recommendations of Professor Terry Feest, as he said that the La Linea Unit was sufficient for our needs. I suppose that Mr Terry Feest did not realise how unfriendly our neighbours are.

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

I think we covered this in a previous question and I remember distinctly telling the hon Member that there had been three recommendations in the report and the Government had in fact by choosing to have dialysis in Gibraltar, had in fact taken an option which had not actually been covered by Professor Feest. Be that as it may, we are where we are, it is past history, the report was made, the decision was made to provide dialysis and that is where we are.

**NO. 2244 OF 2004**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – CANCER REGISTER**

Can Government state whether there is any evidence to suggest that the incidence of cancer in Gibraltar is increasing, according to the cancer register of the Gibraltar Health Authority?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

The incidence of cancer as recorded on the Cancer Register has remained fairly steady over the five-year observation period since the register was started by this Government.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2244 OF 2004**

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Except that I would ask the Minister whether he is willing to provide me with the figures, when we were in Government we did a study and I have got the figures with me but we did it on a yearly basis, we did it from 1980 to 1991 and when I looked at the report of the Gibraltar Health Authority Annual Report, as he rightly says, it is done on a five year basis. It says that this continues to be interim figures and due to the registry being constantly updated with new data on past years, the above figures will not be directly comparable with those published in previous reports. That is what the Report of the GHA says. Therefore all I am asking the Minister is if he can provide me with the figures from when it started for five years, on a yearly basis. Is it not possible to have complete figures for the first five years?

**HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:**

I have in front of me provisional figures dating back to 1999 which is the first year when the Cancer Register was in full force. These are provisional figures, I have been advised, and not intended yet for unqualified publication. The Director of Public Health tells me that the data is currently undergoing audit because there are a number of factors that have still to be quantified. For example, it is known that there are cases that are not directly reported to the Cancer Registry and therefore he is having to establish a system of gathering this data in different ways to what it has been gathered up to now. There is also a need to check the information that has been gathered so far and in short, he tells me that the figures will not be ready for

publication for at least another year, but the indications of the first five-year spread are that the figures that we have so far are fairly steady but the figures cannot be published yet because he is not happy with their accuracy.

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Are the Government intending to look at the figures once they are as accurate as possible and look at other EU States and compare the incidence of cancer in Gibraltar to other EU States, are they intending to do that?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

We have had this conversation before in Question Time. This was the whole purpose of creating the Cancer Registry, to get reliable statistics that could then be meaningfully compared with European average statistics to see whether indeed it is true, as many people believe, the incidence of cancer not in Gibraltar in particular but in the general geographical region, is higher than it should be. Certainly, if the evidence is that that is so, then we will certainly wish to pursue it and commission further external consultant studies, that is the whole purpose of gathering cancer statistics.

**NO. 2245 OF 2004**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – STRESS MACHINE**

Can the Minister for Health now confirm whether authorisation has been given by those who donated the treadmill, so that it can be upgraded and used for stress testing?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

The position remains as stated in answer to Question No. 1539 of 2004.

**NO. 2246 OF 2004**

**THE HON F R PICARDO**

**CAMMELL LAIRD**

Can Government state how many inspections in relation to the handling of asbestos have been carried out in respect of the works being carried out aboard the vessel ROTTERDAM at Cammell Laird, the date of those inspections, the parties that carried it out (including the names of any sub-contractors that might have been engaged by the Environmental Agency), what equipment has been used in taking any readings that might have been taken, what the findings of those inspections has been and what actions, if any, have been taken as a result?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING**

The Health & Safety Inspectorate are empowered under the Control of Asbestos at Work Regulations 1997, and as such have carried out the following inspections and meetings.

Since notification of the works and prior to any works commencing four meetings were held:

1. 19<sup>th</sup> July 2004 with Cammell Laird's Health & Safety Manager,
2. 26<sup>th</sup> July 2004 with the City Fire Brigade and the Environmental Agency,
3. 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2004 with the City Fire Brigade, Environmental Agency, Cammell Laird Health & Safety Manager, the Director of Cuddy Group Multi-Disciplined Contractor and a representative of the St John's Ambulance,
4. 18<sup>th</sup> August 2004 a meeting was held on board SS Rotterdam to familiarise the emergency services involved with the site.

The Health & Safety Inspectorate carried out inspections of the equipment, the preparation for the works and the laboratory.

Further inspections were carried out by them on 9<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> September, 7<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> October, 4<sup>th</sup> November and 8<sup>th</sup> December 2004.

Daily analysis of air monitoring throughout the work site is being carried out by RPS Analyse, independently of the Cuddy Group who are carrying out the asbestos removal works.

Daily analytical reports are inspected by the European Safety & Health Consultants BV and Cammell Laird Health & Safety Manager and the Health & Safety Inspectors.

No action has been necessary as work has been carried out in compliance with the necessary legislation and standards. As there are a lot of dates and details and names, I am happy to provide the Opposition Member with a copy of my answer for his convenience.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2246 OF 2004**

**HON F R PICARDO:**

I am very grateful to the Minister. One of the things that my question also asks is what equipment has been used in taking the readings, and that question obviously is because we have had some debate about what equipment is available or is not available locally. I wonder whether the Minister can assist in that respect at all?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

I have referred to the air monitoring, it is a process to measure the fibres and particles in the air within the logical range, and I presume the consultants, and experts, and scientists involved have the necessary equipment to do that but I cannot give a name, I am a layman totally in these matters, but if he likes I can find out in more detail exactly what type of machinery or equipment is used.

**HON F R PICARDO:**

I would indeed like that because notice has been given of that question. One of the constituent parts of the question asks what equipment has been used in taking the readings, just for the reason that I have already stated. Namely, that there has been some debate in this House as to what equipment is or is not available. Other than that I am grateful to the Minister.



**NO. 2247 OF 2004**

**THE HON F R PICARDO**

**CAMMELL LAIRD – 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 October and November 2004 giving a breakdown of how many of these have been filled by Gibraltarians?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2248 to 2270 of 2004.

**NO. 2248 OF 2004**

**THE HON F R PICARDO**

**EMPLOYMENT – WAGE SUBSIDY SCHEME**

Can Government state whether in the months of October and November 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**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2247 and 2249 to 2270 of 2004.

**NO. 2249 OF 2004**

**THE HON F R PICARDO**

**EMPLOYMENT – UNEMPLOYMENT REGISTER**

How many Gibraltarians were added to the unemployment register during the months of October and November 2004 giving a breakdown by age and sex?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2247, 2248 and 2250 to 2270 of 2004.

**NO. 2250 OF 2004**

**THE HON F R PICARDO**

**EMPLOYMENT – NUMBER OF GIBRALTARIANS**

Can Government state how many of the Gibraltarians employed in the months of October and November 2004, were registered with the Employment Agency giving a breakdown by age and sex?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2247 to 2249 and 2251 to 2270 of 2004.

**NO. 2251 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 October and November 2004?

- (a) including directors; and
- (b) excluding directors?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2247 to 2250 and 2252 to 2270 of 2004.

**NO. 2252 OF 2004**

**THE HON F R PICARDO**

**EMPLOYMENT – VACANCIES FILLED**

Can Government state of the vacancies filled in the months of October and November 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. 2247 to 2251 and 2253 to 2270 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2253 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 October and November 2004, giving a breakdown by nationality and industry?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2247 to 2252 and 2254 to 2270 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2254 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 October and November 2004 giving a breakdown by occupation, sex and nationality?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2247 to 2253 and 2255 to 2270 of 2004.



ORAL

**NO. 2255 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 October and November 2004 giving a breakdown of their trade and nationality?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2247 to 2254 and 2256 to 2270 of 2004.

**NO. 2256 OF 2004**

**THE HON F R PICARDO**

**EMPLOYMENT – NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED**

Can Government state how many Gibraltarians registered as unemployed with the Employment Agency in the months of October and November 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. 2247 to 2255 and 2257 to 2270 of 2004.

**NO. 2257 OF 2004**

**THE HON F R PICARDO**

**EMPLOYMENT – NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED**

Can Government state how many of the Gibraltarians employed in the months of October and November 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. 2247 to 2256 and 2258 to 2270 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2258 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 October and November 2004 giving a breakdown by occupation, sex and nationality?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2247 to 2257 and 2259 to 2270 of 2004.

**NO. 2259 OF 2004**

**THE HON F R PICARDO**

**EMPLOYMENT REGULATIONS (OFFENCES) ORDINANCE – FIXED PENALTIES**

Can Government state how many fixed penalties have been imposed on employers and in respect of how many employees in the months of October and November 2004 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**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2247 to 2258 and 2260 to 2270 of 2004.

**NO. 2260 OF 2004**

**THE HON F R PICARDO**

**EMPLOYMENT REGULATIONS (OFFENCES) ORDINANCE – PROSECUTIONS**

Can Government state how many prosecutions have been commenced under the Employment Regulations (Offences) Ordinance in the months of October and November 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. 2247 to 2259 and 2261 to 2270 of 2004.

**NO. 2261 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 October and November 2004 giving a breakdown by sex and age?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2247 to 2260 and 2262 to 2270 of 2004.

**NO. 2262 OF 2004**

**THE HON F R PICARDO**

**EMPLOYMENT – NON-EEC NATIONALS**

Can Government state how many non-EEC nationals in the months of October and November 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**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2247 to 2261 and 2263 to 2270 of 2004.



ORAL

**NO. 2263 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 October and November 2004?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2247 to 2262 and 2264 to 2270 of 2004.

**NO. 2264 OF 2004**

**THE HON F R PICARDO**

**EMPLOYMENT – SPANISH NATIONALS**

Can Government state of the Spanish nationals employed in the months of October and November 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. 2247 to 2263 and 2265 to 2270 of 2004.

**NO. 2265 OF 2004**

**THE HON F R PICARDO**

**EMPLOYMENT – OTHER BRITISH**

Can Government state of the “Other British” employed in the months of October and November 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. 2247 to 2264 and 2266 to 2270 of 2004.

**NO. 2266 OF 2004**

**THE HON F R PICARDO**

**EMPLOYMENT – MOROCCAN NATIONALS**

Can Government state how many Moroccan nationals employed in the months of October and November 2004 were new entrants to the local labour market?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2247 to 2265 and 2267 to 2270 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2267 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 October and November 2004, and the number of people and of employers involved?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2247 to 2266 and 2268 to 2270 of 2004.

**NO. 2268 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 October and November 2004, giving a breakdown by nationality of employees?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2247 to 2267 and 2269 to 2270 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2269 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 October and November 2004, giving a breakdown by sex?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2247 to 2268 and 2270 of 2004.

**NO. 2270 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 October and November 2004, giving a breakdown by sex?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING**

As explained earlier, I will be providing the hon Member with complete substantive answers to these Questions early in the New Year, covering the quarterly statistics. I do not want to be pedantic but there are two questions which are repeated. Just for convenience they are Question No. 2250 and No. 2257, they are completely the same and Question Nos. 2258 and 2254, if I am not mistaken.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 2247 TO 2270 OF 2004**

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

As a matter of courtesy, even as a point of order, I would like to say that for Question Nos. 2248 to 2270 I will be unable to answer directly, they may go down in this House for the record in Hansard but I will not be able to provide at the end of it all, at Question No. 2270, a direct answer to these statistical questions. It has been the practice and the policy of the Government to issue statistics on a quarterly basis rather than a monthly basis. The Questions are addressed to the months of October and November. I will of course be entirely happy at the end, well after December and early in the New Year, to provide the hon Member with all the data and statistics that he is seeking here.

**HON F R PICARDO:**

I just want to clarify, as a matter of policy, is it because the Government obviously have the information for October and November.

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

Yes indeed, we have the information for October/November. The thinking behind this approach, this policy, is that any statistician will know a broad range sample gives us



more indication of trends and patterns than just an incidental figure for one particular month. So it is indeed more useful to the hon Member and to us. It is not a way of covering up, on the contrary the trends may show bad news rather than good news but at least it is true news or as true as we can get.

**HON F R PICARDO:**

The question is phrased as the question has always been phrased in this House, directing itself to the number of months that have passed since the last meeting, in order to enable the Opposition to continue its own statistical collation of data which relates to the monthly information provided from Government Members. Can I press the Minister to provide me with this information if he has it?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

I will as I say, after we have the complete quarterly returns. Only a moment ago we were talking informally about coming together and issuing statistics and talking about them ourselves, and passing statistics from the Government to the Opposition precisely to ensure that our political analysis of these statistics are as verifiable as possible.

**NO. 2271 OF 2004**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT**

Can Government now 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**

A total of 1,396 forms have been sent out to employers in respect of the October 2004 Employment Survey Report.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2271 OF 2004**

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Can the Minister say how this compares with the numbers that were sent out last year, which I think was an increase on previous years?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

Yes, if I am not mistaken the figure for 2003 was 1,298 forms sent out. If he wants earlier years, as he said, they were lower. In October 2002 it was 1,082 and October 2001 it was a bit higher, 1,136 (I mean higher than 2002 not 2003). But that is the forms sent out and not the returns.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

I am aware of that but in fact last year I think the results showed that there was a very high response rate and that part of the increase in the results, in terms of the private sector, I think was attributed to failure of response in earlier years rather than the fact that there were new ones. Does the Minister have any indication, for example, that on this occasion when we were talking about an additional 98 employers being contacted, to what extent those are new employers or people that the Department has not caught up with before?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

I am afraid I have not got an indication of how many were the recurring employers and how many were new employers that were now receiving the questionnaire which they had not received before but it may be interesting to the hon Member to know that by the 15<sup>th</sup> of December, of the 1,396 forms sent out we already have 826 completed questionnaires and 176 on top of that returned but with nil returns. That is a total of 1,002 altogether returned. A reminder was issued to the rest, to 633 employers, on 26<sup>th</sup> November so we are hopeful that by the end of the month we may have an even higher return rate than last year.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

How many did the Minister say the reminders were?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

633.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

It does not add up.

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

That is what they have given to me.

ORAL

**NO. 2272 OF 2004**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT**

Can Government provide the comparable breakdown for October 2003 of all employee jobs by industry, sex and nationality as given in Table 12 in respect of the 986 employers who returned filled questionnaires for October 2002 and October 2003?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2273 and 2274 of 2004.

**NO. 2273 OF 2004**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT**

Can Government provide the comparable breakdown for October 2002 of all employee jobs by industry, sex and nationality as given in Table 12 in respect of the 986 employers who returned filled questionnaires for October 2002 and October 2003?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2272 and 2274 of 2004.

**NO. 2274 OF 2004**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT**

Can Government provide the breakdown by industry of the 986 employers who returned filled questionnaires for October 2002 and October 2003?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING**

The Statistics Office inform me that they have a problem with these three questions because the figure of 986 employers quoted in this Question does not tally with the figures that they have, which I can give him now as a form of table. In October 2001 we had 865 completed returns and 104 nil returns, that is 969 returns altogether. In October 2002 we had 1,043 total returns, 897 completed and 146 nil. In October 2003 to be complete, we had 1,290 total returns, 1,052 and 238 nil returns. They cannot detect what this 986 employers come from, I am stuck myself.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 2272 TO 2274 OF 2004**

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Well, given that I have to put a question and I cannot get an answer, if I could be allowed, will the Minister look at the answer that he gave me in the last House, when I asked a number of questions in comparing the results of October 2003 and October 2002, and I asked of those persons that had replied in October 2003 how many had been there in October 2002 and how many were new. It is as a result of the figures that he provided in the last House that I worked it out. I am not saying that my figure is necessarily 100 per cent accurate but the figure I came up with was that in comparing the return for 2003 and the return for 2002 on the basis of the information previously provided, I came to the conclusion that there were in fact the figure in my two questions who were the same employers in the two years. Therefore, if the Minister looks at those answers will he consider the value of knowing to what degree the change in more jobs has been from existing businesses that were there the previous year, and to what extent it has been from new entrants into the market? That is the purpose of the two questions but it is based on information he was kind enough to provide me in the House in the previous questions in the last meeting.

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

Well the Statistics Office have given me a note as well covering those questions or those answers that I gave then. They say that, perhaps if the hon Member wishes to take the figures down so that they can eventually tally the analysis of the figures, there were 897 filled questionnaires for October 2002, of which they say as is evident from published information, 836 also completed the October 2003 Survey questionnaires. So of the 897, 836 were already included in the October 2002. These, they say, 836.....

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

If the Minister will give way. He has told me the 897 were for October 2002 and the 836 for October 2003 but he has just said that they were already included in 2002.

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

Yes because they say that 836 of these 897 also completed the October 2003. So I deduced from that that they were part of the 897 lot. Then they also say, I am not too clear myself, 836 together with 216 new employers gave a total of 1,052 for the October 2003 Survey. The number of questionnaires completed, and then they go back to 2001 just simply to show the increases. They say the completed questionnaires for October 2001 was 865, yes I do confess that I am a bit lost myself actually with all these figures.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Assuming that in respect of the answer that the Minister has given, the figure of 836 is the one that on the basis of previous answers in my question I put down as 986, would it be possible to give the information that I have asked for in respect of the 836 that the office says were the same employers in the two years?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

I agree with the hon Member, it should be possible on whatever figure we have floating around, it should be possible to give the breakdowns in Table 12 that the hon Member is seeking. I am afraid the Statistics Office have not done so but I will insist that they do on whatever figure they think is the true figure.

-----  
**HON J J BOSSANO:**

I would like to clarify in relation to Question Nos. 2272, 2273 and 2274, where the Minister for Employment said the answer was not provided because the Statistics Office was not very clear where the figure of 986 came from in those three questions, which ask for a breakdown of the 986 employers that were included in both surveys in October 2002 and 2003. I have gone back and checked and in answer to Question No. 1636, where I asked 'of the 1,290 employers who responded to the October 2003 survey, how many were not included in the 1,043 who replied to the

2002 survey?', and the answer I had to that was, '304 out of 1,290'. It is deducting the 304 from 1,290 that I got the 986 as being the number of employers that had been included in 2003 and were also there the preceding year. I am saying this so that we have it for the record and because it might help for the provision of the answer which I have been promised subsequent to the meeting.



ORAL

**NO. 2275 OF 2004**

**THE HON S E LINARES**

**EMPLOYMENT – REGISTER OF ASBESTOS**

Can Government state whether the factory inspectors have a register of asbestos of all Public Buildings including Schools?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2276 to 2280 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2276 OF 2004**

**THE HON S E LINARES**

**EDUCATION – BISHOP FITZGERALD SCHOOL**

Can Government confirm if asbestos is present in other blocks in Bishop Fitzgerald School and if so who has carried out this inspection?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2275 and 2277 to 2280 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2277 OF 2004**

**THE HON S E LINARES**

**EDUCATION – BISHOP FITZGERALD SCHOOL**

Can Government state what type of asbestos was found in Bishop Fitzgerald School?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2275, 2276 and 2278 to 2280 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2278 OF 2004**

**THE HON S E LINARES**

**EDUCATION – BISHOP FITZGERALD SCHOOL**

Can Government state whether the asbestos found at Bishop Fitzgerald School was removed or encapsulated?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2275 to 2277, 2279 and 2280 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2279 OF 2004**

**THE HON S E LINARES**

**EDUCATION – GCFE**

Can Government state whether the asbestos found at the annex to the Gibraltar College of Further Education was encapsulated or removed?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2275 to 2278 and 2280 of 2004.

**NO. 2280 OF 2004**

**THE HON S E LINARES**

**EDUCATION – ASBESTOS**

Can Government state why children were not evacuated from the block where asbestos had been damaged and tampered with even while men wore protective clothing to deal with the said asbestos?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING**

**Answer to Question 2275**

The Health & Safety Inspectors do not keep a register of asbestos of all public buildings in Gibraltar (including schools). Legislation does not require the keeping of such a register by the Health & Safety Inspectors. What legislation requires in relation to the keeping of records of asbestos works as per the Construction (Design, Management, Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1998, is that a contractor keeps at the work site a Safety File to include any pertinent asbestos works “assessments”.

On completion of works the contractor is required to pass on to the client the Health and Safety File to be kept and updated as necessary whenever any further works are carried out to the building. It would then be the Health and Safety Inspectors duty to check these “assessments” as and when necessary during the course of an inspection.

**Answer to Questions 2276 to 2280**

The Government can confirm that asbestos is present in other blocks at Bishop Fitzgerald School. We do now have a complete register of the location of all these asbestos in Bishop Fitzgerald School in detail. The inspection and the register was carried out by GJBS, Environtech (UK firm) who specialise in these matters, and by Safety Services locally and of course by our own Health and Safety Inspectors.

This asbestos was originally discovered in Summer 2003 and then it was encapsulated according to recommended health and safety procedures. Blue, white and brown asbestos was discovered.

The asbestos found at the annex to the Gibraltar College of Further Education was also encapsulated as recommended.

Children were evacuated from the block when the latest incidence occurred before any hazardous work had commenced. No children were present when the workmen dealt with the said works.

At the completion of the works, this is not in the question but I want to add it as it is important especially in the context of Mr Picardo's question about machinery testing airborne asbestos, at the completion of the works extensive tests were carried out by RPS Analyse BV which is a specialist firm from Holland presently working on the SS Rotterdam. These tests demonstrated the total absence of any airborne asbestos fibres or particles in the building. Let me say that all these questions were answered by the Government in detail in public statements which were issued on 27<sup>th</sup> October initially, and then on 4<sup>th</sup> November with regard to the second incident and I would certainly recommend the hon Member to read these statements which give him more details than I have been able to give in these questions, as I am sure he is concerned on some of the safety issues, understandable concerns, which of course we share, will be as in our own mind once and for all greatly assuaged.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 2275 TO 2280 OF 2004**

##### **HON S E LINARES:**

I appreciate the Minister's answer. Yes there is definitely concern but what concerns the Opposition or at least myself, is not the fact that there are asbestos and I am sure there are many buildings in Gibraltar in which there is asbestos, what concerns me is that a procedure that does not seem to be in place in case of asbestos being either dealt with or asbestos being discovered. In this case it seems as if the men came in with protective gear, the children were still in the classrooms and they intended to proceed with the works and therefore it was the teachers themselves that realised that the men with protective gear were coming in, and I do not think there is an element here of me trying to blame the Minister, it is a question of procedure a question of having, like the Minister well knows we have in schools with fire drills, the children are all very well drilled in case of an emergency. They know exactly where to go, they know exactly what to do, they know that they do not have to run, they know where they have to assemble in order for children not to be left behind in schools. In this case I think that the Department and schools should be made aware that there should be a procedure in case asbestos is found. I am not saying that they start running like they do in fire, but there must be some type of procedure that if somebody suspects that asbestos has been damaged or tampered with, that the procedure goes into place and then that everybody is safe, because as the Minister knows it is the particles in the air, like he explained before, it is the particles in the air that is the danger. So the question is would the Minister not agree that there should be a standard procedure across schools and public buildings may I add, just in case somebody finds asbestos?

##### **HON DR B A LINARES:**

Of course I agree that there should be a procedure, clearly outlined for operational purposes in the school. I do not think there was a lack of procedure, in fact let me just make clear that when the men, what there was was perhaps a bit of lack of communication perhaps, but this sort of thing happens in any sort of critical moment. The men came with all this impressive gear and that created a certain degree of panic but the point was that the children were evacuated before these men, dressed

up with all this gear, actually got down to whatever they had to do. They were evacuated and that is a fact. So that is the important thing. As I say it is not lack of procedure. By the way there is always room for improvement, as I say in terms of communication and the hon Member may know that at the moment the Department is communicating with the Union in order to establish lines of communication. We have agreed to make sure that all sides in these critical moments know exactly where they stand and what they have to do in parallel with the fire drills, I think that was a good example.

**HON S E LINARES:**

I understand that the men did not start the works before the children were evacuated but the men were proceeding to do the work and no teacher was informed, and as the Minister well knows, the teachers were up in arms at the fact that these men walked in, and I appreciate that the Minister has just said that there was a lack of communication, of course there was a massive lack of communication not a slight, a massive lack of communication where one gets men walking into a building with protective gear to actually start handling the asbestos whilst the children were there. It was the teachers who alarmed, of course and naturally alarmed, took the decision of evacuating the children. It was not the company or the people who were actually going to deal with the asbestos who said 'hold on, before we start dealing with the asbestos we better evacuate this place'. This just goes to show the lack of procedure that there was on whosever part it was in order to have the children safe before the works were done. May I add, I think it was a brave decision taken by the teachers because then subsequently they were reprimanded for taking that decision. I do not know whether the Minister was aware but they were actually told off for taking a decision for the safety of children, and later on it transpired that nobody had informed the teachers that asbestos was going to be handled. This is what I mean by a lack of procedure and lack of communication definitely.

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

I do not know, I do not quite agree with his account of the facts and of the incidents on that occasion, I think he is elaborating himself and I suppose it is easy to do so because as I say in these situations there is always an emotional aspect, a certain amount of panic but I do not agree that this alarming epithet that he has used to describe the situation in Bishop Fitzgerald at the time. As I say any way, for his satisfaction and mine, we are now making sure that there are lines of communication so that whenever anything resembling that sort of incident we can actually stem that natural sort of panic and anxiety that arises on the part of those at the times and as I say we have this in hand.

**HON S E LINARES:**

Just one last point is that if the procedures and all the review and things that the Minister is currently doing in order for this not to happen again could be extended to other schools. I think it is not only Bishop Fitzgerald who has asbestos, I suspect that there are buildings built probably in the 1950s or 1960s that would be rife with asbestos. Therefore what I am urging the Minister to do is that any procedure that might be put in place for Bishop Fitzgerald, that it is extended to all other schools as is any fire drill or any drills and other procedures that are taken in the schools.



**HON DR B A LINARES:**

I have taken that for granted of course.

**NO. 2281 OF 2004**

**THE HON S E LINARES**

**EDUCATION – HEALTH AND SAFETY**

Can Government state whether they have a written policy on Health and Safety and if so could a copy be given to this House?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING**

The Department has recently circulated a draft Health and Safety policy to all schools and also to NASUWT locally for comments. Suggestions from all these parties will be incorporated into the written policy before submitting to Government for approval.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2281 OF 2004**

**HON S E LINARES:**

Does the Minister have an indication on time as in when this written policy will actually be written?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

We have the draft already written and proposed to these stakeholders. We depend on their promptitude to reply but certainly we want to do it as quickly as possible. I cannot give a particular date in the calendar.

**HON S E LINARES:**

Is it possible that once this policy has been finalised that the Opposition get a copy?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

Once this policy has been completed it will become a public document.

**NO. 2282 OF 2004****THE HON S E LINARES****EDUCATION – ASBESTOSIS**

Can Government confirm whether some teachers have requested to be tested for asbestosis and has this been complied with?

**ANSWER****THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING**

Some teachers of Bishop Fitzgerald School have requested to be tested for asbestosis. However, given the professional medical advice available, the Department is now bound to write to every teacher informing them of the risks associated with entering what is actually a long-term medical surveillance programme, especially since these tests require periodic chest X-rays, which have some risk of causing by themselves lung cancer and other cancers. The risk obviously increases the more often chest X-rays are taken. However, and I say this without prejudice, it is pertinent to point out further that our Public Health Director in the context of these incidents in Bishop Fitzgerald, consulted the Health Protection Agency in the UK of all the circumstances related to the asbestos incident in Bishop Fitzgerald School and their advice, that is the advice of the Health Protection Agency in the UK, was as follows, as I say I take this as a statement from the Health Protection Agency without prejudice without necessarily meaning that I am holding anybody to that. I quote, *“it is unlikely that staff or pupils have been exposed to asbestos fibres from the cement wall panels, so further medical examination may be unnecessary and of limited benefit. In any case, medical examination and investigations such as chest X-ray and lung function tests, will not show directly the presence of asbestos.”* I have said that without prejudice but I think we should all have the scientific facts before us before we take any practical steps that may be counterproductive.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2282 OF 2004****HON S E LINARES:**

In the second part of my question which says ‘has this been complied with’, because I understand that the teachers know the implications, they have had already spelt out the implications of tests and yet they insist that they want these tests done. Therefore that is why I have asked has it been complied with. I understand that the Minister is giving the teachers who are wanting these tests, ‘look these are the dangers of having the tests’. In itself X-rays obviously X-rays one is exposed to radioactivity and all this, but they still insist that they want this done. That is why I

asked if it had been complied with. In order to just add on, if the teachers know the risk of having these tests and yet they still want to have the tests, will the Minister oblige to have these teachers tested?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

Well that is not my information. All I have from the teachers is a very short statement saying 'we want these tests for asbestos related problems' and a list of names. Whether they individually, each of them, know the risks involved I have no evidence of that. I did say in my answer that it is the duty of the Department of Education to put before each teacher exactly the scientific and technical aspects of all this, and it is only in that context and as a response to that and it has not just been an informal 'okay let us go ahead with it', it will have to be legally a disclaimer, a detailed disclaimer form and it is only in that context that the Government will then be prepared to make a decision.

**HON F R PICARDO:**

Is the Minister satisfied with the statement which he has read out which was provided to Dr Vijay Kumar in relation to the likelihood of infection of children and teachers at Bishop Fitzgerald?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

I am a layman, I cannot be either satisfied or dissatisfied with the statement made by a specialist agency in the UK but it is another bit of evidence that should be put before the Opposition and ourselves and that must be weighted accordingly as coming from a specialist agency, an official agency, but I am not in the position Dr Kumar may be, and he is satisfied but I will have to judge it on its own merits.

**HON F R PICARDO:**

All of us are laymen in this specific technical medical issues, but none of us are laymen in language and if the Minister had read out a statement from the United Kingdom saying that there was absolutely no risk whatsoever that the students had been infected, or that it was highly unlikely that anybody had been infected, then I think all of us would have been substantially reassured. But in fact what the Minister has said is that the report simply said that it was likely that individuals may not have been infected. We also hear for the first time in this House that teachers are asking to be tested. Now I hear what the Minister has to say about the likelihood that the test itself may be problematic, but put into the context of the statements that the Minister himself made on television at the time that this was an issue when he was referring to the statements of the Opposition as being alarmist, is the Minister not actually very concerned that something may have happened at Bishop Fitzgerald School so that specialists in the United Kingdom are not able to say that there is absolutely no risk whatsoever that none of our students and none of our teachers were infected?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

I think the statement by the Health Protection Agency, although I was prudent enough to say that I cannot commit myself to being either satisfied or dissatisfied, I think this carries a lot of weight. It comes from an official specialist agency and the hon Member has turned it round and actually softened it up a bit. It is actually what they say, so further medical examination may be unnecessary and of limited benefit and then they explain why. In fact this has been explained to me by clinical people after that. Actually these X-rays and function tests of the lungs do not show in any way, they do detect a problem with the lungs and with the heart, it does not necessarily relate to asbestos infection, it could be something else. The asbestos infection cannot be specifically and directly identified through any of these tests.

**NO. 2283 OF 2004**

**THE HON S E LINARES**

**EDUCATION – WORKLOAD AGREEMENT**

Can Government state what is their policy on the workload agreement in relation to teachers?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING**

The workload agreement has resulted in the UK in the removal from teachers' duties of a number of duties which they consider should be carried out by non-teachers which they are employing now. The local teachers association, NASUWT, has not yet made formal representations to us, perhaps because they realise, this is speculation, that the situation in Gibraltar is very different from that in England where we enjoy much more generous pupil/teacher ratios than is commonplace in the UK. Government will study any proposals submitted to us by NASUWT.

**NO. 2284 OF 2004**

**THE HON S E LINARES**

**EDUCATION – POST 16 EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Can Government state whether the Post 16 Education committee have met to discuss the proposed recommendations of the Tomlinson Report?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING**

The Post-16 Education Committee has not met to discuss the recommendations of the Tomlinson Report. It will do so when a clearer picture emerges as to what will and what will not be implemented in England, especially given the contradictory statements currently being made by leading political figures in UK. In any case, it was agreed with Mrs Sue Rogers of the NASUWT, and I was present at that meeting with her some time ago, that they themselves were caught up in the uncertainty of the situation and we agreed that they would liaise with the Department locally as the implications for teachers of the Tomlinson Report become clearer.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2284 OF 2004**

**HON S E LINARES:**

I understand the predicament the Committee is in, in the sense that we have to look at how the UK goes, spans out in relation to the Tomlinson Report but that does not stop the Committee, like any interested party, to read the report together, to go through the recommendations, to see, because I have had the pleasure of having had bedtime reading of the Tomlinson Report going through the whole report and therefore there are many, many parts which could be started to at least look into and implement. Things like vocational training, the way we are handling our vocational training, the way we can have diplomas introduced, and all these issues could be discussed by the Committee, and how if they get into place in Gibraltar we have to get into place because of the examination requirements for further education, that there are many issues in the Tomlinson Report that the Committee could be going through. Why do we have to wait? I understand what Sue Rogers was saying, it is the same issue as when the National Curriculum came in where the National Curriculum was bunged by the Tory Party then, Gibraltar analysed and they did so, the teachers, before it was implemented and all the reports were looked into before they were implemented, they were implemented in the UK and then we waited a year to see the effects of the National Curriculum in the UK and then we did it to localise the whole system. What I am trying to say is that I do not see why the Committee now has to not meet until there is any movement in the UK. I think that the

Committee should meet, they should meet to discuss the consequences at least of any of the recommendations of the Tomlinson Report. So the question is would the Minister urge his Committee to meet and at least go through the Tomlinson Report to discuss issues that might arise from the reading of the Tomlinson Report?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

Members of the Committee are all highly professional people, I am sure, as many other teachers and educators in our service they are quite familiar with the Tomlinson Report and it has been bedside reading for them, as it has been for the Opposition Member, but obviously yes, there is no question that they will meet either formally or informally in a sort of debating background to discuss what the issues are. In fact we do that all the time and the hon Member should know that in schools, in staff rooms, in the Department of Education offices, these professional matters as they emerge from the Tomlinson Report are continually being discussed and debated. What I understood from the question was have they met formally in terms of recommendations and all that, well I do not think they have but that is no reason why at any moment of time, and I do not have to urge them they are people who have their own initiative in these matters, they will get together for academic discussion and debate of the contents of the Tomlinson Report. May I just incidentally, it seems to me that the Tomlinson Report recommendations are geared more to structural examination and the vocational aspects of schools which will indeed require induction and training, re-training of many teachers in the new context, but not necessarily directly in terms of conditions of employment of teachers. That is why I think the Union is also holding back and I can tell the hon Member that Mrs Sue Rogers has not come back to us as yet.



**NO. 2285 OF 2004**

**THE HON S E LINARES**

**EDUCATION – RECRUITMENT & RETENTION ALLOWANCES**

Can Government state what is their policy in relation to the allowance given for recruitment and retention to local teachers?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING**

The recruitment and retention allowances ceased to be paid in UK to those teachers employed after 1<sup>st</sup> April 2004. This follows the abolition of such allowances at a national level in the UK leaving it entirely in favour of individual school-based allowances.

**NO. 2286 OF 2004**

**THE HON S E LINARES**

**EDUCATION – CO-EDUCATION AT SECONDARY LEVEL**

Can Government state whether they favour the implementation of co-education at secondary level?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING**

Yes, the Government in principle favour the implementation, conceptually, of co-education at secondary level, and in the New Year the Department will be constituting a working committee to make recommendations on an operational level as to how co-education could be implemented. This committee will have very wide representation, including of course the Unions, parents and it is in the light of that that we will proceed.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2286 OF 2004**

**HON S E LINARES:**

So therefore the Government confirm that they are in principle in favour and are therefore going to recommend to be implemented.

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

One cannot deduce from what I have said something as blanket as that. This is not how Government proceed in order to be operationally correct and prudent. What I have said is that there is a working group that will look at all aspects of the implementation of co-education and it is in the light of that, that was the phrase I used, then the Government will decide whether it is feasible or not feasible, or valuable or not valuable, or beneficial or not beneficial in terms of actually making it a reality. I hope the hon Member understands the nuances and the qualifications there, which are important if any enterprise is going to be effective and correct.

**HON S E LINARES:**

I understand what he has just said which is that he is trying to get a consultation process I presume and all this. What time span does the Minister think that this sort

of report or recommendation will be in place in order to have a clearer picture of whether we are going to have co-education or not?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

The time span will depend entirely on the time span that the working group feel themselves need in order to make effective, solid and meaningful recommendations to Government. We are dependant on that, it is impossible in the abstract and a priori to give time spans on matters which are as I have said a moment ago quite complicated and complex.

**HON S E LINARES:**

I say this because the Minister continues like in the Post-16 time span, when I asked for the time span he tends to leave it very open. Surely there must be, I understand that the committee has to meet, consult, time goes by but we are talking about whether it will take weeks, months or years and the Minister does not give an indication as in 'I suspect it would take two to three years or two to three months', an indication at least because if not nothing ever happens, it does not move on. There does not seem to be a light at the end of the tunnel.

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

These things, these blanket allegations that nothing ever happens, all things are happening all the time and I do not apologise at all for being open as he put it in terms of time spans. I do prefer for professionals, experts, scientists, to give solid advice and take their time in measuring and assessing sensitive matters like co-education and other issues related to education, rather than just rush into it for the sake of scoring points, after all Government are very often being accused of actually just being propagandistic and populist, well I am not like that, not certainly in a sensitive area and difficult area like education. That requires time.

**HON S E LINARES:**

I have not said that I am opportunist or that his Government is propagandistic or anything like that, he is just bringing out these issues which I think are quite irrelevant to the debate we are trying to have in relation to the question. I understand that certain things have been done, yes, I admit to that, the change in school hours did happen but there is a clear example where the Minister in his manifesto stated that during their legislature he would implement the changes of school hours and therefore it happened. In the case of co-education all I am asking for is the same indication that was given for the other issues, because I know that this debate has been running around Gibraltar's professionals for nearly 30 years easily. There was motion in the GTA in 1974 and another one in 1976 that they should be pushing for co-education and now here we are in 2004 and we are still discussing the issue. That is why I am saying if the Minister can give us any indication of time span but if the Minister does not want to do so he is perfectly entitled not to do so.

**NO. 2287 OF 2004**

**THE HON S E LINARES**

**EDUCATION – COMMUNITY USE OF SCHOOLS**

Can the Minister for Education state why the hours of community use of schools have not been extended after the change of school hours?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING**

Community use of schools start at 6.00 pm. This enables the schools to be properly cleaned after the school hours before the start of community use. In any case, users usually finish work after 5.00 pm and as far as we know there has been no demand from the users for an earlier start.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2287 OF 2004**

**HON S E LINARES:**

I disagree with the Minister in the fact that we understand some users finish work at 5.00 pm, some do not, not everybody finishes at 5.00 pm. There are some associations that work with school children themselves and the cleaning for me is not a very good excuse if I may put it that way, because the cleaning used to happen before and school used to finish later. Now that the schools are finishing earlier it is an opportunity to give more fixtures of community use to associations and clubs in order for them to have at least 45 minutes, which could be a session for children, some sessions last 45 minutes and therefore it could be an extra session that school children could use. Therefore the opportunities that might be given is great and I think the Minister should consider this. I am suggesting this because I have had users coming to me and saying, users especially with children or who do clubs with children, outside entities not school clubs, that they would appreciate having an earlier start. For example, if they started at 5.00 pm rather than at 6.00 pm.

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

I believe another factor for the late start for community use is that before 6.00 pm the schools themselves run a lot of activities with the children as part of the extra-curricular programmes of the schools, before they actually pass on and open up facilities to other external users. In any case, all these factors that he has mentioned I am sure have been weighed and taken into account by the relevant parties, the Department and the Head teachers, the caretakers and that they have weighed up all

these practical options and come to the conclusion that at this stage anyway, especially since there does not seem to be any swell of demand otherwise, that at this stage the situation is operationally good. I do not know but I am sure that these people are knowledgeable in their field to know how to tie in the different uses of the school.

**HON S E LINARES:**

I would urge the Minister to consult the users because the users have, and I do not know whether they have made formal representations, but they have actually said that they would appreciate that. So it is just that one point that I am trying to make is very simple, ask them because the Minister says that the professionals might have asked and I understand that they have looked into it, well I would urge the Minister to question them whether they have done anything about asking users. About the point of the schools using the premises after school for their own activities, well again if the schools used to use it before from 4.15 pm to 6.00 pm, now they have another extra 45 minutes to use it and therefore all the better, but there are many occasions where gyms, the big gyms that have been constructed are empty and it is because the school does not use it. Therefore the users might have an opportunity to use it. I am just suggesting this to the Minister to have a look into it.

ORAL

**NO. 2288 OF 2004**

**THE HON S E LINARES**

**EDUCATION – SCHOOL LUNCHES**

Can Government state how many pupils stayed for lunch in the years 2002/2003, 2003/2004, 2004/2005 giving a breakdown by school?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2289 to 2291 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2289 OF 2004**

**THE HON S E LINARES**

**EDUCATION – LUNCH SUPERVISORS**

Can Government state whether Lunch Supervisors are considered Government employees and do they enjoy the same conditions as other Government employees?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2288, 2290 and 2991 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2290 OF 2004**

**THE HON S E LINARES**

**EDUCATION – LUNCH SUPERVISORS**

Can Government state how many cleaners in schools are also employed by Serviceall Ltd to be lunch supervisors?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2288, 2289 and 2291 of 2004.



**NO. 2291 OF 2004**

**THE HON S E LINARES**

**EDUCATION – LUNCH SUPERVISORS**

Can Government state why the pupil/supervisor ratio in Bayside is much higher than Westside?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING**

**Answer to Question 2288**

The statistical information requested is set out in the schedule which I hand to the hon Member.

**Answer to Question 2289**

Lunch supervisors are employed by Serviceall Ltd and are therefore not Government employees. Government awarded the lunchtime supervisors tender to Serviceall Ltd, who employs these ladies to work exclusively in our schools. Consequently they do not have the same conditions as Government employees.

**Answer to Question 2290**

The Department realises that cleaners do undertake other work, such as lunch supervisors. It has no objection provided the other employment does not interfere with their commitment to the Department. At present six permanent and pensionable and 13 supply cleaners also double up as lunchtime supervisors. That is a total of 148 lunch supervisors altogether.

**Answer to Question 2291**

This is due to the different logistics and in fact even the geography of the two schools. In Bayside it is considered better, given these factors, to have one sitting so that a larger number of supervisors are required, whereas in Westside they have two sittings which makes a saving on a number of supervisors required at any particular time.

**Answer to Question 2291 of 2004**

**Answer to Question 2288**

Number of pupils staying in school for lunch

<b>SCHOOL</b>	<b>2002/3</b>	<b>2003/4</b>	<b>2004/5</b>
Bayside	848	844	815
Westside	564	395	321
Sacred Heart	259	247	230
Bishop Fitzgerald	447	413	434
St Joseph's Middle	314	346	334
St Anne's Middle	415	411	388
Hebrew	30	23	20
St Mary's First	153	160	155
St Paul's First	244	249	253
Notre Dame	232	229	225
Governor's Meadow	279	307	301
St Bernard's First	110	113	123
St Joseph's First	296	284	307

All figures based on the September/December Term

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 2288 TO 2291 OF 2004**

**HON S E LINARES:**

Considering that the lunch supervisors are not considered Government employees and therefore the cleaners are, and the Minister has stated that there are six permanent that double up, which I think is fine because the wages of anybody would be double and therefore it would be considered like having a job, half and half if we put it that way, is there any objection as there is not obviously with the cleaners, that other type of employees do the same? For example, I am thinking of somebody who might have a Government employment that want to be lunch supervisors in their own time, is there any objection?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

I should not think so. Any Government employee in any sphere, is that what the hon Member means, Government employees elsewhere or in private sector whatever?

**HON S E LINARES:**

In whatever, whether it is Government or private.

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

There are people who have two or three different jobs and if they are accepted and selected by Serviceall as available and suitable for the job of lunch supervisors, I should think there is no objection whatsoever.

ORAL

**NO. 2292 OF 2004**

**THE HON S E LINARES**

**EDUCATION – CLASSROOM AIDES**

Can Government state why out of the five classroom aides in St Paul's, four are on a supply basis?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING**

Answered together with Question No. 2293 of 2004.

**NO. 2293 OF 2004**

**THE HON S E LINARES**

**EDUCATION – CLASSROOM AIDES**

Can Government state what is the criteria for being included in the list for supply classroom aides?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING**

A number of classroom aides are employed on a supply basis because their services may not be required on a permanent basis. The need for specialist assistance may change as children change also in their trajectory throughout the school moving for example into more integrated and included in mainstream schools, therefore not requiring any more the particularised attention of a classroom aide. The Government, however, are considering the creation of more permanent and pensionable posts within the classroom aide complement.

Classroom aides who are on the supply list are selected by a Departmental selection board which of course includes Head teachers and advisers. Only applicants found suitable for this type of sensitive work are placed on the list, even on the supply list.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 2292 AND 2293 OF 2004**

**HON S E LINARES:**

I appreciate the answer but when I stated this question there are five and four were on supply, some of them are needed and some might not be needed, quite frankly I do not understand why they are not needed when for example, there are supplies on three, four, five years on supply on a full time basis. This is the question where it is not only in St Paul's, the case is in many other places where classroom aides are there for three, four and the next year they have the same job again. I would not even like to think that it is illegal under the new directive where people under contract for a certain time are entitled to the job, so again I would like the Minister to look at this because it is an issue where for example, if somebody being a classroom aide is on a supply list and is employed for three, four years constantly, if they need a mortgage, young people who need a mortgage they are not allowed to get a mortgage because they have not got a full time job. There are many consequences to that and what the Government seem to be doing is using the word 'supply' for certain people and just keeping employing them year after year, after year, I think that it should be done away with. Either they are given a contract and I think we have had this debate before in this House, we either give them a contract where they

are told they are needed for three years, 'there goes the contract for three years, after three years thank you very much you have finished your job'. What cannot be done is get them on the supply list, put them on a permanent supply which is a contradiction in terms, and I have said this before, one cannot have a supply a person who is supposed to be covering for another person, just being bunged in on a permanent basis. So I would urge the Minister to get on with laying out a contract. Apparently Personnel is supposed to be laying out the contract, well Personnel should be laying that contract quicker, if I may.

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

Yes, I can assure the hon Member that the Government are very conscious and attentive to this situation. I think we have had this debate before, I think the Chief Minister himself showed understanding in respect of the Hon Mr Bruzon's point in which he made a very useful distinction between the permanent and pensionable status and a contractual arrangement which is fair and that he did give assurances in that respect. The hon Member asks me to look into this well I can assure I have a bit of a vested interest in this respect since my wife is precisely in that bracket of supply.

ORAL

**NO. 2294 OF 2004**

**THE HON S E LINARES**

**EDUCATION – BAYSIDE SCHOOL**

Can Government state the number of pupils in Year 10 in the years 2001/2002, 2002/2003 and 2003/2004 in Bayside?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING**

Answered together with Question No. 2295 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2295 OF 2004**

**THE HON S E LINARES**

**EDUCATION – WESTSIDE SCHOOL**

Can Government state the number of pupils in Year 10 in the years 2001/2002, 2002/2003 and 2003/2004 in Westside?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING**

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



**Answer to Question 2295 of 2004**

Number of pupils in Year 10 at Bayside and Westside Schools  
(figures as at 30 September 2004)

<b>SCHOOL</b>	<b>2001/2002</b>	<b>2002/2003</b>	<b>2003/2004</b>
Bayside	196	220	199
Westside	186	192	191

**NO. 2296 OF 2004**

**THE HON S E LINARES**

**EDUCATION – BULLYING IN SCHOOLS**

Can Government state what is their policy on bullying in schools and what actions are being taken to tackle this problem?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING**

The policy of the Government on bullying is that it is of course totally unacceptable. Management of schools is, and should remain, in the hands of head teachers, and any head teacher that seeks guidance from the Department of Education in relation to dealing with bullying would receive appropriate guidance and advice.

ORAL

**NO. 2297 OF 2004**

**THE HON S E LINARES**

**EDUCATION – VOCATIONAL TRAINING SCHEME**

Can Government give a breakdown by sex of the number of students who joined the Vocational Training Scheme in 2000/2001, 2001/2002, 2002/2003, 2003/2004 and 2004/2005?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2298 to 2300 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2298 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**EDUCATION – VOCATIONAL TRAINING SCHEME**

How many persons have registered for the Vocational Training Scheme in Tourism Trades which was advertised on 20 October 2004?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2297, 2299 and 2300 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2299 OF 2004**

**THE HON S E LINARES**

**EDUCATION – GCFE**

Can Government give a breakdown by sex of the number of students who joined the Gibraltar College of Further Education in 2000/2001, 2001/2002, 2002/2003, 2003/2004 and 2004/2005?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2297, 2298 and 2300 of 2004.

**NO. 2300 OF 2004**

**THE HON S E LINARES**

**EDUCATION – CONSTRUCTION TRAINING CENTRE**

Can Government give a breakdown by sex of the number of students who commenced training in the Construction and Training Centre in 2000/2001, 2001/2002, 2002/2003, 2003/2004 and 2004/2005?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING**

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

**Answer to Question 2300 of 2004**

**Answer to Question 2297**

Breakdown by sex of the number of students who joined the Vocational Training Scheme by years

<b>VOCATIONAL TRAINING SCHEME</b>			
<b>YEAR</b>	<b>MALE</b>	<b>FEMALE</b>	<b>TOTALS</b>
2000/01	70	59	129
2001/02	86	61	147
2002/03	82	94	176
2003/04	84	103	187
2004/05 (up to 10/12/04)	46	58	104

**Answer to Question 2298**

A total of 12 persons (4 females, 8 males) registered for Vocational Training Scheme in Tourism Trades which was advertised on 20 October 2004.

**Answer to Question 2299 of 2004**

Breakdown by sex of the number of students who joined the Gibraltar College of Further Education by years

<b>GIBRALTAR COLLEGE – New Students</b>			
<b>YEAR</b>	<b>MALE</b>	<b>FEMALE</b>	<b>TOTALS</b>
2000/01	129	37	166
2001/02	91	48	139
2002/03	96	54	150
2003/04	105	95	200
2004/05	145	114	259

<b>GIBRALTAR COLLEGE – Total No. of Students</b>			
<b>YEAR</b>	<b>MALE</b>	<b>FEMALE</b>	<b>TOTALS</b>
2000/01	161	52	213
2001/02	171	68	239
2002/03	169	73	242
2003/04	186	130	316
2004/05	212	170	382

Contd

**Contd Answer to Question 2300 of 2004**

**Answer to Question 2300**

Breakdown by sex of the number of students who commenced training in the  
Construction and Training Centre by years

<b>CONSTRUCTION TRAINING CENTRE</b>		
<b>YEAR</b>	<b>MALE</b>	<b>FEMALE</b>
2000/2001	16	-
2001/2002	24	-
2002/2003	27	-
2003/2004	24	-
2004/2005	24	1



**NO. 2301 OF 2004**

**THE HON F R PICARDO**

**EDUCATION – INDIVIDUAL TRAINING PROGRAMMES**

In respect of the schedule provided in answer to Question No. 1623 can Government clarify and provide further information in respect of what courses had been funded for “ITP” (£397,703.14p) and “Children from Abroad” (£8,415.60p)?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING**

As I had promised to provide the information in writing to the hon Member after the last Session of the House, I wrote to him with the required information, my letter of 10<sup>th</sup> December, but if he wishes to have this information now on record in Hansard I hand to him a written reply.

**Answer to Question 2301 of 2004**

ITP (Individual Training Programmes) include Bar Vocational Courses, Postgraduate Certificate of Education Courses and all distance learning courses.

“Children from Abroad” covers payments made to Robert Beiso for organising numerous school trips to Spain. This was in connection with the link with Los Barrios and other activities (such as the visits to ERA in Chiclana, recycling plants, Granja El Dorado (farm), reforestation project). He also organised visits to and from Los Barrios of teachers and other officials. This is in respect of a consideration to Mr Beiso (at an hourly rate of £30.77p) and other expenses (for example, subsistence, transport et cetera).

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2301 OF 2004**

**HON F R PICARDO:**

I am grateful to the Minister, his letter arrived after the notice of questions and it is for that reason that the question was put.

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

I understand.

**HON F R PICARDO:**

As a supplementary can I ask the Minister to confirm that the ITP has included the funding of scholarship courses, despite the contrary impression having been given I think whilst we were speculating about what that Head covered?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

I am not sure what the hon Member means by scholarship courses. All funding in terms of courses for further education, higher education, go by the name of scholarships. The scholarships which are included under the ITP are the Bar Vocational Courses, the Postgraduate PGCE and distance learning courses.

**HON F R PICARDO:**

Is there a specific reason why those are being funded under ITP and not as scholarships from the other Heads?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

Yes, I think they are seen more in terms of training, skills development, rather than just purely university degree courses.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Is this a new policy that was introduced in the last financial year for the first time?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

I do not think so. I think it has been common practice in the past but I am not too sure of my facts in that respect.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Is it not a fact that the questions that were put the last time were because of the increase in the expenditure shown under the Gibraltar Development Corporation in this Sub-head, which was much higher than the previous year and that in fact in comparing one year with another, this was one of the items which the Minister was not able to give us a full explanation on at the last Question Time?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

These Individual Training Programmes. Well, that I agree is what I promised, I was not able to provide specific information on that at the last meeting and I promised to seek the information and deliver it, which I have done.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

No, that is not my question. My question is in the Estimates, the original budget for this item, which is on page 121 Appendix B of the GDC, which says 'training and development courses other'. The budget in 2002/2003 was £991,000 and the budget for 2003/2004 was £960,000, the outturn was £1,284,000, the questions were to try and identify the reason for the increase. Now the reason for the increase being that ITP was there introduced during the course of the year and had not been budgeted for at the beginning of the year. Since the budget in the current year is now down again to £870,000, is it that in the current year there is not a provision for this?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

I am afraid I cannot answer that question. For budgetary considerations I would have to enquire further before I can give any reliable answer to that. Again, I promise that I will try to find a solution. Yes, I am informed that the reason for the reduction in this year's Estimates is that these grants will now revert back to the scholarship vote in the Consolidated Fund.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

So then the position is in fact that they moved there last year but now they are going to go back to the Scholarship Fund which is shown in Appendix N, is that correct?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

Not in its entirety but some will go back to the Scholarship Fund. Some had gone there and they are going back there where they came from.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

That seems to be the position but I have just asked the Minister whether it was a new policy that was introduced last year and he thought it had always been there, so I take it then that it was introduced last year but it has been reconsidered and is now going back to where it usually was. In terms of the cost that is included there I think

when we asked in the last meeting of the House, in Question No. 1623, the Minister told us that the actual maintenance grant to the individual was not included, has it been included or not? Can the Minister confirm whether in fact that information was correct? I think the last time I asked specifically in one of the supplementaries whether the award to the individual, that is the maintenance to the student doing this postgraduate thing, came out of this Head and I think the answer was no, but I am not sure in the light of the information provided today whether that answer was accurate.

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

No the postgraduate courses are now being paid by the Department of Education & Skills in the UK. They grant maintenance to the tune of £6,000 which is even higher than our maintenance grant here, and they pay the tuition fees as well. So a number of applicants for PGCE this year have not been granted local support, local funding, because they are being paid by the UK.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

No that is not my question. My question is, when I asked in supplementary to Question No. 1623 last year about the composition of the individual training programme, the ITP, I asked is the scholarship, the amount of maintenance money given to the student, coming out of there and the answer I got was no. It seems to me that in light of the information provided today that answer might not have been correct and I am seeking confirmation of whether in fact it was or was not correct.

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

Yes, the maintenance is included in the lump sum that is given towards tuition, out of that fund as well.

**NO. 2302 OF 2004**

**THE HON F R PICARDO**

**EDUCATION – DRUG REHABILITATION PROGRAMME**

Can Government state whether in the months of October and November 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**

As with Question Nos. 2247 to 2270, as I explained at the time, the information required is not yet available, rather it is available for the months of October and November but will not be issued by the Government as much as policy practice until we can provide a quarterly return.

**NO. 2303 OF 2004**

**THE HON F R PICARDO**

**EMPLOYMENT – WAGE SUBSIDY**

In relation to the answers to Question Nos. 1624 of 2004 and 1625 of 2004 are Government now in a position to provide the information sought in those questions as previously provided in respect of those within the ESF funded programmes and in the fuller manner previously provided by the Minister for Social Services?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING**

This information too was included in the letter dated 10<sup>th</sup> November 2004 which I sent to the hon Member, which as he explained before was received after he formulated this question. If he wishes this information to be recorded in Hansard, I now pass him a schedule with the information requested.

## **Answer to Question 2303 of 2004**

### **Information requested in respect of questions 1624 and 1625**

“1. Under our estimates we have wage subsidies split between (a) EU Projects and (b) Other.

- (a) wage subsidy projects which have been approved at EU funding level and for which GOG has committed itself for matching funds in the 45/55 per cent split. These include “Venia” (for Drug rehabilitation, ex-offenders, et cetera) and “Focus” (our main ESF Wage Subsidy scheme for long-term unemployed).
- (b) “general purpose” GOG fully funded.

I can confirm that during the period from April to September we have had a total of 20 new employers and 30 new wage subsidised employees under ESF funding. All these come under the EU “Focus” scheme.

As regards “Venia”, no new employer/employee has joined this financial year (because there has not been any demand).

It is to be understood that wage subsidised employees will not always be on the increase – such is not a cumulative figure. Just as new employers/employees join a wage subsidy scheme others may be completing the full twelve months or terminating (for whatever reason) before the end of the twelve months.”



**NO. 2304 OF 2004**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**EDUCATION – GCFE**

Can Government explain the nature of the payments of £1,163, £20,773 and £26,820 by the College of Further Education for the financial years 2001/2002, 2002/2003 and 2003/2004 respectively, shown under Revenue Subhead – Other Reimbursements?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING**

The sums shown in the question are not the three figures that the Department has reconciled with Treasury. These figures should be as follows: 2001/2002 is £1,202.34p, 2002/2003 is £22,856.34p and 2003/2004 is £27,726.55p respectively. They are not all, as stated in the question, in respect of charges made by the College of Further Education. The figure for 2001/2002 indeed is in respect entirely of charges made by the College of Further Education in terms of a number of things, private examination fees, fees for adult classes. Now, the revenue charged by the College of Further Education shown under Revenue Sub-head “Other Reimbursements” is in respect of administration costs for exams as I have just explained.

Other charges included in the figures for 2002/2003 and 2003/2004 are in respect of overpayments made to scholarship holders and also for the hiring of lecture rooms at Bleak House are also credited to this revenue. Hence the difference between the figure of 2001/2002 and the much higher figures of 2002/2003 and 2003/2004.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2304 OF 2004**

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

The figures in my question are related to the answer that I got at the last meeting of the House in respect of the increase from £500,000 to £1,250,000 between the original estimate and the forecast outturn in respect of Head 5 Sub-head 6 Other Reimbursements, where the receiver of the revenue is the Accountant-General. I am still trying to figure out how this system works where the receiver of the revenue is the Accountant-General but at the time that I asked the question what I was told was that the Departments mentioned were the ones that were receiving the money. Now is this money paid by the Department to the Accountant-General or by the public to the Department?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

Reimbursements from the Department to the Accountant-General and the figures, I am told, have been reconciled with Treasury.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

I am not questioning the accuracy of the figure, all I am pointing out is that I am using the figures provided previously, and in the previous answer one of the sources identified was College of Further Education, implying that this was money that the College of Further Education presumably had returned to the Treasury because the receiver of the revenue is the Accountant-General. Now the Minister has said this is fees, what is it that the College collects this from the people who use these things and then pass it to the Treasury, is that the position?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

Well the Department does, yes. Obviously, administratively the College receives the payment of fees and through the Department of Education it is passed on to Treasury, the Accountant-General.

**NO. 2305 OF 2004**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**EDUCATION – NON-EU CHILDREN**

Can Government state when the policy was introduced that children residing in Gibraltar without a residence permit should be admitted to Government schools and since then how many such children have been admitted and in which years?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING**

No non-EU children residing in Gibraltar without a residence permit have been admitted to Government schools. However, given the sometimes long waiting time for the issuing of such permits from a purely administrative point of view, the Department allows children to be registered when it is advised by the Civil Status that the permit will be issued in due course. In such cases, parents are informed that should such permits not be issued for some reason or other, then the children will no longer be allowed to attend school unless they become fee paying from that time.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2305 OF 2004**

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Well, this seems to address a different issue than the source of the question. The source of the question is that at the previous meeting of the House I was told that the Government had actually dealt with children that were not legally in Gibraltar in anticipation of being given a permit, on the basis that these children were here and that the choice was either deporting them or allowing them to be educated. Now this is not the same category of people that the Minister has just mentioned, I take it.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

Yes, in effect it is because the Government took the policy decision that either it enforced immigration laws and expelled from Gibraltar and physically saw out illegal child immigrants, for want of a better word, in other words illegal undocumented persons who were of school attending age, either the Government applied the law and had them expelled from Gibraltar, or otherwise had a moral obligation to provide them with schooling. What was not acceptable, we came to the conclusion to, was that the Government should turn a blind eye to their presence for lack of courage to apply the immigration legislation and then deny them free schooling. In other words, that there were children in Gibraltar, in Gibraltar with the knowledge of the

Government, but to which the Government was denying a free education. The way that that was dealt with was that in effect they get residence permits. So it is true that these people are getting residence permits as a means of compliance with the Education Ordinance that requires that in order for entitlement to free schooling.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

I hear what the Chief Minister has to say, which is in fact the same as he said the last time which is what prompted the question. The point is that is it not the case that the answer given by the Minister for Education that people arriving and wanting to go into school are told 'you are being admitted into school in anticipation of your being granted a permit', is not quite the same situation as he is describing.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

It is a different scenario.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

It is a different scenario and I am asking about the scenario I am trying to identify, how many people were affected by that policy decision, that was the question?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

The one I have described.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

That is right, yes.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

We do not have the information here but from memory, it was somewhere between 10 and 15, probably nearer 15 than 10 my instinct tells me, but it was a figure of that order. Remember there had previously already been a regularisation exercise so some were admitted because their parents and their own status was regularised under various amnesties, and then there is this rump that had not been regularised and that were admitted through this route. If the hon Member wants to know the exact figure, the information is available and can be obtained for him.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

I would be grateful if the rest of the information sought in the question would be provided, that is the years when this happened, when the policy decision was taken and when this took place.

**HON F R PICARDO:**

Can we be given some further information as to the criteria applied there? Was it related to the number of years that the parents had been in Gibraltar or the number of years that the children had been in Gibraltar without a residence permit and without the benefit of education?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

No, my understanding of the way, certainly what was intended, is that it is not subject to criteria. I think the policy is that in respect of children of which the administration is aware that they are in Gibraltar and the administration chooses not to enforce the statutory rights to have them or to seek the necessary judicial orders to have them seen out of Gibraltar, that they are then admitted into schools on the basis that these children should not be allowed to fester as non-persons. Either they are illegal immigrants who should not be in Gibraltar and they are seen out of Gibraltar, or they are admitted into schools, but they should not fall in between either of those so that they are here with the knowledge of the administration but denied schooling. So there is not a criteria beyond that.

**HON F R PICARDO:**

But are there not some individuals in a situation where they are in Gibraltar without a residence permit, where the Government are aware of that, where they are not being excluded and where the relevant department is saying to them or to their parents who are legally in Gibraltar, *'this is the cost of schooling and if this cost is not met your children will not enjoy that schooling'*.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

I am not aware that that is the position, that is precisely what the policy was intended to eradicate. It is possible that children have been introduced into Gibraltar unlawfully recently and they have not been brought forward and have been put in the Loreto Convent or somewhere like that, but that was precisely the situation that this policy was intended to address, because these children were either being denied schooling, or their parents were usually of very limited incomes, were making huge sacrifices themselves so as not to deny their children schooling, paying fees at private schools. Some of them were outside of school and some of them were busting a gut to keep their children in the Loreto Convent, and that is precisely what the Government's policy was designed to relieve them of, the dilemma between denying their children school or otherwise relatively poor people having to pay fees.

**HON F R PICARDO:**

Can the Minister for Education tell us whether he is aware in fact of instances such as that which we are debating, which may not yet have been dealt with under this Head and who are still pending introduction into schools despite their parents having been told *'this is the cost of education, if you cannot afford it your child is not getting an education'*. I assume this is not something we can continue to do indefinitely, there must be a limited number of solutions.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

No it is not. Sorry, I know he asked the Minister but if I could just answer the very last bit. No, I do not think there can be any limit, we must enforce our immigration controls. We must not allow children to come in if we do not want them to come in and if they do come in clandestinely and they are discovered, then they should be either seen out of Gibraltar or educated, but I do not think there are any circumstances in which this community can know that there are children of school age in Gibraltar, choose not to apply the immigration legislation to them and then deny them education. So that is not to say that we want an endless number of people from Morocco in our schools, I think there is a limit to that capacity in our resource but the immigration laws cannot be applied at school level, they have got to be applied at border control levels and they have got to be applied at immigration law enforcement level, and it cannot be applied by default simply denying children schooling if they get in and are not seen out.

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

As far as the Department of Education is concerned, when people come to the counter to enrol operationally in practical terms, we immediately either ask for the identity card to show legal residence or otherwise, that is the thrust of the answer I have given to this question, refer the matter to the Civil Status and Immigration Control who will then advise us as to the status of that person. It might fit within the categories that the Chief Minister has described and if so, and in such cases we then proceed with the process of enrolment.

**HON F R PICARDO:**

Can I take it from that that the Minister for Education is telling me that he is, in answer to my question, not aware of any case where there is a child who might not yet have been enrolled who would fall within this category?

**HON DR B A LINARES:**

As a matter of fact I am aware. There are two or three children in that situation but that is purely in terms of procedure and administratively that this process has not been gone through as yet.

**NO. 2306 OF 2004**

**THE HON L A RANDALL**

**NEXT DAY SERVICE MODEL**

Can Government state how the Post Office has performed against the seven Working Practices agreed in the New Next Day Service Model the Hon and Gallant Ernest Britto referred to in the Budget Session of March 2003?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS**

Only six of the seven working practices form part of the Next Day Service Model. Number 5 referred to by the Hon Mr Britto in his budget speech in 2003 does not. The other six working practices are working to the satisfaction of the Government, as indeed is working practice No. 5.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2306 OF 2004**

**HON L A RANDALL:**

How has the Post Office measured the performance of these six working practices?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

By ensuring that the mail is delivered within the next day, which is what the agreed practice stipulates, and that is monitored and the results are actually in a very high 90 per cent of mail received and delivered.

**HON L A RANDALL:**

The Minister says 90 per cent, however, the practices said all mail so what measures are being taken to improve this from 90 per cent to satisfy what was originally set out as the target?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

I have said over 90 per cent not 90 per cent so therefore the figure is actually in excess of 90 per cent and quite near 100 per cent. The only thing is that this is being monitored over a period of a year and as soon as the year is over we will be able to

gauge the exact percentage, but the figure is very much near to the hundred, well over 90 per cent.



**NO. 2307 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**DPC – ISLAND PROJECT**

Further to the answer to Question No. 1905 of 2004, can Government say what was the nature of the work produced by Triay, Stagnetto, Neish – Island Project Queensway Quay which cost £16,200?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS**

Triay, Stagnetto, Neish provided legal advice to the Development and Planning Commission in relation to the outline planning application for the project known as the Island Project at Queensway Quay.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2307 OF 2004**

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

Is the Minister in a position to say what the advice exactly related to?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

This was before my time, but I understand that there were objections to the project from certain parties who took legal advice themselves and made representations about the granting of the outline planning permission on a point of law, which basically was in respect of whether the Development and Planning Commission had the authority to be able to grant an outline planning in the sea and not on land. Therefore, there was advice granted to the Development and Planning Commission on this issue. I think it will be remembered that subsequently there was an amendment in the law before this House in order to address this issue and to clarify the matter for the future.

ORAL

**NO. 2308 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**FUNICULAR SERVICE**

Do Government support the construction of a funicular installation from Casemates to Rock Gun?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS**

Answered together with Question No. 2309 of 2004.

**NO. 2309 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**FUNICULAR SERVICE**

Has an environmental impact assessment now been submitted in respect of the application for planning permission for a funicular by 21<sup>st</sup> Century Rock Ltd?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS**

An environmental impact assessment in respect of the funicular project has not yet been submitted. The Government await the outcome of the assessment before taking a view on the project. Subject to environmental impact assessment the Government, in principle, support this project as an addition to our tourism infrastructure.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 2308 AND 2309 OF 2004**

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

The position of his predecessor in that Department, which he made known after he left the DTI was one where he was not very favourable to the project, that may have been his own personal position and not the position of the Government, but what about on heritage considerations, the Minister referred to the environmental impact, do the Government not see whether any heritage considerations, given that it is on the north side of the Rock?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

Let me say that the Heritage Trust and the Heritage Lobby is part of the Development and Planning Commission and their views have been made known to the Commission and the Commission has taken a view on the matter awaiting the environmental impact assessment, but if there was any violation of our main heritage sites the project would not be allowed to proceed. Obviously the environmental impact assessment would address that issue and point that out.

ORAL

**NO. 2310 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**MICROWAVE ANTENNA LINK STATION**

Has planning permission been granted in respect of a microwave antenna link station at British Lines Road and were any representations received in respect of this project?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2311 to 2316 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2311 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**MARINA BAY COMPLEX LTD**

On what date was outline planning permission granted to Marina Bay Complex Ltd in respect of an application to construct a multi-storey car park/commercial development?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2310 and 2312 to 2316 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2312 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**DPC – THOMPSON’S COTTAGES, NAVAL HOSPITAL HILL**

Has the application for planning permission for the construction of three houses at Thompson’s Cottages, Naval Hospital Hill been granted?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2310, 2311 and 2313 to 2316 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2313 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**DPC – THOMPSON’S COTTAGES, NAVAL HOSPITAL HILL**

Can Government say how many representations have been made to the Development and Planning Commission in respect of the proposed development at Thompson’s Cottages, Naval Hospital Hill?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2310 to 2312 and 2314 to 2316 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2314 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**DPC – GRAND MAGAZINE, ROSIA MOLE**

Can Government say how many representations have been made to the Development and Planning Commission in respect of the proposed developments at Grand Magazine site and Rosia Mole?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2310 to 2313, 2315 and 2316 of 2004.



ORAL

**NO. 2315 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**DPC – GRAND MAGAZINE, ROSIA MOLE**

Has planning permission been granted to Commercial Developments Inc Ltd to construct a residential development at Grand Magazine site and bathing and sub-aqua facilities at Rosia Mole?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2310 to 2314 and 2316 of 2004.

**NO. 2316 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**DPC – 2 BUENA VISTA ROAD**

Has the application for planning permission to construct seven houses at 2 Buena Vista Road been granted?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS**

Planning permission was granted for the microwave antenna link station at British Lines Road. Two representations were received in respect of this project.

Outline planning permission has not been granted to Marina Bay Complex Ltd for the commercial development/multi-storey car park.

Planning permission has not been granted to the proposed development at Thompson's Cottages. Two representations were received in respect of this proposed development.

Planning permission has not been granted in respect of the proposed development at Grand Magazine and Rosia. Five representations have been received. One of these carried 65 signatures.

Planning permission has not been granted in respect of the proposed project at 2 Buena Vista Road. Let me just add that when this question was written, the Development and Planning Commission had not met as it did last Friday and in fact the proposal in respect of Thompson's Cottage and Grand Magazine and Rosia were discussed, so there have been developments since then but I would not want to make it known across the floor of the House, seeing that the applicants may not have yet been informed of the outcome.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 2310 TO 2316 OF 2004**

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

When the Minister says therefore, will we know now in relation to Question No. 2312 and No. 2313, in relation to Question No. 2314 that it was not granted, does that mean that the Development and Planning Commission has not yet discussed the matter and that is why it has not been granted not that it has been refused? Is that the case?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

In respect of which one?

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

In respect of the others. For example, Question No. 2316, 2311 as well.

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

No, Question No. 2316 which is Buena Vista Road. That has been discussed and we are in discussion with the developer over certain requirements, and the same applies to Marina Bay.

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

In relation to Question No. 2314 and No. 2315 which is the development at Grand Magazine and Rosia Mole, is it the case that planning permission has been refused or that it has not been granted because it has not been discussed yet?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

The Grand Magazine and Rosia Mole were discussed at the meeting of the Development and Planning Commission last Friday and a decision was taken and will be communicated to the developers within the next few days I assume.

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

Just to clarify, it was not that planning permission was not granted, it is simply that it had not been discussed.

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

I am not saying whether it was not granted or not, all I was saying is that there have been developments since the drafting of this question and I just did not want to mislead by saying that it had not been considered. It has been considered.

**NO. 2317 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**DPC – SEA AQUARIUM, OCEAN VILLAGE**

What condition was imposed by the DPC on the original application for a Sea Aquarium in the Ocean Village project, and for what reason?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS**

It is not appropriate to give confidential details of the sort requested in respect of a particular application.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2317 OF 2004**

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

Can the Minister say whether this is still at the discussion stage or whether it has been concluded one way or the other?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

No, certain conditions have been imposed on the development and the developers have asked for time to consider these and make further representations to the Commission, and this will probably happen in February next year.

**NO. 2318 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**PIAZZA PROJECT**

Has the Piazza project now been handed over by the contractor to the Government?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS**

Yes.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2318 OF 2004**

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

On what date did that happen?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

This happened on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2004 when a substantial completion certificate was issued.

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

There was an issue which we have discussed before in this House relating to the delay in the completion of the project on the part of the developer and the Minister supplied me with the penalty clause listing the amounts that had to be paid depending how long the project over run. Can the Minister say whether that clause has been enforced and what amounts have been paid by the developer, or will be paid by the developer to the Government?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

I would need notice of the question, if the hon Member wishes I would be happy to make the necessary information available to him.

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

If the Minister could write to me with that information I would be grateful.

**NO. 2319 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**GRAND PARADE – CAR PARK**

Can Government tell the House whether there have been any further meetings since September 2004 with the persons interested in building an underground car park at Grand Parade, and if so when and with what result?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS**

There was a further meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2004. The Government, however, are not willing to divulge details of what was discussed at that meeting.

All I am prepared to say at this stage is that the Government would wish there to be a public consultation exercise on the intended project of building a car park under Grand Parade. The results of the exercise will assist the Government in taking decisions with respect to the intended project.

ORAL

**NO. 2320 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**DPC – MEETINGS**

How many meetings of the Development and Planning Commission have taken place since 24<sup>th</sup> September 2004 and on what dates?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2345, 2355, 2376 and 2377 of 2004.



**NO. 2321 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**IMPORTS – PRIVATE MOTOR VEHICLES**

What was the number and value of private motor vehicles imported by:

- (a) individuals;
- (b) licensed dealers;

on a monthly basis since September 2004 inclusive?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2322 to 2325 of 2004.

**NO. 2322 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**IMPORTS – GOODS VEHICLES**

What was the number and value of goods vehicles imported by:

- (a) individuals;
- (b) licensed dealers;

on a monthly basis since September 2004 inclusive?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2321 and 2323 to 2325 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2323 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**IMPORTS – COMPUTERS**

What was the value and number of computer items imported into Gibraltar since September 2004 inclusive on a monthly basis?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2321, 2322, 2324 and 2325 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2324 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 October 2004 inclusive?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2321 to 2323 and 2325 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2325 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**IMPORT DUTY – BUILDING MATERIALS**

What was the amount of import duty paid on building materials on a monthly basis since October 2004 inclusive?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS**

The information is set out in the schedule that I hand to the hon Member.

### Schedule to Question 2325

#### Answer to Question 2321

- (a) Number and Value of private motor vehicles imported, September-November 2004

<b>IMPORTED BY</b>				
	<b>Individuals</b>		<b>Licensed Dealers</b>	
<b>2004</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Value (£ thousands)</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Value (£ millions)</b>
September	23	92.0	694	8.0
October	16	49.6	710	8.1
November	23	99.7	447	6.4

#### Answer to Question 2322

- (b) Number and Value of Goods Vehicles imported, September-November 2004

<b>IMPORTED BY</b>				
	<b>Individuals</b>		<b>Licensed Dealers</b>	
<b>2004</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Value (£ thousands)</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Value (£ thousands)</b>
September	5	2	5	37
October	-	-	6	34
November	5	4	5	39

#### Answer to Question 2323

- (c) Computer hardware imported, September-November 2004

<u>Month</u>	<u>Value of Computers (£)</u>
September	772,621
October	511,818
November	1,028,720

As explained at the last meeting of the House, when an identical question was asked, it is not possible to provide a figure for the number of computers imported into Gibraltar, as it is individual components that are imported and not fully assembled computers.

#### Answer to Question 2324

Import Duty Collected at Land Frontier at the Non-Commercial Gate, October-November 2004

October	£12,883
November	£17,782

Contd.....

**Contd Schedule 2325**

**Answer to Question 2325**

Import Duty Collected on Building Materials  
October-November 2004

October	£29,010
November	£40,587

**NO. 2326 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**FLIGHTS TO GIBRALTAR**

Can Government say whether any flight destined for Gibraltar has been allowed to enter a Spanish airport as an alternative when filing its flight plan, and if so what flight was it and on what date did this happen?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS**

No flight destined for Gibraltar has needed to divert to a Spanish airport since the restrictions on diversions were lifted by Spain with effect from 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2004.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2326 OF 2004**

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

The question actually asks whether the airlines have been allowed to enter a Spanish airport as an alternative when filing its flight plan and not whether they actually diverted there. Is the Minister able to say whether the airlines are now entering Spanish airports in the flight plan as an alternative airport?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

What I can tell the hon Member is that as from 3<sup>rd</sup> December the airlines were informed of the alternatives that they now had which basically eliminated the restrictions that had existed until that date. The actual need for that to have happened has not happened due to the fact that the need has not arisen. We will obviously have to test the system when the need is there but so far there has not been the need for that.

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

As I understand the situation perhaps the Minister might be able to clarify it if I am wrong, but as I understand it when an airline is flying to a particular destination they file a flight plan before they leave wherever they are, in this case Luton or Manchester, once they file that flight plan there they will enter before leaving an alternative airport which might be used for emergency purposes or if the weather does not allow a landing at Gibraltar. This is before they actually leave and before



they arrive in the vicinity of Gibraltar and it is at that particular stage that they would enter the alternative airport in the flight plan. Before it was not possible to enter a Spanish airport. As we understand it from the reading of the situation, it would have been possible after that agreement was arrived at but we do not actually know whether this is happening or not. I would also draw the Minister's attention to the comments made by GB Airways who had at one particular point, this was in November though, said they had not received any official confirmation regarding any change of policy on the part of the Spanish administration. Can the Minister say, although there has not been a need to divert to a Spanish airport and I understand that, can he say whether in the actual flight plan Spanish airports are now being entered or not?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

I am afraid I cannot confirm that matter because I have not asked the airline. I have assumed that they have done. All I can say is that when GB Airways made that comment to the press in November, although the Spanish Foreign Secretary and the British Foreign Secretary had both jointly announced the fact that this was the case, it was not until 3<sup>rd</sup> December that an official communiqué was circulated which basically did away with the restriction and enabled the flight to be diverted to Malaga if required.

ORAL

NO. 2327 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

**AIRLINES**

Are any new airlines in discussion with the Government about flying to Gibraltar?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 2328 to 2330 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2328 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**FLIGHTS – GIBRALTAR/LONDON GATWICK**

How many flights between Gibraltar and London Gatwick airport were timetabled and how many were cancelled on a monthly basis since October 2004 inclusive?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2327, 2329 and 2330 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2329 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**FLIGHTS – GIBRALTAR/LUTON**

How many flights between Gibraltar and London Luton airport were timetabled and how many were cancelled on a monthly basis since October 2004 inclusive?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2327, 2328 and 2330 of 2004.

**NO. 2330 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 October 2004 inclusive?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS**

One new airline is in discussion with the Government.

No flight between Gibraltar and the airports of Gatwick, London Luton or Manchester was cancelled in October or November 2004. One flight to London Gatwick was rescheduled, following damage sustained on the ground on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2004.

The number of flights timetabled were as follows:-

Gibraltar to London Gatwick:	62 in October 54 in November
Gibraltar to London Luton:	31 in October 21 in November
Gibraltar to Manchester:	18 in October 17 in November

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 2327 TO 2330 OF 2004**

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

In relation to the one new airline the Government are now having discussions with, is that in addition to the airlines that there were last time, and if so how many are there in total now?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

That is a new contact we have made in the last month.

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

How many are there in total at the moment?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

We are actually actively in contact with five airlines at the moment.

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

Is the Minister in a position to tell the House whether any of those would be a link to Morocco in some shape or form?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

No, all UK.

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

In relation to the questions asked previously where the Minister confirmed that Fly-Be and the South West was one area that was being looked at, is that still the case?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

That is still the case.

ORAL

**NO. 2331 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**SEA TRADE MEDITERRANEAN CRUISE CONVENTION**

What was the cost, with a breakdown, of attending and participating in the Sea Trade Mediterranean Cruise Convention and exhibition in Genoa?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2332 to 2334 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2332 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**SEA TRADE IN GENOA**

How many persons made up the Gibraltar delegation to Sea Trade in Genoa and what offices do they hold?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2331, 2333 and 2334 of 2004.



ORAL

**NO. 2333 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**SEMINAR IN FINLAND**

Who were the delegates from Gibraltar that took part in the seminar on “Competitive Regions – Shaping Best Practice” in Finland recently and on what dates did the seminar take place?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2331, 2332 and 2334 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2334 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**SEMINAR IN FINLAND**

What was the cost, with a breakdown, of Gibraltar's participation in the seminar "Competitive Regions – Shaping Best Practice"?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS**

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

## **SCHEDULE TO QUESTION 2334**

### **Q 2331**

The cost of attending the exhibition and conference was £17,067 as follows:-

Construction, installation and dismantling of stand	£11,851
Delegate fee	£ 674
Freight charge and expenses	£ 244
Air fares	£ 1,422
Subsistence	£ 477
Hotel accommodation	£ 2,399

### **Q 2332**

Three persons made up the Gibraltar delegation to the Trade Genoa, as follows:-

The Chief Executive of the Gibraltar Port Authority

The Director of the Gibraltar Government Office in London, who is also Vice-President of Medcruise

A junior officer from the Gibraltar Government Office in London.

### **Q 2333**

The two Gibraltar delegates at the "Competitive Regions – Shaping Best Practice" seminar were Victor Reyes and James Savignon, the EU Programmes Manager and the EU Programmes Facilitator, respectively. The seminar took place from 12-15 October 2004.

### **Q 2334**

The cost of participation was £2,982 as follows:

Flights	£1,363
Hotels	£ 797
Subsistence	£ 603
Travel Expenses	£ 219

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 2331 TO 2334 OF 2004**

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

The schedule which the Minister has just passed on to me, I have some queries in relation to items which are shown. It shows the total cost of Sea Trade as being in the region of £17,000. It says that three persons attended the seminar but I have a query in relation to the hotel accommodation which is shown as being £2,300 for three people. Is that because the conference was for a week, can the Minister clarify that?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

The actual exhibition and conference went on, I believe, for five or six days. The attendance at this particular exhibition and conference was as I have said by three people, the Chief Executive of the Port Authority, who actually attends these conferences as a delegate because in addition to the actual exhibition hall there are also conferences that are going on where issues of a general interest within cruising and the cruising industry are discussed, therefore we need to have our eyes and ears there. The Director of the Government Office in London who is also Vice-President of Medcruise and therefore he attends not just to attend the exhibition but actually to participate in the Medcruise activity, and then we have a junior officer from the London office who actually went to the conference and exhibition to man the Gibraltar stand.

**NO. 2335 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**SLOP OIL RECEPTION AND TREATMENT LTD**

Has the application by Slop Oil Reception and Treatment Ltd for a licence to carry out an activity described by section 192D of the Public Health Ordinance or an extension thereof been granted?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS**

Yes.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2335 OF 2004**

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

Can the Minister say when this was granted?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

Yes, that was granted on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2004 for a period of two years.

ORAL

**NO. 2336 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF EUROPE'S MARITIME REGIONS**

In what capacity is the Gibraltar Government a member of AMRIE and APRI, the Policy Research Institute of Europe's Maritime Regions?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2337 to 2343 of 2004.

**NO. 2337 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF EUROPE'S MARITIME REGIONS**

What was the cost, with a breakdown, of Gibraltar's attendance and participation at the launch of APRI in Brussels in October?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2336 and 2338 to 2343 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2338 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF EUROPE'S MARITIME REGIONS**

What is the cost, if any, of Gibraltar's membership of AMRIE and APRI?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2336, 2337 and 2339 to 2343 of 2004.



ORAL

**NO. 2339 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF EUROPE'S MARITIME REGIONS**

Can Government list the other members of AMRIE and APRI?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2336 to 2338 and 2340 to 2343 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2340 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF EUROPE'S MARITIME REGIONS**

Who were the other members of the AMRIE Specialised Working Group on maritime education and research that Gibraltar has been chairing for the past two years and what regions or interests do each of them represent?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2336 to 2339 and 2341 to 2343 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2341 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF EUROPE'S MARITIME REGIONS**

How many meetings of the AMRIE Specialised Working Group chaired by Gibraltar have taken place in the last two years, where did they take place, and who represented Gibraltar?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2336 to 2340, 2342 and 2343 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2342 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF EUROPE'S MARITIME REGIONS**

Can Government supply to the Opposition in this House, for the record of Hansard, a copy of the policy paper influenced by Gibraltar that was produced by AMRIE and circulated to all MEPs following the Prestige incident?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2336 to 2341 and 2343 of 2004.

**NO. 2343 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF EUROPE'S MARITIME REGIONS**

Can Government say on how many occasions Gibraltar's interests were safeguarded at the initial stages of EU Directives as a result of our membership of AMRIE?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS**

Gibraltar is a member of AMRIE as a Maritime Region.

There was no specific cost for attending and participating at the launch of APRI: this was timed to coincide with the October meetings of the AMRIE Specialist Working Groups.

There is no cost for membership or participation in APRI. The annual membership fee for AMRIE is 3,666 euros.

The members of AMRIE are listed in the Schedule I hand the hon Member. The members of AMRIE are automatically members of APRI.

The members of the Specialist Working Group on Centres of Excellence, which covers maritime education and research, are set out in the Schedule which I also hand to the hon Member.

The AMRIE Specialist Working Group on Centres of Excellence met on the following occasions in 2003 and 2004:

19 February 2003  
10 June 2003 \*  
14 October 2003  
18 February 2004  
17 June 2004 \*  
21 October 2004

\* - Gibraltar not represented at this meeting.

I now hand the hon Member a copy of the AMRIE position paper on the *Prestige*.

The Government cannot specify a specific number of occasions when Gibraltar's interests have been safeguarded.

AMRIE membership has specifically proven beneficial to Gibraltar in receiving prior warning of proposed EU policy, directives and regulations, and therefore able to gauge their possible impact on Gibraltar, considering how other EU members are reacting to proposals and comment on the proposals while still at the discussion stage, in the following areas:

- Places of refuge – creation of European Compensation Fund
- White Paper on Transport
- Ship to ship transfers of oil
- The development of the Trans-European Networks (TENsT) and the motorways of the sea
- The Marco Polo initiatives: research in the maritime field
- The I-Marq project on bathing water quality
- Market access to Port services
- Sulphur Dioxide emissions from ships, reduction of sulphur in bunker oil, and proposed directive expected in 2005
- Role of EMSA (European Maritime Safety Agency)
- Port security, and proposal for a directive in this field
- The proposed European Intermodal Loading Unit
- Double-hull tanker regulations
- Ship source pollution legislation, and the introduction of sanctions to combat it
- Short Sea Shipping issues
- Safety rules and standards for passenger ships

The work covered by AMRIE is spelt out in the Annual Report for 2003 which I hand to the hon Member. So in the Annual Report which is being handed over, all of these issues will have been covered.

Membership of AMRIE also allows networking with other European regions and ports in maritime matters, and offers an opportunity to lobby the AMRIE sponsoring MEPs. Membership also gives Gibraltar profile as a maritime region, which led to Gibraltar being invited to chair one of the working sessions at the High Level Conference held in Genoa in May 2004.

Now when reading questions earlier on the hon Member asked who represented us in this. I do not think it is covered in my answer, I have overlooked that but it is the Chief Executive of the Ministry for Trade, Industry & Communications, Richard Garcia, who is the Gibraltar representative on this forum.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 2343  
 SCHEDULE TO QUESTION 2339



## AMRIE Membership per Categories

AMRIE members are distributed in the following categories:

Regional Authorities,  
 Local Authorities,  
 Ports,  
 Research / Consulting  
 Training organisations,  
 Universities,  
 Trade Unions,  
 Classification Societies,  
 Industries  
 Associated members  
 Individual members

Category / Name	Country	URL
<b>Regional Authorities</b>		
Flemish Community	Belgium	<a href="http://www.lin.vlaanderen.be/awz">http://www.lin.vlaanderen.be/awz</a>
Satakunta Region	Finland	<a href="http://www.satakunta.fi">http://www.satakunta.fi</a>
Bremen Bundesland	Germany	<a href="http://www.europa-bremen.de">http://www.europa-bremen.de</a>
Liguria Region	Italy	<a href="http://www.regione.liguria.it">http://www.regione.liguria.it</a>
Tuscany Region	Italy	<a href="http://www.regione.toscana.it">http://www.regione.toscana.it</a>
Malta Maritime Authority	Malta	<a href="http://www.mma.gov.mt">http://www.mma.gov.mt</a>
Marine Administration	Isle of Man	<a href="http://www.gov.im">http://www.gov.im</a>
North Region of Portugal	Portugal	<a href="http://www.ccr-n.pt/">http://www.ccr-n.pt/</a>
Gibraltar	UK	<a href="http://gibraltar.gov.gi">http://gibraltar.gov.gi</a>
<b>Local Authorities</b>		
Brest Urban Community	France	<a href="http://www.mairie-brest.fr">http://www.mairie-brest.fr</a>
Genoa - Province	Italy	<a href="http://www.provincia.genova.it">http://www.provincia.genova.it</a>
Bizkaia - Diputacion Foral	Spain	<a href="http://www.bizkaia.net">http://www.bizkaia.net</a>
<b>Ports</b>		
Turku - Port	Finland	<a href="http://www.port.turku.fi/">http://www.port.turku.fi/</a>

[http://www.amrie.org/members\\_category.htm](http://www.amrie.org/members_category.htm)

Genoa - Port	Italy	<a href="http://www.porto.genova.it">http://www.porto.genova.it</a>
Livorno - Port	Italy	<a href="http://www.portauthority.li.it/">http://www.portauthority.li.it/</a>
Gijon - Port	Spain	<a href="http://www.puertogijon.es/">www.puertogijon.es/</a>
Bristol -Port	United Kingdom	<a href="http://www.bristolport.co.uk/">http://www.bristolport.co.uk/</a>
Research / Consulting		
D'Appolonia	Italy	<a href="http://www.dappolonia.it">http://www.dappolonia.it</a>
BMT - British Maritime Technology	UK	<a href="http://www.bmt.org">http://www.bmt.org</a>
CETENA Spa	Italy	<a href="http://www.cetena.it">http://www.cetena.it</a>
CETEMAR	Spain	<a href="http://www.cetemar.com">http://www.cetemar.com</a>
Consultrans	Spain	<a href="http://www.consultrans.es">http://www.consultrans.es</a>
MIZ	Germany	<a href="http://www.miz-net.de">www.miz-net.de</a>
Qinetiq (ex DERA)	UK	<a href="http://www.qinetiq.com">http://www.qinetiq.com</a>
Training		
Maison de l'Emploi et de la Formation - Cherbourg	France	<a href="http://www.mef-cherbourg.com">www.mef-cherbourg.com</a>
Universities		
MBA in Shipping and Logistics, Copenhagen Business School	Denmark	<a href="http://www.shippingMBA.com">www.shippingMBA.com</a>
Turku university	Finland	<a href="http://www.utu.fi/english/">http://www.utu.fi/english/</a>
Aveiro University	Portugal	<a href="http://www.ua.pt">http://www.ua.pt</a>
University of Ljubljana - Faculty of Maritime and Transport Studies	Slovenia	<a href="http://www.fpp.edu">http://www.fpp.edu</a>
Plymouth University	UK	<a href="http://hydrography.plym.ac.uk/ims.htm">http://hydrography.plym.ac.uk/ims.htm</a>
Trade Unions		
European Transport Workers' Federation	European Organisation	<a href="http://www.itf.org.uk/etf">http://www.itf.org.uk/etf</a>
NUMAST	UK	<a href="http://www.numast.org">http://www.numast.org</a>
Classification Societies		
Lloyds Register of Shipping	UK	<a href="http://www.lr.org">http://www.lr.org</a>
Industries		
Finnlines (Shipowner)	Finland	<a href="http://www.finnlines.fi">http://www.finnlines.fi</a>
SET - Sistemi e Telematica (Elsag Bailey Group) (IT Solution provider)	Italy	<a href="http://www.elsag.it">http://www.elsag.it</a>
EUROYARDS (Shipbuilding)	Belgium	<a href="http://www.euroyards.com/">http://www.euroyards.com/</a>



Genoa - <i>Chamber of Commerce</i>	Italy	<a href="http://www.lig.camcom.it">http://www.lig.camcom.it</a>
SINDEL ( <i>Simulation</i> )	Italy	<a href="http://www.sindel.it">http://www.sindel.it</a>
Associated members		
Green Award Foundation	The Netherlands	<a href="http://www.greenaward.org/">http://www.greenaward.org/</a>
Individual members		
Joop Elias	The Netherlands	
Jens Froese	Germany	

[http://www.amrie.org/members\\_category.htm](http://www.amrie.org/members_category.htm)

**Answer to Question 2343**

**Schedule to Question 2340**

Members of Specialist Working Group on Centres of Excellence.

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>AREA OF ACTIVITY</u>
Maritime Administration and Port of Gibraltar – Chairman	Maritime Region
Cetena (Italy) - Vice-Chairman	Research/Consulting
Sindel (Italy)	Research/Consulting
Malta Maritime Authority (Malta)	Maritime Region
MIZ (Germany)	Research/Consulting
Flanders Maritime Administration (Belgium)	Maritime Region
Cetemar (Spain)	Research/Consulting
Port Authority of Gijon (Spain)	Port
NUMAST (UK)	Trade Union
University of Plymouth (UK)	University
Port of Turku (Finland)	Port
University of Turku (Finland)	University
Port of Cherbourg (France)	Port
Copenhagen Business School (Denmark)	Training Institute
AMRIE Director	
AMRIE Deputy-Director	
AMRIE specialist staff (3)	

ANSWER TO QUESTION 2343  
SCHEDULE TO QUESTION 2342



## AMRIE POSITION PAPER ON THE PRESTIGE INCIDENT

### 1. Background

- 1.1 The *Prestige* disaster off the Spanish coast raises a number of issues. The European Commission has responded by producing what some judge to be a hastily assembled document (Com (2002 681), 3/12/2002.Final) published as a political response to the disaster, some of whose recommendations may not deal with the root causes of the incident.
- 1.2 This Position Paper is produced essentially as a briefing document for AMRIE sponsoring MEPs, though it may warrant a wider circulation. The paper is not produced as a criticism of the European Commission, and certainly not Vice-President De Palacio whose obvious commitment to safety at sea has been amply demonstrated. Nor does it provide directly a commentary on the Commission Communication. Rather does it attempt to draw attention to what AMRIE believes, on the basis of the wealth of expertise within AMRIE members, are the key issues which need to be addressed as a result of the *Prestige* disaster (following also the *Erika* incident).

### 2. General Aspects

2.1 Two aspects of the *Prestige* accident need to be considered:

- (a) the cause, relating to the vessel condition and operation
- (b) the impact, relating to the management of the stricken vessel and the response to the fuel oil spillage

2.2 Both of these issues require careful and considered examination. It is too soon to identify the primary cause of the accident. What is needed is a *considered* response to issues – some tangential – which have come into the spotlight as a result of the *Prestige*. Consultation with technical experts in the maritime field is essential when deciding specific actions, particularly to ensure that a course of action will not have undesired side effects. This was not the path followed by the European Commission. Whatever the pressure on politicians to respond once the event has occurred, it is essential to resist 'rushing to judgement'.

2.3 The decisions that are taken in the aftermath of this disaster should increase the safety of shipping and improve environmental safeguards. The manner of implementation of measures should take account of their effect on the European shipping industry and trade in oil products.

2.4 The recent establishment of EMSA suggests that the Agency should be allowed time to make considered recommendations in the aftermath of the *Prestige* and other accidents. The Commission can then come forward with cogent, well-argued recommendations. It is also necessary that there is established an independent agency to oversee all accident investigations taking place in EU waters.

2.5 Care needs to be taken, in respect of sub-standard shipping, that European action does not result in poor ships being forced to operate in growing numbers in third world regions, where maritime states would be least able to cope with disasters which could harm the environment on a global scale. To avoid this, it is preferable that action should be taken through the IMO with different regions – such as Europe – bringing forward implementation dates of measures where necessary.

2.6 AMRIE recognises, however, that international action through IMO and other UN Agencies may not always be possible or at least not within acceptable time-scales. In such cases, and the *Prestige* may be one, it is imperative that the measures proposed - and to be argued at international level - should be well-founded and grounded on practical industry advice.

### 3. Issues Relating to Vessels

3.1 The assertion that a single hull tanker is unsafe needs to be questioned, as the evidence suggests otherwise. The focus should be on the operation of ships, because a poorly maintained and badly run double hull tanker poses a greater potential danger than a well maintained properly operated single hull tanker, particularly if we disregard the younger age of double-hull vessels. Hence, given that double hull tankers are newer vessels, it remains to be seen whether they will be safer in the long term than single hulled tankers. It is worth noting that the overall hull strength of a double hull vessel is not necessarily greater than that of a single hull vessel and that the double hull concept is intended purely to provide cargo tank protection in low energy impacts and groundings.

3.2 Tankers are not the only type of vessel to suffer accidents. The number of deaths from accidents involving bulk carriers is extremely worrying. For instance, on February 17th the *Tor1*, a cargo carrier loaded with timber sank off the coast of Sicily with the probable loss of the 8-man crew. This serious accident does not seem to have prompted the same concern as the *Prestige*. There are also problems posed by rogue containers lost overboard, which AMRIE has reported on before. Hence, we believe that there should be a more general focus on the enhancement of safety and improvement of the design, and particularly the operation, of all ship types.

3.3 In relation to all vessels it is imperative that additional resources are provided in all EU Member States so that Port State control inspectors can carry out the full and complete inspections as required by Paris MOU. There is also scope for reviewing the present inspection policy which mandates inspection of at least 25% of visiting foreign ships. Application of this crude target tends to result in too many repetitive inspections of good ships with too few inspections of the real culprits. A really poor ship takes a longer time to inspect and results in the overall number of inspections being reduced. Hence there is inevitable pressure on inspectors to concentrate on good ships which can be inspected very quickly. It would be preferable to refine the targeting approach. This could be achieved by crediting a Port State with, say, 5 inspections, in every case where a ship is detained for substantive reasons. This would shift the emphasis on to ships which warrant detention and away from good ships.

3.4 Finally, the treatment of the Master in the case of the *Prestige* has been little short of disgraceful. To be imprisoned, for 84 days, because of the faults of others is intolerable. Parliament and the Commission should look seriously at the treatment of Masters in these situations. While there may be cases of culpability it should not be matter of course that the Master is presumed to be guilty and imprisoned. The issue of the detention in prison of Masters should perhaps be examined in the light of Human Rights legislation.

#### Summary of Proposed Measures

- The phasing out of single-hull tankers is not the answer to accidental oil spillages
- Other vessel types, particularly cargo carriers, present serious safety problems
- Port State control inspection regimes need to be reviewed to ensure their effectiveness in identifying sub-standard ships
- The imprisonment of masters in the absence of prima facie evidence culpability should not occur

#### **4. Issues Relating to the Management of Environmental Accidents**

4.1 The initiative to develop a network of 'places of refuge' round European shores needs to be progressed. On this issue there is complete agreement. Moreover, it is clear that the impacts of the *Prestige* would have been far less had the mandatory places of refuge policy been in place and adhered to by the Spanish authorities. At one point, after the initial damage was discovered the Master of the *Prestige* sailed to within 4.5 nautical miles of the Spanish coast. Nonetheless, there needs to be flexibility in addressing this issue to allow for responses at different levels, dependent on the needs of a vessel which may find itself in distress, through the designation of primary and secondary places of refuge.

4.2 It is essential that every Member State should have a Disaster/Contingency Plan to deal with a maritime emergency, including a major oil spillage, and that there should be an interface between the plans of contiguous states. Currently many EU countries do have such plans. For instance, France, Portugal, and Spain have adopted the Lisbon Agreement to co-operate in cases of major spills at sea. Exercises to test the effectiveness of the plans and to provide training for key personnel should be conducted periodically. The Disaster/Contingency Plans should be co-ordinated at EU level.

4.3 Further research is required to deal with the containment/neutralisation of heavy fuel oils, such as that involved in the *Prestige* disaster, and chemical spills about which little is known.

4.4 It has been suggested that oil recovery vessels which can operate in heavy seas, away from the shore, should be commissioned. This is not only impracticable - oil recovery from stricken vessels in heavy seas is extremely difficult and dangerous - but runs counter to traditional seamanship practice of sailing towards appropriate sheltered shores and to the whole notion of places of refuge.

#### **Summary of Proposed Measures**

- It is imperative that further discussions and the rapid implementation of the 'places of refuge' Directive should be initiated
- Contingency /Disaster plans, covering, inter alia, oil spills, should be in place in all EU countries and to be co-ordinated at EU level
- Further research should be commissioned into heavy fuel oil spills and their treatment and into chemical spills about which little is currently known
- Oil recovery vessels should not be expected to operate in heavy seas

#### **5. Issues Relating to the Carriage of Oil**

5.1 The Commission suggestion that small vessels under 5,000 dwt should be double skinned, particularly in the light of the impact such a measure would have on Europe's shipping and bunkering industry, is impracticable. The potential problems created by this category of tanker should be dealt with by improved maintenance and operation and by their gradual elimination.

5.2 The operators of all tankers trading in European waters could be asked to belong to an organisation which will provide an immediate response in the case of a Tier 3 oil spill, thereby ensuring a rapid response in the critical few hours after a major accident.

5.3 Rules should be put in place to govern the manner in which bunkers are delivered, following, for example, the Bunkering Code of Practice of Singapore which has been used by other administrations as a basis for their own codes of practice.

5.4 Suggestions that UNCLOS should be re-negotiated and environmental considerations perhaps be allowed to compromise 'innocent passage' should be far more carefully considered before any proposals are made. The implications of a change in the concept of "innocent passage" - which as a concept predates UNCLOS by centuries - are immense. The unilateral 200-mile exclusion zones for single-hull tankers declared by France, Spain, and

Portugal were inadvisable and almost certainly illegal under international law. While accepting that a balance may need to be struck between the environmental considerations relating to the carriage of hazardous cargoes and freedom of the seas, it is not self-evident that the *Prestige* incident leads to some of the conclusions drawn by the Commission. The carriage of hazardous materials by sea does need to be examined and regulated, but it is principally a matter of ensuring that there are safe vessels operated competently that will secure this objective. There is a need to examine the human factors involved in this context. This implies the need for properly trained, proficient, and experienced personnel at all levels of maritime operations and covering shipboard, shore-based, salvage, and all other relevant personnel

5.5 It is also important to recognise that the two key players who have the major responsibility for the safe carriage of all types of cargo, and particularly hazardous cargo, are the shipper/charterer and the ship-owner/ship-operator. These parties have a duty of care. There should be transparency in the transactions and rewards and penalties to ensure compliance with current regulations. Further regulatory measures are not required. Charterers have a cargo and need to select a ship which is suitable in size, equipment and availability. They must have a quick and (relatively) easy way of assuring themselves that the ship they have chosen for commercial reasons is safe, legal, properly manned etc. Existing sets of information and procedures can go a long way to achieve this objective. The best practice of the major oil companies should be mandatory for all vessels sailing in EU waters. In relation to sources of information the EQUASIS system, to which Classification Societies contribute data, should be further developed and EMSA take over its running. The EU might consider the possibility of a Directive on the transparency of the ownership/chartering of vessels and/or pressure on IMO for such a transparency regulation.

#### **Summary of Proposed Measures**

- Potential problems of oil tankers under 5000grt should be dealt with by improving their maintenance and operation not by banning single hull vessels
- All oil tankers should sign up to an organisation providing immediate response to Tier 3 oil spills
- Rules should be put in place to govern the manner in which bunkers are delivered, following, for example, the Bunkering Code of Practice of Singapore
- Extreme care should be taken in formulating any EU proposals to re-negotiate UNCLOS, however desirable it may be to provide potential protection of the marine environment
- The main duty of care in relation to marine accidents belongs to the shippers/charterers and the ship-owners/ship operators, and the former should be provided with, and to use, effective mechanisms to achieve the highest standards of care and to demonstrate transparency

#### **6. The Role of AMRIE**

6.1 AMRIE is ready and willing, through its membership and range of expertise - and its objective representation of the wide range of maritime sector interests - to offer specific, more detailed advice to The European Parliament, and to EMSA and the Commission on all matters arising from proposed measures to enhance safety and environmental care, stemming from the *Prestige* disaster. In offering this advice AMRIE is attempting to ensure that the package of appropriate measures following the *Prestige* incident will only come after careful thought and planning, involving independent and objective representations from the maritime sector.

6.2 Given its strong links with the European Parliament over the past 10 years, AMRIE believes that it is well-placed to fulfil this advisory role.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 2343  
SCHEDULE TO QUESTION 2343



## AMRIE ANNUAL REPORT YEAR 2003

<u>1 – Outstanding facts in 2003</u> .....	3
1.1 – AMRIE 10 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Office Move .....	3
1.2 – New Specialist Working Groups .....	3
1.3 – New AMRIE orientations .....	3
1.4 – The main activities of AMRIE in 2003 .....	4
<u>2. Maritime Regional Economic Development</u> .....	4
2.1 – The Specialist Working Group MARED .....	4
2.2 – The MARED Conference .....	5
2.3 – The MAREDFlow Project .....	5
2.4 – The Trans-European Transport Networks (TENs-T) .....	6
2.5 – Other AMRIE activities related to MARED .....	7
<u>3 – Short Sea Shipping and Intermodality</u> .....	7
3.1 – The Specialist Working Group on Short Sea Shipping and Intermodality .....	7
3.2 – The REALISE Thematic Network .....	7
3.3 – The Marco Polo Programme .....	8
3.4 – The effect of Enlargement and the potential development of ports in the new Member States .....	8
3.5 – European Proposal for a Directive to standardise new Intermodal Loading Unit (ILU) .....	9
3.6 – The EC Freight Integrator Action Plan .....	9
3.7 – Other AMRIE activities related to Short Sea Shipping and Intermodality .....	9
<u>4 – Shipping Quality - Safety and security</u> .....	10
4.1 – The Specialist Working Group on Shipping Quality .....	10
4.2 – AMRIE Position Paper on the Prestige incident .....	10
4.3 – AMRIE Position Paper on Classification Societies .....	11
4.4 – AMRIE Position Paper on the European Commission Proposal on enhancing ship and port facility security .....	11
4.5 – AMRIE comments to the Consultation Paper on Freight Transport Security .....	12
4.6 – Other AMRIE activities in the field of security .....	12
<u>5 – Environmental issues</u> .....	13
5.1 – The Specialist Working Group on Marine Environmental Care .....	13
5.2 – The i-MARO Project .....	13
5.3 – The SEAM Project .....	14
5.4 – The EUROSION Project .....	14
5.5 – Comparative Environmental Impacts of all Transport Modes (the WP 3 of REALISE) .....	15
5.6 – AMRIE Position Paper on Commission Proposal on Sanctions on Ship Source Pollution .....	15
5.7 – Draft Directive on sulphur content of marine fuels .....	15
5.8 – The DG Environment “Marine Strategy” .....	16
5.9 – Other AMRIE activities dealing with Environmental Protection .....	16
<u>6 – Research and Training</u> .....	17
6.1 – The Specialist Working Group on Centres of Excellence .....	17
6.2 – The METNET Thematic Network .....	17
6.3 – Bids and projects launched by or in which AMRIE is involved .....	18
6.3.1 – Ongoing Projects .....	18

6.3.2 – Projects which have been accepted but will be signed and started in 2004 .	18
6.3.3 – Projects which were achieved in 2003.....	19
6.3.4 – Bids registered but not yet evaluated .....	19
7 – Information and communication.....	19
7.1 –The AMRIE High Level Conference .....	20
7.2 – The AMRIE web site .....	20
7.3 – The AMRIE NewsFlash .....	20
8 – Membership .....	20
8.1 – Members of AMRIE in 2003.....	20
8.2 – Efforts to recruit new members in 2003.....	21
9 – General organisation .....	21
9.1 – The sponsoring MEPs .....	21
9.2 – The organisation of AMRIE.....	22

## 1 – OUTSTANDING FACTS IN 2003

### 1.1 – AMRIE 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Office Move

On 1<sup>st</sup> June 2003, AMRIE left its 63 m2 offices at the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of 68 avenue Michel-Ange to move to **20-22 rue du Commerce**, at the corner of rue de Luxembourg, one minute from metro and bus station "Trone" and five minutes from the European Parliament. AMRIE has now 290m2, including a large meeting room. The new office will provide a more congenial and professional meeting space for AMRIE Members when in Brussels for Working Group meetings or on other business. It will also provide a more professional working environment for the Secretariat.

AMRIE organised a **reception on 14 October 2003 at 18:00**, in this new office, which served both as an **official opening** of the office and as a celebration of the **tenth anniversary of AMRIE**. Both events were marked by a short address by Mrs Brigitte Langenhagen, the remaining founder MEP of AMRIE.

### 1.2 – New Specialist Working Groups

1.2.1 - Because there were some overlaps between the former Working Groups on "Short Sea Shipping" and "Ports and European Regional Interests", they have been merged in a new SWG on "**Short Sea Shipping and Intermodality**". The intermodal aspects of port activities will now be covered by this merged WG. (see [point 3.1](#))

1.2.2 – A new Working Group has been created on "**Maritime Regional Economic Development (MARED)**", which will deal with regional and maritime economy. It will also cover the regional developments of ports activities and development (see [point 2.1](#))

### 1.3 – New AMRIE orientations

At the beginning of 2004 the Steering Group agreed a Secretariat proposal – following a General Assembly agreement in 2001 in Brussels – to confirm and formalise the twin aspects of AMRIE activities. These are: *first*, as a traditional membership organisation role, seeking to represent a wide range of maritime regional and maritime transport interests, reflected in the membership, at the level of European Union policy development; and *second*, as a European level 'think tank'/policy research institute, seeking to influence European policy development more directly via its increasing participation in EU projects and studies.

This second role will now be pursued via the AMRIE Policy Research Institute (APRI), which will be established as a division of the existing AMRIE asbl, but with a separate web-site. APRI will set up a database of the expertise of all its members and the Secretariat, to be maintained directly by the AMRIE members who will themselves update, when necessary, the definition of their expertise on the APRI web site. All AMRIE members will soon be invited to complete a template to be placed on the separate APRI web-site, but also linked to the main AMRIE web-site.



## **1.4 – The main activities of AMRIE in 2003**

AMRIE has

- issued **Position Papers** on maritime safety (see *point 4.2*), maritime security (*point 4.4*), the Trans-European Transport Networks (*point 2.4*), the Classification Societies (*point 4.3*), marine environmental protection (*point 5.6*)
- participated in **European projects** (*point 6.3*), co-ordinated some of them and launched some new ones.
- organised **conferences**, such as the annual High Level Conference (*point 7.1*) and the MARED Conference (*point 2.2*) and represented its members in a number of events
- spread **information** through its web site (*point 7.2*) and its NewsFlash (*point 7.3*)
- intensified its **contacts** with the European Commission, the European Parliament and other European institutions.

The present annual Report is structured around a **thematic approach**, in accordance with the agreement at the General Assembly at Lisbon in November 2002 to follow such a thematic approach for the AMRIE work Programme.

## **2. MARITIME REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

### **2.1.- The Specialist Working Group MARED :**

This new working Group was created in 2003 and met for the first time on 20<sup>th</sup> February. The Chairman is Marco Rolandi (Region of Liguria) and the vice-chair is Aude Leblanc (MEF Cherbourg).

The role of this SWG is to encourage discussion and exchange of ideas, leading to proposals to improve maritime regional economic development, involving the input of the regional and local Authorities in the development of port cities and their hinterlands.. The work of the Group will enable more detailed analysis of, on one hand, the profound impact of maritime activities (e.g. port development, short sea shipping) on regional economic and social development and, on the other hand, the obverse impact on maritime sectors of the development of port cities and urban areas and of tourism and land transport strategies.

During the three meetings held in 2003, the MARED SWG has

- adopted its work programme, which focuses on three main priorities:
  - discussion of the TEN-T corridors and the implications for maritime regional economic development;
  - sustainability and socio-economic issues relating to maritime regional infrastructure development and ports and their hinterland, and
  - integrated coastal zone management.
- started work on all three above topics, and some others,
- had first discussions on the revision of Trans-European Transport Networks, TENs-T (see *point 2.4*),
- sponsored MAREDFlow, a European project under the "Regions of Knowledge, Pilot Action" initiative (*point 2.3*),
- organised a "MARED Conference" (*point 2.2*)

## **2.2 – The MARED Conference**

The Conference was organised for the representatives from the Maritime Regions of the EU and pre-Accession countries, including their Brussels offices. It took place in the European Parliament on 15 October 2003 and addressed maritime regional development issues from different perspectives, and how EU maritime regions can benefit from improved economic development, competitiveness and jobs creation through participation in AMRIE and its links with the European Parliament and the European Institutions

Participants (including other interested organisations, and AMRIE members) attended the four sessions covering the following themes:

- the **role of AMRIE** - seen from a European Parliament perspective, given by *Brigitte Langenhagen*, MEP, and from a maritime regions' perspective, by *Jacques Mazières*.
- the **regional policy** in the light of enlargement - chaired by *Barbara O'Toole*, MEP and introduced by a presentation of *Graham Meadows*, Director of Regional Policy in DG REGIO
- the **Trans-European Transport Networks** - chaired by *Michael Frendo*, Maltese MP observer to the EP, with a preliminary presentation by *Alfonso Gonzalez-Finat*, Director of Trans-European Energy & Transport Networks in DG TREN and followed by a report by *Michael Lloyd* on the REALISE Thematic Network on Short Sea Shipping
- the **European Environmental Marine Strategy** - chaired by *Brigitte Langenhagen*, MEP, introduced by *Olle Hagström*, DG ENV and followed by a presentation by *Sue Lewey* on the EUROSION and i-MARQ projects

Each session was followed by very lively discussions with panels including the chairs and vice-chairs of 3 AMRIE Working Groups. A cocktail, offered by our sponsoring MEPs, allowed friendly contacts and continuation of discussions after the end of the Conference.

A press communiqué and the programme are available at [www.amrie.org/docs/Mared\\_Conf.htm](http://www.amrie.org/docs/Mared_Conf.htm)

## **2.3 – The MAREDFlow Project**

AMRIE prepared and submitted on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2003 a proposal called "MAREDFlow" to be funded under the **Regions of Knowledge Pilot Action** of DG Research.

The objective is to enhance the competitiveness of the five maritime regions involved by improving the flow of knowledge and technical "know-how" from "knowledge creators" to "knowledge users" in the transport logistics sector. This will be achieved by using the AMRIE concept of "**knowledge development maps**" devised by Michael Lloyd, who will act as the Coordinator.

In November 2003, the bid was accepted by the Commission and the project will start on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2004 for a duration of 24 months. **AMRIE is the co-ordinator** and the **partners are all AMRIE members**: the Asturias (Port of Gijon), Bremen (ISL), Mecklemburg (MIZ), Flanders (AWZ) and City of Pori.

## **2.4 – The Trans-European Transport Networks (TENs-T)**

2.4.1 - In August 2003, AMRIE made **comments on the Report of the High Level Group, chaired by former Commissioner Karel van Miert on the TENs-T revision**, which was issued on 27 June 2003. The main conclusions of AMRIE are as follows (*the whole comments are available at <http://www.amrie.org/docs/TEN-T-%20%20Van%20Miert%20Report.pdf>*):

- the Van Miert report represents a positive endorsement for an active policy for developing trans-European transport networks (related to the need for enhanced and balanced trade and regional development within the enlarged European Union) and its emphasis on the sustainability of trans-European transport networks and their proven meeting of economic, social, and environmental objectives and conditions.
- On general aspects: AMRIE supports strongly:
  - the need for the EU Member States and the European Institutions to provide substantial advance financing
  - an increase in Community funding of cross-border projects from 10% to 20%;
  - the establishment of a European Transport Fund (suggested by the European Parliament); the creation of the EIBs TENs Investment Facility (TIF), the use, but with care, of public-private partnerships, and the establishment of the 'Coordination Entity' to enable the Commission and the Member States to manage the delivery of the TEN-T projects in a timely and efficient manner.
  - The need for the TEN-T, including the priority projects, to be established along main trans-European axes/corridors with prioritisation also to achieve a shift in modal balance.
- On maritime transport issues: AMRIE strongly supports:
  - the priority given to the creation of four 'motorways of the sea' and urges that Member States submit proposals to establish all four of these motorways of the sea before 2007
  - the importance placed on improving the efficiency of the complete corridor logistics chain if the motorways of the sea are to become a reality
  - the necessity of providing operating aid for the establishment of the motorways of the sea and their land-side links for a pre-determined period
- However, AMRIE regrets that ports are not yet delineated and asks that the selection of this ports be made by the Members States on the basis of published criteria and methodology based on a cost/benefit analysis.

2.4.2 - AMRIE also participated in other activities related to TENs-T:

- AMRIE was a **co-signatory of a Common Declaration on the van Miert Report**, which is available on the **EIA web site**
- In fact, the concept of "**Motorways of the Sea**" had been launched already in the "White Paper on European Transport Policy for 2010" and DG TREN has organised on **24 January 2003** (hence before the Van Miert Report included them in the TENs-T) a **workshop** with the objective of clarifying the definition and components of this concept. The meeting was open by Mr *Karamitsos*, Director of Maritime Transport and chaired by Mr *S. Totsmann* (for the session on industry's role), Mr *E. Thielmann* (for the session on the role of the TEN-T) and Mr *W. Elsner* (for the session to define motorways of the seas). About 100 participants, from Members States and industry, heard presentations and had very fruitful discussions. A final definition of the motorways of the seas was not reached, but *Jacques Mazières*, who attended, stressed that they look very much like Short Sea Shipping in its wide sense, that is including the full logistic chain and delivery door-to-door.

## **2.5- Other AMRIE activities related to MARED**

2.5.1 – **Interreg IIIB North West Europe:** *Jacques Mazières* attended a workshop on « First Project Ideas for Interreg IIIB NWE » on 15 January 2003 in Paris. After a presentation of the Interreg IIIB Programme, several parallel sessions discussed possible topics to be included in the fields of transport, trans-maritime co-operation, cultural heritage, networks of cities and regions, politics for water, information society.

Following this event, and in particular, contacts made at the MARED Conference (see *point 2.2 above*), AMRIE has been invited to participate in 2004 in an Interreg **project bid for an "Arc Manche Development Initiative"**

## **3 - SHORT SEA SHIPPING AND INTERMODALITY**

### **3.1 - The Specialist Working Group on Short Sea Shipping and Intermodality.**

This new Working Group is the result of merging the former SWGs on "Short Sea Shipping" and on "Ports and European Regional Interests". This eliminated the overlaps which had developed between the two SWGs and avoid any potential overlap with ESPO and FEPOR activities. In the new SWG, the discussions on port issues are limited to those which can be covered by the term "intermodality". The mission of this SWG is to discuss, exchange ideas and make proposals for the development of Short Sea Shipping; its inclusion in the whole logistics transport chain, and the improvement of intermodality

This new Working Group met for the first time on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2003 and elected *Kari Hannus* (City of Pori, for Satakunta Council) as chair and *Harry Heijveld* (University of Plymouth) as vice chair.

During the three meetings held in 2003, the SWG has

- worked on the Marco Polo Programme and prepared a potential bid (see *point 3.3*). On 16<sup>th</sup> October, a presentation on this programme was made by Mr *Hervé Arki*, from DG TREN (however, the bid has been postponed to the second call for proposals, because of the possibility that AMRIE may be ineligible as it is not registered for VAT (see *3.3.1* below).
- monitored the work of the REALISE Thematic Network (see *point 3.2*)
- heard reports on various projects
- commissioned a sub-group of 5 members to examine the effect of enlargement and the potential development of ports in the new Member States (see *point 3.4*)
- discussed the European Commission Programme for the promotion of Short Sea Shipping and proposal for a Directive to standardise new Intermodal Loading Units (see *point 3.5*)

### **3.2 - The REALISE Thematic Network**

REALISE (**R**egional **A**ction for **L**ogistical **I**ntegration of **S**hipping across **E**urope) is an FP5 Thematic Network, funded by DG Transport and Energy.

The overall objective of REALISE is to develop technological strategies, methodologies, and tools for the European business community and policy-makers in the context of the development of short sea shipping, via its integration in the complete logistics supply chain. In the context of the work programme of REALISE these aims are mainly delivered by three key integrative studies dealing with Statistics, Environment impact, Multi-modal transport pricing comparisons.

The duration of REALISE is 36 months, from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2002 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2005. **AMRIE is the co-ordinator**, the principal contractors are Grimaldi, Erasmus, Mettle, Intermed, and the Land of Bremen, and there are 20 other members, many of which are AMRIE members.

During year 2003, the work done by REALISE was in accordance with the Work Plan and the Gantt Chart. The three Inception Reports of the three Integrative studies (Statistics, Environment and Multi-modal Costing and Pricing) were delivered in time to the Commission. The first European Workshop was successfully held in Bremen on 22 and 23 September and the first Regional Workshop was held in Athens on 1<sup>st</sup> December. More information on REALISE is available at [www.realise-sss.org](http://www.realise-sss.org).

### **3.3 – The Marco Polo Programme**

3.3.1 - The Marco Polo Programme - aiming at granting Community financial assistance to reduce road congestion, to improve the environmental performance of the freight transport system and to enhance intermodality - was adopted on 22 July 2003 (Official Journal of 2 August). The first call for proposals was published on 11 October 2003 with a deadline for submission fixed at 10 December 2003.

AMRIE decided in February 2003 to prepare two potential bids under the first type of intervention, that is "common learning action"

- one on "Joint awareness-raising and promotion" (to prolong the activities of REALISE),
- the other on "European-level training capability"

Unfortunately, this project was abandoned when it became evident in the call for proposal that **AMRIE could not be a partner or even a sub-contractor** in a Marco Polo project because we are not registered for VAT

3.3.2 – On 28 October, *Michael Lloyd* made a presentation on the Marco Polo Programme at a **seminar organised by the Flemish Community in Brussels**

### **3.4 – The effect of Enlargement and the potential development of ports in the new Member States**

AMRIE intends to develop a **study**, based on the experience and expertise of its members, reflecting a summary overview of the likely developments over the next five years and to promote the notion of EU funded co-operation between EU regional ports and new Member States ports.

A sub-Group has started first investigations, using studies already made in Turku, Rostock, Malta and Flanders. Funding mechanisms will also be investigated.

### **3.5. – European Proposal for a Directive to standardise new Intermodal Loading Unit (ILU)**

This proposal was criticised by all maritime stakeholders in a meeting of the **Transport section of the MIF (Maritime Industries Forum)** on 21 October 2003, where *Jacques Mazières* presented the criticisms of the AMRIE members, namely:

- the proposed ILU is higher than a maritime container and could not go under the river bridges across Europe
- the ILU will increase costs in ships and in ports. In particular, the coexistence of several types of loading units, e.g. containers and swap bodies, will complicate the storage
- the feedering, which is used mostly in combination with an intercontinental sea leg and the ports outside Europe will not be equipped to handle the new ILU. Furthermore, the new regulation does not integrate the US regulation on containers safety
- for inland navigation, it would lead to a loss of capacity since the barges could only transport a load of 3 units instead of presently 4 containers barges

### **3.6. – The EC Freight Integrator Action Plan**

In October 2003, the AMRIE Secretariat made **comments on a European Commission Discussion Paper** on the "Freight Integrator Action Plan": AMRIE is broadly supportive of the objective of this Plan, but is not convinced that such a broad European Community initiative towards identifying and supporting the "freight integrators" is either necessary or desirable. AMRIE commented also on some specific issues such as the role of SMEs, the implications of "just in time", the potential congestion around ports, the changes now occurring in distribution, the need for an analysis looking at different goods being transported, etc...

The comments have not yet been posted on the web site but are available on request to [info@amrie.org](mailto:info@amrie.org)

### **3.7 – Other AMRIE activities related to Short Sea Shipping and Intermodality**

**3.7.1 – Short Sea Shipping Day (Barcelona, 5 March 2003):** this event was organised by the Directorate General of Ports and Transport of the Autonomous Government of Catalunya, jointly with the Centre of Logistic and Maritime Services of the University of Catalunya. *Jacques Mazières* gave two presentations (one on the aims and activities of AMRIE, the other on REALISE and the AMRIE position on Short Sea Shipping). Other reports were made by Spanish ports and organisations and by the Spanish SSS Promotions centre. All were followed by lively discussions.

**3.7.2 – 4<sup>th</sup> Intermodal Award for Best Practices,** organised by EIA, the European Intermodal Association: AMRIE, represented by *Michael Lloyd*, was a member of the Jury. The awards were attributed to those companies which have the best concrete solutions (service or product) to promote intermodality in a specific area and were distributed during the "Intermodal & Logistics" (ITL) conference and exhibition in Rotterdam on 4-6 November 2003.

**3.7.3 – Galileo Maritime Applications International Conference (Ferrol, Spain, 6-7 November 2003):** *Fernando Pardo* gave the AMRIE position on navigation, environmental issues and short sea shipping

## 4 – SHIPPING QUALITY - SAFETY AND SECURITY

### 4.1 – The Specialist Working Group on Shipping Quality

The role of this Working Group is to discuss, exchange experiences and make proposals for the improvement of safety at sea and the elimination of substandard ships and to monitor related EU policy developments. The Chairman is *Des Howell* (Isle of Man Maritime Administration) and the Vice chairman is *Allan Graveson* (NUMAST).

During the three meetings held in 2003, this Working Group has

- discussed the consequences of the Prestige and Tricolor accidents and adopted an AMRIE Position Paper (see *point 4.2*)
- finalised a position paper on classification societies (*point 4.3*)
- created contacts with the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) and tried to reinforce the links between AMRIE and this body
- discussed the proposed EC Directive on ship source pollution and the introduction of sanctions and adopted an AMRIE Position Paper (see *point 5.6*)
- prepared a position paper on maritime security (*point 4.4*)
- discussed other issues such as a paper from Gauss on an incentive scheme for quality shipping, the extension of the Stockholm agreement, the transfer of register of passenger ships within the EU, the proposals for a reform of the Liner Conferences

### 4.2 – AMRIE Position Paper on the Prestige incident

In October 2003, AMRIE issued a Position Paper which does not comment directly on the Communication produced in December 2002 by the Commission as a response to the Prestige disaster. It rather focused on what AMRIE believes are the key issues which need to be addressed under four aspects

- **General aspects:** in case of severe accident, it is preferable not to hurry and to give a totally appropriate answer after consultation with industrial and technical experts. An independent agency should be established to oversee all maritime accident investigations.
- **Vessels issues:** the phasing out of single-hull tankers is not the total answer (a badly maintained double hull tanker is a greater danger than a properly operated single hull). Other vessel types may be dangerous (bulk carriers, containers lost overboard). Port State Control needs to be reviewed (rule of 25% encourages control of good ships...). Imprisonment of Masters should not occur, without genuine due cause.
- **Management of accidents:** Places of refuge should be rapidly implemented. Contingency/Disaster Plans to deal with maritime emergency should be set up in all EU countries and coordinated at EU level. Further research for neutralisation of heavy fuel oils and chemical spills to be undertaken. The suggestion that oil recovery vessels should operate in heavy seas is impracticable.
- **Carriage of oil in general:** Small tankers under 5.000 dwt should not be double-hull but better maintained and operated. Operators of all tankers should belong to an organisation providing immediate response to Tier 3 Oil Spills. Rules to govern the manner in which bunkers are delivered (code of practice of Singapore) should be created. Importance of human factors and properly trained and experienced personnel at all levels. The main duty of care belongs to the shipowners and the shippers (who must be provided with a mechanism to choose safe ships)

The AMRIE Position Paper on the Prestige Incident is available on the AMRIE web site at <http://www.amrie.org/docs/Prestige.pdf>

It was also presented by *Jacques Mazières* at a Round Table on "Safety in Maritime Transport", organised in Brussels on 7 May by **ETF (The European Transport Forum)**. *Brigitte Langenhagen*, sponsoring MEP also introduced the point of view of the European Parliament on improving safety at sea.

#### **4.3 – AMRIE Position Paper on Classification Societies**

In October 2003, AMRIE issued a Position Paper on the « Role of Ship Classification in improving and maintaining Shipping Quality ».

This paper deals with the role of classification societies and their interrelations with the shipbuilders (in the construction phase) and the shipowners (in the exploitation phase). The AMRIE position is that

- The role of Class is not and should not be that of a Regulator
- Common standards for the construction of ships should be produced not only at the European level (as announced by the LAN group) but at international level, i.e. the IACS level
- Flag states and port states should not recognise any Classification Society not adhering to the IMO guidelines
- Consideration should be given to a legislation imposing disclosure mandates on classification societies and shipowners
- Interested parties, e.g. shipowners, should not be in a position to have a controlling majority on the governing committees of classification societies.

The AMRIE Position Paper on Classification Societies is available on the AMRIE web site at [http://www.amrie.org/docs/Classification\\_Societies.pdf](http://www.amrie.org/docs/Classification_Societies.pdf)

#### **4.4 – AMRIE Position Paper on the European Commission Proposal on enhancing ship and port facility security**

AMRIE issued a Position Paper on the EC Proposal – COM(2003)229 Final of 2/05/2003 – on enhancing ship and port facility security.

AMRIE stresses that

- the security concerns of the USA and the EU will be best addressed by reciprocal co-operation rather than by unilateral actions (such as the USA Container Safety Initiative) which can impact on trade and cause competitive distortions
- third country ships wishing to call at EU ports should operate to adequate security standards, although such compliance will not guarantee the safety of all containers and "sample" inspections at ports will be required
- the complete maritime transport chain, from supplier to customer, needs to be made secure
- the extension of security measures to short sea shipping is appropriate under the conditions that the measures are proportionate
- the development of the use of ICT and of training programmes must be encouraged.
- the issue of piracy should be included.
- Member States should accept to take in charge one part of the costs associated with combating terrorism.



The complete AMRIE position paper is available on the AMRIE web site at [http://www.amrie.org/docs/Maritime\\_Security\\_Sept\\_03.pdf](http://www.amrie.org/docs/Maritime_Security_Sept_03.pdf).

#### **4.5 – AMRIE comments to the Consultation Paper on Freight Transport Security**

On 23 December 2003, AMRIE sent to the European Commission comments on its consultation paper on "Freight Transport Security"

AMRIE stresses that

- in relation to security of goods, as for security of citizens, it is important to ensure that any measures taken are proportionate to the risks involved, which entails an accurate assessment of relative risks to reduce the negative impact on costs
- it is difficult to correctly react to this paper, because of the absence of a comprehensive risk assessment analysis of the various types of risks
- special attention should be paid to the control of containers transferred between different modes, because it is at the intermodal interface that the risk is the greatest

The full AMRIE comments on the EC Consultation Paper on Freight Transport Security is available on our web site at [http://www.amrie.org/docs/Freight\\_Transport\\_Security.pdf](http://www.amrie.org/docs/Freight_Transport_Security.pdf)

#### **4.6. – Other AMRIE activities in the field of security**

**4.6.1** - A paper was presented at the Centres of Excellence WG on the **role of human factors** in maritime security and piracy.

**4.6.2** – An internal paper was produced on **the USA, IMO, and European Commission initiatives on the issue of security**. This covered, inter alia, the amendments to SOLAS (Safety of Life at Sea Convention) Convention and the ISPS Code (International Ship and Port Facility Security Code), adopted at a Diplomatic Conference in IMO in December 2002 and the Commission Communication on the issue.

**4.6.3** - In the **Centres of Excellence WG**, the following points were raised:

- the need for training and certification of security officers was stressed: it is estimated that it will be necessary to train more than 200 000 ship security officers before July 2004.
- though much of the amendments to the SOLAS Convention and ISPS Code are to be welcomed - whether practical results can be achieved is extremely doubtful. Furthermore the issue of the additional workload on existing officers must be considered : on larger passenger ferries/cruise ships there would be a need for an additional officer. On other ships these security duties will fall as an increased duty for an existing officer, on top of an already high workload. This could well increase fatigue and thus the risk of accidents as 80 to 90% of these are due to human factors.
- the "Container Security Initiative" (CSI) adopted by the U.S. Customs Services on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February 2003 was discussed and it was stressed that measures at EU level must be taken in order to 'counteract' the unilateral measures adopted by the USA, which can negatively affect the entire global trading environment. It was noted that the measures proposed, and particularly the CSI will have impacts on trade and on competition between ports. Furthermore it seems illogical and economically not justifiable to place undue pressure on vessels and ports, instead

of focussing the attention on making secure the complete maritime transport logistics chain.

## 5 – ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

### 5.1 – The Specialist Working Group on Marine Environmental Care

The role of this Working Group is to discuss, exchange experiences, make proposals and launch common projects for a better protection of the marine environment and the coastal management. The Chairman is *Tom Reincke* (GAUSS/Land of Bremen) and the Vice chairman is *Manfred Grigo* (MIZ in Germany).

During the three meetings held in 2003, this Working Group has

- heard a presentation by *Tim Marking* on the position of European shipowners on the NOx and SOx emissions from seagoing vessels
- discussed draft bids dealing with environment
- received periodic reports on
  - the EUROSION, I-MARQ, and SEAM project (see *points 5.2, 5.3 and 5.4*)
  - the work of the **HECOM Commission, in which AMRIE has a status of observer** and is represented by the Port of Turku (Finland)
  - the work of REALISE in its Workpackage on "Comparative Environmental Impacts of Transport Modes (*point 5.5*)
  - the DG Environment "Marine Strategy", in which AMRIE has several experts (*point 5.8*)
- prepared (in parallel with the SWG on Shipping Quality) a position paper on a draft Directive on ship-source pollution and the introduction of sanctions, including criminal sanctions (*point 5.6*)
- discussed the EC Draft Directive lowering sulphur levels in marine fuels and heard a presentation, followed by discussion, by *Ms Nicola Robinson*, from DG Environment (*point 5.7*).

### 5.2 – The i-MARQ Project

i-MARQ is a Research Project, led by Marinetech South (UK) and is partly funded by DG Information Society – IST. The objective of I-MARQ is to develop and validate a prototype GIS-based system which can deliver information on environmental **quality of coastal waters** to local authorities, ports, tourism agencies and companies. The system will integrate data collected from sensors and from satellites. The project started on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2002 for a duration of 36 months.

AMRIE is one of the partners and is involved in the structuring of End-User Group activity (AMRIE is leader of this work-package), in the technical evaluation, in dissemination and exploitation, and in GIS and Server Implementation.

i-MARQ uses data fusion technology capable of integrating very diverse data streams of varying data quality to improve forecasting. There are three use cases (metocean water quality forecasting; microbiological risk forecasting, and eutrophication risk forecasting) and two geographical study areas (Côte d'Azur in France and The Solent in UK)

In 2003, the system architecture further developed and AMRIE was able to intensify the end-user work by looking at the system/user interface and at the development of a demonstration system to be shown to potential users.. The User Forum was developed and a first Newsletter was produced and circulated.

To know more on i-MARQ, visit their web site at <http://www.imarq.info/>

### **5.3 – The SEAM Project**

SEAM is a Research Project, partly funded by DG Tren (Sustainable Growth - Land Transport and marine technologies). Led by METTLE, its objective is to formulate safety and environmental measures and procedures to **mitigate the impact of three key elements of shipping operations on the marine environment**: ballast water management, anti-fouling paints, and air pollution, including quality of fuel and emissions. It started on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2001 and will finish on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2004 (36 months)

AMRIE is one of the partners and is involved in dissemination of results (AMRIE is Workpackage leader) and, through *Sue Lewey*, in ballast water and anti-fouling.

In 2003, two environmental models have been produced, one by BMT (measuring the quantities of contaminants in the marine environment, with two case areas in the German Bight and the Bay of Naples), the other by Bremen (measuring the quantities of contaminants from the total number of ships over a time period on given routes in the two geographical case study areas).

One of the main work-packages has been completed with reports on information regarding technical and operational measures that can be used to reduce the impact on the marine environment of antifouling compounds, air emissions, and ballast water discharges. The needs and preferences of all major stakeholders have been assessed and presented. The work is now concentrating on case studies and full scale evaluation and on the cost benefit analysis of best solutions.

To know more on SEAM, visit their web site at <http://seam.mettle.org/>

### **5.4 – The EUROSION Project**

This project was launched mid-2001 by DG Environment to assess the status, trends and **impacts of coastal erosion process** throughout Europe and to elaborate policy recommendations on how to manage such processes at the European, national and local levels in the most sustainable way.

AMRIE is not a partner in EuroSION, but has been invited to be a member of the **Advisory Group**, which, in particular, has to review the interim reports and trends in coastal erosion in Europe.

In 2003, *Sue Lewey* represented AMRIE at a workshop on "policy recommendations for coastal erosion management", organised on 10 January in The Hague.

To know more on EUROSION, visit their web site at <http://www.eurosion.org/>

### **5.5 – Comparative Environmental Impacts of all Transport Modes (the WP 3 of REALISE)**

The objective of this WP is to assess the environmental impact of short sea shipping, in comparison with other transport modes and to produce a comprehensive, comparative methodology to enable the internalisation of the associated externalities – principally environmental - in multi-modal transport chain contexts, and to enable the selection of policy options.

Work has been carried on so far to examine the various environmental impacts related to surface transport and how the distinct modes “perform” in relation to the environmental threats that can be distinguished. The preliminary outline of the methodological framework for comparison has been developed and work will continue for the evaluation and conversion into monetary terms of the various externalities.

To know more, visit the REALISE web site at <http://www.realise-sss.org/default.aspx>

### **5.6- AMRIE Position Paper on Commission Proposal on Sanctions on Ship Source Pollution.**

In December 2003, AMRIE issued a Position Paper on the Commission Proposal for a Directive on ship source pollution and the introduction of sanctions (COM 52003) 92)

AMRIE welcomes the Commission proposal, but stresses that – unless attention is paid to the need for enforcement to be adequate and uniform throughout the EU, and adequate mechanisms are established for the gathering of evidence, and the protection of the chain of evidence to be presented in a court of law – then the impact of any legislation will be minimal.

AMRIE also welcomes the inclusion of “operational”, i.e. deliberate and/or negligent discharges; stresses the importance of inclusion of all types of ship source pollution (not only oil), and considers that criminal sanctions should apply to all those who are responsible (ship operating Company, flag state, but also public ports and maritime authorities when culpable).

The AMRIE Position Paper is available on the AMRIE web site at <http://www.amrie.org/docs/Ship%20Source%20Pollution.pdf>

### **5.7 – Draft Directive on sulphur content of marine fuels**

The European Commission has published a proposal (COM 2002 595 final) ) for a Directive lowering sulphur levels in marine fuels as a means of reducing air pollution (specifically SOx) from ships, particularly in the vicinity of ports.

A Workshop was held in the European Parliament, chaired by Heidi Hautala, a Finnish MEP of the Environment Committee and was attended by *Michael Lloyd*. The discussions showed some discrepancy between the data provided from the oil industry and those from environmental organisations.

Another obvious point, which emerged from discussion, was the oil companies’ reluctance to provide low sulphur fuel at reasonable cost. Their preference was to continue to supply their current ‘residual’ product and to promote the use of ‘scrubbing’ on board individual vessels.

Though both the shipping industry and the oil companies welcome the proposal lowering sulphur levels in marine fuels, the solution to the problem seems difficult to reach, mainly because the oil companies state that they can supply low sulphur oil, but at a price reflecting a 50% premium required for the extra production costs, while Environmental Groups estimate the real cost premium to be around 15% only.

The issue, as usual in environmental matters, being to know who finally bears the cost of reducing pollution. Studies into the scrubbing approach and market-based solutions, emissions trading, fiscal measures, etc are being initiated to provide a full overview of the potential solutions. Meanwhile, the Directive will proceed through the normal EU procedure.

AMRIE considers that the approach of the proposed Directive, aimed at reducing the sulphur content of marine fuel oils, is substantially correct, as were the main suggested amendments by the European Parliament Environment Committee. However, some flexibility to provide for alternative approaches should be provided within the Directive.

### **5.8 – The DG Environment “Marine Strategy”**

The European Commission published in 2002 a communication “towards a Strategy to protect and conserve the marine environment” and organised at Koge (Denmark) in December 2002 a conference to develop this strategy in close co-operation with Member States, the European Parliament and candidate countries. Further to this conference, to which AMRIE was invited, DG Environment has created **four working groups and invited AMRIE to nominate experts** in each of them:

- Ecosystem Approach to management of human activities (EAM): *Sue Lewey* is the AMRIE expert. This group met in December 2003. It clarified its role (to develop guidelines for an ecosystem approach to human activities and make proposals for its implementation in the marine environment) and had first discussions on the impact of major European initiatives
- European Maritime monitoring and assessment (EMMA): *Sue Lewey* is the AMRIE expert. This Group will meet in February 2004. Its role will be to establish a baseline to monitor the marine environment without getting absorbed in the technical and scientific difficulties.
- Hazardous substances (HS): *Sue Lewey* is the AMRIE expert. A first meeting took place in November and decided that a document will be prepared to select and prioritise hazardous substances; regional conventions such as Helcom will be contacted. Discussions will continue on measures to control hazardous substances and improve reporting systems
- Strategic Goals and Objectives: *Michael Lloyd* is the AMRIE expert. This group has not yet met.

### **5.9. – Other AMRIE activities dealing with Environmental Protection**

**5.9.1 – Seminar on Ports and Habitat (Brussels, 20 March 2003):** *Sue Lewey* represented AMRIE at this seminar, organised by PIANC, EUDA and IMI to address the implications of the Habitats and Birds Directives for port development in estuaries, deltas and other coastal habitats protected under Natura 2000.

**5.9.2 – Workshop on ICZM organised by DG Environment on 9 December 2003 in Brussels:** *Jacques Mazières* and *Sue Lewey* participated in this workshop which made a review of the compatibility of EU policies and legislation with ICZM and discussed possible

action/communications to enhance awareness and understanding of ICZM and to support the implementation of the ICZM Recommendation and Agenda 21 process in coastal zones.

5.9.3 – **Conference on anti-fouling systems (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 17 December 2003):** *Sue Lewey* made a presentation on "Responding to the AFS Convention: the EU initiatives"

## 6 – RESEARCH AND TRAINING

### **6.1 – The Specialist Working Group on Centres of Excellence**

The role of this Working Group is to discuss, exchange experiences, make proposals and launch common projects in the fields of Research and Development and of Education and Training; and to monitor EU policy developments. The Chairman is *Richard Garcia* (Gibraltar Government) and the Vice chairman is *James Veiga* (FRETI in Portugal).

During the three meetings held in 2003, this Working Group has

- examined all European projects in which AMRIE was or may be involved (see *point 6.3*)
- discussed education, training and recruitment of seafarers
- monitored the work of AMRIE in the METNET Thematic Network (*point 6.2*)
- discussed the maritime security issues, mainly from a human point of view
- heard on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2003 a presentation, followed by discussion, by *Michael Kyriakopoulos*, from DG Research, on the present status of FP6, the results of the 1<sup>st</sup> Call for Proposal, and the next steps

### **6.2 – The METNET Thematic Network**

METNET was a 3-year Thematic Network launched by DG Transport and Energy to improve the quality, to harmonise the contents; to extend the applicability of maritime education and training for ship officers in the EU, and to cluster and exploit the results of completed and ongoing RTD projects. It finished on 31 March 2003.

AMRIE was one partners and was involved in several work-packages. All tasks have been achieved, more than 30 deliverables and seven CDs with courses have been produced. METNET Days have been organised in all European countries to spread the achieved results and envisage future activities derived from the project. A final event was organised in Brussels on 20 March 2003, where over 60 participants discussed the results of METNET and the ways to implement its recommendations.

Due to the lack of ship officers in the EU, the efforts to attract more young people for a maritime career and to retain ship officers on board have been analysed and evaluated. An initiative was launched to propose upgrading and enrichment to maritime education and training to promote maritime studies and to offer quality training.

The METNET web site is still alive at <http://www.metnet.info/>

### **6.3 – Bids and projects launched by or in which AMRIE is involved**

AMRIE is involved, sometimes as Coordinator, in several European Projects, some of which finished during the year 2003. Some other Projects will only start in 2004. Finally, some bids have not yet been evaluated while some others were rejected

#### **6.3.1 – Ongoing Projects**

- **REALISE**, a Thematic Network on short sea shipping, **co-ordinated by AMRIE** (see point 3.2)
- **I-MARQ**, a project dealing with quality of coastal waters (see point 5.2)
- **SEAM**, a project to mitigate the impact on marine environment of ballast water management, anti-fouling paints and air pollution (see point 5.3)
- **MISTIC**, a Thematic Network on Maritime Intelligent Transport systems. The main objectives of MISTIC are: dissemination of state of the art concerning intelligent systems for transport; assessment of research projects; collection of end-users requirements; development of a suggested methodology to involve users and stakeholders more intensively in the development of maritime intelligent systems, particularly in relation to socio-economic aspects. In 2003, the deliverables were close to being finalised. The project will be completed on 30 April 2004. To know more, visit the web site at <http://www.ist-mistic.org/>
- **TOHPIC** is a project aiming at improving the interface between ports and High Speed Crafts. It will finish on 28 February 2004 and deliver operational tools and a handbook on the establishment of HSC operations. On 1<sup>st</sup> December 2003, AMRIE, in charge of dissemination, organised in Brussels an "information and discussion workshop" which allowed discussion, with stakeholders, of the results of the project. To know more, visit the web site at <http://www.amrie.org/tohpic/index.htm>

#### **6.3.2 – Projects which have been accepted but will be signed and started in 2004**

- **MTCP** – Maritime Transport Co-ordination Platform (a co-ordination action led by BMT and funded by DG Tren). to study issues arising in most sectors of maritime transport (excluding short sea shipping, already covered by REALISE). The subject areas will include safety, education and training, shipping quality, social economic issues. The duration is 36 months and AMRIE will be involved in WP3 (Maritime Transport Sector Observatory) and in WP4 (Expert Reviews, Forecasting and Recommendations). Participation in specific studies is also envisaged.
- **FASTER** – Fostering Alliances For Sustainable Transport in European Research, a SSA to provide a platform of high added value services to European SMEs from the transport sector and related business areas.
- **MAREDFlow**, a Project **co-ordinated by AMRIE** under the "Regions of Knowledge" Pilot action (see point 2.3)

### **6.3.3 – Projects which were completed in 2003**

- **E-MARCON** is a project which *finished on 31 December 2003*. It has created tools to allow museums around Europe to create virtual exhibitions. AMRIE was in charge of dissemination and has produced the final CD Rom, which contains a copies of the web site and of a virtual exhibition on "Ships of wood – ships of steel" and diaporamas how to create a virtual exhibition and how to use the e-shop. To know more, visit the web site at <http://www.emarcon.net/>
- **TELESHIPPING** (1 December 2001 – 30 September 2003) made a pilot market validation of telematics applications to maritime transport operators (shipping companies operating cruise and ferry ships) and the affected community (travel agencies, passengers, ports, cities, etc.).
- **E-MAR** (1st July 2001 - 30th June 2003) was a Thematic Network launched by DG Information Society (IST) for developing maritime e-work and e-business, mainly in SMEs. To know more, visit the web site at <http://emar.mettle.org/>
- **METNET** (1st April 2000 - 31st March 2003) was a Thematic Network launched by DG Transport and Energy on Maritime Education and Training.(see *point 6.2*)
- **ADVANCES** (1<sup>st</sup> April 2000 - 31st March 2003) was a Thematic Network launched by DG Transport and Energy to improve quality shipping and safety at sea. AMRIE was in charge of dissemination

### **6.3.4 – Bids not yet decided**

- EI-SECURE - 2003 (a Project led by BMT on an Integrated System using Evolutionary Computing for Unified Risks Evaluation)
- MARSECAT - 2004 - (a Specific Support Action, led by AMRIE, on Maritime Security Assessment and Training),
- MARINERS - 2004 (a STREP, led by AMRIE, on Market-based instruments for emission reduction from ships)

There were also bids which were **rejected** by the evaluators, such as

- CHEMPOL - 2003 (an AMRIE project on chemical pollution at sea and management of chemical and hazardous spills from ships) but it will be presented again in a future call for proposals
- MARMO - 2003 (an Integrated project for GMES, Global Monitoring for Environment and Security, to promote the use of Earth Observation satellites to monitor maritime traffic, fisheries, pollution, etc.)

## **7 – INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION**

AMRIE has continued to inform its members and - for items which are not reserved only to members - the whole European Maritime Community, through a large e-mailing list with over 1.500 addressees. Besides the **MARED Conference**, already mentioned (*point 2.2*) and the great number of **events in which AMRIE represented its members**, also mentioned, the main activities were the following.



### **7.1 – The AMRIE High Level Conference**

Every year, at the occasion of its Annual General Assembly, AMRIE organises a High Level Conference hosted by one of its members, the country and theme changing every year.

In 2003, there was no High Level Conference because the General Assembly which took place on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2002 at Lisbon decided, for several practical reasons, that these conferences should take place **in Spring and no more in Autumn**.

Hence, the last High Level Conference was the **Eleventh** and took place in **Lisbon on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> November 2002** on the theme of "**Maritime Safety and Coastal Management Issues**". The programme and papers are available on our web site at <http://www.amrie.org/docs/HLC11/index.htm>

The **Twelfth High Level Conference** will take place on 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2004 in Genoa (Italy) on the theme of "The Trans-European Transport Networks (TENs-T)

### **7.2 – The AMRIE web site**

The AMRIE web site at <http://www.amrie.org/index.htm> has been **totally re-designed** in 2003: new background colours, no more frames, a retractable, always visible, menu bar, etc. A search engine has been included and a **password protected area for members only** has been created.

### **7.3 – The AMRIE NewsFlash**

The AMRIE NewsFlash is e-mailed about once a month to about 1200 addressees. It gives to the maritime community summary information on the AMRIE activities, the European Institutions activities in maritime fields (including publications in the Official Journal), the progresses of European projects in which AMRIE is involved, next conferences and meetings, etc.

To be registered on the mailing list, please ask to [info@amrie.org](mailto:info@amrie.org). The last issues of the NewsFlash are available on the web site at [http://www.amrie.org/news\\_flash.htm](http://www.amrie.org/news_flash.htm)

## **8 – MEMBERSHIP**

### **8.1 – Members of AMRIE in 2003**

At the end of 2003, AMRIE had **41 members** (the list is available on the AMRIE web site at <http://www.amrie.org/members.htm>)

Classified by **countries**, 12 were from Italy, 7 from UK, 4 from Finland, 3 from Germany and Spain, 2 from European organisations, France and Portugal, 1 from Belgium,

Denmark and the Netherlands, 2 from Accession Countries (Malta and Slovenia) and 1 from Isle of Man.

Classified by **categories**, 9 were Regional Authorities, 3 local Authorities, 5 ports authorities, 5 universities, 8 research/training/engineering organisations, 5 industries (yard, shipowner, software, equipment, simulation), 2 trade unions, 1 classification society, 1 chamber of commerce, 2 individual members

The AMRIE membership covers most of the European Maritime counties and **all categories of actors in the maritime regions, which give AMRIE a wide range of expertise** on every maritime issues and facilitates networking and the launch of common projects

## **8.2 – Efforts to recruit new members in 2003**

Because of the upcoming enlargement of the EU, AMRIE started efforts to mainstream **accession countries** members into the organisation. Potential members in all maritime regions have been contacted. Priority has been given to those maritime actors with whom we have an existing contact or leads to individual organisations. Further meetings have been undertaken with Brussels representatives offices where they exist. All those contacted were, invited to the MARED Conference (see *point 2.2*).

Strong contacts have been built in particularly with Tallin (Estonia), Gdansk (Poland), the port of Klaipėda (Lithuania), the Latvian Academy, and in Slovenia, and membership is anticipated after accession

A first success was reached with the **Faculty of Maritime & Transport Studies of the University of Ljubljana, based in Portoroz (Slovenia)** that became member in July 2003.

Of course, AMRIE has also prospected for new members in the **current EU15 countries**.

While converting potential members into new ones always remain a slow process, the Secretariat is optimistic because AMRIE has **benefits** to offer its membership:

- by allowing participation in projects and studies
- by giving the opportunity to influence the policy making process
- by giving access to information and key people

The best way to enable prospective members to perceive the benefits of membership is for them to be recruited directly by existing members in the same area of activity. This will be encouraged in 2004

## **9 – GENERAL ORGANISATION**

### **9.1 – The sponsoring MEPs**

The AMRIE sponsoring MEPs are now 22 and the list is available at <http://www.amrie.org/sponsors.htm>.

*Karla Peijs*, who was appointed Minister for Transport in the Netherlands was replaced by *Peter Pex* as a sponsoring MEP from the Netherlands.

However, because the European Parliament will be totally renewed by **new elections to take place in June 2004**, in the EU15 countries, and also in the accession countries, AMRIE has already started in 2003 to look for possible new sponsoring MEPs. In particular, contacts have been taken with the National Parliament observers from the Accession countries who have taken their seat in the European Parliament.

The Secretariat regularly follows the **meetings of relevant Committees**, including in 2003 the Temporary Committee which started an inquiry into the Prestige disaster.

The AMRIE sponsoring MEPs and the Secretariat (Michael Lloyd) have **met Vice-President Ms Loyola de Palacio** during the plenary session of the EP in Strasbourg on **two occasions in 2003**. The MEPs had thus the opportunity to exchange views on all topical maritime issues, to raise questions, and to make suggestions or comments on the activities of DG Tren.

## **9.2 - The organisation of AMRIE**

**9.2.1** - The **Secretariat** is based at Brussels, 20-22 rue du Commerce, 1000 Brussels. The phone number is +32.2.736.17.55, the fax is +32.2.735.22.98, the e-mail address is [info@amrie.org](mailto:info@amrie.org).

The Secretariat is made of

- Jacques Mazières, Director
- Michael Lloyd, Deputy Director
- Milena Noviero, Office Administrator
- Walter Vassallo (Shipping, Transport and Intermodality)
- Fernando Pardo (Training and Maritime Pollution)
- Sue Lewey (Environmental Issues)
- Bob Beck (European Parliament and Accession countries)

**9.2.2** - The **five Specialist working Groups** (see points 2.1, 3.1, 4.1, 5.1 and 6.1) meet three times a year, in February, June and October. They help the Secretariat to prepare position papers, new European Projects, and all other documents to be presented to the Steering Group.

**9.2.3** - The **Steering Group** is made of 14 persons, from which at least 70% are representatives of Regional and local governments. *The list of present members is available on the web site at [http://www.amrie.org/Steering\\_Group.htm](http://www.amrie.org/Steering_Group.htm).*

The Steering Group is effectively the Board of AMRIE and meets four times a year, in February, June and October (generally in the European Parliament) and just before the annual General Assembly. It represents AMRIE between General Assemblies and is responsible for the approval and implementation of AMRIE policies.

**9.2.4** - The **General Assembly of Members** meets at least once a year, generally the day before the opening of the annual High Level Conference. It determines AMRIE policy, adopts the work programme, approves income and expenditure accounts, votes the budget, and fixes the annual membership fees.

It also votes on the **Resolutions** prepared by the Specialist working Groups.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 2336 TO 2343 OF 2004**

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

Representative in all the forums not just in the Specialised Working Group, is that right?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

Yes. Each of the regions is represented by one person and it is normally officials although MEPs are sometimes brought in for discussions or whatever, but it is officials and it is Richard Garcia who sits representing Gibraltar.

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

There are a number of questions which the Minister has answered together so I will endeavour to go through them to see whether any supplementaries arise. In relation to Question No. 2336 the Minister said that we are represented as a maritime region, is that as a region of the United Kingdom or as a maritime region of Europe? Is there a difference?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

Well, we are a maritime region of Europe. However, if one looks at the membership category list, obviously when it comes under the country the Member State is UK, but we are actually there in our own right and we argue from our own position and not the UK's position. The UK has actually other maritime areas within the UK which are represented there. Remember it is not a one person per Member State, there are a number of maritime regions within one Member State and so therefore it is there by regions and not by Member States.

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

Can the Minister say how Gibraltar came to be involved with these organisations? How did this come about? Was it the United Kingdom who directed us in that direction or was it an initiative of his Department?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

No, we had contacts in Brussels which we were in contact with. Let me say that AMRIE is a fairly new body which was born from within the European Union to try and communicate amongst different regions for dictating maritime policy generally, and we were asked if we wanted to form part of it and we felt that it was of benefit to Gibraltar for us to be there.

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

In relation to Question No. 2337 which related to the cost of the conference, the Minister said that there was no cost because there was already somebody there to attend a meeting of the Working Group, that is how I have understood it from my notes. What was the cost of that, going there for the Working Group and going to this at the same time?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

I have not got that information in front of me but let me say that obviously the cost is the cost for the flights and accommodation for our representative to attend, and he was already attending there for one of the main AMRIE meetings so the cost of actually attending the APRI meeting was not anything extra because it fitted in to the schedule of the meeting and it was done to coincide in order to bring the different participants together and being able to participate in this extra forum.

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

Given that the Minister does not have the cost of that with him, could he write to me perhaps in relation to that cost?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

Yes.

ORAL

**NO. 2344 OF 2004**

**THE HON L A RANDALL**

**PORT AUTHORITY**

Can Government provide an update on the on-going discussions with the Port Department staff regarding their possible transfer to a statutory Port Authority?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS**

Discussions continue and are on the point of concluding in a manner satisfactory to all concerned.

ORAL

**NO. 2345 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**PORT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

How often and on what dates has the Port Advisory Council met since 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2004?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2320, 2355, 2376 and 2377 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2346 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**PORT – NUMBER OF SHIP VISITS**

How many ships have called at Gibraltar since October 2004 inclusive for:

- (a) cargo;
- (b) repairs?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS**

Answered together with Question No. 2348 of 2004.



ORAL

**NO. 2347 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**PORT – BUNKERING LICENCES**

Have any new applications for a bunkering licence been made since October 2004 and have any new licences been issued?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS**

No.

**NO. 2348 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**PORT – BUNKERING**

How many ships have called at Gibraltar for bunkering since August 2004 inclusive, on a monthly basis and how many tonnes of bunker fuel were sold each month?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS**

The information sought in this Question is set out in the Schedule which I hand the hon Member.

### **Schedule to Question 2348**

Ships which called at Gibraltar, August-November 2004.

(a) **Bunkering**

August	367	ships
September	397	ships
October	431	ships
November	453	ships

Ships which called at Gibraltar, October-November 2004.

(b) **Cargo**

October	0	ships
November	1	ship

(c) **Repairs**

October	11	ships
November	6	ships

Bunkers supplied, August-October 2004.

<b><u>Month</u></b>	<b><u>Tonnes</u></b>
August	259,888
September	304,705
October	322,285

The figures for November 2004 are not yet available.

**NO. 2349 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**PORT – YACHT REPORTING BERTH**

Can Government confirm that there are no plans to close down the Yacht Reporting Berth?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS**

No, I cannot confirm that.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2349 OF 2004**

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

Can the Minister tell the House whether the future of the Yacht Reporting Berth is under consideration by the Government?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

Yes.

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

If the future of the Yacht Reporting Berth is under consideration by the Government, is it because there is an intention to close it down?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

Yes, the Government are actively considering a more modern yacht reporting approach in Gibraltar in line with marinas in the area and indeed in most of the Western Mediterranean, and therefore that will mean the ceasing of the Yacht Reporting Berth in its present format.

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

I remember we debated the question of yachts and yacht reporting during the time of the increase in security or the stage of security alerts in Gibraltar, and we discussed the roles of the yacht reporting berth. When the Minister refers to a more modern approach to yacht reporting is that what we discussed at the time, which I believe was that they would report in by fax or by radio or whatever instead of actually physically reporting?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

The new system that is currently being considered is that yachts would actually not report to any yacht reporting berth but would actually call directly into the marinas into which they intend to stop at, and those marinas would actually have a type of yacht reporting berth which would enable marinas to comply with the relevant requirements in terms of customs, immigration and relevant security and documentation, and then these would be processed through a system which would enable the different law enforcement agencies to consider whether they wish to make themselves appear on site at the time and consider whether they need to take any further action in respect of any yacht calling at Gibraltar. The whole idea is to try and make it far more user-friendly than we have at the moment and in fact, legislation will be brought to the House in early 2005 which actually creates the new system to be put in place which will apply to all marinas and not like the system that we have at the moment where only yachts going in to Marina Bay and Sheppards Marina actually call at the Yacht Reporting Berth, but those at Queensway do not. The system will apply to all marinas and the legislation will actually put in place a certain amount of sort of responsibility on the marinas themselves. This is something that I have discussed with them and they are willing to play their part in this.

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

Will the cost of the new developments that the Minister has described be borne by the marinas or by the Government? Will the persons who will be there administering the legislation be Government officials or employees of the marinas?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

No, the system will be run by the marinas themselves at their expense.

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

In relation to the new arrangements, would the Government be satisfied that the security, which is obviously an important consideration in the times in which we live, the security of Gibraltar would be fully covered and fully protected with the new measures that they intend to put into place, and that they would be better protected in fact than with the present system?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

Well, at least the new system will be a system that will apply to all marinas and not just like at the moment where it applies to some not the other. Obviously there will be adequate facilities in place to ensure adequate security is in place at all times.

**NO. 2350 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**GTB – UPPER ROCK**

Do Government have any plans to increase the entrance charges for visitors to the Upper Rock?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS**

Yes, the industry has been formally notified that the entrance charge will increase by £1.00 from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2005.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2350 OF 2004**

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

If I recall correctly, there is a charge per vehicle and also per passenger, is that £1.00 per person, if there are four people in the car for example or is it £1.00 per vehicle, what is it?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

The entrance fee for private adults will be increased by £1.00, when I say private it is when they turn up privately or on tour through a tour operator, by £1.00 the walkers who are adults will go up by £1.00, for a child as well. Walkers only will actually only be increased by 50p but there the numbers are very, very small. Private vehicles will go up by £1.00 and those that actually turn up to visit only the 100 Ton Gun, which again the numbers are very low, will go up by 50p. So most will go up by the £1.00.

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

When the Minister says private adults would go up by £1.00 and private vehicles would go up by £1.00 does that mean that four private adults in a vehicle will go up by £5.00?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

I do not understand the question.

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

The Minister has, as I have understood it, said that private adults will pay an extra £1.00, and also said private vehicles would pay an extra £1.00. If the four adults are in one car do they pay an extra £1.00 each plus an extra £1.00 for the car?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

Yes they do. That is right.

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

Does the Minister take into account something that is happening at present, I am sure he must have seen it as I have, which is that when people get up to the toll booth they suddenly realise how much they have to pay and then they turn the cars round and come back again which causes some traffic congestion in that narrow road, has the Minister taken into account the possibility that that might now increase as a result of the increase in charges, and if so what plans do the Government have to deal with it?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

I believe that part of that problem has been addressed already by allowing access for coaches and taxis through Lathbury Barracks. So there are now two entrances into the Upper Rock. Obviously there will always be those that wish to turn round at the last minute and decide not to enter, however, we intend to try and publicise the rates or the new charges as early on as possible on the approach to the Upper Rock, but that unfortunately does not always work. People still continue to go right up to the ticket office and then decide that they may want to turn round. We have tried to diminish that practice as much as possible but it will always be difficult to eradicate.

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

What I do not think I have heard the Minister say, it is not in the question but, is the reason behind this increase, is it as a general revenue raising measure or is it anything specific related to improvements to the Upper Rock or to the environment, because I believe this was an environmental levy originally?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

Well, we are the victims of our own success and unfortunately the level of investment that has to be contributed towards the maintenance and upkeep and improvement in fact of the Upper Rock is an ever increasing demand, and so therefore much of the increase we hope is obviously general revenue but we hope to be able to increase our maintenance and improvement of the tourist site in the forthcoming years. In fact I am working at the moment on a three to four year programme in order to upgrade and improve the Upper Rock experience, which I believe needs to be attended to as a result of the fact that wear and tear due to numbers that actually visit the Upper Rock now warrant at this stage in our development.



**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

Obviously in relation to the last answer, I do not have the latest figures yet, but I do recall that we have had this discussion before in relation to other issues to do with the Upper Rock. In terms of being the victims of our own success we know that the number of visitors to the Upper Rock has actually gone down and not up over the last few years for whatever reason, but can I ask the Minister whether, well he has already said that it will go into the general revenue of the Government but is there any percentage of it which will be allocated directly to the Upper Rock for the purposes which he has just described, or will it just be into the general fund?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

I have already said that this will be general revenue. However, there is a commitment to invest in the Upper Rock like we do every year. If one looks at the I&D Fund every year, there is a budget that is attributed to the Upper Rock and I would hope that this would be enhanced but obviously that remains to be seen at Budget time when the Government have to prioritise the different submissions that are made in order to be able to improve and carry out the programme which I would like to see happening in the next three to four years.

ORAL

**NO. 2351 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**GTB – COACH FEES**

Can Government say how much revenue has been raised on a monthly basis from October 2004 inclusive:

- (a) by charging coaches that use the coach park;
- (b) in admission fees to the Upper Rock?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS**

Answered together with Question No. 2352 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2352 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**GTB – GIBRALTAR MUSEUM**

Can Government say how much revenue has been raised on a monthly basis from September 2004 inclusive in admissions to the Gibraltar Museum?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS**

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

## **SCHEDULE TO Q2353**

### **Q2351**

Revenue from Upper Rock Admission Fees

2004	October	£249,635
	November	£124,445

Revenue from Coach Park Fees

2004	October	£11,810
	November	£ 6,057

### **Q2352**

Revenue from Museum Admission Fees

2004	September	£2,481
	October	£1,774
	November	£3,352

**NO. 2353 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 30<sup>th</sup> November 2004?

**ANSWER****THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS**

No monies are due to Government in respect of grants made under the Hotel Assistance Scheme.

The following are the amounts outstanding on loans made under the Scheme as at 30<sup>th</sup> November 2004:

<u>Hotel</u>	<u>Amount Repaid</u>	<u>Amount Outstanding</u>
Caleta	£181,250.00	£1,268,750.00
Eliott	£200,000.00	£ 800,000.00
Rock	£249,513.25	£1,176,276.40

ORAL

**NO. 2354 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**GTB – LICENSED GUIDE PASSES**

How many Licensed Guide Passes have been issued as at 30<sup>th</sup> November 2004 and how many are renewals?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS**

All 380 Licensed Guide Passes issued as at 30<sup>th</sup> November 2004 were renewals.

ORAL

**NO. 2355 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**TOURISM ADVISORY COUNCIL**

How often and on what dates has the Tourism Advisory Council met since 24<sup>th</sup> September 2004?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2320, 2345, 2376 and 2377 of 2004.

**NO. 2356 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**GTB – MINISTERIAL VISITS**

Can the Minister with responsibility for Tourism give the dates when he has been away from Gibraltar on Government business from 15<sup>th</sup> September 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 & COMMUNICATIONS**

Answered together with Question No. 2357 of 2004.



ORAL

**NO. 2357 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 30<sup>th</sup> November 2004 giving a breakdown of the expenditure in question?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS**

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

## **SCHEDULE TO Q2357**

### **Q2356**

#### **Overseas Engagements of Minister for Trade, Industry and Communications**

8 November 2004  
World Travel Market, Excel, London

12 November 2004  
UKGTA and other meetings in London

8-9 December 2004  
Meetings and Press Launch of 2005 Gibraltar Tourism Brochure, RAC,  
London

### **Q2357**

The amount spent on marketing, promotions and conferences to 30 November 2004 was £618,296, broken down as follows:

	£
Literature	72,142
Brochure distribution, fair trips and trade activity	12,666
Press trips and media activity	15,382
Promotional materials	2,687
Advertising	130,057
Trade fairs	51,122
Events	203,609
Website maintenance	5,707
UKGTA expenses, sales manager expenses, travel, PR and advertising agency fees, subscriptions etc	119,025
Contingency	5,899

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 2356 AND 2357 OF 2004**

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

Looking at the expenditure on marketing, out of £980,000, £618,000 has been spent already, do the Government forecast for this year being within the budget set?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

Yes.

**NO. 2358 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**GTB – MISS GIBRALTAR 2005**

How many tenders have been received for the organisation, production and staging of the Miss Gibraltar contest 2005?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS**

Three.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2358 OF 2004**

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

The closing date for this was 10<sup>th</sup> December, can the Minister say whether they have actually selected the tender already or are they in the process of doing that?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

No, the selection has not been done. The Tender Board is due to meet in early January and then after that an announcement will be made once a decision has been reached.

ORAL

**NO. 2359 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**GTB – TURISPORT 2004**

How many persons made up the Gibraltar delegation at Turisport 2004 and what offices do they hold?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2360 and 2361 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2360 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**GTB – EXHIBITIONS IN SPAIN**

When did Government take the policy decision to participate in smaller, specialised tourism exhibitions in Spain and what have been the results to date?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2359 and 2361 of 2004.

**NO. 2361 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**GTB – TURISPORT 2004**

What was the cost, with a breakdown, of Gibraltar's participation in Turisport 2004 Tourist Fair from 14-17 October 2004?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS**

The decision to participate in smaller, specialised tourist exhibitions in Spain was taken when deciding the strategy for the 2004/2005 promotional campaign in the Spring of 2004.

It is not possible to speak of the "results" of attendance at an exhibition as the GTB does not sell any specific product at a specific price: that is the role of tour operators. The GTB is, nevertheless, satisfied at the degree of interest shown by attendees at those specialised shows where there has been a Gibraltar stand. Gibraltar's profile has therefore been raised.

With regard to Turisport 2004, the two persons who made up the Gibraltar delegation were Denise Devincenzi, Marketing Co-ordinator, GTB Madrid Office, and Gillaine de los Santos, Office Administrator, GTB Madrid Office.

The cost of attendance at Turisport was £1,972, made up as follows:-

Cost of Stand	£585
Flights	£426
Hotel accommodation	£250
Subsistence and out of pocket expenses	£711

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 2359 TO 2361 OF 2004**

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

The flights for £426 I take it was an internal Spanish flight, from Madrid to Santiago, is that right?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

I presume that is correct.

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

In relation to the policy decision taken to participate in smaller specialised fairs and exhibitions in Spain, can the Minister say where that came from, was it industry-led or was it made by a particular sector of the Tourism in Gibraltar or was it his own Department that came up with that idea?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

No, in the case of the UK it is slightly different because we tend to take a lot of the decisions based on discussions at the United Kingdom/Gibraltar Tourism Association. In the case of Spain it was basically thoughts that were presented for consideration following input from the staff in Madrid, who obviously have contact with the industry in Spain and they felt that it was a good thing to be able to have a presence in smaller exhibitions in Spain, in places like Valencia, Santiago de Compostela, where these shows are actually open to the public as well. So therefore there is an element of increasing our public awareness as a destination rather than targeting the industry like for example, would be the case in FITUR, even though FITUR is open to the public at the weekend. I think that for the level of expenditure involved, it is actually quite a worthwhile exercise.

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

The Minister mentioned FITUR, is the policy decision taken to participate in the smaller fairs, does that mean that they will no longer be participation in the larger trade fairs like FITUR or will they go to both?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

Not at all. In the case of FITUR we will be there again this year, subsequent years will obviously be reviewed but we will be there in January again.

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

In the relation to the question I asked about results, obviously by results what the question means is whether this will be reflected in an increase in tourism activity to Gibraltar, which is what we all want. Is the Minister in a position to say whether that can be monitored to see whether this new policy will actually work in terms of producing dividends at the end of the line?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

It is very difficult for us to, unless I stand at the border and ask everybody that comes in to Gibraltar, which is well over 7 million people, whether they have come to Gibraltar because we have exhibited in Turisport, that is the only way that I could actually attribute whether anybody would come to Gibraltar as a result of that. I think what we need to gauge is our results over our overall strategy and that will involve attending fairs, advertising, promotions, public relations, media, advertising, media familiarisation trips et cetera, et cetera, it is a long list. Therefore we need to assess what we are doing and assess our results and numbers of people coming in through



the border have actually been increasing year on year, at least since 1996 so therefore, we must be doing something right. Nevertheless, even though we may have increased numbers coming in we still review our strategy every year. We spend a lot of time reviewing in detail what we do and try to come up with new initiatives and leave those initiatives which we feel have worked well for us. Therefore that is how we can gauge whether attendance at these small shows will be of benefit to Gibraltar or not.

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

The number of people coming through the border may indeed have gone up but if I am not mistaken I think the Minister inherited already in the order of 6 million people that were coming through when they came into office. Also, the other point is that expenditure has also gone up and that is what we are trying to measure, the ratio of expenditure on marketing to actual results in terms of visitor numbers, but is it not the case in terms of monitoring what happens that surveys are already conducted on sample numbers of people who come in through the border, come through the airport, or arrive in Gibraltar by sea. Would it not be quite simple to introduce a question into that survey establishing how it was that they had an interest in Gibraltar and how they came to know about Gibraltar and why it is that they are here. That surely could be done, it does not involve the Minister himself standing at the border but it involves people that are already paid to do that job.

ORAL

**NO. 2362 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**GTB – VISIT BY SPANISH JOURNALISTS**

What was the cost, with a breakdown, of the visit to Gibraltar by a group of Spanish journalists at the beginning of October?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2363 to 2365 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2363 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**GTB – VISIT BY SPANISH JOURNALISTS**

How many Spanish journalists were invited to Gibraltar at the beginning of October and what media did each of them represent?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2362, 2364 and 2365 of 2004.

**NO. 2364 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**GTB – SPANISH OPERATORS**

How many Spanish operators is the GTB talking to with a view to developing specific packages including Gibraltar in tandem with the visiting journalists initiative, who are they and what field of expertise do they offer?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2362, 2363 and 2365 of 2004.

**NO. 2365 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**GTB – VISIT BY SPANISH JOURNALISTS**

Can Government say how and by whom the “selected travel journalists from Spain” who visited Gibraltar at the beginning of October were chosen?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS**

The cost of the Spanish press trip was £3,989, broken down as follows:

Rail tickets, Madrid-Algeciras	£ 790
Hotel Accommodation	£1,204
Lunches and dinners	£1,029
Dolphin tour	£ 200
Transfers	£ 766

Seven Spanish journalists were invited to visit Gibraltar in October, as follows:

Ester Muñoz Murillo (Nexotur)  
Javier Carrion (Europa Press)  
Jesus Navarro Blanco (Turismo Rural and Deportes de Aventura/A Filo De)  
David Santiago Garcia (Turismo y Aventura)  
Ana Vara (Hoteles de España y del Mundo)  
Silvia Barrufet (journalist Turismo y Ocio International Magazine)  
Juan Carlos Viera (photographer, Turismo y Ocio International Magazine)

The operator that the GTB is in discussions with is Iberrail, with a view to developing rail packages to Gibraltar.

The selected travel journalists were chosen by the GTB public relations agency in Madrid, in close consultation with the Gibraltar Tourist Board.

**NO. 2366 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**GTB – CAMP BAY AND LITTLE BAY**

Can Government explain why toilet facilities and cleaning for Camp Bay and Little Bay did not continue to be provided automatically for the winter months once the official bathing season had ended?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS**

Toilet facilities and cleaning of Camp Bay and Little Bay did in fact continue to be provided after the conclusion of the bathing season without a break, in the same way that this was done in 2003. They will continue throughout the winter months. The question is therefore not understood.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2366 OF 2004**

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

It is true to say that they are provided at present and that these are the winter months, but I think the key word in the question is “automatically”. The Opposition receive representations from people who use the beach who were told that the cleaning of the beach would not continue during the winter months, that the changing room and toilet facilities would not be available also, and we issued a statement to that effect I am sure the Minister will recall. It was subsequent to that statement that the Government published a notice saying that the cleaning of the beaches would continue as normal, but certainly the information that we have is that there was an interruption in that service however short it might be and that that is what led to the question being placed. The key word then is “automatically” is the Minister not aware of that?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

No, I am not aware of any gap or break in the service provided. The service, as far as I understand, was continued and I do recall the Opposition actually issuing a press release on the matter and as a result of that I issued a Government Notice to ensure that the public were informed about the fact that the service would be continued. Prior to that I did not feel that the need was there for an Official Notice because the service was being continued.

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

The position of the Minister then is that the service did not cease at any particular moment in time.

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

Not as far as I am aware of.

**NO. 2367 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**GTB – PERSONS INTERVIEWED**

Can Government say of the number of persons who have been interviewed since August 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 & COMMUNICATIONS**

Answered together with Question No. 2368 of 2004.



**NO. 2368 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 August 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 & COMMUNICATIONS**

The information requested in both questions is identical, as they both relate to persons who do not stay at hotels.

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

**Schedule to Question 2368**

**Persons interviewed who said they did not stay at a Hotel**

Month	Number of Persons Interviewed	Place of Interview					
		Airport	Port	Frontier	Waterport	Marina	Coach park
August	2083	73	131	1672	1	13	193
September	2091	20	96	1704	-	12	259
October	2079	36	60	1788	-	16	179

The information in respect of November 2004 is not yet available.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 2367 AND 2368 OF 2004**

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

I think there is a question which asks, in relation to those who stay at hotels, which is the one that I normally table but it does not seem to be included. Perhaps I can write to the Minister and get that information from him.

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

I know that last time there was a confusion as to whether they related to things so when I saw this again it was pointed out to me by the official that it was actually asking the same information in a different format, so I read it again and again and I thought that they were actually asking for the same information. If there is any other information which the hon Member wishes to seek, please write to me and I will be very happy to give the information needed.

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

What it is would be really the same question as Question No. 2367 in relation to those who had stayed at a hotel, because then the average length of stay which is the difference between the two questions, would be the information that would be given.

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

Well, I would be very happy to write to the hon Member and send him the information for those who had stayed in hotels.

**NO. 2369 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**GTB – ST MICHAEL’S CAVE**

Can Government say whether a service agreement has now been signed with the company that provided the sound and light system for St Michael’s Cave?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS**

No.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2369 OF 2004**

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

Who is maintaining the sound and light system at present?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

Electrosonic who are maintaining the equipment since 1<sup>st</sup> September 2004 but the contract has not been signed yet. It is a matter of logistics the fact that there is not an agreement.

ORAL

**NO. 2370 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**GTB – WORLD TRAVEL MARKET**

Can Government say on what date they were advised by the UKGTA that they were dissatisfied with the return on the investment offered by having a dedicated Gibraltar stand at the World Travel Market?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS**

Answered together with Question No. 2371 of 2004.

**NO. 2371 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**GTB – WORLD TRAVEL MARKET**

What sector of the UKGTA was dissatisfied with the return on investment offered by the World Travel Market?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS**

The UKGTA Exhibitions Sub-Committee met on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2004 and decided to recommend to the UKGTA that Gibraltar should not have a stand at the World Travel Market in November 2004. The Sub-Committee's recommendation was discussed at the UKGTA meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> September 2004, where the UKGTA recommended to me that the Sub-Committee's recommendation should be accepted. I accepted the advice that had been tendered.

There was dissatisfaction with the World Travel Market voiced by all sectors of the UKGTA, namely tour operators, airlines and hotels. In addition, it was reported to the UKGTA that members of ANTOR, the UK Association of National Tourist Office Representatives, were unhappy with World Travel Market and believed it no longer represented value for money. Let me add to this that obviously we will be reviewing whether we go back to World Travel Market or not next year, but I thought that we would be bold and take the decision not to be there this year and see what the results are.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 2370 AND 2371 OF 2004**

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

Can the Minister say whether this is something the UKGTA has recommended to the Government in the past?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

Well there have been voices of expression in this respect in the past but something that I have not accepted because I am open to being advised but I do not really need to take the advice. On this occasion I felt that having been to World Travel Market last year, there was an element of numbers were down in people attending, the location as to where it is now as to where it was in the past is at a disadvantage, the transport infrastructure to get there is not adequate at all and I think there was a

general feeling in the industry that the move from the centre of London down to the Excel Exhibition Centre has been a mistake. Therefore, it remains to be seen whether the World Travel Market will continue to be there next year. I thought it was a good time to test the decision this year and so we did it and we will see what the results are as a result of this.

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

Do I detect from the Minister's reply and from the statement he made on GBC that this is not a decision that he has taken lightly, that he is doing this somewhat reluctantly?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

I think the hon Member is probably judging right. I am a personal believer that we should be there but that does not mean that I am right, and if I am advised by those that are in the industry full-time and are in the UK themselves, and have their best interests at heart, at the end of the day if tour operators in the UK are telling me 'look, we should be doing something else instead of this. We do not feel that we are getting the benefits that we should be', then obviously I am willing to give them the benefit of the doubt and go down that route. Therefore, probably, that is why I have said that we should not rule out that we will be back next year because I still want to review this decision when we conclude our strategy for the next year.

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

As the Minister knows well, in the House we have raised in the past the expense involved in relation to attending this particular event, but the Government's comments at the time indicated that what there will not be is a specific Gibraltar stand at the World Travel Market, which is the bulk of the expense, was there any other presence which did not involve having a stand there?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

No there was not any specific stand but we did have our own industry there. I attended World Travel Market on one particular day and we had our industry players on some other stands where they participated and used for their own point of contact. So Gibraltar was represented in an indirect way but nothing direct and nothing official.

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

As a matter of curiosity, are those industry players the same ones who recommended to the Government that they should not be present and have a stand?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

Indeed, they were. Let us put it into perspective, I think that they all feel that attending World Travel Market and being there is of benefit to Gibraltar. I think what

we need to put it is against the backdrop of the cost of doing that. Attending World Travel Market last year cost in the region of about £70,000. That figure will probably be higher this year because the rates at which they hire the space et cetera has actually been increased by something like 25 per cent. So therefore we are looking at big numbers and therefore a good number of national tourist boards actually pulled out. We felt we did not want to be the only ones to pull out because otherwise the industry may perceive that as if we are going into second division and why is Gibraltar not there but the fact that a number of national tourist boards decided that they were not going to take it and be there, we thought we would do the same and take the decision if at any time the best time was probably this year and that is why we took it.

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

If I may question the Government on the UKGTA's decision? There was a statement or a comment made at the time which suggested that half of the UKGTA members were dissatisfied with the World Travel Market, which implies that the other half were perfectly content in continuing, was this decision a unanimous one or was this division reflected in the position that they took?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

No, the Sub-Committee of the UKGTA which takes care of all exhibitions and actually consider, made a unanimous recommendation. When it was put to the full forum of the UKGTA there were still those that felt that we should be there, but after a long discussion on the issue we decided that we would pull out this year and review the situation.



ORAL

**NO. 2372 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**GTB – SECURITY GUARD SERVICE**

Can Government say whether the tender for the provision of a Security Guard Service at various tourist sites, which was awarded in the sum of £56,308.98p and an ad hoc rate of £6.25p an hour was the lowest tender submitted?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS**

Answered together with Question No. 2373 of 2004.

**NO. 2373 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**GTB – SECURITY GUARD SERVICE**

Can Government say which tourist sites were covered by the tender for the provision of a Security Guard Service, and during what hours this service is provided at each site?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS**

The tourist sites and the hours covered by the tender are as follows:

St Michael's Cave	10.30 am to 7.00 pm
Great Siege Tunnels	12 noon to 7.00 pm
Moorish Castle	10.00 pm to 7.00 am
Jew's Gate	10.30 am to 7.00 pm
Coach Park	10.00 am to 4.00 pm

The tender was awarded to the lowest bidder.

**NO. 2374 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**GTB – CONFERENCES**

Can Government list the conferences that they have assisted with, sponsored or co-sponsored since 29<sup>th</sup> September 2004 inclusive, showing the dates of the conferences in question?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS**

The GTB has not assisted, sponsored or co-sponsored any conference since 28<sup>th</sup> September 2004.

The Finance Centre participated in one conference, on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2004, on insurance.

**NO. 2375 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**GTB – HOTEL GRADINGS**

Can Government say into which star category the hotel at 11/15 Turnbull's Lane is expected to fall?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS**

It is for the hotelier to determine into which category of hotel he wishes the property to go. There are specific grading criteria against which the hotel will be judged once it is operational to determine its star rating.

It is not for the Government to determine the star rating of the intended hotel, nor to indicate to the hotel what grading it should aspire to.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2375 OF 2004**

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

Is it not the case that when the Government have considered hotels as part of development projects, I recall the one at Rosia Bay there was a discussion once about that one, there was a discussion about the ones on the East Side, that the Government themselves have a preference for a particular star grading of hotels?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

Yes, but in this case this is a very small hotel with only a handful of rooms so therefore it is really up to them as to what they decide. I have met the developers and I know the Gibraltar Tourist Board has given them the criteria they need to meet in order to meet various star ratings under the RAC scheme. It is up to them now to come up with whatever product they want to sell.

ORAL

**NO. 2376 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**GTB – BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL**

How often and on what dates has the Business Advisory Council met since 1<sup>st</sup> October 2004?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2320, 2345, 2355 and 2377 of 2004.

**NO. 2377 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**GTB – E-BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL**

How often and on what dates has the e-Business Advisory Council met since 9<sup>th</sup> July 2004?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS**

The E-Business Advisory Council met twice, on 28<sup>th</sup> October and 6<sup>th</sup> December 2004.

The Business and Commerce Advisory Council met once on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2004.

The Development and Planning Commission met four times, on 14<sup>th</sup> October, 16<sup>th</sup> November, 7<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> December 2004.

The Tourism Advisory Council met once on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2004.

The Port Advisory Council met twice on 29<sup>th</sup> October and 16<sup>th</sup> December 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2378 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 purpose 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 & COMMUNICATIONS**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2379 to 2381 of 2004.

**NO. 2379 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 & COMMUNICATIONS**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2378, 2380 and 2381 of 2004.



ORAL

**NO. 2380 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**EU FUNDING**

Have the projects shown as “under consideration” in answer to Question No. 1794 of 2004 been successful in their application for EU funding or not?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2378, 2379 and 2381 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2381 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**GIBRALTAR GOVERNMENT FUNDING**

Have the projects submitted and given in answer to Question No. 1793 of 2004 been successful in their application for Gibraltar Government funding or not?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS**

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

## **SCHEDULE TO Q2381**

### **Q2378**

Five applications for EU funding were received as follows:

#### **ERDF PROJECTS**

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>ERDF Funding</b>	<b>Purpose of Grant</b>
Technical Services Department	Approved	£180,050	Beautification works at Catalan Bay
Technical Services Department	Approved	£178,362	Works association with City Centre Beautification phase VI
H&S Property	Approved	£4,174	Purchase of equipment, fitting-out premises, advertising, Rent-Subsidy Scheme
Barrow Hills Ltd	Approved	£4,424	Purchase of equipment, payment of import duty, installation works
Department Transport	Approved	£1,155,000	Purchase of bus fleet, purchase and installation of ticketing system and CCTV system

There were no unsuccessful applications, and there are none pending.

### **Q2379**

One application for Gibraltar Government funding was received, but it was subsequently withdrawn by the applicant. No applications are pending.

### **Q2380**

The two projects which were under consideration for EU funding, as notified in answer to Question No. 1794 of 2004, have yet to submit further information requested of them and are still pending.

Contd.....

**Contd Answer to Schedule to Q2381**

**Q2381**

Of the two projects referred to in Question No. 1793 of 2004, one (Dorcas Fashion Designs) has been successful in its application; the other (Risso Bakery Ltd) is still pending, as further information needs to be supplied by the applicant.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 2378 TO 2381 OF 2004**

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

I have a number of queries in relation to some of the answers given. In answer to Question No. 2378 there is a grant approved for £4,174, that includes a rent subsidy scheme, is that something new or something which businesses can now apply for whether the landlord is the Government or whether it is a private landlord?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

No, this is part of a package in the application where the Government or the European Union is asked to participate in part of the funding, composed of a variety of expenditure issued which total up a total bid. Therefore, that included the purchase of equipment, the fitting-out of the premises, the advertising and the rent subsidy scheme which has nothing to do with, maybe it appears there and it looks as if it is a scheme that has been developed, but it is part of the overall expenditure proposal which is then partly funded by the European Union, and partly funded by the actual applicant himself.

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

My other query is in relation to the grant of £4,424 where one of the items listed is the payment of import duty. That is something that I do not recall seeing there before, is that new or can people now legitimately apply for relief from import duty?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

No, I think possibly the purpose of the grant issued there, I have been of the view that I wanted to give as much explanation as possible, possibly in the past they have never been mentioned and never been discovered. It may be that in the case of say the £4,424 maybe the purpose of the grant would have been for the purchase of equipment and said nothing else, or upgrading of equipment and said nothing else. What I have done is specify the actual purpose of the grant as appears in the application form, because I have requested that there should be more information when making applications for EU funding than there have been in the past.

**NO. 2382 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**EU FUNDING**

How many entities have submitted a tender for the art, design, printing and supply of an EU funding newsletter and who was successful?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS**

Four tenders were submitted and Gibraltar Chronicle Limited was the successful tenderer.

ORAL

**NO. 2383 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**TERCENTENARY NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATIONS**

Who was the successful tenderer in respect of the organisation, production and staging of the Tercentenary New Year's Eve Celebrations?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS**

Answered together with Question No. 2384 of 2004.

**NO. 2384 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**TERCENTENARY NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATIONS**

How many entities have submitted tenders for the organisation, production and staging of the Tercentenary New Year's Eve Celebrations?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS**

Four entities submitted tenders. The successful tenderer was The Studio.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 2383 AND 2384 OF 2004**

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

Is the Minister able to say in what amount and whether it was the lowest tender?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

Well, the amount was awarded to The Studio in the sum of £59,650 and they were not the lowest bidder. Let me say that the Government are not liable to accept the lowest tenderer and in this case especially the financial aspect is just one aspect of the submission. The quality of the programme that they actually propose et cetera is something that is very much borne in mind in the adjudicating.



**NO. 2385 OF 2004**

**THE HON L A RANDALL**

**SALE OF BANK NOTES**

Can Government state whether they no longer intend to proceed with a system for the sale of banknotes via the Internet?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

The Government do intend to have a system in place for the sale of banknotes via the internet.

Arrangements are in hand for Gibraltar currency notes to be offered for sale to collectors through the Gibraltar Philatelic Bureau Ltd website.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2385 OF 2004**

**HON L A RANDALL:**

Is there a target date for the software to be ready for the sale to proceed via the internet?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

I am not aware that there is a target date, I think that this is something that both sides want to do so I suppose it will be done as quickly as they can agree. That website will give access to about 15,000 collectors of Gibraltar stamps, the Philatelic Bureau website, so it will provide a useful outlet but I cannot give a target date.

**NO. 2386 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**

The Heads of Terms of the revised contractual arrangements have now been agreed by the Government, in principle, and a formal document is now being drafted for final approval and execution by the two parties. This is expected to take place early in the new year.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2386 OF 2004**

**HON L A RANDALL:**

Can the Chief Minister say whether the agreement fulfils the goal which they set up, which if I remember correctly, was to give the Government a more equitable share of the revenues derived?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

Yes, I am not sure that that is how I would put it, but the Government wanted a form of contract which (a) did not give them more revenue for no more substantial amount of effort, in other words, if the Government grows a particular source of revenue it is not equitable in our view that they should get an automatic share increase in their revenue without a commensurate increase in effort. The other thing that we wanted to do was to have a system that was measurable in terms of value for money and productivity, so whereas I think it would be inappropriate at this stage to give the hon Member details of the basis of the contract, I can tell him that it is based on cost plus principles. In other words, the operating cost base has been agreed with the Government, they are then allowed a percentage mark-up over their cost not as a percentage of the Government revenues that they are collecting, and then in addition to that they are allowed bonuses linked to passing certain gateways and targets and reaching certain targets. So they do not get a fixed percentage of any growth but what they get is a bonus if they achieve things that in turn increase the level of revenue for Government through their efforts.

**NO. 2387 OF 2004**

**THE HON C A BRUZON**

**HOUSING – THE SANDS PROJECT**

Can Government state how many tenders have been received for the Housing Project on the site known as 'The Sands' by North Mole Road?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

The closing date for the return of tender bids has been extended to the 14<sup>th</sup> January 2005.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2387 OF 2004**

**HON C A BRUZON:**

Can the Chief Minister say whether any tenders have been received, even though the date has been extended to January?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

I believe the answer is no, but in any event the system does not work like that, these tenders get deposited in a box and I think the box is opened on the day, so theoretically one should not know whether any tenders have already been deposited in the box. That said, I believe that it will not have been because all interested parties sought an extension.

**HON C A BRUZON:**

Could I also ask the Chief Minister if the completion date as stated in the Official Notice on 28<sup>th</sup> May this year is still the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2006, or is that also being extended?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

My understanding is that it is a two year construction period.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

So effectively then the condition that was published is being altered in the sense that instead of them having to undertake to finish by a given date, they have to undertake to finish within two years of starting, is that the position?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

No. A completion period has been specified and then they have been invited to tender, if they want to, for different periods so that the Government can then judge the relationship between completion date and cost, but their primary obligation is to tender for a specified period and then they are free to submit tenders for different periods. In addition not instead of. They have to submit a bid for the period of two years and if they want to they can submit bids for other periods as well.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Right, but my question in relation to the two years is that if the commencement, which I think is the question my hon Friend was asking, if the commencement of the two year period is now different from originally envisaged, since the original invitation to tender required people to submit a bid on the premise that they would complete by the end of 2006, is that now altered in terms of the language being that the basic bid that everybody that has to come up with, irrespective of what other options they may offer, is a bid for December 2006 or a bid for two years from the date of commencement?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

The latter because we do not know when the contract will be adjudicated.

**NO. 2388 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. 1912 of 2004?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

I hand the hon Member schedules detailing the information requested.

**Answer to Question 2388 of 2004**

**Completions as per Question 1912 of 2004**

<b><u>Estate</u></b>	<b><u>No. of completions</u></b>	<b><u>Funds Received</u></b>
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
	<u>58</u>	<u>£1,353,938.33</u>

**Completions to date**

<b><u>Estate</u></b>	<b><u>No. of completions</u></b>	<b><u>Funds Received</u></b>
Brympton	8	£213,176.81
Harbour Views	35	£657,924.47
Montagu Crescent	15	£422,740.91
Montagu Gardens	16	£452,919.38
Sir William Jackson Grove	14	£339,605.64
Westview Park	12	£262,866.93
	<u>100</u>	<u>£2,349,234.14</u>

Contd.....

### **Contd Answer to Question 2388 of 2004**

	<b>Total Letters Sent</b>	<b>Total sum of Government share</b>	<b>Replies received "Yes"</b>	<b>Total sum of Government share</b>	<b>Replies received "No"</b>	<b>Total sum of Government share</b>	<b>No reply received</b>	<b>Total sum of Government share</b>
Brympton	36	£1,014,815.46	9	£241,976.81	2	£51,840.00	25	£720,998.65
Harbour Views	400	£8,264,069.26	49	£979,208.45	53	£1,095,090.58	298	£6,189,770.23
Montagu Crescent	152	£4,022,567.45	20	£532,446.34	11	£287,798.53	121	£3,202,322.58
Montagu Gardens	307	£8,995,500.59	28	£820,190.49	31	£900,595.75	248	£7,274,714.35
Sir William Jackson Grove	167	£3,206,488.17	17	£287,871.27	13	£240,943.43	137	£2,677,673.47
Westview Park	82	£1,848,982.94	16	£349,166.97	8	£181,570.32	58	£1,318,245.65
	<b>1144</b>	<b>£27,352,423.87</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>£3,210,860.33</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>£2,757,838.61</b>	<b>887</b>	<b>£21,383,724.93</b>

**NO. 2389 OF 2004**

**THE HON S E LINARES**

**CIVIL SERVICE – MATERNITY LEAVE**

Can Government state whether there is any disparity in the Civil Service with regard to maternity leave entitlement?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Maternity leave entitlement currently stands at twenty six weeks for all Government employees. Teachers, however, are entitled to 14 weeks exclusive of school holidays. This is as a result of the application of the teacher's UK conditions of service relating to maternity leave. The manner in which maternity leave is calculated in the UK has since changed and discussions are on-going with the GTA as to their application or otherwise in Gibraltar.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2389 OF 2004**

**HON S E LINARES:**

Just to make the Chief Minister aware since he did mention the teachers, that yes, teachers do get the 14 weeks and the maximum a teacher would get because the system works that the school holidays are not counted as part of the maternity leave, therefore the maximum are sort of added on to the teacher. Therefore, for example, the maximum now a teacher would get would be 20 weeks, because if we take for example that a teacher starts the maternity leave in June, has four weeks maternity leave before the school ends, then the six weeks of holiday is added on which is not counted, that would be ten weeks of de facto maternity leave and then they would have another ten weeks to a maximum of twenty. Just to say that I appreciate that the Chief Minister has mentioned the teachers and that there is on-going discussions with the GTA.



**NO. 2390 OF 2004**

**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO**

**GHA – CAR PARKING SPACES**

Can Government now state how many car parking spaces will be available at the Europort Hospital and who will have access to them, since the answer to this question was not given in reply to Question No. 1888 of 2004?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Assuming that the question by saying “at the Europort Hospital” means in the Europort Hospital building, the answer is 50 car parking spaces and 50 motorbike spaces will be provided. This will be available to on-call staff, staff who are mobile between differing GHA sites, a percentage will be available for disabled persons and some may be made available for other visitors. They are talking about the spaces in the basement of the hospital building.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2390 OF 2004**

**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

Can the Chief Minister say whether the staff, likewise, will be available to the car parking spaces which they have purchased from the adjacent building?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

That decision has not yet been made but the answer is probably not because those spaces are intended for visitors to the hospital.

**NO. 2391 OF 2004**

**THE HON F R PICARDO**

**FAMILY EXPENDITURE SURVEY**

When do Government expect to undertake the next Family Expenditure Survey?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

In answer to Question No. 1325 of 2004, I explained that a Family Expenditure Survey is undertaken at times when there have been significant changes in the pattern of consumers' expenditure. The last such Survey was carried out in 1995/1996 after a period of 17 years since the previous one, and gave rise to the current Index of Retail Prices that commenced in April 1998. Since then, the Statistics Office updates and revises the range of goods and services that are priced as part of the Index. It is not intended to carry out a new Survey in the immediate future.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2391 OF 2004**

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Is it not the case that in fact when the Government brought the Bill to provide for a minimum increase of two per cent to Government Civil Service pensions, the Government said that this was being done on the basis that they believed that the Index was under-reflecting price rises and that it was being done as an interim measure until the information needed to review the Index was done? Then at a subsequent meeting when I asked about what exactly was being done, I was told that what was being done was that a new Expenditure Survey was going to be carried out.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

Yes, it is intended that at some point there will be a new Family Expenditure Survey. I did emphasise in my reading out of the answer the word "immediate", I did not want the hon Members to think that it was imminent but it is in the pipeline at some stage when they are ready to do it, I suppose. I cannot tell the hon Members that it is imminent or immediate in the sense that it is round the corner, but yes, the Government do recognise the need to do this Survey again and though there is no policy decision here, they ought to do it whenever they have the resources and are ready to do it, as far as Government are concerned.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

The Government are not saying that there should be one or that there should not be one, we are just trying to find out if there is going to be one.

**NO. 2392 OF 2004**

**THE HON F R PICARDO**

**FINANCE CENTRE DIRECTOR**

What is the annual remuneration package of the Finance Centre Director?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

The Finance Centre Director is on a three-year fixed term contract. His gross annual salary (which is not subject to annual increases) is currently £97,728. This salary does not accrue pension rights.

The question refers to an annual remuneration package. The Finance Centre Director will also receive a gratuity of £51,436 at the end of his three-year contract which expires on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2005. In addition, the Finance Centre Director receives a housing allowance of £30,000 per annum.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2392 OF 2004**

**HON F R PICARDO:**

Is that salary also treated like the salary of the new Chief Executive of the GHA as a Category 3 salary or Category 3 Individual with that tax applied to that salary?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

That is correct.

ORAL

**NO. 2393 OF 2004**

**THE HON F R PICARDO**

**CATEGORY 2 STATUS**

Can Government provide a breakdown by month of the number of individuals taking up Category 2 status in the months of October and November 2004, under the Qualifying (Category 2) Individuals Rules 2004 made under the Income Tax Ordinance?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2394 to 2400 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2394 OF 2004**

**THE HON F R PICARDO**

**CATEGORY 3 STATUS**

Can Government provide a breakdown of the number of individuals taking up Category 3 status under the rules made pursuant to the Income Tax Ordinance as at the end of each financial year since the introduction of that status, giving a breakdown by industry, sex and nationality until the month of June 2004?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2393 and 2395 to 2400 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2395 OF 2004**

**THE HON F R PICARDO**

**CATEGORY 3 STATUS**

Can Government provide a breakdown by month of the number of individuals taking up Category 3 status in the months from July to November 2004, under the Qualifying (Category 2) Individuals Rules 2004 made under the Income Tax Ordinance?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2393, 2394 and 2396 to 2400 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2396 OF 2004**

**THE HON F R PICARDO**

**CATEGORY 4 STATUS**

Can Government provide a breakdown by month of the number of individuals taking up Category 4 status in the months from July to November 2004, under the Qualifying (Category 2) Individuals Rules 2004 made under the Income Tax Ordinance?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2393 to 2395 and 2397 to 2400 of 2004.



ORAL

**NO. 2397 OF 2004**

**THE HON F R PICARDO**

**CATEGORY 3 STATUS**

Can Government provide a breakdown by month of the number of individuals who have renewed their Category 3 status made under the Income Tax Ordinance in the months from July to November 2004?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2393 to 2396 and 2398 to 2400 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2398 OF 2004**

**THE HON F R PICARDO**

**CATEGORY 4 STATUS**

Can Government provide a breakdown by month of the number of individuals who have renewed their Category 4 status made under the Income Tax Ordinance in the months from July to November 2004?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2393 to 2397 and 2399 to 2400 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2399 OF 2004**

**THE HON F R PICARDO**

**CATEGORY 4 STATUS**

Can Government provide a breakdown of the number of individuals taking up Category 4 status under the rules made pursuant to the Income Tax Ordinance as at the end of each financial year since the introduction of that status, giving a breakdown by industry, sex and nationality until the month of June 2004?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2393 to 2398 and 2400 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2400 OF 2004**

**THE HON F R PICARDO**

**CATEGORY 2 STATUS**

Can Government state how many individuals who were registered with Category 2 status in Gibraltar as at the end of the month of July 2004 have since surrendered or not renewed the same?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

I hand the hon Member a schedule containing all the statistical information which is requested.

## **ANSWER TO QUESTION 2400**

### **Answer to Question 2393/2004**

In the months from October to November 2004 the following number of individuals took up Category 2 status:-

October	4
November	1

### **Answer to Question 2394/2004**

During the following financial years:-

#### **1998 – 1999**

5 individuals took up Category 3 status, 2 were in the Financial Services Commission, 1 GDC, 1 gaming and 1 ship repair, all 5 are male, 4 are British and one is Irish.

#### **1999 – 2000**

5 individuals took up Category 3 status, 3 were in financial services, 1 in property and 1 in gaming, all 5 are male, 3 are British, 1 is Swiss and 1 is Greek.

#### **2000 – 2001**

19 individuals took up Category 3 status, 11 were in the gaming industry, 3 in financial services, 2 in beverage, 1 in the Financial Services Commission, 1 in security and 1 in IT, of which 18 are male and 1 female. 15 are British, 1 is Brazilian, 1 is Italian, 1 is Irish and 1 is Swedish.

#### **2001 – 2002**

18 individuals took up Category 3 status, 11 were in the gaming industry, 4 in the financial services, 1 in the oil industry, 1 automotive and 1 in shipping, all 18 being male of which 14 are British, 2 are Italian, 1 is Indian and 1 is Swedish.

#### **2002 – 2003**

34 individuals took up Category 3 status, 24 were in financial services and 10 in the gaming industry, 32 are male and 2 female. 21 are British, 3 are American, 3 are Australian, 3 are South African, 1 is Italian, 1 is Danish, 1 is Irish and 1 is French.

Contd.....

## **CONTD ANSWER TO QUESTION 2400**

### **2003 – 2004**

40 individuals took up Category 3 status, 20 were in the gaming industry, 19 in financial service and 1 in the Financial Services Commission, 38 are male and 2 female, 23 are British, 8 are Israeli, 3 are American, 2 are Australian, 1 is South African, 1 is French, 1 is Indian and 1 is Swedish.

### **2004 – June 2004**

9 individuals took up Category 3 status, 5 are in financial services and 4 in the gaming industry, all 9 are male, 6 are British, 1 is Indian, 1 is Polish and 1 is Swedish.

### **Answer to Question 2395/2004**

In the months from July to November 2004 the following number of individuals took up Category 3 status:-

July	2
August	2
September	8
October	1
November	2

NB Individuals taking up Category 3 status do so under the Qualifying (Category 3) Individuals Rules 1998.

### **Answer to Question 2396/2004**

In the months from July to November 2004 the following number of individuals took up Category 4 status:-

July	Nil
August	Nil
September	3
October	1
November	Nil

NB Individuals taking up Category 4 status do so under the Qualifying (Category 4) Individuals Rules 1999.

Contd.....

## **Contd ANSWER TO QUESTION 2400**

### **Answer to Question 2397/2004**

In the months from July to November 2004 the number of individuals renewing their Category 3 status was 2.

### **Answer to Question 2398/2004**

No individuals have renewed their Category 4 status in the months from July to November 2004.

### **Answer to Question 2399/2004**

During the following financial years:-

#### **1999 – 2000**

2 individuals took up category 4 status, both were in the betting industry, both are male and are British.

#### **2000 – 2001**

9 individuals took up category 4 status, all were in the betting industry, 7 are male and 2 are female, 6 are British, 1 is South African, 1 is French and 1 is Italian.

#### **2001 – 2002**

13 individuals took up category 4 status, 11 of which were in the betting industry and 2 in the shipping industry, all are male, 9 of which are British, 3 are Swedish and 1 is Malaysian.

#### **2002 – 2003**

4 individuals took up category 4 status, 2 of which were in the betting industry, 1 in trusteeship and 1 in the medial specialist industry, 3 are male, 1 is female. 3 are British and 1 is Belgian.

#### **2003 – 2004**

10 individuals took up category 4 status, 9 of which were in the betting industry and 1 in the insurance industry, 9 are male and 1 is female, of which 5 are Israeli, 3 are British, 1 is Swedish and 1 is German.

Contd.....

**Contd ANSWER TO QUESTION 2400**

**2004 – June 2004**

5 individuals took up category 4 status, all of which are in the betting industry, 4 are male and 1 is female, 4 are Indian and 1 is Italian.

**Answer to Question 2400/2004**

No individuals with Category 2 status as at the end of the month of July 2004 have since surrendered their status.

NB Category 2 status does not need to be renewed as it is granted indefinitely subject to compliance with the rules.



**NO. 2401 OF 2004**

**THE HON F R PICARDO**

**FINANCIAL SERVICES – CONFERENCES**

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 October and November 2004, giving the offices of those who might have attended as part of the Government delegation?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Mr James Tipping, the Finance Centre Director, was invited by Willis to give a presentation at their insurance seminar in London on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2004.

The breakdown of the costs were:-

Flight and Accommodation	£290.50
Travel Expenses	<u>£156.45</u>
Total	£446.95

ORAL

**NO. 2402 OF 2004**

**THE HON F R PICARDO**

**PROTECTED CELL COMPANY**

Have any applications to form a Protected Cell Company been submitted in the months of October and November 2004 which remain pending consideration or which have been rejected?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question No. 2403 of 2004.

**NO. 2403 OF 2004**

**THE HON F R PICARDO**

**PROTECTED CELL COMPANY**

Can Government state how many Protected Cell Companies are registered in Gibraltar in the months of October and November 2004?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

No applications to form a Protected Cell Company which remain pending consideration or which have been rejected in the months of October and November 2004. In other words, there have been none and none remain pending basically.

In the months of October and November 2004, one Protected Cell Company appears as registered. No new Protected Cell Companies have been registered in this period.

ORAL

**NO. 2404 OF 2004**

**THE HON F R PICARDO**

**QUALIFYING COMPANIES**

How many qualifying companies have discontinued their qualifying status in the months of October and November 2004?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2405 to 2407 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2405 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 October and November 2004?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2404 and 2406 to 2407 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2406 OF 2004**

**THE HON F R PICARDO**

**QUALIFYING COMPANIES**

Can Government state how many of the qualifying companies which remained in the months of October and November 2004 are considered by it to be active or trading?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2404, 2405 and 2407 of 2004.

**NO. 2407 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 October and November 2004?

**ANSWER****THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

In the months of October and November 2004 the following number of qualifying companies discontinued their qualifying status.

October	Nil
November	19

In the months of October and November 2004 the following number of tax exempt companies terminated their tax exemption certificate.

October	72
November	82

“Terminated their tax exemption” is interpreted by the Finance Centre Department as companies which have returned their certificate and no longer require their tax exempt status.

In the months of October and November 2004, the following numbers of qualifying companies were considered as active or trading.

	<b>Active</b>	<b>Trading</b>
<b>October</b>	102	65
<b>November</b>	83	59

During the months of October and November 2004 the following exempt company certificates were issued:-

October	94
November	93

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 2404 TO 2407 OF 2004**

**HON F R PICARDO:**

Is the Chief Minister aware whether any of the 19 that discontinued their qualifying status in November have actually taken up exempt status thereafter?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

This is not an issue on which I would like to give chapter and verse in public. I should say this to the hon Member and perhaps this will suffice for his purposes at the moment, that during the last few months each qualifying status company has been addressed individually, discussions have taken place and the result has been that each have opted for different status. In other words, they have each been dealt with differently. There are three possibilities, just leave Gibraltar, they stay in Gibraltar as an ordinary tax paying company or they stay in Gibraltar as an exempt company. Those are the three options. There have been examples of all three. No sorry, let me say that again. To date none has left Gibraltar or signified its intention, so either the Government have agreed to issue them with an exemption certificate or they have been happy to become ordinary tax paying companies subject to the normal provisions of the Income Tax Ordinance.



ORAL

**NO. 2408 OF 2004**

**THE HON F R PICARDO**

**COMPANIES REGISTER**

How many companies have been removed from the companies register in the months of October and November 2004?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question No. 2409 of 2004.

**NO. 2409 OF 2004**

**THE HON F R PICARDO**

**COMPANIES REGISTER**

Can Government list the companies formed in Gibraltar in the months of October and November 2004?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

As follows:

**Answer to Question 2408/2004**

The following companies were removed from the Companies Register in the months of October and November 2004.

October	261
November	227

**Answer to Question 2409/2004**

The following companies were formed in the months of October and November 2004.

October	260
November	263

**NO. 2410 OF 2004**

**THE HON F R PICARDO**

**TAXATION OF SAVINGS ORDINANCE**

Can Government now confirm that the Taxation of Savings Ordinance 2004 will come into effect in January 2005?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

It would be ultra vires for the Government to commence the Taxation of Savings Ordinance in January 2005. Pursuant to section 2(2) of that Ordinance as passed by this House, the Government do not have the power to commence this Ordinance prior to 1 July 2005.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2410 OF 2004**

**HON F R PICARDO:**

The Chief Minister told us in answer to questions recently in relation to this Ordinance that there was a possibility that it might be necessary to bring it into effect in January I believe, and that is why I am pressing him further in relation to that. I know that both of us agree that the longer that we can avoid bringing this legislation into effect the better, and I think that we both agree that is why I am pressing him. But if that is the position I am quite happy to see that it has been kicked into the future in July.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

I have to say I have no recollection of saying anything of the kind. It may be that I said something else and the hon Member has misunderstood me. I remember that the hon Member asked me what was the commencement date, whether it was January because there was then a story in the press, I suppose that might have prompted his question that the Commission was delaying the commencement. It had been scheduled to start in January, there was a decision taken at the European Community to defer the commencement until July. Since that date we have debated the Bill itself in this House, and we have legislated it with a commencement provision that the usual commencement clause says "to be commenced on a date by Government not before 1<sup>st</sup> July", that is the chronology. I am not aware that I have said anything to the hon Member since then that puts the January/July date back in the balance. In any case it is not in the balance.

ORAL

**NO. 2411 OF 2004**

**THE HON F R PICARDO**

**LEGAL COSTS – MR JOHN GOMEZ**

Are Government now in a position to state what were the legal costs of defending the case of unfair dismissal brought by John Gomez?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

The legal costs of defending the case to which the Question refers are £13,895 plus £172.75p disbursements.

ORAL

**NO. 2412 OF 2004**

**THE HON F R PICARDO**

**AGE OF CONSENT**

Is it Government's intention to take any action in relation to the age of consent as a result of the ruling of the European Court of Human Rights in L & V –v- Austria?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

The Government will take such action as they are compelled to take on a proper and authoritative interpretation of the meaning and effect of that ruling and its actual extent. The Government will not do more than is strictly obligatory.

ORAL

**NO. 2413 OF 2004**

**THE HON F R PICARDO**

**SALE OF S/Y PERKEO**

Has a decision now been taken in respect of the allocation of the proceeds of sale of the S/Y "Perkeo" sold by auction on 14<sup>th</sup> 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**

I am advised to answer that the Government have still not yet made a decision as to the use of the funds. I think the matter remains as it was in the last House.

**NO. 2414 OF 2004**

**THE HON F R PICARDO**

**TEP'S**

Will the Government agree to assist investors in TEP Plans that have themselves or through their solicitors written to him, as far back as July 2004, by agreeing to fund a group litigation in respect of the losses that have arisen from that financial product?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

I am considering what help the Government can give and indeed how it should be given since persons affected are not all of the same financial disposition.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2414 OF 2004**

**HON F R PICARDO:**

I hear what the Chief Minister says but the fact is that he will have received the request as far back as July 2004 for some assistance, and as I understand it he has not yet replied to that letter. Can the Chief Minister tell us when he expects to be in a position to communicate his decision, such as it may be, to these individuals?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

No.

**HON F R PICARDO:**

The people who are affected by the problems that arise as a result of the collapse of these products are all of a different financial disposition, I appreciate that, that means that there are some of them who are in dire need of some financial assistance and in that respect the Government are being looked to for the funding, for action that they may take to obtain some financial support. Can I not persuade the Chief Minister to reply to that letter outstanding from the members of the TEP Plan Association very quickly, and if possible before the end of January next year at the very latest?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

No the Government will reply to the letter when they are in a position to decide what the reply should be, and that is the position and the hon Member's involvement in this matter, which I suppose he should have added, is of a professional nature.....

**HON F R PICARDO:**

Point of order. There is absolutely no basis whatsoever for the Chief Minister to suggest that I am involved in this professionally, I am not. All my contact with members of the TEP Plan Association and all parties related to the TEP Plan debacle, if I may call it that, has been purely political not at all professional. I have had to endure the Chief Minister referring to my involvement in this matter as being quasi professional and political before, I have made the point before, I think there was a ruling in that respect before, he should, I would be grateful, be directed to ensure that he does not make that type of reference again.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

Oh I see, so if e-mails are sent to Picardo and Co we should assume that that is a political lobby firm, should we?

**HON F R PICARDO:**

I should not have to answer to the Chief Minister for what e-mail address I use, and I certainly do not have to answer to him if I take political correspondence at a professional address, that is not to address the issue of whether or not I am professionally involved or politically involved in a matter, or is it that he expects me only to receive correspondence of a political nature at a political address, as if that were to change the nature of the correspondence. The Chief Minister's remark, although this is the season of goodwill and good cheer, I have to say are absolutely ridiculous, and I would ask Mr Speaker directly to ensure that in relation to this matter he accepts that my involvement is purely political and that he stops making jibes of that sort, which I consider very damaging to him because it shows that he does not understand the nature of my involvement.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

Well, I have no way of knowing whether his involvement is professional or political. I hear that he says that it is only political but I am certainly not prepared to vouch for it simply because he asserts it. I hear what he says. It is not for me to underwrite the accuracy of his remark or not to underwrite the accuracy of his remark. I am not responsible for the accuracy of it, he is. In any event the answer remains the same. The answer remains as given.

**HON F R PICARDO:**

Is the hon Gentleman accusing me of lying?



**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

He can choose whatever words he likes. He has said that he is not acting professionally and he has required me to accept that he is not acting professionally. I cannot accept whether he is acting professionally or not, I can accept that he asserts in this House that he is only acting politically, and that is his statement of fact it is not for me to agree with it politically. I have to accept what the hon Member says until or if I could prove to the contrary, which is of no interest to me one way or the other frankly.

**MR SPEAKER:**

But the Chief Minister will accept that until such time as he is able to establish that the hon Member is acting professionally he ought not to make such an allegation in this House.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

There is nothing wrong with the hon Member acting professionally in this matter or in any other. I am not suggesting it but I accept Mr Speaker's ruling.

**HON F R PICARDO:**

As a result can I therefore ask the Chief Minister whether he can finish his answer to me which related to whether or not he will be in a position to answer before the end of January with the request made of him by the TEP Plan Association?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

I have answered that question already, I have no intention of repeating it.

**HON F R PICARDO:**

In that case, if he is not going to go beyond the answer that the Government will answer when they are in a position to do so, can I leave him with the fact that a lot of the individuals who are suffering as a result of this debacle are actually of a financial capability which requires a result for the problems that they are experiencing. Can I therefore at least ask him to acknowledge receipt of the letter?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

The recourse for people affected is in litigation. If there are people of the sort that he is describing, there is a Legal Aid & Assistance Ordinance Scheme which provides for assistance in the conduct of civil litigation. To my knowledge there are people who have already applied for and obtained assistance under the Legal Aid & Assistance Scheme. The request being sought is over and above that and indeed for the benefit of people who may not be entitled to legal aid and assistance because of the threshold provisions and the asset provisions in that Ordinance. So we are necessarily talking of people who are not entitled to legal aid in the context of their

present financial disposition and assets and that is what we are talking about, because people who do qualify have already obtained the assistance that the hon Member thinks everybody should be given by the Government and it has to be looked at carefully, because as I said in my original answer, not everybody affected, some people have been very, very badly affected, and to the extent of almost all that they own except perhaps a roof over their heads, and others are not in that category. There is no reason why the Government should assist them all at tax payers expense in equal measure.

**HON F R PICARDO:**

Can I now just clarify only one issue that arises as a result of the Chief Minister's question. I do not think, and he should not interpret from my questions, that everybody affected should receive the type of assistance that those who are entitled to receive legal aid are receiving, that is not the point I am making. That as I understand it is not the question that has been asked of him in the letter that he has received and has not yet even acknowledged. I just want to put that point on the record and simply press him out of simple good manners to at least acknowledge receipt of the letter.

**NO. 2415 OF 2004**

**THE HON F R PICARDO**

**TAX REFORM PROPOSALS**

When do the Government expect the EU Commission to take a decision as to the interim measures the Government are seeking (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 reform 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**

The Commission has not approved the arrangements negotiated with DG Competition in June. Since then intense negotiations have been taking place, culminating in new interim arrangements being settled on Monday of last week subject to approval by the College of Commissioners early in the New Year. It is not appropriate to give details until the arrangements have been approved by the Commission in full.

**NO. 2416 OF 2004**

**THE HON F R PICARDO**

**TAX REFORM PROPOSALS**

What progress has been made since the last Question Time in the House of Assembly in 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 now filed their reply to the Commission's defence.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2416 OF 2004**

**HON F R PICARDO:**

Are we to assume then that pleadings are closed or do the Government expect the Commission will be filing another reply, or is there any provision for that?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

My personal understanding of European Court of Justice procedure is, although I am not a lawyer in practice, is that the Commission now has a right of rejoinder.

**HON F R PICARDO:**

That is what I mean. Does the Chief Minister know, are the Government aware or has there been any indication from the Commission that they will be exercising a right to file a rejoinder? He will remember from the times when he was in practice that sometimes parties file rejoinders, they do not always do even if they have a right to do so.

Can I take it from the silence that the answer to my question is that the Government do not have any such indication one way or another?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

Parties do not give indications to their opponents, they either file it within the required time limit or they do not. My understanding is, and I may not be entirely right in this, is that the European procedure is not voluntary, that one has to file a rejoinder. It may not have to be as comprehensive as it would be if one were enthusiastic about it, but my understanding is that all stages of the procedure are compulsory in that Court. That is my understanding but I would not assert it as fact.

**HON F R PICARDO:**

In that case can the Chief Minister tell the House by what date the Commission is required to file its rejoinder, or if that date is not available and I would understand that he might need notice of the question, at least can he tell us on what date the Government's defence was filed so that it might be possible to work out by looking at the procedure when the Commission's rejoinder will have to be filed?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

I do not have either dates here.

**HON F R PICARDO:**

Would the Chief Minister agree to provide that date outside this House if he does not have it available? Although I must say that I find it surprising that the Chief Minister does not have the date or does not know it, seeing as he has told us before that in all these matters he is involved in the day to day running of cases like he told us he was in the Matthews Case. He told us he checked every document and was very much in the driving seat.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

I assume that the fact that he expresses surprise at the fact that I have not got it is not an insinuation that he thinks I have got it and I am misleading this House by suggesting that I have not got it. I cannot imagine what other interpretation one is to give to the phrase "I am surprised that he has not got it". I am telling the hon Member I do not have and I do not have it, of course it is available in a file in the office.

**HON F R PICARDO:**

I said I was surprised he did not remember it or did not know it but fair enough. The first part of my question was would he undertake to provide it, perhaps in writing when he gets back to his office.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

I do not give the hon Members undertakings across the floor. This is not a court room. If the hon Member would like me to provide him with the information I will of course be happy to provide it to him.

**NO. 2417 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**EUROPEAN ELECTIONS**

Can Government say whether the Spanish Government persists in its legal challenge to the manner in which Gibraltar was enfranchised for European elections?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

As far as we are aware the Spanish Government have not withdrawn their legal challenge.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2417 OF 2004**

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

Can the Chief Minister say whether the UK Government are as robust in defending this action as they said they would be before it materialised?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

I do not know what answer I can give to that question. The United Kingdom has expressed a determination, both publicly and privately, to defend this action which actually raises very challenging issues for the UK itself let alone just for Gibraltar. I have not yet seen any of the pleadings in this matter which may be because the case has not got that far.

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

Is it possible for the Chief Minister to give an indication of at what stage the case actually is at this particular juncture?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

No, this is not a case to which the Government of Gibraltar are a party. We rely entirely on the information provided to us by the UK, whom I am sure would provide us with and keep us informed of the main steps. I am not aware that we have received or been informed that the UK for example, has received Spain's application

or that the defence has been filed. That may not be the case that may have happened but certainly I am personally not aware of it.



**NO. 2418 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**EU COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS**

Can Government say whether, and if so when, they met with the Secretariat of the EU Committee of the Regions?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

I am not aware that the Government have met with the Secretariat of the EU's Committee of the Regions.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2418 OF 2004**

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

When the Chief Minister was asked that question on this subject on television, I think it may have been a phone-in, he mentioned that Michael Llamas would shortly be taking this matter forward, and that is the reason why the question was tabled, to establish whether it actually happened or had not.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

No I think that is something quite different. The hon Member may be referring to a seminar organised by the Committee of the Regions to which I indicated Gibraltar might be represented, but that is not a meeting with the Secretariat of the Committee of the Regions. I think Michael Llamas was scheduled to go to that, whether he actually went or not I would have to check, but it is certainly not a meeting with the Secretariat and nor do I recall saying anything about a meeting with the Secretariat. I have got a vague recollection of alluding to the fact that there was this seminar organised by the Committee of the Regions.

**NO. 2419 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**EU SINGLE EUROPEAN SKY**

Following the preliminary advice received by the Government on the feasibility of mounting a legal challenge to the exclusion of Gibraltar from the EU Single European Sky, can Government say whether and when they intend to mount such a challenge?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

This matter remains under consideration.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2419 OF 2004**

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

The preliminary advice which the Government have now received, is the Chief Minister in a position to say what the chances of success would be if the Government take this forward according to the advice that has been received?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

No, I think it is self-evident that it would not be appropriate for me to say that even if it were possible to say so.

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

Is it possible to say then, to give an idea of the timescale in which the Government intend to consider this matter and then come to a conclusion as to whether to proceed or not?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

No it is not.

**NO. 2420 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**NATIONAL DAY**

How much of the £188,000 forecast outturn for 2003/2004 in respect of Head 8 – A 21 National Day was in respect of travel and accommodation for Government guests?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

I am advised that none of it was.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2420 OF 2004**

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

Would the travel and accommodation for Government guests come under a different Head in the Estimates?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

Well, I do not have that information in front of me but if the Government paid for travel and accommodation and it is not under this Head then it must be under some other.

ORAL

**NO. 2421 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**GIBRALTAR DAY IN LONDON**

Who made up the Gibraltar Government/GDC delegation to the Gibraltar Day festivities in London and what posts do they hold?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2422 to 2424 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2422 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**GIBRALTAR DAY IN LONDON**

How many persons from Gibraltar were invited by the Government to the Gibraltar Day events in London, and who were they?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2421, 2423 and 2424 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2423 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**GIBRALTAR DAY IN LONDON**

What was the cost, with a breakdown, of the Gibraltar Day in London?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2421, 2422 and 2424 of 2004.

**NO. 2424 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**GIBRALTAR DAY IN LONDON**

Can Government say whether the Corps of Drums of the Royal Gibraltar Regiment provided the music inside the Guildhall during the Gibraltar Day festivities in London?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

The Gibraltar Government delegation to the Gibraltar Day festivities in London were the Chief Minister, the Minister for Health and the Minister for the Environment, Roads and Utilities, the Government's Press Director, the Chief Minister's Private Secretary (Legal Affairs), and the Director of the London Office.

There were no invited persons from the GDC.

The Government invited the Honorary Colonels and the Commanding Officer of the Royal Gibraltar Regiment, local Trade Union leaders, the Chairperson of the Gibraltar Federation of Small Businesses and the President of the Gibraltar Chamber of Commerce.

The Gibraltar Government is as always grateful for the participation of the Royal Gibraltar Regiment at the Gibraltar Day. The band and Corps of Drums were engaged in providing music throughout the evening.

The breakdown of Gibraltar Day expenses are as follows:

• Food & Wine	23,504.58p
• Lighting, sound & video	21,132.38p
• Hire of Guildhall	8,416.25p
• Toastmaster & Performance fees	852.40p
• Printing, postage and photography	3,535.10p
• Military expenses	<u>2,088.65p</u>
	59,529.36p

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 2421 TO 2424 OF 2004**

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

In relation to the figures just given by the Chief Minister, I noted down a figure of £2,088.65p in relation to military expenses, can the Chief Minister say what military expenses those were?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

I cannot give that information with the degree of accuracy that I would wish. I can tell the hon Member that apart from the Gibraltar Regiment there were colour parties in attendance from all the regiments still in existence that participated in the events of 1704, and there was also bandsmen and the Honorary Artillery Company and I suppose this must have related to their expenses.

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

Can I just say that there is nothing here in relation to the travelling and accommodation expenses which normally are supplied to me, not just for this event but also for others, is there a reason for that or could the Chief Minister supply that information if he has it available?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

He has not asked for that information. Those are not expenses of the Gibraltar Day in London. The hon Member has asked for costs in relation to the event itself not to the cost of people from Gibraltar attending at it.



**NO. 2425 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**RECAPTURE OF GIBRALTAR – 1705**

What events are planned for the commemoration and celebration of the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the failure of the first Spanish siege to recapture Gibraltar in April 1705?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

None.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2425 OF 2004**

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

Is it the position of the Government that the failure of the first Spanish siege to recapture Gibraltar since the Anglo-Dutch conquest is not an event worthy of commemorating?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

Correct, it is the Government's view that it is not an event worth commemorating. Gibraltar has been resisting Spanish ambitions to recover its sovereignty on a 24 hour a day, 365 day year, 300 year basis. On the basis of the hon Member's logic every day would have to be a tercentenary or centenary or something.

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

Well, I am sure he would not mind celebrating that event every day, I am sure many people do, but given that this was an attempt at a military conquest, in the same way as we celebrated the liberation of Spain from the Bourbons in 1704 in August, is it not also worth celebrating the fact that they did not take it over from a military point of view in April 1705? I think that is a distinction, there are several key historical events and this was one of them. Earlier on in this House we heard from the Minister for Heritage that we will be celebrating the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar which is obviously something that we welcome and we certainly would equally welcome if the Government found it in their hearts to celebrate this anniversary as

well. Firstly because it is 300 years and secondly because it is an important historical event.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

I hear what the hon Member says that he thinks that during this year he has been celebrating the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of Spain from the Bourbons, he can speak for himself. I have been celebrating nothing of the sort but if that is what he has been celebrating let me tell him that he has been celebrating under a false premise, because the Bourbons indeed ascended to the throne of Spain.

**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

Indeed they did but they did not do so with Gibraltar as part of their realm.

ORAL

**NO. 2426 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**TERCENTENARY EVENT**

Can Government provide a breakdown (showing the cost per person) of the sum spent in respect of "Accommodation" in respect of the Chief Minister's travel on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2004 with others to the FCO/Tercentenary Event, and as stated in answer to Question No. 1859 of 2004?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2427 and 2428 of 2004.

**NO. 2427 OF 2004**

**THE HON DR J J GARCIA**

**JEWISH MUSEUM EXHIBITION IN LONDON**

Can Government provide a breakdown (showing the cost per person) of the sums spent in respect of "Air Fares & Travel (£2,511.57p) and "Accommodation" (£1,858.18p) (showing the name of the hotel and the rate per room) in respect of the Chief Minister's travel to the Museum Exhibition in London on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2004 and as stated in answer to Question No. 1859 of 2004?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2426 and 2428 of 2004.

**NO. 2428 OF 2004**

**THE HON F R PICARDO**

**JEWISH MUSEUM EXHIBITION IN LONDON**

Can Government provide a full breakdown of the expenditure under head "Others" set out in the table provided in answer to Question No. 1859 of 2004?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

The schedule submitted in answer to Question No. 1859 of 2004 contained a typographical error in respect of the date of the Jewish Museum Exhibition. What read as 5<sup>th</sup> June 2004 should have read 5<sup>th</sup> July 2004 as suggested by the chronological order of events.

The Chief Minister's travel on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2004 related to the Committee of 24 trip to New York and not the Jewish Museum Exhibition as stated in Question No. 2427.

I hand the hon Member schedules setting out the information he has requested in Question Nos. 2426 and 2428. Goodness, even the names of the hotels are given, this really is transparency.

**ANSWER TO QUESTION 2428**

**Answer to Q 2426**

				£
Media Director & Private Secretary to CM	The Howard Hotel, London	£175/night	29/2 to 2/3	1,452.32
Chief Secretary / Private Secretary to CM	Le Meridien, Gatwick	£125/night	26/2 to 27/2	594.97
CM	Le Meridien, Gatwick	£125/night	26-Feb	125.00
CM	Savoy, London	£312.55/night	27/2 to 3/3	1,562.75
Miscellaneous				108.38
				<b><u>£3,843.42</u></b>

**Answer to Q2428**

<u>19/10/2003</u>	£
Chief Secretary subsistence	299.40
Media Director subsistence	299.40
Chief Secretary subsistence	102.43
Media Director subsistence	102.43
Private Secretary to CM (Legal) subsistence	102.43
	<hr/>
	<b>£906.09</b>
	<hr/>
<u>27/02/2004</u>	£
CM Driver allowance	25.00
Chief Secretary subsistence	102.43
Private Secretary to CM (Projects) subsistence	153.65
Private Secretary to CM (Legal) subsistence	102.43
Media Director subsistence	153.65
Chief Secretary expenses charged to credit card (rail & other exps)	160.35
Media Director expenses charged to credit card (taxi)	15.00
	<hr/>
	<b>£712.51</b>
	<hr/>
<u>18/05/2004</u>	<b>£373.60</b>
Hire of Conference Room + refreshments on 7/6/04 <i>(NB Included in 18/5/04 costs in error in answer to Q1859/2004)</i>	
<b>Total</b>	<hr/>
	<b>£1,992.20</b>
	<hr/>

ORAL

**NO. 2429 OF 2004**

**THE HON L A RANDALL**

**GIBRALTAR BUS COMPANY LIMITED**

Can Government state the date on which Gibraltar Investment (Holdings) Limited acquired 3,700,000 £1 shares of the Gibraltar Bus Company Limited?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question No. 2430 of 2004.



**NO. 2430 OF 2004**

**THE HON L A RANDALL**

**GIBRALTAR BUS COMPANY LIMITED**

Can Government state the date on which the Authorised Share Capital of the Gibraltar Bus Company Limited was increased from £1,000 to £4,000,000?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Gibraltar Investment (Holdings) Limited acquired 3,700,000 £1 shares in the Gibraltar Bus Company Limited on the following dates:

16 <sup>th</sup> March 2004	-	2 fully paid up ordinary shares of £1.00 each
1 <sup>st</sup> September 2004	-	3,699,998 fully paid up ordinary shares of £1.00 each.

The Authorised Share Capital of the Gibraltar Bus Company Limited was increased by Ordinary Resolution on the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2004.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 2429 AND 2430 OF 2004**

**HON L A RANDALL:**

Can Government state the £1,825,000 above the cost of acquiring the buses, was this in respect of working capital for the company or in settlement of other things such as the licence acquired?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

The latter.

**NO. 2431 OF 2004**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**I & D FUND**

Can Government say how much has been received to date by the Improvement and Development Fund under Head 103 – Grants?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS**

The sum of £2,025.23p. These are expenses incurred to facilitate a number of projects being driven under the Interreg III A Programme namely:

- Gib MA Natur - (Barbary Apes)
- Gib Mo Col - (Trade project – training for people involved in business)
- DDP and SME Project - (Distance learning and development project for senior managers of small and medium size enterprises)

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2431 OF 2004**

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Nothing has been received then in respect of the Konver Projects which I understand was money that was pending approval but had already been spent, is that the case?

**HON J J HOLLIDAY:**

That is the case. The Konver Projects are currently in what they call the completion programme stage and we are hopeful that the balance that is outstanding to us will be forthcoming during the first quarter of 2005.

**NO. 2432 OF 2004**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**INTERNATIONAL DIALLING CODE**

Can Government provide a copy of the Report on the technical problems and economic costs of the possible utilisation of the 0044 international dialling code for Gibraltar?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

The Government do not consider it appropriate to provide details at this stage of the technical assessment of the utilisation of 0044 international dialling code for Gibraltar. I think it is also fair to comment that there is not a bound report as such, it is a series of assessments.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2342 OF 2004**

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

When he offered to provide a copy of the Report to Mr Peter Isola in the Viewpoint programme which I was there with him, was he referring to this or was he referring to something else?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

Can he remind me what it was that I said?

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

When we were in that debate and Mr Isola was saying the Chamber supported the use of the 0044, the Chief Minister in reply said that in fact it was not as straightforward as people thought, that there were economic and technical problems and that he would be happy to provide Mr Isola with a report if he wanted it. That is the report I am asking for. I am assuming I am not going to get inferior treatment to Mr Isola even though I am not President of the Chamber.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

Well, I will write to the hon Member setting out the relevant arguments, the relevant aspects of the issues. There is nothing confidential about the issues themselves but I am not sure that the report itself is in a form that can just be handed over. It is not a sort of bound report but I mean the technical aspects themselves he can be aware of but I would like him to deal with them on a confidential basis, given several factors. First of all, that this proposal is not presently on the agenda, it is not under consideration and secondly, that we hope to revisit the whole issue of telephones in the context of the new spirit of dialogue and cooperation which has broken out.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Let me make clear that we are not supportive of the 0044 it is just that since there are apparently arguments against it which we are not aware of, we would like to know what they are and I am happy to receive it on a confidential basis because I do not want to do anything that may hamper the Government's negotiating position, but given that we did not even know such arguments existed, now that we know that they do we would like to know what they are.

**NO. 2433 OF 2004**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT**

Can Government provide a breakdown by nationality and industry of the average earnings of the 255 female full-time weekly-paid employees in the Official Sector shown in Table 7 of the October 1998 Employment Survey, showing separately the employees of

- (a) Gibraltar Government; and
- (b) MOD?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2434 to 2450 of 2004.

**NO. 2434 OF 2004**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT**

Can Government provide a breakdown by nationality and industry of the average earnings of the 236 female full-time weekly-paid employees in the Official Sector shown in Table 7 of the October 1999 Employment Survey, showing separately the employees of

- (a) Gibraltar Government; and
- (b) MOD?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2433 and 2435 to 2450 of 2004.

**NO. 2435 OF 2004**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT**

Can Government provide a breakdown by nationality and industry of the average earnings of the 229 female full-time weekly-paid employees in the Official Sector shown in Table 7 of the October 2000 Employment Survey, showing separately the employees of

- (a) Gibraltar Government; and
- (b) MOD?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2433, 2434 and 2436 to 2450 of 2004.

**NO. 2436 OF 2004**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT**

Can Government provide a breakdown by nationality and industry of the average earnings of the 240 female full-time weekly-paid employees in the Official Sector shown in Table 7 of the October 2001 Employment Survey, showing separately the employees of

- (a) Gibraltar Government; and
- (b) MOD?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2433 to 2435 and 2437 to 2450 of 2004.



ORAL

**NO. 2437 OF 2004**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT**

Can Government provide a breakdown by nationality and industry of the average earnings of the 108 female full-time weekly-paid employees in the Official Sector shown in Table 7 of the October 2002 Employment Survey, showing separately the employees of

- (a) Gibraltar Government; and
- (b) MOD?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2433 to 2436 and 2438 to 2450 of 2004.

**NO. 2438 OF 2004**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT**

Can Government provide a breakdown by nationality and industry of the average earnings of the 114 female full-time weekly-paid employees in the Official Sector shown in Table 7 of the October 2003 Employment Survey, showing separately the employees of

- (a) Gibraltar Government; and
- (b) MOD?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2433 to 2437 and 2439 to 2450 of 2004.

**NO. 2439 OF 2004**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT**

Can Government provide a breakdown by nationality and industry of the average earnings of the 875 male full-time weekly-paid employees in the Official Sector shown in Table 6 of the October 1998 Employment Survey, showing separately the employees of

- (a) Gibraltar Government; and
- (b) MOD?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2433 to 2438 and 2440 to 2450 of 2004.

**NO. 2440 OF 2004**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT**

Can Government provide a breakdown by nationality and industry of the average earnings of the 782 male full-time weekly-paid employees in the Official Sector shown in Table 6 of the October 1999 Employment Survey, showing separately the employees of

- (a) Gibraltar Government; and
- (b) MOD?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2433 to 2439 and 2441 to 2450 of 2004.

**NO. 2441 OF 2004**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT**

Can Government provide a breakdown by nationality and industry of the average earnings of the 768 male full-time weekly-paid employees in the Official Sector shown in Table 6 of the October 2000 Employment Survey, showing separately the employees of

- (a) Gibraltar Government; and
- (b) MOD?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2433 to 2440 and 2442 to 2450 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2442 OF 2004**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT**

Can Government provide a breakdown by nationality and industry of the average earnings of the 764 male full-time weekly-paid employees in the Official Sector shown in Table 6 of the October 2001 Employment Survey, showing separately the employees of

- (a) Gibraltar Government; and
- (b) MOD?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2433 to 2441 and 2443 to 2450 of 2004.

**NO. 2443 OF 2004**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT**

Can Government provide a breakdown by nationality and industry of the average earnings of the 368 male full-time weekly-paid employees in the Official Sector shown in Table 6 of the October 2002 Employment Survey, showing separately the employees of

- (a) Gibraltar Government; and
- (b) MOD?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2433 to 2442 and 2444 to 2450 of 2004.

**NO. 2444 OF 2004**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT**

Can Government provide a breakdown by nationality and industry of the average earnings of the 352 male full-time weekly-paid employees in the Official Sector shown in Table 6 of the October 2003 Employment Survey, showing separately the employees of

- (a) Gibraltar Government; and
- (b) MOD?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2433 to 2443 and 2445 to 2450 of 2004.



**NO. 2445 OF 2004**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT**

Can Government provide a breakdown by nationality and industry of the average earnings of the 1497 male and 929 female full-time monthly-paid employees in the Official Sector shown in Table 8 of the October 1998 Employment Survey, showing separately the employees of

- (a) Gibraltar Government; and
- (b) MOD?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2433 to 2444 and 2446 to 2450 of 2004.

**NO. 2446 OF 2004**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT**

Can Government provide a breakdown by nationality and industry of the average earnings of the 1433 male and 998 female full-time monthly-paid employees in the Official Sector shown in Table 8 of the October 1999 Employment Survey, showing separately the employees of

- (a) Gibraltar Government; and
- (b) MOD?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2433 to 2445 and 2447 to 2450 of 2004.

**NO. 2447 OF 2004**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT**

Can Government provide a breakdown by nationality and industry of the average earnings of the 1473 male and 1077 female full-time monthly-paid employees in the Official Sector shown in Table 8 of the October 2000 Employment Survey, showing separately the employees of

- (a) Gibraltar Government; and
- (b) MOD?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2433 to 2446 and 2448 to 2450 of 2004.

**NO. 2448 OF 2004**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT**

Can Government provide a breakdown by nationality and industry of the average earnings of the 1443 male and 1065 female full-time monthly-paid employees in the Official Sector shown in Table 8 of the October 2001 Employment Survey, showing separately the employees of

- (a) Gibraltar Government; and
- (b) MOD?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2433 to 2447 and 2449 to 2450 of 2004.

**NO. 2449 OF 2004**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT**

Can Government provide a breakdown by nationality and industry of the average earnings of the 1887 male and 1172 female full-time monthly-paid employees in the Official Sector shown in Table 8 of the October 2002 Employment Survey, showing separately the employees of

- (a) Gibraltar Government; and
- (b) MOD?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2433 to 2448 and 2450 of 2004.

**NO. 2450 OF 2004**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT**

Can Government provide a breakdown by nationality and industry of the average earnings of the 1937 male and 1257 female full-time monthly-paid employees in the Official Sector shown in Table 8 of the October 2003 Employment Survey, showing separately the employees of

- (a) Gibraltar Government; and
- (b) MOD?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

The information requested by the hon Member goes back to 1998. It is not possible in the time available since notice of his Questions to compile all the relevant data. However, I am handing over to the hon Member a schedule containing details of average earnings for the different categories of employees by sex and nationality shown separately by the Gibraltar Government and the MOD for the periods 1998 to 2003.

The hon Member, whilst he digests that, may also be interested to know that in fact it is not possible to provide the additional desegregation of the data that he has required by industry without re-writing virtually the whole of the survey programme, and in respect of 1998 it cannot be given at all because the programme used for that survey is not in use any more. The programme was revamped in 1999 and onwards and it is therefore no longer possible to re-run the obsolete programme to obtain the desegregated data the hon Member seeks, which is why he only has it there from 1999 onwards not 1998.

Question 2434 of 2004

**GIBRALTAR GOVERNMENT**

		Number	Av. Wkly Hours	Av. Wkly Ergs (£)	Av. O/T Hours	Av. O/T Ergs (£)
Nationality	Gibraltarian	125	49.5	243.68	11.1	54.17
	UK	1	*	*	*	*
	Moroccan	2	58.8	278.89	19.8	93.89
	Spanish	1	*	*	*	*
	Other EU	1	*	*	*	*
	Other	0	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00

Question 2435 of 2004

**GIBRALTAR GOVERNMENT**

		Number	Av. Wkly Hours	Av. Wkly Ergs (£)	Av. O/T Hours	Av. O/T Ergs (£)
Nationality	Gibraltarian	112	49.9	235.49	10.9	52.75
	UK	0	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00
	Moroccan	2	44.7	211.87	5.7	26.87
	Spanish	0	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00
	Other EU	1	*	*	*	*
	Other	0	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00

Question 2436 of 2004

**GIBRALTAR GOVERNMENT**

		Number	Av. Wkly Hours	Av. Wkly Ergs (£)	Av. O/T Hours	Av. O/T Ergs (£)
Nationality	Gibraltarian	109	48.5	254.06	11.8	58.11
	UK	3	54.0	266.50	15.0	73.52
	Moroccan	3	52.2	259.75	15.8	77.83
	Spanish	0	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00
	Other EU	1	*	*	*	*
	Other	0	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00

1

Question 2437 of 2004

Note:

With effect from this Survey, the M.O.D. no longer has any weekly-paid workers.

**GIBRALTAR GOVERNMENT**

		Number	Av. Wkly Hours	Av. Wkly Ergs (£)	Av. O/T Hours	Av. O/T Ergs (£)
Nationality	Gibraltarian	102	47.9	254.73	13.2	55.70
	UK	3	48.6	248.54	9.6	49.20
	Moroccan	2	57.0	293.24	18.0	92.01
	Spanish	0	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00
	Other EU	1	94.5	510.74	55.5	297.02
	Other	0	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00

Question 2438 of 2004

**GIBRALTAR GOVERNMENT**

		Number	Av. Wkly Hours	Av. Wkly Ergs (£)	Av. O/T Hours	Av. O/T Ergs (£)
Nationality	Gibraltarian	102	47.2	316.15	14.3	70.55
	UK	7	46.1	285.28	10.2	65.08
	Moroccan	1	*	*	*	*
	Spanish	2	**	**	**	**
	Other EU	2	48.1	312.26	11.1	71.33
	Other	0	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00



Question 2440 of 2004

**GIBRALTAR GOVERNMENT**

		Number	Av. Wkly Hours	Av. Wkly Ergs (£)	Av. O/T Hours	Av. O/T Ergs (£)
Nationality	Gibraltarian	329	52.8	337.39	14.1	74.08
	UK	11	58.2	313.83	18.5	92.12
	Moroccan	41	57.4	348.37	17.8	90.12
	Spanish	4	73.9	384.95	34.9	180.67
	Other EU	8	48.2	262.98	9.2	50.67
	Other	0	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00

Question 2441 of 2004

**GIBRALTAR GOVERNMENT**

		Number	Av. Wkly Hours	Av. Wkly Ergs (£)	Av. O/T Hours	Av. O/T Ergs (£)
Nationality	Gibraltarian	332	50.4	284.36	12.5	66.45
	UK	7	52.0	323.75	14.2	74.08
	Moroccan	40	52.5	286.09	13.3	67.20
	Spanish	3	61.7	332.69	22.7	119.70
	Other EU	6	45.4	249.91	7.0	38.99
	Other	0	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00

Question 2442 of 2004

**GIBRALTAR GOVERNMENT**

		Number	Av. Wkly Hours	Av. Wkly Ergs (£)	Av. O/T Hours	Av. O/T Ergs (£)
Nationality	Gibraltarian	313	53.0	385.12	13.9	77.11
	UK	13	62.9	374.27	23.2	120.43
	Moroccan	43	65.0	431.45	25.4	137.32
	Spanish	3	67.0	300.76	28.0	242.22
	Other EU	7	79.5	446.01	40.5	223.99
	Other	0	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00

Question 2443 of 2004

**GIBRALTAR GOVERNMENT**

		Number	Av. Wkly Hours	Av. Wkly Ergs (£)	Av. O/T Hours	Av. O/T Ergs (£)
Nationality	Gibraltarian	305	53.8	378.90	15.8	83.37
	UK	14	72.1	473.22	32.5	183.16
	Moroccan	40	62.6	446.79	23.0	128.14
	Spanish	4	69.0	408.85	30.0	136.55
	Other EU	5	85.0	486.14	46.0	264.97
	Other	0	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00

Question 2444 of 2004

**GIBRALTAR GOVERNMENT**

		Number	Av. Wkly Hours	Av. Wkly Ergs (£)	Av. O/T Hours	Av. O/T Ergs (£)
Nationality	Gibraltarian	292	47.3	490.30	10.5	66.70
	UK	6	69.9	532.98	31.0	201.50
	Moroccan	45	52.9	418.01	15.3	106.51
	Spanish	2	72.0	406.01	16.5	118.73
	Other EU	7	46.4	490.27	9.4	81.35
	Other	0	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00

4

Question 2434 of 2004

M.O.D.

		Number	Av. Wkly Hours	Av. Wkly Ergs (£)	Av. O/T Hours	Av. O/T Ergs (£)
Nationality	Gibraltarian	92	41.1	214.85	2.9	14.86
	UK	8	43.3	226.17	4.5	23.91
	Moroccan	3	48.8	235.70	12.5	51.04
	Spanish	3	47.0	251.71	8.0	40.58
	Other EU	0	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00
	Other	0	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00

Question 2435 of 2004

		Number	Av. Wkly Hours	Av. Wkly Ergs (£)	Av. O/T Hours	Av. O/T Ergs (£)
Nationality	Gibraltarian	92	40.8	214.55	1.8	12.93
	UK	11	45.5	254.07	2.5	16.89
	Moroccan	5	42.1	229.21	3.1	20.23
	Spanish	6	40.9	230.79	1.8	12.51
	Other EU	0	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00
	Other	0	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00

Question 2436 of 2004

		Number	Av. Wkly Hours	Av. Wkly Ergs (£)	Av. O/T Hours	Av. O/T Ergs (£)
Nationality	Gibraltarian	116	41.5	227.69	2.5	19.33
	UK	2	39.0	200.71	0.0	0.00
	Moroccan	2	43.3	235.70	4.3	31.25
	Spanish	4	42.0	233.93	2.8	20.76
	Other EU	0	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00
	Other	0	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00

Question 2440 of 2004

Question 2440 of 2004

		Number	Av. Wkly Hours	Av. Wkly Ergs (£)	Av. O/T Hours	Av. O/T Ergs (£)
Nationality	Gibraltarian	282	46.2	296.26	8.0	55.06
	UK	44	47.1	291.33	8.5	65.72
	Moroccan	58	47.4	261.50	8.6	54.56
	Spanish	5	45.0	233.66	6.5	44.40
	Other EU	0	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00
	Other	0	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00

Question 2441 of 2004

		Number	Av. Wkly Hours	Av. Wkly Ergs (£)	Av. O/T Hours	Av. O/T Ergs (£)
Nationality	Gibraltarian	259	44.6	281.26	5.6	46.02
	UK	47	47.6	300.42	8.6	73.10
	Moroccan	64	44.2	257.21	5.2	39.66
	Spanish	10	50.2	282.75	3.4	22.09
	Other EU	0	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00
	Other	0	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00

Question 2442 of 2004

		Number	Av. Wkly Hours	Av. Wkly Ergs (£)	Av. O/T Hours	Av. O/T Ergs (£)
Nationality	Gibraltarian	312	44.9	293.16	5.9	49.47
	UK	3	41.7	236.56	2.7	20.13
	Moroccan	63	43.9	267.52	4.9	40.42
	Spanish	7	40.7	241.60	1.7	12.32
	Other EU	0	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00
	Other	0	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00

6

Question 2446 of 2004

GIBRALTAR GOVERNMENT

		ADULT MALE JOBS		ADULT FEMALE JOBS	
		Number	Av. Earnings (£)	Number	Av. Earnings (£)
Nationality	Gibraltar	1,068	2,138.28	798	1,599.71
	UK	73	2,861.24	67	2,173.80
	Moroccan	1	*	0	0.00
	Spanish	1	*	0	0.00
	Other EU	2	4,431.50	1	*
	Other	9	4,180.04	2	3,585.63

Question 2447 of 2004

		ADULT MALE JOBS		ADULT FEMALE JOBS	
		Number	Av. Earnings (£)	Number	Av. Earnings (£)
Nationality	Gibraltar	1,058	2,216.68	855	1,599.51
	UK	69	2,911.35	68	2,219.33
	Moroccan	0	0.00	0	0.00
	Spanish	1	*	1	*
	Other EU	1	*	2	2,497.62
	Other	13	4,093.82	1	*

Question 2248 of 2004

		ADULT MALE JOBS		ADULT FEMALE JOBS	
		Number	Av. Earnings (£)	Number	Av. Earnings (£)
Nationality	Gibraltar	1,055	2,393.78	830	1,748.18
	UK	74	3,143.95	79	2,335.48
	Moroccan	0	0.00	0	0.00
	Spanish	2	4,061.89	1	*
	Other EU	2	6,531.99	4	1,996.82
	Other	10	4,372.11	1	*

Question 2449 of 2004

		ADULT MALE JOBS		ADULT FEMALE JOBS	
		Number	Av. Earnings (£)	Number	Av. Earnings (£)
Nationality	Gibraltarian	1,097	2,558.75	816	1,864.90
	UK	54	3,522.00	75	2,437.69
	Moroccan	1	*	0	0.00
	Spanish	6	3,469.00	5	1,903.88
	Other EU	4	4,986.21	5	1,992.43
	Other	8	4,819.62	1	*

Question 2450 of 2004

		ADULT MALE JOBS		ADULT FEMALE JOBS	
		Number	Av. Earnings (£)	Number	Av. Earnings (£)
Nationality	Gibraltarian	1,116	2,704.95	865	1,970.97
	UK	50	4,285.68	79	2,571.68
	Moroccan	2	3,328.86	1	*
	Spanish	10	4,204.54	5	2,972.15
	Other EU	3	5,138.01	4	2,077.57
	Other	10	5,738.04	1	*

Question 2446 of 2004

M.O.D.

		ADULT MALE JOBS		ADULT FEMALE JOBS	
		Number	Av. Earnings (£)	Number	Av. Earnings (£)
Nationality	Gibraltarian	270	1,995.27	126	1,168.95
	UK	9	1,822.32	4	933.61
	Moroccan	0	0.00	0	0.00
	Spanish	0	0.00	0	0.00
	Other EU	0	0.00	0	0.00
	Other	0	0.00	0	0.00

Question 2447 of 2004

		ADULT MALE JOBS		ADULT FEMALE JOBS	
		Number	Av. Earnings (£)	Number	Av. Earnings (£)
Nationality	Gibraltarian	328	2,143.80	144	1,198.24
	UK	3	1,728.53	6	1,102.82
	Moroccan	0	0.00	0	0.00
	Spanish	0	0.00	0	0.00
	Other EU	0	0.00	0	0.00
	Other	0	0.00	0	0.00

Question 2248 of 2004

		ADULT MALE JOBS		ADULT FEMALE JOBS	
		Number	Av. Earnings (£)	Number	Av. Earnings (£)
Nationality	Gibraltarian	296	2,278.09	138	1,335.49
	UK	4	1,967.39	12	1,268.52
	Moroccan	0	0.00	0	0.00
	Spanish	0	0.00	0	0.00
	Other EU	0	0.00	0	0.00
	Other	0	0.00	0	0.00

Question 2449 of 2004

		ADULT MALE JOBS		ADULT FEMALE JOBS	
		Number	Av. Earnings (£)	Number	Av. Earnings (£)
Nationality	Gibraltarian	657	1,854.37	259	1,177.48
	UK	1	*	1	*
	Moroccan	50	1,280.83	3	1,809.71
	Spanish	3	1,213.68	3	801.31
	Other EU	0	0.00	0	0.00
	Other	6	1,270.14	4	1,226.41

\* Publication is not allowed under the Statistics Ordinance.

Question 2450 of 2004

		ADULT MALE JOBS		ADULT FEMALE JOBS	
		Number	Av. Earnings (£)	Number	Av. Earnings (£)
Nationality	Gibraltarian	681	1,958.18	295	1,230.11
	UK	0	0.00	0	0
	Moroccan	10	1,726.16	4	1,906.86
	Spanish	2	1,313.32	2	1,161.77
	Other EU	2	1,374.84	0	0.00
	Other	1	*	1	*



**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 2433 TO 2450 OF 2004**

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

In answer to the first one which is Question No. 2434 I understand what the Chief Minister has just said that the answer cannot be provided for Question No. 2433 because that is in respect of 1998, but the first one is Question No. 2434 which is in respect of 1999 and of course I have asked from 1998 onwards because he has told me previously that it was not possible to do it before 1998 because that was when the survey was compiled from information collected by the Tax Office and that it was only possible to do this kind of exercise after 1998 when it was the results of survey results. Question No. 2434 quotes the figures that I have taken from Table 7. In fact the answer provides a breakdown by nationality and not by industry but the numbers of the breakdown by nationality do not seem to tally with the 236 in Table 7.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

Well, the hon Member may not have noticed that they are provided separately for the Government and for the MOD. On page 10 it is the Government of Gibraltar and then four pages further on it is the same table because this is the only way the computer can produce the information, and indeed that is the reason why we cannot do it for 1998 because the computer can no longer be run, so in page 5 he has to add the two together.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

I see, the figures tally, yes. In fact what he is saying is that the distribution by industry which is given in Table 7 cannot be given with the programme as it stands.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

Not with the programme, the information is there but it cannot be retrieved.

ORAL

**NO. 2451 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 October and November 2004?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question No. 2452 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2452 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 October and November 2004?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

The information the hon Member requests is in the schedule which I hand to him.

**ANSWER TO QUESTION 2452**

**Answer to Question 2451/2004**

Persons employed in the insurance industry in Gibraltar, giving a breakdown by nationality.

Month	No. of Employers	No. of Employees	Gib	Other British	Spanish	Moroccan	Other EEC	Other Non-EEC
October-04	33	229	132	77	15	0	3	2
November-04	33	232	135	76	16	0	3	2

**Answer to Question 2452/2004**

Persons employed in the banking sector in Gibraltar, giving a breakdown by nationality.

Month	No. of Employers	No. of Employees	Gib	Other British	Spanish	Moroccan	Other EEC	Other Non-EEC
October-04	15	669	477	106	34	2	49	1
November-04	15	665	476	106	33	2	47	1

ORAL

**NO. 2453 OF 2004**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**GIBRALTAR ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY**

Based on expenditure to date 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. 2454 and 2455 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2454 OF 2004**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**GIBRALTAR HEALTH AUTHORITY**

Based on expenditure to date 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**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2453 and 2455 of 2004.

**NO. 2455 OF 2004**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**ELDERLY CARE AGENCY**

Based on expenditure to date 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**

The Government anticipate expenditure higher than budgeted by the Gibraltar Electricity Authority, the Elderly Care Agency and the Gibraltar Health Authority.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 2453 TO 2455 OF 2004**

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

In the case of the Electricity Authority, which is the only one really that has got a product to sell, is this something that the Government also expect to be reflected in revenue from electricity sales? Is it driven by higher outputs or driven by higher costs?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

There is some higher output but it is not the substantial part, or a significant part even, of the reason. The reason is a combination of errors in the calculation of the estimate in the context of the transfer between Government and the Authority, as well as the sort of fluctuating fuel costs during the year. There is an element of increased output but it would not explain anywhere like the overspend. It is not actually overspend, the higher fuel bills is overspend the other is not so much overspend as understated estimates included in the budget, a mistake was made in effect in the departmental tender bid.

**NO. 2456 OF 2004****THE HON J J BOSSANO****INCOME TAX – PAYE**

Based on the 2003/2004 Employers Annual Statement Declaration and Certificate submitted to date what was the PAYE payable by area of employment and the 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**

Based on the 2003/2004 Employers' Annual Statement, Declaration and Certificate submitted up to 13<sup>th</sup> December 2004 the information sought is as follows:

	£m
(a) MOD	4.7
(b) Gibraltar Government	11.0
(c) Government owned and joint venture companies	2.6
(d) Private Sector employment	33.1
	<u>51.4</u>

The above does not include estimates of PAYE tax payable in respect of employers that have not returned the Employers' Annual Statement.

Also the PAYE Deduction Cards for the year 2003/2004 are currently being processed and it is not possible at this time to provide details of the number of Deduction Cards returned.



**NO. 2457 OF 2004**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**GHA – CAR PARKING SPACES**

Can Government state what is the area in square metres of the land provided by the developers of Europlaza for the provision of car parking spaces to be used for the hospital at Europort?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Approximately 2,600 square metres but it would be wrong for the hon Member to think of it in terms of land rather than floor space. I mean it is in effect a floor of the building, it is one floor of that building that is presently being built.

ORAL

**NO. 2458 OF 2004**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**GHA – EUROPORT HOSPITAL**

Can Government confirm that the annual rent payable in respect of the Europort Hospital forms part of the assessable income of the recipient for tax purposes?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question No. 2459 of 2004.

**NO. 2459 OF 2004**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**GHA – EUROPORT HOSPITAL**

Can Government state whether the annual rent payment in respect of the Europort Hospital is payable to the Royal Bank of Scotland (International) in Gibraltar, or to another branch of the parent bank?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

**Question 2458**

I am advised and therefore believe that the annual rent payable in respect of the Europort Hospital does form part of the assessable income of the recipient for tax purposes.

**Question 2459**

The annual rent payment in respect of the Europort Hospital is payable to The Royal Bank of Scotland (International), Jersey.

ORAL

**NO. 2460 OF 2004**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**EAST SIDE DEVELOPMENT**

What is the surface area of the existing east side reclamation, which is available for development excluding the 11,700 square metres currently occupied by commercial activities?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Currently and approximately 50,000 square metres.

**NO. 2461 OF 2004**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**MOD LAND**

What has been the expenditure to date, if any, in the relocation costs connected with the release of MOD land?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Relocation costs to date connected with the release of MOD land has been £360,403.71p, in direct costs as well as in part of expenditure totalling £81,000 on the Mid Harbour reclamation project which has involved assessments and initial design proposals into moving MOD facilities in the area around the No. 4 Dock, the Watermanship Training Centre.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2461 OF 2004**

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Is this charged to the Improvement and Development Fund?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

That very issue is currently under consideration, whether it is going to be booked to the Improvement and Development Fund or to the Government property company, the Accountant-General is currently considering that and I am awaiting his advice on the matter. I think at the moment it is being charged to a suspense account but funded, I think presently it is being defrayed out of the Government property company but that may not be how it is finally accounted for.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

In the transfer of land that is involved is it not the case that this land will go to the Government as there is a transfer from one side of the Crown to the other or can it be transferred to the property company? Presumably it has to go through the Government first.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

I suppose that the MOD would, if we wanted to, transfer it to a company but in fact our view is that it should be transferred to the Crown and therefore it is being transferred to the Crown and therefore the sale proceeds will be revenue of the Improvement and Development Fund.

ORAL

**NO. 2462 OF 2004**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**PROPERTY SALES**

Can Government state in respect of which property sales the Treasury charged a 5 per cent commission as first payment in February?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2463 to 2467 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2463 OF 2004**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**PROPERTY SALES**

Can Government state in respect of which property sales the Treasury charged a 5 per cent commission as second payment in February?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2462 and 2464 to 2467 of 2004.



ORAL

**NO. 2464 OF 2004**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**PROPERTY SALES**

Can Government state in respect of which property sales the Treasury charged a 5 per cent commission as third payment in February?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2462, 2463 and 2465 to 2467 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2465 OF 2004**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**PROPERTY SALES**

Can Government state in respect of which property sales the Treasury charged a 5 per cent commission as fourth payment in February?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2462 to 2464, 2466 and 2467 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2466 OF 2004**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**PROPERTY SALES**

Can Government state whether in the current financial year the Treasury has charged any commission on property sales and if so how much, on what dates and in respect of which sales?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2462 to 2465 and 2467 of 2004.

**NO. 2467 OF 2004**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**PROPERTY SALES**

Can Government confirm, that the charge made by the Treasury as commission on property sales, was payable by wholly owned Government companies, which sold the 50 per cent or lesser share of co-ownership homes and if so can Government identify which companies were charged this commission, how much was charged in each case and on the different dates, in the financial year 2003/2004?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

**Answer to Question 2462**

The first payment of £62,137.86p in February 2004 was paid by Brympton Co-Ownership Company Ltd in respect of a 5 per cent commission charged on properties sold in Brympton Estate during the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2002 to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2004.

**Answer to Question 2463**

The second payment of £242,333.97p in February 2004 was paid by Westside Two Co-Ownership Company Ltd in respect of a 5 per cent commission charged on properties sold in Harbour Views Estate during the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2002 to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2004.

**Answer to Question 2464**

The third payment of £127,602.66p in February 2004 was paid by GRP Investments Company Ltd in respect of a 5 per cent commission charged on properties sold in Sir William Jackson Grove during the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2002 to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2004.

**Answer to Question 2465**

The fourth payment of £330,797.55p in February 2004 was paid by Gibraltar Co-Ownership Company Ltd in respect of a 5 per cent commission charged on properties sold in Westview Park, Montagu Gardens and Montagu Crescent during the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2002 to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2004.

**Answer to Question 2466**

I confirm that properties sold during the current financial year have been charged 5 per cent commission.

**Answer to Question 2467**

I can confirm that the commission charge of properties sold were and are payable by wholly owned Government companies. I hand the hon Member a schedule detailing the information requested.

**" Answer to Question 2467"**

**ANSWER TO QUESTION 2466**

		GRP Investments Co Ltd	Brympton Co-Ownership Co Ltd	Westside Two Co-Ownership Co Ltd	Gibraltar Co-Ownership Co Ltd	Totals
Apr-04	Monies Rcvd	£ 86,099.01	£ -	£ 111,486.98	£ 28,622.24	£ 226,208.23
	5% charge pd	£ 4,304.95	£ -	£ 5,574.35	£ 1,431.11	£ 11,310.41
May-04	Monies Rcvd	£ 181,328.51	£ 57,600.00	£ 154,693.44	£ 101,384.58	£ 495,006.53
	5% charge pd	£ 9,066.43	£ 2,880.00	£ 7,734.67	£ 5,069.23	£ 24,750.33
Jun-04	Monies Rcvd	£ 187,841.87	£ 17,280.00	£ 94,363.90	£ 226,151.72	£ 525,637.49
	5% charge pd	£ 9,392.09	£ 864.00	£ 4,718.20	£ 11,307.59	£ 26,281.88
Jul-04	Monies Rcvd	£ 32,147.50	£ 72,040.50	£ 93,611.07	£ 61,527.94	£ 259,327.01
	5% charge pd	£ 1,607.38	£ 3,602.03	£ 4,680.55	£ 3,076.40	£ 12,966.35
Aug-04	Monies Rcvd	£ 11,295.88	£ 29,812.50	£ 13,409.63	£ 69,395.80	£ 123,913.81
	5% charge pd	£ 564.79	£ 1,490.63	£ 670.48	£ 3,469.79	£ 6,195.69
Sep-04	Monies Rcvd	£ 9,544.05	£ 36,443.81	£ 37,228.25	£ 101,610.74	£ 184,826.85
	5% charge pd	£ 477.20	£ 1,822.19	£ 1,861.41	£ 5,080.54	£ 9,241.34
Oct-04	Monies Rcvd	£ 18,737.40	£ -	£ -	£ 154,562.40	£ 173,299.80
	5% charge pd	£ 936.87	£ -	£ -	£ 7,728.12	£ 8,664.99
Nov-04	Monies Rcvd					£ -
	5% charge pd	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
Dec-04	Monies Rcvd					£ -
	5% charge pd	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -

**"Answer to Question 2467"**

		GRP Investments Co Ltd	Brympton Co-Ownership Co Ltd	Westside Two Co-Ownership Co Ltd	Gibraltar Co-Ownership Co Ltd	Totals
Apr 03-	Monies Rcvd	£ 1,024,949.39	£ 395,868.33	£ 1,042,510.58	£ 2,202,777.12	£ 4,666,105.42
Dec-03	5% charge pd	£ 51,247.47	£ 19,793.42	£ 52,125.53	£ 110,138.86	£ 233,305.27
Jan-04	Monies Rcvd	£ 76,777.78	£ -	£ 15,280.72	£ 64,295.45	£ 156,353.95
	5% charge pd	£ 3,838.89	£ -	£ 764.04	£ 3,214.77	£ 7,817.70
Feb-04	Monies Rcvd	£ 155,949.61	£ -	£ 19,465.16	£ 7,500.00	£ 182,914.77
	5% charge pd	£ 7,797.48	£ -	£ 973.26	£ 375.00	£ 9,145.74
Mar-04	Monies Rcvd	£ 84,001.16	£ -	£ 15,685.75	£ 52,506.41	£ 152,193.32
	5% charge pd	£ 4,200.06	£ -	£ 784.29	£ 2,625.32	£ 7,609.67

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 2462 TO 2467 OF 2004**

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

In respect of the ones in the current financial year, was this estimated in the figure put under Reimbursements in the budget. I can remember this came to light as a result of asking for a breakdown of the figure of the revenue head which showed Reimbursements.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

Without sight of it I cannot remember whether an estimate provision was made on the basis perhaps of sales in the pipeline at least. The hon Member can marry this to the information I gave or that was given to the Hon Mr Bruzon in answer to the question of how many flats had been sold to date. What I cannot tell him is whether this revenue was estimated or not estimated in the revenue, perhaps it would be under the Treasury head.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

The fact is that in the original estimate in last year's Budget was £100 million and the result was £1,250,000 and a big chunk of the £750,000 was this 5 per cent. Now in this year's estimate the figure put in for Other Reimbursements, which is not exclusively this of course, is £900,000 and therefore that is why I am wondering whether in fact they left this out in the estimate for this year.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

Well the figure that he has just read out of £900,000 odd compared to the previous year's estimate of £500,000 suggests that there may have been some inclusion in respect of this head in this year's estimate.

**NO. 2468 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 October and November 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**

I am reminded that between 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> October I visited the Foreign Office accompanied by the Chief Secretary and one of my Private Secretaries and the total cost was £3,917.99p, of which £1,052.99p related to accommodation and £2,865.00 related to air fares.



ORAL

**NO. 2469 OF 2004**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**STAMP DUTY**

Can Government state what was the total number of property transactions and the value of each transaction in respect of which Stamp Duty was collected in the financial year 2002/2003 and the total amount of such duty paid?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question No. 2470 of 2004.

**NO. 2470 OF 2004**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**STAMP DUTY**

Can Government state what was the total number of property transactions and the value of each transaction in respect of which Stamp Duty was collected in the financial year 2003/2004 and the total amount of such duty paid?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

As I replied in Question No. 553 of 2004, Government's land agents (Land Property Services Ltd) do not maintain analysed records of transactions in respect of which stamp duty is paid.

The total amount of stamp duty collected in the years 2002/2003 and 2003/2004 was as follows:-

2002/2003	-	£1,365,136.68p
2003/2004	-	£1,486,710.42p

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 2469 AND 2470 OF 2004**

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

The answer that I was given before was when I asked for the information in respect of residential property and I took that to mean that they could not distinguish between residential and commercial property sales, but is it that they do not even know how many transactions have taken place? That is to say, they know they have collected £1.365 million but they do not know how many transactions that represents.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

Surprising as it might sound to the hon Member and perhaps even to me, that is what they are saying to me. I would have thought they could just count the number of entries in the cash book or something, perhaps they just make a day's entry aggregated, they do not analyse them that way. I suppose it must be possible from their records somehow, to count the number of transactions and I suppose they mean that it is too much work. I cannot imagine that this information is not available by any means or over any period of time, it may not be conveniently available.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Would it be possible to get them to do it from a current date? Given that the Chief Minister has said in previous answers to questions from me that the Government do not believe in monitoring the movement in property prices, I think he added although it was a non sequitur because they had no intentions of controlling it, I do not think the rest of the Governments in the Western Europe control property prices, although they all monitor them. What I am trying to do is to see if there is some sort of information that would indicate what is happening.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

I can certainly ask them whether they can start keeping the information in a way that allows them to say how many transactions it takes to accumulate £1.486 million et cetera, yes. I would have thought a system of numbered receipts would be sufficient.

**NO. 2471 OF 2004**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**GDP FIGURE**

Do Government still expect to be in a position to publish the estimated value of the GDP for the year 2002/2003 by January 2005?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

We can do better, I can tell him now. The 2002/2003 GDP estimates have now been finalised. GDP stood at £507.17 million and rose therefore by 7.9 per cent in money terms and by 5.1 per cent in real terms compared to 2001/2002. The attached table gives the breakdown of the GDP estimate.

**ANSWER TO QUESTION 2471/2004**

INCOME METHOD	*	2002/03
INCOME FROM EMPLOYMENT	B	289.75
INCOME FROM SELF-EMPLOYMENT	C	49.44
GROSS TRADING PROFITS OF COMPANIES	C	78.32
GROSS TRADING SURPLUS OF GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES	A	5.00
RENT	C	85.76
TOTAL DOMESTIC INCOME	B	508.27
LESS STOCK APPRECIATION	C	-1.10
GDP (FACTOR COST)	B	507.17
NET PROPERTY INCOME FROM ABROAD	C	-2.99
NET FACTOR INCOME FROM ABROAD	B	-45.24
GNP (FACTOR COST)	B	458.94

EXPENDITURE METHOD	*	2002/03
CONSUMERS' EXPENDITURE	B	229.83
GOVT. FINAL CONSUMPTION	A	159.99
GROSS DOMESTIC FIXED CAP. F'MTN	C	49.68
TOTAL DOMESTIC EXPENDITURE	C	439.50
EXPORTS OF GOODS AND SERVICES	C	764.15
IMPORTS OF GOODS AND SERVICES	B	-629.08
RESIDUAL ERROR		-13.43
GDP (MARKET PRICES)	B	561.14
SUBSIDIES	C	5.72
TAXES ON EXPENDITURE	A	-59.69
GDP (FACTOR COST)	B	507.17
NET PROPERTY INCOME FROM ABROAD	C	-2.99
NET FACTOR INCOME FROM ABROAD	B	-45.24
GNP (FACTOR COST)	B	458.94

**NO. 2472 OF 2004**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**NON-EU PENSIONERS**

Can Government state when the policy was introduced that non-EU pensioners should continue to be provided with annual residence permits, how many such persons currently have such permits and under which provision of the Immigration Control Ordinance have such permits been issued?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

The only non-EU nationals who have reached pensionable age and reside in Gibraltar on the basis of annual residence permits are persons who have continued to work after reaching pensionable age and who are covered by employment permits.

The Employment Ordinance does not prohibit employment after pensionable age and, as a matter of policy, no age restriction has ever been imposed on non-EU nationals so as to prevent them from continuing to work after reaching pensionable age.

There are currently 51 non-EU women over 60 and 51 non-EU men over 65 who continue in employment and who hold employment and annual residence permits issued under the provisions of section 18(f) of the Immigration Control Ordinance.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2472 OF 2004**

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

So in fact I must have misunderstood the Chief Minister when he said a policy had been taken to allow pensioners to remain here, because in fact they have always been able to remain as long as they were working and had a work permit.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

Yes, most of that statement is true and the bit that is not true I still would not disagree with. It is true that there has never been a policy, as far as I am aware, under any administration of not allowing working pensioners to stay in Gibraltar. What the hon Member may be alluding to is to the parallel policy of issuing multiple entry visas to non-working Moroccan pensioners who come and go under the guise of coming to collect their pensions and things, but as far as I am aware Government have never

had a policy of issuing residence permits to retired persons. So if I have said anything that has led him to believe that, it has been a misunderstanding.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

It was a misunderstanding, I thought that was what he had said at a previous meeting, so I have got it wrong obviously.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

The only other thing that the hon Member might be alluding to is that when we agreed to extend the residence permit that had always been for one year, we extended them to five years for working non-EU nationals on the basis that the Moroccans could not get a visa to visit Spain on the basis of only a one year residence permit. That was not extended to workers over pensionable age who continue to get only a one year residence permit.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

I was under the impression that at some point it had been decided to allow persons to register as unemployed and therefore get a permit of residence beyond their retirement age, but clearly this is not the case.

-----

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

Can I correct the hon Member on what he said was not the case. Persons of the sort that he has described are issued with monthly residence permits as opposed to annual which is what his question sought. Provided they register with the Unemployment, they are issued with monthly residence permits.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

I see, so non-EU pensioners therefore, was that a policy then? What the Chief Minister is saying is that in Question No. 2472 the answer would have been yes if I would have put monthly instead of annually, is that correct?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

Yes.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

I see, well can I then ask when that policy was introduced then?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

Further, there has been an administrative concession whereby if “the unemployed Moroccan looking for work” is actually too old to work and everybody understands that this is just for the purposes of getting his monthly residence permit, I do not think they make them go every month, I think if they register once every six months I think that is the administrative concession that has been made. But it is monthly residence permits and not annual. I think there is in total 35 such people in Gibraltar, of the sort that I have just described of those monthly.



ORAL

**NO. 2473 OF 2004**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**HEAD 5 – 6 OTHER REIMBURSEMENTS**

Can Government explain the nature of the payments of £116,198, £5,279 and £56,225, made by Customs for the financial years 2001/2002, 2002/2003 and 2003/2004 respectively, shown under Revenue Subhead – Other Reimbursements?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2474 to 2478 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2474 OF 2004**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**HEAD 5 – 6 OTHER REIMBURSEMENTS**

Can Government explain the nature of the Other Treasury Receipts £178,444, £201,531 and £34,544 for the financial years, 2001/2002, 2002/2003 and 2003/2004 respectively, shown under Revenue Subhead – Other Reimbursements?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2473 and 2475 to 2478 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2475 OF 2004**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**HEAD 5 – 6 OTHER REIMBURSEMENTS**

Can Government now 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. 2473, 2474 and 2476 to 2478 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2476 OF 2004**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**HEAD 5 – 6 OTHER REIMBURSEMENTS**

Can Government now 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. 2473 to 2475, 2477 and 2478 of 2004.

**NO. 2477 OF 2004**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**HEAD 5 – 6 OTHER REIMBURSEMENTS**

Can Government now give the breakdown of the source of receipts of £500,000 estimated under Revenue Head 5(6) – Other Reimbursements – for the financial year 2002/2003?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

I think the hon Member means the source of receipts of £500,000 estimated for the financial year 2003/2004. I will answer together with Question Nos. 2473 to 2476 and 2478 of 2004.

**NO. 2478 OF 2004**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**HEAD 5 – 6 OTHER REIMBURSEMENTS**

Can Government now 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**

**Answer to Question 2473 of 2004**

The amounts of £116,198, £5,279 and £56,225 collected by Customs for the financial years 2001/2002, 2002/2003 and 2003/2004 respectively, and credited to Revenue Subhead – Other Reimbursements, are in respect of Landing Certificates, Examination Certificates and Destruction Certificates.

**Answer to Question 2474 of 2004**

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

**Answer to Questions 2475 to 2478 of 2004**

Annual estimates of receipts under Revenue Subhead 5(6) are calculated on the basis of actual revenue collected over previous years.

Source of receipts forecast under this Revenue Subhead are calculated using actual collections at the time the Estimates are prepared, and a proportional estimate for the remaining months of the financial year.

## **ANSWER TO QUESTION 2478**

### **Answer to Question 2474 of 2004**

#### **Breakdown of Other Treasury receipts collected under Revenue Subhead – Other Reimbursements**

##### **Financial Year 2001/2002**

Settlement of Insurance Claims	£71,814.75
Transfer from Deposits of monies held over five years in accordance with Accounting Instructions	£66,092.09
Recovery of salaries overpaid (previous years)	£26,733.29
Misallocation of amounts written off in previous years	£7,045.00
Dormant Bank Ordinary Accounts transferred to revenue	£1,857.87
Hire of New Mole Warehouse	£1,800.00
Recovery of amount overpaid in previous years	£272.00
Cash Surplus	£177.90
Miscellaneous and sundry credits	<u>£2,651.31</u>

##### **Financial Year 2002/2003**

Transfer from Deposits of monies held over five years in accordance with Accounting Instructions	£101,925.42
Recovery of amount overpaid (previous years)	£38,172.86
Recovery of salaries, wages and pensions overpaid (previous years)	£23,745.46
Sundry misallocations (previous years)	£23,357.36
Recovery of legal costs (previous years)	£12,500.00
Advances recovered (previous years)	£1,200.71
Miscellaneous and sundry credits	£628.71
	<u>£201,530.52</u>

##### **Financial Year 2003/2004**

Recovery of Legal costs (previous years)	£20,869.11
Transfer from Deposits in accordance with Accounting Instructions	£7,721.78
Recovery of salaries overpaid (previous years)	£2,138.63
Recovery of amount overpaid (previous years)	£2,446.56
Miscellaneous and sundry credits	£1,368.00
	<u>£34,544.08</u>

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 2473 TO 2478 OF 2004**

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

So on the basis of that answer, that would mean that for example in terms of the forecast original estimate of £600,000 for 2002/2003 which is the subject of Question No. 2475, what the Chief Minister is saying is that the Government estimate produced by the Treasury would have been guided, for example in the case of Customs, by the £116,000 that they had received in 2001/2002.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

Yes I assume that that is what it means.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

In terms of the revenue that is collected by the Customs and then passed on to the Accountant-General, because this is really what we are talking about, I mean the fact is that the Customs collect it from the public but the Head itself makes the receiver of revenue the Accountant-General.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

Correct.



ORAL

**NO. 2479 OF 2004**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**CONSOLIDATED FUND REVENUE**

Can Government now state what were the receipts of revenue giving a breakdown by Head of the Consolidated Fund to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2004?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question No. 2480 of 2004.

**NO. 2480 OF 2004****THE HON J J BOSSANO****I & D FUND – EXPENDITURE**

Can Government state what is the estimated expenditure from the Improvement and Development Fund to 30<sup>th</sup> September giving a breakdown by Head of Expenditure?

**ANSWER****THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER****Answer to Question 2479 of 2004**

The tentative revenue, by Head, of the Consolidated Fund for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2004 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2004 is as follows:

<b><u>HEAD</u></b>		<b><u>REVENUE</u></b>
1	Taxes	£45,940,965
2	Duties	£15,225,661
3	Rates	£5,864,461
4	Departmental Fees and Receipts	£5,810,875
5	Government Earnings	£4,935,606
	Total	<u>£77,777,568</u>

The tentative expenditure of the I&D Fund for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2004 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2004 is as follows:

**Answer to Question 2480 of 2004**

<b><u>HEAD</u></b>		<b><u>REVENUE</u></b>
101	Housing, Health and Social Affairs	£1,360,355
102	Educational, Sports, Leisure and Youth	£2,557,415
103	Environment, Culture and Heritage	£202,655
104	Transport Roads, Port and Airport	£335,578
105	Economic Development, Industry and Infrastructure	£1,587,112
106	Public Administration and Essential Services	£724,649
	Total	<u>£6,767,764</u>

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 2479 AND 2480 OF 2004**

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

In terms of the I & D expenditure, which nearly always eventually finishes up less than budgeted and approved by the House, looking at it in terms of global figures we are talking about something like one third of the expenditure having been incurred in 50 per cent of the year. Is there an indication, for example, in any particular Head that something is not likely to be progressing at the rate that was originally expected when the estimates were approved by the House earlier this year? I mean in terms of the different Heads, I have not obviously analysed each individual one to see which one is, the overall thing seems to be that it is only slightly behind because we have got a third of the expenditure in 50 per cent of the time, but is it to the Government's knowledge a case that any one of these things is not likely to have progressed as fast as originally thought?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

Yes, I agree for reasons that we have debated in the past that expenditure outturn is always much less than the amount estimated at the beginning of the year. Of course even now, in December, if one asks the Controlling Officers of expenditure they will swear blind that they will all spend the full allocation, which of course they never do and I suspect that they give that answer for fear of losing the money, or somehow they think that the money can be taken away from them if they admit that they are not going to be able to spend it on time. But of course they do not and I think the under-spend this year may even be a higher percentage than it has been in previous years. I think the hon Member will find by the end of the financial year that Heads 101 and 102 will be pretty fully spent, and also Head 106 will be pretty fully spent, and that the shortfall is in Heads 103, Head 104 to a lesser extent obviously it is a smaller Head, and partly in Head 105 but probably Heads 103 and 105 will account for the largest share of the under-spend. If I had a copy of the Estimates here, which I have not I am afraid, I might even be able to give him an indication of which particular Subheads, in case I see any projects there.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

There are Subheads but.....

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

Projects which I can look at at a glance and tell him where, yes, housing will be almost completely spent, I think Social Affairs will certainly be fully spent, Education certainly fully spent, Sports I think that the expenditure on Subhead 7 which is the main item there will more or less come out in full, so that takes us to Head 103. I do not think that environmental projects, depending on the expenditure of this new equipment when it arrives, that that might be fully spent. I think rock safety, coastal protection and retaining walls, storm water drains and sewers probably we will not spend the full amount provided there. I am not sure that £500,000 of road maintenance and resurfacing has been done this year, so those are the sort of areas. Construction of a car parking facility, which is down there as £550,000, I do not think that will have been spent by the end of the year. The Objective II Programmes I

think are fully committed whether the expenditure will be met, I believe so I believe that it will be and that might account for some higher because there are projects that have been approved there recently which are already advanced. I do not think that £1.6 million of tourist beautification projects will necessarily be done, so I think it is in Head 105 and Head 103, and to a much lesser extent in Head 104, which I think the hon Member will find the under-spend comes in.

ORAL

**NO. 2481 OF 2004**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**GOVERNMENT DEBENTURES**

As at the end of November 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**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2482 to 2484 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2482 OF 2004**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**GIBRALTAR SAVINGS BANK**

What is the final figure for Government Deposits in the on-call investment account with the Gibraltar Savings Bank as at the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2004?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2481, 2483 and 2484 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2483 OF 2004**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**GIBRALTAR SAVINGS BANK**

Do Government still estimate that non-Government deposits with the Gibraltar Savings Bank will only reach £137.9 million at the end of the current financial year?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2481, 2482 and 2484 of 2004.

**NO. 2484 OF 2004**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**GIBRALTAR SAVINGS BANK**

Do Government still estimate that interest on investments held by the Gibraltar Savings Bank will only reach £8.2 million in the current financial year?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

**Answer to Question 2481 of 2004**

The value of the Monthly Income Debentures and the Pensioners Monthly Income Debentures as at 30<sup>th</sup> November 2004 is as follows:

Monthly Income Debentures	£30,119,800
Pensioners Monthly Income Debentures	£67,012,000

**Answer to Question 2482 of 2004**

The total amount of Government deposits held in the On-Call Investment Account with the Gibraltar Savings Bank as at the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2004 was £23,833,456.

**Answer to Question 2483 of 2004**

Non-Government deposits with the Gibraltar Savings Bank as at 30<sup>th</sup> November 2004 totalled £152,167,274.

Non-Government Deposits at the end of the current financial year, based on current trends, is estimated to reach £157 million.

**Answer to Question 2484 of 2004**

As a result of a number of increases in the Bank of England base rate, it is estimated that interest on investments held by the Gibraltar Savings Bank will reach £10.2 million in the current financial year.



ORAL

**NO. 2485 OF 2004**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**INCOME TAX – ABANDONED CLAIMS**

Can Government state of the £2,117,018 of abandoned claims in the financial year 2002/2003, relating to tax assessments on individuals and companies, how much was in respect of individuals and how much in respect of companies?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2486 and 2487 of 2004.

ORAL

**NO. 2486 OF 2004**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**INCOME TAX – ABANDONED CLAIMS**

Can Government state how many individuals were affected by the abandoned tax assessments claims in the financial year 2002/2003 and what was the highest individual claim?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2485 and 2487 of 2004.

**NO. 2487 OF 2004****THE HON J J BOSSANO****INCOME TAX – ABANDONED CLAIMS**

Can Government state how many companies were affected by the abandoned tax assessments claims in the financial year 2002/2003 and what was the highest company claim?

**ANSWER****THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Write-offs in the financial year 2002/2003 can be summarised as follows:

	£
Individuals	404,541
Companies	1,679,637
PAYE	32,840
	<u>2,117,018</u>

88 individuals of which the highest write-off was £33,594.

51 Companies of which the highest write-off was £241,554.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 2485 TO 2487 OF 2004****HON J J BOSSANO:**

Can the Government say whether the highest amount, he has given a breakdown which shows the PAYE separately, can he say whether in the highest amount of the company PAYE would be included, or is PAYE by people that are self-employed or something like that?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

No, PAYE may relate to monies deducted by employees but it is not company tax. I assume that the hon Member has assumed in receiving the answers that he has had from me, that of course abandoned tax assessments does not necessarily mean failure to collect sums which were due and payable because some of these were assessments raised in the absence of the returns. So the hon Member is familiar

with the system, if one does not submit a return the Commissioner issues an assessment, it may then be abandoned but the tax may never have been due in the first place because it was a raised assessment. So he should not assume, for example in the case of companies, that all the companies made all the profits that would have rendered this amount of tax which was not collected payable.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

I was making that assumption.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

The hon Member was making that assumption, well I am glad I have clarified it then.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Well I am not sure that the Chief Minister has clarified it. To my knowledge, when provisional assessments are made and then they are corrected based on information submitted, it does not require a write-off.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

Yes, it becomes a debt in the books of the company the moment that the assessment is raised. Once the assessment is raised, even in the absence of a return, it becomes an amount due, it can become due by two different routes. One submits a return and is assessed and one does not submit a return and one is assessed in the absence of a return. Both are accounted for in the same way, both become tax payable to the Government. If both of those are then written-off they are included in the total written-off even though one is the result of a calculation of actual tax due on the basis of profits actually made, and the other is tax assessed to be due in the absence of no return. Both result in a tax debt, both result in a write-off but in one case it is the write-off of an estimated assessment as opposed to an assessment based on a return.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Does the Chief Minister have the information as to what years this refers to, because the fact that it was done in 2002/2003 does not indicate how far back it goes?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

I do not have the information but certainly it would be many years, because they are not written off until there is absolutely no doubt that there is no possibility of being collected. The hon Member can see that from some of the answers that he gets from some of the other questions he asks. They do not disappear for several years.

**NO. 2488 OF 2004**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**INCOME TAX – CORPORATION TAX**

Can Government confirm whether the tax collected from companies in respect of the tax year 2003/2004 as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2004 was £15.1 million, as given in answer to Question No. 1863 of 2004, or £18.401 million as given in answer to Question Nos. 1864 and 1865 of 2004?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Following a comprehensive reappraisal of the computer programmes utilised to extract data in the manner required by the hon Member, the Income Tax Office has concluded that the information provided in reply to Question No. 1863 of 2004 was incorrect.

The corporation tax collected from companies in respect of the year of assessment 2003/2004 was £18.2 million as at 14<sup>th</sup> December 2004 and not £15.1 million as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2004, as stated in answer to Question No. 1863 of 2004. So in other words, I think they are saying that the figure of £15.1 million was wrong and the current figure as at 14<sup>th</sup> December 2004 was £18.2 million.

The statistical data provided in reply to Question No. 1863 is therefore replaced by that contained in the schedule that I now provide the hon Member.

The schedule also provides an overview of the techniques employed to extract data in the manner required by the hon Member.

I am advised that the data required by the hon Member is extracted solely for the purposes of answering his questions and is not utilised for management purposes given that tax estimates are based on financial year revenue yields and not on yields by year of assessment.

### **Answer to Question 2488 of 2004**

This update of the statistical table provided in reply to Question No. 1863 of 2004 incorporates corrections to the split between amounts discharged and amounts paid. In all other respects the original table is correct.

	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	25.7	88.8	27.4	30.0	33.5	29.9
Discharged	5.6	4.9	9.1	10.9	74.7	13.9	15.1	16.8	8.3
	10.2	10.7	10.7	14.8	14.1	13.5	14.9	16.7	21.6
Paid	9.5	10.3	10.3	14.3	13.4	13.1	13.9	14.2	18.2
Outstanding	0.7	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.4	1.0	2.5	3.4
No of Companies	1444	1418	1466	1454	1537	1563	1493	1402	1195

The incorrect split in the original table arose due to the way adjustments are recorded. The flagging of entries other than adjustment entries can be easily identified. However adjustments (e.g. transfer of amounts paid from one year of assessment to another) have in the past been incorrectly allocated when extracting the data for the purposes of the analysis required by the hon Member. The problem has now been identified and should not present difficulties in the future.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2488 OF 2004**

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

So in fact the answer is that both answers were wrong that I got in the last House, because if it is £18.2 million now it could not have possibly been £18.4 million then.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

Well £18.2 million as at 30<sup>th</sup> September, is that what the hon Member was told?

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

No, in answer to Question No. 1863 of 2004 I was told it was £15.1 million, and then in answer to Question Nos. 1864 and 1865 which breaks up the under 20 and over 20 turnover, the small and the big companies, if one adds up each component of those the total of all those companies should come to the same answer and that one comes to £18.401 million. So if in fact it was not £15 million on 30<sup>th</sup> September it could not have possibly been £18.401 million either, otherwise the amount collected would have gone down since 30<sup>th</sup> September. So it must mean that both those answers were wrong.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

Well, the accurate information is the one provided in the schedule which I have handed over. That is Question No. 1863, the one that was wrong. The schedule handed over is the replacement schedule to that answer. The hon Member will also see there in the bottom of the schedule a small explanation as to how the figures are extracted. In fact, I am told that this information is extracted only for the purposes of answering his questions.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

I am glad I have been of assistance to the Government in the analysis of their financial statistics.

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

No one apparently feels the need to analyse them to this sort of extent.

ORAL

**NO. 2489 OF 2004**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**INCOME TAX – PAYE**

Can Government state whether the figure of 2,650 employees in respect of whom PAYE was deducted for the year 2002/2003 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**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2490 and 2491 of 2004.



ORAL

**NO. 2490 OF 2004**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**INCOME TAX – PAYE**

Can Government state whether the figure of 5,700 employees in respect of whom PAYE was deducted for the year 2001/2002 by the Gibraltar Government, persons in receipt of a Government 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**

Answered together with Question Nos. 2489 and 2491 of 2004.

**NO. 2491 OF 2004**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**INCOME TAX – PAYE**

Can Government state whether the figure of 6,050 employees in respect of whom PAYE was deducted for the year 2002/2003 by the Gibraltar Government, persons in receipt of a Government 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**

Yes, it does include pensioners and the breakdown that the hon Member has requested has been set out in the schedule that has been handed to him.

**Answer to Question No. 2489 of 2004**

1,450 Pensioners – PAYE tax deducted	£0.3m
1,200 Employees – PAYE tax deducted	£4.4m
	<u>£4.7m</u>

**Answer to Question No. 2490 of 2004**

1,700 Pensioners – PAYE tax deducted	£0.9m
4,000 Employee/Deduction Cards – PAYE tax deducted	£18.0m
	<u>£18.9m</u>

**Answer to Question No. 2491 of 2004**

1,700 Pensioners – PAYE tax deducted	£1.0m
4,350 Employee/Deduction Cards – PAYE tax deducted	£20.1m
	<u>£21.1m</u>

ORAL

**NO. 2492 OF 2004**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**INCOME TAX – PAYE**

How much was collected in PAYE each month since February 2004?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question No. 2493 of 2004.

ORAL

NO. 2493 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

**INCOME TAX – CORPORATION TAX**

What was the amount of Company Tax collected in each month since March 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The information the hon Member requests is set out in a schedule that I hand to him.

**Answer to Question No. 2492 of 2004**

The PAYE tax (net of refunds) collected in the months of March 2004 to November 2004 is detailed hereunder. Also included are corrected figures for the months of December 2003 to February 2004 given that the figures provided in reply to Question No. 1420 of 2004 included other taxes in addition to PAYE tax and were therefore incorrect.

	£m
December 2003	4.5
January 2004	6.1
February 2004	4.9
March 2004	6.3
April 2004	4.8
May 2004	4.6
June 2004	4.6
July 2004	7.1
August 2004	5.0
September 2004	5.1
October 2004	5.0
November 2004	4.9

**Answer to Question No. 2493 of 2004**

The Corporation Tax collected (net of refunds) in each month since March 2004 is:

	£m
April 2004	3.6
May 2004	0.9
June 2004	2.3
July 2004	1.2
August 2004	0.2
September 2004	1.0
October 2004	1.5
November 2004	0.2

ORAL

**NO. 2494 OF 2004**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**GIBRALTAR PROVIDENT TRUST (NO. 2) PENSION SCHEME**

Can Government say who was the employer under Government Contracts that contributed to the Gibraltar Provident Trust (No 2) Pension Scheme in the financial year 2003/2004?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Answered together with Question No. 2495 of 2004.

**NO. 2495 OF 2004**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**GIBRALTAR PROVIDENT TRUST (NO 2) PENSION SCHEME**

Have any additional employers joined the Gibraltar Provident Trust (No. 2) Pension Scheme since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2004?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

**Answer to Question 2494 of 2004**

The employer under Government Contracts that contributed to the Gibraltar Provident Trust (No 2) Pension Scheme in the financial year 2003/2004 was the Government of Gibraltar.

**Answer to Question 2495 of 2004**

Twenty two employees of the Gibraltar Bus Company Ltd have joined the Gibraltar Provident Trust (No 2) Pension Scheme since April 2004.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 2494 AND 2495 OF 2004**

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Are the Government saying that they had an employee who was a Government employee covered by that Scheme?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

Yes, a contract officer.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

I see. I assumed that all the contract officers were in fact covered by this system that they get a gratuity at the end of three years and then they are not pensionable.



**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

This particular individual started life as a GDC employee on contract, on fixed contract. He continued on fixed contract but under the Government rather than the GDC, basically because he came to work in my office, and therefore remains on contract under the Scheme and has ceased to be under the Scheme by virtue of the GDC and is now under the Scheme by virtue of Government. In other words, his employer has changed, he remains on contract terms.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

So he was in fact in the Scheme previously under GDC?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

Yes.

**NO. 2496 OF 2004**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**OCCUPATIONAL PENSIONS**

Is it Government policy to require Government contractors to provide for an Occupational Pension for their employees?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

It is Government policy to encourage employers to establish occupational pension schemes for all their employees. However, the Government have not made this an official condition of tender award.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 2496 OF 2004**

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Is it something the Government take into account in evaluating the tenders? I think at one stage the Government indicated that it would take into account the level of local employment provided but not as the only factor. Is this something that is also taken into account or not?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

The hon Member knows, because we have had occasion to talk about it on several occasions, that the Government attach considerable importance to the higher incidence of occupational tenders in the private sector. The Federation of Small Businesses launched a particular scheme which has not had a huge take up. We have opened the Gibraltar Provident (No 2) Scheme to the private sector, it has not had a huge take up. The Trade Union movement who share the Government's view that this is something that should be tackled, say that they are going to make this an issue in their negotiations in the future. The Government are biding their time, we intend to escalate the degree of pressure that we bring to bear to bring about higher incidence of pensions coverage in the private sector from doing nothing to making them compulsory by statute, there is a range of things that one could do. One of the steps that one could take somewhere along that road is to make it compulsory for award of a Government tender. It has not yet reached that stage, the Government have not yet made that decision but I can envisage that the day will come when the Government might well make that a condition for the award of a tender.

**HON J J BOSSANO:**

I seem to recollect that in fact when the Gibraltar Federation of Small Businesses launched their presentation of their scheme, that there were indications that in fact they were doing this in anticipation of having to move in that direction in any case because of EEC requirements. Is there any indication of that being in the pipeline?

**HON CHIEF MINISTER:**

No, it is actually a hugely controversial issue in the EU. There is enormous resistance from private business in the EU from some Member States to the concept of compulsory occupational pension schemes. My own personal view is, I do not know whether Gibraltar will be at the forefront or in the rear of this, but I think it is inevitable. I think that the level of state old age pension provision across Europe is not at levels that can be funded at levels of benefits which provide a decent income stream for people of retirement age who to boot are living longer than they used to. My own personal view is that it is inevitable at some stage that there will be compulsory pension schemes in the private sector, just as there is now compulsory contribution to the social security. When that will emerge and whether it will emerge here before in Europe is moot, but in terms of strategic social engineering I think it is inevitable myself. The pressures building up are simply too big.

**NO. 2497 OF 2004**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**INCOME TAX – CORPORATION TAX**

Can Government explain what is the multiplier used to gross up Corporation Tax for the purpose of calculating GDP and what is the source of the net figure prior to grossing up?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

For the period 1996/1997 to 1999/2000, the level of corporation tax billed in each of those years was grossed up by 28 per cent. From 2000/2001 to date, following the introduction of the 25 per cent tax rate, the grossing up rate was changed to 22 per cent. The source of the net figure is the total amount of corporation tax billed in the year as supplied by the Income Tax Office. So that is corporate tax billed.

ORAL

**NO. 2498 OF 2004**

**THE HON J J BOSSANO**

**HEAD 102 – SALE OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTIES**

Can Government say how much has been received to date by the Improvement and Development Fund under Head 102 – Sale of Government Properties?

**ANSWER**

**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

To date to within the last few days it was £3,381,644.17p.