

ORAL

NO 557 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – PROPERTIES BUILT IN 1960

Can Government list the properties built in 1960 and give the number of dwellings in such properties and how many are rented?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 558 to No. 561 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 558 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – PRIVATE SECTOR

Can Government state what is the estimated number of private sector pre-war dwellings fit for human habitation and currently rented?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 557, 559 to 561 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 559 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – PRIVATE SECTOR

Can Government state what is the estimated number of private sector pre-war dwellings fit for human habitation and currently vacant?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 557 to 558 and 560 to 561 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 560 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – PRIVATE SECTOR

Can Government state what is the estimated number of private sector dwellings built between 1945 and 1959 fit for human habitation and currently vacant?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 557 to 559 and 561 of 2004.

NO 561 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – PRIVATE SECTOR

Can Government state what is the estimated number of private sector pre-war dwellings fit for human habitation?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

There is no way that Government could know this information without inspecting each such property to establish its condition. Furthermore the Government cannot, without employing disproportionate administrative resources, provide the information as to what buildings were built when.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 557 TO 561 OF 2004

HON C A BRUZON:

I was under the impression that in January in answer to some of my questions precisely on housing I was told that the computers would be updated and that there would be information available in many aspects relating to housing. I think it is about time that this matter was put in practice.

HON J J NETTO:

No, I think the hon Member must have misunderstood whatever I said before, but the fact of the matter is that he is asking questions in relation to the private sector. No computer system in the City Hall, in the Housing Department, relates to private sector dwellings so the information cannot be provided.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is it not the case that when we discussed the amendments to the Landlord and Tenants Ordinance we were told that there were a number of buildings that would have been caught had the rent control not been stopped at 1959 and that those buildings were in fact identified by the Chief Minister as buildings that one would not have expected to be considered to be sort of buildings that require rent control. So

how can they be looking at the Landlord and Tenants Ordinance and taking policy decisions without knowing the effect of it?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Both the premise of his question is wrong and therefore the deduction that he draws from it and recites at the end of his question is also wrong. The Government did not say that they had been looking at the clock and the properties or the date clock and properties and come to the conclusion that because certain properties were about to be caught that it was being changed because those properties were about to be caught. What the Government said was that any system based on the passage of 45 years will eventually catch every property when they become 45 years old and the Government did not consider it appropriate that there should be that system in place. There was a property which somebody has informed the Government would be caught quite soon, I cannot remember the date, and that was the property Trafalgar House which is the property I think I mentioned in the debate. I think I also mentioned a building in South Barrack Road had already been caught as well.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Because it was in 1959.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes and the Government's decision, this is what we said in the House, was not based on saving a particular building or the next three buildings in line which of course had not been identified, it was based on the principle that the 45 year rule means that every building becomes caught eventually when it becomes 45 years old and that is the principle that the Government were seeking to legislate out.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So when the Government were giving the example of the buildings that would not be caught by this, the example that he gave just now of the buildings that would not be caught by the change, because of the change, when all buildings post 1959 would no longer be caught. If the reason is the effect it is going to have on the supply of property in the market how do they arrive at their estimates of the supply of property in the market if they do not have a clue?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I cannot make sense of the hon Member's question.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I will repeat the question. If the Government have said for example, that the fact that they are going to liberalise private sector rentals to the extent that they have done already and that there is something more in the pipeline is because they know that there are properties that would be rented, which currently are not rented, how is it

that they tell us here that they are not given any type of estimate? How can the Chief Minister have said in the election that hundreds of properties that currently are not rented because the landlords do not think it is worth renting them, would become available? How does he know there are hundreds if he says it is impossible to estimate?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The reason why the word 'hundreds' is used and not 174 is precisely because one conveys a sense of the size of the problem that cannot be quantified but we are aware of the existence of the problem and of its general dimensions, and the other would have required the ability to have counted the empty flats which the Government cannot do. For example, I suppose one could spend a long time pouring over electricity consumption records and water consumption records and marry those against the rates register and say, 'now come on here is a flat in which no water or electricity is being consumed, it must therefore be empty', and I suppose one could do that sort of exercise and eventually work out, after an enormous amount given that all this is not computerised, it is not scientifically and mechanically impossible to have a stab at working out how many empty private sector flats there are, but it is not practical. The Government do not have the systems in existence to do that. Now, how do the Government know? The answer is we do not know how many but the Government gets a sense of the existence and size of the problem from representations made to them by both sides of the fence. Action for Housing, from the tenants point of view, comes and makes those allegations to the Government. The landlords in trying to persuade the Government to change things, also may say to the Government 'and look if only you would change this or change that there would be many flats which our members are presently maintaining empty'. So the problems exist because both sides of the landlord/tenant equation, lament it, complain about it and refer to it. Now does that mean that the Government can put an exact figure or even an approximate figure? I have an approximate figure in my mind but it has not been scientifically reached, it has been reached by reference to the statements made to me by any number of other people and one puts all that forensic evidence together and come to a conclusion. Yes I think that there are more than 200 empty private sector owned flats in Gibraltar. If the hon Member is saying 'can the Government be sure that it is more or less than that' I cannot. I wish we were wrong I wish there were not that many number of flats but we believe that there are. However, it is not the only reason for needing to reform the Landlord and Tenant Ordinance and of course we can debate that which is one of the reasons but one cannot hang the whole debate about whether the Landlord and Tenant Ordinance needs reforming on the outcome of that particular issue because there are other issues to do for example, with questions of whether landlords get a sufficient return on their properties, whether they get enough revenue to repair and maintain the building, that in turn has a consequence on the quality of life of tenants and indeed on the aesthetic appearance of buildings in the historic part of Gibraltar. I am not saying that the hon Member should share our view that it needs reforming or that it needs reforming in the particular way that we propose to reform it, but I think the case for reform of a piece of legislation that has not been touched despite the changing circumstances over the decades, which both sides uniquely, this is the first time I think in the history of the Landlord and Tenant Ordinance that both the landlords and the tenants are pressing the Government for similar change, not change in opposing directions as one would expect, similar change. I think the case for reform is well and truly made. Of course one can disagree about the nature of that reform.

HON J J BOSSANO:

It was an estimate that we wanted and therefore with all the caveats that have been entered we take it that we are talking about what the Government believe to be 200. Something of the order of 200 would then be the answer to Question No. 561 which is the one that says what the Government estimates could be the total number of private sector dwellings fit for human habitation which are currently empty. Question No. 561 actually asks for the total, is that something that they do not have?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I said 200 because that is the first figure that makes the use of the plural, it was not because that was my estimate of the number of flats.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In Question No. 561 which is the estimated number of private sector dwellings fit for human habitation, that is the figure that the Chief Minister believes is in excess of 100 then. Or are we talking only about the ones that are available and empty?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I have not been addressing the question of human habitation. There is a question on the Order Paper later about the reform of the Landlord and Tenant Ordinance. The question of human habitation requires an inspection of each and every property to see, well first of all to establish the definition of human habitation which has both a legalistic element and a judgemental element. Question No. 561 is about the number of private sector pre-war flats fit for human habitation. For the Government to know how many private sector pre-war dwellings there are fit for human habitation the Government would have to physically inspect each and every private sector flat against whatever criteria the Health Authorities use for deciding the question of fitness and evaluate each particular flat. I am sure the hon Member will quickly recognise that the Government do not have that sort of system available to do that and that the Government cannot do that in answer to a question in this House. I have been addressing not the question of fitness for habitation but the question which I think is what he was addressing in his supplementaries, the question of the number of empty private sector flats as opposed to whether they are fit or unfit for human habitation.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well, are Government able to establish how many private sector pre-war dwellings there are, whether they are fit or not fit, empty or full?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

That is the question which I answered when I addressed the Supplementary. It is theoretically possible to do it through a forensic exercise not through any records that exist. Look, a flat that does not consume electricity and does not consume water is very unlikely to be occupied.

HON J J BOSSANO:

No, that was not my question. I said were they able to establish the global figure whether they are occupied or unoccupied, fit or unfit, how many pre-war private sector dwellings there are? Is that also not possible? Whether they are empty or not, simply the total figure of pre-war dwellings.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Oh yes, I think that information, I am not aware that a particular count of it exists, but I can imagine that the Land Property Services rates system is capable of distinguishing between a private sector dwelling that pays the rates to them and a Government dwelling where the rates are included in the rent. I imagine therefore to that process it ought to be possible to get a number of rateable private sector dwellings out of the total rateable number of dwellings in Gibraltar. I imagine that that must be possible I do not know how difficult it would be or whether it can be done easily or not easily but I would be very surprised if we could not produce a count. Ultimately, one can have a pretty good go just by looking at the electoral register. It is relatively easy to see which are the Government-owned buildings, the housing estates and things of that sort, so I am sure the system eventually will be capable of producing the answer to his last question.

NO 562 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – PRIVATE SECTOR

Can Government state how many private pre-war properties that are currently unoccupied are Government leases and is there a provision in such leases requiring the lease holders to rent the dwellings in such properties?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

The information requested cannot be obtained without a disproportionate administrative effort. However, I doubt if any that are held under Crown leases would have a provision therein such as he describes. Most properties in Gibraltar are held under grant from the Crown.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 562 OF 2004

HON C A BRUZON:

In view of the discussion we have just had may I suggest that a procedure is set in motion whereby at least once a year somebody from Government does actually go round and inspects these properties, because I think the housing problem is such in Gibraltar that it would be well worthwhile doing that exercise.

HON J J NETTO:

The Government do not have at its disposal personnel in order to do that function because as far as the Housing Department is concerned, we have got some other more pressing matters internal in the public sector. We believe that this is a function that should be carried out by the private sector themselves, by the landlords or perhaps by some other private entity such as like the one the Chief Minister referred to just a minute ago which is LPS, Land Property Services, but obviously within the public sector we do not have the resources to be able to carry out that function.

NO 563 OF 2004**THE HON C A BRUZON****HOUSING – PRIVATE SECTOR**

Can Government state what is the total number of private sector pre-war dwellings which have had their rents fixed as a result of the provisions of section 15?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING**

Such information is not readily available however, I am informed by Land Property Services that since 1969 the following rent controlled tenancies have been created as a result of the provisions of section 15 and of its predecessor section 7(a).

1969 to 1975	28
1976 to 1980	39
1981 to 1985	75
1986 to 1990	100
1991 to 1995	228
1996 to 2000	175
2001 up to March 2004	121

NO 564 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – PRIVATE SECTOR

Can Government state what is the total number of private rented pre-war dwellings which have had their rents fixed by the rent tribunal?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

I can confirm that since the start of the Rent Tribunal in 1986 there have been 167 cases for determination of rents. Of these 101 have been approved and have had their rents fixed by the Rent Tribunal and 60 have been unsuccessful and have had their cases dismissed for a large variety of reasons. There are six cases which are pending hearing, these have been scheduled for the 6th and 13th May 2004.

ORAL

NO 565 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – RENT CONTROL

Can Government state the number of properties each year that became rent controlled since 1990, as a result of having been built on or before 1st day of January, 45 years previously?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Since the introduction of section 11A of the Landlord and Tenant Ordinance, five dwellings only have been brought under control by its application.

ORAL

NO 566 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – PRE-WAR HOUSES

Can Government state how many pre-war housing units have been allocated to date in each month of 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 567 to 569 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 567 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – PRE-WAR VACANT FLATS

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

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 566 and 568 to 569 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 568 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – VACANT FLATS

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

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 566 to 567 and 569 of 2004.

NO 569 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – FLAT ALLOCATED ON DIY BASIS

Can Government state how many pre and post-war housing units, which have been allocated to date for each month of 2004, have been on a do-it-yourself basis?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

The Government do not as a matter of policy publish the addresses of Government vacant properties. The remainder of the information sought is set out in the schedule which I now hand to the hon Member.

Schedule to Question No. 569 of 2004

Answer to Question 566

A total of 14 pre-war housing units have been allocated to date broken down as follows:

January	-	1
February	-	3
March	-	6
April	-	4

Answer to Question No. 567 of 2004

A total of 35 pre-war flats are vacant to date as follows:

1RKB x 3	22.11.02
	16.07.03
	20.04.04
2RKB x 9	26.11.01
	10.10.02
	14.08.02
	27.08.03
	21.10.03
	09.01.04

	20.01.04
	12.02.04
	16.02.04
3RKB x 13	07.03.02
	24.02.03
	07.04.03
	19.07.03
	01.08.03
	13.08.03
	16.09.03
	22.10.03
	30.01.04
	19.02.04
	26.02.04
	22.03.04
	24.03.04

Schedule to Question No. 569 of 2004

4RKB x 6	17.01.03
	26.04.03
	03.06.03
	19.07.03
	03.11.03
	17.11.03
5RKB x 3	19.08.03
	05.09.03
	10.03.04
6RKB x 1	02.03.04

Answer to Question No. 568 of 2004

A total of 52 post-war flats are vacant to date as follows:

1RKB x 10	04.09.03
	22.09.03
	24.09.03
	13.02.04
	25.02.04
	03.03.04
	20.01.04
	15.04.04
	16.04.04
	19.04.04
2RKB x 12	01.08.03
	08.10.03
	04.12.03
	29.12.03
	05.01.04

07.01.04
11.02.04
23.02.04
12.03.04
06.04.04
07.04.04
08.04.04

Schedule to Question No. 569 of 2004

3RKB x 20 03.04.02
 11.06.02
 03.10.02
 03.02.03
 16.02.03
 04.07.03
 22.10.03
 10.11.03
 22.12.03
 09.01.04
 16.01.04
 27.01.04
 30.01.04
 19.02.04
 26.02.04
 09.03.04
 24.03.04
 01.04.04
 02.04.04
 20.04.04

4RKB x 9 16.02.03
 09.07.03
 11.07.03
 03.11.03
 07.11.03
 04.12.03
 11.02.04
 26.03.04
 14.04.04

5RKB x 1 03.02.04

Answer to Question No. 569 of 2004

A total of 12 pre-war and 21 post-war housing units have been allocated on a do-it-yourself basis broken down by month as follows:

	Pre-war	Post-war
January	1	7
February	3	3
March	5	10
April	3	1

ORAL

NO 570 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – VOIDS LIST

Can Government state how many properties were on the voids list (rent roll) as at the 31 December 2003?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question No. 571 of 2004.

NO 571 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – VOIDS LIST

Can Government state what percentage of the properties on the voids list were pre-war and how many were post-war?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

The question in itself is confusing. If the hon Member asked what are the number of properties under the classification of voids in the rent roll, the answer is nil. If on the other hand he requires to know the number of properties which are on the void list and out of the rent roll the answer is provided in Parts B and C of Question No. 109 of 2004. At the moment it appears that all the properties classified as voids 100 per cent are pre-war subject to the completion of the asset register. Finally I wish to remind the hon Member that the figures being provided need to be substantiated though regrettably this will not be available until we have completed the asset register exercise.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 571 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

Does the Minister have a date by when this is likely to happen?

HON J J NETTO:

This is a matter that I have referred to on occasions in the past and doing an asset register, I am told by the profession, is not something that one can do in a month not even in a year, it takes a substantial amount of time. What we are trying to do here when we are talking about the asset register is not just to be able to reconcile the figures which is very much the type of question that we have in the Assembly today, but also in addition to that as part of the asset register is to do surveys of the state of the properties, both external and internal surveys. Of course that takes time bearing in mind the number of properties that the Government have so it could well take a number of years, but it is the only way forward for any landlord who needs to know what the final figures are and do proper planned maintenance as opposed to what would have been the history in the past which has been very much reactive or ad hoc maintenance programmes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Has the exercise started already?

HON J J NETTO:

Yes.

ORAL

NO 572 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING

Can Government state in respect of the 166 properties identified in January 2004 as possibly requiring demolition, which was the latest date on which they collected rent for each of these properties?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 573 to 574 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 573 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING

Can Government state in respect of the 80 properties identified in January 2004 as requiring major extensive refurbishment, which was the latest date on which they collected rent for each of these properties?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 572 and 574 of 2004.

NO 574 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING

Can Government state in respect of the 56 properties identified in January 2004 as awaiting refurbishment by either the Buildings and Works or the Electricity Authority, which was the latest date on which they collected rent for each of these properties?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answer to Question Nos. 572 to 574 of 2004

The information requested in relation to Question Nos. 572 and 573 of 2004 pre-dates this GSD Government and in some instances the GSLP period in Government. In addition, records were not properly kept when the GSLP Government privatised the Government Housing administration function and neither was there a smooth handover of records nor information available when the said function was reintroduced into the private sector under the GSD Government. In relation to the 56 properties works were in hand and some will have been returned and already allocated to people on the waiting list. Therefore providing such information retrospectively will be more than an impossible task.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 572 TO 574 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is the Minister not able to say in respect of those of the 56 properties that have not now been re-rented, when they last collected rent? We are talking about looking at 50 addresses in the rent cards surely.

HON J J NETTO:

Yes, presumably the administrative task can be done but obviously, bearing in mind that some of those properties that were said previously have now been allocated and are now paying the rent, so doing the administrative function is something that we normally can do retrospectively but it does provide an administrative task which sometimes can be disproportionate. I think in future, perhaps, the hon Member may wish to request that whenever a Government property has been vacant, when was

the last date in which rent was paid for it but asking something retrospectively does provide an element of work in the administration that sometimes can be disproportionate amongst other things.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I think the last time the Minister had difficulty in establishing how long they had been vacant and that is why now we are asking for how long they have not been paying rent on the basis that that might be one way of establishing how long they have been vacant.

HON J J NETTO:

That is all in the category of the 56 which are the category which are flats, where we call in the system basically, where recently they have been left vacant the keys are passed over to Buildings and Works for the proper refurbishment then they are taken back. This is not the other previous category which the hon Member was referring to before.

HON J J BOSSANO:

No I have not asked a Supplementary on the other ones on the basis that he is telling us that the last time some of these properties, presumably the ones that require demolition, might not have been rented for 30 or 40 years. That is the impression he gave when he answered in respect of Question No. 572. That is why I am limiting the Supplementary to the last category because it seems to be a smaller one and if some of them have already been re-rented what I am asking is the ones that are currently being maintained, which must be an even smaller number.

HON J J NETTO:

I will be most glad to go back to my staff and see whether they will be willing to provide the answer in relation to the 56 properties if they consider it to be a manageable task.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The information that the hon Member seeks is unusual in its detail but ought to be provided to him if he really insists on having it. The Government must have a record either of when flats were handed in by the last tenant or when rent was last collected. It is there either in the rent roll or somebody in the Housing Department must have a register of when properties are handed over. So it is 56, it requires probably several hours work by one Civil Servant. The difficulty with answering questions of this sort is that if they then ask it about things that require, I mean how many individual file searches is it reasonable to submit to in order to provide one statistical answer in this House? It is a matter of judgement. I think, I do not want to set a precedent, but I would have hoped that in respect of 56 properties it was relatively easy to produce the answer in time. I am sure this is not the reason why the hon Members insist on asking so many detailed statistical questions but at the end of the day this does take up an enormous amount of time at an administrative level in Government because

the Government's system of computerisation, although coming forward in leaps and bounds to the extent that we can make resources available to it, is still pretty unsophisticated. The Government's ability to produce statistical information in this sort of quick time, as the hon Member knows, is not great.

HON J J BOSSANO:

If it is possible at least to produce an answer to the 56 we would be grateful, or to part of the 56 that are still under refurbishment.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I suppose they want an idea of how long it is taking for these flats to be maintained. I assume that is the answer that they want.

ORAL

NO 575 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE

Can Government state to what extent it is responsible, as landlords, for the internal maintenance and repairs of Government housing?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Government's contractual liabilities as landlord are set out in a tenancy agreement, a copy of which I now hand to the hon Member.

THIS AGREEMENT is made the day of Two Thousand and Two

BETWEEN

(1) **The Housing Manager of the Government of Gibraltar for and on behalf of the Governor of Gibraltar (hereinafter called 'The Landlord' which expression shall where the context so admits include his successors in office for the time being) of the one part**

AND

(2)

of

Gibraltar (hereinafter called "the Tenant" which expression shall include where the context so admits his/her heirs administrators executors and assigns where the context so admits)

NOW IT IS HEREBY AGREED as follows:-

1. DEFINITIONS

In this Agreement;

- 1.1. "the Tenancy" means the tenancy created by this Agreement
- 1.2. "the Premises" means the premises more particularly described in Schedule 1 herein.
- 1.3. "the Rent" means the rent payable in accordance with Clause 3 herein.

2. LETTING

The Landlord agrees to let and the tenant agrees to take the Premises described in Schedule 1 herein **TOGETHER** with the use of the fixtures and fittings situate in or upon the Premises **SUBJECT TO** the covenants on the part of the Tenant contained in Clause 4 herein with effect from the Two Thousand and Two for the term of 50 weeks and thereafter unless otherwise determined from week to week.

3. CONSIDERATION

- 3.1. The Tenant agrees to pay to the Landlord Rent in the sum of £ per week inclusive of rates which rent the Tenant agrees to pay in advance to a Rent Collection Office specified by the Landlord for the purpose from time to time.
- 3.2. Where the rates payable in respect of the Premises are increased or decreased at any time hereafter the rates payable under this Agreement and included in the

Rent shall be increased or decreased accordingly with effect from the date of such change.

- 3.3. For the purpose of this Agreement "Rates" means any general rate and any brackish water rate levied by the Government of Gibraltar pursuant to the Public Health Ordinance.
- 3.4. Where the Landlord provides services in respect of the cleaning and keeping of refuse bins refuse chutes passages staircase yards patios or other common parts swept and clean and where the Landlord also provides services in respect of the electrical lighting of common parts the Tenant will pay to the Landlord a weekly contribution the amount of which shall be determined by the Landlord towards the cost of such services which amounts shall be payable together with the Rent herein reserved in the manner aforesaid.

4 TENANT'S AGREEMENTS

The Tenant agrees with the Landlord;

- 4.1. to pay the Rent as well as any changes the landlord may make pursuant to Clause 3.4. hereof at the times and in the manner specified in this Agreement;
- 4.2. to pay all outgoings including all water and electricity consumption and all outgoings of a generally recurring nature;
- 4.3. to use the Premises in a tenant-like manner and in particular;
 - (1) To pay the rent rates and charges herein reserved on the days and in the manner aforesaid;
 - (2) To use and occupy the premises as a private dwelling house and for no other purposed;
 - (3) Not to use the premises or any part thereof for any business trade or profession or as lodgings;
 - (4) Not to share assign underlet or part with the possession of the said premises or any part thereof without previously obtaining the consent of the Landlord in writing;
 - (5) Not to permit or allow or leave caretakers in the premises without the previous consent in writing of the Landlord such permission in no circumstances to extend for a period of over three months;

- (6) Not to allow persons other than those specifically mentioned in Schedule 3 herein to sleep on the premises without the previous consent in writing of the Landlord;
- (7) To keep the interior of the premises and all fittings and fixtures therein in tenable repair and to carry out all internal decorations and repairs as stipulated in Schedule 2 herein and upon determination of this tenancy to deliver the premises to the Landlord in tenable repair in accordance with the provisions of this clause. In the event that the Tenant fails or neglects to leave the Premises in such tenable repair the Landlord may carry out the said repairs or any of them and the Tenant shall pay to the Landlord the cost of repairs so carried out;
- (8) To permit the Landlord or his agents with or without workmen or other persons to enter upon and view the state of repair of the said premises at any reasonable hours in the daytime and if in respect of any of the matters specified in Clause 4.3(7) of this Agreement the Landlord shall give notice in writing to the Tenant of any repairs decorating or cleaning required to be done to carry out same at his own expense with all reasonable dispatch to the satisfaction of the Landlord. In the event that the Tenant fails neglects or refuses to carry out to the satisfaction of the Landlord within a reasonable period which period shall be decided by the Landlord in his absolute discretion any or all of the matters specified in the said notice the Landlord shall elect to carry out the said repairs or any of them and in such case the Tenant shall pay to the Landlord the cost of repairs as carried out;
- (9) To permit the Landlord or his Agent with or without workmen at all reasonable times to enter premises to repair the inside or outside of the building;
- (10) Not to make or permit to be made any structural alterations in or additions to the premises without the previous consent in writing of the Landlord and of the Development and Planning Commission and without previously submitting to the Landlord all necessary plans and specifications for the said additions and or alterations;
- (11) Not to cover up or obstruct in any way access to the service duct panels in the premises;
- (12) To pay promptly all charges incurred for electricity telephone and fresh water;

- (13) Not to store deposit or use on the premises any liquid or solid inflammatory or explosive substances save paraffin in small quantities not exceeding one pint provided that such paraffin is brought or kept in a properly stopped bottle or suitable container (not being plastic) and not to do or suffer or permit to be done on the premise anything which may constitute a fire hazard;
 - (14) (a) Not to do or permit to be done any act or thing which may be or grow to be an annoyance damage or disturbance to the occupiers of the adjoining or neighbouring premises;
 - (b) Not to play or allow to be played any musical instrument or any radio television set gramophone or other sound reproducing equipment to the annoyance or disturbance of the occupiers of adjoining premises;
 - (15) To be responsible for the orderly conduct on any part of the premises of children living in the Premises and for any nuisance or annoyance that may cause to other tenants or to members of the public or any damage to or defacement of any building wall door or window or other property of the Landlord and to repay to the Landlord the cost of making good any such damage or defacement;
 - (16) To observe and perform the Covenants and conditions in Clauses 4.4. and 4.5. herein for the time being in force to be observed by the Tenant;
 - (17) Not to erect or affix any aerial inside or outside the premises of the Property but to use the communal aerial installed by the Landlord and no other or such other aerial or satellite system previously approved by the Landlord and the Development and Planning Commission;
- 4.4. (1) not to paint colourwash or otherwise vary the external decorative scheme of the premises;
- (2) not to allow for any cause any box parcel flowerpot refuse rubbish or any obstacle whatever to be left in the passage or on any landing outside the premises;
 - (3) not to throw or allow dirt rubbish rags or other refuses to be thrown down any water closet or use spirits of salt (hydrochloric acid) for the cleaning of sinks lavatory pans baths metal fittings or fixtures to any external part of the premises;
 - (4) not to permit nor hang out from any window or out of any balcony any washing or unsightly object nor allow any board placard sign or notice to be affixed to any external part of the premises;

- (5) not to keep or permit to be kept on the premises or any part thereof without the previous consent in writing of the Landlord any animal or bird;
 - (6) not to enclose or have any form of enclosure whatsoever on any balcony or verandah without the previous consent of the Landlord;
 - (7) if provided not to substitute or alter in any way the lock to the main entrance door of the premises;
 - (8) not to alter vary or adjust any of the services in the premises without the consent of the Landlord having been previously given;
 - (9) not to nail or fix anything to the plasterboard partition but shall only use special toggles or other system previously approved by the Landlord;
- 4.5. (1) to keep the premises fit for accommodation and safe from fire hazards.
- (2) to keep in accordance with the instructions of the Landlord any passage and staircase used in common with other Tenants swept and clean and free from obstruction or contribute an amount that may be determined by the Landlord toward the cost of any service for such purpose which the Landlord may introduce;
 - (3) to carry out any instruction of the Senior Warden or his representative in the same exercise of his duties which instructions shall be given in writing at the Premises and which shall related to the proper maintenance of the Premises and matters ancillary thereto as for example the depositing of refuse.

5. LANDLORD'S AGREEMENT

The Landlord agrees with the Tenant that the Tenant paying the Rent and performing and observing the covenants on his part contained in this Agreement shall peaceably hold and enjoy the Premises for the duration of this Agreement without any interruption by the Landlord or any person rightfully claiming under or in trust for him.

6. PROVISOS AND DECLARATIONS

- 6.1. This tenancy may subject to the provisions of the Housing (Special Powers) Ordinance be determined at any time by either party giving to the other not less than one week's notice in writing. **PROVIDED ALWAYS THAT** if any part of the Rent is in arrears for 14 days after becoming due whether formally demanded or not or if any of the covenants on the Tenant's part are not performed the landlord may at any time thereafter re-enter the Premises or any part thereof in the name of the whole and thereupon this tenancy shall absolutely determine but without prejudice to the right of action of the Landlord in respect of the Rent or any antecedent breach of the Tenant's covenants contained herein.

- 6.2. Any notice to the Tenant under this tenancy shall be deemed to be sufficiently served if it is left at the last known place of abode or business in Gibraltar of the Tenant or affixed on the front door of the Premises or sent by post in a registered letter addressed to the Tenant by name at the aforesaid place of abode or business.
- 6.3. The terms and conditions of this Agreement may be altered or modified by the Landlord from time to time as circumstances may require but no such alteration or modification shall bind the Tenant till made known to him in writing by the Landlord.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties have hereunto set their hands and seals the day and year before written.

SCHEDULE 1

The Premises

ALL THAT flat consisting RKB and being Flat No situate

at

SCHEDULE 2

Repairs to be carried out by the Tenant

Flushing cisterns WC Fittings

Renewal or repairs to WC Cistern seat chain. Renewal of Broken WC pan.

Wash hand basin and kitchen sink and bath

Renewal of cracked or chipped basin or sink. Renewal of washers. Renewal or fixing chain and plug. Repairs to draining board. Unblocking and renewal of taps.

Taps generally other than stop cock

Renewal of washers.

Drain

Unblocking blocked traps and pipes from connecting to fittings to underground connection or stack pipes if under the control of the Tenant.

Meters

Repairs to damaged meters if under the control of the Tenant.

Electrical Fittings

Renewal of or repairs to broken or defective sockets switches plugs pendants lamp-holders fuses cooker control unit and consumer unit.

Door window and cupboard fittings

Repairs to doors locks hinges bolts buttons door frames etc.

Glass

Replacement of broken glass to doors and windows including louvres to windows.

Plaster and Plasterboards

Repairs to damaged internal plaster.

Tiling

Renewal of broken tiles

Decorating

Interior decoration.

Generally

In addition the Tenant is also responsible for any damage to the premises including fixtures and fittings caused by neglect carelessness or wilfulness.

NOTE:

1. The Tenant will not be responsible for any damage or defects which in the opinion of the Landlord are due to the reasonable wear and tear or to defective workmanship or materials. The decision of the Landlord in these aspects will be final. The Landlord shall not be responsible for the replacement of deteriorated or broken canvas to awnings.
2. Access must be available at all times to the service ducts in the kitchen bathroom entrance passage or cupboards for inspection of and repairs to the electric and other services therein. (See Clause 4.3. (11) contained herein.
3. The Tenant must consult the Landlord in writing in relation to any items areas or issues not covered herein. The Landlord shall reply to the Tenant's queries in writing.

SCHEDULE 3
Persons permitted to reside on the Premises

SIGNED by the within-named Landlord
in the presence of:-

SIGNED by the within-named Tenant
in the presence of:-

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 575 OF 2004

HON C A BRUZON:

I have not had a copy but I still thank the Minister for the new copy. One point that is stressed here is that the tenant will not be responsible for any damage or defects which in the opinion of the landlord are due to the reasonable wear and tear or to defective workmanship or materials. Now the hon Member knows that I have written to him on various occasions about specific cases, I do not know if parliamentary procedure allows for specific cases to be mentioned here, but I assume that the Minister knows that there are certain people, some of them are pensioners, who are extremely distressed and they would like the agency responsible for internal maintenance, for maintenance in general, please to do something about 41 Valiant House.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is wholly unacceptable.

HON C A BRUZON:

I am asking if it is parliamentary acceptable.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is not parliamentary acceptable. The Government are not going to debate individual cases regardless of whether it is parliamentary acceptable.

HON C A BRUZON:

May I please urge the Minister to do his best to look at the letters that I have written and tackle these problems because they really are serious human problems.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Fair enough.

ORAL

NO 576 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – EXCHANGE OF GOVERNMENT FLATS

Can Government say what is the policy as regard tenants seeking to exchange accommodation, in cases where the number of rooms currently occupied are in excess of the requirement for the family composition of the tenants, and the exchange required is for the same size of accommodation in a different location, and do different rules apply to either pensioner exchanges or requests on medical grounds?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 577 to 578 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 577 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – EXCHANGE OF GOVERNMENT FLATS

Can Government confirm whether an exchange of accommodation granted by the Housing Agency requires the prior approval of the Housing Allocation Committee and if so, can it state how many such exchanges have taken place each month since 1 January 2003 and confirm that in all such cases the Housing Allocation Committee's approval has been obtained?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 576 and 578 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 578 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – PENSIONERS EXCHANGE LIST

Can Government state how many applicants are on the pensioner exchange list as at the 31 March 2004, giving a breakdown of those who are Government tenants and private sector tenants, their age and sex?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answer to Question No. 576 of 2004

The policy is that when a change is of either a like for like in room composition or of a slightly larger variant the Housing Allocation Committee has allowed the Housing Allocation Unit the flexibility to approve the exchange. However, when the exchange solicited involves greater variants or emanates from complex backgrounds and circumstances then these are referred to the Housing Allocation Committee for either approval or rejection. These rules also apply to pensioners and medical cases. In addition to the above the Government have relaxed the policy with regard to pensioners currently occupying a 5RKB to be allowed to move into an empty 3RKB instead of a 2RKB. The reason for this is that unfortunately the stock for 5RKBs are few and the Government wish to encourage pensioners to release their current flat for the benefit of larger families in the waiting list with the opportunity to acquire suitable accommodation based on their needs.

Answer to Question No. 577 of 2004

Approval for the exchange of accommodation is as stated in my previous answer. The breakdown of exchanges granted each month is as follows:-

January 2003	3
January 2004	2
February 2003	2
February 2004	Nil
March 2003	1
March 2004	2
April 2003	3
April 2004	5
May 2003	1
June 2003	1
July 2003	1
August 2003	1
September 2003	Nil
October 2003	2
November 2003	Nil
December 2003	Nil

Only one of these cases was deemed necessary for the Committee's decision.

Answer to Question No. 578 of 2004

As at 31st March 2004 a total of 275 applicants were on the pensioners exchange list. Of these 221 were Government tenants and 54 were private tenants.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 576 TO 578 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

The policy that exchanges are allowed between flats of the same size or slightly larger seems to be in conflict with the argument that they have relaxed the rule so that people do not have to move to two but have to move to three. Is the Minister saying then that people are not permitted to go from five rooms to five?

HON J J NETTO:

No, I think the hon Member has confused two separate groups of people. When we are talking about exchanges if we are talking about a like for like in terms of room composition or whether the two of us are two sitting tenants and one wants to move into my particular flat but my flat happens to be one room more than what they are strictly or technically entitled to, that small variant is typical of an example whereby the Housing Allocation Committee has relaxed the duty to the Allocation Unit not to get on and facilitate the admitted purpose. That is one issue. Of course if it is something which is far more complicated because it is not just a two way exchange

but a three way exchange, different family circumstances, that would have to be referred to, but where the hon Member is obviously getting confused is in relation to the 5RKB. The issue of the 5RKB where the relaxation has come into being is only and exclusively in relation to pensioners which are currently having a 5RKB, whereby they do not need the 5RKB any more because their sons, their children have grown and left. What the Government are saying although a pensioner may request to move to what he is properly entitled, which is a 2RKB, some pensioners will not take the decision of the option to move from a 5RKB to a 2RKB, so we have relaxed it to move to a 3RKB because the Government needs a number of 5RKB which are few to get by, in order to allow large families which are not many in the housing waiting list but because there are very few of those types of accommodation we need to get a number of them to be able to provide those families with such properties. Or else what happens is, through lack of stock, is that they remain for a large number of periods of time in the waiting list.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So if a person has a 4RKB what is the situation then? Is that the same?

HON J J NETTO:

Only for 5RKB.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I would say if the hon Member would allow me to intervene, that it is an area of policy that we have under consideration. There was the initial relaxation that the Minister has described and my personal view, which is not yet reflected in Government policy, and indeed may not be, is to be able to always trade down regardless of the amount of the extent to which the resulting flat is larger than would be their entitlement as applicants on the waiting list. That is really what I would like to see reflected in policy, there are housing management considerations about the fact that there is demand for more flats of a certain size than of others and of course the policy has to be sensitive to that. Frankly subject to that I personally do not see the logic of imposing any restriction. If somebody is in a 4 bedroom flat and is happy to move into a 1, 2 or 3 bedroom flat, why say no? A five bedroom flat is always more valuable to the Government subject to the management of the different levels of demand that the hon Member is saying. We are trying to look and see, the Housing is trying to look and see the extent to which this area of policy can be relaxed even more than the Minister has done over the last couple of years.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So if I have understood correctly then at the moment if the person that wants to move into another flat gives out a 5 room he will be permitted to go into a 3 room, but if the one that is giving up is 4 he has to go to 2.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

He has to go to his entitlement.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Therefore nobody is permitted to go from an existing flat where the size is more than their entitlement to another one which is still more, of the same size which is more.....

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Smaller but still more than their entitlement.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Smaller but still more, and obviously even the same but still more than their entitlement. Is that the case?

HON J J NETTO:

I detect some confusion by the hon Member. One has got to differentiate between exchanges, which is the question I have been asked, to what is an allocation. Exchanges is in relation that we want to exchange two sitting tenants but the variant is slightly bigger or smaller, that would be allowed between two persons, whether they are entitled to that or not because it is two sitting tenants. I notice a confusion with the hon Member, perhaps I have not made it clear myself either, is that in relation to a pensioner occupying a 5RKB, we are not exchanging we are actually allocating because we are allocating to an empty flat, not between two sitting tenants.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Then what does the pensioner exchange list mean? Allocating or exchanging?

HON J J NETTO:

Exchanging between themselves which has always been the case.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I see, so the people on the pensioner exchange list are not people who want to be put in another place.....

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

They might also want to be put in another place.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The Opposition know of people who say that they have asked to be moved say from Moorish Castle to Laguna, or from the top floor of the Tower Block or whatever

because they have got problems in going upstairs and that kind of thing, and we are told that the reason why they do not move is because the Department says there is an empty flat, the flat may be the same as the one they have got but they are not permitted to go into it. They have to go into something smaller. Now, I am not talking about two people exchanging with each other I am talking about the people who say 'we want to move because of our age or heart problems and that kind of thing' and we are told these flats are empty but they will not give it to them because they have to move into smaller accommodation, they have got a problem with furniture and that kind of thing. Now, that seems to be addressed in the 5RKB to 3RKB, what I need to find out is what happens in cases where what they are leaving is less than 5RKB?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

That is the point that I tried to communicate to the hon Member. I want to make the caveat subject to the management of stock and the different demands that there is for different sizes of housing, I would like to see that policy extended if viable in terms of housing management, the nitty gritty of which I do not understand, I would like to see the logic that has been applied to occupants of the largest flats extended downwards to the 4RKB flats as the hon Member has said. There is one factor that needs to be taken into account whenever the Government has empty flats and they may be what may be regarded by some as more desirable locations than others. If every time flats become vacant, existing tenants in other estates ask to swap their flats in allegedly less desirable estates for those empty flats, eventually for people on the housing waiting list they only get the other ones. They only get the flats that the people have sought to move out of, that has also got to be factored in when we are considering transfers. So we let a few transfers, but not so many, such that in effect makes all the available stock coming onto the books so to speak, channelled to transferees or to desiring transferees, as opposed to people who have no house at all and who are waiting for a Government house. It is not quite so simple but I do agree with the underlying spirit of the hon Member's latter supplementaries, and that is that to the greatest possible extent there should be flexibility as to numbers, and this should not be a numbers game. If one gives up a 5RKB one can go into a flat which is bigger than what would have been ones entitlement as an originating tenant, but one has a 4RKB then one does not have those rights. People should, within reason and subject to stock management issues, always be allowed to trade down. I just look at it as flat construction costs. A 5RKB flat is more expensive for the Government to build and therefore theoretically more valuable to the Government, and therefore the Government always ought to be able to be willing to exchange something less valuable for something that is more valuable, but I accept and this is why the matter is being looked at internally in the Department. I accept that the view which we appear to share about the desirability of that is impacted by other factors that the Housing Department also has to take into consideration.

HON J J BOSSANO:

How long has the relaxation on the 5RKB been in place?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Several years.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In terms of this exchange in the figures that the Minister gave us about the numbers that had been approved by the Housing Unit and only one had been approved by the Housing Allocation Committee. Are these exchanges between two tenants? So the exchange into the empty one is not included in those figures, is that correct?

HON J J NETTO:

Yes, I think it is included but I will have to check it out.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I hope the Minister understands it is not possible to make sense of the figures unless we know whether these figures are, given the distinction that he has emphasised a number of times, that an exchange is something that happens between two people that are already tenants and that the other is not an exchange is an allocation, so we need to know whether these are exchanges inclusive of allocations or not.

HON J J NETTO:

The answer is that it is not included.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I see. So it means then that the relaxation only applies to this, in the cases where it is the other it has always been by the Housing Allocation Committee. Is that the answer?

HON J J NETTO:

Yes.

ORAL

NO 579 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – VALUATION LIST

Can Government confirm that the valuation list shows residential property that is unoccupied?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

No, the valuation list can only be used to arrive at the net annual value of hereditaments. Although it contains all residential properties with their net annual values, except in the case of new developments with development aid, it does not differentiate whether properties are occupied or not.

ORAL

NO 580 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – SQUATTERS

Can Government state what is the position as regards entitlement to apply for Government housing of persons who have previously been squatters in Government properties?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question No. 581 of 2004.

NO 581 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – HOMELESS PERSONS

Can Government state what new procedures have been put in place concerning applications for Government Housing by homeless persons?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answer to Question No. 580 of 2004

The position as regards the entitlement to apply for Government housing of persons who have previously been squatters in Government properties is the same as any other entitled person.

Answer to Question No. 581 of 2004

The new procedure put in place concerning application for Government housing by homeless persons is, once it is established that the homelessness has not been self inflicted, a homeless report for a period of one month must be provided. After the first two weeks the Housing Inspector will monitor the situation at random and report on the matter for the consideration of the Housing Advisory Committee.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 580 TO 581 OF 2004

HON C A BRUZON:

I think it is important in view of the reply that the Housing Advisory Committee meets as often as is humanly possible because there are needs in this area and I would suggest that instead of meeting maybe three or four times a year, they meet more often.

HON J J NETTO:

That is not the case. Normally they tend to meet about once a month. Even if there were to be an extraordinary event within the four week cycle of the month, I am sure they will get together or do a round robin.

HON C A BRUZON:

So if there are urgent cases they would meet, because in answer to a question that I asked in January I think the answer was that these meetings take place three or four times a year. I am glad to hear that it is not the case and that it is more like once a month.

HON S E LINARES:

As a matter of clarification, are we talking about the Housing Allocation Committee or the Housing Advisory Committee? There are two, are there not?

HON J J NETTO:

The role of the Housing Advisory Committee along with the Medical Advisory Board are two subsidiary sub-committees of the Housing Allocation Committee, advising the Housing Allocation Committee whether on medical matters or on social matters.

ORAL

NO 582 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – OPTION ‘C’

Can Government state what is the number of option 'C' tenants in the Gib V housing estate?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question No. 583 of 2004.

NO 583 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – GIB V

Can Government state if it has been contacted by any of the Gib V tenants as a result of experiencing difficulties with their payments?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answer to Question No. 582 of 2004

There are presently 217 Option C tenants in Gib V.

Answer to Question No. 583 of 2004

Gib V tenants who experience difficulties with their payments approach the Ministry for Housing. These tenants were required to complete a financial assessment form which was later assessed. Those who met the required criteria were allocated Government housing by the Housing Allocation Committee.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 582 TO 583 OF 2004

HON C A BRUZON:

Can the Minister give me an idea as to how many were successful in getting Government housing?

HON J J NETTO:

The information I have is that we have had eight requests, one has been allocated/transferred, two are pending further information and five have been rejected.

HON S E LINARES:

In relation to Gib V tenants in the C Option who do not pay their service charges, are Government liable for those service charges? If not, who is liable for those service charges?

HON J J NETTO:

My understanding is the management company of Gib V not the Government.

HON S E LINARES:

Surely as they are tenants of Government, they are Government tenants because the property belongs to the Government, if they are Government tenants and they fail to pay the service charges, is the landlord not supposed to be responsible for the service charges, Government in this case?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

This is an issue of contention between the Government and the management company of Gib V which they raise with me at meetings and which we are working towards a solution to. Of course the difficulty is that if I were to say or accept, or if the Government were to say or accept 'yes if you do not pay the Government will' it is not rocket science for the hon Member to work out what the consequences of that would be. People would just stop paying their service charges. So the solution that I am trying to engineer with the management committee, indeed I think they have got a meeting scheduled in my diary within the next few days, and I am sure this item will be on the agenda for further development, is an alternative way in which the Government can address the matter financially without having those, I am sure the hon Member would regard as well also, undesired consequences of thinking people saying 'well if the Government pays it if I do not, then I will not pay so that the Government pays it'. That is the approach. There was an issue about affordability by some tenants and my hon Colleague the Minister for Housing, I think there may be a question on the Order Paper about this so I will not say too much, we did have a scheme last year whereby Option C tenants who could genuinely could not afford it were given an exit strategy. Therefore anyone who did not avail themselves of that one should presuppose is able to afford to pay the service charges. Yes, the hon Member has obviously been well informed by somebody, but there is an issue, a contention about what the legal merits of the position is. I mean, whose the liability is but the solution is trying to go down another route rather than the legalistic.

ORAL

NO 584 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 Nos. 585 to 587 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 585 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 and the date they became eligible for housing?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 584, 586 to 587 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 586 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – APPLICANTS SOCIALLY RECOMMENDED

Can Government state what is the number of housing applicants to date who are socially recommended and how many are classified as homeless, giving a breakdown by age and sex?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 584 to 585 and 587 of 2004.

NO 587 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – APPLICANTS MEDICALLY RECOMMENDED

Can Government state how many housing applicants to date are medically recommended providing a breakdown of the category of their medical recommendation, age and sex?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answer to Question No. 584 of 2004

A total of 548 applicants are on the pre list. The flat requirement is as follows:-

1 RKB	362
2 RKB	33
3 RKB	105
4 RKB	41
5 RKB	5
6 RKB	2

Answer to Question No. 585 of 2004

A total of 463 applicants are on the housing waiting list. The flat requirement is as follows:-

1 RKB	240
2 RKB	53
3 RKB	102
4 RKB	62
5 RKB	6

Answer to Question No. 586 of 2004

There are 25 housing applicants who are socially recommended of which 16 are males and 9 are females. Three are classified as homeless.

Answer to Question No. 587 of 2004

Twenty-four applicants are medically categorised as follows:-

Medical A	6 applicants	2 males	4 females
Medical B	7 applicants	2 males	5 females
Medical C	11 applicants	9 males	2 females

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 584 TO 587 OF 2004

HON C A BRUZON:

In the case of the medically categorised A, is there any procedure where Government can in fact not use preferential treatment of course, but ensure that advice is given when needed. There are a number of people who contact me, I have written to the Minister in connection with some of them, they have been medically categorised A for over a year and they still have not had a flat allocated.

HON J J NETTO:

The fact that some people who are medically categorised contact the hon Member does not mean that nothing is being done on medical cases. The Government can practically say that it has given a lot of consideration over the last eight years to maximise the number of medical cases into Government housing, and we have done hundreds of them. The fact of the matter is that there is all sorts of demand. There are demands from medical cases, which is continuing all the time, there are demands on social cases and there are demands of people on the waiting list against the stock and the supply that we have. That is the management that we have but every single consideration has been given, will continue to be given to medical cases, social cases and people on the waiting list.

HON C A BRUZON:

What needs to happen is that more houses at affordable prices have to be built, basically.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

That has got absolutely nothing to do with it. The hon Member has to understand that the medical A list, I mean I have much more sympathy actually for the people on the medical B and the medical C list, I am not quite sure why those lists exist frankly, but as far as the medical A list is concerned the hon Member has got to understand that it is a waiting list, and getting on the list does not mean that one can have a house it means that one is given priority access to a house. Otherwise, if just being on the medical A list were an entitlement to an immediate house, then the housing allocation decision would not be made by Government or by the Housing Allocation Committee, they would in effect eventually end up all being made by the doctors in the Health Centre or by the Consultants. It just does not work like that. The hon Member was not around in the House at the time but may recall reading in the

newspapers at the time, that as a result of building Bishop Canilla House the medical A list was removed in totality because it happens that most people on the medical A list are elderly people. One could have the exception to that rule but on the whole most are elderly people, and when Bishop Canilla House was built the medical A list for the first time ever was accommodated lock stock and barrel in one go, and when we build the new enlarged version of Bishop Canilla in the new housing schemes in Waterport Road the medical A list and possibly the B list will be removed again, but it has got nothing to do with affordability of housing or building affordable housing because these are not houses for sale. These are houses for rental to people on the housing waiting list so the question of building more affordable housing is completely non germane to the question of accommodating elderly people on the housing A waiting list.

HON C A BRUZON:

Of course it is connected. When affordable houses are built Government housing stock will be vacated by people who buy these affordable houses and then others could be moved into those empty flats. When Bishop Canilla was built promises were made that more homes for the elderly were going to be built. It was made by made by the Chief Minister in his New Year message in 2001. That is why I mentioned the fact that more buildings need to be made and constructed to solve these problems.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

For a start I just told the hon Member that the new Government housing scheme includes 250. Secondly, the hon Member's remark which caused me to rise to my feet was 'I suppose this proves the need for more affordable housing to be built'. The explanation that I have tried to give him, which he obviously does not appreciate, is that addressing the demand for housing from people on the category A waiting list actually has nothing to do with the shortage, availability, surplus or anything else to do with affordable housing, because this affordable housing is the language of housing for sale and we are talking about housing for rental. He is wrong as well on his suggestion that if building of affordable houses vacates Government housing for people on the medical A list. Again not correct. Most people on the medical A list are already in Government housing, it is not that they do not have housing, it is that the location of the housing is not suitable. For example, they might live up in Moorish Castle or up in Calpe and they have got to climb hills to get there, or it might be on the fifth floor of a block without a lift and they cannot come up and down the stairs. The vast majority of people on the Government's medical A list already have a Government house and therefore it is not a question of just flats becoming empty, flats have to become empty which happen to be on the ground floor in an estate in the lower part of town, and that is not addressed or resolved by the flats that become vacant because Government build affordable housing and people move from Council flats to home ownership flats. That would not address the demand for housing for people on the medical A list. It is not about number of houses it is about location of houses. It is not about them not presently having a house, it is about their present house not being in a suitable location and that is not addressed because as the hon Member can well imagine, that even if there are 200 Government flats becoming vacant as a result of Council tenants becoming home purchasers, the chances of enough of those flats being on the ground floor are very much reduced. That is why, and I am glad to see that the hon Member thinks that Bishop Canilla was a solution to that, that is why we came to the conclusion that the only way to address this

problem in a structured way which was not a sort of hit and miss lottery, was (1) build housing suitable and specifically designed for the elderly, given that most of the elderly were also the medical A list, and (2) install lifts in Government flats, so that anybody that had to move for medical reasons because they could not walk up and down stairs, would no longer need to move house. Most of these elderly people actually do not want to move house, they have lived there all their lives, they have spent a lot of their own money doing it up, they have got all their furniture, they have raised their children in that house, it is regarded as the family home and most of them do not want to move and are much happier to have a lift installed so that they can retain the investment, both financial and emotional that they have made in their house over many decades. This is not a question just of housing list management it is about structured approach, it is about building specifically designed houses for the elderly, for those that need to move, and building lifts in the remaining Government blocks. I am glad to say that since 1996 both of those policies have been deployed and are continuing and will go further and we believe that that is a sensible, effective approach, much more so than micro managing the waiting lists.

HON C A BRUZON:

I am glad the Chief Minister has mentioned the building of lifts, because I have one specific case, there are many I am sure, somebody came to me and explained that they had a letter dated January 2003 and the answer to this gentleman who desperately needs lifts in Knight's Court said that the construction of lifts in Knight's Court was imminent and therefore he would not be considered for application to another flat. That is something that was an answer given from the Housing Department to this family. Obviously my question is, what is the meaning of imminent? Is it in a few weeks time or is it in three years time?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Tenants of Government housing estates in Gibraltar benefited hugely from the arriving into office of the GSD Government. In many ways, not just general repair and maintenance, but also and particularly because it was not until we arrived in office that the question of investing public funds in installing lifts became a reality or even came up for consideration. Now of course it is all very well for the Government to have an innovative policy of that sort that the hon Members did not even think of when they were in office, and then ask questions about the ones that have not been built rather than about the ones that have been built as if the Government could build lifts in every block simultaneously all in the same year, as if there were enough building resources and enough financial resources to do it. Therefore when the Government sets about a programme of building lifts in as many Council blocks of flats as can structurally take a lift, we are not going to be subjected to pressure about when is this particular block or that particular block going to be done. There has got to be a programme and that means that some come first, some come second, some come third and some come twenty-third. Frankly, to be spending the sort of money that we are spending on the installation of lifts, in Varyl Begg, in Alameda Estate and in many others, so that the hon Member comes here to ask 'well when are you going to do it in Knight's Court?', and I suppose when we have done it in Knight's Court he will come here and say 'and when are you going to do it in Rosia House?'. I am sorry that is just not realistic. There is a programme, the programme is being gone through and people have to be patient, but patience at least gives light at the end of the tunnel. When there was a Government that had no policy of installing lifts, there was no hope whatsoever. So people are still much better off now than they used to be.

HON C A BRUZON:

I think the Chief Minister has missed the point. All I am trying to say is that I know one cannot build lifts in two days, that is pretty obvious but to write a letter to a couple, to pensioners, saying to them that the construction of lifts in such and such a building is imminent I think is unfair. What they should have said, in my view, is suggested that it could take 18 months or it could take two years and then that elderly couple would know that they would have to wait. It is in the response, the replies that some people get.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In respect of the six people on the A medical list, which is where we were some time ago, is it the case that this is purely chronological? That is to say that one goes down the list depending on the date that they join it?

HON J J NETTO:

That is correct.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

That is why there is an A, B and C list. The medical prioritisation is the distinction between medical A, medical B and medical C, which is why I started with the quip it is not clear what value it is to be on medical B and C, I do not think anybody gets a house for being on medical B and C. One alternative might be to prioritise the people within a single medical list but there is no prioritisation within each of A, B and C. A, B and C is itself the prioritisation system.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can the Chief Minister say what is the date of the first of the six?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. I do not think it would be appropriate. Housing lists normally are published but this is a medical list, we would be putting into the public domain that somebody has a medical problem.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am not asking who it is, I am asking how long he has been on it.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The way the Leader of the Opposition formulated the question, it came across as if he wanted the name.

HON J J BOSSANO:

No, the first person on the list, how long has that person been there, the first one?

HON J J NETTO:

Provided I get notice, yes, I would provide the information.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

For arguments sake, when was the last time somebody on the list was given a house.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Basically, yes.

HON J J NETTO:

So long as I am given notice.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is there a percentage of the allocations that are put on one side for medical cases or not?

HON J J NETTO:

Normally that is the case. There is not a strict percentage in the sense that if in a given month so many houses have come back from refurbishment, whatever the number happens to be, obviously they will try to fit in within that number so many people of the waiting list, so many people from the medical list and so many people from the social list. So they are trying to manage that against the number of flats that come in, in a given month, which will oscillate up and down in every month.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So there is no a policy that says ten per cent of the allocations within a month or a year or whatever should be for medical cases?

HON J J NETTO:

No, there is not a certain percentage for the month or the year.

NO 588 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING

Can Government provide the answers given in writing to Question Nos. 123 to 131 of 2004 by the Minister for Housing, for the purpose of the record in Hansard?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

No, the purpose of questions in this House is to provide the hon Member with the information which I have done in writing. If the hon Member wants an oral answer for Hansard, then he must put an oral question. However, I am happy to confirm that I confirm the answers that I gave him in writing. If that is not sufficient for his purposes then he should ask oral questions based on the information that I have provided him, or design to elicit the same answer.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 588 OF 2004

HON C A BRUZON:

In just the same way as answers are given to the Opposition in writing in a matter of minutes and they appear in Hansard, is it not reasonable to request that answers to questions asked in the House but which arrive ten days later also appear in Hansard?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, the Government do not agree that that is logical at all. There is a procedure for written questions, or questions for written answer, there is a procedure for answers to oral questions, and both of those are parliamentary in nature. There is a system whereby the hon Member is free to write a letter to the Minister outside the parliamentary scope and he gets an answer to his question. In both cases the suggestion, even in respect of the parliamentary version, even when one puts down a question for written answer, a formal parliamentary question but for written answer as opposed to for oral answer, the idea that the hon Member then or whoever, in fact there is another question later on in the Order Paper asked to another Minister which is going to get a similar reply, the idea that we just stand up here and read out the answer, the answer is no.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The answer that the Chief Minister has given no to has nothing to do with the question that is being asked. The question put by my hon Colleague and the other one in the Order Paper is for the Government to simply say in the House, 'I provide the hon Member with the answers to questions 123 to 131' and then the answers would be recorded. These are not answers to letters, these are the answers to the questions put in January which the Minister said would be sent within ten days because they had not had enough time. If they had had enough time and answered it in January it would be recorded in Hansard.

MR SPEAKER:

Hansard only records what is said in the House, even oral or writing, not outside the House.

HON J J BOSSANO:

With all due respect, what he said in the House is 'the reply is too voluminous to read, I hand the hon Member the answer'. That is not what the record in Hansard shows. The record in Hansard shows what has been handed over, although it has not been said in the House and not been read in the House. All we need to do is to look at the last Hansard and we will see that all the information that the Government passes to the Opposition appears in Hansard as if it had been read out. We have not put a question saying will the Minister give a written answer. We have put a question saying will the Minister give an oral answer. He told us in January that because of the work involved he would write to the hon Member providing in writing what he would have given in this House across the floor if it had been ready on time. If it had been ready on time it would have been recorded and because it arrived ten days later it is not recorded. We do not think it is unreasonable for the Minister, who says we need to put an oral question, well he has got an oral question. The question is whether he will provide the answers and all he has to say to that question is 'yes I give the hon Member the answers' which is what he says in a hundred other occasions, and then it would be recorded. So why do they have a problem with that?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, first of all I think we need to distinguish the various different types of practices. There are many occasions in which the Opposition Members, and I know it is not what he is referring to now, but there are occasions in which the Opposition Members ask for information on which notice has not been given in the question and the Minister might say 'well I do not have that information with me but I will send it to the hon Member'. That is a matter of correspondence, that example is a matter of correspondence and not a matter of Hansard. Frankly, it is entirely a matter for the Speaker what he interprets should go into Hansard. I was actually not aware. Sometimes since I have had the need personally to look at Hansard that I had not appreciated that the content of all these tables, all these schedules, go into Hansard. Well that is not a judgement, that is not my call. I query whether that is necessarily the correct decision but if that is the decision that the Speaker has made that is what he is here for. He is the custodian of Hansard and that is fine the Government have no objection to it going into Hansard if the Speaker decides that it should go into Hansard. Hansard is supposed to be, I would have thought, a written transcript of

the oral event. That is my interpretation of what Hansard is supposed to be but I could be wrong, I have never addressed my mind to the issue. On the last occasion that we had a meeting of the House, the hon Member asked questions which were simply impossible by their nature for the Government to have, at an administrative level because the politicians do not do the work for putting these questions together. At an administrative level some of them just could not be prepared, the answers could not be researched, tabulated, printed and delivered in the necessary time available. The Government could have come to the House backed entirely by not only parliamentary convention but long established practice, saying the information required by the hon Member's question is administratively disproportionate to put together and not answer it. That is the standard historically established way to deal with questions that require a disproportionate administrative effort to prepare. We could have done that and if we had done that this question would now not be arising. In other words, the Government would have just relied on what governments have always relied on, say 'no I cannot get the answer within 5 days and therefore I do not answer the question because a disproportionate administrative effort is required to prepare the answer within 5 days'. Then the question asked by the hon Member would not arise, we are entitled not to answer questions for that reason. We chose not to do so because we chose to draw a distinction between answers that required a disproportionate administrative effort to get to qualitatively, and situations which were marginal. In other words, we just need a few more days, it is quantitatively rather than qualitatively disproportionate and the quantitative margin was liveable with. So we did not. Instead of saying 'no we will not give you the answers because of the usual parliamentary pretext given for that or reason given for that', we said 'no we will give you this information within ten days'. Now, we did not think that we were offering or that the hon Members were going to interpret that to mean as part of the parliamentary Question and Answer Session, and the question does not say 'you can not have the information', one has the information in writing, the question says 'now I want it in Hansard', the Government do not think they have given it in a parliamentary framework. The Government simply believe that we have said in Parliament in answer to a question that we could have declined to answer we could have said, we chose instead to say we will not answer it. Well, we will give the information within ten days. The information was provided, the hon Member now wants to find a way of putting that information provided into the parliamentary context of Hansard whether it is rightly or wrongly does not matter, that is a side issue. The answer is not intended to be unhelpful. The answer is intended to mean, we do not think the proper way to do this is for us simply to repeat the information as if we were putting the clock back and repeat orally information that has been given in writing. We have however, on record in Hansard, confirmed that we in the parliamentary sense endorse the answer. This is what we confirm that the information given in writing is confirmed. Then the answer goes on to say, if that is not enough sufficient for his purpose then if he actually wants to see it spelt out verbatim in Hansard, then he needs to ask the question and he could have done it here. For example, if indeed it is the practice that what we give in schedules does go into Hansard, the hon Member could ask the same question again in which what we would simply do is instead of giving a schedule full of words and full of numbers, we would just give him a schedule with the letters that the Minister got and then it can be typed in if that is the practice. We do not think that in the circumstances that this issue arose it is the proper analysis of what we thought we were doing anyway. Our analysis of what happened is that it was in the parliamentary context so that that activity required us just to sit up and read orally the information can the Government provide the answers given in writing. That is not a question, that is not asking the same question which would attract the same answer orally. For example, if the question answered in the letter was 'what is the price of fish?', if this question had asked 'what is the price of fish?' then he would have had the answer to that question, but the question is 'will the hon Member

provide the answers given in writing by the Minister, for the purposes of the record in Hansard?'.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The only reason why we drafted this was because we thought we ought to do it in recognition of the fact that the information has been provided. Otherwise we could have simply put a question saying, 'will the Government now answer question 123?' as if they had not already answered it. We acknowledge that they have answered it, we acknowledge that if the answer on that piece of paper had simply been given here in the House.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I was not aware of that.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well that is why it happens and therefore, if Question 123 were being asked now it is nonsense for the Minister to say he is not going to stand here and read it all out. He always stands up and says the answer is too lengthy to read out in the House and I now hand over the information on a piece of paper. That is what he sent in writing. So were he to say 'can the answer that he gave us to Question 123 be provided in the House?', because we think that is the only way to have it in a document which is the official historical record of the answers in this House. The piece of paper is in our offices but there is no record of the answer given by the Government. The question is there but their answer is not. I would have thought it would be in their interests as well that the explanation that they have given should be in the records of the House. We could think of no other way of doing it but if instead of saying 'can he now give us the answer to Question 123?' we read Question 123, he will then say 'yes' and hand a piece of paper. Well, we will add all these questions to the next meeting.

HON C A BRUZON:

Just to round off this short discussion, I was the person who thought of this question because as a new Member of the House I thought I had identified a loophole and I discovered that the procedure of handing answers over to the other side, as those answers got entered into Hansard I thought I would ask the question in the case of answers to questions that were received later. That is all.

HON F R PICARDO:

If I might, just for the sake of the record books, I think this is very important not just for us and for the Government to have recorded in Hansard what is said but also for third parties not members of this House who may wish to access the information that has passed across the floor of this House. The definition that I have of what Hansard is and let us recall that it is called the official report of debate, is that it is a full report of speeches, questions and answers, statements and all things said in the House itself, and separate papers report debates in standing committees, but Hansard also includes written answers to questions and this is the important part of the definition,

and certain other matters going beyond what was actually said in the House, such as occasional detailed supplementary information relating to answers to questions. It may be that the best way to deal with this issue is that when the Minister says 'I am going to give you this information, you will have it within ten days' and that is not a correspondence issue, it should also be provided to the House and perhaps added just for the sake of the record.

MR SPEAKER:

No. One cannot have it both ways. If there is an oral question the answer is an oral answer. The fact that some of it is in writing is for the purpose of shortcutting procedure on both sides but when one gets the written part of the question, it is not a written answer it is the written part of a question, one can ask a supplementary in the House. If the Minister says 'we will give you the information' no supplementary arises. So therefore it is not recorded. He sends the information in writing and then you answer back and say this is wrong because I asked about whether this is going to be recorded in Hansard. No.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Can I suggest a possible alternative approach. The Government have no difficulty with this. It is just a question, as far as we are concerned, of mechanics and correct procedure and proper procedure. For example, I am not sure that there are any questions on this occasion that have been postponed for ten days, we try to avoid it as much as possible. Whenever the Government need to do that, perhaps one alternative device is for the question to be there and then converted into a written question or a question for written answer, so that when the answer is provided it might then be eligible to go into Hansard as answers to a written question. I do not know what the rules are on that. What is the procedure for including in Hansard when there is a parliamentary question asked for written answer as opposed to for oral answer? Does it then get into Hansard or not?

MR SPEAKER:

I have had a long session with the Hon Mari Montegriffo, she wanted to have written questions and get written answers, but she wanted everything. After having that she wanted to have supplementaries on that and that cannot be. So it might be that the Hon Miss Montegriffo and the other Minister, the Hon Col Britto, might enter in the picture too to make the procedure easier.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

The arrangement that I came to with the Minister is that for a question to go through Hansard and be recorded in Hansard all that needs to be done is to ask the question over again.

MR SPEAKER:

Yes, and one can ask another 900 questions. I have got a feeling that there are so many questions because I have cut on supplementaries, I am hoping it is not.

ORAL

NO 589 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

BUILDINGS AND WORKS DEPARTMENT

Can Government state whether the negotiations with the union regarding the move into a proposed Authority for the Buildings and Works Department have now been concluded?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

No, they have not yet commenced as such although documents for discussion have been tabled.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 589 OF 2004

HON L A RANDALL:

In answer to Question No. 122 the Government said that they were currently engaged in discussing the proposed authority with the unions. Was that not the case then?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes it is the case, his question asked whether negotiations commenced not whether discussions are in progress.

NO 590 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – SUPPLY TEACHERS

Can Government state why the Department of Education is no longer contracting supply teachers to cover for absent teachers?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

It is not correct that the Department of Education is no longer contracting supply teachers to cover for absent colleagues.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 590 OF 2004

HON S E LINARES:

If this is the case, they are still going to cover, why is it that all schools have been told that no extra supply will be supplied?

HON DR B A LINARES:

The hon Member's informants in this respect have not got their facts right.

NO 591 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – GASA SWIMMING POOL

Can Government state why the Department of Education is no longer paying for children to be able to go to the GASA swimming pool?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

It is not correct to affirm that the Government are no longer paying for children to be able to go to the GASA swimming pool.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 591 OF 2004

HON S E LINARES:

Is it not the case that instructions have been given to schools to get the money needed in order for the children to go to the swimming pool from their own capitation rather than from the Department of Education?

HON DR B A LINARES:

The operational aspects of this procedure is very much up to the administration as a matter of policy, which is my concern, the Government are still committed to pay for children to be able to go to the GASA swimming pool.

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Minister then confirm that the Government are going to pay GASA out of the capitation from schools?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I cannot confirm that. I repeat that the Government are satisfied that provision is being made in whatever operational manner for children still to benefit from attendance at the GASA swimming pool. That is a matter of policy and I am satisfied.

HON S E LINARES:

My question has not been answered. My question is specifically, is the money for children to go to the swimming pool coming from the capitation of schools? Is it coming from capitation? Not whether the Minister is satisfied.

HON DR B A LINARES:

The question was, 'is the Government no longer paying for children to be able to go to the GASA swimming pool', and I have answered that it is not correct, that the children can still go to the GASA swimming pool and the Government are providing. Whatever operational procedural way it is not a matter for me to investigate. In any case notice perhaps could have been given as to how the whole thing is operated administratively. The question is one of policy and I have answered.

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Minister explain how it has been done in the past? How is GASA paid and from what monies GASA is being paid?

HON DR B A LINARES:

The answer is GASA, who have now raised their fees I believe to £1.50 per head per session, have been paid from Government funds administered by the Department of Education.

HON S E LINARES:

Correct, administered by the Department of Education. Is it not the case now that it has to be administered from the capitation money given to schools rather than from the Department of Education?

HON DR B A LINARES:

No what I mean is that the capitation funds are also part of the funds provided by the Department of Education. That is an operational channelling of payments which is not the important point.

HON S E LINARES:

So the Minister is now confirming that through his different arrangements the money is coming from the capitation given to schools. Can he confirm that?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I cannot confirm that here and now.

NO 592 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – SCHOOL TRIPS

Can Government explain whether the same safety standards apply to children in Gibraltar as they apply to children in the UK when attending school trips?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Similar safety procedures to those employed with school children in the UK are applied by our schools when planning school trips. Safety assessment is carried out by each school before all these trips and the well being of the children is paramount at all times. I might add that our schools, thank God, enjoy an excellent safety record on school trips, despite the very large number of these which are organised annually.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 592 OF 2004

HON S E LINARES:

The Minister has just said the word 'similar' and not 'the same'. Can he state the differences?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Similar, the same,

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Minister is not accountable in this House for the law and practices in the United Kingdom. The hon Member himself, once he informs himself of what is the position in Gibraltar, can if he wants compare them to the practices in the UK and work out for himself whether there are any differences. It is not for the Government to do for the hon Member a comparative analysis of the position between Gibraltar and the UK. We are accountable for the position in Gibraltar.

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Government give us the position in Gibraltar of the safety?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I have already answered that, I have said that a safety assessment is carried out by each school before each trip and I am absolutely satisfied that the attention and precautions taken by those involved, particularly the teachers involved, are perfectly adequate.

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Minister state who makes these safety assessments?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Safety assessments will be made primarily by the Head teacher supported by the other teachers who are organising the safety trip, and in consultation of course with other relevant authorities who would give the necessary advice.

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Minister then give us what qualifications the Head teacher has to make a safety assessment on school trips?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Head teachers are qualified in a very generic sense concerning the safety and health of their children, and as I say they also consult and seek advice from relevant persons and experienced persons involved in school trips.

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Minister then assure every single parent that the Head teacher makes assessments on buses that they travel in? The Chief Minister might laugh but it is a very important aspect because one of the things now that the Chief Minister is laughing at it, I will tell him that one of the things that are required in the UK, which we even have not got any legislation here but we tend to have "similar" practice to the UK, is that buses should have in every single seat a seat belt and they do not. Even the bus that we have here in our Department to take children to different places. So that is one of the things. Carrying on with the question, can the Minister then assure parents that the Head teacher will look at every single aspect because that is what he is saying that it is a safety assessment, and an assessment means that they look at the places they stay in, the way they travel and who they travel with. Can the Minister assure this?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Chief Minister was not laughing because the matter is not serious. The Chief Minister is laughing because of the political opportunism and unreasonableness of the question. The Minister, nor the Chief Minister nor all the kings horses and all the kings men, can provide parents with a guarantee that when their children go on a

school trip they are not going to befall an accident. I, as a parent, when I allow my children to go on school trips understand and appreciate that regardless of the degree of care that has been taken by those organising the trip, accidents happen. Therefore the use of the words 'can the Minister give an absolute assurance' are frankly not sensible words to try and put in the Minister's mouth. What the Minister and the Government can do is assure the hon Member that the care, skill and extent of the precautionary preparations taken now in connection with the planning of school trips is at the very least, at least as robust as they were when the hon Members were last in government themselves and responsible for the same thing. That assurance I can give him.

NO 593 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – PRIVATE NURSERIES

Can Government state whether private nurseries are following the Foundation Year during the Pre-school year as is done in Government Schools?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

The Foundation Course is not a statutory obligation and schools are able to choose whether to do it or not. Government of course are not in the practice of dictating specific curricular provisions to private nurseries.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 593 OF 2004

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Minister state if he is aware whether there is any private school actually doing the Foundation year with the pre-school?

HON DR B A LINARES:

No I am not aware. The administrators in the Department of Education no longer keep an eye. In any case I repeat, it is not a statutory provision even for Government pre-school provision and it is a question of value. I do not want to go into a wider debate but I am sure the hon Member knows and understands that over prescription at pre-school stages are not advisable by modern research, and therefore as in fact the National Curriculum at later stages of schooling has come into controversy precisely because of that over work and over prescriptive criteria, similarly and even more forcefully, at pre-school age.

NO 594 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – PRIVATE NURSERIES

Can Government state whether any Private Nursery has been inspected since the last one in 1997?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

I am sure the hon Member also knows that formal inspections, the traditional regimented inspection, are not seen today to be the best way of actually guiding and advising and monitoring most aspects of educational establishments. As regards private nurseries, although there have been no formal inspections in that sense we are in constant, especially in a small place like Gibraltar, in constant daily contact with the staff, with the parents, with the therapists, who do tend in situ to the needs of speech and language development, and occupational therapists, and I think in conjunction in this context the Department is satisfied that private nurseries are doing their job rather well.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 594 OF 2004

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Minister give us an indication of how many times an Educational Adviser or any other education psychologist have actually gone to private nurseries?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I cannot give any particular number of cases or instances. I have given the background to this, there is no formal visitation perhaps but there is an interaction and a constant sharing of experiences and information.

NO 595 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – POST 16 ISSUES

Can the Minister state whether the NASUWT have responded to the Department of Education's request to contribute their views on Post 16 issues?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

The Minister can state that the NASUWT have not as yet responded to the Department of Education's request for their views on Post 16 issues.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 595 OF 2004

HON S E LINARES:

Since the last time has the Committee that the Minister formed in order to look at these issues, have they met in the last six months?

HON DR B A LINARES:

No, the working group completed their work, they produced a document prepared for Government with their views and submitted this in January 2003, and it was a copy of this document that was actually provided to the NASUWT. It actually took place during a very thorough and wide ranging discussion with Mrs Sue Rogers, the National Treasurer of the NASUWT during a visit to Gibraltar a few months ago. She actually took the initiative and suggested that this issue of Post 16 education should be seen within the much wider context of the Tomlinson Report in the UK, 14-19, that that provided a much global, more comprehensive view which touched upon the Post 16 education. She actually suggested that they would take over as from then because even the Tomlinson Report and the implications were not quite clear as yet, they were very much in the pipeline and the union in UK was actually studying its implications, and that when they were clearer about that, they would come back to us with the considered views of the union and that is exactly why I said in the answer to the original question that the NASUWT have not yet formally responded, we are awaiting their very valuable view in the context of the wider developments of the Tomlinson Report 14-19.

HON S E LINARES:

So whilst we await the report from the NASUWT and looking at the 14-19 Tomlinson Report, what is going to happen with the current children, or should I say young adults, what is going to happen to them? Are we going to wait indefinitely, because this committee that the Minister set up was set up in 1998 and since then we have had no progress as in a policy, I am not saying progress in another sense, but as a clear cut policy. So what is going to happen as from now? Are we going to wait again for another three or four years until in the UK the Tomlinson Report recommendations are brought up and taken on and the unions discuss with the Government? What are we going to do, just wait all the time like we are?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I am rather disappointed at the reaction of the Opposition Member, I thought he would understand the academic and educational aspects which are so important to consider this issue in perspective and in depth. This question of indefinite, there is nothing indefinite in the sense that as I say, the union itself, Mrs Sue Rogers herself said that we should wait and look at all the implications of the 14-19 report. Meanwhile of course, it is not a question of just lying still. There are many operational aspects in practical terms of consortia and cooperation between the schools in order to improve, perhaps the provision of the 16-19 phase of education.

HON S E LINARES:

Are Government thinking of implementing from 14-16 as well, because that seems to be the trend?

HON DR B A LINARES:

We are thinking of everything that comes into the market, if I may put it rather crudely, in the educational field. We think of everything, but of course it is thinking, it is considering, it is studying, and I go back again to explaining that the union itself in the UK have said that that is their position at the moment.

HON S E LINARES:

I agree with the thinking and the studying. What we need to do is the implementing as soon as possible.

HON DR B A LINARES:

I think it is rather rash to rush.

HON S E LINARES:

Rash, when he started this committee in 1998. Rash?

ORAL

NO 596 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – SUPPLY TEACHERS

Can the Government state why probationary teachers on supply are being asked to go through a second interview process even though they have been successful in their first interview the previous year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question No. 597 of 2004.

NO 597 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – SUPPLY TEACHERS

Can the Government confirm that probationary teachers on supply who chose to interview the second time are given priority of employment over those who chose not to attend?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answer to Question No. 596 of 2004

May I point out that there are no probationary teachers as such on supply. Probation is only a process available to those on a permanent and pensionable contract. The purpose of these interviews is to assess their suitability for a permanent and pensionable post in our schools complement. Whilst teachers are required to apply every year it is not true to say that they are asked to attend interviews every time. It is up to them, they are offered a choice. Interviews allow teachers to provide more details about their past years experience and professional development in the schools they have serviced since their first interview, and any other relevant experiences they may have gained, but as I say it is optional to them whether or not although most of them want to attend a second interview precisely for that purpose.

The answer to Question No. 597 is no Sir. No priority of employment is given to these teachers over those who choose not to attend the interview.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 596 TO 597 OF 2004

HON S E LINARES:

The Minister has mentioned the fact that probationary teachers are the ones who are permanent and pensionable and therefore that is when their probationary year starts. Is it not the case that supply teachers are offered supply, usually on a full time basis which is a contradiction in terms. May I add that one can not have a supply teacher on a permanent basis, but the Government have started that practice. Does that mean that a teacher who is in supply for a year and is a teacher who has come from the UK and has gone through his or her induction course, which they usually do, these supply teachers go through these induction courses and all that, that then they have to go through another probationary year once they are on a permanent and pensionable basis?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Yes, the answer is yes. Once a teacher gets onto the permanent and pensionable basis they do the first years probation in more senses than one. One is because it is General Orders and it is a Civil Service requirement that the first year in permanent and pensionable employment is a probational year. Secondly and very importantly, because I was involved directly with the Department of Education in the UK, is this induction year that some of them who come have not done that formal structured induction year in UK, which actually makes them eligible for teaching in a State school in the UK. We had to negotiate that the Department for Education and Skills in the UK would recognise our probation year, which is similarly structured, precisely for that purpose and this was a bonus of course for our teachers who might wish for one reason or another to move to the UK and teach in a State school there.

HON S E LINARES:

Yes, I remember the Minister actually answering my predecessor, the Hon Mr Gabay, in relation to this but what I am stating is that a supply teacher for a year who is asked to do the induction course, what the Minister is now confirming is that that teacher will have to repeat that induction course once they become permanent and pensionable. I think what the Minister should do is inform the supply teachers, the current supply teachers, whether they come from UK without having done the year or not, that they are to do their induction course again, which I understand that most of them do not do it again anyway. They are sort of put down as probationary teachers for the purpose of what the Minister has said, due to General Orders but do they have to go through the induction course again once they become permanent and pensionable, because they are doing it under a supply basis?

HON DR B A LINARES:

They may do a year of supply which can be seen, as the hon Member is trying to do, as a probationary period. Yes, it is the gaining of experience, it is an opportunity for professional development, but the actual structured course which was actually very seriously negotiated with the Department for Education and Skills in the UK, only takes place once a teacher becomes a full member of the complement on a permanent and pensionable basis. So the teachers involved know all about this and they are quite satisfied to go through the process.

HON S E LINARES:

No, the thing is that the teachers on supply now are asked to do this induction course. Therefore if the supply teacher is being asked to do the induction course, then they have to repeat the induction course once they become permanent and pensionable. This is the issue. I understand and I know the basis of these induction courses and I appreciate the fact that they go through this and then they have the "qualification" to go to the UK and then say 'I am now a teacher who can pass through a natural course'. I am aware of that but what I am stating is that the supply teachers who come from the UK and are now posted in different places, who are currently doing the induction course which the Minister has stated, then they have to repeat that induction course, the same one, it is not as if there is an advanced induction course, it is the same one once they become permanent and pensionable.

I doubt if they are aware that they have to go through it again. I doubt it very much so can the Minister state what is the state of affairs this moment in time?

HON DR B A LINARES:

My understanding is that it is only once the teacher becomes permanent and pensionable that the probationary aspect is really structured and formalised, that the supply year is no longer as demanding or as formally exacting as the year when the teacher becomes a full member of the complement of permanent and pensionable.

HON S E LINARES:

In light of that answer can the Minister then inform his Department not to force supply teachers who come from the UK to do that induction course, because then they are doing that. They are doing now, they are forcing supply teachers to do that induction course, which I see positive by the way, but they are not aware. They are under the impression that they are doing the induction course in order to avoid doing the induction course once they become permanent and pensionable. So could the Minister then inform all supply teachers who come from the UK after their studies that they are not eligible, or they should not or they do not have to do the induction course, because at the present time that is the case.

HON DR B A LINARES:

I am not aware that there have been any complaints from teachers because of this but certainly we will look into the matter so that they are well informed, and I believe teachers right from the very start are pretty well informed of all their conditions of employment.

ORAL

NO 598 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – HEBREW PRIMARY SCHOOL

Can Government state how much money has been spent on maintenance in the Hebrew Primary School in the last and present financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 599 to 610 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 599 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – ST PAUL’S SCHOOL

Can Government state how much money has been spent on maintenance in St Paul's School in the last and present financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 598 and 600 to 610 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 600 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – ST MARY’S SCHOOL

Can Government state how much money has been spent on maintenance in St Mary's School in the last and present financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 598, 599 and 601 to 610 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 601 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – ST BERNARD’S SCHOOL

Can Government state how much money has been spent on maintenance in St Bernard's School in the last and present financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 598 to 600 and 602 to 610 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 602 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – NOTRE DAME SCHOOL

Can Government state how much money has been spent on maintenance in Notre Dame School in the last and present financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 598 to 601 and 603 to 610 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 603 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – ST JOSEPH’S FIRST SCHOOL

Can Government state how much money has been spent on maintenance in St Joseph's First School in the last and present financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 598 to 602 and 604 to 610 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 604 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – GOVERNOR’S MEADOW SCHOOL

Can Government state how much money has been spent on maintenance in Governor's Meadow School in the last and present financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 598 to 603 and 605 to 610 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 605 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – BISHOP FITZGERALD SCHOOL

Can Government state how much money has been spent on maintenance in Bishop Fitzgerald School in the last and present financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 598 to 604 and 606 to 610 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 606 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – ST JOSEPH’S MIDDLE SCHOOL

Can Government state how much money has been spent on maintenance in St Joseph's Middle School in the last and present financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 598 to 605 and 607 to 610 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 607 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – ST ANNE’S SCHOOL

Can Government state how much money has been spent on maintenance in St Anne's School in the last and present financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 598 to 606 and 608 to 610 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 608 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – SACRED HEART SCHOOL

Can Government state how much money has been spent on maintenance in Sacred Heart School in the last and present financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 598 to 607 and 609 to 610 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 609 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – BAYSIDE SCHOOL

Can Government state how much money has been spent on maintenance in Bayside School in the last and present financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 598 to 608 and 610 of 2004.

NO 610 OF 2004**THE HON S E LINARES****EDUCATION – WESTSIDE SCHOOL**

Can Government state how much money has been spent on maintenance in Westside School in the last and present financial year?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING**

I hand over a statement with all the details, the breakdown the hon Member is asking for.

School	2003/04		2004/05	
	Minor Works	Repairs	Minor Works	Repairs
Governor's Meadow	£109,794.00	£10,411.44	£10,789.31	£4,351.50
Notre Dame	£1,155.00	£41,958.48	-	£11,734.00
St Bernard's	-	£5,391.48	-	£447.50
St Mary's	£35,506.70	£6,358.05	-	£3,629.50
St Paul's	-	£10,864.20	-	£1,702.00
St Joseph's First	£3,654.31	£15,021.94	-	£3,985.00
Bishop Fitzgerald	£103,352.00	£23,095.79	-	£4,078.79
Sacred Heart	£10,722.61	£17,680.48	-	£3,949.88
St Anne's	-	£13,587.03	-	£6,021.50
St Joseph's Middle	£28,715.52	£11,282.76	-	£2,286.61
Hebrew Primary	-	£1,752.45	-	£305.00
Bayside	£42,979.22	£33,236.84	-	£3,670.00
Westside	-	£25,550.58	-	£10,956.91

May I point out that in total the amount spent on minor works in the last financial year in our schools was £350,000 and in repairs around £220,000, that gives us £570,000 spent in our schools on minor works and repairs. As to his question on this financial year, of course minor works only £10,000 we have had the opportunity to spend, that was in Governor's Meadow I think it was in connection with the asbestos problem. The rest is a question of on-going repairs which have cropped up in this financial year.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 610 OF 2004

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Minister state how the Department differentiates between minor works and repairs?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Yes, repairs is meeting problems that arise in the on-going daily life of the school, like breakages and burst pipes, broken windows and furniture, things that need to be repaired. Minor works is more developmental, more planned developments of the school infrastructure.

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Minister state in the list given whether any of these monies, because it states 2003/2004 and I understand that he has got 2004/2005 probably if it is Governor's Meadow it would be with the asbestos or anything else, something that has cropped up as minor works, but is this before because I wanted from the last financial year and the present financial year. Now the present financial year is not this one, the present financial year has not ended yet as such so we are talking about having the expenditure of 2003/2004, is this what has been spent to date and is there any money that is going to be spent from now till the end of this financial year?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The answer given relates to the financial year. The details totalling about £570,000 was in respect of the financial year 2003/2004 which has ended, it ended on 31st March. The hon Member also said that in addition they had spent £10,000 this year, meaning since 1st April, so the bulk of the information given deals with the last financial year, 2003/2004, the twelve month year period ending 31st March that has passed. The question also asks 'and present financial year' and he has had the answer, bearing in mind that most of this expenditure is incurred during the summer holidays. Therefore it would be unusual for it to happen in April, May, except for emergency works.

ORAL

NO 611 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – ST MARTIN’S SCHOOL

Can Government state how much money has been spent on maintenance in St Martin's School in the last and present financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 612 and 613 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 612 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – ST MARTIN’S SCHOOL

Can Government state whether the playground equipment at St Martin's that was due to have been installed in September 2003 has now been completed?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 611 and 613 of 2004.

NO 613 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – ST MARTIN’S SCHOOL

Can Government state whether St Martin’s school roof has been repaired?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

In answer to Question No. 611, the amount spent on St Martin’s school during the last financial year is minor works £51,138.38 and in repairs £10,519.54 and during the current financial year £4,078.79 spent on repairs during the past couple of months.

In answer to Question No. 612, the playground equipment has been purchased and the perimeter fence has now been replaced. All that now needs doing is resurfacing the area in question before we can actually install the equipment. These works will be carried out early during the current financial year.

In answer to Question No. 613 about the roof, the answer is no Sir, the roof has not been done yet.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 611 TO 613 OF 2004

HON S E LINARES

First of all in relation to the playground equipment, I remember asking this question I think it was the second but last session of the House of Assembly and the Minister gave us a guarantee that they were in the process of purchasing it at the time and they purchased it, and now the equipment is lying in St Martin’s school for the past six or eight months it has been lying there and no movement whatsoever is seen at St Martin’s School. I appreciate that the Minister wanted it in September 2003, well it has not happened, can he then state which is the next date in which the pupils of St Martin’s will be able to avail themselves of this equipment, which is lying by the way in the rain and sun in St Martin’s School.

HON DR B A LINARES:

I have answered that question, I have said that the resurfacing, which is necessary before the equipment is installed, will be carried out early during the current financial

year. The reason that it has not happened is purely for logistical reasons, the contractors also have to set their priorities in terms of demands made on them in St Martin's itself, in Governor's Meadow and Bishop Fitzgerald there were additional works to be carried out because of the asbestos problem and other issues like that that make it impossible logistically for the contractors to attend to everything that is in their shopping list.

HON S E LINARES:

So the Minister can confirm it is not part of his priority then. It is not part of his priority because if it were part of his priority, when I asked the question last time it was a major priority. Now it has gone down in his priority list obviously because (1) it has not been done; (2) it is still lying there and (3) now the Minister says there are extra works to be done before putting in the equipment. When the question was answered last time, the equipment is there, everything is going to be done. Now it seems that it has gone down the priority list.

ORAL

NO 614 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – ST JOSEPH’S NURSERY

Can Government state how much has been spent this financial year on computers in St Joseph's Nursery?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 615 to 633 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 615 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – ST BERNARD’S NURSERY

Can Government state how much has been spent this financial year on computers in St Bernard's Nursery?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 614 and 616 to 633 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 616 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – ST PAUL’S NURSERY

Can Government state how much has been spent this financial year on computers in St Paul's Nursery?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 614, 615 and 617 to 633 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 617 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – HEBREW PRIMARY SCHOOL

Can Government state how much has been spent this financial year on computers in the Hebrew Primary School?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 614 to 616 and 618 to 633 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 618 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – NOTRE DAME SCHOOL

Can Government state how much has been spent this financial year on computers in Notre Dame School?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 614 to 617 and 619 to 633 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 619 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – ST BERNARD’S SCHOOL

Can Government state how much has been spent this financial year on computers in St Bernard's School?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 614 to 618 and 620 to 633 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 620 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – ST JOSEPH’S FIRST SCHOOL

Can Government state how much has been spent this financial year on computers in St Joseph's First School?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 614 to 619 and 621 to 633 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 621 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – ST PAUL’S SCHOOL

Can Government state how much has been spent this financial year on computers in St Paul's School?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 614 to 620 and 622 to 633 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 622 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – GOVERNOR’S MEADOW SCHOOL

Can Government state how much has been spent this financial year on computers in Governor's Meadow School?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 614 to 621 and 623 to 633 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 623 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – ST MARY’S SCHOOL

Can Government state how much has been spent this financial year on computers in St Mary's School?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 614 to 622 and 624 to 633 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 624 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – BISHOP FITZGERALD SCHOOL

Can Government state how much has been spent this financial year on computers in Bishop Fitzgerald School?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 614 to 623 and 625 to 633 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 625 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – ST ANNE’S SCHOOL

Can Government state how much has been spent this financial year on computers in St Anne's School?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 614 to 624 and 626 to 633 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 626 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – SACRED HEART SCHOOL

Can Government state how much has been spent this financial year on computers in Sacred Heart School?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 614 to 625 and 627 to 633 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 627 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – ST JOSEPH’S MIDDLE SCHOOL

Can Government state how much has been spent this financial year on computers in St Joseph's Middle School?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 614 to 626 and 628 to 633 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 628 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – BAYSIDE SCHOOL

Can Government state how much has been spent this financial year on computers in Bayside School?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 614 to 627 and 629 to 633 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 629 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – WESTSIDE SCHOOL

Can Government state how much has been spent this financial year on computers in Westside School?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 614 to 628 and 630 to 633 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 630 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – ST MARTIN’S SCHOOL

Can Government state how much has been spent this financial year on computers in St Martin's School?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 614 to 629 and 631 to 633 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 631 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – COLLEGE OF FURTHER EDUCATION

Can Government state how much has been spent this financial year on computers in the Gibraltar College of Further Education?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 614 to 630 and 632 to 633 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 632 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – BLEAK HOUSE

Can Government state how much has been spent this financial year on computers in Bleak House?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 614 to 631 and 633 of 2004.

NO 633 OF 2004**THE HON S E LINARES****EDUCATION – COMPUTERS**

Can Government state how much has been spent this financial year on computers in offices of the Department of Education?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING**

The financial information requested by the hon Member is provided in a separate paper which I will hand to him.

NAME	SCHOOL COMPUTERS - AMOUNT
St Mary's First	£5,065.00
St Bernard's First	£5,413.00
St Joseph's First School and Nursery	£15,360.00
St Martin's School	£1,961.00
St Paul's First School and Nursery	£12,339.00
Notre Dame First School and Nursery	£11,234.00
Governor's Meadow First	£5,724.00
St Joseph's Middle	£25,007.00
Bishop Fitzgerald Middle	£14,923.00
St Anne's Middle	£2,443.00
Sacred Heart Middle	£14,025.00
Hebrew Primary	£2,188.00
Westside	£18,321.00
Bayside	£1,158.00 - £15,000 committed this financial year
Gibraltar College	£120,00 - £11,000 committed this financial year
St Paul's Nursery	-
St Bernard's Nursery	-
Offices	£7,310.00
Bleak House	£4,561.00
TOTAL SCHOOLS/OFFICES	£147,152.00

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 614 TO 633 OF 2004

In respect of the breakdown I would like to point out that in total £147,152.00 have been spent on computers in our schools this year. This figure actually excludes the installation of computer suites in all schools, except Bayside which is to be completed this year, but in all other schools computer suites have been completed with networked facilities and that came from the minor works vote rather than from computer equipment.

HON S E LINARES:

The Minister has stated he spent £147,152.00 in computers this year. It is quite short considering the amount the Chief Minister said he was going to spend, and he actually announced it, that he was going to spend £250,000 this year. The question, if I may, I have drawn it further because he stated that it would be spent on education but he said it at all levels, meaning to me or to anybody out in the street, at all levels meaning the youth, the Department of Education, Bleak House, training at all levels and that is why I have posed the question in Bleak House, in the College of Further Education and the Department of Education, so it falls short from what was announced.

HON DR B A LINARES:

That is a commitment as we said in respect of the lifts, not everything can be done in one go and this is an on-going expenditure which is targeted on that amount of money that the Chief Minister said.

HON S E LINARES:

It would be appreciated that that is announced, when it is announced that it is spent that it is going to take time rather than say 'oh we are spending £250,000 this year', this year because there is a difference between the lifts. The lifts could well be a commitment of four years and I can understand that and I think everybody here understands it. The Hon Mr Bruzon actually acknowledged that. What I am saying is, saying to the general public that this financial year, because it was to do with that specific year, it is short and the Minister must admit to that.

HON DR B A LINARES:

I will give the hon Member an example, we have been actually building networked computer suites in those schools, we cannot buy the computers for that school until that work is completed. So those are the logistical difficulties and complexities of actually dishing out the money to buy the computers. I hope the hon Member understands what we mean by logistical and operational complexities and difficulties.

HON S E LINARES:

Yes but I do understand that but it is the way that it is announced that people out there do not understand and that is that when it is announced it should be explained

at the same time of what the Minister is saying now, it will not be spent during one year it will be spent during two years or there are logistical problems in the way we spend the money. That is fair enough then but not to come out saying it will be spent and then it is not.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, not everybody is as concerned as the Opposition Member is to denigrate anything that the Government does. If the Government decide to make £250,000 worth of investments on computers in schools, the suggestion that in order that the hon Member should not suffer too much of an electoral disadvantage amongst people who think that this is a jolly good idea, that we should start adding 'oh and by the way this is straddled over two financial years, or it is subject to laying cables or it is subject' it is absurd. The Government disagree entirely with the alleged justification that the hon Member has just explained as to what should be the formal public announcement. The Government make a resource available for a particular improvement in the educational or any other line, and then the programme to deploy the expenditure of that resource is entirely a different matter. Some of them are announced and some of them are not. In fact the Government have not made as much of a fuss as they could have made about the deployment of this policy. We announced that we were going to renovate the computer infrastructure in the schools and we quietly got on doing it. If the hon Member prefers that every time we install computers in the school we issue a press release saying 'today the Government have installed computers in St Bernard's, hooray everybody three cheers for the Government' and we have still got left to do the following schools, then when we do the next school, I just do not accept the hon Member's view that when the Government make a general statement of allocating resources to a particular person that we have got to go into the nitty gritty about how it is going to be explained in case there is somebody who thought that it was all going to be spent on one day, the day after the announcement is made.

HON S E LINARES:

As typical of the Chief Minister distorting all of what I say, because he has just distorted it all, I have not said that he has to announce in every single press release, which he has said and I have not said I have not even mentioned press releases, I said that the Chief Minister announced £250,000 expenditure on computers at all levels, the Chief Minister announced it and where in the estimates is the £250,000, they can not even be found.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

There is a point of order. The hon Member has said that I have distorted what he has said and then he goes on into a diatribe none of which amounts to suggestions of distortion. So he should please start by explaining what it is that he has said that I have distorted by suggesting that he has said something different to what he has said.

HON S E LINARES:

The fact that I did not say that a press release has to be announced every time they buy a computer. That is a distortion, total distortion of what I said. What I said is that when he announced the £250,000 expenditure on computers he should have actually qualified that by saying 'if all the infrastructure is ready then we will spend the £250,000 on computers'. That is what I said. So he has distorted because every time he stands up he tries and changes the arguments in such a way that I am saying what I have not said. That is exactly what the Chief Minister has done.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Then it confirms what I believe. That is that the hon Member either does not understand the meaning of the word 'distortion' or does not know how to conduct a debate and distinguish between (a) distortion of other peoples statements on the one hand, and simply points used in illustration. Look, he alleges that the distortion of his words, his words do not require much distortion they are pretty distorted the moment they come out of his mouth, his allegation of distortion is that I have suggested that he has suggested that he had said that the Government needed to put a press release out every time a computer was installed in a different school. I never attributed those words to him. What I said was that the Government did not agree with his view that when the original statement was made all the details that he was now suggesting the Government should have included in the original statement should have been made. I have not attributed to him, I have therefore not distorted anything in relation to him in relation to the press releases. The reference to the press releases was mine not his, but it is not a distortion of what he says because the way that the Government make statements is through press releases. So the only way that the Government can clarify how the deployment of a policy is going is through press releases. I have not said that he had said that this is the way it has to be done, I was just explaining to the hon Member that the only way that the Government could inform the public in the nitty gritty of the deployment of the originally announced policy and expenditure was through a series of press releases, which the Government could have done for their own publicity purposes and chose not to do. That is not distorting anything, he did not even talk about press releases. So unless I had said 'the hon Member said that I should have issued a press release', that would have been distorting what he said because he did not say anything about press releases. So the hon Member is himself distorting the debate in this House by suggesting, falsely, that I have distorted what he has said, and he does it regularly because he does not distinguish and properly listen and analyse the statements that are made in his earshot. It is not I who distorts therefore, it is he who distorts or does not understand the meaning of the word 'distort', one or the other.

ORAL

NO 634 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – STUDENTS GRADUATED IN 2000

Can Government state how many students graduated who have been on government grants in 2000?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 635 to 649 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 635 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – STUDENTS GRADUATED IN 2000

Can Government state out of the students who graduated in 2000 how many have obtained employment in Gibraltar?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 634 and 636 to 649 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 636 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – STUDENTS GRADUATED IN 2000

Can Government state out of the students who graduated in 2000 how many went to do higher education?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 634, 635 and 637 to 649 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 637 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – HIGHER DEGREES IN 2000

Can Government state out of the students who completed higher degrees in 2000 how many went to obtain employment in Gibraltar?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 634 to 636 and 638 to 649 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 638 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – STUDENTS GRADUATED IN 2001

Can Government state how many students graduated who have been on government grants in 2001?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 634 to 637 and 639 to 649 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 639 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – STUDENTS GRADUATED IN 2001

Can Government state out of the students who graduated in 2001 how many went to do higher education?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 634 to 638 and 640 to 649 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 640 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – GRADUATES EMPLOYED IN 2001

Can Government state out of the students who have graduated in 2001 how many have obtained employment in Gibraltar?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 634 to 639 and 641 to 649 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 641 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – GRADUATES EMPLOYED IN 2001

Can Government state out of the students who completed higher degrees in 2001 how many went on to obtain employment in Gibraltar?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 634 to 640 and 642 to 649 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 642 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – STUDENTS GRADUATED IN 2002

Can Government state how many students graduated who have been on government grants in 2002?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 634 to 641 and 643 to 649 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 643 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – STUDENTS GRADUATED IN 2002

Can Government state out of the students who graduated in 2002 how many have obtained employment in Gibraltar?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 634 to 642 and 644 to 649 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 644 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – STUDENTS GRADUATED IN 2002

Can Government state out of the students who graduated in 2002 how many went to do higher education?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 634 to 643 and 645 to 649 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 645 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – STUDENTS GRADUATED IN 2002

Can Government state out of the students who completed higher degrees in 2002 how many went on to obtain employment in Gibraltar?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 634 to 644 and 646 to 649 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 646 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – STUDENTS GRADUATED IN 2003

Can Government state how many students graduated who have been on government grants in 2003?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 634 to 645 and 647 to 649 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 647 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – STUDENTS GRADUATED IN 2003

Can Government state out of the students who graduated in 2003 how many have obtained employment in Gibraltar?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 634 to 646 and 648 to 649 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 648 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – STUDENTS GRADUATED IN 2003

Can Government state out of the students who graduated in 2003 how many went to do higher education?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 634 to 647 and 649 of 2004.

NO 649 OF 2004**THE HON S E LINARES****EDUCATION – STUDENTS GRADUATED IN 2003**

Can Government state out of the students who completed higher degrees in 2003 how many went on to obtain employment in Gibraltar?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING**

The statistical information requested, to the extent that it is available, is set out in the schedule that I hand to the hon Member.

Answer to Question No. 649 of 2004

1. The breakdown of students graduated who have been on Government grants by year is as follows:-

YEAR	NO. OF STUDENTS
2000	216
2001	242
2002	201
2003	254

2. The breakdown of students who graduated and went on to do higher education by year is as follows:-

YEAR	NO. OF STUDENTS
2000	9
2001	18
2002	20
2003	24

3. The Government do not compile records regarding the employment obtained by graduates it has sponsored. We are satisfied that the employability of individual graduates is enhanced by their participation in higher education and this justifies our investment in this area.

4. The situation in respect of students who have graduated with higher degrees is the same as for those who completed first degrees.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 634 TO 649 OF 2004

HON S E LINARES:

Did the Minister not commit himself or at least gave us the assurance that he was going to monitor the fact that he was going to look at how many of the students who graduated either on first degrees or higher degrees, whether they obtained employment in Gibraltar?

HON DR B A LINARES:

What I did say was that we were trying very hard to obtain this information. The system that we adopted in recent years was actually issuing questionnaires to graduates of first degrees and higher degrees, but the response was so poor to put it bluntly that the indicators, the resulting data was really not indicative or reliable. So my answer is that we have not got any reliable or indicative records of the outcome in terms of employment and other avenues of graduates and those who have finished their first degrees, I am being perfectly honest about it. It is just that we have not been able, though we have tried hard, obviously the only way is approaching directly through a form of survey but these surveys have not really led to any information that I would put on the Table here as being really indicative.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Do Government not consider it important to know how much of the investment that is being made in higher education is actually reflected in people coming back here rather than staying abroad with the knowledge that they have gained?

HON DR B A LINARES:

It is important to some extent I would say because then there is also the freedom of choice of students, we educate them, we fund their education, enrich their experience academically and intellectually but then of course the freedom of the individual to choose their own avenue in life is also important to accept, but yes it is important that we have some indication to what extent our investments yield for our own benefit in our own economy, but as I have been honest enough to say that our methods of obtaining this information have as yet not yielded any clear response.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is it still the practice to require students to sign an undertaking that they will come back?

HON DR B A LINARES:

It is the practice still on a very formal contract basis when they sign for sponsorship, but then as most of them are not required by Government, the contract is that they may be required by Government to serve the Government's employment not anywhere else in the private sector. As this is not available, except in some cases like teachers for instance, the subject teacher is required in a particular vacancy for that particular subject, mathematics, physics, it is difficult to recruit, then of course the Government have the option to demand that contractual obligation, but as I say generally I have to say that most of these contractual obligations entered from the start are waived.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I see, is a waiver any indication of the numbers not coming back?

HON DR B A LINARES:

No because the waiver is limited as I say to all those who are required by Government to serve the interests of Government but not across the board to other students, graduates who may choose all sorts of avenues in life.

HON J J BOSSANO:

What is the element that, for example, that is mentioned in the Auditor's report of people having to repay the Government, what is that in respect of?

HON DR B A LINARES:

It is rather complicated actually. The refunding of monies spent on a student during one particular year is required when it is manifest that the student has failed the completion of that year in terms of university qualification, with an element of negligence, certainly not in the case of illness but it is assessed on the particular case and the merits of each particular case whether there is just a sheer negligent approach, the fact that the Government have actually funded a year and after two months or three months the student packs it in. As one can understand it is in the tax payers interest that Government try to recoup that money.

HON J J BOSSANO:

It has nothing to do then with whether they come back or not?

HON DR B A LINARES:

No.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is there any other source than the Department of Education that could be used for this. For example, the Employment Service, could they be alerted to, at the end of the academic year when the student is due to come back, to get a feedback of what sort of numbers or what proportion come back.

HON DR B A LINARES:

Yes, that is a very good point and since my arrival in the Employment Ministry I am actually pursuing the possibility of actually obtaining that information through the machinery and the processes of the Employment Services, but as I say I am new there and we are now considering the possibilities of actually obtaining this information.

ORAL

NO 650 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANTS

Can Government state how many learning support assistants are permanent and pensionable, on temporary contract, and supply in St Martin's?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 651 to 663 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 651 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANTS

Can Government state how many learning support assistants are permanent and pensionable, on temporary contract, and supply in the Hebrew Primary?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 650 and 652 to 663 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 652 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANTS

Can Government state how many learning support assistants are permanent and pensionable, on temporary contract, and supply in St Joseph's First?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 550, 651 and 653 to 663 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 653 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANTS

Can Government state how many learning support assistants are permanent and pensionable, on temporary contract, and supply in Notre Dame?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 650 to 652 and 654 to 663 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 654 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANTS

Can Government state how many learning support assistants are permanent and pensionable, on temporary contract, and supply in St Paul's?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 650 to 653 and 655 to 663 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 655 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANTS

Can Government state how many learning support assistants are permanent and pensionable, on temporary contract, and supply in St Bernard's?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 650 to 654 and 656 to 663 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 656 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANTS

Can Government state how many learning support assistants are permanent and pensionable, on temporary contract, and supply in St Mary's?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 650 to 655 and 657 to 663 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 657 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANTS

Can Government state how many learning support assistants are permanent and pensionable, on temporary contract, and supply in Governor's Meadow?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 650 to 656 and 658 to 663 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 658 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANTS

Can Government state how many learning support assistants are permanent and pensionable, on temporary contract, and supply in Bishop Fitzgerald?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 650 to 657 and 659 to 663 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 659 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANTS

Can Government state how many learning and support assistants are permanent and pensionable, on temporary contract, and supply in St Joseph's Middle?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 650 to 658 and 660 to 663 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 660 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANTS

Can Government state how many learning support assistants are permanent and pensionable, on temporary contract, and supply in St Anne's?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 650 to 659 and 661 to 663 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 661 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANTS

Can Government state how many learning support assistants are permanent and pensionable, on temporary contract, and supply in Sacred Heart?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 650 to 660 and 662 to 663 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 662 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANTS

Can Government state how many learning support assistants are permanent and pensionable, on temporary contract, and supply in Bayside?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 650 to 661 and 663 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 663 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANTS

Can Government state how many learning support assistants are permanent and pensionable, on temporary contract, and supply in Westside?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

I hand over to the hon Member the statistical information that he requires. A few handwritten marginal notes that I have put in will surely not distract him from the essence.

Answer to Question 663

School
P&P
P&P
Supply
Supply
Temporary

F/T
P/T
F/T
P/T
Contract

Governor's Meadow

0
0
0
4hrs
0

Notre Dame

4
1
2
2
0

St Mary's

0
0
0
10hrs
0

St Paul's

1
0
3
1

	0
St Joseph's First	2 1 0 2 0
St Bernard's	0 0 0 1 0
Bishop Fitzgerald	1 2 1* 2* 0
Sacred Heart	0 0 1 0 0
St Anne's	0 1 0 0 0
St Joseph's Middle	0 0 0 0 0
Hebrew Primary	0 0 0 1 0

St Martin's	4
	9
	0
	1.5
	0
Bayside	5
	1
	0
	0
	0
Westside	2
	0
	1
	0
	0

*The two p/t P&P Classroom Aides and the two supply p/t Classroom Aides are the same people. They are doing extra hours on supply which brings them up to full time. The f/t supply Classroom Aide goes over to Governor's Meadow for 4hrs.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 650 TO 663 OF 2004

HON S E LINARES:

Is the Minister satisfied at the fact that there are so many on the supply compared to on permanent and pensionable? I count about 12 on supply and it seems like it is quite a high number. Can the Minister state what is the average time that a supply stays on supply as in rolling supply?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I am sorry but I do not quite understand the question. If I can answer the first part of the question.

HON S E LINARES:

I will ask the question then. The question is, is the Minister satisfied with the high amount of supply learning support assistants that he has in this list?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, the Minister can answer in a moment, I jolly well hope he is because I am highly dissatisfied with the amount of money that has been spent on this matter.

HON S E LINARES:

Well that is the amount of money that inclusion policy costs. These are the policies of Government so Government have to have the responsibility of paying for their policies. This is inclusion, this is a lot to do with the inclusion process. This is not absent teachers, this is learning support assistants. This has nothing to do with teachers, it is to do with learning support assistants.

HON DR B A LINARES:

As the Chief Minister has pointed out, obviously the budgetary consideration of these programmes have to be taken into account to ensure that we get value for money in this respect, but in respect of the supplementary about the huge amount of supply classroom aides compared with the permanent and pensionable classroom aides, that is not correct. My sums here make it 19 permanent and pensionable classroom aides, full time and 16 part time permanent and pensionable as opposed to eight supply full time and five, really 10, but the equivalent of five full time part time supplies. So really your initial statement that there was a lack of balance between the permanent and pensionable supply, remember may I point out that only very recently we actually made permanent and pensionable 13 classroom aides.

HON S E LINARES:

I say that because the percentage is pretty high. If on the one hand the Minister has just stated that he has got 16 full time and then he has eight on supply, so there are 15 P&Ps and eight on supply, that is 50 per cent, it is high. What I am trying to get at really is how many of these supply team learning support assistants have been on supply for 3, 4, 5 years? Some of them have been for a long time. That is another question.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No it is actually not the question, it is another question but the premise of his last supplementary is not relevant. In other words, this Government by the way, Governments in Gibraltar have always used supply teachers for many years, this Government, not the previous one, this Government adopted the policy of considering whether people that had been on supply terms for an extended period of time were really members of the permanent establishment who were just on cheaper terms and conditions unfairly, so we introduced the process of looking at this from a socially and labour fairness point of view. So let that be the starting point. We did what no government had done before but that principle does not necessarily apply in this area because some of these assistants had been engaged because of particular children going through the educational system at this point in time that may need one to one or, one to two or one to three, so one can not make them permanent and pensionable because when those children get beyond a certain point in their educational system there may not be others that need that degree of care and attention. It is a service, this particular facility is a facility that can only sensibly be provided but particularly when it is for named students. If there were a teacher for young Joe Bloggs because young Joe Bloggs needs a particular form of cover, one cannot employ a permanent and pensionable person for the next 40 years because Joe Bloggs needs attention for the next two years. What does one do with the person when Joe Bloggs has finished school? There may not be another Joe Bloggs or person needing one to one, so it is not an area that it is easy to apply the general principle to about percentages, the ratio being high, which is the hon Member's point, well there is 16 to 10 that is a very high ratio. The nature of the activity giving rise to the need for these assistants is such that it necessarily has to have a high number of people on supply or other forms of temporary employment, it does not have to be supply terms, the Government could, if it wanted to, develop some other model of temporary employment as opposed to permanent and pensionable and not call it supply, I think we have had this discussion in the House in the past.

HON S E LINARES:

Just to put on the record, his Government who got rid of these supplies as he said.....

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

We gave them permanent and pensionable conditions.

HON S E LINARES:

Yes, but it was I in the GTA who negotiated with the GSLP to get rid of teachers who had been, not only because of the GSLP but the previous AACR, they had been on the supply list, at least on a permanent supply because they had been on permanent supply for 11, 10, 8, 6 years and what I am saying is we got rid of it, but unfortunately this Government have re-established the same issue. I will give an example, all teachers, there are many teachers on supply lists now, there are loads of them they come back from the UK and the first thing is that they are given a year of supply which is a contradiction in terms. A supply should be under contract not on a supply basis and the Government are employing teachers on a supply basis who have loads of problems. Why, because they want to get mortgages, they cannot get mortgages because there are issues of non full time employment, these are the issues. So the Chief Minister should first look at the facts, like he tells me constantly, to look at the facts to look at everything that has been done during the past and not do the practice that he is doing now. The practice now, and he is doing the same with the learning support assistants may I add. That is why I am mentioning it because there are learning support assistants who have been on a supply basis for five years and I do not accept the argument that Joe Bloggs will not be here next year. One can do that on a small scale but not on a 50 per cent scale like it is done now.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Eight individuals is a pretty small scale. It is not a question of percentages it is a question of the number of individuals. Well the hon Member may have as part of the GTA negotiated with the GSLP government, of course of which he is not a part, he belongs to a different political party, well I am sorry that his negotiations were so unsuccessful.

HON S E LINARES:

No they did succeed.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not know whether he succeeded or whether he did not, all I can tell the hon Member is that when we came into office we were presented by the unions with lists of people going back a decade on supply terms. We were correcting people that had been on supply for years and years and the hon Members negotiations on their behalf with the then government of Gibraltar were not successful. I will give the hon Member the names and the dates and how long they had been there for. On the question of permanent and pensionable terms, the hon Member can sit there shaking his head, I can assure him that what I am telling him is correct and what I will now do is I will personally take the trouble to see how many supply teachers the GSLP government made permanent and pensionable during any time that he was an official of the GTA, and I will bring that information back to this House next time we meet on Question Time because that information is available. So if the hon Member has tried to erect, as I believe he has, a self-serving political argument which is factually untrue, I intend to remove the bush from in front of him so that he no longer has a hiding place. Now, he says about people with mortgages, look employing people on permanent and pensionable terms is an extremely costly thing for the tax payer. The Government do not engage people on permanent and pensionable terms to help

them out with their mortgage, or so that they can decide whether they can buy a house for this or that price, the Government employs people on permanent and pensionable terms when there is a requirement and a need to do so in the interests of the tax payer, not in the interests of the employee of the person concerned.

On the whole question of classroom aides the hon Member has got to understand that classroom aides as a concept in the United Kingdom, is being introduced increasingly as a cheap way of recruiting teachers. In other words, they have got too high a teacher pupil ratio and instead of employing more teachers and reducing the size of the classroom, they employ classroom aides, shove them in with the teacher and still have one teacher for 40 pupils. Well in Gibraltar we have sorted out that problem in a different way. We have an agreement with the GTA as to pupil teacher ratios, that is the envy, in fact the United Kingdom will never reach that pupil teacher ratio ever, and the suggestion therefore that we should both have our Rolls Royce solution to the problem and on top of it replicate the United Kingdom's poor mans alternative for sorting out the same problem is crass, absolutely crass. The idea that because the United Kingdom does not want to employ teachers to bring the teacher pupil ratio down when we already have our teacher pupil ratio down to lower levels than the UK is even aiming at as a target, that we should also fill our classrooms with classroom aides at the taxpayers expense I can assure him will never become the policy of the Government. As far as I am concerned classroom aides are only in relation to the individual needs of individual pupils on temporary passage through the educational system and they are not and are never going to be something that the Government recruits mimicking the UK when we do not have the problem that the UK has and that that is the reason why they are recruiting. If the UK had a pupil teacher ratio of 1 to 23 as we have, they would not dream of employing an additional classroom aide to put in amongst those people and that is the position and that is why the Government do not make more classroom aides permanent and pensionable, because it is a temporary requirement which is supplied by a temporary method of labour provision and the Government are not prepared to satisfy a temporary need with permanent and pensionable staff. It is a noose around the financial necks of future tax payers and the Government consider it completely undesirable to do that.

HON C A BRUZON:

May I distinguish between pensionable and permanent and the matter of holiday entitlement and sick leave because I think what is important is to take into account that there are classrooms aides, or whatever the new terminology is, who have been in fact in our schools for more than a year, two years, and they have no sick leave entitlement and no holiday entitlement.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

That is a much more valid distinction to make. In other words, the difference between supply and temporary. One does not want to make somebody permanent and pensionable because one does not have the permanent need for their services. That does not mean that one has to employ them on the terms which presently attach to supply workers. Supply workers are supposed to be covering for absent staff. That should, and I agree with him, it should be distinguished with staff for which there is a finite, in terms of time and therefore temporary need. What is presently happening is that they are being drawn from the same pool of people and therefore they have been supply on supply terms, but as I said to him in a

supplementary a few moments ago, the Government could consider a form of contract as opposed to just supply workers. In other words, an alternative model. The fact that one is not permanent and pensionable does not mean that it has to be on supply terms, it is possible to devise a middle model of temporary contracted worker with terms, as the hon Member has said, about leave entitlement and other terms and conditions of employment better than the supply worker. I think that is a perfectly rational suggestion which the Government should certainly look into.

HON S E LINARES:

I appreciate wholeheartedly the last bit that the Chief Minister has said because that is the answer, not only to the hon Member's question but also to mine. The diatribe that he went on before must be ignored, which is to do with classroom pupil teacher relationship, with the UK, the comparisons and all these things. I never mentioned anything of this sort and again the Chief Minister goes on to distort not what I said but distort the whole argument. Talking about classroom aides and I was told off two sessions of the House ago, that it is not classroom aides any more they are learning support assistants, but that is another point. What I am saying is that I appreciate the fact that the Chief Minister has realised that there are people who are five years on supply and have not got rights and this is the issue, and this was the issue with the supply teachers, and this is the issue which I wanted to bring up and I am glad that it has been answered now.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I correct what I said before about the hon Member. The problem is not that he does not know what the word 'distort' means, the problem is that he does not have a sufficiently long memory retention function to remember what he himself said in the last 15 minutes, this is his problem. Or does he not remember asking about whether the Minister was satisfied with the number of classroom aides that he has? Or does he not remember asking the Minister whether these people should be made permanent and pensionable? To suggest that the answer that I have given the Hon Mr Bruzon is the answer to his question is not correct. The Hon Mr Bruzon, has cogently acknowledged the distinction between permanent and pensionable on the one hand and temporary on the other. The hon Member has said nothing that suggests either that he understands that there is a difference between the two, still less that he acknowledges and agrees that there is a viable difference between the two. The hon Member was asking the Government to make these 8 people, which he says is a very high percentage, I suppose one person is 50 per cent and therefore in his language a very high percentage if it is out of two, he seems to think that because there are eight and the total is 16, that that is a very high percentage. Well, in respect of that number, eight or 50 per cent depending on how we present the statistic, the hon Member was asking for them to be made permanent and pensionable. Well, I am sorry, it is implicit in everything that the hon Member has said and explicit in some of the things that he has said. The hon Member's problem is that he appears, I do not know whether he engages his jaws and does not connect it to his memory, this may be a problem. This has been going on in supplementaries with my Colleague the Hon Dr Linares for about half an hour on the basis that he was wrong that these eight people should be on supply terms and not permanent and pensionable terms. When I explained to the hon Member why they are not on permanent and pensionable terms, he describes all that as irrelevant to nothing that he raised and a distortion of everything that he said. A terribly adult debate, when I do not like the answers that I am getting I know, I will stand up and describe them as

distortion of what I said, let us see if I can throw enough mud into the water to make it murky. This seems to be his intellectual approach to debating in this House. It does not make what I say a distortion it simply means that he does not know. So I am glad that he agrees with me and with the hon Member sitting next to him, he is completely wrong in thinking that that is an answer to his question. It would have been an answer to his question if he had asked could these people be on some model of employment other than permanent and pensionable which respected their rights of employment a little bit more than the supply terms do. Does he have any recollection of having said or asked anything similar? Do those words strike his memory as concepts that he has formulated or uttered in the last half hour? No. I suggested it and then his Colleague next to him suggested it, and when he has suggested it I have agreed with him but I do not agree with the Hon Mr Linares because his thrust was permanent and pensionable and the Government do not agree.

ORAL

NO 664 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – SCHOOL NURSES

Can Government state how many times school nurses have visited St Joseph's First School in the last and present academic year giving a breakdown by term?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 665 to 677 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 665 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – SCHOOL NURSES

Can Government state how many times school nurses have visited Notre Dame School in the last and present academic year giving a breakdown by term?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 664 and 666 to 677 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 666 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – SCHOOL NURSES

Can Government state how many times school nurses have visited St Paul's First School in the last and present academic year giving a breakdown by term?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 664, 665 and 667 to 677 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 667 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – SCHOOL NURSES

Can Government state how many times school nurses have visited St Mary's School in the last and present academic year giving a breakdown by term?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 664 to 666 and 668 to 677 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 668 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – SCHOOL NURSES

Can Government state how many times school nurses have visited Governor's Meadow School in the last and present academic year giving a breakdown by term?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 664 to 667 and 669 to 677 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 669 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – SCHOOL NURSES

Can Government state how many times school nurses have visited the Hebrew Primary School in the last and present academic year giving a breakdown by term?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 664 to 668 and 670 to 677 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 670 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – SCHOOL NURSES

Can Government state how many times school nurses have visited St Bernard's School in the last and present academic year giving a breakdown by term?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 664 to 669 and 671 to 677 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 671 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – SCHOOL NURSES

Can Government state how many times school nurses have visited Bishop Fitzgerald School in the last and present academic year giving a breakdown by term?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 664 to 670 and 672 to 677 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 672 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – SCHOOL NURSES

Can Government state how many times school nurses have visited St Joseph's Middle in the last and present academic year giving a breakdown by term?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 664 to 671 and 673 to 677 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 673 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – SCHOOL NURSES

Can Government state how many times school nurses have visited St Anne's School in the last and present academic year giving a breakdown by term?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 664 to 672 and 674 to 677 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 674 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – SCHOOL NURSES

Can Government state how many times school nurses have visited Sacred Heart School in the last and present academic year giving a breakdown by term?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 664 to 673 and 675 to 677 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 675 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – SCHOOL NURSES

Can Government state how many times school nurses have visited Bayside School in the last and present academic year giving a breakdown by term?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 664 to 674 and 676 to 677 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 676 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – SCHOOL NURSES

Can Government state how many times school nurses have visited Westside School in the last and present academic year giving a breakdown by term?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 664 to 675 and 677 of 2004.

NO 677 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – SCHOOL NURSES

Can Government state how many times school nurses have visited St Martin's Special School in the last and present academic year giving a breakdown by term?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Visits to schools by the School health nursing team are currently carried out only upon request by the individual schools. In 1998 the provision of health services for children in schools came under review by the GHA. The review concluded that with the development of services at the time in the Primary Care Centre and the strengthening of paediatrics in the community, the existing arrangements for routine examinations of healthy children during school visits by nurses were shown by research to be no longer appropriate or of any great benefit to the health of children. It was then decided to replace these arrangements with an enhanced immunisation programme with a greater medical input in a clinical environment for all school children up to school-leaving age. School nurses of course continue to work closely with other professionals such as the dental practitioners, the othoptist, the optometrist, through clinics which identify children with special health needs and they are always available to parents, carers and teachers for advice and indeed will visit schools when requested to do so.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 664 TO 677 OF 2004

HON S E LINARES:

When was this introduced?

HON DR B A LINARES:

In 1998 there was this review of the service by the GHA.

HON S E LINARES:

When was it that the school nurses did not regularly go like they used to? When was it implemented? The Minister stated that it was looked at in 1998 but when was it

implemented? When was the last time that the school nurses regularly attended schools?

HON DR B A LINARES:

In 1998, that was when the whole system as existed then was reviewed, and by that I understand that they reconsidered what they were providing and that they then decided and concluded that they would provide this on a wider context that I have actually explained in detail.

ORAL

NO 678 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

AIR QUALITY MONITORING

Can Government now state if they have now finally determined what equipment they will provide or fund for the Environment Agency to enable the latter to continually and properly monitor air quality in Gibraltar?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES

Answered together with Question No. 679 of 2004.

NO 679 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

“BUCKET BRIGADE”

Will the Government agree to provide any financial assistance to the Environmental Safety Group for the presentations and other activities scheduled by that charity and to be held in Gibraltar between 7-11 May this year by Mr Denny Larson of the "Bucket Brigade"?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES

There is provision in this year's estimates for the Improvement and Development Fund for the acquisition of necessary and proper scientific equipment to monitor air quality in accordance with and as required by the Air Quality Directives. In answer to the hon Member's second question and as a result of my first reply, the Government do not consider it necessary or appropriate to provide funds for the "Bucket Brigade".

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 678 TO 679 OF 2004

HON F R PICARDO:

I am grateful for that answer. Can the Minister give an indication of what exactly it is that the equipment purchased will be?

HON F VINET:

What I can tell the Opposition Member is that the equipment will measure and monitor levels of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and oxides of nitrogen particular matter, lead, carbon monoxide, benzene and ozone. The particular equipment he refers to, what is expected is that there will be two different monitoring stations. One will be at a roadside location on a major road and close to key power generation point sources, and a second smaller station away from the town area.

HON F R PICARDO:

Can I ask the Minister whether that is in fact in keeping with the recommendations made in the report which the Chief Minister referred to in answer to Question No. 10

of 2004? Was there in fact a recommendation in that report that there should be two stations, one large station and one smaller station?

HON F VINET:

There is no need for two stations. In fact merely one station will suffice to meet the requirements of the European legislation as is mentioned locally as well.

HON F R PICARDO:

The Chief Minister said in answer to Question No. 10 of 2004, which I put dealing with the same issue, that there is a report which Government are presently considering which raises many issues. Amongst them these issues precisely of that sort, and one of the different options, this is the unedited version of Hansard, is whether there should be just one monitoring station or a series of little monitoring points all over. The reason I am asking the Minister whether we are going to have a large and one small station and whether that was in the report, is because the answer given by the Chief Minister seemed to suggest either one main station, which covers all, or various small stations not just one small station. I would be grateful for some clarification in that respect.

HON F VINET:

As I have said, just that the one station would suffice for legal requirements. It was simply felt that we would add a second one, albeit a smaller one, to ensure that the readings are as accurate as possible.

HON F R PICARDO:

That would be in keeping with the provisions of this report, or has the Minister not had sight of this report?

HON F VINET:

It would be in keeping with the report.

HON F R PICARDO:

Thank you, that is what I wanted to establish.

ORAL

NO 680 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

WASTE DISPOSAL – TRANSACTION MANAGER

Can Government state what is the latest position regarding the tenders for the disposal of waste and refuse by any process and whether a Transaction Manager has now been appointed?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES

Answered together with Question No. 681 of 2004.

NO 681 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

INCINERATOR

Can Government state whether it is still their intention to build a new incinerator plant in Gibraltar and if so what site has been identified for this purpose?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES

Yes it still continues to be the intention of the Government to do so. The location has not yet been finally decided, but will probably be the site of the current inoperative incinerator plant, and the project of course will go out to tender.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 680 TO 681 OF 2004

HON F R PICARDO:

I think that was an answer to both Question No. 680 and No. 681.

HON L A RANDALL:

Has the transaction manager now been appointed or not?

HON F VINET:

The reason why Government have chosen to reply to these questions together is the following. That is the intention to combine the incinerator with that of the proposed sewage treatment works, because the sludge that emanates for this sewage treatment works is likely to be incinerated at the incinerator. Therefore it makes practical and economic sense for both projects to be combined and of course for the Government to have to deal with just the one entity. Tenders for the appointment of a transaction manager to administer both these projects for Government were received some time ago. The Government decided to reduce the scope of the services to be provided by the transaction manager to that of the provision of specialist technical advice before preferred bidders were asked to resubmit their proposal for the revised scope of works. The revised proposals were received in late November and they send a report with recommendations and an award is currently receiving Government consideration.

HON F R PICARDO:

Is the Minister aware that the question of the burning of sludge effluent is something which causes considerable concerns to those who have better knowledge of the chemical issues involved. In particular because in Gibraltar our sewage runs with salt water whilst in most other parts of the European Union it runs with fresh water. Of course it makes a lot more sense in my view that it should run with salt water but that the burning of the sewage which has that salt water in it, can create I think carcinogens if the smoke is not properly treated and that should be something which should be very much at the top of the Government's agenda if consideration is being given to the burning of our sewage.

HON F VINET:

What I can tell the Opposition Member is that Government are aware of those views, but indeed there are varying opinions within the expert field and of course Government are aware of those opinions and will take them into account.

HON F R PICARDO:

Will Government agree to provide the Opposition with a copy of whatever opinion they have obtained which suggests that the burning of sewage which includes salt water will not create an escape into the ambient air of Gibraltar which has any dangerous carcinogens?

HON F VINET:

What I can give an undertaking to this House is that whatever measures are implemented will comply fully with the requirements contained in EU legislation as passed in Gibraltar.

HON F R PICARDO:

I would not expect the Minister or anybody in this House to want to do anything which is not in compliance with legislation but if the Minister is telling the House that we are not to worry because there is an expert report, will he consider sharing that expert report with both sides of the House so that we can all be satisfied that an issue of public health such as that is being dealt with in a manner which is satisfactory?

HON F VINET:

At this stage the answer would be no.

NO 682 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

WASTE DISPOSAL – COLLECTION POINTS

Can the Government state if they will agree to take action to avoid the unsightly accumulation of rubbish at open refuse collection points which attract rodents and other animals by providing for these collection points to be designed in a manner that will allow for rubbish to be deposited in closed receptacles?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES

The Government continue to operate the refuse collection points in accordance with the system designed and introduced by the GSLP when it was in government. There are no plans at present to change that system. The Government do, however, share the hon Member's apparent view that this is sometimes unsightly. Government have not been advised that a change is required due to rodents. However, if closed receptacles should be viable, have no adverse implications for the collection process and were impractical for users to deposit the rubbish in, the Government might consider such a system as an improvement on the present one.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 682 OF 2004

HON F R PICARDO:

The Minister is not responsible for the manifesto commitments of his colleagues of 1996 but he has admitted in his answer that the system in place today for the collection of refuse is exactly the same as there was before 1996. In the 1996 manifesto of the GSD there was provision for changing the unsightly accumulation of rubbish at refuse collection points. In some areas of Gibraltar, in particular in the Upper Town and in areas beyond Catalan Bay, apes are being attracted to come down despite the rules on the non-feeding of apes, because they can access food in the refuse collection points. That in itself is attracting other animals et cetera because the apes are able to rip open plastic bags which other animals are not able to do. Can the Minister at least commit himself to look into this because I think it is important that for the general look of Gibraltar, in particular in the Upper Town when tourists come down from visiting the Upper Rock, it looks very unsightly and for the sake of all of us that live here I am sure it is not any good for the public health of any of his constituents or mine.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, first of all I should say that everybody is everybody's constituents, we do not have a constituency system and since he cannot be certain which citizen voted for him and which citizen voted for us then we should all regard the whole electorate as our constituents, but the Government basically agree with the sentiment expressed in his question and I think that was the intention of the answer. It is being considered. Whenever these things are replaced they are, wherever possible, replaced by the covered ones. There are operational considerations. The amount of space available for the refuse truck. Does it add to the time for emptying? Would that create traffic problems? The Government's policy is completely in accord with the view that he has expressed. In other words, it is preferable where it does not undermine the operational viability of the insertion and collection and carting away process, that these things should be covered up. Unsightliness, smell, all manner of reasons. So the answer to his question is yes.

HON F R PICARDO:

Perhaps we can go even a step further. We are not just talking about the green bins which have lids which are covered. Those bins themselves are often in areas which are not covered. In other words instead of being in a building.....

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes but they are put in a bin.

HON F R PICARDO:

I understand that and I appreciate that. Very often the bins are sufficient to keep the refuse in control so to speak.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not know I think there are covers over the bin.

HON F R PICARDO:

Right. There are some areas where those bins are located and they are not within buildings they are only in open areas where the monkeys gain access, open the bins, other animals cannot do it and the mess.....

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Those are only in places where there are monkeys.

HON F R PICARDO:

I will resist the quip that obviously flows from that. The mess, especially on Sunday evenings, is absolutely disastrous and obviously that in itself attracts other rodents. Perhaps the best solution is that I should liaise further with the Minister for the Environment and show him photographic evidence of what I mean so that we can perhaps together try and see what action can be taken to resolve it.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

We do not need photographic evidence of what he means. What he means is perfectly clear without the need for photographic evidence. We agree with him. All we are saying is that different central collection points lend themselves physically to different sorts of treatment and some of these collection points are in areas where they cannot be covered up, the egress, entrance and egress to them is necessarily constrained because of where they are located in relation to the highway. Indeed some of them are in areas where, there are some on Line Wall Road which are very unsightly. I agree with the hon Member. The Government's position is, unless there is a very good reason why these things cannot be put more out of sight or covered up, in whichever of the two ways he has described, that they should be, unless there is a very good reason why it cannot be. So by all means he should exchange ideas with the Minister. It is something that is in hand.

ORAL

NO 683 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DUMPING OF RUBBLE

Have Government now found an alternative site to the area next to the Caleta Hotel for the dumping of rubble?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES

The Government have not yet made a decision on an alternative site for the location of a rubble tip. Several sites remain under consideration including the area to the south of the Caleta Hotel.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 683 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The last time we discussed this issue I think the position was that the area next to the Caleta Hotel was actually the preferred site for dumping given the alternatives that the Government had. Is that still the position?

HON F VINET:

It continues to be one of the possible options but is not the preferred site.

ORAL

NO 684 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

ORANGE BASTION

Have Government now taken a decision to proceed with the Orange Bastion project?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES

The Government will proceed with this project but no decision has been taken as to timing. It is not planned for the current financial year.

ORAL

NO 685 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

FEASIBILITY STUDY – SEWAGE TREATMENT

Can Government state whether the feasibility study on what is required to comply with EU requirements on sewage treatment has been completed and whether they propose to make the results of the study public?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES

Answered together with Question Nos. 686 to 688 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 686 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

SEWAGE PLANT – TENDER

Can Government state when they propose to go to tender for the proposed sewage treatment plant?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES

Answered together with Question Nos. 685, 687 and 688 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 687 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

SEWAGE PLANT – LOCATION

Can Government state where they intend to locate the proposed sewage treatment plant?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES

Answered together with Question Nos. 685, 686 and 688 of 2004.

NO 688 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

SEWAGE PLANT – COST

Can Government explain their plans to invest 40 million euros in a sewage plant?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES

A number of studies have had to be undertaken to generate the necessary data for inclusion in the tender documents for the proposed sewage treatment works. An initial scoping study was undertaken and this provided cost estimates for the proposed works. The quoted figure reflects the possible order of cost for the overall project.

Additional studies have been undertaken in relation to this project, some of which have now been completed and others due for completion during the coming months. Until all such studies have been completed and Government have had the opportunity to consider its contents and assess the implications, they will not be in a position to proceed with this tender.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 685 TO 688 OF 2004

HON L A RANDALL:

Can the Minister give a view as to when all these studies will be completed by?

HON F VINET:

I cannot give a definite date to the hon Member.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Has a site been identified and is this something that requires a lot of space?

HON F VINET:

Government have considered a number of options. Of these the Brewery Crusher is considered the most suitable both from an initial construction point of view as well as from an operating perspective.

HON F R PICARDO:

Although out of the Chamber I was able to hear the Minister's answer, can the Minister help me to reconcile his answer to me a moment ago that studies had been provided to the Government confirming to the Government that they could burn sewage, and that there would be no effect on the release of carcinogens into the air, with the answer to my hon Friend Mr Randall that those studies have not been completed. Are we talking about different studies?

HON F VINET:

No, what I said earlier on was that there are conflicting views among experts.

HON F R PICARDO:

So those views do not form part of the studies that the Government are undertaking. Those views are just taken from other sources, is that the case?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I think the hon Member may be misunderstanding the nature of the process. The Government are not designing this plant. The Government are now going out to tender for what is called a transaction manager for this plant. That transaction manager is to advise the Government on all of these issues. That is what the transaction management function is. There will then be a tender for the design and build of the plant. Different bidders will put in different processes of the design. The Government advised by their transaction manager then have to decide amongst the competing bids which process they wish to go for, taking into account a whole number of factors, costs, scientific nature of the process, all of them of course have to comply with EU directives on smoke emissions and all these things because that is part of the original tender specification. I get the impression from some of the hon Member's supplementaries, that he thinks that the Government have called for reports at this stage so that the Government themselves can make a decision on the process to be built and operated. That is not the procedure.

HON F R PICARDO:

I appreciate that clarification because I was under that misapprehension. Maybe by misinterpreting of the answer as provided earlier, but in that case there has yet therefore been no decision to burn sewage, which certainly is an impression that I think would have been fair to take from the answer first given.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes I think the answer to the hon Member's question is yes, correct there has not yet been a decision on that because there has not yet been a decision on anything, but the disposal of residue, all of these processes, all of these treatment and disposal processes produce a residue. One cannot destroy matter, it can be reduced to another form, it can be converted into another form, it could be gaseous or it could be solid, in fact most of them can almost always produce both. One always ends up with a solid residue, usually slag or fly ash or something of that sort, and the process, the refuse incineration and treatment process has always as its final phase what is the methodology for disposal of the residue in whatever form, and that is one of the issues that is taken into account when assessing. Let me tell the hon Member that the issue of disposing of such residues in Gibraltar is a complicated one because there is only one place that they can easily go. There are problems with the disposal of fly ash and other products of grit blasting in the Cammell Laird yard, it is generally a problematic area, but yes it forms an essential part (a) of the design of the process and (b) of the Government's eventual assessment of which process to select and authorise the construction of as to what is the residue that is created and what are the proposals for the disposal of that refuse as it is produced through the operation of the plant.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In part of that answer there was a reference to refuse, is one of the options then a combined sewage treatment and refuse disposal?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

As to disposal of residue, yes, that is one of the options that is being considered because the residue disposal, in other words, there are only two things one can do with the sort of residue that results from either of these processes, either it is exported or it is used for the manufacture of something in Gibraltar. None of these residues by the time they have come out of the processes can be used for building brick block works and things of that sort. There is an intention to explore during this process that I have been describing, this contractual process, to tie up at least the disposal of residue part in both plants. It would not be logical to have an infrastructure in place to dispose or export the residue from one plant and a problem or a completely different process for the disposal of the other. So at the very least in respect of how one deals with the residue of the process, yes, the answer to the question is yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I was not thinking of the residue I was thinking of the actual incinerator process that is being looked at for refuse.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is an option which will be kept opened throughout the tendering process that the same operator could build and operate both plants given the synergies that there will be in terms of fuel use, in terms of personnel, technical the sort of person that one

needs to employ, the disposal of refuse issues, the financing issues if we decided to go down a clear route. There may be a case for having it both together, but the tendering process will be structured in a way that we get the prices on both so that we can then decide whether it is better value for them to be done by separate operators or by the same operator in one transaction.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is there a deadline on the sewage plant?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes it is a deadline that neither Gibraltar nor most of the Campo area, nor indeed most of southern Spain will comply with. The deadline I think is some time in 2005, yes December 2005, our plant will not be ready and of course Algeciras which is accountable for the majority of residue into the Bay, being a much larger city than ours, has not even got as far as we have got in terms of the technical preparatory work that we have done and the EU tendering for a transaction manager which is almost ready to go and that sort of thing. So we will be ready. Los Barrios has got a degree of urban waste water treatment in place already. Algeciras I think treats the residue produced by 10,000 people only, the bulk of Algeciras remains untreated. La Linea has recently built in the Carretera del Higuero or whatever its formal name is, the urban waste water treatment plant that is there, but the rest of the Campo have got no treatment at all and we will probably be next on line. I mean La Linea is there, Los Barrios has got it, we will probably be next. The next to have a plant actually up and operational.

HON F R PICARDO:

Is one of the synergies between the two plants location, in other words, will both plants most likely be in the same place?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No I think that has been looked at and the Brewery Crusher does not have, there is not enough room in the Brewery Crusher for both sites, but they are not far away. If one can imagine the geography the Brewery Crusher and the site of the existing incinerator really are separated only by a short length of that road.

ORAL

NO 689 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY

Can Government state whether all the employees of the Electricity Department have now been transferred to the Electricity Authority?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES

Yes Sir.

ORAL

NO 690 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

CEMETERY

Can Government state whether they have now awarded the contract for a programme of on-going embellishment, up-keep and maintenance of the cemetery, and if so, to which company and on what terms?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES

There is no specific on-going embellishment scheme but Government have been looking at various options that will enhance the state of the cemetery and in this context undertook a trial project involving two companies dealing with the aspect of vegetation. The results of these trials are currently being considered but in the light of various difficulties that were encountered during their execution, Government have embarked on considering other options that would be more cost effective and result in a greater impact on the enhancement of the cemetery.

ORAL

NO 691 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

DUDLEY WARD TUNNEL

Can Government state whether there has been any progress with regard to their assessment of the full viability of their preferred option for the remedial works that will enable the reopening of Dudley Ward Tunnel for vehicular traffic

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES

No Sir.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 691 OF 2004

HON L A RANDALL:

Is the process still on-going and has a date been set by which a decision will be reached?

HON F VINET:

The process is still on-going, no date has been fixed.

ORAL

NO 692 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

PUBLIC HIGHWAYS – RESURFACING

Can Government state what areas of Gibraltar's public highways they plan to resurface during the course of the quarter ending 30th June 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES

Answered together with Question Nos. 693 and 694 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 693 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

PUBLIC HIGHWAYS – RESURFACING

Can Government state what areas of Gibraltar's public highways they plan to resurface during the course of the quarter ending 30 September 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES

Answered together with Question Nos. 692 and 694 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 694 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

PUBLIC HIGHWAYS – RESURFACING

Can Government state what areas of Gibraltar's public highways they plan to resurface during the course of the quarter ending 31 December 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES

The programme has not yet been decided.

NO 695 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

DISABLED PARKING BAYS

Can Government provide the reason why parking on some of the bays reserved for disabled drivers are restricted to 12 hours a day?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND UTILITIES

The restriction of 12 hours has been imposed on those disabled bays that have been requested by users specifically for work related purposes. Such users do not reside within the said areas and will therefore not be making use of such bays outside working hours. This arrangement of course maximises the availability of parking in such areas.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 695 OF 2004

HON L A RANDALL:

I have been approached by a number of people who have asked me whether the hours in the parking bays next to Casino Calpe can be extended to 24 hours a day as opposed to the 12 hours a day they apparently used. That is an area which services the whole of the Main Street and people normally, people who are disabled are disabled 24 hours a day and not 12 hours a day, so when they want to access that area disability parkings are not many and that could be of great benefit to these disabled people.

HON F VINET:

That is a matter for the Traffic Commission to consider and I would urge the hon Member to advise the persons affected to write to the Secretary of the Traffic Commission.

HON L A RANDALL:

I have written to the Traffic Commission on their behalf and have yet to receive an answer. Will the Minister undertake to look at this and if possible extend parking

hours in those two or three particular parking bays to 24 hours as opposed to 12 hours?

HON F VINET:

I will certainly agree to look into it. I can give no undertaking but having said that, I am sure, the Secretary of the Traffic Commission will be replying to the persons concerned in due course.

ORAL

NO 696 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 month of January 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. 697 and 698 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 697 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 month of February 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. 696 and 698 of 2004.

NO 698 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 month of March 2004 giving a breakdown of how many of these have been filled by Gibraltarians?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Seventeen vacancies were opened for casual workers in the shipping industry in January 2004, of which nine were filled by Gibraltarians. In February two vacancies were opened for casual workers in the shipping industry, of which one was filled by a Gibraltarian. In March 16 vacancies were opened in the shipping industry, of which four were filled by Gibraltarians.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 696 TO 698 OF 2004

HON S E LINARES:

As a matter of interest how many of these were in the Cammell Laird training centre? That were in the training centre and actually were employed.

HON DR B A LINARES:

The Gibraltarians. I would require notice of that.

HON S E LINARES:

Okay.

ORAL

NO 699 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GDC EMPLOYERS INSOLVENCY FUND

Can Government give a breakdown of miscellaneous payments of £55,579.72 from the Gibraltar Development Corporation (Employers Insolvency Fund) for the year ended 31st March 2003?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question No. 700 of 2004.

NO 700 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GDC – EMPLOYERS INSOLVENCY FUND

Can Government state when the Gibraltar Development Corporation (Employers Insolvency Fund) was established and what was the source of the miscellaneous receipts of £2,085,247.74 for the year ended 31st March 2003?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

The Gibraltar Development Corporation (Employers Insolvency Fund) was established on 22 August 1991. Miscellaneous receipts for the financial year amounted to £315,078.66 and not £2,085,247.74. These receipts are in respect of the employer's contribution to the fund under the Gibraltar Development Corporation (Employers Insolvency) Regulations 1991. The expenditure of the Gibraltar Development Corporation (Employers Insolvency Fund) for the year ended 31 March 2003 was £49,192.52 and not £55,579.72. This amount is composed of claims made by employees under the provisions of Regulation 7 of the Gibraltar Development Corporation (Employers Insolvency) Regulations 1991.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 699 AND 700 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can Government say how many employees were involved in the payment of the £49,000, and how many employers?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Six employers were involved, but I do not have the number of employees.

HON J J BOSSANO:

When I asked the question on the Insolvency Funds I was told that the receipts were not £2,085,247.74 when in fact that was the figure I was given in answer to Question No. 482 in January, that is where I got it from.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I thought that the wording of this Question was ambiguous, what was the number of today's Question?

HON J J BOSSANO:

In Question No. 700 I asked can Government state when it was established and what was the source of the miscellaneous receipts of £2,085,247.74 for the year ended 31st March.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, now the word 'for' in the question he presumably means as at. In other words two point something million is the balance of the Fund not the receipt during any particular period.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Then all I can say is that I did not put the 'for' there, I copied the 'for' from here, which was the answer that I got to Question No. 482, where in reply to my question about what was the forecast for the outturn of the Gibraltar Development Corporation, the Chief Minister said to me that for the year ended 31st March there were miscellaneous receipts for £2,085,247.74, so he put 'for' in the answer and I put 'for' in the question. The question is copied from the answer that I got from the Chief Minister.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I am sure the answer can not have confused the hon Member. He presumably knows that that is not the level of receipts to be expected from that source in that period.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well I thought perhaps, that is why I asked when it was established, I thought maybe the Fund was established that year and that money was somewhere else before. That is not the case? That is the impression I got.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I am sure it is not the case, and if it were the case the last answer would have disclosed this.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In the answer the Minister said the receipts were not that and in Question No. 482 I was told those were the receipts, and equally in respect of the expenditure, the

Minister has told us today that the expenditure was not £55,572 but £49,192. Of course the figure of expenditure I was getting from the reply that I received for the same, payments in that same sheet it says payments £55,579.72. Now, we have just been told today that the figure that I had quoted in my question, which was the reply that I got in January, is wrong, so I take it that these answers are wrong then.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I have uncited with the papers of the previous answers but on the basis of what I am hearing from the earlier answers, yes, the earlier answers must be wrong. In any case the Minister will no doubt clarify the matter later.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The account that was given with Question 482 made me think that the Fund was established in the financial year 2002/2003, it says that the balance on 1st April 2002 was zero. I am happy that the Minister should have a look at this but it says on 1st April there was no money in the Fund and at the end of March there was £2,067,000 and the receipts for the year were £2,085,00. So in fact this was indicative that the GDC Employers Insolvency Fund was created after 1st April 2002 or at 1st April 2002 and not on the date that we have been given in the answer today.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, in which case the answer may be the reverse. I remember there was a time that these contributions were held through a deposit account and it may be that the Accountant General has made it, it is an accounting arrangement on which I have not been consulted. It sounds, from what the hon Member is saying, that the £2 million is not the receipts of a year but the capital transfer from one holding arrangement into what might have been a new fund that year. That is a possible explanation and I will have it looked into and I will write to the hon Member to confirm. Can the hon Member just give me the first answer, was it 482?

HON J J BOSSANO:

The answer is the answer being provided to my Question No. 482, sorry 481, 482 is the Social Assistance Fund, 481 is the Development Corporation. Question No. 481 was answered together with Question No. 482, but the figures that I am quoting read at the top of Question No. 482 but really are the answers to Question No. 481.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It may be then that that is the year in which the deposit account holding arrangements were changed in favour of this Fund and I will have that confirmed to the hon Member.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Then it means that the date given today for the creation of the Fund, that the Minister said was 1991, was not correct.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

1991, I will check all that. It may be that the answer is that August 1991 is when the insolvency deposit, in other words the liability for employers to contribute for insolvency and that this was just being looked at as a book keeping and accounting arrangement in the Treasury, and they are assuming that the hon Member is not interested in the name of the vehicle that holds the money but rather in these arrangements. I think the answer is drafted on the basis. It glosses over the changes in holding structure and I will have it all clarified and write to him later.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Also will the Chief Minister clear the discrepancy between the £49,192 which we are being told today have been the payments and what the accounts that I was provided with in January showed, which was a figure of £55,579 as the payments made?

ORAL

NO 701 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT – NUMBER OF CONTRACTS

Can Government state how many contracts were registered with the ETB at 30 June 2003 with a rate of pay of less than £4.00 per hour?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 702, 703 and 704 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 702 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT – NUMBER OF CONTRACTS

Can Government state whether any new contracts have been registered with the ETB with a rate of pay of less than £4.00 per hour, since the 1 July 2003, and if so, give a breakdown of the numbers per month?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 701, 703 and 704 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 703 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT – NUMBER OF CONTRACTS

Can Government state of the contracts registered as at 30 June 2003 with an hourly rate of pay below £4.00, how many were increased to or above this hourly rate and give a breakdown of numbers each month notifying such increases?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 701, 702 and 704 of 2004.

NO 704 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT – MINIMUM WAGE

Can Government state what steps have been taken by the ETB to ensure compliance with the statutory minimum wage since 1st July 2003 and specify the number of employees and employers affected by such action with a breakdown by month?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

The information requested by the hon Member is not readily available, as it would require an individual file by file search. I am given to understand that this is not feasible. As regards the steps that have been taken by the Employment Service to ensure compliance with the statutory minimum wage since 1st July 2003, the £4.00, let me assure the hon Member that these are no more and no less than the Employment Service takes to ensure compliance with all the other statutory provisions in relation to employment, be it in respect of pay as in this case, holidays, sick leave and any such other conditions of employment for which there exists statutory regulation provision. I am informed that such has been the case, as indeed it could not be otherwise given the statutory nature of the issue, since the Employment Service was set up originally as the Employment and Training Board in the late 1980s.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 701 TO 704 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

I think the Minister surely accepts that if a new statutory wage is introduced it is not quite the same as checking that the statutory holidays that have been there for the last 50 years have been complied with. Is something not done for example, to make sure when the wage comes in that something actually happens?

DR B A LINARES:

Yes indeed, I am informed that there is a processed procedure when the employment contract is given notice. They are not approved as such, what happens is that the employer is advised whether he is not complying with the statutory minimum wage or any other factor involved, and if the chap is actually adamant and refuses to comply

with a variation notice, there is a set form for a variation notice, then of course the matter is passed on to the Labour Inspectorate to put pressure that the Regulations and the Statutes have to be complied with. If it is still recalcitrant then of course the matter will be taken over in terms of prosecution through the Attorney General. So these are the steps which are taken in practical terms, that is not waffle that is actually operational. I am told actually that in almost 100 per cent of cases in the very start of the process, when the employer is innocent really in terms of not having knowledge of the increase in the minimum wage, that situation is put right, right from the very start.

HON J J BOSSANO:

No, I know that the ETB would not, it is obvious that they would not approve a contract they should not approve and I would not expect them not to approve a contract which is below the minimum wage laid down by law. What I am trying to see is what evidence is available of the impact of the introduction of the new rate. How many people benefited from the new rate, or how many employers? If the new rate comes in on 1st July, then on the basis of the answers that I have been given by the Minister, we have no knowledge at all of what the effect of that new rate was as to the number of people who were below that rate in June, and the number of people who were at or above it from July on. Surely the Minister will also agree that in a case like this it may well be that some employers who were paying less than £4.00 did not raise the rate, not because they were resisting the change but because it did not come to their notice or the employees did not press them for it or nobody made them do it or whatever. So it was an attempt really to see how many people had been affected by the rate when it came in, that the questions were seeking to find out.

HON DR B A LINARES:

I have not been able to give numbers but what I am satisfied is that definitely there is a thrust in the Employment Service to actually inform the employers, who very innocently often do not know and have not caught up with the changes in the statutory requirements. They are optimistic that a lot of them, and they have variation notices coming in, but I apologise for I would really have to go through file after file, but that globally and in general terms the Employment Service officials feel that the great majority of employers have come up to compliance with the new Regulations. They are aware the whole thing has been very public and in their contacts with them through the Labour Inspectorate with employers, they feel very optimistic that I think there are very few. Unions are also very often involved and they bring notice to the Employment Services, in particular employers who are not coming up to requirements. I hope that satisfies the hon Member.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I take it this information is not being computerised and is not something that can be extracted from the computer.

HON DR B A LINARES:

We are not entirely computerised as I would wish.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I take it that in one of the answers to the supplementaries what the Minister was confirming is that in fact no contract has been accepted since 1st July unless it was £4.00 or more, is that correct?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Yes indeed.

ORAL

NO 705 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

EMPLOYMENT – NUMBER OF GIBRALTARIANS

Can Government state how many of the Gibraltarians employed in the month of January 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. 706 to 719 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 706 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

EMPLOYMENT – NUMBER OF GIBRALTARIANS

Can Government state how many of the Gibraltarians employed in the month of February 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. 705 and 707 to 719 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 707 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

EMPLOYMENT – NUMBER OF GIBRALTARIANS

Can Government state how many of the Gibraltarians employed in the month of March 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. 705, 706 and 708 to 719 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 708 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 month of January 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. 705 to 707 and 709 to 719 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 709 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 month of February 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. 705 to 708 and 710 to 719 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 710 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 month of March 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. 705 to 709 and 711 to 719 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 711 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

EMPLOYMENT – NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED

How many Gibraltarians were added to the unemployment register during the month of January 2004 giving a breakdown by age and sex?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 705 to 710 and 712 to 719 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 712 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

EMPLOYMENT – NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED

How many Gibraltarians were added to the unemployment register during the month of February 2004 giving a breakdown by age and sex?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 705 to 711 and 713 to 719 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 713 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

EMPLOYMENT – NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED

How many Gibraltarians were added to the unemployment register during the month of March 2004 giving a breakdown by age and sex?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 705 to 712 and 714 to 719 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 714 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

EMPLOYMENT – NUMBER OF GIBRALTARIANS

Can Government state how many of the Gibraltarians employed in the month of January 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. 705 to 713 and 715 to 719 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 715 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

EMPLOYMENT – NUMBER OF GIBRALTARIANS

Can Government state how many of the Gibraltarians employed in the month of February 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. 705 to 714 and 716 to 719 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 716 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

EMPLOYMENT – NUMBER OF GIBRALTARIANS

Can Government state how many of the Gibraltarians employed in the month of March 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. 705 to 715 and 717 to 719 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 717 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

EMPLOYMENT – UNEMPLOYMENT REGISTER

How many Gibraltarians were added to the unemployment register during the month of January 2004 giving a breakdown by age and sex?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 705 to 716 and 718 and 719 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 718 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

EMPLOYMENT – UNEMPLOYMENT REGISTER

How many Gibraltarians were added to the unemployment register during the month of February 2004 giving a breakdown by age and sex?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 705 to 717 and 719 of 2004.

NO 719 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

EMPLOYMENT – UNEMPLOYMENT REGISTER

How many Gibraltarians were added to the unemployment register during the month of March 2004 giving a breakdown by age and sex?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

The statistical information that is requested by the hon Member is set out in the schedule that I hand to him. May I point out with respect, and also for the purpose of Hansard, that Question Nos. 714 to 716 are duplicated as Question Nos. 705 and 707, they are exactly the same. Similarly, Question Nos. 717 to 719 are the same as Question Nos. 711 and 713.

Answer to Question 719 of 2004.

The number of Gibraltarians that were added to the unemployment register during the months of January, February and March of 2004 giving a breakdown by age and sex is as follows:

January	Male	Female
Under 18	10	11
18-24	30	20
25 & Over	59	45
Total	99	76

February	Male	Female
Under 18	5	3
18-24	38	15
25 & Over	39	26
Total	82	44

March	Male	Female
Under 18	3	6
18-24	28	11
25 & Over	31	26
Total	62	43

The number of Gibraltarians employed in the months of January, February and March of 2004, who were registered with the Employment Agency given a breakdown by age and sex is as follows:

January	Male	Female	Total
Under 18	4	2	6
18-24	15	5	20
25 & Over	15	22	37
Total	34	29	63

February	Male	Female	Total
Under 18	1	0	1
18-24	12	7	19
25 & Over	19	5	24
Total	32	12	44

March	Male	Female	Total
Under 18	1	1	2
18-24	20	11	31
25 & Over	19	9	28
Total	40	21	61

Contd...

Contd Answers to Question 719 of 2004

The number of Gibraltarians registered as unemployed with the Employment Service in the months of January, February and March 2004 as looking for part-time employment is as follows:

January	Male	Female	Total
Under 18	0	0	0
18-24	0	3	3
25 and over	2	21	23
	2	24	26

February	Male	Female	Total
Under 18	0	0	0
18-24	0	3	3
25 and over	2	21	23
	2	24	26

March	Male	Female	Total
Under 18	0	0	0
18-24	0	2	2
25 and over	0	21	21
	0	23	23

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 705 TO 719 OF 2004

HON F R PICARDO:

I am grateful, I think I was realising as I read them that they seemed to be identical. I am grateful.

HON DR B A LINARES:

If I may point out, I do not want to be pedantic, but the correct nomenclature is no longer the Employment Agency or the Employment Training Board, but the Employment Service.

HON F R PICARDO:

I note actually that the words 'Employment Agency' have also been used in the schedule passed to me, so it is obviously a mistake which we share.

ORAL

NO 720 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

EMPLOYMENT – NUMBER OF WORK PERMITS

Can Government state the number of work permits issued in the month of January 2004 giving a breakdown by occupation, sex and nationality?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Question withdrawn.

ORAL

NO 721 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

EMPLOYMENT – NUMBER OF WORK PERMITS

Can Government state the number of work permits issued in the month of February 2004 giving a breakdown by occupation, sex and nationality?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Question withdrawn.

ORAL

NO 722 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

EMPLOYMENT – NUMBER OF WORK PERMITS

Can Government state the number of work permits issued in the month of March 2004 giving a breakdown by occupation, sex and nationality?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Question withdrawn.

NO 723 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

EMPLOYMENT – NUMBER OF WORK PERMITS

Can Government state the number of work permits issued in the month of January 2004 giving a breakdown by occupation, sex and nationality?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 720 to 722 and 724 to 734 of 2004.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 720 TO 723 OF 2004

HON F R PICARDO:

Can I just say that I note that that appears to be a repetition of Question No. 720, that it appears that in respect of my some of my Questions Government have both the questions I submitted and the photocopy that I made of them.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It seems that the hon Member's party photocopying machine is getting to the quantity rather than quality amount of work. This is what happens when too many questions are asked and even the photocopy machine gets.....

HON F R PICARDO:

Mr Speaker, do you wish me to ask those questions which are the same or just treat them as withdrawn? Well, 723, 724 and 725 are the same as 720, 721 and 722.

MR SPEAKER:

All right, withdrawn.

ORAL

NO 724 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

EMPLOYMENT – NUMBER OF WORK PERMITS

Can Government state the number of work permits issued in the month of February 2004 giving a breakdown by occupation, sex and nationality?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 723 and 725 to 734 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 725 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

EMPLOYMENT – NUMBER OF WORK PERMITS

Can Government state the number of work permits issued in the month of March 2004 giving a breakdown by occupation, sex and nationality?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 723, 724 and 726 to 734 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 726 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

EMPLOYMENT – CONTRACTS TERMINATED

Can Government give details of the number of employment contracts terminated in the month of January 2004, giving a breakdown by nationality and industry?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 723 to 725 and 727 to 734 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 727 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

EMPLOYMENT – CONTRACTS TERMINATED

Can Government give details of the number of employment contracts terminated in the month of February 2004, giving a breakdown by nationality and industry?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 723 to 726 and 728 to 734 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 728 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

EMPLOYMENT – CONTRACTS TERMINATED

Can Government give details of the number of employment contracts terminated in the month of March 2004, giving a breakdown by nationality and industry?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 723 to 727 and 729 to 734 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 729 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

EMPLOYMENT – VACANCIES FILLED

Can Government state of the vacancies filled in the month of January 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. 723 to 728 and 730 to 734 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 730 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

EMPLOYMENT – VACANCIES FILLED

Can Government state of the vacancies filled in the month of February 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. 723 to 729 and 731 to 734 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 731 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

EMPLOYMENT – VACANCIES FILLED

Can Government state of the vacancies filled in the month of March 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. 723 to 730 and 732 to 734 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 732 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

EMPLOYMENT – TERMS OF ENGAGEMENT

Can Government state how many Terms of Engagement were registered with the Employment Agency in the month of January 2004 -

- (a) including directors; and
- (b) excluding directors?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 723 to 731, 733 and 734 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 733 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

EMPLOYMENT – TERMS OF ENGAGEMENT

Can Government state how many Terms of Engagement were registered with the Employment Agency in the month of February 2004 -

- (a) including directors; and
- (b) excluding directors?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 723 to 732 and 734 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 734 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

EMPLOYMENT – TERMS OF ENGAGEMENT

Can Government state how many Terms of Engagement were registered with the Employment Agency in the month of March 2004 -

- (a) including directors; and
- (b) excluding directors?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

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

Contd Answer to Question 734 of 2004

Part time vacancies filled.

Gibraltarians	Male	Female	Total	Other	Male	Female	Total
January	9	23	32	January	11	42	53
February	10	11	21	February	23	23	46
March	14	31	45	March	16	34	50

The number of work permits issued in the months of January to March 2004.

January	Bulg.		Indian		Korean		Israeli		Antig.		Moroc.		Venez.		Cypr.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Manag.			4													
Prof.			2										1		1	
Ass. Prof																
Admin							1									
Skilled	1															
Personal																
Sales					1	3	1		1	1	1					
Plant																
Element																

February	Cyprus		Moroccan		Israeli		Polish		Yugoslavian	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Manag.										
Prof.	1									
Ass. Prof										
Admin									1	
Skilled	8						13			
Personal										
Sales					1					
Plant										
Element			1							

Contd...

Contd Answer to Question 734 of 2004

March	Moroccans		American		Mexican		Bulg.		Hong Kongese	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Manag.										
Prof.			1							
Ass. Prof.										
Admin										
Skilled	1				1					
Personal				1						
Sales										1
Plant										
Element								1		

The number of Terms of Engagements that were registered with the Employment Service for the months of January, February and March of 2004, including directors and excluding directors is as follows:

	January	February	March
Including Directors	19658	19764	19865
Excluding Directors	17786	17898	18008

Answer to Question 734 of 2004

The number of employment contacts terminated in January 2004

Industry	Gibraltar	Other Brit	Spanish	Moroccan	Other EEC	Other Non-EEC	Total
Shipbuilding, repair, marine eng.	9				1		10
M/F of food, drink and tobacco			2	1			3
Printing & publishing	4	2					6
M/F n.e.c (Clothing, etc)	2						2
Buildng & Construction	13	19	27	1	2	14	76
Electricity Supply	1						1
Water Supply							
Sea transport / shipping svcs	3		2	1	1	1	8
Port & Services							
Road transport & related svc	2						2
Post & Telecommunications	3						3
Air transport & related svc	4		1				5
W/sale-food, drink	6	1	2				9
W/sale-fuel		1					1
W/sale-n.e.c	2		1				3
Retail Food	10	6	7				23
Retail drink & tobacco	2	1	1				4
Retail-clothing, footwear	8		3				11
Retail-h/hold goods	3	1	2				6
Retail-n.e.c	9		10			1	20
Hotels, hostels, guest house, etc	3	2	2	1			8
Restaurants, cafes, etc	2	3	13	2	4		24
Bars (Lic to sell alcohol)	1	3	2				6
Tourist svcs n.e.c.. (inc Casino)	4	1	2				7
Banking & finance	8	4			1		13
Insurance & Real Estate	4	4					8
Legal, account, oth bus. Svcs	19	8	4		1		32
Public admin	14						14
Educa Services	1						1
Medical/ health services	4	2	5			1	12
Welfare, Charity, religious svc	3	3	1				7
Entertainment & Sport	11	7	1		1	3	23
Repairs-Consumer goods	3	3					6
Police / Fire Services	5						5
Defence	6	1		1			8
Sanitary Services							
Services n.e.c (Inc Hairdressers)	7	4	11	3	1		26
Total	163	71	88	6	11	20	359

Contd...

Contd Answer to Question 734 of 2004

The number of contracts terminated in February 2004

Industry	Gibraltar	Other Brit	Spanish	Moroccan	Other EEC	Other Non-EEC	Total
Shipbuilding, repair, marine eng.	9	3	5	3	0	0	20
M/F of food, drink and tobacco	1	0	3	1	0	0	5
Printing & publishing	1	1		0	0	0	2
M/F n.e.c (Clothing, etc)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Buidling & Construction	12	16	49	2	3	1	83
Electricity Supply	1	0	1	0	0	0	2
Water Supply	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sea transport / Shipping Svs	4	4	0	0	0	0	8
Port & Services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Road transport & related Svs	2	2	0	0	0	0	4
Post & Telecommunications	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Air Transport & related Svc	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
W/sale-food, drink	4	0	0	1	0	0	5
W/sale-fuel	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
W/sale-n.e.c	3	1	0	0	0	0	4
Retail Food	3	2	4	0	0	0	9
Retail drink & tobacco	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Retail-clothing, footwear	0	3	4	0	0	0	7
Retail-h/hold goods	1	3	6	0	0	1	11
Retail-n.e.c	4	0	4	1	0	1	10
Hotels, hostels, guest house, etc	2	3	3	0	0	0	8
Restaurants, cafes, etc	4	11	8	2	0	0	25
Bars (Lic to sell alcohol)	0	9	3	0	0	0	12
Tourist svs n.e.c.. (inc Casino)	5	4		0	0	0	9
Banking & Finance	13	1	2	0	2	0	18
Insurance& Real Estate	5	0	3	0	0	0	8
Legal, account, oth bus. Svs	11	5	2	0	0	1	19
Public admin	14	0	0	0	0	0	14
Educa Services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Medical/ health services	0	0	3	0	0	0	3
Welfare, Charity, religious svc	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Entertainment & Sport	10	12	1	1	4	2	30
Repairs-Consumer goods	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Police / Fire Services	3	3	0	0	0	0	6
Defence	4	1	0	1	0	0	6
Sanitary Services	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Services n.e.c (Inc Hairdressers)	30	17	11	2	2	1	63
Total	151	101	112	15	11	7	397

Contd...

Contd Answer to Question 734 of 2004

The number of contracts terminated in March 2004

Industry	Gibraltar	Other Brit	Spanish	Moroccan	Other EEC	Other Non-EEC	Total
Shipbuilding, repair, marine eng.	2	0	2	1	0	0	5
M/F of food, drink and tobacco	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Printing & publishing	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
M/F n.e.c (Clothing, etc)	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Buidling & Construction	12	18	30	2	5	1	68
Electricity Supply	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Water Supply	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sea transport / Shipping Svcs	3	1	0	0	0	0	4
Port & Services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Road Transport & related Svc	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Post & Telecommunications	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Air Transport & Related Service	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
W/sale-food, drink	1	0	1	0	1	0	3
W/sale-fuel	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
W/sale-n.e.c	3	1	1	0	1	0	6
Retail Food	9	1	3	0	0	0	13
Retail drink & tobacco	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Retail-clothing, footwear	1	1	1	0	0	0	3
Retail-h/hold goods	0	5	10	0	0	0	15
Retail-n.e.c	4	5	6	2	0	0	17
Hotels, hostels, guest house, etc	5	2	1	0	0	0	8
Restaurants, cafes, etc	4	4	14	2	2	0	26
Bars (Lic to sell alcohol)	0	3	3	0	0	0	6
Tourist svcs n.e.c.. (inc Casino)	6	1	1	0	0	0	8
Banking & Finance	2	1	2	0	0	2	7
Insurance& Real Estate	2	2	0	0	0	0	4
Legal, account, oth bus. services	8	3	2	1	2	0	16
Public admin	11	0	0	1	0	0	12
Educa Services	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Medical/ health services	5	2	0	0	1	0	8
Welfare, Charity, religious svc	5	0	0	0	0	0	5
Entertainment & Sport	19	36	5	0	4	5	69
Repairs-Consumer goods	2	2	0	0	0	0	4
Police / Fire Services	7	3	1	0	0	0	11
Defence	5	1	0	0	0	0	6
Sanitary Services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Services n.e.c (Inc Hairdressers)	25	6	13	0	1	0	45
Total	149	98	98	9	17	8	379

Contd...

Contd Answer to Question 734 of 2004

The number of contracts terminated in March 2004

Industry	Gibraltar	Other Brit	Spanish	Moroccan	Other EEC	Other Non-EEC	Total
Shipbuilding, repair, marine eng.	2	0	2	1	0	0	5
M/F of food, drink and tobacco	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Printing & publishing	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
M/F n.e.c (Clothing, etc)	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Buidling & Construction	12	18	30	2	5	1	68
Electricity Supply	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Water Supply	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sea transport / Shipping Svs	3	1	0	0	0	0	4
Port & Services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Road Transport & related Svc	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Post & Telecommunications	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Air Transport & Related Service	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
W/sale-food, drink	1	0	1	0	1	0	3
W/sale-fuel	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
W/sale-n.e.c	3	1	1	0	1	0	6
Retail Food	9	1	3	0	0	0	13
Retail drink & tobacco	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Retail-clothing, footwear	1	1	1	0	0	0	3
Retail-h/hold goods	0	5	10	0	0	0	15
Retail-n.e.c	4	5	6	2	0	0	17
Hotels, hostels, guest house, etc	5	2	1	0	0	0	8
Restaurants, cafes, etc	4	4	14	2	2	0	26
Bars (Lic to sell alcohol)	0	3	3	0	0	0	6
Tourist svs n.e.c.. (inc Casino)	6	1	1	0	0	0	8
Banking & Finance	2	1	2	0	0	2	7
Insurance& Real Estate	2	2	0	0	0	0	4
Legal, account, oth bus. services	8	3	2	1	2	0	16
Public admin	11	0	0	1	0	0	12
Educa Services	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Medical/ health services	5	2	0	0	1	0	8
Welfare, Charity, religious svc	5	0	0	0	0	0	5
Entertainment & Sport	19	36	5	0	4	5	69
Repairs-Consumer goods	2	2	0	0	0	0	4
Police / Fire Services	7	3	1	0	0	0	11
Defence	5	1	0	0	0	0	6
Sanitary Services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Services n.e.c (Inc Hairdressers)	25	6	13	0	1	0	45
Total	149	98	98	9	17	8	379

Contd...

Contd Answer to Question 734 of 2004

Part time vacancies filled.

Gibraltarians	Male	Female	Total
January	9	23	32
February	10	11	21
March	14	31	45

Other	Male	Female	Total
January	11	42	53
February	23	23	46
March	16	34	50

The number of work permits issued in the months of January to March 2004.

January	Bulgarian		Indian		Korean		Israeli		Antiguan		Moroccan		Venezuelan		Cypriot		
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Managers				4													
Professionals				2													
Assoc. Prof.																	
Administrative							1										
Skilled	1																
Personal																	
Sales					1	3	1		1	1							
Plant Ops.																	
Elementary																	

February	Cypriot		Moroccan		Israeli		Polish		Yugoslavian	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Managers										
Professionals	1									
Assoc. Prof.										
Administrative									1	
Skilled	8						13			
Personal										
Sales										
Plant Ops.						1				
Elementary				1						

Contd Answer to Question 734 of 2004

March	Moroccans		Americans		Mexican		Bulgarian		Hong Kongese	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Managers										
Professionals			1							
Assoc. Prof.										
Administrative										
Skilled	1				1					
Personal				1						
Sales										1
Plant Ops.										
Elementary								1		

The number of Terms of Engagements that were registered with the Employment Service for the months of January, February and March of 2004, including directors and excluding directors is as follows:

	January	February	March
Including Directors	19,658	19,764	19,865
Excluding Directors	17,786	17,898	18,008

Contd Answer to Question 734 of 2004

Part time vacancies filled.

Gibraltarians	Male	Female	Total
January	9	23	32
February	10	11	21
March	14	31	45

Other	Male	Female	Total
January	11	42	53
February	23	23	46
March	16	34	50

The number of work permits issued in the months of January to March 2004.

January	Bulgarian		Indian		Korean		Israeli		Antiguan		Moroccan		Venezuelan		Cypriot		
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Managers			4														
Professionals			2														
Assoc. Prof.																	
Administrative							1										
Skilled	1																
Personal																	
Sales					1	3	1		1	1							
Plant Ops.																	
Elementary																	

February	Cypriot		Moroccan		Israeli		Polish		Yugoslavian	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Managers										
Professionals	1									
Assoc. Prof.										
Administrative									1	
Skilled	8						13			
Personal										
Sales										1
Plant Ops.										
Elementary			1							

ORAL

NO 735 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 month of January 2004, giving a breakdown of their trade and nationality?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 736 and 737 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 736 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 month of February 2004, giving a breakdown of their trade and nationality?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 735 and 737 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 737 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 month of March 2004, giving a breakdown of their trade and nationality?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

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

Answer to Question 737 of 2004.

'Detached Workers' registered with the Employment Service for the months of January, February and March of 2004.

January	Bulgarian	Indian	Other British	Spanish	Other EEC
Managerial					
Professional			6		
Associate Professional		1			
Administrative					
Skilled Trades	26			60	9
Personal Services					
Sales and Customer Svcs.					
Plant Operators					
Elementary Occupations					
Totals	26	1	6	60	9

February	Indian	Other British	Spanish	EEC	Philipino
Managerial					
Professional					
Associate Professional	2			2	
Administrative					
Skilled Trades		4	40	12	1
Personal Services					
Sales & Customer Svcs.					
Plant Operators		1			
Elementary Occupations					
Totals	2	5	40	14	1

March	Other British	Spanish	Other EEC	Philipino	Israeli
Managerial					
Professional	4		1		
Associate Professional		1			1
Administrative					
Skilled Trades		27	5	4	
Personal Services					
Sales & Customer Svcs.					
Plant Operators					
Elementary Occupations					
Totals	4	28	6	4	1

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 735 TO 737 OF 2004

HON F R PICARDO:

Does the Minister have any indication of how we came to have 26 Bulgarians in skilled trades in January? Is that for a particular job?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

This is more or less a permanent crew of detached workers that Cammell Laird have. I think they change the individuals every year but they are more or less a group of Bulgarian workers of around that number and almost a permanent feature of the operation of the yard.

ORAL

NO 738 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 month of January 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. 739 to 743 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 739 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 month of February 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. 738 and 740 to 743 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 740 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 month of March 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. 738, 739 and 741 to 743 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 741 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 month of January 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. 738 to 740, 742 and 743 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 742 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 month of February 2004 under the Employment Regulations (Offences) Ordinance, under which section 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. 738 to 741 and 743 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 743 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 month of March 2004 under the Employment Regulations (Offences) Ordinance, under which section of the Ordinance, each penalty has been imposed and whether the penalties have been paid or the matter is being pursued through further prosecution?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

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

Answer to Question 743 of 2004

January 2004

Number of inspections carried out was 6.
0 Fixed Penalty Notices were issued.
0 Fixed Penalty Notice were paid.
1 pending cases with the Attorney General.

February 2004

Number of inspections carried out was 16.
2 Fixed Penalty Notices were issued.
2 Fixed Penalty Notices were paid.
1 pending case with the Attorney General.

March 2004

Number of inspections carried out was 8.
0 Fixed Penalty Notice was issued.
0 Fixed Penalty Notices were paid.
0 pending cases with the Attorney General.

The provisions are as follows:

- 1) Regulation 8(2A) of the Income Tax (Pay As You Earn) Regulations 1989 (Duty to Register).
- 2) Regulation 3 of the Employment Injuries (Contributions) Regulations (Duty to Register).
- 3) Regulation 3 of the Employment Injuries (Contributions) Regulations as applied by Regulation 4(1) of the Social Security (Contributions) Regulations (Duty to Register).
- 4) Regulation 3 of the Employment Injuries (Contributions) Regulations as applied by Regulation 3(1) of the Social Security (Open Long Term Benefits) (Contributions) Regulations 1997 (Duty to Register).
- 5) Regulation 4 of the Employment Regulations 1994 (Duty of notify Director of vacancy).
- 6) Regulation 6 of the Employment Regulations 1994 (Duty to notify Director of intention to engage an entitled worker).
- 7) Regulation 7 of the Employment Regulations 1994 (Duty to apply to the Director for a permit in relation to a non-entitled worker).
- 8) Regulation 13 of the Employment Regulations 1994 (Duty to notify Director of termination).
- 9) Regulation 15A(4) of the Employment Regulations 1994 (Amended by L.N.100/94) (Duty to notify Director of temporary employment of Detached workers).
- 10) Section 3 of the Business Trades and Professions (Registration) Ordinance 1989 (Duty to Register).

Contd...

Contd answer to Question 743 of 2004

Prosecutions and penalties for the months of January, February and March of 2004.

	No OF PROSECUTIONS	DATE FILED	PENALTIES IMPOSED
Jan-04	0	---	0.00
Feb-04	0	---	0.00
Mar-04	0	---	0.00

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 738 TO 743 OF 2004

HON F R PICARDO:

Could the Minister help clarify whether the pending case listed for the month of January and the pending case listed for the month of February are in fact the same case that was pending two months or are they different cases pending in respect of each of those months?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I do not know but I suspect it is really a case which is pending from, in fact before January 2004 because in January 2004 there were no fixed penalty notices issued so there could not be a prosecution following up, so it must have dated back to the previous months. I am glad to see that there is no pending case in March.

HON F R PICARDO:

Unless the Minister finds it is not like that and he will advise me later I have nothing further.

HON DR B A LINARES:

The hon Member wants information on that?

HON F R PICARDO:

We assume also that the Minister is probably right, and unless he finds out that that is not the case.

ORAL

NO 744 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 month of January 2004, giving a breakdown by age and sex?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 745 and 746 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 745 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 month of February 2004, giving a breakdown by age and sex?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 744 and 746 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 746 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 month of March 2004, giving a breakdown by age and sex?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

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

Answer to Question 746 of 2004

The number of persons who have used the facilities provided at the Job Club in the months of January, February and March of 2004 is as follows:

January	Males	Females	Total
Under 18	4	0	4
18-24	13	7	20
25 & Over	18	16	34
Total	35	23	58

February	Males	Females	Total
Under 18	9	4	13
18-24	12	7	19
25 & Over	18	17	35
Total	39	28	67

March	Males	Females	Total
Under 18	7	9	16
18-24	15	7	22
25 & Over	22	16	38
Total	44	32	76

ORAL

NO 747 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

EMPLOYMENT – MOROCCAN NATIONALS

Can Government state how many Moroccan nationals employed in the month of January 2004 were new entrants to the local labour market?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 748 to 761 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 748 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

EMPLOYMENT – MOROCCAN NATIONALS

Can Government state how many Moroccan nationals employed in the month of February 2004 were new entrants to the local labour market?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 747 and 749 to 761 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 749 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

EMPLOYMENT – MOROCCAN NATIONALS

Can Government state how many Moroccan nationals employed in the month of March 2004 were new entrants to the local labour market?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 747, 748 and 750 to 761 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 750 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

EMPLOYMENT – OTHER BRITISH

Can Government state of the "Other British" employed in the month of January 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 No. 747 to 749 and 751 to 761 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 751 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

EMPLOYMENT – OTHER BRITISH

Can Government state of the "Other British" employed in the month of February 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 No. 747 to 750 and 752 to 761 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 752 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

EMPLOYMENT – OTHER BRITISH

Can Government state of the "Other British" employed in the month of March 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. 747 to 751 and 753 to 761 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 753 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

EMPLOYMENT – SPANISH NATIONALS

Can Government state of the Spanish nationals employed in the month of January 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. 747 to 752 and 754 to 761 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 754 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

EMPLOYMENT – SPANISH NATIONALS

Can Government state of the Spanish nationals employed in the month of February 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 No. 747 to 753 and 755 to 761 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 755 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

EMPLOYMENT – SPANISH NATIONALS

Can Government state of the Spanish nationals employed in the month of March 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 No. 747 to 754 and 756 to 761 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 756 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 January 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 747 to 755 and 757 to 761 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 757 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 February 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 747 to 756 and 758 to 761 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 758 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 March 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 747 to 757 and 759 to 761 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 759 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

EMPLOYMENT – NON-EEC NATIONALS

Can Government state how many non-EEC nationals in the month of January 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. 747 to 758, 760 and 761 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 760 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

EMPLOYMENT – NON-EEC NATIONALS

Can Government state how many non-EEC nationals in the month of February 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 No. 747 to 759 and 761 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 761 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

EMPLOYMENT – NON-EEC NATIONALS

Can Government state how many non-EEC nationals in the month of March 2004 were new entrants to the local labour market giving a breakdown by nationality and job title?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

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

Answer to Question 761 of 2004

Moroccan nationals who are new entrants to the Local Labour Market in January, February and March 2004.

January	1
February	1
March	1

Other British nationals who are new entrants to the Local Labour Market in January, February and March 2004.

	Males	Females	Total
January	37	20	57
February	43	33	76
March	40	28	68

Spanish nationals who are new entrants to the Local Labour Market in January, February and March 2004.

	Males	Females	Total
January	59	29	88
February	29	23	52
March	35	40	75

The total number of employment contracts for Spanish nationals registered with the Employment Service.

January	2677
February	2676
March	2700

Non-EEC nationals who are new entrants to the Local Labour Market in January, February and March 2004.

January	Bulg.	Indian	Korean	Israeli	Antig.	Mor.	Venezu.	Cypr.
Manag.		4						
Prof.		2					1	1
Ass. Prof.								
Admin				1				
Skilled	1							
Personal								
Sales			4	1	2	1		
Plant Element.								

Contd...

Cont Answer to Question 761 of 2004

February	Cyprus	Moroccan	Israeli	Polish	Yugoslavian
Manag.					
Prof.	1				
Assoc.Prof.					
Admin					1
Skilled	8			13	
Personal					
Sales			1		
Plant					
Element.		1			

March	American	Mexican	Moroccan	Bulgarian	Hong Kongese
Manag.					
Prof.	1				
Assoc.Prof.					
Admin.					
Skilled		1	1		
Personal	1				
Sales					1
Plant					
Element				1	

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 747 TO 761 OF 2004

HON F R PICARDO:

Working both with the answer that the Minister provided to Question No. 737 and the answers provided now in relation to this batch of questions, just for the sake of understanding I am interpreting the statistics appropriately, of the 26 Bulgarians that we spoke about earlier one of them is a new entrant, 25 are renewing, is that right?

HON DR B A LINARES:

One Bulgarian who is not a detached worker is a new entrant with a work permit.

HON F R PICARDO:

So it does not relate to the 26. I see.

ORAL

NO 762 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 month of January 2004 and the number of people and of employees involved?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 763 and 764 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 763 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 month of February 2004 and the number of people and of employees involved?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 762 and 764 of 2004.

NO 764 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 month of March 2004 and the number of people and of employees involved?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

The expenditure incurred by the Employment Service on wage subsidy in the months of January, February and March 2004 is as follows:

Year 2004	January	February	March
Expenditure (£)	9,370.38	7,675.32	7,791.46

Year 2004	January	February	March
Total of Employers	30	30	30
Total of Employees	37	35	35

ORAL

NO 765 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

EMPLOYMENT – 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 month of January 2004 giving a breakdown by nationality of employees?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 766 and 767 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 766 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

EMPLOYMENT – 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 month of February 2004 giving a breakdown by nationality of employees?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 765 and 767 of 2004.

NO 767 OF 2004**THE HON F R PICARDO****EMPLOYMENT – 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 month of March 2004 giving a breakdown by nationality of employees?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING**

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

Answer to Question No. 767 of 2004

The number of employment contracts registered with the Employment Service in respect of private employers excluding Government-owned and joint venture companies in the months of January, February and March of 2004 is as follows:

	Gib.	Other British	Spanish	Moroccan	Other EEC	Other Non- EEC	Total
January	6827	3115	2592	1024	555	509	14622
February	6852	3168	2586	1015	563	540	14724
March	6893	3197	2608	1022	563	545	14828

ORAL

NO 768 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 month of January 2004 giving a breakdown by sex?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 769 and 770 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 769 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 month of February 2004 giving a breakdown by sex?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 768 and 770 of 2004.

NO 770 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 month of March 2004 giving a breakdown by sex?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

The number of persons registered as self-employed with the Employment Service in the months of January, February and March 2004 is as follows:

	Male	Female	Total
January	443	214	657
February	446	215	661
March	446	216	662

ORAL

NO 771 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

EMPLOYMENT – FRONTIER WORKERS

Can Government state how many employment contracts were registered with the Employment Agency for frontier workers in the month of January 2004 giving a breakdown by sex?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 772 and 773 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 772 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

EMPLOYMENT – FRONTIER WORKERS

Can Government state how many employment contracts were registered with the Employment Agency for frontier workers in the month of February 2004 giving a breakdown by sex?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 771 and 773 of 2004.

NO 773 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

EMPLOYMENT – FRONTIER WORKERS

Can Government state how many employment contracts were registered with the Employment Agency for frontier workers in the month of March 2004 giving a breakdown by sex?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

The answer to this question remains the same as provided in respect of Question No. 260 of 2004 and indeed, even earlier on, Question No. 65 of 2003, but I am afraid the answer is not sexist orientated, it gives a total number of 2,294. That is the figure that we have from the Employment Survey Report for October 2002. There has been no subsequent report. I am told that the October 2003 Report will soon be published but therefore the figures remain as known to us from the Survey, which is 2,294 is the total number of frontier workers in the month of March 2004. Obviously it is a notional figure but that is the information that we have. The latest information we have is from the Employment Survey Report of October 2002.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 771 TO 773 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is the Minister not aware that in fact we have been provided before with figures based on contracts opened with the ETB giving us the number of frontier workers, indeed giving us a breakdown by nationality of the frontier workers?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I am not aware of that and I am told by the Employment Service that they rely on the question being how many employment contracts were registered in the Employment Agency for frontier workers for the months of January, February and March, and that the answer to this question remains as provided in the Employment Survey Report, the last of which was published in October 2002. The figure I have for this is 2,294. Certainly I will look into this, I can see the point that the Leader of the Opposition is making that there has been information before on entries and registrations in the Employment Agency.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Since the question is the numbers registered with the ETB, now in fact the numbers given by the Employment Survey Report is not the numbers registered with the ETB, it is the numbers shown in the returns from the employers. They are two separate sources. We have been given the numbers registered with the ETB before.

HON DR B A LINARES:

I think that the answer to all this is that frontier workers as such, as a particular type, specimen of worker, is not registered in the Employment Service as such. I mean they are just workers who are entitled and who are registered for employment with particular firms but they are not defined or declared as frontier workers. Therefore, the Employment Service relies on this other information that I have mentioned. I think this may be the answer but I will pursue it.

HON F R PICARDO:

The answer, I think we both accept, is clearly wrong. That cannot be the updated figure. If we have a difference in the number of Spanish nationals for example, who are employed and there is an increase in that and we assume that those Spanish nationals are not residing also in Gibraltar, then we have a figure that must have been changing and evolving. There is a discrepancy and that discrepancy can surely be worked from the engagement form where the home address of the individual given is not a Gibraltar address. Is that information which the hon Minister can give or can seek to provide?

HON DR B A LINARES:

This is a very likely explanation but I have to of course check it with the Report.

HON F R PICARDO:

Would the Minister undertake to get back to me when he can with the information in the next 10 days?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I will make a quick note because I tend to forget.

HON F R PICARDO:

I am obliged.

ORAL

NO 774 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TERCENTENARY POSTERS PROJECT

Can Government say in what respect the "Tercentenary Posters Project" required "careful sensitive planning"?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 775 to 777 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 775 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TERCENTENARY POSTERS PROJECT

Can Government say who were the multi-disciplinary team of professionals who produced the "Tercentenary Posters Project"?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 774 and 776 to 777 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 776 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TERCENTENARY POSTERS PROJECT

What was the cost of the "Tercentenary Posters Project" and where were the posters and notes printed and published?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 774 to 775 and 777 of 2004.

NO 777 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TERCENTENARY POSTERS PROJECT

Can Government say whether and when the "Tercentenary Posters Project" was put to tender, and if so how many parties bid for the work?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Answer to Question No. 774

All educational projects require and receive "careful sensitive planning".

Answer to Question No. 775

The multi-disciplinary team of professionals who produced the "Tercentenary Posters Project" were:

Pat Scott – Senior Education Adviser
Darren Fa – Education & Research Officer, Gibraltar Museum
Julio Alcantara – ex-Director of Education and History specialist
Brian Bear – History teacher
Dennis Beiso – Archivist designate – Gibraltar Archives
Robert Beiso – retired Headteacher – History specialist
Clive Finlayson – Archaeologist & Director of the Gibraltar Museum
Geraldine Finlayson – Director John Mackintosh Hall & Heritage specialist
Richard Garcia – Historian, teacher and Chairman, Tercentenary Heritage Committee
Eddie Gonzalez – History teacher (Head of History Department, Westside)
Dennis King – retired Deputy Head & member of the Heritage Trust
Leslie Lester – Director of Education and Training
Colin Skinner – Head of History Department, Bayside School
Claire Valarino – Archaeologist.

Answer to Question No. 776

The cost of the "Tercentenary Posters Project" was £5,300 and the posters and notes were printed by "Gibsport". It was funded entirely by the Tercentenary Sub-Committee on Heritage.

Answer to Question No. 777

The "Tercentenary Posters Project" was put to tender by public notice in October 2003. No bid was found eligible. Subsequently, information on the requirements for the series of posters on "300 Years of British Gibraltar" was faxed to all the companies on the Government's list of approved printers. These companies were requested to send in quotes for their production. "Gibsport" provided the Project Coordinators with the best samples with respect to quality and cost-effectiveness.

NO 778 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – DUTY PHARMACY

Can Government confirm if there is in place a 24 hour duty pharmacy and, if so, what are the arrangements for access to it?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

The pharmacy on duty is on call on a 24-hour basis. The duty doctor is able to establish access by electronic means if he requires pharmaceutical services.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 778 OF 2004

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

I would like to inform the Minister that we have had complaints from patients who have tried to access the service and have rang Porters Lodge at St Bernard's and have rang for example, the Police Headquarters. Do they have that information there?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

If the hon Member will go back to the answer she will have noticed that I said the duty doctor not the patient. The service is restricted to the doctor to be able to access the pharmacist to provide emergency medicines during silent hours. The service is not available to the patient himself or herself.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

I have understood exactly the answer that the Minister has given and it is precisely the problems that have been encountered by patients that have prompted me to put the question in the first place. That is, that there are patients that are being told by the doctors that they can have access to the service and then the patient is left on his own to find out who is the pharmacy that is open 24 hours. Would it not be appropriate therefore, for the Government to ensure that whenever a patient is told by the GP involved that he actually rings up the Police Headquarters and Porters

Lodge, that they should have there, not only the GP that is on duty but also the pharmacy that is on duty.

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

The hon Member should not believe everything she is told. The system is as I have described. The service is not available to the patient. The Porters Lodge does have details of who the doctor on duty is and the service is restricted to the doctor precisely to avoid abuse. If the hon Member is contacted by a member of the public who tells her what she has just told us publicly, if she would like to communicate both the name of the patient and the name of the doctor concerned to me, I will investigate it, but I cannot investigate a theoretical situation.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

I will most certainly, but it just struck me that if at times there is not enough communication between the doctor and the patient, if for example, Porters Lodge and the Police Headquarters have the name of the actual doctor that is on duty, it might make sense as well that they also have available the name of the pharmacy that is on duty. It is not a question that I believe everything that everybody tells me. In fact I have been in politics enough for quite a number of years, it is just that I have been told by various people. That is all. I was just trying to inform the Government that perhaps if they do this they will improve the system. That is all.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It would not be an improvement to the system. The whole purpose of the matter is that patients have never had, whether it is in our time in office or indeed in hers, the idea that the patient should have 24 hour a day, 7 day a week access to the duty pharmacist is unliveable with. Therefore the idea that the number and the name of the duty pharmacist, which is an internal matter not an external matter, should be given out by the Porters Lodge to patients so that the duty pharmacist, the service to ensure that the hospital has medicines that it may need to access after hours, that is a service for doctors not a service for patients. There is no need therefore for anybody to have the number in order to give it to the patient.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

That is not my argument at all, that is a completely different argument. I agree that nobody can actually go 24 hours and have a service that they can access to if they want tablets. This is when a GP actually goes to see a patient at home after normal hours. For example, from 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm that the pharmacies are open. If there happens to be, there have been cases brought to our attention, it is not a question that the patient wants to go at 10 o'clock or 11 o'clock and ring the pharmacy on duty and say 'I want these tablets', it is that the GP has prescribed the tablets and that is a totally different matter. If it is the GP that then does not inform the patient because he is not aware which pharmacy is on duty, then all that I am saying is, is it not an improvement of the service if both Porters Lodge and the Police Headquarters have the name. I am trying to be constructive I am not trying to be critical at all.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, I am not sure that I entirely agree with the hon Member over the last thing that she has said. To suggest people to believe that it is reasonable to expect a 24 hour a day pharmaceutical service is not to be helpful. It is to sow deceit in peoples' mind of a completely unreasonable extent of service which this community has never provided. If what the hon Member is saying is that in respect of the normal duty chemist, meaning Calpe Pharmacy or Valmar Pharmacy or whichever is the duty chemist, that information should be available through the RGP, I can tell that it is because that is where my wife always gets it when she wants it. She rings up the RGP and the desk sergeant very helpfully says the duty chemist tonight, and he has a little list, is so and so. If that is what she means, if what she means forget the hours covered by the duty commercial chemist, let us call it that, if what she means is that a doctor may come to my house at midnight or at one o'clock in the morning and sees one of my family members and prescribes a medicine, and that I should have the ability at 2 o'clock in the morning to access the hospital's duty chemist in order to obtain process of that prescription, the answer is that that service is simply not available. If a doctor visits my house at 2 o'clock in the morning and considers that any member of my family needs medication before the pharmacies open at 9 o'clock in the morning, then he has two options. He can procure this medicine himself through the facility available to him for that purpose, or he can regard the matter as an emergency and send me or my child, or my wife or me to the hospital as an emergency admission where the medication is then available. What is not available is for doctors to rush around in the middle of the night issuing prescriptions and then leave it to the patient to cash their prescriptions in and obtain their medicines at 2 o'clock in the morning by ringing up the Government Dispensary Duty Chemist. That service has never been available, is not realistic to expect that it should be available. However, I accept something of what the hon Member is saying and that is that if there are doctors, this is why she asked for the name, I think the name of the doctor is more important than the name of the patient, if there are doctors going around misrepresenting the system and leading patients to believe that a service that does not exist, or rather does not exist available to the patient it exists available to the doctor, and if there is a doctor leading patients to believe that they can access, they the patient, can access the duty GHA dispensing chemist, then I would be very interested in knowing who that is to re-educate the doctor, not the patient, not to change the system but to make sure that that doctor is told 'do not cause trouble by leading patients to believe that they can access this when they can not. The person who has to access this is you not the patient'. If the problem is being caused by a doctor misinforming patients then the matter should be dealt with by pointing out to the doctor that he should stop misinforming patients, rather than by making the service available to the patient.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

I do not want to drag on and on about this but when the Chief Minister says that this service has never been in place, surely it has. If for example a doctor visits a patient at 10 o'clock in the evening and finds that that patient needs urgent medication, is the Chief Minister saying that the pharmacy that is on duty does not open for that emergency medication, or is it that the Chief Minister is saying that the patient has to go to the hospital and that therefore the doctor then tells the patient 'this is required and this is urgent' . When I was Minister I remember that the service was there. It was either the pharmacy that was open 24 hours for emergency medication, or it was the pharmacy in the hospital. That the Chief Minister says that if the doctor tells the patient 'you require this medication now', obviously he has to get it from one source

or the other. When I say he I mean the patient. It is the doctor of course who tells the patient 'you have to take this medication as from now'. If the doctor says 'as from now', what does the patient do? He waits until 9 o'clock in the morning, is that correct?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

Let me try to explain the system once again and as clearly as I can. There are two types of situations that are likely to arise outside the hours in which the duty chemist is open, or maybe three. The patient who is so sick that he needs to be rushed to the hospital, the patient who is not so sick and is prescribed aspirins or alka seltzers or whatever, which in the judgement of the doctor, neither in her judgement or in my judgement, can wait until the following morning when the chemist opens. The third case is the one which I presume the hon Member is referring to, is the case where the patient needs medication immediately, that night, at that moment whether it is 10 o'clock or 3 o'clock in the morning. In that situation, because the other two do not arise, it is the doctor who has the access by phone or by bleeper to the chemist on duty, to ring him up and say to him 'Mr So and So I need this medicine now', that is what the doctor says not the patient, he does not give the prescription to the patient and goes home and waits for the patient to find the chemist. He rings up the chemist and says to the chemist 'go down open your shop and provide the medicine', and the medicine if it is needed that night that urgently is provided, is being provided, has been provided and will be provided, and that is the service that is available, but as has probably happened in the cases that have been mentioned to the hon Member I suspect is where the doctor has not found it necessary to use the emergency provisions but has written out a prescription and left it with a patient by implication meaning that the medicine is not needed until the following day, and maybe the doctor has not explained that clearly enough to the patient and the patient armed with the prescription is then ringing up the hospital, the police and everybody else right left and sundry, trying to find the chemist. So that is why the Chief Minister has said 'if the hon Member would like to let me know who the doctor is, we can then try to educate the doctor'. But the system is there and works.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

So I was right after all, there is a 24 hour service that there is a pharmacist on duty. How can one expect a pharmacist to be rang by a patient and say 'can I have such and such a medicine?'. The Chief Minister should not think that we are going down that route at all but after having heard the Chief Minister I can tell him that perhaps, as I said earlier, there must have been bad communication between the GP and the patient, because if there happens to be a pharmacy on duty and the pharmacy closes at 9 o'clock and say as we were given an example, the doctor comes in and then he prescribes a medicine that is required, of course, then as the Minister is saying it is up to the doctor to ring the pharmacist and say 'look open because this patient requires this medication'. Therefore, I will give the Minister the name, I was just trying to be constructive because what I wanted to tell him is that perhaps in cases where the GP just leave the prescription, even though they tell the patient that they have to take it and there has been bad communication, perhaps it would be wise for the hospital and the Police Headquarters to have the name, and in any case for the patient's benefit because then the medicine that is required by the patient would have to be a medicine that is necessary to the extent that if the patient knows and rings up the pharmacy and the pharmacist says 'wel, I do not think this is something which is required now', there can be a sort of a communication from the pharmacy back to the

duty doctor on call. I am glad that the Minister for Health has clarified the situation in that indeed there is a pharmacy open 24 hours and that it is the patients that need to actually communicate with the doctors or vice versa for the patient to know where he has to go for that medicine.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

We will leave it because there does not seem to be a disagreement. Except that the hon Member appears to believe, having accepted that the service exists and that it is a service accessed by doctors and not by patients, there is no need to leave the number of the duty chemist with the Porters Lodge or the Police, because the doctors know how to access the duty chemist. There is a bleeper, there is a number, it is a system. The duty doctors do not need to phone the Police to be told how to conduct the duty chemist. This is the point. The point that I have been trying to address to the hon Lady is that the system does not require anything to be left at the Porter. The only thing that might be required to be left at the Porter or with the Police would be for the benefit of a patient getting the number and the patient directly getting in touch with them, and that is not the system, is not intended to be the system and will not be the system. That is the only point I wanted to declare.

NO 779 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – PRIMARY CARE CENTRE

What changes, if any, have the Government introduced to the appointments system at the Primary Care Centre, and if so, when?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

A computerised electronic appointments system was introduced in the summer of 2003. The appointments system is in the process of continuous incremental development and improvement. The statistics and feedback generated by the new system are essential in permitting this improvement. We are confident that the new system is better than the old one and that it will continue to improve.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 779 OF 2004

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

When the Minister says that it was introduced in the summer, can he be more specific because when he says the summer I think he must be referring to the months of June, July August of last year. I have a copy I have made a copy of what the actual report by the Healthcare Development Team says about the system, and the report was published in September of last year. If the system was introduced in the summer then it must mean that they are criticising the system that was introduced which the Minister has just communicated to us, where they say that an appointment at the Primary Care Centre involves up to 19 steps. That a patient will wait up to an hour before being seen by a clinician and the amount spent waiting is excessive when compared to the actual consultation time, that the administrative process that has been designed to support the appointments process is very complex and poorly understood by the patients that are required to use it. Therefore, can the Minister be more specific? Can he say, as he said in the summer, and the report was published in September and most of the pages that carry the word 'produced' carry the month 'July', is the Minister saying that it was introduced before July or after July? I do not think that after July is the summer.

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

The hon Member assumes, because she does not know it was not there at the time, that the criticisms in the report refer to the previous system, not to the current system. It is the nature of the time span, the report was published in September but research must have been done before September. If this was presented in the summer, I do not have an exact date for her whether it was June, July or August so I cannot pin it down. Be that as it may, this is as I said a process of continuous incremental development. There is still work being carried out by the Clinical Governance Development Team. The appointments system is one of the work streams on which they are working, work stream No. 7. What is in place was developed in-house. The system as it is in place now is being analysed and looked at for possible improvements and when those recommendations come to the Government there will then, if we accept those recommendations, there will be another change, but I think what the hon Member is referring to is past history, she should be looking forward and not back.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The deficiencies that were identified then no longer exist, is the Minister saying that those deficiencies are now history and have been dealt with?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

That is a different question altogether, I will need notice of that question. The question is have we introduced an appointment system and the answer is yes, last summer. Whether the comparatives, I do not have that information.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The question is 'what changes, if any, have been introduced?'. The Minister says there are changes taking place all the time and he has told us that we should regard the deficiencies that were identified in the Clinical Governance Report that they commissioned, as being history. Well, that suggests to me that if they say one of the deficiencies is that there are 19 steps it means that there are no longer 19 steps, is that the case or not?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

I think by the very nature of the new system there cannot be 19 steps. For example, a larger number of appointments are now done by telephone than were being done before, as much now as 45 per cent of the appointments are being done by telephone. The other advantage which obviously negates the criticism read out by his hon Colleague is that appointments are now given on a time specific to the patient basis as opposed to what was happening in the past which was a block appointment for a number of patients for a given time. So I think it is implicit in the changes that those must apply to the previous system. In any case what I am saying is that the current system, be that as it may, the current system is not cast in stone either, and that could possibly change, I do not know, maybe not, but could possibly change in the coming months.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Did I hear the Minister correctly when he said that the arrangements had been put in place in-house, which means that they have been prompted to the Government by the professionals working within the GHA and not the experts?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

Yes, that is exactly what I have said. I have said the computerisation of the system had been developed in-house from resources within the GHA. Presumably prior to the entry of the Clinical Governance Team onto the scene or either before or in parallel. A system like that would not be developed over five hours, it would take a bit longer than that. Then to test it and then to put it into place. I know when I first visited the Primary Care Centre as Minister it was already there in place but was still being tested and still being developed, as it probably is still now. So yes, the resources were available from within the GHA, was done from within the GHA. I cannot say positively but it seems to me that they were not prompted by the Clinical Governance Team. The Clinical Governance Team had come there to look at what was there, at the same time as the new system was being put into place and now what they are assessing is the new system in place and to see how it is working.

ORAL

NO 780 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – OUT-PATIENT ATTENDANCES

Can Government state what was the total number of out-patient attendances at the Primary Care Centre from 1 March 2003 to the end of December 2003, specifying each month?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 781 to 783 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 781 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – OUT-PATIENTS ATTENDANCES

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

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 780, 782 and 783 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 782 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – OUT-PATIENT ATTENDANCES

Can Government state what was the total number of GP attendances at the primary care centre for the year 2000, 2001 and 2002?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 780, 781 and 783 of 2004.

NO 783 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – NUMBER OF HOUSE CALLS

Can Government state how many house-calls were attended to by Health Centre doctors from 1 January 2004 to end March 2004 specifying each month?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Question No. 780 of 2004 is identical to Question No. 214 of 2004, which was asked during the meeting of the House last January and the information in answer to which has been made available to the hon Member. The answers to Question Nos. 781 to 783 are contained in the Schedules that have now been handed to her.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 781

Department	January	February	March	Total
Audiology	215	232	199	646
Dietitian	73	66	83	222
Nursing	1140	1428	1517	4085
School Health Service	460	404	441	1305
Speech & Language PAED	31	37	43	111
Speech & Language (Adult)	110	112	117	339
Mental Welfare	76	122	117	315
Optometrist	165	157	102	424
Orthoptist	90	79	121	290
G P Clinics	10191	7611	9654	27456
Dermatologist	18	18	18	54
Dental	1430	1587	1624	4641
Child Welfare	826	792	849	2467
Nurse Practitioner	882	519	324	1725
Total	15707	13164	15209	44080

Answer to Question 782 of 2004

2000

DEPARTMENT	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
GP CLINIC	7,014	6,908	7,005	6,266	7,721	6,585	7,215	7,149	7,593	8,563	7,854	6,726	86,599

2001

DEPARTMENT	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
GP CLINIC	8858	9392	9324	7779	9479	8446	8389	8710	7988	10013	9591	6982	104,951

2002

DEPARTMENT	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
GP CLINIC	6416	8477	7479	8097	8212	6490	7639	6703	6911	9207	7481	6790	89,902

ANSWER TO QUESTION 783

The number of house-calls attended to by Health Centre doctors are as follows:

January	655
February	363
March	564

These figures are for house calls logged during emergency clinic hours at the Primary Care Centre - 9.00 a.m. - 11. a.m. and 2.00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 780 TO 783 OF 2004

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

I have done a comprehensive exercise as regards the figures that I have been provided in this House, and have also taken the trouble to compare them with the figures that appear in the Government Abstract of Statistics. Also with the figures that appear in the Healthcare Report, and I would like to inform the Minister that they baffle me. They do not coincide at all. So what I would like the Minister to do is perhaps to get somebody to do the exercise for him that I have done and then he will realise that when we are talking about the number of out-patient attendances at the Primary Care Centre, let us look at the year 2000 for example. For the year 2000 I have done the exercise and I have come up with all the answers that I have been given by the Government for that year and I come to the figure of 123,049. The Government Abstract of Statistics, who the GHA provide them with the figures for the same year gives the figure of 128,298, and in the Healthcare Report for that same year the figure of 120,204 appears. So we have 123,049 for Government answers in the House, Government Abstract of Statistics for that year 128,298 and the Healthcare Report 120,204. Now if we continue, and I have spent quite a number of days and perhaps weeks looking at these statistics because they are important, that is why we always ask for questions on statistical information. When we look for example at Question No. 782 we have discrepancies as well. When we ask the Government for the total number of GP attendances at the Primary Care Centre for 2000, 2001 and 2002 I am provided with the following. For 2000 86,599; for 2001 104,951; for 2002 89,902. When we look at the Report for the same years, GP Attendances 92,359 compared to what the Minister has provided me with 86,599. 96,885 compared to 104,951 and 96,959 compared with 89,902. Therefore if I continue I do not think I have got to the other ones, I would urge the Minister if he would actually get somebody in his Department to actually tell us which of the figures are the correct ones. If he can confirm that the correct ones are the ones that I have been provided in this House by them, the ones that appear in the Government Abstract of Statistics or the ones that appear in the Healthcare Development Team Report of September 2003, because none of them are the same.

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

Either someone needs a new battery for their calculator or maybe even a new calculator, or alternatively the hon Member is not comparing apples with apples. I cannot on my feet, and I know she is not asking me to do that, answer which one it is. I am happy to get people to go and check up the figures but before I do that I think the hon Member should be more specific on what the figure is that she wants to get. What I would suggest is that she asks me, I am not going to go and check the Abstract of Statistics or whatever the other source was that she mentioned, I will check the validity of the answers that I have given in this House. If the hon Member wants me just to check that answer, I can get it checked but if she wants me to compare it with other sources then if she could give me the comparative sources and specify the question a bit more accurately in a letter to me I will get the right people to look at it. What I do not want to do is get people to do a mathematical exercise unless I am sure that we are looking at the same question or the same comparative.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

I am referring Question No. 781 and 782 and we are talking about GP attendances at the Primary Care Centre and we are talking about Out-patient attendances at the Primary Care Centre. In the three areas that I have actually done the exercise on, the figures do not coincide.

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

That is exactly what I am saying. If the hon Member would like to write to me and say to me 'the figure for out-patient attendances in this period of time, in the House you give me this', tell me what it is that needs to be checked. The hon Member should be specific and do it in writing so I can make sure that what I am checking, I do not want to do it on the basis of a verbal exchange. If she tells me what she wants checked I will get it checked.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can the Minister also, taking into account that the Abstract of Statistics quotes as the source the Health Authority, check with them what it is that they have provided the Statistics Office with?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

Yes obviously. That is why I am saying that before I start anybody doing the exercise, which is time consuming and which moves people away from doing more important things in health, I want to make sure that I am tasking them with a specific task. For example, in preparing the answers to questions today, something that looks relatively simple that was asked in two separate questions of the Minister for Social Services and myself in relation to people on waiting lists for something or other, the GHA and Social Services came to a different answer. The reason for that is very simple, unless one says on Friday 14th of such a month at 5 o'clock what was the number of people on the waiting list, the answer is different. The GHA have calculated it as at the beginning of April and Social Services have calculated it as at last week, and there was a difference. What I want to avoid is the same sort of exercise. So if she is specific and tells me exactly what it is that is to be compared, and if I am not clear I will get some one to come back to it.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Definitely. I have done the exercise myself and it has taken me weeks but I will provide the Minister with the information because we are talking about substantial differences in the three sets of figures, and therefore I will send it over to him and I will show him the figures that I have come up with and I will actually photocopy the information that I have come up with so that the work that is required is not going to be so tiresome as the one that I had to do.

NO 784 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – STRESS MACHINES

Can Government confirm whether there is a stress machine at the Primary Care Centre, which was donated last year, which is not being used?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

The GHA does not have a stress machine at the Primary Care Centre.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 784 OF 2004

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

This is rather surprising because the actual donors, the people who donated the machine, contacted us and said that they had handed it over last year. Is it that the machine has disappeared or it was not donated? Because as far as the private entities that donated the machine, or is it kept somewhere else, where is it? I am laughing but I should not be because we are talking about a stress machine which was donated by private entities in Gibraltar, but if the Minister would enlighten us as to where it is or what has happened to it.

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

It is not anywhere, a stress machine has not been donated to the GHA or to the Primary Care Centre, and there is not one there and there has never been one there. I assume what the hon Member is referring to is a treadmill or an exercise bicycle that was donated last year, but it is not a stress machine.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

This is rather surprising because the information that we got was information from the people who actually donated it, but I suspect that a lot of people when they are talking about a treadmill, that in effect is sometimes referred to as a stress machine. If it is a treadmill is that there at the Health Centre?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

Yes there is a treadmill at the Health Centre, the Primary Care Centre which was donated last year. To clarify because I am not trying to be deliberately obtuse, I am trying to clarify the situation so that the hon Member can understand it better. There was an offer of a stress machine, there is a whole story to that and if she wishes to ask more questions then it is up to her. What was donated was not a stress machine, it was a piece of equipment minus the necessary software, bits and pieces that would turn it into a stress machine. At the moment it is only a treadmill and it is being used at the Cardiac Rehabilitation Centre for exercise but it is not a stress machine and it is not capable of being a stress machine until more bits and pieces, including software, are purchased, added on to it, loaded on to it, whatever needs to be done. I trust that is clearer.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

In view of what the Minister has said, and he has stressed it in exclamation marks, will the bits and pieces be purchased by the Government so that in fact it is converted into a stress machine?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

At the moment there are no plans to do so.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

In that case I am totally distressed about it.

ORAL

NO 785 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – PRESCRIPTION CHARGES

Can Government say what was the amount paid to Pharmacists for the months of January, February and March of 2004 and the comparable figure for the same months in the previous year in respect of £1.80 per item prescription charged, regarding the medicines to which the sum applied?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 786 to 795 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 786 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – PRESCRIPTION CHARGES

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 12, 13, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 of 2002/2003, in respect of which £2.50 per item was paid by patients to dispensing pharmacists and the total value of the medicines so dispensed and the comparable figures for the previous year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 785 and 787 to 795 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 787 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – PRESCRIPTION CHARGES

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 account periods in respect of 12, 13, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 of 2003?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 785 and 786 and 788 to 795 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 788 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – PRESCRIPTION CHARGES

Can Government state the number of items that have been issued, that exceed the three items which pay a total of £7.50, for the accounting periods 12, 13, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 of 2003?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 784 to 787 and 789 to 795 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 789 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – PRESCRIPTION CHARGES

Can Government state what was the amount paid to pharmacists for the months of March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November and December of 2003, and the comparable figure for the same months in the previous year, in respect of £1.80 per item prescription charged, regarding the medicines to which the sum applied?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 785 to 788 and 790 to 795 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 790 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – PRESCRIPTION CHARGES

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 9, 10, 11 and 12 of 2003/2004, in respect of which £2.50 per item was paid by patients to dispensing pharmacists and the total value of the medicines so dispensed and the comparable figures for the previous year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 786 to 789 and 791 to 795 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 791 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – PRESCRIPTION CHARGES

Can Government give a breakdown of the total number of prescriptions issued, the number of items and the cost of the medicines covered by such prescriptions under the GPMS for the accounting periods in respect of 9, 10, 11 and 12 of 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 785 to 790 and 792 to 795 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 792 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – PRESCRIPTION CHARGES

Can Government state the number of items that have been issued, that exceed the three items which pay a total of £7.50, for the accounting periods 9, 10, 11 and 12 of 2003/2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 785 to 791 and 793 to 795 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 793 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 12, 13, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 of 2003/2004 as a result of their having increased prescription charges from £1.20 to £2.50, also updating the previous information given in answer to Question No 256 of 2003, which was incomplete?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 785 to 792 and 794 to 795 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 794 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – PRESCRIPTION CHARGES

Can Government state how much has been paid to the pharmacists as a result of the 15 per cent addition to the cost of medicines, in respect of each financial year since it was first introduced?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 785 to 793 and 795 of 2004.

NO 795 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – PRESCRIPTION CHARGES

Can Government state how much has been paid to the pharmacists as dispensing fees in each financial year beginning with 1997/1998?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Question Nos. 786, 787, 788 and 789 are identical to Question Nos. 215, 216, 217 and 218 of 2004 which were asked during the meeting of the House last January and the information in answer to which has been made available to the hon Member. With regard to the other questions, the answers are set out in the schedules that I hand to her.

Answer to Question 785 of 2004.

<u>2004</u>		<u>2003</u>
Period 11- starts 11 th January -	No payment	No payment
Period 12	No payment	No payment
Period 13	No payment	No payment

Answer to Question 790 of 2004

Year 2003/2004

Periods 11 & 12 are incomplete as some Pharmacies still have to submit accounts.

	Prescriptions	Items	Cost
Period 9	5968	14812	£199206.97
Period 10	5594	14169	£182990.65
Period 11	5428	13173	£169621.22
Period 12	5123	12460	£157177.83

Year 2002/2003

Period 9	5719	13690	£181477.63
Period 10	5582	13064	£171917.59
Period 11	5834	14001	£178839.95
Period 12	6231	14647	£190650.94

Total value not available

Answer to Question 791 of 2004

	Prescriptions	Items	Cost
Period 9	13325	46790	£562454.75
Period 10	12822	46843	£549486.81
Period 11	11971	41579	£487830.41
Period 12	10793	36864	£433798.75

Periods 11 & 12 are incomplete as some Pharmacies still have to submit accounts.

Answer to Question 792 of 2004.

The number of items on paying prescriptions that did not pay £2.50 were:

Period	Items
9	3312
10	3308
11	2823
12	2755

Periods 11 and 12 are incomplete as some pharmacies still have to submit accounts.

Answer to Question 793 of 2004.

Revenue raised for period 12 - 13 & 1 - 12 is	£380,895.00
Before increase in prescription charges revenue raised would be 194621 @ £1.20	£233,545.20
Also approximate 66% of 425272 items would have paid 20p	£56,135.80
Total revenue that would have been raised would have been £289,681.00 therefore extra revenue raised would be	£91,214.00

This also updates Question 256 of 2003 but is incomplete because periods 11 & 12 of 2003/2004 are incomplete.

Answer to Question 794 of 2004.

<u>Year</u>	<u>15% Paid</u>
99/00	£300,785.40 (period 6-13 only)
00/01	£563,357.94
01/02	£689,124.41
02/03	£787,484.42
03/04	£886,611.45 (incomplete)

Answer to Question 795 of 2004.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>
1997/98	£747,645
1998/99	£659,907.36
1999/2000	£750,000
2000/2001	£750,000
2001/2002	£750,000
2002/2003	£750,000
2003/2004	£750,000

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 785 TO 795 OF 2004

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Can the Minister confirm, because this is something that I spoke to him about, that the answers that he has actually given to me today will be recorded in Hansard? That is the idea is it not?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

There are two different situations here. The arrangement that we made in your presence was that the hon Member would give me advance notice of the statistical questions, I would provide the statistics in answer ahead of the meeting and then she would ask the question at the meeting and I would give her the answer at the meeting. This is what I am doing in relation to all the questions except the ones I have said have already been answered. The questions that she asked at the last meeting that I said I would answer in 10 days time are Question Nos. 215, 216, 217 and 218 which as my hon Colleague earlier on and in fact myself in an earlier answer, it would be to give the same information again. In those cases there has been no arrangement to provide the answer, whether it is recorded or not that is up to the Speaker.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Well that was the idea, if I remember rightly, in the presence of Mr Speaker I said I would ask the question again and the answer that I was given would be recorded, and that is the arrangement we came to with Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER:

No, there was no arrangement with me. There was arrangement between you two. As far as I am concerned there is no arrangement with me.

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

The arrangement that I agreed to after a lot of discussion was that I offered to provide the statistical information at intervals to be agreed between us, for example quarterly, but we established with Mr Speaker that that would not allow it to be published in Hansard. So what we agreed to was that that information, either published quarterly or provided quarterly or provided in correspondence so she would get it periodically at fixed periods of time, the hon Member could then ask again and I would provide the answer, which is what I am doing. I have already provided information ahead of the meeting just as she provided the questions to me I have provided answers to her ahead of the question, but the various questions which at the last meeting I undertook to answer in 10 days time, I have never considered part of that arrangement. Otherwise I would be answering the same question twice in this House, and as Mr Speaker said before half jokingly, if we establish the practice where because we are unable to answer the question, we want to answer it but we are unable to answer in the time available and say we are going to give the answer in 10 days time, if then the same question is going to be asked again, it is

going to increase the number of questions by 20 per cent. Let us be clear, the information has been provided what we are discussing is whether it has been provided here so that it is available in Hansard. In any case the question is being asked again within six months of the original question which is another issue altogether, but if the hon Member is that insistent on it being in Hansard I am not sure what the solution is.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can I remind the Minister that the solution that was given in answer today to Question No. 588 is the solution that is now being rejected. When the Hon Mr Bruzon asked 'can Government provide the answers given in writing to Questions 123 to 131 of 2004 by the Minister for Housing for the purpose of the record in Hansard?', the Minister for Housing told us that if we wanted the answers given for the purpose of the record of the answer, we should ask again the questions that have already been answered in writing, namely Questions 123 to 131. Now my hon Colleague has asked again and the answer she has been given is 'I have already given you the answer'. Well, the answer that the Minister has given to my Colleague is in fact what we were recommended to do earlier today by the Minister for Housing in answer to Question No. 588, and what I said we would do at the next meeting of the House. That is to table again questions 123 to 131 and if the Minister recollects what I said before was well look I assume that in the answer what we will get is what we get in other questions, which is '*I will now pass the statistical information over to the hon Member*', and even though it is not read out it is recorded.

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

I have copies of the previous answer here and I do not have a problem in providing it. I am worried about the principle, this is not something that has been discussed in the Government, I am worried about the principle of a question being asked as we are talking about, the question was asked last time I said '*I cannot provide the answer now, I will provide it in 10 days time*', in 10 days time or less I provided it in writing, if we accept the principle that every time we do that then it is going to be asked again in the House, it is just artificially extending the number of questions, that is the principle I am worried about.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I agree entirely with what the Minister is saying, that is why if he cares to look at the way Question No. 588 is drafted, it is not drafted as a repetition of the previous questions in a period of less than six months, which in fact the Standing Orders do not permit, it is drafted in a way which acknowledges that we have already got the information and we are simply asking by putting a question which covers the group, as opposed to each individual one, that is why it says here Questions 123 to 131 on the basis that that would enable the Minister to say '*I now pass over the information I have already provided in writing*' and that passing over, as happens with all the other questions, would be a sufficient trigger to get it recorded.

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

I do not want to hold up the procedure unnecessarily. I am quite happy to carry on until we get a chance to discuss and make policy decisions internally, but it will take me a couple of seconds to bring out the copies from here and I can hand it over later. Then for the record I will hand over the written answers that I supplied to the hon Member to Question Nos. 215, 216, 217 and 218 during this meeting.

NO 796 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – COST OF PHARMACEUTICALS

Can the Government state whether the growth in the costs of pharmaceuticals, has resumed at an even faster rate of increase, 18 per cent per year, in the last three years, as compared with 13 per cent per year from 1990 to 1998?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

No Sir. The increases over the past 3 years have been as follows:-

2000/2001 – 2001/2002	15.9 per cent
2001/2002 – 2002/2003	10.8 per cent
2002/2003 – 2003/2004	7.8 per cent

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 796 OF 2004

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Can the Minister then explain the difference in the figures that he has given to me in relation to the figures that are published in the Healthcare Development Team Report, where it specifies that there has been an 18 per cent increase?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

If this is an example of comparing apples to apples then it explains why the hon Member can not square the abstract with the answers given in this House to whatever the third source is, because this is exactly the problem. The hon Member is not reading the report correctly and she is not comparing apples with apples. The report says, 'after 1998', the question says 'in the last three years' and that is why the percentages are different. The raw data is different.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

It is not different, I am reading the report and it says that it has shifted significantly over not the last three years as the Minister has said, over the last five years. I have got it in front of me. It has shifted significantly.

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

Precisely, over the last five years but her question is in the last three years so the percentages have got to be different. One is five years and her question is over the last three years.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

But the Minister can confirm that they have increased in the last three years.

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

I have just given the hon Member the percentages, that they have increased, not as much as they used to increase in her time by the way, but that is a different issue. The figures that I have for the increases in her time are much bigger, 26 per cent, 17 per cent, 22 per cent, but that is a different issue.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

It is definitely a different issue because I have never, ever recalled the increases the Minister is mentioning today when we were in government. Another thing I wish to remind the Minister is that having had a government that sadly decided to increase prescription charges because they said that there were abuses, and then having introduced generics because they wanted to introduce cost-saving measures, sadly it appears that all that they have tried to do has completely backfired on them, because when they actually introduced, and I know that the hon the previous Minister will remember, I was constantly telling him that why had he increased prescription charges which they did from £1.20 to £2.50, I think that the actual campaign against that measure, because we were talking about people who were ill and who need medicinal products and we thought that it was not prudent on the part of the Government that whereby they were spending huge sums of money in other areas they decide to increase prescription charges but now it seems that we have a situation because of the figures that we have arrived at and the figures provided by the Report of the Healthcare Development Team, that it is in fact the Government that have changed the system and have actually done the opposite of what they said they aimed to do whereby after £7.50 all items in prescriptions are free of charge. Has that not conducted the increases that are actually here highlighted by the Report which actually says '*increases in number of items per script*' that is one of the reasons for the increases, are we not correct in our analysis? I know the Chief Minister will say no.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No I do not think anything has been conducted or even induced by anything that the hon Member has said. It really is not easy to calculate. I do not know if the hon Member genuinely simply does not understand the concepts that she refers to in debate in this House, or whether she does understand them but goes out of her way to abuse the principles and the concepts, simply to suit her political objectives. Look, she refers to generics, as if introducing generics was somehow a negative thing. The Government introduced the same generics formulary as applies in the UK and throughout Western Europe. So, she may think that introducing what she calls generics, by which I assume she means the medicine formulary which includes generic medicines as well, the Government do not feel a need to apologise or explain it. It is a perfectly normal thing to do, the only country in Europe which was lining the pockets of proprietary drugs manufacturers when there were identical chemical compositions in the form of medicines with exactly the same medical effect available for less money, the only country left in Europe being taken for a ride in that way was Gibraltar, and the hon Lady may still be trying to pretend that joining the rest of the world in not being taken to the cleaners by the medicine companies is somehow a retrograde step. Well she can continue until the day she gives up her health portfolio trying to argue that. She can continue to argue that the entire world is wrong and she, who is the only human being under the sun that I have ever heard argue against the introduction of generic medicines, is right.

Secondly, if she wants to make allusions to the fact that we increased prescriptions, or does she think that this community can continue to fund itself indefinitely, lowering taxes, raising public expenditure and never raising revenue-raising methods. She expects the price of prescription medicines to remain in Gibraltar the same as they were in 1985 and that any decision by the Government to increase them is somehow the equivalent of slaughtering babies at birth. Well, she has an extraordinary approach to that which I find mindless. She may be for example, interested in knowing that the prescription charges in the United Kingdom are higher than the prescription charges in Gibraltar. So we have got a long way to go before she can start complaining. If she is going to start mentioning, as she does in every question, the Government's policy to raise prescription charges, I mean she is still going on about this four years after the event. Four years after the event she is still referring but I do not mind, in fact we may raise the prescription charges again as responsible governments should when there is a need to do so, but she should add, if she is interested in reflecting the policy accurately, she should say that we have increased some prescription charges and abolished them for others. The hon Member never says whilst acknowledging that they abolished prescription charges for pensioners, she never says that, '*you raise prescription charges*' but does not add '*but abolished them for pensioners*'. Now the hon Lady claims to be a socialist, I have never noticed an enormous amount of socialism in any of them but still, they claim to be socialist and when we removed prescription charges for elderly people instead of welcoming it she ignores it. Or is it that she does not ignore it, that she does not think it is politically convenient to refer to it, which calls into question issues of integrity and objectivity and accuracy of facts.

The most astonishing part of her last intervention is the suggestion, it really is an astonishing abuse of statistics that because the prescription medicine bill for generic medicines, or for medicines post the introduction of the generic formula has now overtaken or increased higher than it was when the measure was taken, that this must mean that the measure was wrong. Does the obvious not occur to her? Namely, that without the use of the formulary, without the use of generic medicines, the figure would be even higher, that we would have reached these levels on the

basis of using only proprietary branded drugs, these excessive levels of medicine costs would have been reached years ago, and that the cost today would be even more millions of pounds than they are now. Is that not the obvious answer? By what logical application of the statistics does she come to the conclusion that these percentage increases, which incidentally are smaller than the percentage increases that she, she may not be aware of it because she was not perhaps even conscious of the rising costs of medicines in her day, but if she calculates the cost of medicines during her term of office, she will see that what the Minister for Health has said is correct, and the explanation is not that the costs of medicines are rising because of the formulary, the use of generics has retarded the increase in the cost of medicines. I have to say that these costs of medicines are still far too high. The hon Lady if she were really interested in statistics, Jersey with a much larger population than Gibraltar spends less on the prescription medicines for its health service than we do with a population nearly three times the size. Now, fine, they may be different services, but I think none of what she has just said is a reasonable analysis of the matter. As she ended her last supplementary by asking whether the Government agreed with her analysis, the answer is that for all the reasons that I have just taken her through, that the Government do not agree with her analysis.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Opposition Members agree that we are hearing a lot of waffle, as we always do, from the Chief Minister, because if the Chief Minister is now saying that perhaps they will have to increase the prescriptions, that they are far too high, and I have taken note of what the Chief Minister has said, then why did they change the system when they increased prescription charges from £1.20 to £2.50 and then suddenly they came back to the House and said *'there is abuse and that is why we have done it, and now we are going to change the system and the system now is that patients after three items, every other item in the prescription is free of charge'*. So what is the Chief Minister talking about?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I cannot make any sense whatsoever of the question.

ORAL

NO 797 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – PRIMARY/SECONDARY CARE

Have the Government any evidence that suggests that there is little communication between Primary and Secondary Care Services?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question No. 798 of 2004.

NO 798 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – PRIMARY/SECONDARY CARE

Can the Government confirm whether there is lack of communication between doctors and other health professionals?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

The interface between primary and secondary care involves large volumes of interactions covering a substantial range of services between practitioners, their patients and their colleagues.

There will always be room to improve communications between different staff groups. The GHA has therefore established a group, led by a lay member of the Authority, to develop ways to improve internal communications within the GHA. In addition, the Clinical Development Team's proposals for improving health service delivery in Gibraltar envisage significant improvement, via new multi-disciplinary working arrangements, which will lead to better communications between staff groups and better services for patients.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 797 TO 798 OF 2004

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Therefore, by definition, the Minister is saying that yes, there is evidence that suggests that there is little communication and that there is evidence that there is lack of communication between doctors and other health professionals. Now, can the Minister confirm whether he was aware that this was happening before the Report was actually published?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

First of all what I said was the interface between primary and secondary care involves et cetera, the hon Member will have to look at Hansard and she will see what I said, which is not what she said I said. Secondly, before the Report was prepared by the Clinical Development Team, as she has asked me, I was looking after other portfolios in Government and therefore, I was not aware.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Yes, I know, but when talking about a Government the Minister can not just say '*I do not know because I was not the Minister for Health*', I will ask the Government then.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, I am very happy, the Government are very happy to answer the question. The hon Lady is living on another planet and certainly living in another country if she does not know that there has been historically in Gibraltar, including during her term in office with the responsibility for health, a permanent situation of tension between a number, not all, a number of GPs at the hospital and a number, not all, of consultants at the hospital. The hon Member must know this and for her to feign that she does not know it is unbelievable, because it is a well known fact. It is a well known fact in public circles let alone to somebody who has been Minister for Health for eight years, and she will see, when we start publishing the implementation. Well, I suppose she is interested in the answer to the question that she has asked, if she is not I have got better things to do with my time.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

It is extraordinary that the Chief Minister suddenly comes up dishing out allegations that he knows what happened when I was in government. How does he know? In any case, we are talking about a Government that have been in office for eight years. Does the Chief Minister then not accept that after eight years, I think that the people of Gibraltar are starting to get a bit fed up. The Government have been in office for eight years, and the Chief Minister has said that he knows what happened when I was in government. He cannot, and secondly, he does not want to know what is happening now within the eight years that his party has been in Government, because this is definitely something that has come out from a Report that he has commissioned, and therefore how can he try to waffle his way out of a situation that is existing in the Health Services today and for which they are responsible. They have been eight years in Government, will they be 20 years or 30 years and still blame the AACR?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The way things are going there is every likelihood that we will be in office for the next 20 or 30 years, that part of the hon Member's answer is certainly true, because frankly, I do not know what the hon Lady, I am quite prepared to continue this exchange with her on the basis that at least she is going to listen to what one says. What I would have carried on to say, had she been interested in listening to the answer that I was trying to give her before, what I was going to say was that she will see when we start publishing the implementation recommendations in Phase 2 of the Health Review, that what I am saying is true, and that there are instances of what I said before about the tension between Primary and Care Centre. I did not need to answer her specific supplementary of earlier, I did not need experts to come from the United Kingdom to tell me that there was tension but that is what she does not understand. She can never understand the distinction between identifying a problem and the necessary expertise to remedy it, and she never recognises that distinction. This is why she introduced no health reform whatsoever in her eight years in office. I did not need a consultant from the United Kingdom, however expert, to come to tell

me that the problem existed. That is true of most of the problems in the Health Authority, but we do need expertise from the United Kingdom to tell us how they can be fixed. I know the hon Member does not agree but this is the sort of the political arrogance of it. There is a problem. Sometimes I think that what makes the hon Lady most nervous is that we might succeed in fixing the problems, because she is going to have to find another political toy to play with. I cannot understand this, Governments all over the world when there are structural reforms to be introduced in a highly technical specialist area like health, Governments all over the world consult the experts, not the hon Lady. We differ and we are perfectly happy to spend the substantial sums of public money that we are spending on the consultants, because we know that the result will be a long overdue, overhaul of 40 years work of accumulated bad practice in the health service, not all of it the result of the eight years that the hon Member was in office, but those eight years accrued bad practice as well, because every year that passes without reform adds to the problem. We decided to initiate the reforms when we did, we could say that from the two years before then we were contributing. We started three years ago, this process has been on-going. No changes yet, but the reforms that are coming are long, deep and wide and by the time they are finished, which is not a never never process, we are talking about a process that might last between 12 and 18 months at the most, the Health Service will not be recognisable from what it is today. It is all very well for the hon Lady to say, *'why has it taken us eight years'*, it has not taken us eight years it has taken us six years to start the process. The Opposition Members did not do it and they did not even address their minds to the need for the process in eight years in government. When the hon Lady starts seeing some of these reports that are going to be published, she will see what I mean when I say that there is tension and lack of communication and that this is ingrained in the system, the system is not right.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can I just make clear, because the Chief Minister has said two things which appears to contradict the other. One is that we do not support the bringing of this Clinical Governance Team, we do not but he just said that my hon Colleague was criticising him as to why it took him so long. We are not criticising why it took him so long to have the Clinical Governance because we would not have done it and we do not support it.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Another thing that the Chief Minister said, he said he knew the problems and he has accepted that he needs the experts to fix them. Well, I can tell him that the whole of Gibraltar knows that the problems that exist today did not exist when we were in government at all and they can laugh. There were no measures that we had to take like they have had to take. We did not have people having to wait for beds to go into the hospital, we did not have to mix the wards and I can go on and on and on. We knew the problems and the difference between them and us, is that we solved them and they did not. When they came into Government the problems started to exacerbate.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Oh I see. So when the British Medical Council described the Health Services under her stewardship as 'third world' this was a figment of their imagination, was it?

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

The Chief Minister is saying nonsense, because when he says the British Medical Council, people hearing might say 'oh this is a council'. Who are the people who said it? The Branch of the BMA and they did not say it was in third world standards, what they said was it could go down because we were actually tackling private practice, which we did and which has been another fiasco with this Government, but the British Medical Council does not exist. It is the BMA, the union of the doctors who were very concerned that we were going to tackle private practice. So the Chief Minister should know that when he talks in this House he should say what is actually factual information and not what suits him.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Let us be clear of the enormity of what the hon Lady is saying. The hon Lady is saying that on 15th May 1996 there was in the Gibraltar Health Authority no private practice, lies. The Gibraltar Health Authority, the hospital has been rife with private practice which she was specifically not just permitting but encouraging by giving contracts to consultants that allowed them to do it. The hon Lady is also suggesting that in her time in St Bernard's Hospital there was never any shortage of beds, no one was ever asked to leave the hospital because they had been discharged. In other words, that none of the things that she presently complains about, about the Health Authority existed. So, before the 16th May 1996 the people of Gibraltar were entirely satisfied with their public health service which did not require them to have recourse to private practice. Who on earth does she think that she is trying to con? The problem with the hon Lady is that she repeats this nonsense so often, she has played this gramophone record so many times in her own earshot that she has ended up actually persuading herself that it is true. This is the problem, there is a grave psychological problem here. The hon Lady has convinced herself that this is true. It is terribly, terribly sad. I am not going to enter into a balance sheet with her about whether it was more bad or less bad in her time of office, or more bad or less bad in our time of office. What I can tell her is this, that there have been huge reforms and huge improvements since 1996 and far from the Health Service having slipped into the mire since 1996, some of the things that needed fixing have been done. Some of the non-existent services that she did not even make available to the people of Gibraltar, are now made available to the people of Gibraltar. Does that mean that the Health Service is now all right? Evidently not. If we thought that the Health Service was now all right, we would not have commissioned the studies that we have commissioned and embarked on the reform that we have embarked. Is the Health Service now better than it was when the hon Lady left office? Incalculably better, ask anybody who works in the Health Service. [Interruption] So the hon Member thinks that this never happened in their time in office? It is clear that the hon Members are completely and utterly blind or obtuse to the realities, which are (1) that the Health Authority today by any measure, the Health Service today is better than it has been. (2) That what requires to be done, not to tinker with linoleum on the floors as she used to do, or not to sack ophthalmologists on her whim as she used to do, but what needs to be done is being done. (3) I am entirely convinced, as I think by now are most people in Gibraltar, that the hon Lady is simply now milking the health issue. Never mind that she has not succeeded in three General Elections in persuading the people of this, but she continues to milk shamelessly the health service, and abuse it for her own purposes because she knows that what she does not want to happen is about to happen. That is that for the first time in Gibraltar's medical history a Government are not only going to deliver a new hospital to the people of Gibraltar, but with it is going to tackle areas of difficulty and reform in our

Health Service which no Government of Gibraltar, least of all hers, has had the courage, the determination, the commitment to tackle, and I am no longer willing to debate these issues over and over again. We fought an election as recently as five months ago on this issue and there is not going to be another general election for another four years. By then it will not turn on what she says or what I say, the time for spin will be over. The people will see the new hospital, it will be up and running and they will decide whether they like it or whether they think it is an improvement, and the reforms to the service will have been delivered and the people will know, will see, whether it is for real or they will know whether it is not for real.

Therefore there really does not seem any point in her and I bantering any longer about this, there is not another electoral contest between now and turkey time. Therefore I suggest that we agree to allow time for the facts to speak for themselves, because there is no point of the hon Lady constantly making statements and constantly making complaints as if a thorough review process was not under way. She ignores the fact that a review process is under way and she says *'yesterday somebody rang me to complain about this or that'*, as if there was not a general review process under way that is going to deal with issues of that sort and many more. So the hon Member can continue to make hay for a little bit longer but not for very much longer, I must warn her.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO;

It is always the Chief Minister that does not like the word 'lies' in this House and he has introduced the word 'lies'. I have always said, that I am not in the habit of saying things in the House that I cannot back up with factual information.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well I think that is not true.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Well in that case, if the Chief Minister has used the word 'lies', I think that this is a word which is not commonly used in parliamentary procedures. Secondly, we were phasing out private practice and they used to criticise us because we were phasing it out, because they said that we were actually going to attract the doctors who did not have the right qualities to come over. That did not happen, and another thing that I can tell him is, does he not realise that the people of Gibraltar do not believe what he is saying? The people of Gibraltar have got long memories and they know that the Health Services are now worse then ever before. Does he not realise that he accepted it? When the elections were over, he actually said in his speech that he accepted there had been a reprimand from the people of Gibraltar because of our health services.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes of course I accepted that, but that is not an acknowledgement.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Yes, the psychological problem is on his side not our side.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I fear that the hon Lady has been contagiously influenced by the Hon Stephen Linares.

HON S E LINARES:

Point of order. What is the Chief Minister saying about the Hon Stephen Linares? Because I have been giggling and laughing, yes I admit to that, the same as he does when I speak, he giggles and laughs, so what is the allegation the Chief Minister is saying to Stephen Linares?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I was about to tell him but he interrupted to ask a point of order, to ask me what is the allegation, when I was in the process of making it. If he had just let me finish he would not have had to make the point of order, he would by now know the answer. The allegation of contagion to the Hon Stephen Linares is the one that I put to him this morning during his address, which is that the hon Lady, as I said to him this morning, accuses of distortion and attributes to me things that I have not said either for myself or for them. Look, the fact that I after the election acknowledged that the results suggested that the electorate wanted us to concentrate a little bit on local affairs, which was both health and housing as I recall, so let us just stay on the health aspect of it for now. That is not an acknowledgement that the Health Service was then worse than it was under the hon Lady, it was that despite the improvements there had not been enough improvements. I do not see why the hon Member should interpret an acknowledgement on my part that the electorate thinks that more needs to be done on health, as an acknowledgement of my acceptance, to use her words, of the fact that the Health Services were worse under us than under her. I happen to think that they are not. The hon Lady obviously believes the contrary, well that is Okay. [Interruption] Well, I do not know whether that is true, because if things were as bad as the hon Members make out, well then they have got a real big political problem, because for goodness sake, if they could not beat us in three elections in a row having presided over the collapse of the Health Service, which is something which the people of Gibraltar hold most dear, how on earth are they going to beat us after we have fixed it all? The hon Member is in effect saying that despite having been reckless and dilatory and having presided over the collapse of the Health Authority, we were still able to beat them by a margin of 12 per cent in our third election, by which time there is usually a considerable amount of electoral erosion.

Well, I do not think the hon Members should depress themselves in this way. The answer is that the situation is not as she is describing. No, the situation is as I am describing. Namely, that the people see a Government that have resolved to tackle the issues of health, that is tackling the issues of health, that the results have already started to come through and will continue to come through, and unfortunately for her will all have come through before the next election and that they are therefore happy to have such a Government in office. Contrasted to her, now I understand why she did not take any steps to reform the Health Service, how could she take any steps to

reform the Health Service when she is convinced that there was nothing wrong with it, nothing to fix? So, the position is that on 15th May the Health Authorities were in a perfect state and with immediate effect from 16th May 1996, all the problems began to occur. Not only all the problems began to occur, but indeed that all the problems began to occur because of the fault of the GSD Ministers for Health, Keith Azopardi, Bernard Linares, all of them who personally brought about this immediate deterioration beginning the very morning after the general election result. The hon Lady is persuaded that this is true and because we are not going to be having this discussion every time we have a health question in the House, what I propose to the hon Lady is that we just allow time to tell whether we succeed or whether we do not succeed. In the meantime, she can carry on sniping from the margins, but she can carry on sniping from the margins, that is all she is doing and I intend to continue to tell the electorate that that is what she is doing, and I intend to continue to tell the electorate that in our view what the hon Members are doing is simply using the health issue, whilst they can, which as I say is not going to be for very much longer, as a political football. Of course even after the reforms it is not going to be a perfect system, there will always be things that will go wrong. Young men may still die in hospital, people die in hospitals even in the Houston Medical Centre, and of course I have no doubt that whenever there is such an incident the Opposition Members will say, *'ah you see how it was a waste of £1 million to bring the consultants because people are still dying in your hospital'*, I have no doubt that is going to be the case but the electorate is not going to buy it.

ORAL

NO 799 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – COST OF TREATING PENSIONERS IN UK

Can Government now state what was the latest average annual cost of treating a pensioner in the UK in 2001?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 800 and 801 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 800 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – UK SOCIAL SECURITY PENSIONERS

Can Government confirm whether the figure of 462 UK Social Security pensioners, who were not also in receipt of a Gibraltar Social Security pension, resident to date, and registered with the Group Practice Medical Scheme, has now been validated by the Department of Health?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 799 and 801 of 2004.

NO 801 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – GIBRALTAR SOCIAL SECURITY PENSIONERS

Can Government now state how many Gibraltar Social Security pensioners, who were not also in receipt of a UK Social Security pension, are resident to date in the UK?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answer to Question No. 799 OF 2004

The UK Department of Health has not yet presented its 2001 average cost paper to the EU Audit Board, therefore the figures have not been made available.

Answer to Question Nos. 800 and 801 of 2004

Yes Sir. The figure of 462 has now been confirmed by the UK Department of Health and 25 Gibraltar Social Security pensioners were not in receipt of a UK Social Security pension as at 1 April 2003.

ORAL

NO 802 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – COST OF TREATING TEMPORARY VISITORS IN UK

Can the Minister for Health now state what was the latest available cost to the UK of treating temporary visitors from Gibraltar in respect of 2003/2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

The cost of treatment of temporary visitors from Gibraltar to the UK is not yet available to the UK Department of Health.

ORAL

NO 803 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – SECURITY GUARDS

Can Government state how much was paid by the Gibraltar Health Authority for security guards and give a breakdown of the amounts paid to each security company if more than one was contracted?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question No. 804 of 2004.

NO 804 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – SECURITY GUARDS

Can Government state at what rate per man hour the Gibraltar Health Authority paid for the provision of security guards?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

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

Answer to Question No. 803 of 2004

The amounts paid to Detectives & Security for the financial year 2003/2004 was £116,559.

Answer to Question No. 804 of 2004

Rates per hour

	Weekdays	Weekends
01/02	5.50 per hour	£72.00 per weekend
02/03	5.50 per hour	£72.00 per weekend
03/04	6.00 per hour	£88.00 per weekend

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 803 TO 804 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is the increase in the rate in the last year the result of the increase in the minimum wage being reflected in the rate when it goes up to £6.00?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

I am not certain of the answer to that question. I think it is reflected, I will not attempt to answer it, I am not sure what the reason is. I had assumed when I saw the increase that it was purely an increase in costs, that it was the latest year, that the cost had gone up but for a number of reasons I was not able to check it. I do not know the answer.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is the rate that the Health Authority pays the result of having asked for quotes from different people and then having selected this one?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

Yes, I was told that at the moment we are employing only one firm but in the past we have employed a different one, or two at a time, so the prices are arrived at by quotation or tender.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not think it has anything to do with the minimum wage. The rate paid has never been anywhere near the minimum wage, even as far back as 2001/2002 they were being paid £5.50 an hour. So it has been nowhere near the minimum wage, so the rise to £6.00 per hour is not minimum wage linked. They have always been earning more than the minimum wage.

HON J J BOSSANO:

That is not the rate the employees earn. That is the rate the Authority pays. The market is not that big, it just occurred to me that the increase might reflect the fact that the wage paid by the company to the guard had gone up as a result of the minimum wage. What I am thinking is, I assumed that if the Government have got contracts with labour suppliers.....

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

We would not agree to them paying their staff less than the minimum wage.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Right, therefore the contractor might come back to the Government and say '*well, since you are now forcing me to pay more I have to charge you more*'. That is really what I am asking. The fact that it went up in the last year, I assume was not that the company was increasing its profit margin but that the employee was getting paid more.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, all I can say in answer to the question is that the rate goes up every year, even in years in which there has not been an increase in the minimum wage.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Can the Minister for Health confirm whether they have a contract with the company and for what period of time?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

No, we need notice of that question. That there is a contract yes, what the period of time is, I would need notice of.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can I just point out to the Chief Minister that the figures that they have given us do not show that it goes up every year, it shows that it went up in this last financial year but in the preceding two years, when the minimum wage had not gone up, it was the same £5.50 an hour.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The hon Member is right, sorry.

NO 805 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – STUDY LEAVE

Can Government confirm what was the estimated cost of study leave in the financial year 2003/2004 and in what subhead is the sum included?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

The estimated cost of study leave in the financial year 2003/2004 was £52,000 and is included in subhead 30, School of Health Studies.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 805 OF 2004

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

In the Estimates of 2002/2003 it was shown in the estimate for 2001/2002 that it was £60,000 and the previous year it had a zero there and then the forecast outturn for the same year there was nothing there and for the estimate for 2002/2003 there was nothing there. I can understand that now they have included it in the School of Health Studies but why in previous years was it not shown in 2000/2001, 2001/2002, if the estimate was there for 2001 and 2002 why was it not shown in the forecast outturn for the same year 2001 and 2002?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

I am afraid I would need notice of that question. I cannot give that answer.

NO 806 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – SPONSORED PATIENTS

Can Government state in answer to Question No 147 of 2004, whether the provisional figure given of £975,000 has now changed?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

No Sir. There has been no update to this figure.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 806 OF 2004

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Is it still a provisional figure?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

I understand so, that is why I said no update. We have had no indication of any change which could make it an accurate figure but there has been no indication whether there will be a change or no change.

ORAL

NO 807 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – NUMBER OF PRESCRIPTIONS

Can Government now update the figure for period 8, year 2003, which was given as incomplete in answer to Question No 215 of 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 808 and 809 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 808 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – NUMBER OF PRESCRIPTIONS

Can the Government now update the figure relating to period 8 regarding prescriptions, which was given as incomplete in answer to Question No 216 of 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 807 and 809 of 2004.

NO 809 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – NUMBER OF PRESCRIPTIONS

Can Government confirm the actual figures given for periods 8, 9 and 10 in relation to Question No 218 of 2004, which were given as incomplete?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

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

Answer to Question No. 807 of 2004

The figure for period 8, year 2003 is as follows:

Period	Prescriptions	Items	Cost
8	6157	15160	£202,325.62

Answer to Question No. 808 of 2004

Period	Prescriptions	Items	Cost
8	13641	46911	£569,803.77

Answer to Question No. 809 of 2004

	<u>2003/2004</u>
Period 8	£84,439.80
Period 9	£84,222.00
Period 10	£22,515.40

ORAL

NO 810 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – COST OF TREATING TEMPORARY VISITORS IN UK

Can the Government now confirm whether the figure given in answer to Question No 195 of 2004, as around £36, 000, has now been updated?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

The situation remains as given in answer to Question No. 195 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 811 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – CONTRACT OFFICERS

Can Government state what were the exceptional circumstances why the Gibraltar Health Authority sent a contract officer for further training to the UK, during his contract period, since the Government confirmed in the last meeting of the House, that it is not the policy of the GHA to do this?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 812 and 813 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 812 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – TRAINING NEEDS ANALYSIS

Can the Government confirm whether there is a training needs analysis in place for staff?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 811 and 813 of 2004.

NO 813 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – TRAINING

Can the Government confirm what are the arrangements to provide training for staff when new equipment is introduced?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answer to Question No. 811 of 2004

A vacancy arose within the community Mental Health Team. This vacancy was advertised and, in keeping with EU legislation, contract officers were allowed to compete with staff in the permanent and pensionable establishment. All applicants were aware that the successful candidate would be required to undergo a period of training in the United Kingdom, prior to taking up the post. The candidate agreed by the selection panel as the person who best met all the needs of the service was a contract officer. He was duly offered the post and consequently the training course in the UK. When he returns he will be employed in a permanent and pensionable post and will therefore cease to be a contract officer.

Answer to Question No. 812 of 2004

Historically, during the time when the hon Member was Minister for Health, and prior to the School of Health Studies being set up by this Government, training requirements identified were reactive and failed to contribute to a coherent provision of training. The inception of the School of Health Studies resulted in the centralisation of resources and facilities, and with it the commencement and the development of a multi-professional, multi-disciplinary training programme. The increase in training requirements and the continued desire to produce an efficient and coherent workforce has meant that the School and the GHA recognise the need to further develop a system of staff appraisal so that the organisation's needs can be complemented by the personal and professional development needs of the staff. The School will now work closely with the Gibraltar Healthcare Development Team in one of the work streams identified to produce a more systematic and proactive manner of assessing future training requirements.

Answer to Question No. 813 of 2004

This is certainly a central part of the move into the new hospital and the School of Health Studies is currently working with the department responsible for

commissioning, to provide a programme of training for staff on the use of all the new equipment to be introduced.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 811 TO 813 OF 2004

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Well, first of all it surprises me to hear the Minister saying that the officer who was brought over with a contract was sent back to the UK and is now being made permanent and pensionable. Now, there are other questions in this House over contract officers because then what the Minister is saying is that if it is not the policy of the GHA to do this, they have done it according to him, because he says that this contract officer is better than local people. That is what he has answered.

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

That is not what I have said. I have not mentioned being better than local people or English people or Chinese people. I have not mentioned being better or worse than anybody else.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

What has the Minister then said?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

It seems to me that the hon Member does not understand the situation. I explained it to her at the last Question Time and I have tried to explain it today. I will explain it again in words of one syllable. We have a vacancy in the Mental Health Department. The vacancy is advertised, because of EU legislation the applications cannot be limited to Gibraltarians or to permanent and pensionable people only. In fact it was tried and then we had to extend it so it was extended and a contract officer applied. Now let me move sideways a moment, it seems to me that what the hon Member is totally concentrating on wrongly, is the concept that she seems to think that if we bring someone on contract from the UK and we send that person away for training at the taxpayers expense, that that is in some way criminal, and if that was exactly what had been happening I would tend to agree with her. But that is not the situation, this is not a question of someone coming on contract for a period of three years and someone deciding that during that period of three years we are going to send that person off for a period of time for training in UK at taxpayers expense, then they come back, they finish their contract and they go away again and we have lost them. That is not the situation, let us get this absolutely clear because I do not intend to explain it again. What is happening, as I have said, is that there was a vacancy, people applied and this person, who was a contract officer, applied and was selected. Right, it was a condition that the person had to go to UK for training. At that moment in time the person stopped being a contract officer because the person had been accepted into a permanent and pensionable job. So he is no longer a contract officer he is now employed and he is in UK undergoing training and it is a permanent and pensionable post and we have employed a person who was formally a contract officer, because he was selected. When he comes back from training, he

will take up that post, he will be employed as a permanent and pensionable person within the GHA and he is no longer a contract officer. That is the situation and there is no question, as seems to be implied, that we are sending someone who is here for a short period of time and during that period that he is here working for us we are ill using taxpayers funds to send him away for training. I hope that clarifies the situation.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

The reason why I have put this question is precisely because of the answer that I got from the Minister in January of this year, when I asked the same question and he answered the following, *'it is not the policy of the Gibraltar Health Authority to send contract officers to the UK for training'* and that was his answer. So therefore, if it is not the policy of the GHA to do this then I am entitled to ask why have they done it?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

They have not done it.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

They have done it, the Minister has just said so.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, what the Minister has just told the hon Lady, who appears to be determined not to understand what she is being told however simple it might be or frequently it might be explained to her, is that when this person went on the course he was no longer a contract officer, by that stage he had become a permanent and pensionable officer because he had successfully applied for a permanent and pensionable post.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well then, is the position that if the Health Authority brings somebody on a short term contract while we are sending our local people to study in the UK, the people who are here to fill that gap can be converted into permanent and pensionable because it is an EU requirement, is that the information we are being given?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No that is not the information and there is no question of converting people into permanent and pensionable. There was a vacancy that was advertised and this person applied together with others I suppose, and there was a selection board, which is the management, consultants or whoever mans this board, and this chap won the contest. He was in Gibraltar as a contract officer but he could have been here in a private capacity.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well was the vacancy opened outside the Health Service?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Even if it was not, the rule about opening it outside the Health Service is not opening outside the Health Service to permanent and pensionable staff only.

HON J J BOSSANO:

If there is a promotion opened in the Health Service, we are now being told, is it not a promotion? Surely the person is applying on something that requires training, when he gets back he will not be in the same grade as he was before he went. It was a promotion, people applied and the Minister was telling us that they were told they could not restrict it to permanent and pensionable. That is what he has just said, and they extended the date so that contract officers, who would have not been allowed to do it, as has been the policy until now.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

This is not the Civil Service.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I know but everybody in the Health Authority is a seconded Civil Servant. The Health Authority has got no direct employees.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, they become Civil Servants when they become permanent and pensionable, but the rule that one does not recruit outside the Service, it is not a rule it is a practice, the Government are free to open it out and indeed recently has begun to do so in certain areas. In the context of the Health Authority there are lots of people in the Health Authority on contracts, not just this chap, a lot of the doctors are on contracts, a lot of the consultants are on contracts, a lot of the nursing staff is on contract. The size of the contract body as opposed to the permanent and pensionable body is very large in the Health Authority compared to other activities in the public sector. Yes, what the hon Member is saying is true, it appears to have been the case, I personally do not think it is objectionable, it appears to have been the case that when this vacancy was advertised it was open to people who were only contract officers in the Health Authority.

HON J J BOSSANO:

No only permanent and pensionable.

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

Initially, this is the supplementary information I had here in January and I may have read to the hon Members, initially the post was advertised for permanent and pensionable staff only. However, European law did not allow for this discrimination. The person concerned was therefore entitled to apply and was successful in his application.

HON J J BOSSANO:

We would have to look at the question of European law because we are not very sure what that particular law is, but assuming that to be a correct interpretation of the European requirement, does that not mean effectively that the policy which the Government have defended, that because we do not have the people in the numbers that they want to have qualified, we have to rely on bringing in people on a temporary basis whilst our people are being given the opportunity to qualify. Now if the people who are on a temporary basis are now being told can apply for the vacancies in the Service, then when the people who have been training come back the vacancies will not be there, surely, because the others have already qualified.

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

That would assume that the contract officer is better than the people who are within the Service. In this case the interview board decided that this person was the best person for the job.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

What the hon Member says may be true, in the context of this particular post, in other words if there was somebody out there from Gibraltar undergoing training, the sort of person that I know the hon Member means, a Gibraltarian, I do not know where he draws the line for these purposes, was training in the UK for community psychiatric nurse qualifications and whilst he was away training this happened, this which has just described, in other words a contract officer was selected for a permanent post, there may not then be a vacancy when the local person comes back, it is possible that that may happen as he has described it in respect of specific posts, but the real issue on training that we have debated in the House before, is about general nursing posts, and that is just a question of waiting for our staff to get the necessary qualifications and then simply not renewing the contract with contract nurses. This is a particular post, this is not a general nursing post but it could happen. What he has said, if we were not careful, could happen but it would be very unfortunate if it were to happen, but this is not such a case and the hon Member is assuming, which he should not assume is the case and I do not know whether it is or it is not but am almost certain it is not, there is nobody out there undergoing these studies. Theoretically it could happen.

HON J J BOSSANO:

If we have got x number of registered general nurses on contracts, when that has been debated in this House, the rationale of that has been that it is while we have got people who are studying to become qualified we have them here. Therefore we are

bringing people in to fill gaps. We have just been told that all those people who are here filling gaps will be able to apply for any other vacancies for which they are qualified to apply, and they may well because they are here having been many years elsewhere, perform better in a promotion board. Now that previously was not possible until this change took place because in fact previously it was limited to non contract officers. If we are being told that this practice that we have had until now is now outlawed, it is not outlawed just in this specific instance. If tomorrow there is a vacancy for a charge nurse or a sister, presumably all the contract people we have got on three year contracts will be able to compete with our permanent staff for those jobs. That was not the intention for bringing them. I find it odd that we should have a situation where we are filling a temporary gap in our needs and the people that we bring we suddenly find can in fact compete with those that have been there all the time, even though they have got preferential terms when they are on contract, even though they get provided with accommodation when they are on contract, even though they get a tax free gratuity. They have got all those advantages and yet they are able to compete on equal terms with the people that are permanently employed here. I simply would like to take a closer look at that European requirement, I must say, but that seems to be the implication.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well assuming that the European requirement is right, which I am not prepared to endorse that is with the advice that the Health Authority got, I am quite insistent on having a closer look at it myself. It may or may not be right, but assuming for the moment that the Health Authority have got the correct lead of advice from wherever it is that they have sought it, then the position is as the hon Member describes it. We are in a situation where we bring people to Gibraltar on contract, because we are just not producing enough of these people ourselves domestically, and once here on contract, if the advice that they have got is right, then they are suddenly a new source of competition for the posts that before were only available to people on permanent and pensionable, or that the Government procedure protected just for people on permanent and pensionable, and of course that meant usually local belongsers because it was usually the local belongsers and it usually takes quite a long time for it. Yes, that is true, and I suspect that we agree as to what we think that the position should be. To the extent that European law permits it we should be careful not to undermine the accessibility of long term residents as I prefer to call them, for jobs and the Gibraltar Health Authority management has got to be sensitive and manage short term needs in a way which is consistent with the long term objective, which is to give our established local resident staff the opportunity through training and qualification obtaining, to rise up through the Service. That is, as far as I am concerned, what would be the Government's policy. To the extent that the law permits it, that is what the Health Service management should ensure happens and I think the issue is sufficiently significant for the Health Authority to be encouraged to make sure that the legal advice that they acted on in that particular case is correct. It seems to me that that is a much more important issue than whatever may have happened in this particular case, which at the end of the day is just one post.

ORAL

NO 814 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – COST OF ACCOMMODATION

Can Government state what was the final figure for accommodation, under sub head 22 in the financial year 2002/2003 and in the forecast outturn in 2003/2004 of the Gibraltar Health Authority?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question No. 815 of 2004.

NO 815 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – FORECAST OUTTURN

Can Government confirm what is the forecast outturn for the revenue and expenditure of the Gibraltar Health Authority for the current financial year as at the end of December 2003?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answer to Question No. 814 of 2004

The expenditure in accommodation under Subhead 22 is as follows:
Financial Year 2002/2003 - £219,692.01
Forecast Outturn for Financial Year 2003/2004 - £330,000.

Answer to Question No. 815 of 2004

The forecast outturns for revenue and expenditure are calculated as at the end of the financial year. As at 31 March 2004 they were as shown in the Government's Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure, a copy of which is in the possession of the hon Members.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 814 TO 815 OF 2004

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

As regards the figure for accommodation which seems to me to be quite high, are we talking about the Government having private accommodation to house people that are on contract or people that they have brought over from the UK in the private sector?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is opportune that the hon Member should ask that question now. I have in the last few days asked the question myself within Government and I have commissioned a report, it was about 10 days ago now, and I have commissioned a report which is on my desk and have not yet had an opportunity to read. Where I have asked for full

details of the properties et cetera that the Health Authority, and the amount of rent per property and the rental levels, because frankly for these sums of money the Government could borrow money, purchase the property on mortgage and probably pay less than we are paying out in rent. The figures of rents have risen to such an extent that the Government are now stopping to review and see whether there is a more economical way, because if for a smaller amount than we are paying in rent we can service a debt, a loan, that gives us ownership of the property, which will rise in value over time, that might be an option that the Government wish to consider. So the answer to the hon Lady's question is that the Government also are concerned about the escalating cost of this rental figure and we are considering alternatives for the accommodation of our contract staff.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

We are talking about contract staff, but are we also talking about people that are engaged by the Government, like for example like the experts that come over and they are being housed by the Government in private accommodation?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It may include some of them. Some of them are in Government accommodation and some of them are in private accommodation, financed by the Government I suspect through the fee, not necessarily through this vote, but yes ultimately paid for by the Government if not through here then through the fee that we are paying them for the consultancy.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Do the Government have a figure of how many?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

That is in the report that is sitting on my desk.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can I then put the Government on notice that when we come to vote that money we shall be asking for detailed breakdowns of what the money covers, just so that they know?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Sorry, the hon Member was not asking me how many of the consultancy people are in the flats, he was asking how many flats in all. Yes that is how I understood it.

ORAL

NO 816 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – ADMISSIONS TO ST BERNARD'S

Have the Government been able to establish if admissions to St Bernard's Hospital have declined by over 10 per cent between the year 2000 and 2002?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 817 to 821 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 817 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – IN-PATIENT ADMISSIONS

Can Government state what was the total number of in-patient admissions and the average number of patients per day at St Bernard's Hospital, from 1 March 2003 to the end of December 2003, specifying each month?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 816 and 818 to 821 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 818 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – IN-PATIENT ADMISSIONS

Can Government state what was the total number of in-patient admissions and the average number of patients per day at St Bernard's Hospital from 1 January 2004 to the end of March 2004, specifying each month?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 816, 817 and 819 to 821 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 819 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – OUT-PATIENT ATTENDANCES

Can Government state what was the total number of out-patient attendances at St Bernard's Hospital from 1 March 2003 to the end of December 2003, specifying each month?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 816 to 818 and 820 and 821 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 820 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – OUT-PATIENT ATTENDANCES

Can Government state what was the total number of out-patient attendances at St Bernard's Hospital from 1 January 2004 to end of March 2004, specifying each month?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 816 to 819 and 821 of 2004.

NO 821 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – NON-ENTITLED PATIENTS

Can Government confirm whether there are non-entitled patients as in-patients at St Bernard's Hospital, and if so, how many and when they were admitted?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answer to Question No. 816 of 2004

I can confirm that the difference between the admissions in 2000 and 2002 is in the order of a reduction of 10 per cent.

Answers to Question Nos. 817 and 819 of 2004

Question Nos. 817 and 819 are identical to Question Nos. 212 and 213 of 2004 which were asked at the last meeting of this House in January and the information in answer to which I have already made available to the hon Member. Nevertheless, in order for it to be included in this Hansard of the House, I have now handed over a schedule which contains the information again.

Answer to Question Nos. 818 and 820 of 2004

With regard to the other Questions, the answers are also contained in the schedules that have now been handed over to her.

Answer to Question No. 821 of 2004

With regard to Question No. 821, the Government can confirm that as at 23rd April 2004, the date on which the answer to this question was drafted, there were no non-entitled patients in St Bernard's Hospital.

Answer to Question 821

Answer to Question 818 of 2004.

The total number of in-patient admissions and the average number of patients is as follows:

	Admissions	Average Occupancy
January	580	156
February	485	162
March	550	157
Total in Period	1615	158

Cont.....

Contd Answer to Question 821

Answer to Question 820 of 2004.

	Casualty			
	Out-patient clinics	Clinic	Dressings	Physio
January	1400	1710	533	500
February	1472	1530	546	526
March	1541	1767	554	521

Q12/04 ANNEX D

	<u>In-patient Admissions</u>	<u>Average No of patients per day</u>
March	542	141
April	520	137
May	518	134
June	480	128
July	499	135
August	533	140
September	500	143
October	496	137
November	531	144
December	509	138
	5128	

The total number of Out-Patient attendances during the period in question were -

	Clinics	A & E (Doctors)	A&E (Dressings)	Physiotherapy
March	1312	1680	557	544
April	1334	1649	588	549
May	1369	1798	515	645
June	1479	1785	705	528
July	1476	1884	760	559
August	1304	1937	705	476
September	1344	1723	715	669
October	1416	1703	564	744
November	1341	1749	532	634
December	<u>1053</u>	<u>1637</u>	<u>426</u>	<u>601</u>
Totals	<u>13428</u>	<u>17545</u>	<u>6067</u>	<u>5949</u>

Classification:

"Clinic"	Doctors' Clinics.
"A&E (Doctors)"	Seen by Casualty Officers as accident or emergency on the day.
"A&E (Dressings)"	Patients attended by nurses only
"Physiotherapy"	Patients attending the department for treatment.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 816 TO 821 OF 2004

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

We are talking about that particular day, that there were no non-entitled patients?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

That is what I said, as at 23rd April, on that day there were no patients.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

That does not mean that there were no patients before that date.

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

The question was very wide, it says '*can Government confirm whether there are non-entitled patients*'. If the hon Member had asked me during the year I would have said, but I have taken the date on which I answered the question.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

I will ask the question again.

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

Let me be quite clear, it is not the policy of the Government to accept non-entitled patients. However, if someone comes in off a car accident or off a ship, or in dire need of medical attention, we do not turn them away either, but if they are admitted then they are treated and charged as a private patient, but obviously we do not encourage the practice.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Except that in the Report there is a statement that non-entitled patients require £500 deposit, and there is no record of this having been collected. So the Report does actually admit that there are non-entitled patients.

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

I am not quite sure what the Report admits, but the statement that a non-entitled patient requires a deposit of £500 does not say that there are non-entitled patients, but I am aware that there have been on occasions but they have been charged.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

There have been?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

I understand so. That is the feedback that I got. When we were debating how to answer the question, it was difficult to pin it down so we decided to answer on the particular day.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

The Report does talk about non-entitled patients but I will rephrase the question again. As regard Question No. 816 the Minister confirms that admissions have declined by 10 per cent between the year 2000 and 2002. Therefore it strikes me as very odd, that does the Minister not see the logic that if admissions have declined by 10 per cent, from 2000 to 2002, why have we had so many shortages of beds?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

I assume that is a rhetorical question.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

I did not quite get the answer. What did the Minister say?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Answer to a rhetorical question.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

So I am not getting an answer?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

The hon Member has had an answer.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

I have been working, as usual, because I always like to look at figures that I am given, and I would like to inform the Minister that here again as regards Question No. 818, we have a situation that when we are talking about the total number of in-patient admissions and the average number of patients per day at St Bernard's Hospital, again, we have vast discrepancies. The Report of the Healthcare Development Team of September 2003, as far as the year 2000 is concerned, quotes 6,532 patients, 2001 6,380 patients, 2002 5,874 patients. Now, I have looked at the

answers that I have been given in this House by the Government and the figures that I have been given for the year 2000, 5,475 as compared to the one given in the Report which is 6,532, 5,320 as compared to 6,380 which is in the Report, and for the year 2002 5,682 as compared to 5,874 which appears in the Healthcare Development Team Report. It gets even worse because when I looked at the Abstract of Statistics again, the figures do not coincide at all, 5,424 for the year 2000, 6,380 for the year 2001 and 5,874, so here again I have been able to identify that figures being provided in this House are totally different to figures provided in the Government Abstract of Statistics and the figures that appear in the Healthcare Development Team Report for the same years. So before the Minister tells me to do the work for him, I will send him the exercise so that he will be able to confirm which of the three figures are correct.

Now, if we look at Question No. 820, again there are more discrepancies. I wish the Chief Minister would stand up and say '*the hon Member from the Opposition has done a good job*' because he never says that, but at least I am bringing to their notice that there are discrepancies in three Reports, which happen to have the GHA as the source. Now, as regards the total number of out-patient attendances at St Bernard's Hospital, we have the Government answering questions in this House, the Minister gets up and he gives a speech and he tries to waffle his way through, I am not waffling. I think it is my legitimate right to stand up and point out to the Government that the figures that I am being given do not coincide at all with the figures that are being produced by the Government Statistics Office and by the Healthcare Development Team Report. Honestly, I think that the job that I am doing is a constructive one. So as far as the total number of patient attendances at St Bernard's Hospital are concerned, the figures again do not coincide. The question is, are the Government concerned enough to want to investigate it?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

Having listened to the hon Member, it has reinforced my belief in the accuracy of that famous quotation '*lies, damn lies and statistics*'.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Which of the lies and which of the statistics? This is what we want them to look into, which are the lies and which are the true statistics?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

Seriously, I will repeat what I said earlier, if the hon Member is that keen on someone spending a lot of time number crunching, then will she identify exactly what the question is, what the sources she is drawing attention to are, and more importantly, to be specific on the periods concerned and the number that she wants so that we can make sure that we are comparing apples to apples. Invariably, the problem is as I pointed out earlier, that the raw data is not necessarily the same.

HON J J BOSSANO:

It is not a question of whether we are keen, the question is that if we are given information in answer to our questions, for which we are grateful, and then in making

an evaluation on the demand and the resources of the hospital we look at the number of in-patients. If there are three separate figures then we would like to know which of the three is the right one.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

We understand that. We understand that the hon Members are entitled to have accurate information to put it to whatever use they want, to analyse or just to collect it. They are entitled to accurate information. My hon Colleague has given the hon Members information in this House, they should assume that the information that they have had in this House is correct. The hon Lady is now saying *'hang on, but look there is information here in these other sources that I think is incompatible'*. We are not saying that she is right or she is wrong, what we are saying is we need to see the various sources that she is relying on to see if they purport to be a measure of the same activity, because all one needs is a slight difference in the wording between a question here and what it is a measure of that is being described in the Report for example, to justify a differentiation in the figures which would make it not a mistake, we are not comparing apples with apples. So it is not that we challenge the hon Member's right to have figures, we have undertaken to check them out but we are not conceding until she has given us the guidance of pointing out to us her sources and what she is comparing, to come to the conclusion that there is a mistake, until we have had an opportunity to assess that. In other words, are we comparing apples with apples and there is a mistake, or is the discrepancy that the hon Lady claims to have found, not because there is a mistake but because they are comparing apples and pears. So we are going to look at it but in order to make sure that the exercise that we are doing is meaningful, we just want to know the source.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Except that I wish to reiterate to the Government that I am looking at apples for apples, because if I look at the table of statistics from the Government and I see out-patient attendances are so many for the year 2000, and then I look at the Government answers exactly for the same purposes, out-patient attendances and I get a different figure. In any case, I will send the information that I have been able to compile to the Minister, to verify whether they are correct or not.

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

I do not know whether what I am going to say is the answer to the discrepancy but I will give one possible difference. How does one define an out-patient? At the moment in the Out-patients Department next to the A&E Department, there are people who go to attend for dressings, people who go to attend for accidents, people who go to attend doctors, people who go back to attend doctors but there is also an Out-patients Department somewhere else, in Maternity. Some people go to the ward back for a dressing. It does not follow that the people who drew up the statistics for the Clinical Governance Team, were not looking at the same raw data than what has been provided today. We may have decided to include everybody, they may have decided not to include maternity for example, or not to include dressings or may have forgotten to include return visits to clinicians. I am not saying that that is the answer but I am saying that unless one defines what is an out-patient, one does not have apples and apples.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

I understand what the Minister is saying, but I was making particular reference and I was emphasising not so much on the out-patients but on the in-patient admission, and these are the figures that are given as far as in-patients are concerned, because I do understand that it could be that when we are talking about out-patients, we have people who go to the A&E as out-patients and then they have dressings and then they are seen by the Senior House Officer and then the figures could be different. But no, I was basing my figures basically on the question of the in-patient admissions.

ORAL

NO 822 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 for both out-patients and in-patients, which also includes those who require surgical interventions as at the end of December 2003?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 823 to 825 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 823 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 months of March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November and December 2003?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 822, 824 and 825 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 824 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 months of January, February and March of 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 822, 823 and 825 of 2004.

NO 825 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 specialties, 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

Question Nos. 822 and 823 are identical to Question Nos. 201 and 211 of 2004 which were asked during the meeting of the House last January and the answer to which I have already supplied to the hon Member. Nevertheless, for the purposes of Hansard, I am now handing over to her a schedule giving the answer again. The position to date in respect of Question No. 825 remains as answered in Question No. 201. The answer to Question No. 824 is contained in the schedule which I have also already handed over to her.

Answer to Question 825

Answer to Question 824

(a) Out patient figures are not available.

(b) In Patient -

January 2004	10
February 2004	11
March 2004	11

ANNEX C

(a) Out patients figures are not available.

(b) Private In-patients from March 2003 until December 2003.

Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
9	6	11	9	6	4	5	7	11	3	71

Speciality	Public Clinic	Private Clinic	Public Surgery	Private Surgery
Ear, Nose & Throat	6 weeks	1 week	Adults 18 to 20 months. Children 10 months	No waiting time as private surgery is rarely done in this speciality
General Surgery	12 weeks	1 week	Up to 1 year depends on intervention	3 weeks
General Medicine	5 to 7 weeks	2 weeks		
Paediatrics	2 weeks	No waiting time		
Ophthalmology	4 weeks	No waiting time	No waiting time for Routine Surgery. Cataract waiting list concluded. A number of patients require surgery on 2 nd eye and time factor is being assessed	No waiting time
Elderologist	2 weeks	No waiting time as no private patients have been seen during the period in question		
Pain Clinic	No waiting time	No waiting time		
Psychiatry	1 to 3 weeks	No waiting time as no private patients have been seen during the period in question		
Gynaecology	1 to 2 weeks for urgent cases. 6 weeks for cases noted as requiring attention soon. 4 months for routine appointments	1 month	8 months	No private surgery is done

Orthopaedics	1 day for urgent cases. 1 week for cases noted as requiring attention soon. 8 weeks for routine appointments	3 weeks	Waiting time for public surgery varies depending on intervention required. Major Surgery is not done privately. Public waiting time ranges from 2 weeks to years. Private waiting time is approx 4 weeks for minor surgery	Waiting time for public surgery varies depending on intervention required. Major Surgery is not done privately. Public waiting time ranges from 2 weeks to years. Private waiting time is approx 4 weeks for minor surgery
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There is no waiting time for emergencies.

The Gibraltar Health Authority has been able to obtain private waiting time under the Private Patients Practise Agreement whereby Consultants are committed to provide information on private patients when requested.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 822 TO 825 OF 2004

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

As far as Question No. 824 is concerned, there seems to be a bit of a discrepancy here but not on figures, on a statement that was made by the previous Minister for Health when I asked for information as regards out-patient clinics. Now, I have the figures here by the Minister who says out-patient figures are not available and I understand that this was his position also in January 2004. Therefore, I find that to be in total contradiction, would he not agree, because the previous Minister for Health had this to say when I asked for that information – *'we have the ability to seek the information and I apologise I have not got round to it, although there is no obligation to deliver that information and that data by the consultants, but we can investigate. I am sorry if I have said that I would do so, I have not got the figures with me but I will deliver those figures to the hon Member as soon as I obtain them'*. So is that not contradicting what the Minister is saying about the fact that now he says that out-patient figures are not available?

MR SPEAKER:

There is no need to reply on that, one cannot say whether another Member is telling the truth or not.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I am sure she was not accusing anybody of not telling the truth. I do not see that there is the contradiction that the hon Lady says. Both statements are perfectly capable of being true and correct and I believe that they are both true and correct. The more recent of the two statements is the Health Authority does not have that information, correct. The earlier statement is, with a lot of hard work I could get it. Well of course one could get it, one could go round every consultant, everybody that administers this, in other words, the statement that the information is not held, is not available to the Authority, is not inconsistent with the statement that with a lot of hard work it could be cobbled together. Both statements are true, as with so many other of the information. So I do not see that there is the inconsistency. Now if the hon Lady is saying *'we were told that we were going to get them and we have not received them yet'* that is a different matter, but it is different to whether there has been a contradiction. There has not been a contradiction.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

I am talking about the out-patient figures. The private out-patient figures. Now, if I have a previous Minister for Health telling me there is no obligation but I can actually investigate and I can get those figures and I will send them to the hon Member, now he did not say they were not available.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

She is now being told they are not available.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Yes. So what I am saying is that then the previous Minister for Health was saying the opposite, because he was saying '*I will deliver them*'. In fact he said in answer to Question No. 236, the previous Minister for Health said.....

MR SPEAKER:

A Member of the House cannot contradict another Member, especially if he is a Minister. One can not ask him whether a previous Minister was wrong.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

All right, then I will rephrase the question. I will rephrase the question because I have the same information here from the Minister, where he says '*consultants under the private practice agreement are committed to provide information on private patients when requested*'. So does that mean therefore, that if the Government request the out-patient figures the consultants are required to provide them?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Let us separate the issues. The first issue is, is there any inconsistency between the two answers? I do not believe there is an inconsistency between the two answers. One question, the latter one says they are not available to the Health Authority, the first one was by the Hon Mr Azopardi I suppose, was 'well with a lot of hard work we can get them'. Those are the two answers that the hon Member described earlier she had received, summarised by me, precised by me by not purporting to repeat her verbatim. Well, of course the information is theoretically available if one is willing to pursue every avenue. I mean, presumably the doctors have kept a record of the patients they have seen privately. I suppose it would be possible for the Health Authority management, when the hon Member asks these questions, to go to every consultant and everybody who does private practice saying, give me the information, and then she goes to the other one, they could be tallied together and they could be provided to the hon Lady. They would not be figures that we could validate, we would necessarily rely on simply reporting to her the figures that the consultants had given us. In other words, the Health Authority, by the way she may be interested to know that this is going to be very different in the future, but the Health Authority does not have as a matter of management system a record of the appointments, and the engagements, and the commitments, and the admissions, and the attendances by private practitioners. That is the case. Now, can one go and ask the consultants to give it, yes. Has it been done? Apparently it has not been done because if she asked and the Minister said he would do it and she has not yet had the answer, well either the Minister has not tried or he has tried and failed because the consultants have not given him the information.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Or they have been so horrified with the result.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, that would not be the reason. The hon Member knows that we give all information in this House regardless of whether it is good news or bad news.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

A supplementary on Question No. 825. Will the Minister not agree that as far as the waiting lists for public patients, they have more than doubled from 2001 to 2004? Here again I have done another exercise. In 2001 general surgery was six months. In 2004 general surgery was 12 months, it has doubled. On ENT in 2001 the waiting list was 12 months, ENT today, 2004, is 18 to 20 months. I can look at the Government and see the surprise in their faces because I do not think they have done the exercise themselves. In orthopaedics, well there we have a very ambiguous situation because in 2001 we got from the Government that the waiting list for elective surgery was eight months, and now we are being told weeks to years. In gynaecology, again in 2001 the waiting list was six weeks and today, the waiting list is eight months, over 32 weeks. Does the Minister for Health, is he not concerned that the figures have more than doubled during this time?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

I am at a disadvantage. Not having intended to give over the schedules that I have for my own use, and having handed them over in order to assist the hon Member, I no longer have the information to be able to make the comparisons. So I cannot give an opinion one way or the other, whether they have or whether they have not. That long waiting lists are a concern, of course they are to any Minister for Health, to any Government. That the Government are doing something about it, of course we are and the hon Member can watch this space, although she sniggers every time we mention the Clinical Development Programme, watch this space and the effect will be seen. We have already done it with the ophthalmic waiting list and the proposals to cut down those waiting lists for the future will soon be seen.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Yes but having been accused by Government that the Health Authority was worse when I was in office than with them, I am quite obliged now to give them the waiting lists that we had, but I will wait for the Budget Session, because they have had first of all eight years in which to remedy the situation, from 2001 to today the situation has worsened and it has more than doubled, and I will put to Government during Budget time that the figures that we had were far less than what they have now, what they even had in 2001.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well just two very quick points for the hon Lady. First of all, I suppose we can spend the next four years having the same old debate and I might take her last intervention as notice that she proposes to re-read her last year's Budget speech and deliver it again to us this year, because when she said '*wait for the Budget speech*' that is what I recall she said last time. Never mind, the position as the Government knows it to be, which is completely and diametrically opposed to the position as the hon

Member alleges, which is another area on which there is serious factual disagreement between us, is that she could not possibly compare waiting lists under the GSD Government with waiting lists under the GSLP government, because under the GSLP government waiting lists were not maintained.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Point of order. Will Mr Speaker not remember that two budget sessions ago, when the Chief Minister made the same accusation, I brought proof to this House and I showed to the House that here was the waiting lists, not brought by Mari Montegriffo when she was in government, but produced by the consultants. The same consultants that are there now. The same very consultants.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

For a start that is not a point of order but never mind, as the procedures appear to have gone out of the window. Look, what the hon Member produced was not Gibraltar Health Authority waiting lists, what she produced was a little piece of paper which she presumably got out of the very consultant, and which she waved in this House as if they were her government's waiting lists. The management of the Gibraltar Health Authority, and I repeat the statement now to her, in other words the Gibraltar Health Authority as an institution, its management, its board, did not under the GSLP government keep waiting list records. Of course the consultants had their own lists in their own briefcases at home and in their own PCs at home, and I have no doubt that the hon Member was able to persuade at least one of them to sort of give it to her so that she could bring it into this House and wave it as evidence. These are not waiting lists kept by the Gibraltar Health Authority. These were non waiting lists kept by them, these were the records, because there are no records in the files of the Gibraltar Health Authority covering that period, and because the management of the Gibraltar Health Authority, which is the same management under her period, tell the Government '*Minister, I am sorry, there are no records because none were kept*'. How else would we know as an incoming Government whether waiting lists were kept or not, it is because the officials in the Health Authority have told the Ministers in this Government that. Now that is the reality of the situation. My very last point, and this one I will try and keep quick, the second point that I will make to the hon Lady is that she has got to be careful the use she makes of these waiting lists comparisons. It is not true that waiting lists have increased for example by double. It may be true, wait a minute the hon Lady has got to understand the basis upon which statistics are drawn up if she is going to draw accurate conclusions. Now, of course I acknowledge that is always possible to make use of statistics for which they do not in justice serve. It may well be true that a patient, or a number of patients, may have had to wait that time but that is not a reflection of the general wait. Those waiting lists are drawn up on the basis of the maximum time that any one patient has had to wait. That is the basis of the waiting list. I mean we would have to look into the reasons why and the reasons why may not be impressive. The reasons why a patient has had to wait, all I am asking to do is to distinguish between that situation and the suggestion, I do not know if she was making it, the suggestion whether she was making it or not that everybody waits for 12 months because that is the next slot available on the list and if one went in and asked for an operation, somebody would say '*well the date for your operation is 28th April 2005*'. That is not a proper interpretation of the waiting lists.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

It is quite incredible that the Chief Minister, when he is cornered, he uses tactics whether it is that I am exaggerating, whether that records were not kept and waiting lists were not compiled. Of course they were, I was provided as Minister on a monthly basis with the waiting lists. I also produced in this House not only the waiting lists that the consultants provided to the administration but that the administration kept waiting lists. Of course they did, but even that aside, what I have done is a very reasonable exercise, and that is compare like with like with the information they have provided to the House, and that is that in 2001 the information they provided me with with information they are providing me now in 2004, is that waiting lists compiled by them have more than doubled and I think that is very reasonable.

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

For the record. The hon Member is lucky to be able to claim to make comparisons because we give her the information. I tried to do the same exercise when I first took the job over and asked where the waiting lists were, and I said '*well show me the waiting lists going back in time*' and I was able to look at the waiting lists back during the period that this Government has been in Government, but I confirm and I stress what the Chief Minister has said, the management of the Health Authority have told me that during the period when she was a Minister, during the period when she was in government, that no records were kept, that there were no waiting lists and if anything was kept it was kept by her on the back of an envelope, because there is nothing, for the record there is nothing in the records of the GHA to show what the waiting lists were. If they had been kept as she is claiming, they would be there on the files. There is no information on the files of any waiting period for any consultant during the period that she was in government.

ORAL

NO 826 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – DISTRICT COMMUNITY SERVICES

Have the Government been able to verify whether District Community Services are under resourced and therefore are not well provided for?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 827 to 829 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 827 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – DENTAL SERVICE

Have the Government been able to establish whether the dental service is understaffed to meet the demand which exists and that both the waiting lists and waiting times for this service are excessive?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 826 and 828 to 829 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 828 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – LABORATORY SERVICES

Can the Government state whether demand is increasing for most laboratory services?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 826, 827 and 829 of 2004.

NO 829 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – X-RAY DEPARTMENT

Can the Government state whether the wait for routine tests in the X-ray Department from 2002, is currently running from three to six weeks depending on the type of test?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answer to Question No. 826 of 2004

The present complement of the District Nursing Team is able to handle the existing workload. However, there is an erroneous public perception that district nursing is a convenience service rather than a nursing care service provided to those members of the public who are temporarily or permanently housebound.

Answer to Question No. 827 of 2004

Dental service staffing and waiting times have recently been highlighted by the Healthcare Development Team who identified waiting times for patients under treatment of between two and six months. Several attempts made in recent months to recruit additional staff in order to meet the increased demand that has arisen from the expansion and development of dental services has proved unsuccessful. GHA currently provides a comprehensive, comprehensive free range of dental services which include orthodontics, oral surgery, pydodontics and emergency services to over 6,000 school children and university students. GHA also provides free dental services to exempt pensioners and persons of low income, as well as a free emergency service to other pensioners. Furthermore, free preventative prophylactic dental care is provided at school to all children of school entry age as well as follow up paedodontics dental care by a visiting dental officer. The service is led by a consultant orthodontist with a staff of three dental officers and four nursing assistants. To illustrate the expansion and development of the dental services under this Government, I would point out to the hon Lady that when she was Minister for Health only an emergency dental service was provided by a staff of two dental officers.

Answer to Question No. 828 of 2004

The Government can confirm that there has been an increase in demand for most laboratory services.

Answer to Question No. 829 of 2004

The waiting time for routine tests in the X-Ray Department will vary from three weeks for an X-Ray to six weeks for an ultra-sound. All other tests are carried out within this three to six week period. There is no waiting time for emergencies.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 826 TO 829 OF 2004

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

As regards Question No. 826 I think the Minister said in relation to the District Community Services, that there was a public perception. I would inform him that it is not a public perception it is a fact, in page 4 summary of the Report which actually identifies that the District Community Services are under resourced. As regards Question No. 827, we highlighted the problem as far as the dental service is concerned, nearly two years ago and the Minister now says that recently they have tried to remedy the situation and therefore, is it not a fact that it is the Government having been in office for eight years that have not actually been at the helm and being able to establish that there was a problem in the dental service as indeed there is in laboratory services and indeed there is in the X-Ray Department?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

The perception that I referred to and which obviously the hon Member misunderstood, is not that the District Nursing Team is unable to provide the service but that there is a perception amongst the public that this district nursing service is something to provide for people as a convenience, and this is not the purpose of the service. Therefore, because of this perception there are extra demands on the service by people who do not really need it and this is what is causing part of the problem.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

I see therefore, so what the Minister is saying is, well he has not addressed the other questions, but as far as the District Community Service is concerned if there is in the Report a statement saying that the Community Service are under resourced, is he saying that they are not under resourced and that it is because people are asking too much of the District Community Services?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

I will give the hon Member an example of what I mean, which was pointed out to me when the answer to this question was being compiled and it is not an isolated case of a district nurse attending a home to take blood samples from a patient, and once the

blood sample had been taken, remember this is supposed to be a patient who is homebound, once the blood sample has been taken the patient concerned said to the visiting district nurse, *'hold on, I will come down with you, I am on my way to the hairdresser'*. That is an example of the sort of thing that is happening. This is a patient who asked for the service at home when in fact she was able to walk out of her own home and go and have her hair done. That is the sort of perception that people have, that it is a convenience service, as opposed to a service that is being provided for a specific purpose. It is an expanding service. It is something that again has been provided over and above what was being done before, and like all expanding services it may need to be adjusted. There have been, as the hon Member rightly says, problems pointed out in the first phase report and those problems will be addressed, and are being addressed in the consequent follow up to that report.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Does the Minister not accept that it is worthwhile looking at the District Community Services, which we increased when we came into government, for the simple reason that the more community nurses that one has, the less people that are required to be admitted into a hospital?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

The District Nursing Team at the moment consists of 2 sisters, 6 staff nurses, 1 staff nurse part-time, 1 senior enrolled nurse, 2 enrolled nurses, 2 nursing assistants and 1 hospice nurse. Maybe the hon Member would like to tell us what the staff was when she was the Minister for Health.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

The Minister has been in office for eight years again and it is up to him to say whether he agrees that it is not worth looking at it because it is a service that is very valuable in the sense that the patient is at home and the patient does not have to be admitted into hospital. Does the Minister not agree with that concept?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

The Government are constantly looking at ways of improving all their services, not just the Health Service. This is precisely why we have got the Clinical Development Team in place, this is precisely why all aspects of the Health Service are being studied and this is one of those aspects of it, and the hon Member will just have to wait for the results to show.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Will the Minister confirm, as far as the complement is concerned, how long this complement has been in place?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

No I cannot confirm that, I would need notice of that question, but it is certainly whilst this Government have been in office.

NO 830 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – A & E DEPARTMENT

Are the Government aware that there is nearly an hour's wait for patients to be seen at the Accident and Emergency Department?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Patients who are classified as emergencies are seen immediately on arrival at the A & E Department and are not subject to any waiting time. As the hon Member is well aware, the Out-patients Department is currently co-located with the A & E at St Bernard's Hospital and this is where non urgent out-patient cases are also attended. Such cases include injections, changes of dressings, follow-ups for further nursing treatment and visits to clinicians. All these out-patient cases are seen as soon as possible and the waiting time for these will vary considerably. At peak times waiting time for such cases may indeed be more than 1 hour but this reduces considerably to less than 1 hour at other times.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 830 OF 2004

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

In the majority of cases we are talking about non emergency patients, will the Minister not accept that the A & E process typically takes from 50 to 60 minutes to complete, and the patient requires around 30 steps before he is actually attended to?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

No, the Minister does not accept that at all. A & E is accident and emergency. In accident and emergency people who come in either as an emergency or suffering the results of a serious accident do not have to wait an hour and are attended immediately. The result is what I have said in the original answer, is that people who are attending the out-patients department which is co-located with A & E.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

I am referring to the A & E, and I am referring to what is written in the report as far as the A & E is concerned. It also confirms the many people who come to us saying that when they go to the A & E they wait for more than an hour before they are seen to. This is precisely highlighted, and I will tell the Minister, page 204 of the report says that the majority of patients attending the Accident and Emergency have minor injuries and they have to wait from 50 to 60 minutes to complete the process before they can actually be seen.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, but the hon Lady has got to understand what she is reading. Either she is doing it on purpose, in which case it is reprehensible, or she is not bothering to understand the words that she is reading. The hon Member says that the report says that it takes an hour to see the patient. It does not and she has just read it out, because I was anxious to get up to tell her, that she read it out herself from the report. It does not say it takes an hour, it says it takes an hour to complete the process, and that is jolly good. In England it takes about six hours to complete the 32 step process, because that process that takes an hour to complete with 32 steps is part of the treatment. It is not that one is waiting for an hour, waiting to be seen, the 32 step process is part of the protocol of all the checks, the ECG test, the blood test and all the other tests, that they have to submit one to in Accident and Emergency before one can safely be subjected to other medical treatment. That process takes an hour, it is not an hour waiting to be seen, it is an hour being processed and being treated and being tested, and compared to any hospital in the United Kingdom that one may care to mention, it is actually a very, very good outturn result of the period of time that it takes for the process. That is the reality. In fact I am just going to say one more thing, it is one of the areas, there are other minor criticisms that they make of Accident and Emergency, but actually it is one of the departments of the Health Authority of which the experts are least critical, and they say that excepting peak periods where there may be a need, I think they say that at certain peak times they may need another doctor, which in fact has been put on since the first report, they say that they deliver a jolly good service. It is not the case that people wait for an hour waiting to be seen in Accident and Emergency.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

If I am going to read from the report, the Hon Chief Minister must understand that if in page 215 of the report it states '*typically an out-patient attendance takes over an hour*', 60 per cent of this time is spent waiting.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Waiting for results to come back from the laboratory. What does the hon Member think has happened during the other 40 per cent of the time? If she thinks that the hour is a waste, in other words one arrives in there, sit down and sitting there for an hour and say '*I am here*', and one is ignored, all the nurses are rushing past and nobody is addressing it. That would be 100 per cent of the time is spent waiting. Why does the hon Member think that the report says that only 60 per cent of the time is spent waiting? The other 40 per cent of the time is when one has had the tests done, have gone to the laboratory for the blood test and come back within the hour.

The hon Lady chooses not to understand. Now, it is true that there used to be, it does not happen any more since we doubled up the medical cover on the Accident and Emergency, it used to be the case when the hon Lady was in office, it used to be the case for all the years that she was in office and for some of the years that we were in office until it was corrected a couple of years ago, that there were certain times of the day when there was not a doctor exclusively for the Accident and Emergency. I think it was the silent hours, I cannot remember exactly. I do not know why the hon Lady looks so mysteriously, she must recognise what I am explaining to her as being correct. It was possible for somebody to arrive at Accident and Emergency and there not to be a doctor in attendance because the doctor had been called up to a ward to see a patient. Then there were instances of people genuinely coming up to Accident and Emergency, not not being seen for an hour because of course the nurses and the staff nurses were there, but not being seen by a doctor for perhaps an hour, because the doctor may have been attending to a cardiac arrest in a ward or to some situation in a ward. To correct that element of wait, that element of defect in the Accident and Emergency service, the Government now provide round the clock exclusive medical cover in the Accident and Emergency Ward. So there are now no circumstances in which it is possible for somebody to arrive at the Accident and Emergency and not be seen for an hour. Yes, as happened to me when I went up there complaining of gall stones. One arrives, they give one a first treatment, then they have got to go through this 32 step process, which includes plugging one in to an ECG and sending the results up to the cardiologist to have a look at it. Then they draw ones blood and send it up, and of course in between all those tests one waits whilst the results of the tests come back. That is waiting time but there is a difference between waiting time and delay in being attended. They are wholly different things and that is what the report is saying. It is not true any longer to say that one can be kept for an hour in the Accident and Emergency without being attended to.

HON F R PICARDO:

I can understand why the Chief Minister perceives that there is political value in always trying to go back to 1996 et cetera, but as he himself has accepted, what he has been identifying as a symptom of the problem went on for a large part also of the time that he has been in charge of the administrations that make up the Gibraltar Government, but in the report, and it is not the part that the hon Lady is referring to, but in the report I am sure that the Minister and the Chief Minister are aware, there are case studies of individuals arriving at Accident and Emergency. In particular there are case studies of individuals arriving in Accident and Emergency with chest pain, who do not have their first contact with the doctor for over an hour, although triage starts before they see the doctor but that is identified in the report as a worrying instance of what we must be trying to remedy. Is the Chief Minister saying that since having received the report and identified that as an issue, mechanisms have been put in place to ensure that that does not happen ever again, which of course is something that would be welcome across the floor of the House?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I cannot tell the hon Member exactly the date when the new arrangement was introduced. I will get that information to him. In other words, whether it coincided with the production of the report or whether it was during the course of the preparation of the report and before it was delivered. I do not want to get the chronology wrong.

HON F R PICARDO:

One can see the concern, which I am sure is a concern that we would share, that if we have put in place these new mechanisms before the reporting process commenced and with the new mechanisms those who prepared the report are still saying we may have a problem here, then that would obviously be something that all of us would feel needs to be addressed.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No that is not the case. The question is whether the mechanisms were put in place on sight of an early draft of the report or whether they were put in place once the final report, in other words, that is the issue here.

HON F R PICARDO:

Therefore it is action which we have taken in consequence either of the report itself or of the reporting process.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I have just in fact been reminded that it might even have been as a result of the Olivares situation actually, not the main, one or the other. When I come back on Tuesday I will give that information.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Were we not told before in the House that in fact this first phase was identifying problems that needed correction and that the remedies were to be the second phase, and therefore by definition everything that is being put into the report are things that the experts, although the experts think that here there are things that they need to be put right. I hope that when they go back they do something about the six hours the Chief Minister assures us is the normal thing in the UK.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

They are not very critical of this aspect.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well they may be less critical of this than of others, but if there was nothing that they felt was needed to be put right, surely it would not be mentioned at all. The report does not mention every single facet of everything that happens in the Health Service, it is limited surely to identifying, after talking to people, talking to staff and doing a telephone survey, that is what that says at the beginning of it, that this is a result of identifying the areas of concern that need to be addressed and put right.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well with some judgement on their part.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I think it follows from that that there are things on which they are silent because they feel those things are okay, so does that not suggest that what they expect is that in their recommendations, if they say there that it is an hour, whether it is an hour sitting and waiting or an hour broken up in blocks of 20 minutes waiting for results, what they expect is to come up with a recommendation that cuts down that, no?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Indeed that may be possible. I am not saying that all the 32 step process that takes an hour could not be cut back and they might well come back with authority, but it is one with suggestions of how the system can be streamlined so that it takes less time. I do not doubt that, I hope that they can, but that is not, I only got to my feet when I heard the hon Lady saying that the report says that one is kept waiting for an hour, meaning that before one is seen. I said, no, read it and then she was good enough to read it out. Then what she read out is not that it takes an hour to be seen, it takes an hour for the process to be completed. They are very different things and that is the only point I was trying to make. I am not suggesting that that hour is incapable of improvement and that may not be improved following recommendations. All I am trying to establish, it is clear from the statement, that it is not that one goes there and does not get seen for an hour. It is that the process, or what has to be done to one when one gets there, takes an hour. Now whether that hour can be converted into 30 minutes, or 40 minutes, or 45 minutes, that is a wholly different issue.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I do not know whether the Government are aware, but on the one occasion that I had a need to go to the hospital, the feedback that I had from there was that the staff there was under considerable pressure, that there were people in the corridors and it was not certainly because people were sitting around doing nothing with their arms crossed, but they were under a great deal of stress and under a great deal of pressure and having difficulty in coping with the patients who vented their frustration on the people who were doing their best. So they seem to be under a great deal of pressure.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Absolutely. The Accident and Emergency Department is by a very long way the hardest area of the hospital to work in, because it is the one area of the hospital where one is constantly in contact not only with the patient but with the patient's family en masse, waiting there worried about what has happened. It is a very stressful area of the hospital for the staff to work in. Of course, it is a sort of demand-led service. It is an accident and emergency ward. They could be having absolutely nothing to do for hours and hours and all of a sudden there are two accidents, somebody cuts themselves, it is possible for there suddenly to be a coincidence of events which fills the place up and if it is the night shift, there are times when they are

run off their feet and there are times happily, because it means that no one is getting hurt in accidents or other emergencies, when they are less busy. It is in the nature of an emergency ward that it is resourced with a certain staffing level, which is management's best calculation of what is a reasonable staff provision for the likely demand to be put on it, and that there will be many of the times that demand will not materialise and that there will be other occasions when a greater demand will materialise. On the latter occasions they will be rushed off their feet. I do not know whether there is an internal system to re-deploy staff from elsewhere to help them out or whether they just struggle on with the shift size as it is. I would not know what the answer to that is.

HON F R PICARDO:

Can I just say maybe that it is in the man bites dog category, but there is in the back of that, in the schedule which deals with the patients who arrive and who are followed by the team, one instance at least where somebody is not seen for 60 minutes. I accept if it is not common even there, that that may affect the guesstimate that management has to make or has changed since having seen that.

ORAL

NO 831 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – ELECTIVE SURGERY

Can Government state how many persons there are presently waiting for elective surgery in each speciality?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 832 and 833 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 832 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – CANCELLATION OF ROUTINE OPERATIONS

Can Government confirm how many routine operations were cancelled at St Bernard's Hospital due to the non-availability of beds for January, February, and March of 2004, giving a breakdown for each month?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 831 and 833 of 2004.

NO 833 OF 2004**THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO****GHA – ELECTIVE OPERATIONS CANCELLED**

Can Government state over what period of time the 226 elective operations that were cancelled out of the 2232 scheduled to take place, which is referred to on page 88 of the Gibraltar Health Care Development Team report of September 2003, these figures relate to?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

The figures for cancelled operations were taken from the Operating Theatre Cancellation Register for the period of January to December 2002. In respect of the other questions the information requested by the hon Member is set out in the schedules which I hand to her.

Answer to Question No. 831 of 2004

Ophthalmic	55
Orthopaedic	300
Gynaecology	76
Otorhinolaryngology	190
General Surgery	97

Answer to Question No. 832 of 2004

January	35
February	2
March	10

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 831 TO 833 OF 2004**HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:**

As regards Question No. 831, again I have done an exercise here and even though again there seems to be a tendency in most specialities, that there are more people on the list, there seems again to be a discrepancy as far as ENT is concerned and I

would urge the Minister to look at the figure that his predecessor gave me in answer to Question No. 958 of 2002. He said that as far as ENT was concerned, there were 110 patients. As far as the report is concerned, they mention the figure which is nearly double of 204 and for the particular year, as far as Question No. 958 is concerned, there seems to be such a discrepancy that we are talking about nearly double the figure that I was given in this House. For the previous year it was 188, so if the Minister now is saying that in the list for ENT there are 190 patients, I would venture to say that the actual list of people has more than doubled. Would the Minister be able to check that for me?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

I will not bore the House by saying what I said before so if the hon Member provides the information I requested, I will have the figures looked into.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

I will do so. As far as Question No. 832 is concerned, the Minister has confirmed that for January there were 35 operations cancelled and that to me seems to be quite a high figure when the norm for February is two, March 10 and therefore January seems to me that 35 cancellations are more than one a day. Am I right in assuming that he is going to answer what he said in an interview on GBC, that this is like the saying goes in Spanish “the hill of January”?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

Obviously I cannot validate these figures on my feet but I have no reason to doubt they are accurate, from memory because it was a bit of a culture shock just shortly after having taken over the Ministry, I know it was a period of considerable difficulty with bed management, so I have no reason to doubt that those figures are probably right and that it was necessary to cancel a higher number than normal in order to meet the problem of the shortage of beds.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Was there a particular reason for there being 35 cancellations for January? Has the Minister asked what the reason was?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

Like the hon Member I do my own studies, not quite as numerically orientated as hers. Yes, I did ask, yes studies were taken, yes, we have looked to see whether there is any pattern. What I can tell her is that there was no obvious, either any obvious specific reason or anything that we could do to avoid the large number of admissions, abnormally large number of admissions that were being experienced. They were not just, nothing is silly when it is a question of admissions but the information that I got back was that all the admissions were justified and that they were serious illnesses and people were not being admitted for head colds or something equally innocuous.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

But that trend does not occur every January, does it? I have got the figures for previous Januarys and in the previous January there were none.

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

All the senior staff concurred in their various opinions that they gave me, that this last January seems to have been abnormal. I asked if someone was plotting against me.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

So it is not really what the Minister said during his interview with GBC, that it was “la cuesta de enero” he said. So all the other Januarys are different then.

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

I have no doubt that the winter period had something to do with it as well. There is no doubt about it, but there is no doubt that this January was particularly difficult or challenging I should say.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

One other supplementary, when I put the question how many routine operations had been cancelled due to the non availability of beds, can the Minister confirm whether these operations are cancelled when the patient is in the ward waiting to be taken to the theatre, or does it also include those patients that are sometimes called at home and told not to bother coming up because there is no bed? Is it the first or the second?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

It is both but we try, or should I say the people who manage these things, obviously try to warn people the day before they come up and if an operation is cancelled at the last minute it is the exception rather than the rule.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Why is it then that there have been instances that have been reported to us where the patient is set to go into theatre, he has a bed and then for some unknown reason theatre says that they have run over the time and then the patient, even though he has a bed, he is not operated on that day. What is the reason for that?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

I cannot comment on a hypothetical and not identified case. It is highly unlikely that a patient who has come from a bed and is on his way on a trolley about to be wheeled to the theatre, to be suddenly kicked off the trolley and told to go home. It is highly

unlikely. However, I have a friend to whom that happened in St Mary's Hospital, who woke up after having been anaesthetised and said to himself, I have just had heart surgery and cannot feel a thing, and he had actually been inside the operating theatre under anaesthetic and he was wheeled out again because of whatever reason. So these things do happen but they normally tend to be exceptional. If the hon Member can give me a specific case I can certainly try to get reasons for her but not like this off the top of my head.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

It is just that I was there personally when it happened and the feedback that we got was that it appeared that, I mean the Minister will have to investigate this, but I think it is worth investigating because I think at the time there seemed to be a dispute between the theatre staff because of private practice with the doctors and they were refusing to actually operate over 4 o'clock or 5 o'clock in the afternoon, if I remember rightly.

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

That is a more serious and a more worrying angle and I would certainly be interested in having more information and finding out more about it if it is true, but I reiterate what I said before, it is certainly the exception that anybody would have his operation cancelled at the last minute, but again it is possible. There could be an accident or there could be three people admitted in with massive heart attacks, but these things happen but these things are the exceptions.

ORAL

NO 834 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – PAIN CLINIC

Can Government confirm how many medical practitioners are working within the pain clinic of the Gibraltar Health Authority?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 835 and 836 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 835 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – PAIN CLINIC

Can Government confirm what is the staff composition within the pain clinic of the Gibraltar Health Authority?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 834 and 836 of 2004.

NO 836 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – PAIN CLINIC

Can Government confirm whether consultants working within the pain clinic of the Gibraltar Health Authority are able to refer patients abroad to medical institutions for specialist treatment?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

The pain clinic is staffed by one anaesthetist and one clinical nurse. The consultant can and has referred patients abroad. This is done within established protocols and ethical boundaries. The consultant working within the pain clinic can and has referred patients to tertiary centres in the same way as all other consultants do within their own speciality.

NO 837 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – PSYCHO-GERIATRIC PATIENTS

Can Government state how many psycho-geriatric patients have been admitted in KGV from 1 January to the end of March 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

One psycho-geriatric patient was admitted to KGV between 1 January and 31 March 2004.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 837 OF 2004

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

I assume that when we are talking about figures we are talking about admissions and not persons, am I correct?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

I am not quite sure what the difference is, but one person was admitted if that helps. One cannot have more than two persons in one admission.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

No, because previously I have been given figures like 5, 6, 10 and I was not sure whether the 5 were referring to admissions that could actually mean that the same person has been admitted twice, that is what I mean.

ORAL

NO 838 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – ENROLLED NURSES

Can Government state how many enrolled nurses have now applied to be able to train up to the level of staff nurse?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 839, 840 and 841 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 839 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – NURSES TRAINING IN UK

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

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 838, 840 and 841 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 840 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – CONTRACT NURSES

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

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 838, 839 and 841 of 2004.

NO 841 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – NUMBER OF NURSES

Can Government state what was the number of nurses in post as at the end of March 2004 with a breakdown by grade, giving the full-time equivalent of each grade?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

In respect of contract nurses employed and number of nurses in post, the information requested by the hon Member is set out in the attached schedules that I hand over to her.

Answer to Question No. 838 of 2004

Nine enrolled nurses applied to train up to first level.

Answer to Question No. 839 of 2004

In respect of local nurses undergoing specialist training in UK, the situation remains as given in answer to Question No. 178 of 2004.

Answer to Question No. 840 of 2004

As at 31st March 2004 there were 48 Contract Nurses employed by the Gibraltar Health Authority.

The breakdown by specialities is as follows:

Clinical Nurse Managers		1
Education Development Officer		1
Nurse Tutor		1
Nurse Practitioners		1
Registered General Nurses	18	
Registered Mental Nurses		5
Registered Sick Children's Nurse		4
Staff Midwives	10	
Enrolled Nurses		7

Answer to Question No. 841 of 2004

The following is a breakdown of Nurses in post as at 31st March 2004:

Director of Nursing Services	Vacant
Deputy Director of Nursing Services	1
Clinical Nurse Managers	6
Education Development Officer	1
Senior Nurse Tutor	1
Nurse Tutor	1
Nurse Practitioner	1
Charge Nurses	29
Staff Nurses/Midwives	113.5
Senior Enrolled Nurses	5
Enrolled Nurses	89.5
Nursing Auxiliaries/Nursing Assistants	104

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 838 TO 841 OF 2004

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

As regards Question No. 838 reference enrolled nurses, even though the Minister in January said that there were none and his predecessor had said a few months before that there were two, in any case I would like to refer to a statement that has come out from the Minister saying, as he has said now, that there are six enrolled nurses. Now, he will no doubt be aware that we have always been concerned in this House in relation to those enrolled nurses that are not in possession of GCSEs and therefore could the Minister confirm that what has appeared today as a statement from him, when he says in the statement the programme is designed to build on existing experiences and knowledge and is seen as breaking new ground for the university itself. First of all we are talking about a different university because we are now talking about the University of York where before we were talking about EMAP and the University of Sheffield. Can the Minister confirm whether those nurses that can apply are only nurses that are in possession of the required GCSEs?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

No, I am afraid the hon Member is a little bit confused. For a start she said EMAP was different because it was EMAP and Sheffield and now it is York. It is always EMAP but it is now York instead of Sheffield. For a start. Secondly, the situation is that there are a large number of enrolled nurses many of whom probably aspire, not all of them, probably aspire to be reclassified as level 1 nurses, staff nurses. A course has now, as I told her in answer to a question in the last House, we were at that stage (in answer to Question No. 179) negotiating to provide a course that would be acceptable to provide this pathway for enrolled nurses to be able to train. That course has now been established. It has been validated by York University as opposed to Sheffield University but it is still the same EMAP course. The course was advertised, there were nine applicants, six were accepted by the interview board or whatever board valuated the interviews, and those six nurses have now started this distance learning course. The statement which the hon Member attributes to me is not mine but is from the School of Nursing, or the School of Health Studies, may have issued in my name, I have certainly not signed it, it has my name in the middle

of it and it was the statement that was given to the press at the time that I went to launch the course, Thursday or Wednesday of this week. It started off with an intensive two day course here by a Mrs Elizabeth Yeats of York University and then I think it is something like a two years long distance learning course and these six nurses were very keen but at the same time a little bit apprehensive, I sensed, in what they were tackling and what they were doing now for the first time. This, as the hon Member knows, is the only pathway that is available now for re-graduation as staff nurses and I hope that obviously we will monitor it, it is approved by the University and it will provide the means of re-classification but it does imply successful completion. If I go back to something she said at the beginning, I am not quite sure what the question was about can I confirm, something to do with GCSEs, what I can confirm is if the enrolled nurse has the GCSEs then they can move up a different pathway. With a minimum of 5 GCSEs they can take up the training tube direct to staff nurse and do not need to do this conversion course. This conversion course is designed for those enrolled nurses who do not have the qualification and therefore cannot go through the training direct and have to do this new solution that has been designed specifically for them, because at the moment there are no enrolled nurses as such in the UK and this is the pathway that has been devised, and I hope is successful for their sake and for those others who want to follow it after them.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Therefore, what the Minister is saying is, that the six that have applied to do this course are enrolled nurses who are not in possession of the required GCSEs. Am I correct? Otherwise they would go through the different course which the Minister has just mentioned.

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

Correct.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Therefore, is the Minister aware, well we have the figures here, but it just strikes me as odd that when we have so many enrolled nurses that only six have applied.

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

Nine applied and only six were accepted. I am not sure if I asked it but I thought the same question myself when I said how many are eligible to apply. The answer that I got was that possibly because it is a new thing, possibly because people are unsure, as well as because not all enrolled nurses are interested in conversion, but I agree with the hon Member, I would have expected on the first occasion for there to have been a bigger number. Time will tell. It is intended to provide similar future courses, if there is interest. We shall have to wait and see what the take up is.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Can the Minister confirm to the House why nine applied and three were not accepted? Can he say what the reason was for their non acceptance? If these enrolled nurses are there practising, what was the reason for them not being accepted?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

I was not on the board so I do not know. I have on my desk a bundle of papers that includes all the interview notes and so on, but the board did not accept them for whatever reason that they thought they were not suitable. They had the free hand to make whatever decision they made and they decided, this does not exclude the three people who were not accepted from applying again and I understand that they have been offered coaching and advice in order to overcome whatever went wrong in their interviews or in their qualifications or whatever, so that the next time they apply they can be more successful. It most certainly is not the intention to stop people from making it. On the other hand I also understand that it is a challenging course, it is not an automatic pass situation at the end of it and of course distance learning is not easy in itself.

HON J J BOSSANO:

When the Government were originally looking at the possibility of opening up the opportunity for enrolled nurses to continue on to staff nurse with Sheffield, was there a different concept from the one that has been applied now?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

No, I think the concept was the same, I am not quite sure why we have ended up with York and not Sheffield, but I asked the question of whether it was the same thing and it was confirmed to me that it was. The course is called EMAP, electronic map of the course, it is the same course just validated by a different university. Obviously the arrangements were easier to make or whatever, I am not sure the exact reason but it is certainly the same course.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The Sheffield course was also going to be by distance learning, was it?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

Yes indeed.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Do they have to actually spend any time in UK in the two years, or do they do the whole thing here?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

Not as far as I know, what I was told is that it was this intensive two day kick start to the course that the tutor from York would monitor from there, that the tutoring would be done here in conjunction with York University and that they would come over as and when they were needed, but no mention was made to me about people needing to travel there. That does not mean that it may not be necessary at some stage.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Can the Minister confirm the statement that is attributed to him that building on the clinical skills and knowledge in the field of general nursing, it will meet the EC requirements for registration?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

Yes that is exactly what the whole course is about. Unless they do this course they cannot be registered as staff nurses. That is what the conversion is all about. First they need to convert and once they have converted they can register. If they do not do the course they can not convert, if they do not convert they cannot register.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

It means that they have to register with the UKCC before they can access the EU market, is that correct?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

Yes, that is the whole point. Unless they are registered with the UK body there is a problem, that is what the course is all about. Before, as one knows, if they had the qualification or whatever it was they could register. Now, they have got to do this course in order to be able to register. So it boils down to the same thing.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

On the question of the contract nurses, we are very concerned that the figures are going up quite a lot. In October 2002 the Government had 36, in March 2003 the Government had 39 contract nurses, in January 2004 the Government had 49 and in March now, the figure that I am being given, the Government have 48 which is one less. We are very concerned because when we look at the other question which is Question No. 839, we are told by the Minister that the situation remains the same, that there are only two local nurses training in the UK. Therefore, it would appear to me, is it not wise for the Government to encourage our nurses to go and specialise in the UK so that they can replace, especially after the explanation given earlier by the Government, so that we do not end up with half of the Health Authority with nurses being employed from abroad. Is it not about time that the Government should encourage our nurses to go and specialise as RMNs, as staff midwives, for example we have two nurse practitioners, a nurse tutor and on the other hand we have only two of our local nurses in the UK. Does the Minister not agree that this is a most unsatisfactory situation?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

The Minister certainly agrees that the more local nurses the better. The GHA certainly encourages our local nurses and prospective local nurses to come onto the strengths and to qualify in the UK, but one can take a horse to water but can not make it drink. So, I certainly support the philosophy and GHA certainly would want to add more local nurses, but unless and until we have them we need to fill the gaps with contract nurses, which is not the desire of GHA, is not what the Government want to see but the alternative is less staff for the Health Service.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Is it not the case that our nurses, as is shown in the report, are very dissatisfied that their training abroad is not sufficient and they would welcome being sent to the UK to specialise as nurses, and if we are talking about two nurses being in the UK, is the Minister saying that our local nurses are saying no and that the offer is being made to them?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

I am not aware of any nurses saying no after an offer has been made but I am neither aware that any nurse who wants to go is not being allowed to go. So certainly it is something that I would want to encourage but we are certainly not depriving people from undertaking any training they want to undertake.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

I was just wondering that if we have a situation where the Health Authority started having contract officers to the tune of 39 in the year 2002, it seems to me that after two years have elapsed we will only have two training in the UK and I believe that the Government should agree that they should look into this matter and ensure that there are more of our nurses being sent to the UK. Otherwise, as I said earlier, it appears to me that in a few years time, if the trend continues, more than half of the Health Authority will have contract nurses rather than local nurses.

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

I agree.

ORAL

NO 842 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – NURSING DISPUTE

Can Government confirm whether there is a dispute from the nursing staff at St Bernard's Hospital, as a result of which they are refusing to prepare for burial the bodies of patients who pass away?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

There is no dispute with the nursing staff at St Bernard's Hospital regarding the preparation of bodies for burial and there is no known case of refusal by nursing staff to prepare for burial the bodies of patients who have passed away.

NO 843 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – ORTHOPAEDIC SPECIALIST TREATMENT

Can Government confirm to which medical institutions our patients are being referred to abroad, with regard to orthopaedic specialist treatment?

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 No. 843 of 2004

The Medical Institutions to which our patients are referred to abroad with regard to orthopaedic treatment vary from time to time depending on a number of factors, including patient choice, clinical considerations and the opinion of the referring Consultant. During this year, the following Institutions have been used:

1. Guys and St Thomas Hospital, London
2. The National Hospital for Neurology, London
3. Princess Elizabeth Orthopaedic Hospital, Exeter
4. St George's Hospital, London
5. Derbyshire Royal Infirmary, London Road, Derby
6. The Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, London
7. Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic District Hospital, Shropshire
8. The Middlesex Hospital
9. Hichingbrooke Hospital, Oxford
10. Hospital General, Albacete, Spain

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 843 OF 2004

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Can the Minister confirm whether the patients that are being referred abroad for orthopaedic procedures, is it because those procedures cannot be carried out locally? Or is it because the Government are keen in sending patients abroad in order to bring down the backlog in orthopaedics?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

No, this is not a reflection of any Government initiative that has been taken so far in respect of the cutting down of waiting lists. This is the routine procedure normally that is happening now and has happened for x number of years in the past. I was not quite sure what information the hon Member wanted with regard to this particular question so all we have given is the list of institutions to which patients are being referred in the normal course of referrals for tertiary treatment, in the same way as they are for any other speciality but in this case obviously, for orthopaedics which is the subject of her question, nothing to do with waiting lists.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

What prompted me, was the fact that I was getting a number of patients who had been operated in the UK and they were waiting to be referred again and as regards the Manchester Spinal Foundation, and I see now that it must have closed because it is not on the list and that is what prompted me to make the question. Is the Minister aware that the Spinal Foundation in Manchester has actually shut down?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

Not particularly, I mean the hon Member asked to which institutions we were referring patients, it was not clear over what period of time she was referring to or wanted information on, so we decided to choose the calendar year 2004 and these are the hospitals or the institutions that have been used this year. That does not mean that any particular hospital has either been discarded or is no longer being used. If the question had been since the beginning of 2003, the answer would obviously have been different and there would have been more institutions on this list.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

The Minister then is not sure whether the Spinal Foundation in Manchester has closed?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

Not particularly. The name of the Manchester Institution does not ring any bells with me. I obviously am not in the front line of which institution any particular patient is referred to, so I have not heard anything about it either closing or not closing.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Will the Minister confirm, when I write to him, so that I can pass the information over to the patients?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

Certainly if the hon Member cares to write to me asking a question I will provide her with the answer, of course.

NO 844 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS

Do Government agree that patients who are seen by medical practitioners are entitled to have second opinions within the Gibraltar Health Authority if they so wish?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

It is a well known fact that patients can, and do on occasions, make multiple visits to different general practitioners when they are not satisfied with the medical opinion. The Government consider that it is appropriate for patients to have access to a second opinion in secondary care if the relevant practitioner considers it is necessary.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 844 OF 2004

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

The last bit of what the Minister has said concerns me. If the relevant consultant thinks it is necessary. What if the patient is so concerned about the diagnosis that he actually seeks a second opinion because of the gravity of the diagnosis?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

The hon Member well knows, because I know she has had the same sort of experiences that I am having in this area, that invariably there are always patients who are not necessarily satisfied with the first opinion by a consultant. Wherever possible the GHA seeks to meet the desire of a patient for a second opinion. For example, if there is a locum about to take post and it is possible to provide that second opinion, that facility is usually provided. If there is a visiting consultant in that speciality visiting Gibraltar, the opportunity is also taken, but invariably second opinions in secondary care, as I am sure she is aware, involves sending a patient away from Gibraltar with the consequent costs. Well if there is not a locum coming and there is not a second consultant in the speciality and there is not a visiting consultant, then it involves necessarily sending the patient away from Gibraltar and that has cost implications. So therefore, it cannot be, desirable as that would be, an automatic patient choice. However, at the same time, medicine tends to be, as she well knows, more and more patient led so as I said a moment ago, one tries, or the

GHA because it is nothing to do with me directly, the GHA tries to provide that second opinion if it is possible to provide it. Invariably there are occasions, as I am sure there have been in her experience, where a consultant does not feel that the second opinion is justified, not necessarily because of the cost but because in his clinical and professional opinion he may not think it is justified and is not possible to provide, and the patient may feel strongly about it. At the moment there is not a clear mechanism in place to over rule that, except for people like the Medical Director to become involved. It is certainly not my practice as Minister to get involved in that situation or in any way to try to influence the decision, which is essentially clinical, of that of the clinician in what needs or does not need to be done. Having said all that, I am asking the Executive Board of the GHA to see whether they can come up with some formula that provides some mechanism where the decision of a consultant can be challenged is too strong a word, but where the patient can have access of appeal as it were to some entity, group, whether it be the Board, which will be medical and management combined, which can review the decision of the consultant and try to influence that decision or try to influence the consultant to see things differently. That at the moment is on my wish list, it is not in place.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Will the Minister not agree that in view of the fact that most specialists working medical practitioners, consultants working within the Gibraltar Health Authority are single handed and therefore they work six weeks on and two off, locums are brought in and therefore it will facilitate the process because it will mean that patients will be able to have access to these locums, and therefore I cannot see what the Minister is saying happening too often, that patients will have to be sent abroad?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

Yes indeed, as I said I have given indications of one possible means for the patient to seek to have that opinion reviewed, or to seek to have the decision not to seek to have that opinion reviewed, if that is so, and there are also developments in the pipeline to do with the changes that we are foreseeing for the Health Authority that may indeed achieve the same thing via completely different circumstances, but those are still in the offing and not something that I can give more details of at this moment, but it may per se bring about the availability of second opinions more easily.

ORAL

NO 845 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – SPONSORED PATIENTS

Can Government state how many patients have been given a choice of being treated in Spain as opposed to the UK, as sponsored patients, and have elected to go to Spain since 1 January 2004 to the end of March 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 846 and 847 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 846 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – SPONSORED PATIENTS

Can Government explain what are the arrangements to adequately assist our sponsored patients and their escorts, when they are referred to Spanish medical institutions?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 845 and 847 of 2004.

NO 847 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – SPONSORED PATIENTS

Can Government confirm the level of subsistence allowance that is being provided to sponsored patients who are referred to Spanish medical institutions?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answer to Question No. 845 of 2004

All patients are given the choice to be treated either in Spain or in the UK at the time of referral when considered appropriate by the referring consultant. A total of 93 patients out of 356 have elected to go to Spain during the period 1st January 2004 to the end of March 2004.

Answer to Question Nos. 846 and 847 of 2004

As the hon Member is aware, the maintenance allowance payable to patients referred abroad is subject to a means test. The allowance will therefore vary from patient to patient. However, I can confirm that for patients who are required to remain in Spain overnight the level of subsistence is the equivalent to what is payable to patients referred to the UK. The same applies to escorts. The maximum amount payable to patients staying in rented accommodation is £266. Patients staying with friends and relatives or in hospital accommodation receive a maximum of £98 per week. Additionally, in-patients receive £5 per day during their stay in hospital. The arrangements for patients referred to centres in Spain are similar to those made for referrals to the United Kingdom. The Sponsored Patient Department makes all the administrative arrangements in connection with the appointment and carries out the income assessment to establish the amount of maintenance payable to patients and escorts. Details of accommodation covering a range of prices and located near the hospital is provided prior to departure. Transport by ambulance is provided for all in-patients at St Bernard's and, on occasions when considered necessary by the relevant clinician, transport for outpatients by ambulance is also provided. Sponsored patients department staff are on call on a 24-hours 7 days a week basis and patients and escorts are given their telephone numbers so that they may be contacted if any further assistance is required at any time.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 845 TO 847 OF 2004

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Am I therefore right in assuming, that when it comes to outpatients the level of subsistence they receive is not the same as if they were in the UK?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

The qualification for the payment hinges on overnight stay. Obviously one cannot go to the UK for outpatient treatment and come back on the same day, so by implication there is a payment automatically if one goes to the UK. If one goes to Spain, if one goes for a day scan and do not stay overnight, then there is not a payment involved. If it involves overnight stay then yes, there is a payment.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Yes, but I was enquiring more to the actual level of subsistence that patients receive in the UK, we are talking about the escorts.

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

The level is the same whether it is the UK or Spain.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Except that when the Minister mentioned the figure of £266 outpatients, I know that the figure for an outpatient in the UK is more than that, apart from the travel allowance.

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

No, the figures I am giving are the same whether it is Spain or UK and it is not for outpatients, it is for a sponsored patient going either to the UK or to Spain and having to stay overnight. If conceivably one could hire a private jet to take one to St Mary's Hospital to be seen by a specialist and one could come back in the evening, one would not get any money. If one goes there by the normal scheduled flight and stay overnight, then one gets the payment. Similarly with Spain, if one goes there and comes back one does not get the payment. That is, the payment is the same whether one goes to Spain or the UK, everything else being equal.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

I have in the back of my mind when the Minister spoke about the means testing, his predecessor was talking about a maximum of £280, and now we are given the figure of £266. That is why I am asking him to confirm whether it is the same or not. Of course I know that patients who travel to the UK have to travel by air, and of course I know that from the airport they are given a subsistence travel allowance to get to the

hospital or to wherever they are being accommodated. It is just that that figure, to me, is not the same figure as the maximum that escorts or patients who are not in hospital receive when in the UK.

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

What is confusing the hon Member is her memory. The figure was £189 a week, presumably in the time when she was Minister for Health. Those figures were raised by us, by my Colleague Mr Azopardi when he was Minister for Health, to £266 a week. It has never been higher than £266 a week, it was £189 in her time, that is the figure that she has confusion over.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Can the Minister confirm whether that figure is now under review?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

Which figure?

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

The last figure, the £266.

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

Not as far as I know.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

It is just that we heard a lady in public who said that she had gone to see the Minister and that she said that he had been very receptive and that she hoped that the figure would be going up.

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

I am is always receptive when people come to see her. These were a group of patients or people who had all at one time or another been sponsored patients and the thrust of the combined representation was the present figure, present payments are not adequate for two reasons. Mainly because of the level that they were saying it should be higher but more to the point the criticism was on the means testing and the fact that the basis was on the household income as opposed to the income of the patient and the spouse. I was receptive in as much as asking for the group that was representing them, which was the new Pensioners Association, to make formal proposals to the GHA of what they thought the system should be, for consideration by GHA, but I mean obviously no figures were mentioned and no commitment was made by me other than to study any proposals that were made. Indeed, if I remember rightly, some proposals that are very, very sketchy have been put forward.

HON F R PICARDO:

This is something in respect of which we, I suppose, all receive representations. It is something which is spoken about quite generally, not just formally with members responsible for health. I am sure that we will agree that the right figure for sponsored patients between 1988 and 1996 and the right figure between 1996 and 2000 for example, is not necessarily the right figure when somebody is in London, traditionally one of the most expensive cities in the world, in 2004/2005 and that that should be something therefore kept under perhaps more constant review.

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

I am sure that argument applies to any and every allowance that the Government pay or grant that Government give, any amount of money that is made available to anybody at any time, the principle of inflation and annual increases.

HON F R PICARDO:

But this particular one relates to something for which the Minister is responsible and which affects the quality of life for those that we send to the United Kingdom are able to enjoy. Therefore, would the Minister give a commitment to look at that?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

That is why I was receptive and responsive to the people who came to see me and I am looking forward to their proposals.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Can the Minister confirm whether the payments are made directly by the GHA to the Spanish medical institutions, or do the payments form part of the EU negotiations between the UK and Spain?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

If the hon Member is talking about the allowances, the subsistence allowance.....

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

No I am talking about the costs, the fees to the GHA of sending patients to Spanish medical institutions. Does the GHA pay the Spanish hospital directly or does the payment form part of the overall EU negotiations between the UK and Spain?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

As far as I am aware the payments are made to the institutions directly but I would not like to guarantee the accuracy of that answer, but that is I think the case, just as they are made direct to the UK institutions via the Lambeth Trust in the UK.

NO 848 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 January, February and March of 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Payments made to clinics in Malaga during the period January to March 2004 amounted to £1,480.78.

NO 849 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – SPONSORED PATIENTS

Can the Minister for Health now confirm whether the GHA have finalised their discussions with the Department of Health, regarding the payments for our sponsored patients' treatments in the UK, which will result in a sum of money rather than the number of people?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

These discussions are on-going and I can report to this House that we have made substantial progress in this area and we are on course for the targets that I indicated to the hon Member at the last meeting of the House, of implementation as from 1st April next year.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 849 OF 2004

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Will that mean that there will be any changes to the formula?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

Yes, as I told her last year, basically the whole basis indeed as she has indicated in the question, the whole basis will be on an annual sum of money per se as opposed to a quota of patients and an amount per patient.

ORAL

NO 850 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – SPONSORED PATIENTS

Can Government state what was the total number of sponsored patients treated in the UK for the year 2003, with the cost being met by the UK, what were these costs together with the comparable figures for the previous year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 851 to 853 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 851 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – SPONSORED PATIENTS

Can Government state what was the total number of sponsored patients treated in the UK for the months of January, February and March of 2004, with the cost being met by the UK, what were these costs, together with the comparable figures for the previous year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 850, 852 and 853 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 852 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – SPONSORED PATIENTS

Can Government state what was the number of sponsored patients treated in the UK from 1 January 2004 to the end of March 2004, with the fees being met by the Gibraltar Health Authority and the cost of such fees?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 850, 851 and 853 of 2004.

NO 853 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – QUOTA PATIENTS TREATED IN UK

Can Government now state what were the costs of the 26 quota patients treated in the UK for the period 1 February to end of March 2002 with the costs being met by the UK Government?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answer to Question No. 850 of 2004

The situation remains as given in answer to Question No. 146 of 2004. The figures for 2003/2004 have not yet been provided by the UK Department of Health.

Answer to Question No. 851 of 2004

The total number of sponsored patients treated in the UK for the months of January, February and March of 2004, with the cost being met by the UK was 66.

Answer to Question No. 852 of 2004

The number of sponsored patients treated in the UK from 1st January 2004 to the end of March 2004, with the fees being met by the Gibraltar Health Authority is 197 patients. The costs identified to date are £466,951.13.

Answer to Question No. 853 of 2004

The latest available figure in respect of Healthcare costs provided by the UK to the 26 quota patients in question is £65,000.

NO 854 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – SPONSORED PATIENTS

Can the Government state what was the cost per capita in respect of sponsored patients in 2002/2003 and 2003/2004, and can they give a breakdown with regard to patients sent to the UK and patients sent to Spain?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

The average cost of medical fees in respect of ex-quota patients referred to the UK in 2002/2003 and 2003/2004 is in the order of £3,100 and £3,200 respectively per patient. Referrals to Spain, other than those sent for diagnostic purposes to private clinics, are made through the E112 system and details of these costs are not available.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 854 OF 2004

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Did the Minister say at the end of that sentence that the patients sent to Spain are sent with the E112 system? That means therefore that if they use that then it is an EU form and therefore the payments to the hospital will not be made direct. Another question is, when we are talking about the per capita cost, the Minister has given a figure of £3,100?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

£3,100 for 2002/2003 and £3,200 for the following year.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

I see. It is just that it appears that it is a different figure that appears in the report again, because it says that the per capita cost has gone up from £3,125 to £5,795 for the year 2002/2003. There seems to be a discrepancy with the figure.

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

I am afraid the hon Member has been caught out once again comparing Granny Smiths to Pink Ladies.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Why?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

They are different kinds of apples. They are apples but different kinds of apples. I would need to know the basis. This calculation, despite the shortness of the answer, is an extremely difficult calculation to make. There are a number of variables, there are a number of overlaps from year to year and I confidently predict that it would be difficult to tie up one figure with the answer.

NO 855 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – PILLOW SHORTAGES

Are Government aware that there has been complaints of shortages of pillows for patients in Godley Ward, and can they say whether such shortages exist in other wards and what is being done to remedy the situation?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

The Government are not aware that there have been complaints of shortages of pillows for patients in Godley or any other ward. Furthermore, GHA has confirmed that no patient has been left without a pillow in any ward. There have always been occasions when wards have required a larger number of pillows than usual causing temporary shortages. This problem has usually arisen when a number of patients have required more pillows than usual in order to be propped up in a comfortable position. On these occasions, additional pillows have always been provided to the wards by the Supplies Department. Godley, Napier, John and Victoria Wards have occasionally experienced this problem. The GHA have confirmed that adequate stocks of spare pillows are stored at St Bernard's Hospital and long term reserves at New Harbours GHA Stores.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 855 OF 2004

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Has the Minister not heard complaints from patients who have said that they need to wait for 2, 3 or 4 hours before they get an extra pillow?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

As a patient in a number of wards in the hospital in the past, I have heard of those complaints for myself. That does not mean that the pillows are not available but merely that either the ward staff or the ward supplies officer, or whoever, have not got their act together. The pillows are available, if people ask for them the pillows are made available.

ORAL

NO 856 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – ELDERLY CARE PATIENTS

On what basis has the Minister for Health concluded that in January of this year, out of 167 patients in St Bernard's Hospital, 100 did not require to be in Hospital?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 857 to 863 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 857 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – ELDERLY CARE PATIENTS

Can Government state how many long stay elderly care patients there were at St Bernard's Hospital in March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November and December 2003?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 856 and 858 to 863 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 858 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – ELDERLY CARE PATIENTS

Can Government state how many long stay elderly care patients there were at St Bernard's Hospital in January, February and March of 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 856, 857 and 859 to 863 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 859 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – SHORTAGES OF BEDS

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

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 856 to 858 and 860 to 863 of 2004.

NO 860 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – ELDERLY CARE PATIENTS

Can Government state during the months of March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November and December of 2003, of the beds occupied by elderly persons who have been formally discharged, but refused to leave, how many fell into each of the 3 categories indentified by the Government:

- (1) Elderly persons living alone;
- (2) Elderly persons needing support;
- (3) Others able to be looked after?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 856 to 859 and 861 to 863 of 2004.

NO 861 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – ELDERLY CARE PATIENTS

Can Government state during the months of January, February and March of 2004, of the beds occupied by elderly persons who have been formally discharged, but refused to leave, how many fell into each of the 3 categories identified by the Government:

- (1) Elderly persons living alone;
- (2) Elderly persons needing support;
- (3) Others able to be looked after?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 856 to 860 and 862 to 863 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 862 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 March 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 856 to 861 and 863 of 2004.

NO 863 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – NUMBER OF PATIENTS

Can the Minister for Health state what is the present number of patients in St Bernard's Hospital, and how many of these does he consider now should not be there?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Question Nos. 857 and 860 are identical to Question Nos. 135 and 136 of 2004 which were asked during the meeting of this House last January and the information in answer to which has already been supplied to the hon Member. However, for the interests of Hansard and as agreed previously, I hand the information to her in a schedule.

Answer to Question No. 856 of 2004

Two separate and independently carried out audits, one of which was conducted by the Gibraltar Healthcare Development Team, and the other by the Bed Manager, concluded that some 100 patients did not require to be in hospital.

Answer to Question No. 858 of 2004

The numbers of long stay elderly patients in St Bernard's Hospital were:

January 2004	56
February 2004	58
March 2004	58

Answer to Question No. 859 of 2004

In respect of bed shortages at St Bernard's Hospital the situation remains as given in answer to Question No. 137 of 2004.

Answer to Question No. 861 of 2004

The number of patients formally discharged but refusing to leave were as follows:

January	2004	13
February	2004	12
March	2004	11

The information in respect of elderly patients formally discharged but refusing to leave is contained in the schedule.

- A total number of 9 elderly patients were discharged in March 2003 but refused to leave.
- A total number of 9 elderly patients were discharged in April 2003 but refused to leave.
- A total number of 10 elderly patients were discharged in May 2003 but refused to leave.
- A total number of 10 elderly patients were discharged in June 2003 but refused to leave.
- A total number of 9 elderly patients were discharged in July 2003 but refused to leave.
- A total number of 8 elderly patients were discharged in August 2003 but refused to leave.
- A total number of 9 elderly patients were discharged in September 2003 but refused to leave.
- A total number of 10 elderly patients were discharged in October 2003 but refused to leave.
- A total number of 10 elderly patients were discharged in November 2003 but refused to leave.
- A total number of 10 elderly patients were discharged in December 2003 but refused to leave.

(1) Of these the number of elderly patients living alone was as follows:

March	3
April	3
May	4
June	4
July	4
August	3
September	3
October	4
November	4
December	4

- (2) All elderly patients require some type of support be it physical, emotional, psychological or social.
- (3) All patients who have been officially discharged are able to be looked after.
- (4) The number of long stay elderly patients at St Bernard's Hospital for the months in question were as follows:

March	49
April	47
May	49
June	50
July	51
August	50
September	48
October	50
November	52
December	54

Answer to Question No. 862 of 2004

There are 93 persons on the waiting list for admission to Mount Alvernia, of whom 39 are in-patients at St Bernard's Hospital.

Answer to Question No. 863 of 2004

It is not for me to decide who should or should not be in hospital. This is a clinical decision for medical staff in accordance with GHA discharge policy. As a layman, all that I would say is that the hospitals are for people who are ill and not for people who are old but not ill. The latter either belong to their homes with their families or in residential or nursing homes.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 856 TO 863 OF 2004

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Does the Minister not remember that he said during an interview in GBC that he believed the experts and that he believed that Gibraltar only required a hospital with 100 beds? Therefore, if he does believe the experts, then is he saying that when the Europort hospital opens there will be 50 per cent occupancy only, in view of the fact that the number of beds there will be 211?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

What I said in a television interview I think it was, was that of the roughly 167 people in the hospital about 67 were acute cases who very, very roughly broad brush and without pinning down exact figures, out of the 167, 67 were people who were acute cases and needed to be in the hospital and of the remaining 100, 50 were people who did not need to be in the hospital at all and the other 50 were people who needed nursing or some sort of care but did not need to be in a hospital because that care could be provided elsewhere. That is what I said and that was based, as I have already said, on two independent audits, one that was carried out by the Healthcare Development Team and is part of that report which she has in front of her and which she is so fond of quoting from, and the other one was carried out by the Bed Manager at my request, and about six months later if I remember rightly at about January this year, completely unconnected one with the other, and they both came to

roughly the same decision that based on benchmarks about 100 beds was what theoretically was needed.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Then where are the rest of the patients going to be treated or where are they going to be sent?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

That is a different question altogether. The hon Member has asked me where I got the figure of 100 from and I have answered where I got the figure of 100 from. Where patients will be treated, presumably she means in the new hospital, will be up to the clinicians and the admissions people and to the various doctors to decide.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

If the Minister is saying that out of the number of patients that are in St Bernard's 100 should not be there, then I come to the conclusion then if he answers and he gives me that figure, what is going to happen to the rest of the patients?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

It is two different issues. She has asked me what did I base the figure of 100 from and I have explained it.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The Minister mentioned that this was based on benchmarks. What is the benchmark then? The population of Gibraltar?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Almost every United Kingdom expert that has come to look at our Health Service has expressed the view that this community does not need a hospital with 211 beds in it, and they apply UK benchmarks. UK benchmarks are that in the UK a population of this size would have a hospital with x number of beds. Well for a start the UK is hardly a benchmark in this respect to be followed. Secondly, as we keep on pointing out to them, Gibraltar is not comparable to the UK. In the UK if one lives in Cirencester or some other little place, and either the hospitals get all filled up or there is an epidemic, there are always more hospitals down the road, at some number of kilometres further away, there is overflow in other words and there are always patients from Cirencester who are being treated in another hospital for specialisation reasons and that this is not the case in Gibraltar. In Gibraltar whatever we cannot provide here, they have got nowhere else. So I do not know why the hon Lady insists on debating in this House the views expressed by people, the Government are building a hospital with 211 beds in it. Perhaps I could urge her to take a leaf out of her colleague the Hon Lucio Randall's example. He was just telling me earlier that he is so aggrieved with the Government's new bus service that his reaction is to

refuse to use the bus service. Well, by analogy, given that the hon Members are opposed to the clinical health practice and its report, could they respond in the same way by just not reading it and not quoting from it, ignoring it, pretending they have never seen it and that way there will be consistency of approach to the buses and to the hospital and to the health review.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The Chief Minister has not been listening to the question and just sort of decided if he finished what he was doing he was going to jump into the ring, because in fact she was not quoting the report, she was quoting the Minister for Health.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The original comes from there.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well we do not know where he got the original from but as he has correctly told us, it has been there in every previous report. It was there in the 1987 report when the AACR was there.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well then consider it is not a view that the Government shares or accepts.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well I am glad to hear it because he seemed to be sharing it and defending it on television.

HON F R PICARDO:

Just a point of clarification, when we are dealing with a question for clarification of a point, we are dealing with Question No. 826 the Minister said that one of the problems is that the District Community Service is not under resourced, it is that too many people who use it should not be using it. Now in answer to this question there seems to be a suggestion that there are 50 people more or less in hospital who could be treated elsewhere, and I assume a part of those might be treated at home. Would that mean that domiciliary care services then is under resourced? Nursing homes rather than at home.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, no, no. There are elderly people who could be at home, who are in hospital but could be at home. There are elderly people who may not be able to be at home because they need a degree of care. Now that can be provided in a nursing home. In other words, one does not have to be occupying an acute bed in a ward resourced

and manned with the manning levels, and those could be provided for in nursing homes, which is what we are trying to convert. I mean, Mount Alvernia is increasingly staffed on that basis and when the extension to Mount Alvernia is opened, the intention is that that is what it will be used for. These people need a degree of care and supervision but they do not have to be in a room with 12 or 8 nurses and a staff sister and all that.

HON F R PICARDO:

That is those 50? None of those will actually be people who go back home and are then treated at their own home by the domiciliary.

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

Let us be clear because otherwise the hon Members come back in three months time and throw the figure of 50 at me again. I have said very broad brush, out of the total number of people in the hospital about 50 do not need to be there, but if I quote from the report itself or from the audit, it says at this particular snapshot moment in time 71 were considered medically fit for discharge. This definition means that the patient has recovered from acute illness and does not require any active rehabilitation, acute, medical or nursing managements. Then he goes on to say somewhere else that a further 25 patients were occupying acute hospital beds who no longer required any acute medical or therapeutic intervention of any form. Hence, 71 plus 25 equals plus or minus 100. So it is not an exact figure, I said broad brush about 100.

HON F R PICARDO:

I am not holding the Minister to it, I accept that figure but none of them would be people who go back home and would get care at home, that is what I am trying to establish.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

They are not potential clients of the domiciliary threshold.

HON F R PICARDO:

The resourcing of which would then be an issue to look at again.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It already is, the existing levels of demand.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

I have just found the quote, it is not 50 the Minister said 100. The experts tell us that in a place like Gibraltar we need less than 100 beds and if one looks at the figures,

there are 166 beds, 100 of which are occupied by non medical patients, so we will throw at his face 100 and not 50.

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

The hon Member is either deaf or I hesitate to say what the other d word is. I have said out of all the hospital total of 167 beds, about 100 do not need to be there. Fifty plus 50 equals 100. If one does the sum in a different way, 71 plus 25 equals 96 which is about 100.

ORAL

NO 864 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – NEW HOSPITAL

Can the Government confirm that if they have engaged a specialist firm or consultant to advise them on the eventual move of St Bernard's Hospital to the Europort Building, how much will their services cost them?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question No. 865 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 865 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – NEW HOSPITAL

Can the Government confirm whether they have engaged a specialist firm or consultant, to advise them on the eventual move of St Bernard's Hospital, to the Europort Building?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Government have engaged a specialist migration firm to assist with the move from St Bernard's Hospital to the new Europort facility. Cyrill Swert, a migration specialist, been engaged to develop the migration plan at a cost of £90,000.

ORAL

NO 866 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – NEW HOSPITAL

On what date do Government now expect the hospital at Europort to be fully functional and operational?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

We expect this to occur in autumn of this year.

NO 867 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – ENT CLINIC

Can Government confirm whether they are engaged in any negotiations with a private clinic in Spain to provide ENT services at the Europort Hospital?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

No, the Government are not engaged in any such negotiations.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 867 OF 2004

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Can the Minister confirm whether any approach has been made to them or to the GHA?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

In assessing options for the elimination of waiting lists, a number of options have been considered but there have been no negotiations or direct approaches. There may have been some assessments but then nothing has come back to the Government.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Are the Government keen in looking at the possibility of engaging ENT services to bring down the backlog?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Government are awaiting, and expecting it imminently, the phase 2 implementation report from the consultants in relation to an aspect of the review of the reform of the health service which includes, but does not limit to, elimination of waiting lists and therefore it would be premature to say what the Government are keen on or not keen on. There are various ways of eliminating waiting lists. Look,

we could do what we did with the cataracts, we could bring in people and we could just operate on the backlog. There are alternative approaches which deal both with the backlog and with in-house resources going forward on a continuous basis.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

I do not think that he realises that what they did with ophthalmology they did because they did not require theatre, most of the operations were carried out within the actual clinic.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

There are four operating theatres in the new hospital, including day surgery.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Yes, but what I am saying is that are they now keen, because I am talking about a situation that I thought they were looking at now, but if he is saying that they will look at it once they are housed in the new hospital, then it is a completely different matter.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

What the Minister has said is that we are awaiting receipt of the recommendations reports from the consultants in an area of the health reform which covers, but is not limited to, but it covers this area. The Government will form a view as to what they are keen on and what they are not keen on and approve one or another way of the various ways forward for dealing with this, when we have to hand the report of the consultants. In other words, by the time we come round to the hon Members asking all these questions all over again, which I have no doubt is what will happen at the next meeting of the House, there will be a substantive answer available to that question, because we are expecting this report literally in the next week or two.

ORAL

NO 868 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – CT SCAN

Can Government confirm which staff will be operating the CT Scan at the Hospital in the Europort Building?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 869 and 870 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 869 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – NEW HOSPITAL – MEALS

Can Government confirm whether they have now finalised the arrangements that will come into place, for meals to be provided to patients in the Europort Hospital when it becomes operational, from the new kitchen situated at the old wine factory area?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 868 and 870 of 2004.

NO 870 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – NEW HOSPITAL – MEALS

Have Government now decided which employees will be regenerating the meals on each of the Floors at the Europort Hospital, after they are transported from the old wine factory area?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answer to Question No. 868 of 2004

Government can confirm that radiology staff who are in Government employ will be operating the CT Scan at the new hospital. Indeed, a local radiographer has been on a training course in the UK specially for this purpose, and his return is due to coincide with the opening of the new hospital.

Answer to Question No. 869 of 2004

Government will make announcements as to the operations of the new hospital when it is ready to do so.

Answer to Question No. 870 of 2004

The Government are not willing to comment publicly at this stage about staffing issues at the new hospital since consultations with the Trade Unions has not yet occurred.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 868 TO 870 OF 2004

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

As regards the area where the meals are going to be prepared, which is the old wine factory area which the Government have said will be done by the existing staff of the Gibraltar Health Authority. If we have a situation where they contract somebody to manage the kitchen, does that mean that the GHA staff will come under the new management?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

I say again, the Government are not willing to comment publicly at this stage about staffing issues at the new hospital, since consultations with the Trade Unions have not yet occurred.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Will the Government confirm that the staff will remain employees of the GHA?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Have they started this process of consultation?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Not specifically in relation to this aspect of the matter. There has been agreement with the Unions about the willingness of the staff to be managed by outside management.

HON J J BOSSANO:

On other aspects of the staffing of the new hospital has anything been finalised, or are they starting to talk? If they hope to do things by August they must be very optimistic of the pace at which they can move.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Autumn not August, but never mind it points to the same one. Well, there are not that many staffing issues. There are some, it is not that there are none, but the hon Member should not expand them in his mind.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I do not know. I just wondered if it was going to prove to be quite a protracted issue in moving people from St Bernard's down. There are people who have got an expectation that something is being done with St Bernard's and that they are going to be able to stay there, I can tell him that, I do not know whether he is aware of it.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

On the day that the migration into the new hospital is completed, St Bernard's Hospital and all the buildings in its vicinity will cease to operate as a medical facility,

and the staff, at least those that are willing to continue to work for the Health Authority, will have to move to where the Health Authority then has its hospital which will be down in Europort. There will not be a hospital for them to go to work in there after a given date, so I do not know what expectations they have.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well I think the view that was going round was that the Government had some plans to retain some part of the hospital to keep the long-term elderly persons that they said would not be moved because they said there was not going to be a geriatric ward down there. It is helpful that he should make a clear statement because I can assure him that this is something that is going round, that speculation.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, it is a combination of things that are being put together and premature conclusions are drawn from them. The Government, added to funds provided by the trustees the old funds that were left over, is investing quite a lot of money (I cannot remember the number of extra beds, 50 or 60 odd in Mount Alvernia) and in principle, that deals with a large element of the people who should not be in St Bernard's Hospital. Now, the Government are also and quite separately from that, as I debated with the hon Lady last time, looking at the need for further provision because we see that this is an area where there is a need for more development. That is true, no decisions have been made but the Government are conscious that the extra 50 rooms in Mount Alvernia, or whatever the number they are, is not the end of the story. The Government are beginning the process of what is the future of the site of St Bernard's Hospital, which buildings are going to be knocked down, which buildings are going to be retained, because either of their usefulness, for example the modern Mackintosh Wing or the Colonial Hospital because of its heritage value, that could not be knocked down, but all the outhouses could be knocked down. Then, what to do with them, in other words what usage for the site. Is it for development, is it for some other purpose? One of the possibilities for that is a further residential home capability, other people have suggested sheltered housing generally for people in need of sheltered housing. There are lots of bids coming in with ideas for what it would be useful to use the retained buildings for but no decisions have been made. Indeed, the Government have not yet began the process of collating all the various proposals and suggestions and trying to thrash out a policy out of it all. So those are the strands, each of those is real but putting them together with the conclusion that there is going to be an elderly persons home in St Bernard's, that is not conclusions that people can come to at this stage.

NO 871 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – STAFF CONSULTATION

Can the Government say what indication, if any, they have had, that the staff consider there has been a lack of consultation and involvement in the design and development of the working environment of the new hospital?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

The Government do not accept that there has been a lack of consultation in the design development of the new hospital. In effect, the contrary is true, the GHA conducted 18 months of user group consultation during the design development stage of the project. This consultation phase not only included staff consultation, but also included voluntary and representative groups.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 871 OF 2004

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

That means that the Minister does not agree with what has been published in the Report because that is precisely what the Report says.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, that is not what the Report says. The Report, let us call it the bus that the hon Member does not want to ride in, the bus that she does not want to ride in contains in a section of it, there is a section of it which reports feedback from users. That is not the finding of the Report. In other words, this is reporting a statement made by at least one member of staff. Now, if one speaks to the Union, the suggestion that the staff had not been consulted is really, I hope the hon Member will accept this from me, completely and utterly unsustainable. In fact, my view is that there are some medical facilities that have spread themselves out over more area than they actually need precisely because it is the staff that have designed the internal layout. In my opinion, in anything, there has been too much staff involvement in the design of the hospital, not too little. The result is, has the hon Lady been around the bus that she refuses to ride in? I was astonished, areas like maternity, areas like ophthalmology which are presently squeezed into two and a half rooms at St Bernard's, one could get lost in it, if one wandered around ophthalmology without an experienced guide

one could easily get lost. I marvel at this. So believe me, there is not the remotest prospect of justification for any staff discontent, nor is there any merit to the view that there has been insufficient staff consultation. Of course, which is not to say that every single member of staff has participated, whether they have taken the opportunities offered to them, there have been meetings with staff. Some may not have taken the opportunity and then when they get asked they say there has not been enough consultation. I should tell the hon Lady that when people come to see the new hospital from Sweden and from Madrid, she will be interested to hear, whose jaws dropped to the floor when they saw the new hospital and said '*surely this cannot be a National Health Service hospital, this must be private*'. '*No this is for the Gibraltar National Health Service*'. '*No this cannot be so*'. We reassured them that it was so. So, I would regard it as an honour to personally give the hon Lady a personal tour of the entire hospital so that she understands just what a magnificent facility it is going to be.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

One's jaw drops, so one would need orthopaedic intervention. One cannot see oneself going into ophthalmology because one would get lost. I put the question for the obvious reason that this is precisely what the Report says. The Report says 'the staff expressed dissatisfaction with a number of important aspects', and then it goes on to say 'training and development, communication, the breakdown of communication, working relationships, health and safety, physical working environment' and then it says 'lack of consultation and involvement in the design and development of the working environment of the new hospital'. Then we get a speech from the Chief Minister talking about the hospital. He has said that this is not the case, it is one person, so is he actually saying that this is written here based on one person expressing this view?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

We have had this exact discussion before in the last two Question Times because the hon Member has asked exactly this question before. These Question Times are becoming tape recordings of each other. We have had this conversation before, we have explained to her that consultants have explained to us that that section of the Report is not their findings, it is the feedback that they have had from staff. Yes, the staff did not all get together, all several hundred of them, and say 'we have not all been consulted, make a note of it there'. These are remarks reached for them by any member of staff and it could be anything from one to 650 people who have made that remark. I believe it is one.

HON F R PICARDO:

Just for clarification. How can this be becoming a recording with the same thing being repeated over and over again as if we were so moronic that we want to insist on the same thing, when in fact the Chief Minister has just revealed something new, namely that people from Madrid and from Sweden have come out to see the new hospital et cetera? Obviously, the questions are probing enough that we get new information all the time. I would also ask the Chief Minister to tell us who the person from Madrid was and who the person from Sweden was. What they were doing? Exactly what their role will be in the future running of the hospital and whether he is

prepared to reveal that now? That does not sound to me like a recording of something that has happened before.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The fact that I can make my answers variably interesting does not mean that the questions are not repetitious. In fact they were both suppliers of medical equipment, from both the companies that I mentioned.

NO 872 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – DIALYSIS EQUIPMENT

Can the Government confirm which staff will be operating the dialysis facilities in the Europort building?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Government can confirm that GHA is conducting negotiations with the medical staff at the Dialysis Unit in La Linea for the provision of medical cover. Discussions are also in hand as to the provision of nursing cover, with the option of provision of training for local nurses included in the package.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 872 OF 2004

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Are the facilities that are going to be available in the Europort building those recommended in the Report by Dr Terry Feest, who the Government commissioned?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not recall but certainly not necessarily, but I would need notice of that question.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Therefore the idea is that eventually our nurses that are going to be sent to train will replace those nurses that are engaged by the GHA from Spain, am I correct?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, the GHA is not engaging nurses from Spain.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

I thought I heard the Minister say something about the cover.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, the staff. In other words, we will provide the premises and the equipment in Gibraltar and the service (personnel) will be the service personnel from La Linea, because for reasons that we have debated here a million times and I am not going to repeat today, with training provided for our local nurses.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Perhaps it was the wrong terminology that I used, but what I wanted to say is precisely what the Chief Minister has now confirmed.

NO 873 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – NEW HOSPITAL – PARKING

Can the Government give an update as to their negotiations with the developers of Europlaza for acquiring more parking spaces from them which are required for the Hospital at Europort?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

The Government do not give updates of on-going commercial negotiations. However, I can tell the hon Lady that negotiations have not yet been completed.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 873 OF 2004

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

How many parking spaces are available at the Europort hospital?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

There are a number of parking spaces available in the basement. I suppose when the hon Member says in the new hospital, the only parking spaces available in the new hospital are the ones available in the basement of the new hospital. I am not sure that those are for public use, in other words for use by visitors. I am not sure that those are intended for use by visitors, in fact I am almost certain that the plans are that they are not. Quite apart from anything else it raises security issues and all manner of things. The spaces for visitors are therefore not in the hospital, they are either in the streets outside or, if we succeed in negotiating as the question asks, they will be in the adjacent building.

ORAL

NO 874 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

Can the Minister for Health state who are the experts that came to the conclusion that only 100 beds are needed in the hospital, and when did these experts come to this conclusion?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

The new hospital has 211 beds.

WITHDRAWN

NO 875 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – GIBRALTAR HEALTHCARE DEVELOPMENT TEAM

When do the Government expect to make public the second phase of the report by the Gibraltar Health Care Development Team?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

As Government have explained publicly on various occasions, Phase II is not a single report but a series of implementation reports dealing with different aspects of the Health Service which will be published and acted upon, to the extent accepted by the Government, as and when issued. This process has already begun.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 875 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

The process has already begun, is the Minister saying that there is already one of the Phase II stages has already been accepted, implemented and published?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, it has already began meaning that we have received the first two such reports and the Government are presently considering it to see whether it will accept all or which parts of it, and then it will be published and then it will be implemented in the measures accepted.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

When it is published, will the whole of the report be published or will Government only publish those recommendations that they will accept?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, the Government are committed to publishing all the reports and any recommendations that we do not accept, to explain why we do not accept them and why we will not implement them.

ORAL

NO 876 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – CLINICAL GOVERNANCE AUDIT

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

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question No. 877 of 2004.

NO 877 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – CLINICAL GOVERNANCE AUDIT

Can Government confirm how much is the expected total expenditure in respect of the Clinical Governance Audit they have commissioned for our Health Services?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

The total payments made to date to the NHS Modernisation Agency in respect of the Gibraltar Healthcare Development Programme are as follows:

Financial Year 2003 – 2004	£427,339.29
Financial Year 2004 – 2005	£229,758.89

It is estimated that an additional £370,000 will be paid before the programme is completed.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 876 TO 877 OF 2004

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Are these figures over and above the migration team?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

Yes.

ORAL

NO 878 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – MR LANGHAM

Can Government confirm if they have engaged the services of Mr Langham in relation to our health services, what is the envisaged total expenditure of his contract?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 879 to 882 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 879 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – MR LANGHAM

Can Government state that if Mr Langham has been engaged by them on a contract basis, when does the contract expire?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 878 and 880 to 882 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 880 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – MR LANGHAM

Can Government state that if they have engaged the services of Mr John Langham, in relation to our health services, how much have they paid him up to now?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 878, 879 and 881 to 882 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 881 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – MR LANGHAM

Can Government state whether Mr John Langham has been engaged by them in relation to our health services on a contract basis?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 878 to 880 and 882 of 2004.

NO 882 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – MR LANGHAM

Can Government confirm whether they have engaged Mr Langham in connection with our health services?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

The Government do not have a contractual arrangement with Mr Langham. Mr Langham has a contractual arrangement with the Clinical Governance Unit of the NHS Modernisation Agency to assist in work designed to improve our health services.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 878 TO 882 OF 2004

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Then I take it that I am correct in assuming that his fees are part of the fees that have just been given about the clinical governance.

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

Correct.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Can the Minister confirm how many people comprise the NCGST?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

There is a core group of people, the Project Director, Miss Marilyn Bogus, Joanna Smith, Mr Langham and John Smith. They are the four core people, but as the hon Lady will see when we start publishing reports, when it comes to specific areas of the Health Authority, specialists have been brought in. For example, if a review has been carried out, as it has, of the gynaecology service, all the clinical services have been reviewed. They have been reviewed by people engaged from the Royal

Colleges in the United Kingdom in those specialisations. So, the individuals I mentioned before were the permanent individuals working on this project, but then specialists are recruited in the various specialisations that are being reviewed, so for example there were people here from the Royal College of Surgeons reviewing the general surgery and orthopaedic surgery clinical service. Therefore, there is a specialist peer group review by the Royal Colleges in that area of clinical service. So by the end of the reports there will be lots and lots of people that will have had an input into the preparation of all the constituent parts of the report.

NO 883 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – DIRECTOR OF NURSING SERVICES

Can Government confirm whether the post of Director of Nursing Services, which became vacant in 2003, has now been filled?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

No Sir.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 883 OF 2004

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Has the post been re-advertised?

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

No.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Does that mean that the Government are happy with the situation that is presently in place, which is what the Minister answered to my Question No. 187 when he said that the duties of the post are being carried out by the Deputy Director of Nursing Services?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, it means that the Government are going to use an alternative method of recruitment other than advertising.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Do Government already have somebody in mind, and has an offer been made?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

When do they expect the post to be filled?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

We are hoping for the post to be filled this side of summer.

HON J J BOSSANO:

When he says that he expects it to be filled this side of summer, is it that it is going to be opened again to existing employees this side of summer or is that now discontinued?

HON F R PICARDO:

What is the alternative to advertising?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The alternative to advertising is search firms, head hunting and recruitment.

NO 884 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – POST OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Can Government now confirm whether once they have taken a decision on the new salary for the post of Chief Executive of the Gibraltar Health Authority, the post will be advertised within the Civil Service?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

The Government do not intend to advertise this post within the Civil Service.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 884 OF 2004

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Does that mean that the present incumbent of the post will continue to be the Chief Executive once a decision on the salary has been taken?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, the management structure of the Gibraltar Health Authority is being reformed and restructured and the present incumbent in the Chief Executive post will move to another post and a new person will be engaged as Chief Executive as such.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Will that be done on the same basis as what he has said in the previous question, it is a question of head hunting?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

I see, and will the present Chief Executive return to the Civil Service or will he form part of the team in the Gibraltar Health Authority?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I have just answered that question. Within the restructured management of the Gibraltar Health Authority.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Oh yes, well that is the part that I did not hear.

HON J J BOSSANO:

What we are talking then is that there is going to be an increase in the number of posts, because the job that is being done now is going to be done by somebody from outside, and the person that is there now is going to be doing something that is not replacing an existing body, is that the case?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, I have said that there is going to be a substantial restructuring of management in the Health Authority and for the rest of it the Government would wish to make the announcements when it makes the announcements.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is the provision for all this included in the Estimates that have been tabled today?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Some of it.

ORAL

NO 885 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

Do the Government agree with the remarks made by the Ombudsman in his latest annual report of December 2003, that the GHA's Complaints Procedure has proved and continues to be, an abysmal failure?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 886, 887 and 888 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 886 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

Do the Government consider that it is acceptable that a complaint made to the Gibraltar Health Authority in May 2002, should not have been replied to until November 2003, and then only as a result of the intervention by the Ombudsman?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 885, 887 and 888 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 887 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

Do the Government accept that the complaints procedure has been ineffective from everybody's point of view?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 885, 886 and 888 of 2004.

NO 888 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GHA – COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

Given that the Government in the last meeting of the House changed their mind reference the prompt engagement of an officer with full time responsibility for the complaints procedure, which had been announced previously in the House, by the last Minister for Health, can they now state when they can expect to introduce a different and more effective procedure?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answer to Question Nos. 885, 886, 887 and 888 of 2004

The Government accept that the complaints system introduced in 1999 has not been as effective as is required nor as the Government would have wished. That is why we are establishing a new one.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 885 TO 888 OF 2004

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Well it has taken them three years to accept that fact because we have been highlighting all the problems nearly four years ago. Will the Minister, in view of all the changes that the Chief Minister has said are going to be made in the Health Authority, will the Minister confirm whether the intention of the Government is to have a complaints procedure that is staffed by persons outside the GHA, or even the Civil Service?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Government will make public announcements on the proposed new complaints procedure when it is ready to do so.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Does it have an idea when it is ready to do so, seeing that the Chief Minister in a statement which he made in September of last year, said that there would be a

speedy and effective complaints procedure with an independent appeals level? Can he confirm how speedy it will, how soon they intend the complaints procedure to be in place? Can he confirm whether in fact his words still stand as regards an independent appeals level?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I repeat the answer that I gave to the hon Member in her last supplementary.

HON F R PICARDO:

Given the statement by the Hon Mr Britto that the present system is not as effective as it should be as the Government had wished it to be when they brought it about, and all of us would wish it to be, to ensure that clients of the Health Service get the redress that they wish as soon as possible, what happens between now and the statement which will come when the Government wish to make it, of the new complaints procedure to those who wish to make complaints? Must they make it through the now accepted to be ineffective procedure, or will they have an opportunity so that time does not run against them, in making the complaint if the complaints procedure is to have a time limit of making them under the new complaints procedure when it comes?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Government will make a statement about the content of the new complaints procedure when they receive it. One of the transitions between one system and another is obviously an element of the new procedure.

HON F R PICARDO:

I appreciate that. Can I ask the Chief Minister to bear in mind the fact that there will be people who want to make complaints who are now stuck with what is admitted to be an ineffective procedure, and that that therefore should mitigate in favour of the new procedure being announced as soon as possible so that those with complaints now are not kept in limbo for longer than they need to be. If he is simply going to repeat what he said before, I will not put him to the waste of saliva.

HON LT COL E M BRITTO:

It has not been admitted to being ineffective, it has been claimed to be not as effective as the Government would have wished.

HON F R PICARDO:

I did not mean to make straw whilst the sun shone there. Just that the new procedure should come as soon as possible for those who have a genuine grievance that they want to put which is not necessarily one that needs to be put through other means.

ORAL

NO 889 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

ST BERNADETTE'S OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY CENTRE

Can Government state how much has been spent this financial year on computers in St Bernadette's Occupational Therapy Centre?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS

Nothing has been spent on computers at St Bernadette's Occupational Therapy Centre in this financial year.

ORAL

NO 890 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

ST BERNADETTE'S OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY CENTRE

Can Government state whether any student attending St Bernadette's Occupational Therapy Centre are listed in the Employment and Training Centre as seeking Employment?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 891 to 893 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 891 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

ST BERNADETTE'S OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY CENTRE

Will Government state how many of the students at St Bernadette's Occupational Therapy Centre are on an inclusion process to attend the College of Further Education?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 890 and 892 to 893 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 892 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

ST BERNADETTE'S OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY CENTRE

Will Government state how many of the students at St Bernadette's Occupational Therapy Centre are on an inclusion process to attend Bleak House?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 890, 891 and 893 of 2004.

NO 893 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

ST BERNADETTE'S OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY CENTRE

Can Government state what educational programmes are offered to students with Special Educational Needs in St Bernadette's Occupational Therapy Centre?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS

The Employment and Training Centre does not have any of the St Bernadette's Occupational Centre service users on their lists. The College of Further Education and Bleak House do not provide an inclusion process for service users at the St Bernadette's Occupational Therapy Centre. The service users at St Bernadette's Occupational Therapy Centre are offered programmes that provide cooking skills, live skills outings, art and basic computer skills.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 890 TO 893 OF 2004

HON S E LINARES:

Is the Minister aware that there are educational programmes for students of special educational needs, is she aware of any?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

First of all the persons who use the St Bernadette's Occupational Therapy Centre are not considered as students. Their education finishes once they leave St Martin's from where the majority of them have come from. I can say that the Gibraltar College and Bleak House have a Special Needs Coordinator who liaises with the assessment panel and they assess each individual who, according to their individual capabilities, in entering any of the courses that are provided by either Bleak House or the Gibraltar College.

HON S E LINARES:

If they are not considered students, what is the politically correct way of calling them?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Service users of the Centre.

HON S E LINARES:

Is this Centre considered to be an educational centre?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

No.

HON S E LINARES:

If it is not considered to be an educational centre, why then has it got a calendar which is mirrored to schools and the Education Department, why is it not opened during summer?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

The Government summer hours operate on the same basis.

HON S E LINARES:

The summer hours have nothing to do with the fact that the Centre is closed all summer. So even if there are summer hours sessions could be offered in the morning, Civil Servants do go to work even on summer hours in the mornings.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

To some extent as far as possible some sort of education, in the general sense, is provided at the Centre but that does not mean that the Centre is an educational centre.

ORAL

NO 894 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

Can Government give a breakdown of male and female unemployed Gibraltarians aged 18 and over in the month of January 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

Answered together with Question Nos. 895 and 896 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 895 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

Can Government give a breakdown of male and female unemployed Gibraltarians aged 18 and over in the month of February 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

Answered together with Question Nos. 894 and 896 of 2004.

NO 896 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

Can Government give a breakdown of male and female unemployed Gibraltarians aged 18 and over in the month of March 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 a list giving the information requested.

Answers to Question Nos. 894 to 896 of 2004

The following is a breakdown by month, sex and age of male and female registered unemployed Gibraltarians aged 18 and over from January to March 2004 who have received:

A) Unemployment Benefit

2004	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL	18/24	25+
JANUARY	39	36	75	29	46
FEBRUARY	37	27	64	29	35
MARCH	40	25	65	32	33

B) Social Assistance

2004	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL	18/24	25+
JANUARY	73	37	110	25	85
FEBRUARY	80	41	121	25	96
MARCH	88	42	130	22	108

C) No payment

2004	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL	18/24	25+
JANUARY	90	80	170	43	127
FEBRUARY	100	79	179	56	123
MARCH	76	65	141	35	106

ORAL

NO 897 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

COMMUNITY CARE LTD

Can Government state how many Community Officers employed by Community Care Ltd were either eligible for or being paid the minimum income guarantee as at December 2003?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS

Six Community Officers were being paid the minimum income guarantee as at December 2003.

NO 898 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SOCIAL SERVICES – UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

Can Government state how many persons have had their claims for Unemployment Benefit disallowed under the provisions of section 10(2A) of the Non-contributory Benefits and Unemployment Ordinance in each year since 1996?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS

The number of persons who had their claims for Unemployment Benefit disallowed under the provisions of Section 10 (2A) of the Non-Contributory Benefits and Unemployment Ordinance is as follows:

1996	2
1997	5
1998	3
1999	3
2000	17
2001	5
2002	18
2003	35

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 898 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can Government say what is the explanation for the substantial increase in numbers in 2003?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

No I am afraid I cannot give any reasonable explanation.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can Government say whether these are all Civil Servants? Were all the people affected former Civil Servants?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

No, there were some from the private sector as well.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can Government say whether the disallowance of the claim has in any case been appealed against, and whether any of those appeals have been successful?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I would need to have prior notice of that question. I can find out for the hon Member.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Does the Minister know whether the figure of those people disallowed, for example the net figure after any appeal has been successful or before the appeal, does the Minister know that?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I would not know. Obviously I do not know whether there have been any appeals so I would not know the answer to that question.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well I am not interested if the Minister knows how many appeals there have been, if any, she does not know for example if there were two in 1996 that would be the result of the ones that were finally disallowed or whether there was a higher number earlier and an appeal and this is a net figure?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is important to have notice of that question because obviously it is statistical and it is an area that Ministers do not get personally involved, but I would guess that because the question says under section 10(2)(a), disallowed I would guess that it is at first instance, in other words, I would have thought so it would not include any case resolved one way or the other on appeal, but we would need to confirm that.

NO 899 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY – STAFF

Can Government state what were the staff numbers, salary scales and total personal emoluments in the Social Services Department in the year 2002/2003, provided for the delivery of the services that were transferred to the Social Services Agency, towards the end of that financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS

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

STAFF NUMBERS (Milbury Care Services Ltd at time of transfer to Social Services Agency)

94 (49 Support workers/45 Care Workers)

PAY SCALE (as applied by Milbury Care Services Ltd)

Senior Support Worker	£6.51 per hour
Support Worker	£5.21 per hour
Senior Care Worker	£6.51 per hour
Care Worker	£5.21 per hour

TOTAL PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS (Milbury Care Services Ltd)

£866,833

ORAL

NO 900 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY

What were the services transferred to the social services agency towards the end of the financial year 2002/2003?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question No. 901 of 2004.

NO 901 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY

What was the cost, in the Financial year 2002/2003 of the provision of those services that were transferred to the social services agency towards the end of that financial year?

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. 900

CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL SERVICE
DR GIRALDI HOME (INCLUDING RESPITE & SITTING SERVICES)
ST BERNADETTE'S OCCUPATIONAL CENTRE
FOSTERING & ADOPTION SERVICE
CHILD PROTECTION SERVICE
COMMUNITY SERVICE ORDERS
PROBATION SERVICE
DAY CENTRES FOR THE ELDERLY
SOCIAL WORK IN GENERAL

Answer to Question No. 901 of 2004

The cost for the provision of those services that were transferred to the Social Services Agency in the financial year 2002/2003 was £1,041,466. This amount covers the period 1 April 2002 to 10 November 2002.

ORAL

NO 902 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 Benefit Fund in respect of each month of the first quarter of 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question No. 903 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 903 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 Benefit Fund in respect of each month of the first quarter 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 903

Answer to Question 902

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

	<u>31-Jan-04</u>	<u>29-Feb-04</u>	<u>31-Mar-04</u>
<u>Fund Account -</u>			
<u>Opening Balance</u>	£6,010,387	£5,990,569	£5,966,657
<u>Add</u>			
Receipts	£48,851	£37,926	£238,827
	<u>£6,059,238</u>	<u>£6,028,495</u>	<u>£6,205,484</u>
<u>Less</u>			
Payments	<u>(£68,669)</u>	<u>(£61,838)</u>	<u>(£59,523)</u>
<u>Closing Balance</u>	<u>£5,990,569</u>	<u>£5,966,657</u>	<u>£6,145,961</u>

Answer to Question 903

**OPEN LONG-TERM BENEFITS
FUND**

	<u>31-Jan-04</u>	<u>29-Feb-04</u>	<u>31-Mar-04</u>
<u>Fund Account -</u>			
<u>Opening Balance</u>	£10,885,301	£12,023,378	£11,678,951
<u>Add</u>			
Receipts	£905,286	£703,267	£1,014,856
	<u>£11,790,587</u>	<u>£12,726,645</u>	<u>£12,693,807</u>
<u>Less</u>			
Advance to CLTBF	£1,100,000 *		
Payments	<u>(£867,209)</u>	<u>(£1,047,694)</u>	<u>(£969,288)</u>
<u>Closing Balance</u>	<u>£12,023,378</u>	<u>£11,678,951</u>	<u>£11,724,519</u>

* Amount advanced to the Closed Long Term Benefits Fund due to funds claimed from the Department for International Development on 19 December 2003 being received on 6 January 2004.

NO 904 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 in the first quarter of 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS

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

January 2004	£800,000
February 2004	£900,000
March 2004	<u>£900,000</u>
	<u>£2,600,000</u>

ORAL

NO 905 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 of the months of January, February and March 2004 showing the amount from UK and local funds and the expenditure to former Spanish workers and to pensioners from local funds?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS

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

CLOSED LONG-TERM BENEFITS FUND

	<u>31-Jan-04</u>	<u>28-Feb-04</u>	<u>31-Mar-04</u>
<u>Fund Account -</u>			
<u>Opening Balance</u>	<u>£374,051</u>	<u>£869,914</u>	<u>£538,631</u>
<u>"Local Account"</u>			
Opening Balance	£21,951	£1,059	£38,313
<u>Add</u>			
Transfers from the Open Long-Term Benefits Fund	£800,000	£900,000	£900,000
Other Receipts	<u>£2,532</u>	<u>£1,882</u>	<u>£4,458</u>
	£824,483	£902,941	£942,771
<u>Less</u>			
Pension Payments	<u>(£823,424)</u>	<u>(£864,628)</u>	<u>(£906,341)</u>
Closing Balance	<u>£1,059</u>	<u>£38,313</u>	<u>£36,430</u>
<u>"Spanish Account"</u>			
Opening Balance	£352,100	£868,855	£500,318
<u>Add</u>			
Receipts from DFID	£1,640,000	£190,000	£1,120,000
Advance from OLTI	<u>£0</u>	<u>£0</u>	<u>£0</u>
	£1,992,100	£1,058,855	£1,620,318
<u>Less</u>			
Advance from OLTI (£1,100,000) *	<u>(£1,100,000)</u>	<u>£0</u>	<u>£0</u>
Pension Payments	<u>(£23,245)</u>	<u>(£558,537)</u>	<u>(£985,913)</u>
Closing Balance	<u>£868,855</u>	<u>£500,318</u>	<u>£634,405</u>
<u>Fund Account</u>			
<u>Closing Balance</u>	<u>£869,914</u>	<u>£538,631</u>	<u>£670,835</u>

* Claim sent to the Department for International Development on 19 December 2003 and funds received on 6 January 2004.

NO 906 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 the months of January, February and March 2004 from the Closed Long-Term Benefits Fund giving a breakdown of pre-1969 Spanish pensioners and locally funded pensioners showing the number of Gibraltar/UK Nationals, Moroccans and other nationalities for each month?

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

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

	January 2004	February 2004	March 2004
Pre-1969 Spanish Pensioners	6613	6592	6573
British Pensioners (Gib/UK Nat.)	4877	4883	4891
Moroccan Pensioners	1462	1487	1490
Other Nationalities	397	397	400
Total	13349	13359	13354

NO 907 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 first quarter 2004 giving a breakdown for each month, their sex and age?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS

PERSONS RECEIVING DISABILITY ALLOWANCE FOR EACH MONTH OF THE YEAR 2004 BY MONTH, SEX AND AGE

Months	0-10	11-20	21-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	61-70	Total	Male	Female
Jan-04	24	27	20	11	17	11	0	110	76	34
Feb-04	25	27	20	11	17	10	0	110	76	34
Mar-04	26	28	20	11	17	10	0	112	78	34

ORAL

NO 908 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

SOCIAL INSURANCE – SCHEDULES

Can Government state what is the number of the social insurance schedules returned to-date for each quarter of the year 2001?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 909 to 911 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 909 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

SOCIAL INSURANCE SCHEDULES

Can Government state what is the number of social insurance schedules returned to-date for each quarter of the year 2002?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 908 and 910 to 911 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 910 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

SOCIAL INSURANCE – SCHEDULES

Can Government state what is the number of social insurance schedules returned to-date for each quarter of the year 2003?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 908, 909 and 911 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 911 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

SOCIAL INSURANCE – SCHEDULES

Can Government state what is the number of social insurance schedules returned to date for the first quarter of the year 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 Nos 908-911 of 2004

Social Insurance Returns as at 22 April 2004

Qtr.	All			Private			Official			Self Employed				
	Number of Employers <i>all</i>	Returns	Non-Return	Pending	Number of Employers <i>returned</i>	Returns	Non-Return	Pending	Returns	Non-Return	Pending	Returns	Non-Return	Pending
Qtr.1/01	1281	14603	856	703	1058	9897	651	515	4151	172	62	555	33	126
Qtr.2/01	1297	14960	1015	706	1063	10246	758	517	4155	213	62	559	44	127
Qtr.3/01	1312	15074	1351	700	1062	10395	1034	511	4124	255	62	555	62	127
Qtr.4/01	1324	13157	3172	707	770	8651	2681	517	4200	168	63	306	323	127
Qtr.1/02	1348	13314	1148	3051	1062	10552	890	844	2210	227	2023	552	31	184
Qtr.2/02	1370	13380	1327	3028	1056	10615	1012	827	2211	277	2017	554	38	184
Qtr.3/02	1384	13512	1603	3025	1065	10725	1269	824	2221	287	2017	566	47	184
Qtr.4/02	1399	13354	1665	3017	1055	10506	1292	815	2294	297	2018	554	76	184

"Contd Answer to Questions 908-911 of 201

Qtr.	All			Private			Official			Self Employed				
	Number of Employers all	Returns	Non-Return	Pending	Number of Employers returned	Returns	Non-Return	Pending	Returns	Non-Return	Pending			
Qtr.1/03	1423	12203	1600	4499	1013	9589	1335	1951	2109	233	2258	505	32	290
Qtr.2/03	1450	12190	2307	4450	994	9551	1837	1907	2136	427	2253	503	43	290
Qtr.3/03	1468	11575	3527	4421	929	8947	2985	1886	2148	461	2245	480	81	290
Qtr.4/03	1480	10610	4377	4419	861	8115	3677	1884	2058	572	2247	437	128	288
Qtr.1/04	1496	1469	1407	16784	150	1158	1289	11462	227	113	4556	84	5	766

Note:-
Those classified under pending are in respect of contribution records for which no notification has been provided and no contribution return has been recorded since the introduction of the new system or in the 1st Quarter of 2002.

ORAL

NO 912 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

SOCIAL INSURANCE FUND

Can Government state what was the number of contributions required to be paid by a female contributor to the Social Insurance Fund to obtain the minimum pension and the number of contributions required to obtain the maximum pension in the year 2003?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 913 to 915 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 913 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

SOCIAL INSURANCE – OPEN LONG-TERM FUND

Can Government state how many female contributions to the Social Insurance Open Long Term Fund, reached the age of 60 in the financial year 2002/2003 and of this how many qualified for the payment of a pension by virtue of contributions paid in Gibraltar?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 912, 914 and 915 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 914 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

SOCIAL INSURANCE FUND

Can Government state what was the number of contributions required to be paid by a male contributor to the Social Insurance Fund to obtain the minimum pension and the number of contributions required to obtain the maximum pension in the year 2003?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 912, 913 and 915 of 2004.

NO 915 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

SOCIAL INSURANCE – OPEN LONG-TERM FUND

Can Government state how many male contributors to the Social Insurance Open Long Term Fund, reached the age of 65 in the financial year 2002/2003 and of these how many qualified for the payment of a pension by virtue of contributions paid in Gibraltar?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS

Answer to Question No. 912

A female contributor who attained pensionable age in the year 2003 was required to have paid or been credited with at least 520 contributions to obtain the minimum pension and 2000 contributions to obtain the maximum pension. At least 156 contributions must have been actually paid (not credited) since the date of the insured person's entry into insurance and the date of attaining pensionable age.

Answer to Question No. 913

The information requested in respect of female contributors who reached the age of 60 in the financial year is not readily available.

Answer to Question No. 914

A male contributor who attained pensionable age in the year 2003 must have paid or been credited with at least 585 contributions to obtain the minimum pension and 2250 contributions to obtain the maximum pension. At least 156 contributions must have been actually paid (not credited) since the date of the insured person's entry into insurance and the date of attaining pensionable age.

Answer to Question No. 915

It is also impossible to say how many male contributors reached the age of 65 in the financial year 2002/2003. The information is not readily available.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 912 TO 915 OF 2004

HON C A BRUZON:

I thank the hon Lady for the information. Could she tell me if she has discretionary powers? In the cases where some male or female workers in Gibraltar just fail by a small fraction in their contributions to qualify for a pension for example.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

No, it is a statutory entitlement and requirement and therefore it is not a question of having discretionary powers.

ORAL

NO 916 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

SOCIAL INSURANCE – NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS

Can Government provide the schedule showing the distribution of insured persons in Gibraltar as at the end of 2002 analysed by industry giving the adult and juvenile, male and female numbers in respect of British and other nationalities?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 917 to 921 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 917 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

SOCIAL INSURANCE – NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS

Can Government provide the schedule showing the distribution of insured persons in Gibraltar as at the end of 2001 analysed by industry giving the adult and juvenile, male and female numbers in respect of British and other nationalities?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 916 and 918 to 921 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 918 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

SOCIAL INSURANCE – NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS

Can Government provide the schedule showing the distribution of insured persons in Gibraltar as at the end of 2000 analysed by industry giving the adult and juvenile, male and female numbers in respect of British and other nationalities?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 916 to 917 and 919 to 921 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 919 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

SOCIAL INSURANCE – NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS

Can Government provide the schedule showing the distribution of insured persons in Gibraltar as at the end of 1999 analysed by industry giving the adult and juvenile, male and female numbers in respect of British and other nationalities?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 916 to 918 and 920 to 921 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 920 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

SOCIAL INSURANCE – NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS

Can Government provide the schedule showing the distribution of insured persons in Gibraltar as at the end of 1998 analysed by industry giving the adult and juvenile, male and female numbers in respect of British and other nationalities?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 916 to 919 and 921 of 2004.

NO 921 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

SOCIAL INSURANCE – NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS

Can Government provide the schedule showing the distribution of insured persons in Gibraltar as at the end of 1997 analysed by industry giving the adult and juvenile, male and female numbers in respect of British and other nationalities?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS

I hand the hon Member lists showing the distribution of insured persons analysed by industry as at the end of the years 1997 to 1999. The information requested for the years 2000 to 2002 is not readily available but will be sent to the hon Member as soon as the information has been compiled.

DISTRIBUTION OF INSURED PERSONS IN GIBRALTAR AS AT THE END OF 1997
ANALISED BY INDUSTRIES

(as at 31 July 1998)

IND NO.	DESCRIPTION	BRITISH				ALIEN				TOTAL
		MALE		FEMALE		MALE		FEMALE		
		A	J	A	J	A	J	A	J	
01	Shipbuilding, Shiprepairing and Marine Engineering	46	0	34	0	19	0	2	0	101
02	Manufacture of Food, Drink and Tobacco	5	0	7	0	20	0	0	0	32
03	Printing & Publishing	19	1	13	2	6	0	1	0	42
04	Manufacture (Other)	8	1	3	0	4	0	0	0	16
05	Building & Construction	864	13	84	2	334	0	13	0	1310
06	Electricity Supply	120	0	6	0	8	0	0	0	134
07	Water Supply	80	0	11	0	12	0	0	0	103
08	Sea Transport & Shipping Services	153	3	31	0	39	0	5	0	231
09	Port Services	61	0	7	0	1	0	1	0	70
10	Road Transport	10	0	6	1	5	0	0	0	22
11	Postal & Telecommunications	169	2	49	0	1	0	2	0	223
12	Other Transport & Telecom.	6	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	7
	WHOLESALE TRADE									
13	Food & Drink	103	0	66	0	86	0	6	0	261
14	Fuel	15	0	7	0	15	0	0	0	37
15	Others	40	3	24	0	11	0	2	0	80
	RETAIL TRADE									
16	Food	116	10	275	9	77	0	23	0	510
17	Drink & Tobacco	67	1	26	0	17	0	2	0	113
18	Clothing & Footwear	33	35	91	2	10	0	9	1	181
19	Household Goods	46	0	52	0	12	1	3	0	114
20	Other	120	4	225	8	83	0	19	0	459
	TOTAL C/F	2081	73	1018	24	760	1	88	1	4046

DISTRIBUTION OF INSURED PERSONS IN GIBRALTAR AS AT THE END OF 1998
ANALISED BY INDUSTRIES

(as at 30 April 1999)

IND NO.	DESCRIPTION	BRITISH				ALIEN				TOTAL
		MALE		FEMALE		MALE		FEMALE		
		A	J	A	J	A	J	A	J	
01	Shipbuilding, Shiprepairing and Marine Engineering	132	13	15	1	48	0	0	0	209
02	Manufacture of Food, Drink and Tobacco	2	0	7	5	29	0	3	0	46
03	Printing & Publishing	11	0	13	0	7	0	5	0	36
04	Manufacture (Other)	16	1	3	0	3	0	0	0	23
05	Building & Construction	828	6	97	0	324	0	4	0	1259
06	Electricity Supply	137	1	6	0	5	1	0	0	150
07	Water Supply	78	1	12	0	12	0	0	0	103
08	Sea Transport & Shipping Services	183	3	35	0	52	0	5	0	278
09	Port Services	54	0	6	0	4	0	1	0	65
10	Road Transport	32	1	9	1	10	0	0	0	53
11	Postal & Telecommunications	170	0	45	0	1	0	1	0	217
12	Other Transport & Telecom.	8	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	11
	WHOLESALE TRADE									
13	Food & Drink	109	2	65	0	93	0	26	0	295
14	Fuel	16	0	6	0	3	0	0	0	25
15	Others	31	1	13	1	13	0	6	0	65
	RETAIL TRADE									
16	Food	119	3	285	5	83	2	34	1	532
17	Drink & Tobacco	34	69	22	0	15	0	1	0	141
18	Clothing & Footwear	28	1	129	2	14	0	16	0	190
19	Household Goods	62	0	26	1	21	0	14	0	124
20	Other	131	0	194	4	81	0	33	0	443
	TOTAL C/F	2181	102	990	20	819	3	149	1	4265

Table to Questions 916-921

IND NO.	DESCRIPTION	BRITISH				ALIEN				TOTAL
		MALE		FEMALE		MALE		FEMALE		
		A	J	A	J	A	J	A	J	
	TOTAL B/F	2081	73	1018	24	760	1	88	1	4046
21	Hotels, Hostels etc.	37	0	33	3	75	1	34	0	183
22	Restaurants, Cafes etc.	54	2	60	1	82	0	42	0	241
23	Bars	10	0	15	0	13	0	11	0	49
24	Tourist Services	200	8	108	3	64	0	20	0	403
25	Banking & Finance	226	2	330	2	27	0	23	0	610
26	Insurance & Real Estate	127	3	153	2	17	1	7	0	310
27	Legal, Accounting etc.	155	3	324	4	28	0	13	0	527
28	Public Administration	375	1	315	1	1	0	0	0	693
29	Educational Services	237	0	504	2	2	0	1	0	746
30	Medical & Health Services	267	1	465	8	40	0	21	0	802
31	Welfare, Charitable & Religious Org	16	1	112	1	1	0	6	0	137
32	Entertainment & Sport	45	7	28	0	7	0	0	0	87
33	Repairs of Consumer Goods	136	11	30	3	41	0	3	0	224
34	Police & Fire Services	415	3	76	2	5	0	1	0	502
35	National Defence	950	0	308	3	104	0	15	0	1380
36	Sanitary Services	15	0	2	0	4	0	3	0	24
37	Other Services	180	31	103	3	42	1	84	0	444
	TOTAL EMPLOYED	5526	146	3984	62	1313	4	372	1	11408
	TOTAL SELF EMPLOYED	409	0	51	0	67	0	27	0	554
	GRAND TOTAL	5935	146	4035	62	1380	4	399	1	11962
	STATISTICS 1996	5787	138	4044	72	1484	7	542		12074

Table to Questions 916-921

IND NO.	DESCRIPTION	BRITISH				ALIEN				TOTAL
		MALE		FEMALE		MALE		FEMALE		
		A	J	A	J	A	J	A	J	
	TOTAL B/F	2181	102	990	20	819	3	149	1	4265
21	Hotels, Hostels etc.	40	0	36	0	91	0	52	0	219
22	Restaurants, Cafes etc.	41	1	42	1	95	0	41	0	221
23	Bars	16	1	21	0	15	0	7	0	60
24	Tourist Services	222	1	123	1	50	0	21	0	418
25	Banking & Finance	244	0	424	0	33	0	9	0	710
26	Insurance & Real Estate	114	0	151	0	21	0	4	0	290
27	Legal, Accounting etc.	155	1	270	9	35	0	25	0	495
28	Public Administration	314	1	376	1	11	0	0	0	703
29	Educational Services	264	39	507	19	2	0	2	0	833
30	Medical & Health Services	273	2	539	3	57	0	19	0	893
31	Welfare, Charitable & Religious Org	10	0	104	0	0	0	6	0	120
32	Entertainment & Sport	65	0	53	1	18	0	3	0	140
33	Repairs of Consumer Goods	165	3	55	0	45	0	6	0	274
34	Police & Fire Services	356	0	37	1	2	0	2	0	398
35	National Defence	830	3	319	0	93	0	16	0	1261
36	Sanitary Services	14	0	2	0	4	0	0	0	20
37	Other Services	159	1	74	1	62	1	173	0	471
	TOTAL EMPLOYED	5463	155	4123	57	1453	4	535	1	11791
	TOTAL SELF EMPLOYED	379	0	60	0	64	0	17	0	520
	GRAND TOTAL	5842	155	4183	57	1517	4	552	1	12311
	STATISTICS 1997	5935	146	4035	62	1380	4	399	1	11962

DISTRIBUTION OF INSURED PERSONS IN GIBRALTAR AS AT THE END OF 1999
ANALISED BY INDUSTRIES

(as at 1 August 2000)

IND NO.	DESCRIPTION	BRITISH				ALIEN				TOTAL
		MALE		FEMALE		MALE		FEMALE		
		A	J	A	J	A	J	A	J	
01	Shipbuilding, Shiprepairing and Marine Engineering	125	23	9	0	86	1	1	0	245
02	Manufacture of Food, Drink and Tobacco	2	0	6	0	23	0	0	0	31
03	Printing & Publishing	22	0	18	0	7	0	5	0	52
04	Manufacture (Other)	10	0	1	0	6	0	2	0	19
05	Building & Construction	829	4	70	2	403	0	14	0	1322
06	Electricity Supply	118	0	10	0	4	0	1	0	133
07	Water Supply	80	0	12	0	11	0	0	0	103
08	Sea Transport & Shipping Services	187	1	52	1	62	0	6	0	309
09	Port Services	46	0	6	0	2	0	2	0	56
10	Road Transport	37	0	17	0	22	0	0	0	76
11	Postal & Telecommunications	174	1	47	0	1	0	1	0	224
12	Other Transport & Telecom.	16	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	21
	WHOLESALE TRADE									
13	Food & Drink	105	0	65	1	85	0	8	0	264
14	Fuel	36	1	7	0	3	0	0	0	47
15	Others	39	0	20	0	18	0	5	0	82
	RETAIL TRADE									
16	Food	93	1	252	5	98	0	44	0	493
17	Drink & Tobacco	72	0	27	1	20	0	1	0	121
18	Clothing & Footwear	26	1	134	4	19	2	23	0	209
19	Household Goods	70	0	25	0	21	0	6	0	122
20	Other	136	0	218	12	121	0	60	1	548
	TOTAL C/F	2223	32	1001	26	1012	3	179	1	4477

Table to Q 916-921

IND NO.	DESCRIPTION	BRITISH				ALIEN				TOTAL
		MALE		FEMALE		MALE		FEMALE		
		A	J	A	J	A	J	A	J	
	TOTAL B/F	2223	32	1001	26	1012	3	179	1	4477
21	Hotels, Hostels etc.	44	2	41	0	105	5	71	0	268
22	Restaurants, Cafes etc.	61	2	51	7	122	0	92	2	337
23	Bars	20	0	33	1	31	0	19	0	104
24	Tourist Services	217	1	137	4	45	0	21	0	425
25	Banking & Finance	258	0	427	2	42	0	17	0	746
26	Insurance & Real Estate	124	0	152	42	16	0	5	0	339
27	Legal, Accounting etc.	174	1	352	9	45	1	42	0	624
28	Public Administration	398	0	387	1	1	0	2	0	789
29	Educational Services	268	51	578	15	1	0	4	0	917
30	Medical & Health Services	243	1	485	2	47	0	12	0	790
31	Welfare, Charitable & Religious Org	25	0	122	0	4	0	5	0	156
32	Entertainment & Sport	146	4	150	0	34	0	22	0	356
33	Repairs of Consumer Goods	170	1	39	0	64	0	6	0	280
34	Police & Fire Services	377	0	59	0	3	0	5	0	444
35	National Defence	820	1	361	2	73	0	14	0	1271
36	Sanitary Services	25	0	6	0	5	0	0	0	36
37	Other Services	276	1	165	2	72	0	266	0	782
	TOTAL EMPLOYED	5869	97	4546	113	1722	9	782	3	13141
	TOTAL SELF EMPLOYED	429	0	68	0	73	0	21	0	591
	GRAND TOTAL	6298	97	4614	113	1795	9	803	3	13732
	STATISTICS 1998	5842	155	4183	57	1517	4	552	1	12311

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 916 TO 921 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can the Minister confirm that the ones that have been provided are when the system was still the insurance cards with stamps having to be affixed?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is it any more difficult to do it now with the new system of schedules than it was before?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I would not know whether the fact that we have not been able to provide the information is because the new system is easier or more difficult. I do not know whether that is the reason or because they are not readily available for some other reason, so I would not be able to answer his question.

NO 922 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

Can Government state what was the number of persons receiving social assistance for January, February and March 2004, giving a breakdown by age and sex?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS

PERSONS RECEIVING SOCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE FIRST QUARTER 2004

2004	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL	18/25	26/35	36/45	46/60
JANUARY	159	240	399	58	130	93	118
FEBRUARY	166	250	416	60	138	90	128
MARCH	175	254	429	62	144	93	130

ORAL

NO 923 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

Can Government state of the persons receiving social assistance in respect of the first quarter of 2004, how many were registered with the Employment Agency as seeking employment, how many have been employed since and how many are still receiving social assistance giving a breakdown by month, sex and age?

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 923 OF 2004

PERSONS IN RECEIPT OF SOCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE FIRST QUARTER 2004

QTR	MONTH	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL	18/25	26/35	36/45	46/60
QTR 1 2004	Jan-04	159	240	399	58	130	93	118
	Feb-04	166	250	416	60	138	90	128
	Mar-04	175	254	429	62	144	93	130

PERSONS REGISTERED WITH THE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE AS SEEKING EMPLOYMENT FOR THE FIRST QUARTER 2004

QTR	MONTH	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL	18/25	26/35	36/45	46/60
QTR 1 2004	Jan-04	73	37	110	25	43	24	18
	Feb-04	80	41	121	25	46	24	26
	Mar-04	88	42	130	22	54	27	27

PERSONS EMPLOYED DURING THE FIRST QUARTER 2004

QTR	MONTH	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL	18/25	26/35	36/45	46/60
QTR 1 2004	Jan-04	1	2	3	2	1	==	==
	Feb-04	2	1	3	1	==	2	==
	Mar-04	5	5	10	3	5	1	1

PERSONS IN RECEIPT OF SOCIAL ASSISTANCE AS AT 26 APRIL 2004

AS AT	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL	18/25	26/35	36/45	46/60
26-Apr-04	181	262	443	57	145	109	132

NO 924 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

SOCIAL INSURANCE CREDITS

Can Government state how many men aged 60 years and over were receiving social insurance credits in each month of the first quarter of 2004 giving a breakdown detailing how many of these were registered as unemployed with the Employment Agency?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS

I can confirm that none of the persons on the list were registered as unemployed with the Employment Agency.

The number of men aged 60 years and over in receipt of social insurance credits during the first quarter of 2004 was:-

January	178
February	181
March	185

ORAL

NO 925 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

DOMICILIARY CARE SERVICE

Can Government give a breakdown as at the end of March 2004 showing the length of time on the waiting list of persons who have applied for Domiciliary Care Service?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 926 to 929 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 926 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

DOMICILIARY CARE SERVICE

Can Government state whether the time a person has been on the waiting list for Domiciliary Care Service is calculated from the date of the application or the date of the assessment?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 925 and 927 to 929 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 927 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

DOMICILIARY CARE SERVICE

Can Government state whether as at the end of March 2004 there was a waiting list of people who had applied for Domiciliary Care Service but had not yet been assessed, and if so, give the number of persons affected?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 925, 926 and 928 to 929 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 928 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

DOMICILIARY CARE SERVICE

Can Government say what was the number of individuals on the waiting list for Domiciliary Care Service who had been deemed to qualify as at the end of January, February and March 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 925 to 927 and 929 of 2004.

NO 929 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

DOMICILIARY CARE SERVICE

Can Government confirm how many persons are receiving visits by the Domiciliary Care Service as at the end of March 2004, providing a breakdown by age and sex?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS

Answer to Question No. 926

Waiting time is calculated from the date of application.

Answer to Question No. 927

As at 31 March 2004 there were 12 people waiting to be assessed for domiciliary care.

I hand the hon Member lists giving the information to Question Nos. 925, 928 and 929.

Answer to Question No. 925/2004

The Hon the Minister for Social & Civic Affairs

As at end of March 2003

<u>Number of persons on waiting list</u>	<u>Time on waiting list</u>
3	13 months
1	12 months
2	11 months
1	10 months
4	9 months
8	8 months
1	7 months
5	6 months
7	5 months
1	4 months
3	4 months
8	3 months
8	2 months
4	1 month
	-

Answer to Question 929

Table to Question No. 928

The Hon the Minister for Social & Civic Affairs

Number of persons on waiting list qualifying for the service as at the end of:

January 2004	=	44
February 2004	=	8
March 2004	=	<u>4</u>
Total		<u>56</u>

Answer to Question No. 929

Answer to Questions 929

Current recipients of the Domiciliary Care Service = 45

Gender Males = 11 Females = 34

Age Grouping (See chart below)

Age	Male	Female
60-65	1	1
66-70	1	1
71-75	2	2
76-80	4	10
81-85	2	9
86-90	1	5
91+		6

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 925 TO 929 OF 2004

HON C A BRUZON:

I thank the hon Lady for the information provided. Just one question. Why is it that there are at least three people who have had to wait for 13 months for domiciliary care? Is it due to some technicality, either a doctor's note or that there are not sufficient people employed to do the jobs?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

No, the fact that there are three people on the waiting lists waiting for 13 months does not necessarily mean that there is a lack of resources or staff on this specific occasion. During that month there could have been say nine applications and six were met and three are still on the waiting list, for which I have actually been given specific reasons. One of them being that at least one of the persons who has been waiting for that length of time was actually offered the service but declined because she felt that she still wanted to remain on the waiting list but did not feel that she needed that service at that moment in time.

NO 930 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

SOCIAL SERVICES – CHILDREN IN CARE

Can Government state how many flats have currently been allocated for the use of children in need of care as a replacement for the residential home?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS

There are currently five flats which have been allocated for the use of children in care as a replacement for the Bishop Healey Home.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 930 OF 2004

HON S E LINARES:

Is the Minister satisfied at the number of children that there are in certain flats?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Well, I would be satisfied if there were no children at all in any of the flats, but unfortunately the number of children in care has increased and they have been accommodated, actually we started off with three flats and we have added two extra flats because of the increase in the number of children taken into care.

HON S E LINARES:

I meant specifically in one of the flats, as in any of the flats. What I am saying is, is the Minister satisfied that the flats adequately give the provision for children because if one has a flat that originally was for say five or six children and then suddenly it bursts out to having 11 or 12 children, this is what I mean, with the numbers within the flat.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

That is precisely why we have acquired two extra flats, to be able to distribute the children more evenly.

HON C A BRUZON:

Can Government state if there are more than one flat within a particular housing block of Government housing? Do you understand what I mean?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Yes, I believe that is the case in two separate housing estates.

HON S E LINARES:

By who are the flats manned, who looks after the children?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

The children in care in Government housing estates are looked after by carers, by support staff on a 24 hour basis.

HON S E LINARES:

What qualifications do those people need before they look after the children within the house?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I would not think that they require specific qualifications. I suppose that what is looked at is personal qualities and experience.

ORAL

NO 931 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

SOCIAL SERVICES – CHILDREN IN CARE

Can Government state how many children are held in care, giving a breakdown by age and sex as at the end of January, February and March of 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS

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

HOA Question 931/2004

Month	Number	Female	4 years	5 years	6 years	9 years	10 years	11 years	12 years	13 years	14 years	15 years	16 years	17 years	18 years	Male	7 years	8 years	9 years	10 years	14 years	17 years	18 years
Jan-04	26	15	1	nil	1	nil	1	nil	1	1	2	2	1	3	2	11	2	1	1	3	2	1	1
Feb-04	29	17	1	nil	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	3	2	12	2	2	1	3	2	1	1
Mar-04	29	17	1	nil	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	3	2	12	2	2	1	3	2	1	1

ORAL

NO 932 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

MOUNT ALVERNIA

Can Government now state how many elderly citizens have applied for a place in Mount Alvernia, and how many of these are occupying a bed at St Bernard's Hospital, in each month of 2003, giving a monthly breakdown by age and sex?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question No. 933 of 2004.

NO 933 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

MOUNT ALVERNIA

Can Government state how many elderly citizens have applied for a place in Mount Alvernia, and how many of these are occupying a bed at St Bernard's Hospital, in each month of 2004 to-date, giving a breakdown by age and sex?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS

The answer to Question No. 932 was already provided to the hon Member by way of a letter dated 22 January 2004, however I hand it over now for the purpose of Hansard. I also hand the hon Member a list giving the information requested in Question No. 933.

Answer to Question No. 933/2004

93 Elderly citizens have applied for a place in Mount Alvernia

39 are occupying a bed in St Bernard's Hospital

9 applied between January 2004 and April 2004 (see breakdown below)

2004	Female	Male	Age Group			
			65-70	71-75	76-80	81+
Jan-04	1	1				2
Feb-04	2				1	1
Mar-04	1					1
Apr-04	4			1		3
Total	8	1		1	1	7

ANSWER TO QUESTION N° 55 | 2004

Month	In Hospital	Female	Male	Age
January	22	17	5	
February	25	19	6	
March	27	21	6	
April	32	26	6	
May	33	27	6	
June	35	29	6	
July	37	31	6	
August	37	31	6	
September	37	31	6	
October	37	31	6	
November	38	31	7	
December	39	31	8	

Please note that all the applicants are over the age of 65

ANSWER TO QUESTION 65/2004

PERSONS RECEIVING SOCIAL ASSISTANCE IN RESPECT OF THE FOURTH QUARTER 2002 AND EACH QUARTER OF 2003.

QTR	MONTH	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL	18/25	26/35	36/45	46/60
QTR 4 2002	Oct-02	63	20	83	17	22	28	16
	Nov-02	60	23	83	19	21	27	16
	Dec-02	69	21	90	20	25	28	17
QTR 1 2003	Jan-03	64	28	92	22	28	27	15
	Feb-03	73	21	94	21	29	26	18
	Mar-03	66	31	97	23	32	23	19
QTR 2 2003	Apr-03	70	27	97	23	30	25	19
	May-03	74	32	106	19	39	25	23
	Jun-03	66	31	97	19	34	26	18
QTR 3 2003	Jul-03	58	28	86	13	32	23	18
	Aug-03	64	30	94	17	35	24	18
	Sep-03	66	25	91	18	34	23	16
QTR 4 2003	Oct-03	62	31	93	10	38	22	23
	Nov-03	73	31	104	24	38	23	19
	Dec-03	62	29	91	23	32	21	15

Due to the difficulties encountered with our manual social assistance system, the lapse in time and the constant movement of people coming in and out of the system the department is unable to identify how many beneficiaries were actually employed from the fourth quarter 2002 to the end of 2003. An earlier attempt to provide similar information in connection with question 11 of 2003 has also proved unsuccessful.

I am advised that the necessary recording procedures are now in place so that in future the details requested may be provided as from 1st January 2004.

ANSWER TO QUESTION No. 66 of 2004

PERSONS RECEIVING SOCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER 2002 AND EACH OF THE MONTHS OF 2003 BY MONTH, AGE AND SEX

4th Quarter

2002	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL	18/25	26/35	36/45	46/60
OCTOBER	135	203	338	63	103	102	70
NOVEMBER	130	208	338	62	105	103	68
DECEMBER	134	201	335	61	104	101	69

Year

2003	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL	18/25	26/35	36/45	46/60
JANUARY	137	209	346	69	104	105	68
FEBRUARY	151	183	334	64	103	98	69
MARCH	154	178	332	60	101	102	69
APRIL	152	235	387	69	127	115	76
MAY	148	245	393	71	124	119	79
JUNE	132	251	383	64	123	122	74
JULY	156	264	420	83	126	127	84
AUGUST	159	257	416	74	128	118	96
SEPTEMBER	166	256	422	75	133	113	101
OCTOBER	162	261	423	77	129	114	103
NOVEMBER	173	265	438	80	134	117	107
DECEMBER	170	274	444	84	142	113	105

Answer to Question No 67 of 2004.

Table showing number of men aged 60 years and over in receipt of social insurance credits during 2003.

January	182
February	191
March	193
April	198
May	199
June	203
July	207
August	212
September	213
October	218
November	221
December	224

ANSWER TO QUESTION No.68 of 2004

PERSONS RECEIVING DISABILITY ALLOWANCE FOR EACH MONTH OF THE YEAR 2003 BY MONTH, SEX AND AGE

Month 4th Qtr	0-10	11-20	21-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	61-70	Total	Male	Female
Jan-03	23	28	17	12	15	11	1	107	74	33
Feb-03	24	29	17	12	15	11	1	109	76	33
Mar-03	24	29	17	12	16	11	0	109	76	33
Apr-03	24	28	18	12	16	11	0	109	76	33
May-03	24	27	19	12	16	11	0	109	76	33
Jun-03	24	28	19	12	16	11	0	110	77	33
Jul-03	24	28	19	12	16	11	0	110	76	34
Aug-03	24	28	19	12	16	11	0	110	76	34
Sep-03	24	28	19	12	16	11	0	110	76	34
Oct-03	24	28	19	12	16	11	0	110	76	34
Nov-03	24	28	19	12	16	11	0	110	76	34
Dec-03	24	28	19	12	16	11	0	110	76	34

Social Insurance Returns Statistics as at 31 December 2003

Answer to Question 69 of 2004

	All			Private			Official			Self Employed				
	Number of Employers all	Returns	Non-Return	Pending	Number of Employers returned	Returns	Non-Return	Pending	Returns	Non-Return	Pending	Returns	Non-Return	Pending
Qtr.1/02	1355	13162	1275	3322	1054	10403	1034	1068	2212	206	2054	547	35	200
Qtr.2/02	1377	13308	1397	3297	1047	10547	1098	1050	2212	256	2047	549	43	200
Qtr.3/02	1393	13217	1899	3286	1054	10438	1578	1040	2219	269	2046	560	52	200
Qtr.4/02	1415	12909	2122	3275	1042	10074	1757	1031	2289	282	2045	546	83	199
Qtr.1/03	1439	11145	1652	5781	940	8573	1420	3142	2104	203	2294	468	29	345
Qtr.2/03	1463	9574	3931	5719	887	7736	2749	3088	1390	1123	2289	448	59	342
Qtr.3/03	1482	7428	6612	5689	732	6742	4244	3061	309	2227	2286	377	141	342
Qtr.4/03	1489	292	13607	5598	42	267	10541	2979	0	2570	2284	25	496	335
Note:-														
Those classified under pending are in respect of contribution records for which no notification of termination has been provided and no contribution return has been recorded since the introduction of the new system or in the 1st Quarter of 2002.														

**ANSWER TO QUESTION No. 70/2004
OPEN LONG-TERM BENEFITS FUND**

Fund Account -	31-Jan-03	28-Feb-03	31-Mar-03	30-Apr-03	31-May-03	30-Jun-03	31-Jul-03	31-Aug-03	30-Sep-03	31-Oct-03	30-Nov-03	31-Dec-03
Opening Balance	£14,024,807	£14,359,286	£14,350,982	£14,013,251	£14,048,781	£13,749,200	£13,065,932	£13,091,982	£12,959,175	£12,679,790	£12,697,567	£12,397,644
Add												
Receipts	£984,989	£745,629	£814,451	£846,098	£656,555	£676,407	£999,394	£543,516	£681,568	£1,029,899	£675,693	£640,602
	£15,009,796	£15,104,915	£15,165,433	£14,859,349	£14,705,336	£14,425,607	£14,065,326	£13,635,498	£13,640,743	£13,709,689	£13,373,260	£13,038,246
Less												
Payments	(£650,510)	(£753,933)	(£1,152,182)	(£810,568)	(£956,136)	(£1,359,675)	(£973,344)	(£676,323)	(£960,953)	(£1,012,122)	(£975,616)	(£1,074,112)
Closing Balance	£14,359,286	£14,350,982	£14,013,251	£14,048,781	£13,749,200	£13,065,932	£13,091,982	£12,959,175	£12,679,790	£12,697,567	£12,397,644	£14,112,358

ANSWER TO QUESTION No. 71/2004

The transfers made from the Open Long-Term Benefits Fund to the Closed Long-Term Benefits Fund for each month in 2003 are as follows:

January 2003	£600,000
February 2003	£700,000
March 2003	£1,100,000
April 2003	£750,000
May 2003	£900,000
June 2003	£1,300,000
July 2003	£900,000
August 2003	£600,000
September 2003	£900,000
October 2003	£900,000
November 2003	£900,000
December 2003	£1,000,000
	<u>£10,550,000</u>

ANSWER TO QUESTION 72/2004

The following pensioners were in receipt of payments from the Closed Long-Term Benefits Fund for the year 2003.

	Jan-03	Feb-03	Mar-03	Apr-03	May-03	Jun-03	Jul-03	Aug-03	Sep-03	Oct-03	Nov-03	Dec-03
PRE-1969 SPANISH PENSIONERS	6859	6845	6826	6817	6793	6763	6756	6742	6716	6699	6684	6635
BRITISH PENSIONERS (GIB/UK NATIONALS)	4747	4754	4767	4779	4785	4793	4806	4813	4818	4872	4867	4867
MOROCCAN PENSIONERS	1341	1348	1369	1377	1383	1390	1390	1393	1430	1430	1431	1438
OTHER NATIONALITIES	368	367	369	376	376	380	381	381	388	391	393	397
TOTAL	13315	13314	13331	13349	13337	13326	13333	13329	13352	13392	13375	13337

**ANSWER TO QUESTION No. 73 of 2004
CLOSED LONG-TERM BENEFITS FUND**

Fund Account -	31-Jan-03	28-Feb-03	31-Mar-03	30-Apr-03	31-May-03	30-Jun-03	31-Jul-03	31-Aug-03	30-Sep-03	31-Oct-03	30-Nov-03	31-Dec-03
Opening Balance	£964,257	£519,215	£391,271	£482,862	£380,513	£418,080	£761,199	£758,155	£507,185	£477,275	£536,592	£606,946

"Local Account"

Opening Balance	£408,452	£203,169	£29,399	£226,375	£70,155	£64,127	£426,631	£420,354	£139,182	£117,894	£82,495	£135,762
Add												
Transfers from the Open Long-Term Benefits Fund	£600,000	£700,000	£1,100,000	£750,000	£900,000	£1,300,000	£900,000	£600,000	£900,000	£900,000	£900,000	£1,000,000
Other Receipts	£2,146	£3,341	£3,342	£1,678	£2,200	£1,918	£3,058	£1,716	£1,444	£1,903	£2,068	£2,500
	£1,010,598	£906,510	£1,132,741	£978,053	£972,355	£1,366,045	£1,329,689	£1,022,070	£1,040,626	£1,019,797	£984,563	£1,139,262

Less

Pension Payments	(£807,429)	(£877,111)	(£906,366)	(£907,898)	(£908,228)	(£939,414)	(£909,335)	(£882,888)	(£922,732)	(£937,302)	(£948,801)	(£1,084,053)
Closing Balance	£203,169	£29,399	£226,375	£70,155	£64,127	£426,631	£420,354	£139,182	£117,894	£82,495	£135,762	£54,209

"Spanish Account"

Opening Balance	£555,805	£316,046	£361,872	£256,487	£310,358	£353,953	£334,568	£337,801	£368,003	£359,381	£454,097	£471,184
Add												
Receipts from D.F.I.D.	£100,000	£300,000	£880,000	£370,000	£370,000	£1,050,000	£320,000	£320,000	£1,010,000	£450,000	£200,000	£1,250,000
	£655,805	£616,046	£1,241,872	£626,487	£680,358	£1,403,953	£654,568	£657,801	£1,378,003	£809,381	£654,097	£1,721,184
Less												
Pension Payments	(£339,759)	(£254,174)	(£985,385)	(£316,129)	(£326,405)	(£1,069,385)	(£316,767)	(£289,798)	(£1,018,622)	(£355,264)	(£182,913)	(£1,234,500)
Closing Balance	£316,046	£361,872	£256,487	£310,358	£353,953	£334,568	£337,801	£368,003	£359,381	£454,097	£471,184	£486,684

Fund Account

Closing Balance	£519,215	£391,271	£482,862	£380,513	£418,080	£761,199	£758,155	£507,185	£477,275	£536,592	£606,946	£540,893
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ANSWER TO QUESTION No. 74/2004
CLOSED LONG-TERM BENEFITS FUND

	<u>31-Jan-03</u>	<u>28-Feb-03</u>	<u>31-Mar-03</u>	<u>30-Apr-03</u>	<u>31-May-03</u>	<u>30-Jun-03</u>	<u>31-Jul-03</u>	<u>31-Aug-03</u>	<u>30-Sep-03</u>	<u>31-Oct-03</u>	<u>30-Nov-03</u>	<u>31-Dec-03</u>
<u>Fund Account -</u>												
<u>Opening Balance</u>	£6,252,443	£6,250,508	£6,239,495	£6,201,342	£6,188,421	£6,175,343	£6,161,753	£6,144,750	£6,112,892	£6,095,836	£6,041,456	£6,011,945
Add												
Receipts	£54,739	£46,619	£41,936	£41,323	£36,285	£35,819	£45,256	£35,617	£44,452	£52,576	£43,868	£40,000
	£6,307,182	£6,297,127	£6,281,431	£6,242,666	£6,224,706	£6,211,161	£6,207,009	£6,180,367	£6,157,344	£6,148,413	£6,085,324	£6,051,945
Less												
Payments	(£56,674)	(£57,632)	(£80,089)	(£54,245)	(£49,363)	(£49,408)	(£62,259)	(£67,474)	(£61,506)	(£106,956)	(£73,379)	(£58,577)
<u>Closing Balance</u>	£6,250,508	£6,239,495	£6,201,342	£6,188,421	£6,175,343	£6,161,753	£6,144,750	£6,112,892	£6,095,836	£6,041,456	£6,011,945	£5,993,368

Answer to Question No. 933/2004

93 Elderly citizens have applied for a place in Mount Alvernia

39 are occupying a bed in St Bernard's Hospital

9 applied between January 2004 and April 2004 (see breakdown below)

2004	Female	Male	Age Group			
			65-70	71-75	76-80	81+
Jan-04	1	1				2
Feb-04	2				1	1
Mar-04	1					1
Apr-04	4			1		3
Total	8	1		1	1	7

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 932 TO 933 OF 2004

HON C A BRUZON:

The reason why we put the question a second time is because the first time round, when we asked about the age, the Minister gave us the following information. *"Please note that all the applicants are over the age of 65"*. Obviously when it concerns Mount Alvernia we would have assumed that that was the case, so can the Minister provide more details regarding the age of these people?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

If the hon Member looks at the information we have provided him this time round, it is specifically divided into age groups so I think that would suffice.

ORAL

NO 934 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

Can Government provide the answers given in writing to Question Nos 55 and 65 to 74 of 2004 by the Minister for Social Affairs, for the purpose of the record in Hansard?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS

Although I have already provided the answers in writing, as the hon Member rightly says, for the purposes of Hansard I now hand them over again.

Month	In Hospital	Female	Male	Age
January	22	17	5	
February	25	19	6	
March	27	21	6	
April	32	26	6	
May	33	27	6	
June	35	29	6	
July	37	31	6	
August	37	31	6	
September	37	31	6	
October	37	31	6	
November	38	31	7	
December	39	31	8	

Please note that all the applicants are over the age of 65

ANSWER TO QUESTION 65/2004

PERSONS RECEIVING SOCIAL ASSISTANCE IN RESPECT OF THE FOURTH QUARTER 2002 AND EACH QUARTER OF 2003.

QTR	MONTH	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL	18/25	26/35	36/45	46/60
QTR 4 2002	Oct-02	63	20	83	17	22	28	16
	Nov-02	60	23	83	19	21	27	16
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	Feb-03	73	21	94	21	29	26	18
	Mar-03	66	31	97	23	32	23	19
	Apr-03	70	27	97	23	30	25	19
QTR 2 2003	May-03	74	32	106	19	39	25	23
	Jun-03	66	31	97	19	34	26	18
	Jul-03	58	28	86	13	32	23	18
QTR 3 2003	Aug-03	64	30	94	17	35	24	18
	Sep-03	66	25	91	18	34	23	16
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QTR 4 2003	Nov-03	73	31	104	24	38	23	19
	Dec-03	62	29	91	23	32	21	15

Due to the difficulties encountered with our manual social assistance system, the lapse in time and the constant movement of people coming in and out of the system the department is unable to identify how many beneficiaries were actually employed from the fourth quarter 2002 to the end of 2003. An earlier attempt to provide similar information in connection with question 11 of 2003 has also proved unsuccessful.

I am advised that the necessary recording procedures are now in place so that in future the details requested may be provided as from 1st January 2004.

ANSWER TO QUESTION No. 66 of 2004

PERSONS RECEIVING SOCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER 2002 AND EACH OF THE MONTHS OF 2003 BY MONTH, AGE AND SEX

4th Quarter.

2002	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL	18/25	26/35	36/45	46/60
OCTOBER	135	203	338	63	103	102	70
NOVEMBER	130	208	338	62	105	103	68
DECEMBER	134	201	335	61	104	101	69

Year

2003	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL	18/25	26/35	36/45	46/60
JANUARY	137	209	346	69	104	105	68
FEBRUARY	151	183	334	64	103	98	69
MARCH	154	178	332	60	101	102	69
APRIL	152	235	387	69	127	115	76
MAY	148	245	393	71	124	119	79
JUNE	132	251	383	64	123	122	74
JULY	156	264	420	83	126	127	84
AUGUST	159	257	416	74	128	118	96
SEPTEMBER	166	256	422	75	133	113	101
OCTOBER	162	261	423	77	129	114	103
NOVEMBER	173	265	438	80	134	117	107
DECEMBER	170	274	444	84	142	113	105

Answer to Question No 67 of 2004.

Table showing number of men aged 60 years and over in receipt of social insurance credits during 2003.

January	182
February	191
March	193
April	198
May	199
June	203
July	207
August	212
September	213
October	218
November	221
December	224

ANSWER TO QUESTION No.68 of 2004

PERSONS RECEIVING DISABILITY ALLOWANCE FOR EACH MONTH OF THE YEAR 2003 BY MONTH, SEX AND AGE

Month 4th Qtr	0-10	11-20	21-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	61-70	Total	Male	Female
Jan-03	23	28	17	12	15	11	1	107	74	33
Feb-03	24	29	17	12	15	11	1	109	76	33
Mar-03	24	29	17	12	16	11	0	109	76	33
Apr-03	24	28	18	12	16	11	0	109	76	33
May-03	24	27	19	12	16	11	0	109	76	33
Jun-03	24	28	19	12	16	11	0	110	77	33
Jul-03	24	28	19	12	16	11	0	110	76	34
Aug-03	24	28	19	12	16	11	0	110	76	34
Sep-03	24	28	19	12	16	11	0	110	76	34
Oct-03	24	28	19	12	16	11	0	110	76	34
Nov-03	24	28	19	12	16	11	0	110	76	34
Dec-03	24	28	19	12	16	11	0	110	76	34

Answer to Question 69 of 2004

	All			Private			Official			Self Employed				
	Number of Employers all	Returns	Non-Return	Pending	Number of Employers returned	Returns	Non-Return	Pending	Returns	Non-Return	Pending	Returns	Non-Return	Pending
Qtr. 1/02	1355	13162	1275	3322	1054	10403	1034	1068	2212	206	2054	547	35	200
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Qtr. 3/02	1393	13217	1899	3286	1054	10438	1578	1040	2219	269	2046	560	52	200
Qtr. 4/02	1415	12909	2122	3275	1042	10074	1757	1031	2289	282	2045	546	83	199
Qtr. 1/03	1439	11145	1652	5781	940	8573	1420	3142	2104	203	2294	468	29	345
Qtr. 2/03	1463	9574	3931	5719	887	7736	2749	3088	1390	1123	2289	448	59	342
Qtr. 3/03	1482	7428	6612	5689	732	6742	4244	3061	309	2227	2286	377	141	342
Qtr. 4/03	1489	292	13607	5598	42	267	10541	2979	0	2570	2284	25	496	335

Note:-
Those classified under pending are in respect of contribution records for which no notification of termination has been provided and no contribution return has been recorded since the introduction of the new system or in the 1st Quarter of 2002.

ANSWER TO QUESTION No. 70/2004
OPEN LONG-TERM BENEFITS FUND

Fund Account -	31-Jan-03	28-Feb-03	31-Mar-03	30-Apr-03	31-May-03	30-Jun-03	31-Jul-03	31-Aug-03	30-Sep-03	31-Oct-03	30-Nov-03	31-Dec-03
Opening Balance	£14,024,807	£14,359,286	£14,350,982	£14,013,251	£14,048,781	£13,749,200	£13,065,932	£13,091,982	£12,959,175	£12,679,790	£12,697,567	£12,397,644
Add												
Receipts	£984,989	£745,629	£814,451	£846,098	£656,555	£676,407	£999,394	£543,516	£681,568	£1,029,899	£675,693	£640,602
	£15,009,796	£15,104,915	£15,165,433	£14,859,349	£14,705,336	£14,425,607	£14,065,326	£13,635,498	£13,640,743	£13,709,689	£13,373,260	£13,038,246
Less												
Payments	(£650,510)	(£753,933)	(£1,152,182)	(£810,568)	(£956,136)	(£1,359,675)	(£973,344)	(£676,323)	(£960,953)	(£1,012,122)	(£975,616)	(£1,074,112)
Closing Balance	£14,359,286	£14,350,982	£14,013,251	£14,048,781	£13,749,200	£13,065,932	£13,091,982	£12,959,175	£12,679,790	£12,697,567	£12,397,644	£14,112,358

ANSWER TO QUESTION No. 71/2004

The transfers made from the Open Long-Term Benefits Fund to the Closed Long-Term Benefits Fund for each month in 2003 are as follows:

January 2003	£600,000
February 2003	£700,000
March 2003	£1,100,000
April 2003	£750,000
May 2003	£900,000
June 2003	£1,300,000
July 2003	£900,000
August 2003	£600,000
September 2003	£900,000
October 2003	£900,000
November 2003	£900,000
December 2003	£1,000,000
	<u>£10,550,000</u>

ANSWER TO QUESTION 72/2004

The following pensioners were in receipt of payments from the Closed Long-Term Benefits Fund for the year 2003.

	Jan-03	Feb-03	Mar-03	Apr-03	May-03	Jun-03	Jul-03	Aug-03	Sep-03	Oct-03	Nov-03	Dec-03
PRE-1969 SPANISH PENSIONERS	6859	6845	6826	6817	6793	6763	6756	6742	6716	6699	6684	6635
BRITISH PENSIONERS (GIB/UK NATIONALS)	4747	4754	4767	4779	4785	4793	4806	4813	4818	4872	4867	4867
MOROCCAN PENSIONERS	1341	1348	1369	1377	1383	1390	1390	1393	1430	1430	1431	1438
OTHER NATIONALITIES	368	367	369	376	376	380	381	381	388	391	393	397
TOTAL	13315	13314	13331	13349	13337	13326	13333	13329	13352	13392	13375	13337

**ANSWER TO QUESTION No. 73 of 2004
CLOSED LONG-TERM BENEFITS FUND**

<u>Fund Account -</u>	<u>31-Jan-03</u>	<u>28-Feb-03</u>	<u>31-Mar-03</u>	<u>30-Apr-03</u>	<u>31-May-03</u>	<u>30-Jun-03</u>	<u>31-Jul-03</u>	<u>31-Aug-03</u>	<u>30-Sep-03</u>	<u>31-Oct-03</u>	<u>30-Nov-03</u>	<u>31-Dec-03</u>
<u>Opening Balance</u>	£964,257	£519,215	£391,271	£482,862	£380,513	£418,080	£761,199	£768,155	£507,185	£477,275	£536,592	£606,946

"Local Account"

Opening Balance	£408,452	£203,169	£29,399	£226,375	£70,155	£64,127	£426,631	£420,354	£139,182	£117,894	£82,495	£135,762
Add												
Transfers from the Open Long-Term Benefits Fund	£600,000	£700,000	£1,100,000	£750,000	£900,000	£1,300,000	£900,000	£600,000	£900,000	£900,000	£900,000	£1,000,000
Other Receipts	£2,146	£3,341	£3,342	£1,678	£2,200	£1,918	£3,058	£1,716	£1,444	£1,903	£2,068	£2,500
	£1,010,598	£906,510	£1,132,741	£978,053	£972,355	£1,366,045	£1,329,689	£1,022,070	£1,040,626	£1,019,797	£984,563	£1,138,262
Less												
Pension Payments	(£807,429)	(£877,111)	(£906,366)	(£907,898)	(£908,228)	(£939,414)	(£909,335)	(£882,868)	(£922,732)	(£937,302)	(£848,801)	(£1,084,053)
Closing Balance	£203,169	£29,399	£226,375	£70,155	£64,127	£426,631	£420,354	£139,182	£117,894	£82,495	£135,762	£54,209

"Spanish Account"

Opening Balance	£555,805	£316,046	£361,872	£256,487	£310,358	£353,953	£334,568	£337,801	£368,003	£359,381	£454,097	£471,184
Add												
Receipts from D.F.I.D.	£100,000	£300,000	£860,000	£370,000	£370,000	£1,050,000	£320,000	£320,000	£1,010,000	£450,000	£200,000	£1,250,000
	£655,805	£616,046	£1,241,872	£626,487	£680,358	£1,403,953	£654,568	£657,801	£1,378,003	£809,381	£654,097	£1,721,184
Less												
Pension Payments	(£339,759)	(£254,174)	(£985,385)	(£316,129)	(£326,405)	(£1,089,385)	(£316,767)	(£289,798)	(£1,018,622)	(£355,284)	(£182,913)	(£1,234,500)
Closing Balance	£316,046	£361,872	£256,487	£310,358	£353,953	£334,568	£337,801	£368,003	£359,381	£454,097	£471,184	£486,684

Fund Account

<u>Closing Balance</u>	£519,215	£391,271	£482,862	£380,513	£418,080	£761,199	£758,155	£507,185	£477,275	£536,592	£606,946	£540,893
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ANSWER TO QUESTION No. 74/2004
 CLOSED LONG-TERM BENEFITS FUND

	31-Jan-03	28-Feb-03	31-Mar-03	30-Apr-03	31-May-03	30-Jun-03	31-Jul-03	31-Aug-03	30-Sep-03	31-Oct-03	30-Nov-03	31-Dec-03
Fund Account -												
Opening Balance	£6,252,443	£6,250,508	£6,239,495	£6,201,342	£6,188,421	£6,175,343	£6,161,753	£6,144,750	£6,112,892	£6,095,836	£6,041,456	£6,011,945
Add												
Receipts	£54,739	£46,619	£41,936	£41,323	£36,285	£35,819	£45,256	£35,617	£44,452	£52,576	£43,868	£40,000
	£6,307,182	£6,297,127	£6,281,431	£6,242,666	£6,224,706	£6,211,161	£6,207,009	£6,180,367	£6,157,344	£6,148,413	£6,085,324	£6,051,945
Less												
Payments	(£56,674)	(£57,632)	(£80,089)	(£54,245)	(£49,363)	(£49,408)	(£62,259)	(£67,474)	(£81,508)	(£106,956)	(£73,379)	(£56,577)
Closing Balance	£6,250,508	£6,239,495	£6,201,342	£6,188,421	£6,175,343	£6,161,753	£6,144,750	£6,112,892	£6,095,836	£6,041,456	£6,011,945	£5,993,368

NO 935 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

H.M. PRISON

Can Government state whether they plan to relocate HM Prison before the end of the financial year 2004-2005?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS

No.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 935 OF 2004

HON L A RANDALL:

What is the finishing date for the project? Is there a finishing date for the project?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Not as far as I know.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the hon Lady confirm whether that project is still on the cards?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Yes it is.

HON S E LINARES:

Is it still the intention of the Government to move it to Windmill Hill?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

It is still the intention.

HON S E LINARES:

Will it be within this legislature?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, the Government are happy to announce what their projects are but does not want to give an indication of timing until we have one in mind. Let me put it this way, there is no provision for it in the budget that we are going to debate for the forthcoming financial year. That of course does not mean that it will not be done because there could be a supplementary appropriation, but at the moment the intention is not to make any major progress on the project during the financial year. Therefore funds have not been specifically provided for it.

ORAL

NO 936 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

WAGE SUBSIDY SCHEME

Can Government state whether in the month of January 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 SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 937 to 941 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 937 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

WAGE SUBSIDY SCHEME

Can Government state whether in the month of February 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 SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 936 and 938 to 941 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 938 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

WAGE SUBSIDY SCHEME

Can Government state whether in the month of March 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 SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 936, 937 and 939 to 941 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 939 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

WAGE SUBSIDY SCHEME

Can Government state whether in the month of January 2004 there has been any increase in the number of employers participating in the wage subsidy scheme that was approved under the 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 SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 936 to 938 and 940 to 941 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 940 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

WAGE SUBSIDY SCHEME

Can Government state whether in the month of February 2004 there has been any increase in the number of employers participating in the wage subsidy scheme that was approved under the 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 SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 936 to 939 and 941 of 2004.

NO 941 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

WAGE SUBSIDY SCHEME

Can Government state whether in the month of March 2004 there has been any increase in the number of employers participating in the wage subsidy scheme that was approved under the 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 SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS

Answer to Question Nos. 936 to 938

There has not been any increase in either the number of persons placed in employment in the wage subsidy pilot scheme during January to March 2004 or in the number of employers.

Answer to Question Nos. 939 to 941

There has not been any increase in the number of employers participating in the wage subsidy pilot scheme during January to March 2004.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 936 TO 941 OF 2004

HON F R PICARDO:

What are the Government doing in order to promote the further participation of employers and employees in that scheme?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Well, the category of people who have need to use this service are perfectly aware that the service exists. There are currently nine people on the scheme and that does not necessarily mean that there is not enough promotion of the scheme. It could also mean that people do not put their names down and as the hon Member will acknowledge, it is not up to Government to physically drag them to the ETB to put their names down for such a scheme.

HON F R PICARDO:

Bearing that in mind, surely the people who are eligible for the scheme is an ever increasing number of people because more people are going through rehabilitation et cetera. So are the Government totally confident that people who come out of Bruce's Farm or other rehabilitation schemes, are not fully aware of their rights to register for schemes such as this?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Yes, not everybody undergoing rehabilitation is in need of a job. Many already have a job and go up to Bruce's Farm to be rehabilitated and employers normally kindly keep their jobs for them.

HON F R PICARDO:

Am I to assume that the yes goes to my question that the Minister is totally confident that everybody is aware of their rights to register under the scheme? Everybody who undergoes rehabilitation is aware of the right to undergo this scheme?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

As far as it is reasonably possible to make them aware, yes I am satisfied.

NO 942 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

WORLD HERITAGE STATUS

At what stage is the application to obtain World Heritage status for Gibraltar?

ANSWER

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

The application is at full nomination stage and UK and Gibraltar officials are actively involved in this process.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 942 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In what timescale is this expected to be considered by the pertinent body?

HON C BELTRAN:

The process is a thorough and complicated one in which it is difficult to predict timescales.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Minister confirm to the House whether there have been any objections from the Spanish Government to Gibraltar's inclusion in this list?

HON C BELTRAN:

Not as far as I am aware.

ORAL

NO 943 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PARSON'S LODGE

Can Government say whether they are providing assistance to the Heritage Trust for the provision of a caretaker at Parson's Lodge?

ANSWER

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

The Government do not provide assistance to the Gibraltar Heritage Trust for the specific purpose of the provision of a caretaker at Parson's Lodge.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 943 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Minister say whether the Trust has requested any such assistance?

HON C BELTRAN:

Again, not as far as I am aware.

ORAL

NO 944 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

HERITAGE TRUST ORDINANCE

Have Government received any representations from the Gibraltar Heritage Trust seeking the changes to the Heritage Trust Ordinance, and if so on what date were the representations made and what were the changes sought?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question No. 945 of 2004.

NO 945 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

HERITAGE TRUST ORDINANCE

Does Government intend to update the Heritage Trust Ordinance and if so when?

ANSWER

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

Government intend to bring legislation to this House in the area of Heritage conservation when we are ready to do so, which is not just yet. I cannot give the hon Member a date. Government have been in discussions with the Heritage Trust on this issue for a period of time now.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 944 TO 945 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In relation to the question seeking to know on what date representations were made by the Trust and what changes the Trust envisage to the Ordinance, are Government in a position to make any comment on that?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Perhaps I can help the hon Member here because this pre-dates the Minister's membership of the Government and indeed responsibility for this portfolio. The matter was left at the stage in the run up to the last General Election, that legislation had been drafted which reflected a discussion between the then Minister and the Heritage Trust. That legislation has not yet been considered by Government collectively and that is the process. The incoming Minister and indeed I, are familiarising with it so I cannot tell the hon Member when we might be ready to bring it to the House, but it is a Government project to increase the statutory role of the Heritage Trust in the statutory framework for heritage conservation, but the current Ministers are familiarising themselves with the legislation that was drafted during the last term of office. I cannot say how long the consultations have been going between the previous Minister and the Heritage Trust, but for many, many, many months. This has been an on-going process of discussion and exchange of views.

ORAL

NO 946 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

VICTORIA STADIUM

Can Government state what has been the bill for water consumption in each month of the last financial year in respect of the new extension to Victoria Stadium?

ANSWER

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

The information requested by the hon Member is provided in a separate schedule which I hand to him.

Answer to Question 946 of 2004

The total water consumption in each month of the new extension to Victoria Stadium of the last financial year is:-

Month (Consumption)	Month (Payment)	Water Based Hockey Pitch	Other Areas Within Extension
Mar 03	April 03	1,020.50	31.46
April 03	May 03	2,986.00	28.90
May 03	June 03	8,554.50	61.85
June 03	July 04	3,857.50	30.40
July 03	Aug 03	5,473.00	30.40
Aug	Sept 03	4,212.50	30.40
Sept 03	Oct 03	2,563.00	-
Oct 03	Nov 03	1,767.00	74.45
Nov 03	Dec 03	1,771.80	25.20
Dec 03	Jan 04	270.00	22.38
Jan 04	Feb 04	2,297.00	25.25
Feb 04	Mar 04	<u>2,261.50</u>	<u>31.46</u>
		£37,034.00	£392.15
	Combined Total	£37,426.15	

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 946 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

Given that the bulk of the water is the water-based hockey pitch, how come that there was no provision made originally in the budget for this, when the total amount the House was asked to vote last year was £19,000 to cover electricity and water for everything in the stadium?

HON C BELTRAN:

I do not have the answer to this question, I do not have last year's estimates with me and cannot compare the figures that the hon Member has given me.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is the explanation about the water consumption related to the amount of rain, because I note that in January it was £270 and in June it was £8,500?

HON C BELTRAN:

Yes, there is a connection. The cost of the water is actually greatly reduced due to the construction of an underground 150 cubic metre water tank which enables recycling of a percentage of the water used to water the pitches, as well as rainwater. So this actually reduces the cost greatly. The pitch needs constant watering, depending on the usage and the weather. So really yes, there is a connection, that is a short answer to the question.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Has that facility for recycling water been there all the time or is it something that has been done during this last year?

HON C BELTRAN:

It has been there, it was constructed with the pitch. This was part of the planned process. This process in fact halves the cost that the pitch would have taken in watering were it not to exist.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is there a particular explanation for the May figure which seems to be way out on the other months? If the Minister does not know would he look at that?

HON C BELTRAN:

I think the answer to that, is that there were a particularly high number of games played during that month. All sorts of festivals and games played and the more one plays the more one needs to water the pitch. Also it probably was very hot during that month.

HON S E LINARES:

Just as a matter of interest, is the pitch eventually going to have some floodlights? The water-based hockey pitch?

HON C BELTRAN:

Actually I do not know the answer to that question directly, but if the requirement is there, then Government are prepared to look into it.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Is it not the case that it is highly unlikely that the Government would be able to provide floodlights because of the proximity of the pitch to the airport?

HON C BELTRAN:

That is indeed a possibility. A fact that has to be taken into consideration with any of the lighting in that area.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Have the Government had confirmation from the MOD that it is not possible to provide floodlighting at that pitch already? Is that not the case?

HON C BELTRAN:

There is no such confirmation. In fact, I understand that it might indeed be possible to have lighting in that area.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

So obviously, if it is indeed possible, the Government will be looking at the possibility because that would mean there would be so many further extra hours that hockey players will be able to make use of that pitch. Are the Government looking at approaching the MOD?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, the Government presently have no such plans and it is not part of the works involved. We have answered the question hypothetically because the hon Member

expressed an interest in knowing whether it would be possible. We are not prepared to convert that into a debate about whether the Government are now intending to install floodlights. The Government presently have no plans to install floodlights there, which does not mean that as part of the future development of the stadium facilities, it might not come up for consideration at some time in the future, but it is not in the plans at present. As indeed it is pencilled in for possible consideration indeed to have floodlights in the adjoining training pitch. This is part of the future developmental potential of the facilities but which are not pencilled in at this stage.

ORAL

NO 947 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

YOUTH SERVICES

Can Government state how much has been spent this financial year on computers in the Youth Services Offices?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 948 to 950 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 948 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

YOUTH SERVICES – DOLPHINS YOUTH CLUB

Can Government state how much has been spent this financial year on computers in the Dolphin Youth Club?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 947 and 949 to 950 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 949 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

YOUTH SERVICES – LAGUNA ESTATE YOUTH CLUB

Can Government state how much has been spent this financial year on computers in Laguna Estate Youth Club?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 947, 948 and 950 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 950 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

YOUTH SERVICES – PLATER YOUTH CLUB

Can Government state how much has been spent this financial year on computers in Plater Youth Club?

ANSWER

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

There was no identified need to provide the Youth Services Offices or Youth Clubs with computers during the financial year 2003/2004 as they were considered to be adequately provisioned.

ORAL

NO 951 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

YOUTH SERVICES – LAGUNA YOUTH CLUB

Can Government state whether the Laguna Youth Club has been closed for the last 5 to 6 months?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question No. 952 of 2004.

NO 952 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

YOUTH SERVICES – LAGUNA YOUTH CLUB

Can Government state what maintenance programme has been carried out in the Laguna Youth Club since last year?

ANSWER

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

Answer to Question No. 951

The Laguna Youth Club has not been closed for the last 5 to 6 months. The Laguna Youth Club has been opening regularly on 3 to 5 days every week, during the last 5 to 6 months.

Answer to Question No. 952

No major works were required in the Laguna Youth Club during the financial year 2003/2004. However, as part of on-going maintenance of youth club premises, minor works and repairs have been carried out on a regular basis. This has involved mainly repairs to fencing, windows and shutters and some of the fittings and equipment in the play area.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 951 TO 952 OF 2004

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Minister state at what times the Laguna Youth Club has been opening? The Minister has stated that it has been opened, can he say at what times it has opened?

HON C BELTRAN:

I do not have the information, the exact times. Youth Clubs tend to open in the afternoons after school.

ORAL

NO 953 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

THEATRE ROYAL

Can Government state when they commissioned the last report on the Theatre Royal?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 954 to 958 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 954 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

THEATRE ROYAL

Can Government state what was the cost of the latest report on the Theatre Royal?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 953 and 955 to 958 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 955 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

THEATRE ROYAL

Can Government state which entity or company or individual conducted the last Report on the Theatre Royal?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 953 and 954 to 958 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 956 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

THEATRE ROYAL

Can Government state how many reports have been commissioned on the Theatre Royal to date?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 953, 954 and 955 to 958 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 957 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

THEATRE ROYAL

Can Government state what has been the cost of each report commissioned on the Theatre Royal?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 953, 954 to 956 and 958 of 2004.

NO 958 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

THEATRE ROYAL

Can Government state when each of the reports on the Theatre Royal were completed?

ANSWER

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

Answer to Question No. 953

The last report commissioned by Government on the Theatre Royal was on 22 September 1999.

Answer to Question No. 954

The cost of the latest report commissioned by Government was £5,000.

Answer to Question No. 955

The last report was carried out by Theatre Royal consultants.

Answer to Question No. 956

Two reports have been commissioned by Government on the Theatre Royal to date.

Answer to Question No. 957

The cost of the first report was £15,000 and that of the second was £5,000.

Answer to Question No. 958

The first report was completed on 18 February 1998 and the second was completed on 22 September 1999.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 953 TO 958 OF 2004

HON S E LINARES:

The Minister mentioned the Theatre Royal Consultants. Can he state whether this is a company or just a group of people that have been put together in order to do this job?

HON C BELTRAN:

I am informed that the correct name is Theatre Projects Consultants. I do not have the right information. It is a firm.

HON F R PICARDO:

Can the Government state whether any of those reports which we understand are the only reports commissioned in respect of the Theatre Royal, is a structural survey report?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, there have been a full range of reports done by Arab consultants, including full structural reports and there have been structural engineers as part of the architectural team, providing the usual structural services.

HON F R PICARDO:

Therefore, those reports are not referred to in the answers given by the Minister.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

There is a difference between reports and the normal services of the architectural design team which includes structural elements, architectural elements, sound element, quantity surveying elements, the usual range of design team services to be included.

HON F R PICARDO:

In effect is the Chief Minister telling the House that there was no structural survey report before the purchase of the building?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, the Chief Minister is not telling the House that in effect or otherwise.

HON F R PICARDO:

So in effect, what the Chief Minister is telling the House that there was the structural survey report before the purchase of the Theatre Royal, is that right?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Now the hon Member is introducing the concept of before the purchase. If the hon Member is saying was there a conditioned survey report, structural or otherwise in respect of the Theatre Royal prior to its purchase, there was one by M E Belilo and Partners, but as to the content of it I would have to refresh my memory.

HON F R PICARDO:

Would the Chief Minister agree to make available a copy of that structural survey report in this House?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No Sir.

HON F R PICARDO:

Would the Chief Minister therefore indicate whether his recollection, which does not appear to fall and I appreciate that I have just got on my feet to ask him for this, gave any indication of the fact that the structure might be unsound?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I will refresh my memory about the contents of that report and if the hon Member puts questions on notice, as if he had done on this, we would have had the information to put to him. So in the next House he should give specific notice of questions on the conditioned report of the Theatre Royal and now I am on notice that he is going to do so, I will make sure that somebody studies the report before answering his questions when he asks them.

HON F R PICARDO:

I appreciate that, but if in fact the Chief Minister will look at the questions, they are in no way limited to the report which the Minister responsible seems to have interpreted them as being limited to and they are open-ended as to reports and structural survey reports are of course reports, but I will take him up on his invitation to put questions through the Hon Shadow Minister responsible in relation to this issue.

HON S E LINARES:

Could the Minister confirm he said that there were five reports commissioned in total?

HON C BELTRAN:

I said there were two.

HON S E LINARES:

Could the Minister confirm whether one of them was a feasibility study as to what was going to happen to the Theatre Royal later, after it opened?

HON C BELTRAN:

The term feasibility study does not appear in either of those two reports, as far as I can recollect.

HON S E LINARES:

Was one of the reports to see whether it was feasible to have the Theatre Royal?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Government have never had any doubt about the feasibility of a theatre on that site. There has been one there for well over 150 years.

ORAL

NO 959 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

THEATRE ROYAL

Can Government state when is the next completion date for the Theatre Royal Millennium Project?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question No. 960 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 960 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

THEATRE ROYAL

Can Government state whether it is still their intention that the American Opera Company performs in the grand opening of the Theatre Royal?

ANSWER

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

Government are not in a position to say when the Theatre Royal Project will be completed. Government are currently reassessing the relative priority of all their capital spending projects and commitments.

NO 961 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

LEISURE CENTRE – KING’S BASTION

Can the Minister for Sport now confirm whether there are any new developments as to the long standing promised conversion of King's Bastion to a leisure centre, since a leisure centre was promised in their manifesto of 1996?

ANSWER

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

The Government are in office on the basis of the manifesto it presented at the 2003 General Elections. This manifesto carried forward unfulfilled commitments in relation to a Leisure Centre at King's Bastion that had been in the previous manifesto. We hope and indeed expect to fulfil that commitment during this term of office.

NO 962 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

GIBRALTAR SPORTS AUTHORITY

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

ANSWER

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

No agreement has been reached yet.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 962 OF 2004

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Can the Minister confirm to the House whether there have been any meetings recently with the Unions on the matter or whether any meetings are envisaged?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Government do not give on-going accounts of on-going negotiations. The Government do intend that this negotiation will take place and we hope that it will be entirely successful. Of course, the negotiations to transfer the existing staff to the Gibraltar Sports Authority is entirely different to the question of the establishment of the Gibraltar Sports Authority which will be established anyway in relation to new facilities, regardless of the other question.

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

So what the Chief Minister is saying is that the opening of the new Sports City will open irrespective of whether agreement has been reached or it has not.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

What the Chief Minister has said is actually quite clear and does not need to be put in different words by the hon Lady, particularly not for the purposes of changing the nuance. What I have said to her is that they are two quite unrelated issues here.

There is a Sports Authority which exists and will employ staff to run the new facilities which will be opened when they are ready by the Sports Authority, and there is a completely separate issue of whether the existing staff and the existing sports facilities wish to join the Authority or not, and therefore in the latter case stay out of it. There are no circumstances in which the new facilities will not emerge under the umbrella so to speak of the Sports Authority. In other words, the establishment of the Sports Authority for the purposes of running the new facilities does not depend in any degree on the outcome of the negotiations with existing staff as to whether they and the old facilities join the Authority or not. Quite clear. Does the hon Lady not agree?

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Therefore, having heard the Chief Minister, can the Government confirm that there could be a possibility that once an agreement is reached, some of the existing staff in the existing facilities will be transferred to the new facilities if they agree to join the Sports Authority?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

If there is agreement, and to the extent that there is agreement, all the facilities would be in the Authority and there would be no difference. That is the Government's preferred objective, but as we say, we do not force people into authorities, therefore that part of it depends on the outcome of those negotiations, whether they participate or not.

ORAL

NO 963 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

EUROPA SPORTS GROUND

Can the Minister for Sport confirm whether it is his intention to enter into negotiations with the MOD for the handover of the Europa Sports Ground to the Government which in turn would be handed over to the Gibraltar Cricket Association, something which his predecessor announced over three years ago would happen?

ANSWER

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

No, it is no longer envisaged that MOD will transfer the Europa Sports Ground to Government.

NO 964 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

SCHOOL OF TOURISM

Can Government confirm that the two trainees from last year's School of Tourism who were to be merged with this year's intake, have done so?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS

No Sir.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 964 OF 2004

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Minister state what has happened to these two trainees? Is there any trace of them?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

These two trainees will probably be integrated at the next intake. However, since the last intake in June 2003 there has not been any further intake this year. At the moment my Department is reviewing the current training that is provided by the Scheme, and the qualifications that are obtained by this Scheme, in order to put in place a new framework which will probably mean that the first intake will be in September this year.

HON S E LINARES:

So the Minister then is saying that this year there has not been any intake as such. No new ones nor the old.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes I have said that.

HON S E LINARES:

Point of order. I think we have a Speaker here, yourself. The Chief Minister is saying that I am repeating the question. Do I listen to him or do I listen to you?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

He can do either. In either case, what I am saying is completely correct. The hon Member asks whether there has been an intake this year. The Minister gets up and says no there has not been an intake this year. So the hon Member gets up again to say 'ah, is the Minister saying that there has not been an intake this year'. Well, that is a repetition of the question which calls for a repetition of the answer in anybody's book.

HON S E LINARES:

Does that mean that there has not been an intake this year and therefore the two trainees who were last year promised that they would be put into the intake this year will have to wait until next year to start the course?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I have already answered that question.

HON S E LINARES:

Thank you for the answer.

ORAL

NO 965 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURIST BOARD – VOICE MAIL

From what date onwards and in what circumstances is it the practice of the Tourist Board to have an answering machine or voicemail taking messages from callers?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question No. 966 of 2004.

NO 966 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURIST BOARD – COMPLAINTS

Can Government say whether any complaints have been received from persons trying to get through to the Tourist Board by telephone at the use of an answering machine or voice mail to take their messages?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS

From 1998 onwards, until very recently, there was a voicemail attached to the main Tourist Board number. If all lines were engaged when a caller telephoned, the voicemail would automatically connect. A handful of complaints about this practice were received and it was decided that the voicemail would only trigger in after office hours and that there should be an engaged tone when lines are busy.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 966 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

So the position at present is that the voicemail will only kick in after office hours, people who ring up will get an engaged tone and will have to call back later.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

That is correct.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

At what point was this new practice introduced?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I think this was introduced a few months ago.

NO 967 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM – PROMOTION AND CONFERENCES

Can Government say how much of the £950,000, allocated to Tourism, Promotion and Conferences for the year 2003/2004 has been spent as at 31 March 2004, giving a breakdown of the sum?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

The total spend was £1,025,706, broken up as follows:-

Literature	£119,463.74
Activity (Trade)	£ 84,199.51
Activity (Media)	£ 86,642.77
Promotional Material	£ 4,435.37
Advertising	£448,564.52
Trade Fairs	£172,288.69
Events	£ 90,366.79
Website	£ 6,603.52
Miscellaneous Expenditure	£ 13,141.27
Total	<u>£1,025,706.18</u>

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 967 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

To what does the Minister attribute the overspend in relation to the budget that had been allocated?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

The overspend is in relation to the fact that there was an invoice for some of the Tercentenary London taxis which should have been paid from central vote and instructions were issued that this should be paid out of this vote. Therefore, the over expenditure, the invoice was approximately £70,000 to £75,000.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

When the taxi Tercentenary advertising campaign was introduced it was forecast that it would be paid from a central vote the Minister said, and now it is being paid by the tourist marketing vote. What was the reason for that change?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Most of the Tercentenary London taxi campaign was actually been paid from the central vote, this particular invoice was paid for from this vote and instructions were issued from the Chief Secretary's Office.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In relation to the six thousand odd pounds spent on the website, is that the website of the Tourist Board here or the London Office?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

That was in respect of the website of the London Office.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The item on advertising, which according to the note that I scribbled down seems to be the highest single component in the breakdown of the marketing expenditure, does the Minister have the breakdown of those £148,000 and if not would he be able to supply me with one?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes, I do not have the exact details here for him but I am able to send it to him if he so requests.

ORAL

NO 968 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM – LONDON BOAT SHOW

What meetings with rally and event organisers did the Minister for Tourism hold during the London Boat Show this year, what was discussed and what were the results?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question No. 969 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 969 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM – LONDON BOAT SHOW

How many journalists and from what media attended the press conference given by the Minister for Tourism at the London Boat Show in January?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

I did not attend the London Boat Show in January 2004 and hence I did not meet rally or event organisers there or give a press conference at the exhibition.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 968 AND 969 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

It has been the practice in the past for the Minister to attend this event, why did he not attend it on this occasion?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

It was my intention to attend the exhibition, however, it clashed with House of Assembly responsibilities and therefore I had to remain in Gibraltar.

ORAL

NO 970 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM – LONDON BOAT SHOW

What was the cost of attending the London Boat Show between 8 and 19 January, how many persons made up the official Gibraltar delegation and what offices do they hold?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 971 and 1038 to 1043 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 971 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM – FITUR

What was the cost of attending FITUR this year, how many persons made up the official Gibraltar delegation and what posts do they hold?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 970 and 1038 to 1043 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 972 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM – FITUR

Can Government say whether Gibraltar was represented at FITUR this year together with the Campo Mancomunidad?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 973 and 974 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 973 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM – FITUR

Can Government list the savings or projected savings made, with a breakdown, by attending FITUR with the Campo de Gibraltar instead of alone?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 972 and 974 of 2004.

NO 974 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM – FITUR

What did the joint tourist product marketed at the FITUR tourist fair in Madrid between Gibraltar and the Campo towns of the Mancomunidad consist of?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Gibraltar was not represented at FITUR this year together with the Mancomunidad del Campo de Gibraltar, nor was there a joint tourist product developed for FITUR or for any other purpose. Gibraltar and the Campo had separate stands as usual, and there were no savings because there was no joint initiative.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 973 AND 974 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Although Gibraltar did not attend it this year, is it the policy of the Government to find a way in which Gibraltar can attend together with the Mancomunidad in future events?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I held a meeting with the President and Vice-President of La Mancomunidad to explore possibilities, but let me say that it is my view that if we were to go down the route of doing any initiative with La Mancomunidad, that would be complimentary to what we already do and not as a substitute of what we do, because we in Gibraltar have a product to sell on our own right, whilst if we were to substitute that for a joint operation, we would lose out on what we have and we have a strong product to sell. So therefore, if we do anything with La Mancomunidad it would be complimentary to what we already do.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Whose initiative is it then, is this the initiative of the Government or the initiative of the Mancomunidad?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I cannot really square the responsibility for any possible initiative on either side, I think it is something that has been discussed in the past, officials have met on numerous occasions, nothing has really come out of this. We do not know as a result of the meeting that I held last Friday, whether something will come of this now. However, as I said, it would be complimentary to what we already do and not as a substitute to what we do at present.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In relation to one of the questions which mentioned what projected saving there would be, I take it then that that is not really a consideration it is simply the extra facilities which may be able to market together rather than the actual cost of saving made by attending together.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I think that is correct.

ORAL

NO 975 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM – BEACH LIFEGUARDS

Can Government say how many persons have applied for the posts of beach lifeguard as advertised on 14 April 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 976 to 978 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 976 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM – BEACH LIFEGUARDS

Can Government provide a breakdown by nationality, showing Gibraltarians, of the persons who have applied for the posts of beach lifeguard as advertised on 14 April 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 975, 977 and 978 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 977 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM – VISITOR INFORMATION PATROL OFFICERS

Can Government say how many persons have applied for the posts of temporary part-time Visitor Information Patrol Officers as advertised on 14 April 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 975, 976 and 978 of 2004.

NO 978 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM – VISITOR INFORMATION PATROL OFFICERS

Can Government provide a breakdown by nationality, showing Gibraltarians, of the persons who have applied for the posts of temporary part-time Visitor Information Patrol Officers as advertised on 14 April 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

A total of 37 persons applied for 28 vacancies as lifeguards. Of the applicants 35 were Gibraltarian and two were British.

A total of 46 persons applied for 12 vacancies as Visitor Information Patrol Officers. Of the applicants 43 were Gibraltarian and three were British.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 975, AND 976 TO 978 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Minister say whether these vacancies have now been filled in both these cases?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I am afraid I cannot confirm one way or the other but I am sure that they must be in the process of being done if they have not been done already.

ORAL

NO 979 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM – TOURIST SURVEY REPORT 2002

Can Government say how the expenditure by tourist arrivals at hotels shown in Table 5 of the Tourist Survey Report 2002 has been calculated?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 980 to 982 and 991 to 996 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 980 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM – TOURIST SURVEY REPORT 2003

Can Government say how the expenditure by tourist arrivals at hotels shown in Table 5 of the Tourist Survey Report 2003 has been calculated?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 979, 981, 982 and 991 to 996 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 981 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM – TOURIST EXPENDITURE – 2003

Can Government explain how the amount of tourists expenditure for 2003 attributed to "other" visitors was calculated?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 979, 980, 982 and 991 to 996 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 982 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM – TOURIST EXPENDITURE – 2002

Can Government explain how the amount of tourist expenditure for 2002 attributed to "other" visitors was calculated?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 979 to 981 and 991 to 996 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 983 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM – CRUISE SHIPS

Can Government say how many cruise ships cancelled calls to Gibraltar which were booked to take place in 2003?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 984 to 990 and 1012 to 1014 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 984 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM – CRUISE SHIPS

Can Government list the names of the different cruise ships that cancelled calls to Gibraltar during 2003, showing the date the cancelled call was due to take place?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 983, 985 to 990 and 1012 to 1014 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 985 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM – CRUISE SHIPS

Can Government state what reasons were given by each respective cruise operator for the cancellation of booked cruise calls to Gibraltar in 2003?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 983, 984, 986 to 990 and 1012 to 1014 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 986 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM – CRUISE SHIPS

Can Government say how many cruise ships have cancelled calls at Gibraltar which were booked to take place this year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 983 to 985, 987 to 990 and 1012 to 1014 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 987 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM – CRUISE CALLS – 2004

How many cruise calls are booked to take place during 2004 on a monthly basis?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 983 to 986, 988 to 990 and 1012 to 1014 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 988 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM – CRUISE CALLS – 2004

Can Government list the cruise calls expected at Gibraltar during 2004, showing the date of the call, name of the ship, the cruise lines and the local agent?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 983 to 987, 989, 990 and 1012 to 1014 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 989 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM – CRUISE SHIPS

Can Government list the names of the different cruise ships that cancelled calls to Gibraltar during 2004 to date, showing the date the cancelled call was due to take place?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 983 to 988, 990 and 1012 to 1014 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 990 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM – CRUISE SHIPS

Can Government state what reasons were given by each respective cruise operator for the cancellation of booked cruise calls to Gibraltar this year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 983 to 989 and 1012 to 1014 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 991 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM – EXCURSIONISTS FROM SPAIN

Can Government say how much of expenditure by excursionists from Spain in 2002 was due to coach arrivals and the number of persons involved, and how much was due to the number of persons crossing the land frontier other than by coach, and the number of persons involved?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 979 to 982 and 992 to 996 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 992 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM – EXCURSIONISTS FROM SPAIN

Can Government say how much of the expenditure by excursionists from Spain in 2003 was due to coach arrivals and the number of persons involved, and how much was due to the number of persons crossing the land frontier other than by coach, and the number of persons involved?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 979 to 982, 991 and 993 to 996 to 2004.

ORAL

NO 993 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM – VISITOR EXPENDITURE

Can Government say what was the average visitor expenditure per day on accommodation in 2002 in respect of the categories in Table 4 of the Tourist Survey Report for 2002, in respect of the categories in which the visitors stayed in Gibraltar and what was the average length of stay and the number of persons in each such category?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 979 to 982, 991, 992 and 994 to 996 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 994 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM – VISITOR EXPENDITURE

Can Government say what was the average visitor expenditure per day on accommodation in 2003 in respect of the categories in Table 4 of the Tourist Survey Report for 2003, in respect of the categories in which the visitors stayed in Gibraltar and what was the average length of stay and the number of persons in each such category?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 979 to 982, 991 to 993, 995 and 996 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 995 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM – VISITORS IN TRANSIT

Can Government say what was the figure for the number of visitors in transit shown in Table 5 of the Tourist Expenditure Survey Report for 2002?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 979 to 982, 991 to 994 and 996 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 996 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM – VISITORS IN TRANSIT

Can Government say what was the figure for the number of visitors in transit shown in Table 5 of the Tourist Expenditure Survey Report for 2003?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

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

Question 996 of 2004

SCHEDULE

Q. 979, 980, 982, 981

The method used to calculate tourist arrivals' expenditure at hotels and expenditure attributed to "other" visitors, as shown in table 5 of the Tourist Survey reports for 2002 and 2003, was made available to the Member opposite in response to Questions 207 and 209/2003.

Q. 991, 992

The expenditure by excursionists from Spain was as follows:

	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>
Excursionists arriving by coach	£ 11,992,000	£ 11,535,000
Other excursionists	£132,534,000	£155,884,000

The number of excursionists from Spain was as follows:

	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>
Excursionists arriving by coach	411,664	381,186
Other excursionists	6,390,279	6,503,285

Q 993, 994

Average visitor expenditure per day on accommodation in 2002 and 2003 was £60.00 per person per day, regardless of category of visitor.

The Average length of stay was:

<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	
3 days	3.1 days	for arrivals from Morocco and Spain
3.1 days	3 days	for arrivals from UK

The number of persons in each category was:

	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>
Arrivals from UK	31,578	39,088
Arrivals from Morocco	2,421	1,539
Arrivals from Spain	25,418	21,116

Q. 995, 996

The number of visitors in transit was:

2002	-	48,594
2003	-	61,663

NO 997 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM – NUMBER OF CRUISE PASSENGERS

Can Government say what is the figure for arriving cruise passengers who actually disembarked from calling cruise ships on a monthly basis for each month of 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004 to date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

The Gibraltar Tourist Board does not keep a record of figures of disembarking passengers.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 997 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The figures which are made available and which are published in relation to the cruise passengers calling at Gibraltar then are the actual cruise passengers on the ship, for the estimated capacity of the ship as opposed to the actual people who have disembarked. Is that the case?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No, the figures that we have and we publish are the figures that are being carried by the vessel when they call at Gibraltar. In fact passenger tax is based on that figure, whether they disembark or not is irrelevant.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

So the ship will pay the tax on the number of passengers that it is carrying and not on the number of passengers that land?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

That is correct.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Does it follow then that the calculations in the Tourist Expenditure Report is also based on the survey of the people who land and then on the assumption that the people that have not landed would have spent as much if they had landed?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I believe it has always been done based on the number of passengers that are actually on the vessel on arrival, whether they disembark or not is irrelevant.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The point is that then there is no way of knowing from the Tourist Expenditure Survey whether there is any change in the pattern of people coming ashore or not? The figure will always reflect as expenditure the questions put to the people that have been ashore and then multiplied.....

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Unless, and this is speculation, they have some sort of factor that they allow for people not disembarking. It may be that they have obtained information roughly about a percentage of passengers that tend not to disembark and multiply by the percentage that do. I am not saying that there is such a system, it is an interesting question and I think we should all know the answer to it. It may be that they do that.

ORAL

NO 998 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM ADVISORY COUNCIL

Can Government list the items that have been carried forward from the agenda of the old Tourism Advisory Council to the new one?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question No. 999 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 999 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM ADVISORY COUNCIL

How often and on what dates has the Tourism Advisory Council met since 26 September 2003?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Since 26 September 2003, the Tourism Advisory Council has met on the following date: 19 February 2004

The Government do not wish to give a public account of internal discussions within the Tourism Advisory Council.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 998 AND 999 OF 2004.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

I suppose the Minister will be able to say whether in fact there were items on the agenda carried forward from one to the other?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

There were not.

ORAL

NO 1000 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM – MINISTER’S OVERSEAS VISITS

Can the Minister for Tourism give the dates when he has been away from Gibraltar on Government business from 1 January 2004 to date, giving the event or function attended, the venue, the city and the country visited?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

I have been away as follows:-

26 January 2004 FITUR, Madrid

26 February to 3 March 2004 London for the UKGTA meeting, other tourism related meetings, the Stampex exhibition, the Tercentenary thanksgiving service and the MPs dinner.

ORAL

NO 1001 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM – BARBARY APES

Can Government say how many packs and how many apes inhabited the Upper Rock as at 31 March 2003, showing where each pack is usually located?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question No. 1002 of 2004.

NO 1002 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM – BARBARY APES

Have any apes been killed in 2004 to date and if so how many and when?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

As at 31st March 2004, there were 209 apes, divided into 5 packs as follows:-

Middle Hill	65 apes
Philip II Arch	52 apes
Anglian Way	36 apes
Apes Den	34 apes
Farringdon Barracks	22 apes

Two apes have been killed in 2004: both were run over by taxis on 18 March 2004 and 12 April 2004. None have been culled in 2004.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1001 AND 1002 OF 2004

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

Are there any plans to cull them?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

This issue is always under constant review.

NO 1003 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PARSON'S LODGE

Can Government say how many persons visited Parson's Lodge in 2003 and to date in 2004 on a monthly basis?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

This site is operated by the Gibraltar Heritage Trust and not by the Government. The information requested should be sought from the Trust.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1003 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Are Government not interested in keeping a record of how many visitors arrive at this site?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Obviously the Government are interested in keeping records of arrivals in our sites but this site, that is, Parson's Lodge, is operated by the Gibraltar Heritage Trust.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Does the Trust not obtain a subsidy or some type of Government funding which allows them to assist them with the running of that particular site?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I do not think that there are any funds available to the Trust in respect of this.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, not in respect of this, there is no specific subsidy for this site but I think the Heritage Trust generally gets financial assistance from Government. I think they get a percentage of the museum takings. I think they get 5 per cent of the takings of the museum or some such quantity.

ORAL

NO 1004 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM – NEW AIRLINE

Can Government say whether they have opened discussions with a new airline interested in flying to and from Gibraltar since the answer to Question No 359 of 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question No. 1005 of 2004.

NO 1005 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM – AIRLINES

With how many of the four airlines that the Government were in discussion with in January do discussions continue?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Active discussions continue with three of the airlines. Discussions are on the back burner with the fourth airline, but they may resume. In addition, I have entered discussions with two new airlines.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1004 AND 1005 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Minister say whether any of the three airlines with which discussions continue, or the two new airlines which he started discussions with, will open a route to Morocco or to Heathrow?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

As has been the case in previous times when questions like this have been raised, we do not feel that it is worthwhile commenting while negotiations are on-going.

ORAL

NO 1006 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM – SCHEDULED FLIGHTS

How many flights a week were timetabled between Gibraltar and London Gatwick in June and January in the years 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question No. 1007 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1007 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM – CANCELLED FLIGHTS

How many flights between Gibraltar and London Gatwick have been cancelled on a monthly basis since November 2003?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

The information sought in this question is too voluminous and I therefore hand to the hon Member a schedule giving the information requested.

SCHEDULE

Q1007

The information sought in respect of flights between Gibraltar and London Gatwick is not kept on a weekly basis, but on a monthly basis. The information provided is therefore for the months of January and June.

a) FLIGHTS PER MONTH TIMETABLED BETWEEN GIBRALTAR AND LONDON GATWICK

	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>
January	50	45	16	53	40
June	50	30	59	59	

The following flights between Gibraltar and London Gatwick were cancelled:

November 2003	8
December 2003	6
January 2004	23
February 2004	19
March 2004	6

ORAL

NO 1008 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM – HOTEL ARREARS

What amounts are due and owing to Government by hotels broken down by item and in respect of which period these monies become due as at 31 March 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question No. 1009 of 2004.

NO 1009 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM – HOTEL ASSISTANCE SCHEME

Can Government say what amounts are due to Government in respect of loans under the Hotel Assistance Scheme, listing the hotels in question and the amounts repaid to date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

The amount owed by hotels in respect of historical arrears is £10,850, broken down as follows:

Electricity	£9,685
Social Insurance	£1,165

The amount paid and remaining payable by hotels in respect of loans made under the Hotel Assistance Scheme per hotel is as follows:-

Bell Hotel Ltd	£ 125,000 paid
	£ 875,000 outstanding
G & JB Hotels Ltd	£ 72,500 paid
	£1,377,500 outstanding
Rock Hotel	£ 178,224 paid
	£1,247,566 outstanding

NO 1010 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM – HOTELS – GRADING SCHEME

When was the last inspection of hotels carried out in respect of their star grading, by whom, and with what results in respect of each hotel?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

The RAC carried out the last inspection of hotels under the grading scheme in June 2003, and the following grading was given to each hotel:-

4 stars	Caleta Hotel Eliott Hotel Rock Hotel
1 star	Continental Hotel
1 diamond	Cannon Hotel

The Bristol Hotel and the Queen's Hotel chose not to participate in the hotel grading scheme in 2003. Since writing the answer to this question, the Queen's Hotel has now opted to join the scheme and will then be subsequently inspected at the next round.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1010 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

This inspection was carried out by the RAC. They were not the firm that carried out the original inspection of hotels, is that right?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

That is correct.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

When was this changed and for what reason?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

The change was carried out because previously this was done by a company called QAC, which ceased operation in the grading of hotels in the UK and Wales. The RAC was an internationally recognised assessor of hotel grades and we were extremely happy to have been able to get them to include Gibraltar in their grading system.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Who pays for the grading, the hotels or the Government?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No, the Government paid for the grading.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In relation to the two hotels that chose not to participate, is it the Government's view that all hotels in Gibraltar should take part in this exercise or not?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes. However, the issue in respect of the Bristol and Queen's Hotel was that they do not have restaurant facility, so therefore under the RAC grading a hotel can only be graded with a star, be it whatever level of star it is, if it has restaurant facilities. So therefore they did not want to be classified under the diamond regime, which has happened to the Cannon Hotel for example. I believe the Queen's Hotel are now addressing this and therefore they want to join the scheme. It is obvious both from the Gibraltar Tourist Board and from the hotels themselves, that they wish to be part of the scheme because it is a selling and marketing tool for them to be able to sell their product internationally under a recognised band.

NO 1011 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM – VISIT BY MOROCCAN TOURISM MINISTER

Can Government say if any date has been set for an official visit by the Moroccan Tourism Minister to Gibraltar, or by the Gibraltar Tourism Minister to Morocco?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

No date has yet been set.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1011 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

I think this issue first arose in FITUR, perhaps as much as a year ago, and since then I have been asking the question to see whether the meeting actually materialises. Is this something which is still on the cards and which may happen or have the Government of Morocco and the Government of Gibraltar decided not to pursue this avenue any more?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No, there has been contact at official level between the Ministry of Tourism in Morocco and the Ministry of Tourism in Gibraltar. Tentative dates were actually agreed just before the Madrid bombing, and in the light of what had happened we decided that we would postpone the meeting until a later date.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Within what time scale is it envisaged that such a visit may now take place?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

We are currently waiting for the Ministry in Morocco to revert with some possible dates, but they have not done so.

ORAL

NO 1012 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM – CRUISE SHIPS

Can Government list the names of actual cruise ships that called at Gibraltar in 2002 on a monthly basis?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 983 to 990, 1013 and 1014 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1013 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM – CRUISE SHIPS

Can Government list the names of the actual cruise ships that called at Gibraltar in 2003 on a monthly basis?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 983 to 990, 1012 and 1014 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1014 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM – CRUISE SHIPS

Can Government list the names of the actual cruise ships that called at Gibraltar in 2004 to date on a monthly basis?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

The information sought in this question is too voluminous to be read out in this House, I hand the hon Member a schedule giving the information requested in the question.

Question 983 – 986, 989,990

14 cruise ships cancelled calls to Gibraltar which were booked to take place in 2003.

The cancelled calls were as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Vessels Name</u>
05/03/03	Bordeaux
19/03/03	Bordeaux
27/03/03	Bordeaux
02/04/03	Bordeaux
10/3/03	Bordeaux
16/04/03	Bordeaux
12/5/03	Grand Princess
30/05/03	Royal Princess
07/07/03	Prisendam
12/09/03	Princess Danae
17/09/03	Ocean Monarch
23/10/03	Funchal
28/10/03	Constellation
01/11/03	Oceania
02/11/03	Funchal
05/11/03	Marco Polo
09/11/03	Andrea
19/11/03	Adonia
20/11/03	Bordeaux
20/11/03	Funchal
27/11/03	Funchal
01/12/08	Costa Fortuna

To date two cruise ships have cancelled calls to Gibraltar this year. The cancelled calls are as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name of Vessel</u>
19/03/04	Black Prince
27/03/04	Black Prince
17/04/04	Olympia Explorer
23/04/04	Black Prince

No reasons were given for the cancellations by the cruise companies.

Question 987 and 988

Cruise calls expected at Gibraltar in 2004, from 1st May 2004, with date of call, name of ship, cruise line and local agent:

Date of Appt.	Vessel	Company	
Thu 06 May 04	Millenium	Celebrity	S. Imossi
Fri 07 May 04	Adonia	P & O	Bland
Sat 08 May 04	Funchal	Classic	Bland
		International	
Sat 08 May 04	Thornson Spirit	Thornson Cruises	Bland
Sun 09 May 04	Saga Rose	Saga	Inchcape
Mon 10 May 04	Astor	Transocean	Bland
Mon 10 May 04	Silver Wind	Silversea	Bland
Tue 11 May 04	Ocean Majesty	Page & Moy	Inchcape
Wed 12 May 04	Royal Princess	Princess	Bland
Fri 14 May 04	Astor	Transocean	Bland
Fri 14 May 04	Ocean Majesty	Page & Moy	Inchcape
Fri 14 May 04	Caronia	Cunard	Bland
Fri 14 May 04	Sea Cloud II	Sea Cloud	Bland
Mon 17 May 04	Crystal Symphony	Cystal	S. Imossi
Mon 17 May 04	Galaxy	Celebrity	S. Imossi
Tue 18 May 04	Oriana	P & O	Bland
Tue 18 May 04	Prinsendam	Holland America	Turner
Wed 19 May 04	Carousel	My Travel	Maritime
Wed 19 May 04	Cystal Serenity	Crystal	S. Imossi
Fri 21 May 04	Black Watch	Fred Olsen	Inchcape
Fri 21 May 04	Kristina Regina	Kristina Cruises	Bland
Sat 22 May 04	Costa Marina	Costa	L. Imossi
Sat 22 May 04	Coronia	Cunard	Bland
Wed 26 May 04	Oceana	P & O	Bland
Thu 27 May 04	Queen Mary 2	Cunard	Bland
Fri 28 May 04	Europa	Hapag Lloyd	Bland
Fri 28 May 04	Le Diamant	Cie Des Iles Du Ponant	Barwil
Fri 28 May 04	Marco Polo	Orient	S. Imossi

28 CRUISE CALLS EXPECTED IN MAY

Sun 06 Jun 04	Aurora	P & O	Bland
Mon 07 Jun 04	Westerdam	Holland America	Turner
Thu 10 Jun 04	Seadream I	Seadream Cruises	Bland

Mon 14 Jun 04	Oriana	P & O	Bland
Tue 15 Jun 04	Seadream I	Seadream Cruises	Bland
Wed 16 Jun 04	Carousel	MyTravel	Maritima
Sat 19 Jun 04	Thomson Spirit	Thomson Cruises	Bland
Tue 29 Jun 04	Aurora	P & O	Bland
Wed 30 Jun 04	Carousel	My Travel	Maritima

10 CRUISE CALLS EXPECTED IN JUNE

Sat 03 Jul 04	Caronia	Cunard	Bland
Tue 06 Jul 04	Adonia	P & O	Bland
Wed 07 Jul 04	Oceana	P & O	Bland
Wed 14 Jul 04	Carousel	MyTravel	Martima
Fri 16 Jul 04	Costa Romantica	Costa	L. Imossi
Wed 21 Jul 04	Minerva II	Swan Hellenic	Bland
Wed 21 Jul 04	Monterey	MSC	Maritima
Wed 21 Jul 04	Adonia	P & O	Bland
Tue 27 Jul 04	Queen Elizabeth 2	Cunard	Bland
Tue 27 Jul 04	Oriana	P & O	Bland
Wed 28 Jul 04	The World	Residensea	Barwil
Wed 28 Jul 04	Carousel	My Travel	Maritima
Sat 31 Jul 04	Thomson Spirit	Thomson Cruises	Bland

13 CRUISE CALLS EXPECTED IN JULY

Sun 01 Aug 04	Van Gogh	Travelscope	Inchcape
Tue 03 Aug 04	Queen Elizabeth 2	Cunard	Bland
Wed 04 Aug 04	Rotterdam	Holland America	Turner
Fri 06 Aug 04	Costa Romantica	Costa	L. Imossi
Fri 06 Aug 04	Queen Mary 2	Cunard	Bland
Fri 06 Aug 04	Royal Princess	Princess	Bland
Sun 08 Aug 04	Black Watch	Fred Olsen	Inchcape
Mon 09 Aug 04	Van Gogh	Travelscope	Inchcape
Wed 11 Aug 04	Aurora	P & O	Bland
Wed 11 Aug 04	Carousel	MyTravel	Maritima
Mon 16 Aug 04	Royal Princess	Princess	Bland
Tue 17 Aug 04	Van Gogh	Travelscope	Inchcape
Wed 25 Aug 04	Van Gogh	Travelscope	Inchcape
Wed 25 Aug 04	Carousel	My Travel	Maritima
Thu 26 Aug 04	Monterey	MSC	Maritima
Thu 26 Aug 04	Oceana	P & O	Bland
Fri 27 Aug 04	Caronia	Cunard	Bland
Fri 27 Aug 04	Oriana	P & O	Bland

18 CRUISE CALLS EXPECTED IN AUGUST

Wed 01 Sep 04	Sea Cloud II	Sea Cloud	Bland
Thu 02 Sep 04	Van Gogh	Travelscope	Inchcape
Sat 04 Sep 04	Funchal	Classic International	Bland
Mon 06 Sep 04	Endeavour	Noble Caledonia	Turner
Tue 07 Sep 04	Galaxy	Celebrity	S. Imossi
Tue 07 Sep 04	Queen Mary 2	Cunard	Bland
Wed 08 Sep 04	Carousel	My Travel	Maritima
Wed 08 Sep 04	Oriana	P & O	Bland
Thu 09 Sep 04	Sea Cloud II	Sea Cloud	Bland
Thu 09 Sep 04	Rotterdam	Holland America	Turner
Fri 10 Sep 04	Kristina Regina	Kristina Cruises	Bland
Fri 10 Sep 04	Van Gogh	Travelscope	Inchcape
Fri 10 Sep 04	Sea Cloud II	Sea Cloud	Bland
Sat 11 Sep 04	Royal Princess	Princess	Bland
Sat 11 Sep 04	Thomson Spirit	Thomson Cruises	Bland
Tue 14 Sep 04	Paloma I	Hansa Kreuzfahrten	Tarik
Tue 14 Sep 04	Queen Elizabeth 2	Cunard	Bland
Wed 15 Sep 04	Funchal	Classic International	Bland
Fri 17 Sep 04	Saga Rose	Saga	Inchcape
Fri 17 Sep 04	Costa Romantica	Costa	L. Imossi
Fri 17 Sep 04	Star Princess	Princess	Bland
Sat 18 Sep 04	Van Gogh	Travelscope	Inchcape
Sun 19 Sep 04	Adonia	P & O	Bland
Sun 19 Sep 04	Arion	Classic International	Bland
Sun 19 Sep 04	Noordam	Holland America	Turner
Tue 21 Sep 04	Prinsendam	Holland America	Turner
Tue 21 Sep 04	Queen Elizabeth 2	Cunard	Bland
Tue 21 Sep 04	Marco Polo	Orient	S. Imossi
Wed 22 Sep 04	Carousel	My Travel	Maritima
Fri 24 Sep 04	Berlin	Peter Deilmann	Maritima
Sun 26 Sep 04	Van Gogh	Travelscope	Inchcape
Mon 27 Sep 04	Nautica	TMR	S. Imossi
Mon 27 Sep 04	Funchal	Classic International	Bland
Wed 29 Sep 04	Costa Europa	Costa	L. Imossi
Wed 29 Sep 04	Black Prince	Fred Olsen	Inchcape
Wed 29 Sep 04	Saga Pearl	Saga	Inchcape

36 CALLS EXPECTED IN SEPTEMBER

Sun 03 Oct 04	Oceana	P & O	Bland
Mon 04 Oct 04	Van Gogh	Travelscope	Inchcape
Mon 04 Oct 04	Black Watch	Fred Olsen	Inchcape
Wed 06 Oct 04	Carousel	MyTravel	Maritima
Thu 07 Oct 04	Costa Europa	Costa	L. Imossi
Sat 09 Oct 04	Funchal	Classic International	Bland
Mon 11 Oct 04	Oriana	P & O	Bland
Tue 12 Oct 04	Black Prince	Fred Olsen	Inchcape
Fri 15 Oct 04	Costa Europa	Costa	L. Imossi
Fri 15 Oct 04	Saga Rose	Saga	Inchcape
Sun 17 Oct 04	Caronia	Cunard	Bland
Sun 17 Oct 04	Funchal	Classic International	Bland
Sun 17 Oct 04	Berlin	Peter Deilmann	Maritima
Tue 19 Oct 04	Oceana	P & O	Bland
Wed 20 Oct 04	Club Med 2	Club Med	Bland
Wed 20 Oct 04	Adonia	P & O	Bland
Wed 20 Oct 04	Carousel	MyTravel	Maritima
Sat 23 Oct 04	Costa Europa	Costa	L. Imossi
Mon 25 Oct 04	Queen Elizabeth 2	Cunard	Bland
Tue 26 Oct 04	Funchal	Classic International	Bland
Thu 28 Oct 04	Queen Mary 2	Cunard	Bland
Thu 28 Oct 04	Braemar	Fred Olsen	Inchcape
Sat 30 Oct 04	Seabourn Legend	Seabourn	Bland
Sat 30 Oct 04	Thornson Spirit	Thornson Cruises	Bland
Sun 31 Oct 04	Costa Europa	Costa	L. Imossi

25 CALLS EXPECTED IN OCTOBER

Mon 01 Nov 04	Crystal Serenity	Crystal	S. Imossi
Mon 01 Nov 04	Aurora	P & O	Bland
Thu 04 Nov 04	Funchal	Classic International	Bland
Fri 05 Nov 04	Black Watch	Fred Olsen	Inchcape
Sat 06 Nov 04	Kristina Regina	Kristina Cruises	Bland
Tue 09 Nov 04	Millenium	Celebrity	S. Imossi
Tue 09 Nov 04	Oriana	P & O	Bland
Thu 11 Nov 04	Queen Elizabeth 2	Cunard	Bland
Thu 11 Nov 04	Noordam	Holland America	Turner
Mon 15 Nov 04	Westerdam	Holland America	Turner

Wed 17 Nov 04	Splendour Of The Seas	RCCI	S. Imossi
Fri 26 Nov 04	Costa Tropicale	Costa	L. Imossi
Tue 30 Nov 04	Vistamar	Marline	Turner

13 CALLS EXPECTED IN NOVEMBER

Thu 02 Dec 04	Black Prince	Fred Olsen	Inchcape
Wed 08 Dec 04	Costa Mediterranea	Costa	L. Imossi
Wed 08 Dec 04	Delphin Renaissance	Delphin Cruises	Bland
Sun 12 Dec 04	Discovery	Voyages of Discovery	Bland
Fri 24 Dec 04	Van Gogh 2	Club Cruises	Inchcape
Fri 24 Dec 04	Van Gogh	Travelscope	Inchcape

6 CALLS EXPECTED IN DECEMBER

Schedule

Question 1012

Cruise calls in 2002, on a monthly basis:

January - None

NAME OF CRUISE SHIP	MONTH
Costa Victoria	Feb
Black Watch	Mar
Paloma	Mar
Berlin	Mar
Costa Tropicale	Mar
Black Watch	Apr
Sun Bay	Apr
Norwegian Dream	Apr
Victoria	Apr
Black Prince	Apr
Silver Cloud	Apr
Paloma	Apr
Black Prince	Apr
Funchal	Apr
Sea Cloud II	Apr
Noordam	Apr
The Topaz	Apr
Oriana	Apr
C Columbus	Apr
Black Watch	May
Carousel	May
Aurora	May
Saga Rose	May
Astor	May
Astoria	May
Golden Princess	May
Aurora	May
Kristina Regina	May
Monterey	May
Sea Cloud II	May
Caronia	May
Ocean Majesty	May
Black Watch	May
Oriana	May
Noordam	May
Arcadia	May

Braemar	June
Silver Shadow	June
Queen Elizabeth II	June
Aurora	June
Black Prince	June
Arcadia	June
Monterey	June
Oriana	July
Van Gogh	July
Odysseus	July
Van Gogh	July
Odysseus	July
Aurora	July
Victoria	July
Odysseus	July
Van Gogh	July
Caronia	July
Monterey	July
Arcadia	July
Odysseus	July
Van Gogh	Aug
Oriana	Aug
Odysseus	Aug
Van Gogh	Aug
Odysseus	Aug
Van Gogh	Aug
Aurora	Aug
Crystal Symphony	Aug
Oriana	Aug
Odysseus	Aug
Funchal	Aug
Monterey	Aug
Caronia	Aug
Can Gogh	Aug
Odysseus	Aug
Princess Danae	Aug
Sea Cloud II	Aug
Caronia	Sep
Van Gogh	Sep
Odysseus	Sep
Braemar	Sep
Funchal	Sep
Van Gogh	Sep
Odysseus	Sep
Arcadia	Sep
Noordam	Sep

Paloma	Sep
Victoria	Sep
Arcadia	Sep
Ocean Majesty	Sep
Odysseus	Sep
Van Gogh	Sep
Kristina Regina	Sep
Maxim Gorky	Sep
Kristina Regina	Sep
Song of Flower	Sep
Black Prince	Sep
Black Watch	Sep
Sundream	Sep
Odysseus	Sep
Costa Marina	Sep
Van Gogh	Sep
Ocean Majesty	Sep
Costa Romantica	Oct
Odysseus	Oct
Caronia	Oct
Van Gogh	Oct
Black Prince	Oct
Monterey	Oct
Sundream	Oct
Odysseus	Oct
Costa Romantica	Oct
Aurora	Oct
Marco Polo	Oct
Oriana	Oct
Arcadia	Oct
Odysseus	Oct
Noordam	Oct
Costa Allegra	Oct
Costa Romantica	Oct
Black Watch	Oct
Caronia	Oct
Noordam	Oct
Victoria	Oct
Costa Romantica	Oct
The Topaz	Oct
Van Gogh	Oct
Constellation	Oct
Crystal Symphony	Oct
Caronia	Oct
Eleftherios Venizelos	Oct
Carousel	Oct

Kristina Regina	Nov
Van Gogh	Nov
Kristina Regina	Nov
Aurora	Nov
Pacific Princess	Nov
Princess Danae	Nov
Maxim Gorky	Nov
Oriana	Nov
Caronia	Nov
Van Gogh	Nov
Aurora	Nov
Van Gogh	Nov
Noordam	Nov
Van Gogh	Nov
Black Watch	Dec
Vistamar	Dec
Astor	Dec
Costa Europa	Dec
Black Prince	Dec
Black Watch	Dec
Black Prince	Dec

Question 1013

Cruise calls in 2003, on a monthly basis:

January – None
February - None

<u>Name of Cruise</u>	<u>Month</u>
Black Prince	Mar
Black Prince	Mar
Kristina Regina	Mar
Seabourn Pride	Apr
Black Watch	Apr
Oriana	Apr
Black Watch	Apr
Olympia Voyager	Apr
Noordam	Apr
Carousel	Apr
Adriana	May
Discovery	May
Ocean Village	May
Caronia	May
Albatros	May

Sea Cloud II	May
Black Prince	May
Royal Princess	May
Oceana	May
Millenium	May
Kristina Regina	May
Ocean Majesty	May
Black Watch	May
Oriana	May
Astoria	May
Silver Whisper	May
Aurora	May
Sea Cloud II	May
Costa Marina	May
Black Watch	May
Caronia	May
World Renaissance	May
Costa Allegra	May
Triton	May
World Renaissance	May
Costa Marina	May
Caronia	May
Noordam	June
Adonia	June
World Renaissance	June
Monterey	June
World Renaissance	June
Sundream	June
Oceana	June
World Renaissance	June
Costa Mediterranea	June
Black Prince	June
World Renaissance	June
Wind Surf	June
Adonia	July
World Renaissance	July
Van Gogh	July
Aurora	July
Oriana	July
World Renaissance	July
Van Gogh	July
World Renaissance	July
Oriana	July
Oceana	July
Van Gogh	July
World Renaissance	July

Monterey	July
Caronia	July
Crystal Serenity	July
World Renaissance	July
Van Gogh	July
QE II	July
World Renaissance	Aug
Van Gogh	Aug
Adonia	Aug
World Renaissance	Aug
Aurora	Aug
Oriana	Aug
Van Gogh	Aug
Aurora	Aug
World Renaissance	Aug
Silver Cloud	Aug
Princess Danae	Aug
Van Gogh	Aug
World Renaissance	Aug
Sea Cloud II	Sep
Van Gogh	Sep
World Renaissance	Sep
Princess Danae	Sep
Golden Princess	Sep
Van Gogh	Sep
World Renaissance	Sep
Oceana	Sep
Caronia	Sep
Funchal	Sep
Kristina Regina	Sep
Arion	Sep
QE2	Sep
Van Gogh	Sep
Discovery	Sep
World Renaissance	Sep
Noordam	Sep
Paloma I	Sep
Adonia	Sep
Black Prince	Sep
Sundream	Sep
Oriana	Sep
World Renaissance	Sep
Van Gogh	Sep
Ocena Majesty	Sep
Funchal	Sep
Royal Princess	Sep

Costa Romantica	Oct
Monterey	Oct
World Renaissance	Oct
Deutschland	Oct
Black Princess	Oct
Ocean Princess	Oct
Silver Cloud	Oct
Adonia	Oct
Oceana	Oct
World Renaissance	Oct
Costa Romantica	Oct
Royal Princess	Oct
Oosterdam	Oct
Aurora	Oct
Oosterdam	Oct
Royal Princess	Oct
Costa Romantica	Oct
Sundream	Oct
Oceana	Oct
Black Watch	Oct
Marco Polo	Oct
Rhapsody	Oct
C.Columbus	Oct
Millenium	Oct
Costa Romantica	Oct
Carousel	Oct
Kristina Regina	Oct
Regatta	Nov
Kristina Regina	Nov
Sea Cloud	Nov
Aurora	Nov
Splendour of the Seas	Nov
Costa Romantica	Nov
Marco Polo	Nov
Adonia	Nov
Astor	Nov
Black Watch	Nov
Mona Lisa	Nov
Maxim Gorkiy	Nov
Van Gogh	Nov
Oosterdam	Nov
Marco Polo	Nov
Black Prince	Nov
Aurora	Nov
Noordam	Nov
Island Escape	Nov

Caronia	Nov
Discovery	Nov
Van Gogh	Nov
Melody	Nov
Vistamar	Nov
Costa Fortuna	Nov
Royal Princess	Dec
Discovery	Dec
Costa Tropicale	Dec
Thomson Spirit	Dec
Black Prince	Dec
Van Gogh	Dec
Costa Europa	Dec
Msc Lirica	Dec

Question 1014

Cruise calls in 2004, on a monthly basis:

February - None

<u>Name of Cruise</u>	<u>Month</u>
Costa Europa	Jan
Black Prince	Jan
Astoria	Mar
Adriana	Mar
Caronia	Mar
Norwegian Dream	Apr
Clipper Adventurer	Apr
Kristina Regina	Apr
Braemar	Apr
Astoria	Apr
Seabourn Pride	Apr
Aurora	Apr
Paloma 1	Apr
Funchal	Apr
Astoria	Apr
Nautica	Apr

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 983 TO 990 AND 1012 TO 1014 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In relation to the cancellation of calls at Gibraltar by cruise ships this year, obviously since the answer to the question was prepared I assume the latest developments in relation to the three calls that have not taken place, in which one I understand was a booked call, can the confirm to the House the reasons for the cancellation of these last three calls that were due to take place, and confirm what action the Government are taking to pursue the matter? Certainly Opposition Members take a very serious view of developments in relation to reports that have appeared indicating that the Spanish Foreign Ministry have once again taken the view that calls from Gibraltar to a Spanish port is something that they want to target.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Government take an equally serious view and wish to avoid making statements that will exacerbate the matter at a time when we understand Spain is trying to work hard to remedy the matter, and we are just abiding time for a day or two, the priority has got to be to restore the status quo ante which is that this has always been Spain's position but that under the previous government it had waived it. In other words it was not implementing it. The underlying position is not new, it has always been Spain's position but the previous government chose not to implement it. We understand that in the interregnum in change of governments and a new minister has not yet taken possession, a new No. 2 has not yet taken possession, that there is an officer at that particular port who is unilaterally decided to implement the policy. Now, we understand that that situation is being resolved and that we hope that by the end of this week the situation will have been normalised. If it does not happen, it will be an extremely serious development which will bring in its wake, I think, great ramifications and consequences in other policy areas, but we believe that there has been no conscious decision by the Spanish Foreign Ministry to activate the implementation of their policy, and the truth is that it has not happened in other ports in Spain where there have been ships in the same period of time. For example, as nearby as Malaga ships have come. So we understand that there is an element of frolic of own of a person in the Barcelona port and that the Spanish administration is dealing with it. We think it is preferable to give them that opportunity to deal with it than to come out making inflammatory remarks that may make it harder for them to deal with it, but of course we cannot keep that position indefinitely or even for very long.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The last time it happened it was resolved as a result of the intervention of the UK Foreign Office or what?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The last time yes, there was some local contact and there was some UK contact and it was resolved. The position of the Partido Popular element is that this is not a policy which although they were not willing to abandon it on paper, that they were not

implementing. It would be grossly ironical if the socialist government reversed that concessionary position, as they see it, and have an even tougher policy, so we tend to think that the information that we are getting that this is not a formal government decision, we see the logic. It would not be logical for the PSOE to be even more aggressive than the PP on this issue. That is why we have been persuaded to bite our tongue and to pursue a public profile on this which facilitates a resolution in the interests of Gibraltar rather than exacerbate it.

NO 1015 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM – MARINA OCCUPANCY

Can Government say whether Marina operators have now supplied them with Marina occupancy figures for 2001, 2002 and 2003 which they promised to forward to the Opposition?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Yes Sir.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1015 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

I should point out that since this Question was Tabled the Minister has already sent me the figures,

ORAL

NO 1016 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM – ST MICHAEL'S CAVE

How much did the company that installed the sound and light system at St Michael's Cave charge the Government for training members of the Electricity Authority to carry out the maintenance?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question No. 1017 of 2004.

NO 1017 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM – ST MICHAEL'S CAVE

Has an annual fee been agreed with the Electricity Authority for the maintenance of the sound and light system at St Michael's Cave and if so what is it?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

There was no charge for the training, but the £585 accommodation costs of the trainers was met. No annual maintenance fee has as yet been agreed with the Electricity Authority.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1016 AND 1017 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

So who is carrying out the maintenance at present?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

The Electricity Authority.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

They are doing it on the basis of some agreement that might happen in the future which will result in them receiving any money?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

That is correct.

NO 1018 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM – GDC EMPLOYEES

Can Government say how many employees of the Gibraltar Development Corporation are employed in tourism as at 31 March 2004, with a breakdown showing specific area of employment?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

A total of 73 Gibraltar Development Corporation employees are employed in tourism as at 31 March 2004 as follows:

Management	8 persons
Marketing	4 persons
Administration, Accounts and Reception	4 persons
Terminals	7 persons
Information Officers	8 persons
Upper Rock	37 persons
Ape keepers	2 persons
Messenger	1 person
Madrid Office	2 persons

NO 1019 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM – REVENUE RAISED

Can Government say how much revenue has been raised on a monthly basis from January 2004 inclusive:

- (a) by charging coaches that use the coach park;
- (b) in admission fees to the Upper Rock;
- (c) in entrance fees to the Gibraltar Museum;
- (d) in entrance fees to the Moorish Castle;
- (e) in entrance fees to St Michael's Cave;
- (f) in entrance fees to Parson's Lodge;
- (g) in entrance fees to the Siege Tunnels?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

There is no separate admission fee for the Moorish Castle, St Michael's Cave or the Upper Galleries. Parson's Lodge is not a Gibraltar Government tourist site. It is operated by the Gibraltar Heritage Trust, to whom the question of admission fees should be addressed.

The revenue from admission charges to the Museum per month, was as follows:

January 2004	£1,343
February 2004	£2,129
March 2004	£2,711

The revenue from admission fees to the Upper Rock per month, was as follows:

January 2004	£ 80,171
February 2004	£100,050
March 2004	£151,228

Coach Park fees per month were as follows:

January 2004	£4,520
February 2004	£5,549
March 2004	£8,831

ORAL

NO 1020 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM – PERSONS INTERVIEWED

Can Government say how many interviews with persons who said that they had stayed at a hotel have been carried out since December 2003 inclusive, on a monthly basis, stating where they were interviewed and the number interviewed at each location?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question No. 1021 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1021 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM – 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 December 2003 inclusive, on a monthly basis, stating where they were interviewed and the number interviewed at each location?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

The information sought in this question is handed over to the hon Gentleman in a schedule giving the information requested.

Answer to Question 1021 of 2004

Q 1021

**PERSONS WHO STAYED AT HOTELS:
INTERVIEWS CARRIED OUT SINCE DECEMBER 2003**

	Total Interviews	Persons who stayed at Hotel	Place of Interview	
			Airport	Frontier
December 2003	1392	2	-	2
January 2004	1682	16	11	5
February 2004	1715	6	1	5

The information in respect of March 2004 is not yet available.

Q 1020

**PERSONS WHO DID NOT STAY AT HOTELS:
INTERVIEWS CARRIED OUT SINCE DECEMBER 2003**

	Total Interviews	Place of Interview			
		Airport	Frontier	Marina	Coach Park
December 2003	1390	-	1349	41	-
January 2004	1666	17	1520	10	119
February 2004	1709	5	1571	12	121

The information in respect of March 2004 is not yet available.

NO 1022 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM – PERSONS INTERVIEWED

Can Government say of the number of persons who have been interviewed since December 2003 inclusive, who said that they had not stayed at a hotel, how many were interviewed at the airport, how many were interviewed at the land frontier, and how many were interviewed elsewhere, and in each case what was the average length of stay in hotels?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

The statistical information requested was given in reply to Question No. 1021. The questionnaire asks about the average length of stay in hotels. The answer is zero, given that the question refers to persons who did not stay in hotels.

NO 1023 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TRADE – COUNTERFEIT GOODS

Can Government say whether they intend to legislate against the importation into and sale of counterfeit goods in Gibraltar, and if so when?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Yes, but Government are not in a position to say when. Legislation will be published when Government are ready to do so. This is not imminent. It is a complex issue that requires consultation. In the meantime, and as the hon Member should be aware, there is already some law on this issue, which has recently been used successfully in court.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1023 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Minister say whether this process of consultation to which he refers, presumably with the Chamber of Commerce and the Federation of Small Businesses and any other interested party, has already commenced?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No.

ORAL

NO 1024 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TRADE – POWER CHIPS PLC

Has any more contact taken place between the Government and Power Chips PLC with a view to setting up a manufacturing facility in Gibraltar?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

No Sir.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1024 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Minister tell the House then at what stage the original enquiry is, whether that is being pursued or not, or is simply static?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I think there was, I hope that the hon Member will not seek to hold me too much to this answer, I think there was one or possibly two meetings with officials at a relatively junior level. I do not think it got beyond that.

ORAL

NO 1025 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TRADE – BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL

Can Government list the topics that were discussed at the first meeting of the Business Advisory Council?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1026 and 1027 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1026 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TRADE – BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL

Can Government say what are the opportunities that will be explored by the Business Advisory Council to see how the business environment can be improved to create additional sustainable jobs in the economy?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1025 and 1027 of 2004.

NO 1027 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TRADE – BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL

Can Government list the issues that are of importance to small and medium size enterprises in Gibraltar, and to commerce in general, on which the advice of the Business Advisory Council will be of assistance to the Government?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

The advice of the Business Advisory Council will be of assistance to the Government in all issues of importance to business in Gibraltar.

The Government will not list the topics discussed at the first or any meeting of the Council. The Council is an on-going advisory body to the Government.

I would expect the Council to explore all opportunities available to business to improve the business environment.

ORAL

NO 1028 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

TQS

Can Government state what payments have been made to TQS since 1996 and what services have been provided by this company in respect of such payments?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question No. 1029 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1029 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

TQS

Can Government state what payments have been made to TQS since 1996 and what services have been provided by this company in respect of these payments?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS

The information sought in this question is too voluminous to read out in the House, and therefore I hand over to the hon Member a schedule giving the information requested in the question.

SCHEDULE

Q1029

To date a grand total of £648,541.00 has been paid to TQS for services provided. the following is a breakdown of amounts paid.

1997 – 1998	£4,287.19
1998 – 1999	£24,929.00
1999 – 2000	£142,027.02
2000 – 2001	£102,429.18
2001 – 2002	£10,017.89
2002 – 2003	£129,331.29
2003 – 2004	£233,519.43
2004 – 2005	£2,000.00
Grand Total	£648,541.00

The services that TQS have provided are as follows:

- a. TQS assisted in making all Government software programs Millennium compatible. This software was in-house and written in RPG2 computer language. The Departments involved were Income Tax department, Licensing department and the Wages section (Treasury).
- b. TQS have re-written the Income tax system.
- c. TQS are currently involved with the writing and implementation of the DSS systems.
- d. New payroll systems for Salaries, Pensions, Wages and GHA.
- e. Arrears.
- f. Supply of equipment and software.

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1997 -1998	£4,287.19
1998 -1999	£24,929.00
1999 - 2000	£142,027.02
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Grand Total	£648,541.00

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- b. TQS have re-written the Income tax system.
- c. TQS are currently involved with the writing and implementation of the DSS systems.
- d. New payroll systems for Salaries, Pensions, Wages and GHA.
- e. Arrears.
- f. Supply of equipment and software.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1028 TO 1029 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can the Government say whether this company was selected originally by the work that needed to be done being put out to tender?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I am afraid that I will be unable to confirm one way or the other what the hon Member is asking. However, I can tell him that this company has been doing work for the Government on an on-going computerisation programme now for a number of years, but if the hon Member wishes I will try and find the information out and inform him accordingly.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am aware that they have been doing this for a number of years because he has just given me a list of the amount they have been paid every year, which comes to a total of £650,000. So we are talking about big sums of money for writing programmes. In fact, is the company still contracted to do more work for the Government, because we have got 2004/2005 which we have not yet voted down?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I believe that this company does actually have some maintenance contracts with departments like the Income Tax and Department of Social Security. So therefore it does have an on-going maintenance commitment to the Government.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The maintenance of what, the hardware?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

This is the company involved in networking the Government's computer systems and developing the Government's computer programme, for which there is an annual vote, as the hon Member has just mentioned, in the Improvement and Development Fund Public Administration Head. This is one of the companies, I think it is the main company involved in the delivery of that. I think it is mainly software systems but it may also include hardware too.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The fact that payments are made to this company is not identified in the Estimates that we vote, but there is a sum of £2,000 intended to be voted presumably in the forthcoming Estimates of Expenditure for this year, because it says in the amounts paid 2004/2005 which has not happened yet, unless they have been paid £2,000 in April this year. Is that what it is?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

That is what that means but of course the vote, as he knows from the book that he has is higher than that on computers generally for the Government computer system development. I just do not want to give the hon Member the impression that that is the only amount that this company is going to be used for this financial year.

HON J J BOSSANO:

It just so happens that the Principal Auditor every year predicts that something is going to be happening as a result of the work done by this company, except that in the subsequent Audit Report it says the same thing. So whatever it is they have been promising to deliver does not seem to have happened yet and they have been at it now for a considerable number of years.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, I think that there has been a delay due to technical reasons which I think is the issue the Principal Auditor refers to in relation to the wages and salaries programme. Now all this is run by the IT Department but I do know that there has been delay in part and failure, in the sense that part of the work done was not effective in that area of computerisation, of Government function.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In note 8 to the reply to the original question it says that the software was in-house and written in RPG 2. Is that just with regard to the Millennium compatibility or does the RPG 2 used as a computer language apply to the whole answer?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I would need notice of the question.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is RPG 2 a computer language in which the staff of the Computer Department is trained?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I would need notice of that question too.

ORAL

NO 1030 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TRADE – 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 January 2004 inclusive?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1031 to 1034 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1031 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TRADE – IMPORT DUTY

What was the amount of import duty paid on building materials on a monthly basis since January 2004 inclusive?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1030 and 1032 to 1034 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1032 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TRADE – GOODS VEHICLES

What was the value and number of goods vehicles imported by:

- (a) individuals;
- (b) licensed dealers;

on a monthly basis since November 2003 inclusive?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1030, 1031, 1033 and 1034 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1033 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TRADE – PRIVATE MOTOR VEHICLES

What was the value and number of private motor vehicles imported by:

- (a) individuals;
- (b) licensed dealers;

on a monthly basis since November 2003 inclusive

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1030 to 1032 and 1034 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1034 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TRADE – COMPUTERS IMPORTED

What was the value of computers imported into Gibraltar since December 2003 inclusive on a monthly basis?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS

The information sought in this question is too voluminous to read out in this House, and I hand the hon Member a schedule giving the information requested.

Q. 1034

VALUE OF COMPUTERS IMPORTED SINCE DECEMBER 2003

	Value of Computers (£)
December 2003	417,514
January 2004	707,699
February 2004	1,024,196

The figures for March 2004 are not yet available.

Answer to Q1034 of 2004

Q 1030

The amount of import duty collected from persons entering Gibraltar via the Land Frontier since January 2004 is as follows:

January 2004	£10,754.36
February 2004	£10,806.77
March 2004	£14,172.21

Q 1031

January 2004	£32,437.20
February 2004	£26,674.03
March 2004	£42,995.43

Q 1032

VALUE AND NUMBER OF GOODS VEHICLES IMPORTED SINCE NOVEMBER 2003

	Goods vehicles imported by:			
	Individuals		Licensed Dealers	
	Number	Value (£ thousands)	Number	Value (£ thousands)
November 2003	2	1	3	27
December 2003	-	-	10	81
January 2004	1	-	13	55
February 2004	2	2	4	15

The figures for March 2004 are not yet available.

Q. 1033

VALUE AND NUMBER OF PRIVATE MOTOR VEHICLES IMPORTED SINCE NOVEMBER 2003

	Private Motor Vehicles imported by:			
	Individuals		Licensed Dealers	
	Number	Value (£ thousands)	Number	Value (£ millions)
November 2003	24	61.0	459	6.0
December 2003	21	66.0	132	1.6
January 2004	23	65.5	648	8.2
February 2004	11	37.0	515	7.4

The figures for March 2004 are not yet available.

ORAL

NO 1035 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

EU FUNDING

Can Government list the parties who have applied for EU funding since the last Question Time in this House, indicating the amount of funding that was requested and the purposes for which it was intended, listing those applications that have been successful, those that have been unsuccessful and those applications that are still pending?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question No. 1036 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1036 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

EU 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 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

The information sought in this question is handed over to the hon Member in a schedule giving the information requested.

SCHEDULE

(a) **EU Funding**

Nine applications for EU funding have been received since the last question time in House. Six applications were for ERDF funding under 2000-2006 Objective 2 Programme and three were for ESF funding under the 2000-2006 Objective 3 Programme.

ERDF Projects

Sponsor	Status	ERDF	GOG	Purpose of Grant
USURF	Approved	£3,085.50	£3,085.50	Premises, hardware Marketing
Family Research	Approved	£ 191.00	£ 191.00	Purchase of Computer Equipment
Oil Pollution Equipment	Under consideration	£4,470.00	£4,470.00	Purchase of Oil Spillage Equipment
Vanessa Hairdresser	Approved	£1,083.00	£1,083.00	Fitting-out works Purchase of equipment
Urban Dance	Under consideration	£1,478.00	£1,478.00	Fitting out work Purchase audio system
Roots	Approved	£4,995.00	£4,975.00	Building Works. Purchase of equipment, payment of Import Duty & Advertising.

ESF FUNDING

Focus 5504	ESF -	£40,725 (45%)	Wage Subsidy Schemes
	GOG -	£49,775 (55%)	

		£90,500	
Venia 2003	ESF -	£18,450 (45%)	
	GOG -	£22,550 (55%)	

		£41,000	
Developing Line Managers	ESF -	£70,488 (45%)	
	GOG -	£54,828 (35%)	
	Private Contribution	£31,329 (20%)	

		£156,645	

(b) **Gibraltar Government Funding**

Total Grant/Loan	Sponsor	Purpose of Grant	Status
£30,000 Loan	Everleigh Ltd	Purchase of furniture and equipment . Advertising	Approved
£3,058 Grant £5,500 Loan	Dataworks Ltd	Purchase of equipment. Working Capital	Approved
£12,164 Loan	Car Clinic Ltd	Purchase of equipment. Fitting-out costs.	Approved
£15,676 Loan	James Molinary Ltd	Fitting-out premises.	Not proceeded with
£10,000 Loan	Veramar Real Estate	Working capital.	Approved
£5,000 Loan	Flymed Ltd	Feasibility Study.	Approved
£7,960 Grant £10,000 Loan	Paperdash Ltd	Fitting-out costs. Purchase of furniture and vehicles	Approved
£7,000 Loan	Cotton Leisure Ltd	Purchase of equipment.	Approved
£60,000 Grant	Grand Parade Feasibility Study	Geological Survey/Topographical Survey	Approved
£2,000 Loan £4,000 Grant	They Went to War	Publication of book.	Approved
£23,500	Oil Pollution Equipment	Purchase of Equipment	Under consideration
£3,950	Urban Dance	Purchase of audio system	Under consideration

NO 1037 OF 2004**THE HON DR J J GARCIA****EU OBJECTIVE 2 PROJECTS**

Can Government give a breakdown of the expenditure met from the EU Objective 2 projects grant of £1,775,532.32 shown in the audited accounts of the Improvement and Development Fund for the financial year 2001/2002?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS**

The information sought in this question is handed over to the hon Member in a schedule giving the information requested.

Objective 2 Projects

Project(s)	£
Business Advisory Unit	62,321.11
Technical Assistance 1997/1999	22,586.72
North Mole Industrial Park	1,024,338.63
Dolphin Discovery	1,768.63
Technical Assistance 2000/2006	20,274.27
Construction of a Joinery Workshop	24,947.09
Moorish Castle Feasibility Study	18,685.00
Gibraltar in Europe Business Development Scheme	4,358.19
Improvement to Construction Training Centre	4,900.00
Amco (Gib) Ltd	7,784.35
Small Grant Scheme 2000/2006	9,674.34
Laundry Service	1,687.28
Film Team	20,421.50
Rock Photos Ltd	1,405.51
Charles G Trico	31,380.64
Total	1,256,533.26

ORAL

NO 1038 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM – CONFEX

What was the cost to Government, with a breakdown, of attending CONFEX in February this year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 970, 971 and 1039 to 1043 of 2004

ORAL

NO 1039 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM – CONFEX

How many persons made up the official delegation to CONFEX and what posts do they hold?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 970, 971 and 1038 and 1040 to 1043 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1040 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM – SEA TRADE

What was the cost to Government, with a breakdown, of attending the Sea Trade in Miami in March?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 970, 971, 1038, 1039 and 1041 to 1043 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1041 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM – SEA TRADE

How many persons made up the Gibraltar Government delegation to Sea Trade in Miami and what posts do they hold?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 970, 971, 1038 to 1040, 1042 and 1043 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1042 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM – STAMPEX

How many persons made up the Gibraltar Government delegation to Stampex and what posts do they hold?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 970, 971, 1038 to 1041 and 1043 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1043 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM – STAMPEX

What was the cost to Government, with a breakdown, of attending the Stampex Exhibition in March?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

The information sought in this question is too voluminous to be read out in this House, therefore I hand the hon Member a table giving the information requested.

SCHEDULE

Q1043 of 2004

Q971 FITUR

(a) Persons making up the delegation:

Hon J J Holliday	MTIC
Peter Canessa	CE, GTB
Marcello Sanguinetti	Sales & Marketing Manager
Dylan Ferrar	Sales Co-Ordinator
Marie Gloria Macedo	Marketing Co-Ordinator
Kim Falzun	Miss Gibraltar
Denise Devincenzi	Madrid Office Administrator
Gillaine de los Santos	Madrid office Marketing Co-Ordinator

(b) Costs of the exhibition: £44,038

Q970 London Boat Show

(a) Persons making up the delegation:

Peter Canessa	CE, GTB
Albert Poggio	Director, London Office
Orlando Yeats	Information Officer, London
Joanna Neish	Information Officer, London
Ian Leyde	UK Sales Manager
Tracey Poggio	Red Leaf Associates
Jenny Franklin	Information Officer, London

(b) Costs of the exhibition: £30,986

Q1038 and 1039 CONFEX

(a) Persons making up the delegation:

Hon J J Holliday	MTIC
Peter Canessa	CE, GTB
Ian Leyde	UK Sales Manager
Orlando Yeats	Information Officers, London
Joanna Neish	Information Officers, London
Tracey Poggio	GTB PR Consultant

(b) Breakdown of costs of the exhibition:

Stand	£8,940.79
Equipment hire	£ 124.55

	£9,065.34

Q1040 and 1041 SEA TRADE, MIAMI

(a) Persons making up the delegation:

Albert Poggio	Director, London Office
Tony Davis	CE, Port Authority
Peter Canessa	CE, GTB
N Guerrero	Product Manager, GTB

(b) Breakdown of costs of the exhibitions:

	£
Stand	12,067.07
Flights	7,383.80
Hotel	1,101.75
Taxis	142.08
Delivery of literature	115.05
Subsistence	1,199.61
Conference persons	66.86

	£22,673.22

Q1042 STAMPEX

(a) Persons making up the delegation:

Richard Garcia	CE, MTIC
Anne Montegriffo	Information Officer, London

(b) Breakdown of costs of the exhibition:

Flight	£180.00
Subsistence	£256.08
Hotel	£430.00
Expenses in mounting exhibition and delivery of literature	£104.25
Travel expenses	£ 34.20

	£1,004.53

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 970, 971, 1038 TO 1041 AND 1043 OF
2004**

HON DR J J GARCIA:

If I recall correctly, this is in relation to the Seatrade in Miami. In the past there used to be three persons making up the Gibraltar delegation, this time there are four. Is there any specific reason as to why that is the case?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No, apart from the fact that for example, Mr Albert Poggio goes not just representing Gibraltar but he actually does functions within Medcruise where there are several meetings and things. Tony Davies is the one that basically attends the conference that is held in Miami, where issues in relation to the industry are discussed and then two other people, Peter Canessa and Nicky Guerrero both man the stand from the early hours of the morning to late at night, during the duration of the conference.

ORAL

NO 1044 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM – CONFERENCES SPONSORED

Can Government list the conferences that they have assisted with, sponsored or co-sponsored since January 2004 inclusive, showing the dates of the conferences in question?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

There have been none.

NO 1045 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TRADE – UNFAIR COMPETITION

What measures do Government intend to take to curb unfair competition against established local traders?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

The question does not identify the unfair competition to which the hon Member believes local traders are subject to and from whom.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1045 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The annual reports and the public comments of both the Chamber and the Federation of Small Businesses refer to this unfair competition which they feel they are having from cross-frontier tradesmen, and that is obviously what I am referring to given that the issue has been topical and has been raised in the media.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I think that the hon Member should ask the Federation and the Chamber for details of this.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

No, the question refers to what action the Government intend to take, not the Chamber.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Government know that there are tradesmen coming through the border. It is not the Government's intention to do anything specific about them. The Government's policy for what we call unfair competition, this is why it depends on whose terminology one is borrowing, different parties use the phrase 'unfair competition' to

describe different things. The Government's approach to unfair competition is not to allow Spanish businesses facilities in Gibraltar which Gibraltar businesses are not allowed in Spain. For example, in the port, there is a regime applicable for who can go to do work in a port in Spain, there is paperwork that one needs, we do not think that our port should therefore be more liberally run so that Spanish companies can do work in our port but our companies cannot reciprocate in the Algeciras port. That is what we mean by unfair competition. There are areas where the Government are working in relation to the haulage industry, where our system is so much more liberal than the neighbouring market system that our market is in effect open to them but theirs is not open to us. That is what the Government mean by unfair competition and in those areas, there is not a sort of one cure for all, the requirements of each area need to be separately looked at and sort of a tailor-made solution found. Amongst the areas that the Government are working on, as far as I am aware, is not included the fact that tradesmen come across the border to do their trades. That is very difficult to police. If the Chamber and the Federation of Small Businesses have specific proposals about abuses of that and how those might be addressed, I am not saying the Government would not look at them but this is not something that the Government themselves are working on as a matter of policy initiative.

NO 1046 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

UPPER ROCK – ROAD MAINTENANCE

Can Government state what is the position regarding road maintenance on the Upper Rock generally, including Signal Hill?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

The roads on the Upper Rock are checked periodically and appropriate maintenance work is carried out whenever it is necessary on the main roads. Certain other roads such as Signal Hill Road are not in the ordinary course open to vehicular traffic. If there is a problem identified on such roads it receives a low priority in terms of repairs.

NO 1047 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

UPPER ROCK – CLEANING OF SLOPES

Has the contract award for the cleaning of the slopes of the Upper Rock now been extended beyond the original five months?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

No.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1047 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

So can the Minister say who is cleaning the Upper Rock slopes at present when they need to be cleaned?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

The previous contractor terminated at the end of March and we were waiting to see the sort of budget that would be available for Upper Rock maintenance in order to decide what sort of contract we can enter and what its intensity can be.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Has the Minister now been able to review that position and establish what the nature of the contracts will be?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No, but the Product Manager of the Gibraltar Tourist Board I know is now actively pursuing this and I believe I already have some proposals on my desk for me to consider.

NO 1048 OF 2004**THE HON L A RANDALL****UPPER ROCK – NATURE RESERVE**

Can Government state what is the level of arrears due as at 31st December 2003 by concessionaires in respect of admission fees to the Upper Rock Nature Reserve?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS**

The information sought in this question is too voluminous to be read out in this House, and therefore I hand the hon Member a table giving the information requested in the question.

SCHEDULE**ARREARS IN RESPECT OF UPPER ROCK ADMISSIONS AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2003**

DEBTOR	AMOUNT OWED
Smith Imossi & Co Ltd	£6,048.00
Inchcape Shipping Ltd	£3,967.00
Hercules Millennium Travel	£285,014.00
Persian Rose	£46,821.00
Calypso Tours Limited	£96,594.00
M H Bland Ltd	£86,466.00
M H Bland Ltd (Royalty)	£13,139.50
M H Bland Ltd (Royalty Sites)	£34,714.00
M H Bland Ltd (Tour Operators Royalty)	£4,266.50
Bland Ltd	£41,544.00
George Bamby	£19.20
Gibraltar Taxi Association	£268.00
Total	£618,861.20

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1048 OF 2004

HON L A RANDALL:

In his report for 2001/2002 the Auditor expressed concern that the two worse cases owed circa £300,000. It appears from the figures provided that there has been no improvement on this level of arrears. The arrears for the two worst is something in the region of £380,000 now.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

There is one particular operator which has not improved its situation. That is correct. However, the matter is being tackled and will hopefully be solved soon.

ORAL

NO 1049 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

PORT – BUNKERING

Can Government say how many companies are currently licenced to carry out bunkering and are any of them exempt or qualifying companies?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question No. 1050 of 2004.

NO 1050 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PORT – BUNKERING

Have any new applications for a bunkering licence been made during 2004 and have any new licences been issued?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answer to Question No. 1049 of 2004

Five Companies are licensed bunker operators. Of these, one is an exempt company.

Answer to Question No. 1050 of 2004

No new applications for bunkering licences have been made during 2004.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1049 AND 1050 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

I take it that the other four are not qualifying companies, is that correct?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

That is correct.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Given that the other four find it commercially viable to be on the normal tax regime, there would not appear to be a need as an incentive to give people exempt company status then.

ORAL

NO 1051 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PORT – BUNKERING

How many ships have called at Gibraltar this year to date on a monthly basis for bunkering and how many tonnes of bunker fuel were sold each month?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question No. 1068 of 2004.

NO 1052 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PORT – SHIP ARRESTS

How much revenue did Government receive, with a breakdown, as a result of the arrest in Gibraltar earlier this year of a number of Festival cruise ships?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

The amount collected was £36,058 as follows:-

Bolero	Tonnage Dues	£ 1,920
	Berthing Charges	£18,464
Azur	Tonnage Dues	£ 1,640
	Berthing Charges	£13,464
Flamenco	Tonnage Dues	£ 570
	Berthing Charges	none

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1052 OF 2004

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Can we just clarify to make sure that we are not at cross purposes with the question and the answer. I do not know if these ships were sold by the Admiralty Marshal like the other ones, he will have seen from the answer that it will not include the commission the Government's share of the port poundage. I do not know if they have been sold yet, they have been sold. I do not know if the Government have collected their share or not but in either case it is not included in the answer he has been given. So this has been answered as if it were port revenue rather than Government revenue.

ORAL

NO 1053 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PORT – DREDGING OF WESTERN ARM

How many tenderers bid for the dredging works at the Western Arm of the Port that will be needed in order to accommodate the Queen Mary II, listing the amount bid by each and showing which sum was bid by the successful tenderer?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question No. 1054 of 2004.

NO 1054 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PORT – DREDGING OF WESTERN ARM

Can Government say whether the dredging at the Western Arm of the Port that will be needed to accommodate the Queen Mary II is now complete?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

The dredging at the Western Arm is not complete. Indeed it has not begun. The Government do not publish information such as the question seeks in relation to tenders, until a tender has been awarded.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1053 TO 1054 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

If the dredging is not complete, where does that leave the call by the Queen Mary which I understand is due to take place fairly soon?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

We are in contact at the moment with Cunard looking at possible options that are open to us, which include the anchoring in the Bay and the tendering of passengers through the port, the actual berthing along the South Mole and actually the possibility of just a technical call into Gibraltar without any disembarking.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Given that the tender was advertised at the beginning of January and that we are now in May, can the Minister say why there has been such a delay in this?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, it is not a question of delay, the costs of those works are substantially in excess of £1 million. The Queen Mary II has been built and acquired by its owners for trans-Atlantic trade. In its trans-Atlantic trade it will not be coming anywhere near Gibraltar.

It is coming to the Mediterranean once, as a one off thing in connection I believe with the Olympic Games or something. The number of visits scheduled to Gibraltar, I understand, are two or three and to boot half day visits. In future years, it is likely that she will not visit at all or if she did it will be once and the Government are considering whether the economic activity that would flow from that degree of use by the Queen Mary II of the Port of Gibraltar, justifies incurring an expenditure of I think nearly £1.3 million, is the cost of the works. A lot of technical issues involved and frankly, we have decided not to proceed with it. This would be a long-term developmental thing. The Queen Mary II can either not come, can come and not come alongside or can come in alongside at the South Mole where there is depth for her there we understand. Frankly, we do not think that it is worth spending in a rush, with the Government prioritising their capital investment programmes we do not think it is worth spending £1.3 million to facilitate two half-day visits by the Queen Mary II.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

I assume that the reason why they do not want to use the South Mole is because there is no cruise liner terminal in that area. Were Cunard as the ship owners or the operators given the impression that the ship would be docking in Gibraltar, because I understand it has been included in all the relevant literature and is part of the cruise itinerary. If they were under that impression then where does this leave us with one of the major cruise operators? We are already having enough problems with Spain in order to shoot ourselves in the foot at the same time.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

That decision by Cunard, or that publicity or that assumption by Cunard was not based on any Government promise to dredge or to dredge by time. It was based on their assumption that the existing facility could take them. Now, the existing facility cannot take them, it is up to them whether they wish to make use of such of Gibraltar's facilities as can take them, the South Mole, anchoring as they do for example when all these cruise ships go to Monaco. They do not come alongside, passengers get tendered ashore. That is their choice but frankly, our view is that there are more urgent things for Government to spend £1.3 million on than two half-day visits in the foreseeable future by the Queen Mary II. In an ideal world of course, it may be future port development may include this project but given that the demand for this is really just this one ship, which is not for the Mediterranean route anyway, it is not going to be a regular client of Gibraltar in its cruising itinerary, it is certainly not a priority for the Government.

ORAL

NO 1055 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM – CRUISE LINER TERMINAL

Can Government say whether and when there has been rainwater penetration at the Cruise Liner Terminal?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

There was rainwater penetration problem which began three years ago, and that has now been rectified.

ORAL

NO 1056 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PORT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Can Government list the topics that were discussed at the first meeting of the Port Advisory Council?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

The Government do not consider it appropriate to do so.

NO 1057 OF 2004

THE HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO

TRANSFER OF BOATS TO COALING ISLAND

Can the Government now confirm when they can expect to transfer the boats at Western Beach to the area of Coaling Island, something they promised to do four years ago?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

The Government did not promise to transfer the boats four years ago. The Government promised four years ago to transfer the boats when it became possible to obtain the transfer of the site from MOD.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1057 OF 2004

HON MISS M I MONTEGRIFFO:

When do the Government expect the site to be transferred to the Government?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, as the hon Lady will have read in the newspapers, the excellent land transfer deal that we have recently signed with the MOD includes, by way of ratification in this respect, because that element of it had already been agreed in principle, the transfer of the Coaling Island Basin in exchange for a relocation of the yellow and black units, MSG units to Gun Wharf. That is at an advanced stage, the re-provision works have been designed and I think have either gone out or about to go out to tender, or are being costed by JBS, the work is about to begin.

NO 1058 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

PORT DEPARTMENT

Can Government state whether the outstanding grievances with the employees of the Port Department have now been resolved?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Government are not aware of the outstanding grievances to which the hon Member may be referring. Government are in discussions with Port Department staff about their possible transfer to a statutory Port Authority.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1058 OF 2004

HON L A RANDALL:

Those were the grievances I referred to.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is not a grievance. If the hon Member meant to ask how the negotiation is going for the Port Authority, it would be the same answer that the hon Lady got in respect of the Sports Authority except that these are more advanced. There have been meetings about this, it is just that the negotiations have not concluded.

HON L A RANDALL:

Perhaps one should ask the people working at the Port Department whether they consider them to be grievances or not.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The hon Member can ask whoever he likes and if he simply adopts the language of other people and adopts them as his own, then the problem is his not ours. It is not a grievance. These guys do not have a right to join a Port Authority just as we do not have a right to demand that they join an Authority. It is a negotiation, it is not a

grievance. Nobody can have a grievance, it would be quite unusual for somebody to have a grievance about not being allowed to leave Government Service. That would be a turn out for the books, I suppose it is possible. So it is not a grievance, there are negotiations in which each side has aspirations and red lines and, as in all negotiations, there is a tension within the negotiation as to which side achieves, how many and to what extent. That is not a grievance, it is just a normal cut and thrust of a negotiating process.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can the Minister say whether the grievance that there was about the use of a security company has been resolved, because that was a grievance?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, it has been resolved in the sense that the Government's position has been accepted. It was never actually a grievance, this was not a service that the Government had ever provided in the Port. There was no privatisation of an existing service. The Government made it perfectly clear that they were never willing to entertain the provision of those services from directly employed labour and I am sure that the staff would have preferred it, one knows Unions always like staff to be directly engaged by the Government. I am sure they would have preferred it otherwise but it is no longer a live issue.

ORAL

NO 1059 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PORT DEPARTMENT

Can Government say whether the vacancy or vacancies for the post of Seaman/Mechanic in the Port Department advertised on 5 March have now been filled?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1060 and 1061 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1060 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PORT DEPARTMENT

How many persons applied for the post of Seaman/Mechanic in the Port Department advertised on 5 March and how many vacancies were there?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1059 and 1061 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1061 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PORT DEPARTMENT

Can Government say of those who applied for the post of Seaman/Mechanic in the Port Department how many were from within the Government service, how many were unemployed and how many were already employed elsewhere?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

The single vacancy in question has not yet been filled. There were six applicants for the post. One applicant is in Government service, the other five are employed elsewhere. No unemployed person applied for this job.

NO 1062 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

COMPUTER HACKING

Can Government say at what stage is the production of computer misuse legislation to outlaw hacking of computers in or from Gibraltar?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

I am not aware that such legislation is at any stage of production.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1062 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

During the debate on the Data Protection legislation that we had in this House, I remember the Chief Minister mentioning that this was something that was in the pipeline. This is why the question was tabled. Can the Minister then clarify that remark?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

The fact that it is in the pipeline does not mean that it is at any stage of production.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Perhaps as my hon Colleague has said, it depends on the length of the pipeline, but surely we understand that this is something the Government intend to do. It is the something the Opposition take a very serious view of this. We think that it is part of the package of data protection, indeed it is a requirement of some of the directives that we have already implemented in this House in relation to electronic commerce and electronic signatures, that there should be anti-hacking computer misuse protection laws in place as well. So can the Government commit themselves to introduce this legislation, and can the Minister please find out at what stage this is?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I assume that this will be forthcoming. However, what I can assure the hon Gentleman is that the drafting of this legislation has not yet begun.

ORAL

NO 1063 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

INTERNET SERVICES

Can Government say how many internet connections there were in Gibraltar as at 31 March 2004, indicating how many were dial-up and how many ADSL?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question No. 1064 of 2004.

NO 1064 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

INTERNET SERVICES

Have Government urged Gibtelecom to make its telephone services like ADSL and internet more competitive and if so on what date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Figures provided by the Gibraltar Regulatory Authority show that the total number of internet connections as at 31 March 2004 was 6017 broken down as follows: 5028 were dial-up and 989 ADSL. The Government constantly encourages Gibtelecom to lower its charges as much as possible, consistent with its reasonable commercial interests. I do not know what the hon Member means by "more competitive". Gibtelecom ADSL and internet services are competitive in the local market.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1063 TO 1064 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

I will clarify what I mean by being competitive. In relation to for example, an examination that I remember conducting of the price of the same service in similar territories the size of Gibraltar, I remember looking at the Channel Islands, the price of the same service there was much cheaper. So while they may be competitive in the local market in which they have a near monopolistic share, they are certainly not competitive compared to other parts of Europe. Does the Minister not agree?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Does the Chairman of Gibtelecom, sitting a few chairs away, share that view?

HON F VINET:

As the hon Member will know it is not Government practice to comment on matters relating to Gibtelecom as a company. I can however say that the price structure of ADSL services has been reviewed and an announcement will be made very shortly.

NO 1065 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS SECTOR

Can Government state the date on which they now propose to transpose into Gibraltar law the new EU Regulatory framework for the electronic communications sector?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

As I said in reply to Question No. 291 of 2004, work on the transposition of the new regulatory package is at a very advanced stage and is expected to be completed in the first half of this year. There has been a slight delay in the finalisation of the drafts, but the Government still intend to implement the directives this year.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1065 OF 2004

HON L A RANDALL:

I take it that they will now be transposed by the end of June 2004.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I have already answered that question.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Has the Minister said that it is still expected to happen in the first half of the year? I thought he said it had been delayed.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

What I have said is that work on the transposition of the new regulatory package is at an advanced stage and expected to be completed in the first half of the year. Then I said that the Government still intend to implement the directive this year.

NO 1066 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

e-EUROPE 2005

Can Government state whether they have now filed with the European Commission their intentions regarding the switchover from analogue to digital TV as part of Action Plan eEurope 2005?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

No Sir.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1066 OF 2004

HON L A RANDALL:

When do Government plan to do this, seeing that the date for the filing was end of 2003?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

The GRA will shortly be drawing up a paper for Ministers, on options for the change over from analogue to digital broadcasting. The GRA is responsible for the management of the radio frequency spectrum, so therefore this should happen shortly.

NO 1067 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

REFERENCE INTERCONNECT OFFER 'RIO'

Can Government state whether the reference interconnect offer ('RIO') was revised in January 2004, and if not, when do they expect RIO to be revised by?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Under the provisions of the Telecommunications (Interconnection) Regulations 2001, it is the duty of the Gibraltar Regulatory Authority to ensure that a Reference Interconnect Offer 'RIO' is provided by certain telecommunications operators and it is to the GRA that the operators are answerable. The information requested should be sought from the GRA.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1067 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is it that the Government do not know what the answer is?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

As I have said in the answer, the information should be requested and sought from the GRA.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Yes, I have asked in the supplementary is it that the Minister does not know or that he does not want to tell us? Which of the two?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No, I do not know.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The Government are aware that the reason for the question is that they actually stated in their last report that it would be done by this date. That is why we are asking whether it has happened. In the last report from the Regulator, it said this would be revised in January 2004. We would like to know if it has happened?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not know what any of this is all about, it is all technical, beyond me but, as can be seen in another question the Government are particularly keen not to be drawn one issue at a time into accounting in this House for the Gibraltar Regulatory Authority. If the Gibraltar Regulatory Authority as a concept is going to work, given the directives in which it is involved that require independence from the Government as a matter of legal requirement, it is vital that the GRA, which in fact is not an agency controlled by the Government, should not be seen to be because the Government accounts for its business in the House. Now, of course, if it is a matter of legislation that is another matter. I do not know if this requires legislation to introduce it or not but if it is a regulatory matter we would much prefer that the hon Members deal directly with the Regulator about it. That way signalling that the Gibraltar Regulatory Authority is not an arm of Government so to speak.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Certainly, we will pursue that avenue that has been suggested by the Government, but the only thing is, are the Government not conscious of the fact that this is not something that the Regulator has to do, this is something that Gibtel has to do and submit to the Regulator. So what the Regulator was saying was by January 2004 Gibtel has to produce a Reference Interconnect Offer. We can ask the Regulator whether he has received it but obviously we can also ask the Chairman of Gibtel whether he has actually sent it.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

If the question is formulated in that way I think the answer is that an extension has been given to the company to send. I mean, answering as the company not as the Regulator, an extension has been given I understand until September.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So the answer is, to the original question, that it was not revised and that the company requested an extension and obtained it. Is that the correct answer to the original question?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Following discussions with Gibtel the GRA accepted the accounting separation report which was based on historical costs, but instructed the company to prepare a new report based on current cost to reflect costs more accurately and therefore they have been given until September 2004 to re-submit that.

ORAL

NO 1068 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PORT – SHIP CALLS

How many ships have called at Gibraltar this year to date on a monthly basis for:

- (a) repair;
- (b) cargo?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

The information sought by the hon Member is sensitive and I am happy to give this to him on a confidential and private basis, but not for the record.

SCHEDULE

Q1051 and Q1068

VESSELS CALLING AT GIBRALTAR, JANUARY – MARCH 2004

	Purpose of Call		
	Repairs	Cargo	Bunkers
January 2004	9	7	415
February 2004	5	8	388
March 2004	11	10	433

VOLUME OF BUNKERS SOLD

<u>Months</u>	<u>Tonnes</u>
January 2004	294,293
February 2004	289,750
March 2004	306,283

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1068 OF 2004

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

If I could just add to that, the hon Member may have noticed moves by neighbouring ports and Algeciras especially taking a very keen interest in volumes and number of ships movements, Government are very happy for the hon Member to know the information but we just do not see why we should publish it in a way which helps people who do not have Gibraltar's interests at heart.

ORAL

NO 1069 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TERCENTENARY WEBSITE

What was the cost of translating parts of the Tercentenary website into Spanish and who carried out the translation?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

No part of the Tercentenary website has been translated into Spanish.

ORAL

NO 1070 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TERCENTENARY COMMITTEE

How often and on what dates has the Tercentenary Committee met since it was set up?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

On nine occasions as follows:

9th January 2003
31st January 2003
14th February 2003
6th March 2003
20th March 2003
15th April 2003
5th May 2003
19th May 2003
2nd June 2003

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1070 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Has the Tercentenary Committee met in 2004?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Minister explain why the Tercentenary Committee has not met on the year of the tercentenary?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Well, the purpose and objective of the Tercentenary Committee when it was set up in January 2003 was to advise Government on the sort of activities that would be put into the programme during the year 2004. The purpose of this was to receive input from a number of sectors, be it in the area of culture, sports, et cetera and once the advice of this main committee had been obtained and a draft programme put in place, the purpose of the main Tercentenary Committee was no longer of need. There have been sub-committees that were set up as a result of this Tercentenary Committee, and these have continued to meet and have been on-going during all this time and in fact continue to meet to monitor the different areas and activities that are going to be held during the year.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Have the events or recommendations which were drawn up as a result of this Committee been changed since the Committee was dissolved?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

There have been changes in terms of detail but not in terms of substance.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Does that mean that the calendar or the programme of events, for example today will be the same as at the beginning of the year?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No, it will not have been the same because as I said, in the terms of the detail of it there have been changes and in fact there will continue to be changes as the programme evolves. The fact is that an event may be concluded as being something that we wish to proceed with but then there may have been changes in the actual detail or in terms of dates, and terms of events, venues et cetera. That is the whole purpose of having the website which is updated constantly, in order to have the members of the public fully informed as to what is the latest information on events as the programme progresses.

ORAL

NO 1071 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TERCENTENARY COMMITTEE

How many companies has the Tercentenary Committee written to requesting donations or sponsorship and with what result?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question No. 1072 of 2004.

NO 1072 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TERCENTENARY COMMITTEE

Can Government say for what purpose or specific events are the donations or sponsorship requested by the Tercentenary Committee required?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

The Tercentenary Committee has not written to anybody requesting sponsorship. This has been done verbally. The sponsorship is not being allocated to specific events. All sponsorship received will be used to complement the Government's investment in the year's celebration events.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1071 AND 1072 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

There are, I understand, letters that have been written requesting funding for the tercentenary. They may not have been written by the Committee because the Committee has been dissolved. Who were the letters written by and in what capacity were they signed?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No, a sub-committee of the main committee was formed to look after sponsorship, and that comprised of some officials and two of the original main committee members. I know that they were tasked with the responsibility of trying to seek sponsorship from a number of firms and there may have been an element of information being sent as to what sort of events they could aspire to in terms of advertising and value for money in terms of advertising in return for their sponsorship money, but there was not any official letter that was sent out to companies seeking their support.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In terms of the results of those requests for funding, how was the business community that was targeted responding?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

We have had 15 positive replies for main sponsorship of the events.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In terms of actual amounts of money do we know what the sum is?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

These companies were asked for £25,000 to become a main sponsor and 14 of these agreed to that, because initially we started offering two levels of sponsorship, main sponsorship and minor sponsorship. We have had 14 main sponsors and one minor sponsor.

NO 1073 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TERCENTENARY EVENTS

On what date are the Rolling Stones scheduled to play in Gibraltar as part of the Tercentenary celebrations and at what cost?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

The Rolling Stones are not scheduled to play in Gibraltar.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1073 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Were they ever approached or considered in this capacity?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No, not that I am aware of.

ORAL

NO 1074 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TERCENTENARY EVENTS

What "Super Stars" are being considered or have been booked for the Tercentenary Super Star Event at the Victoria Stadium on 17-19 December this year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1075 to 1082 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1075 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TERCENTENARY EVENTS

Can Government list the "superstar artiste" or artistes who have been considered for the Tercentenary Rock Concert giving reasons why each of them can or cannot perform in Gibraltar?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1074 and 1076 to 1082 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1076 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TERCENTENARY EVENTS

Can Government list the "superstar artiste" or artistes who have been considered for the Tercentenary Rock Concert showing the fees asked for by each in order to perform in Gibraltar?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1074, 1075 and 1077 to 1082 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1077 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TERCENTENARY EVENTS

What is the projected/budgeted cost, with a breakdown, of the Tercentenary Rock Concert?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1074 to 1076 and 1078 to 1082 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1078 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TERCENTENARY EVENTS

Can Government give the date when the Tercentenary Rock Concert will take place and who will be the star attraction?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1074 to 1077 and 1079 to 1082 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1079 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TERCENTENARY EVENTS

What is the projected cost, with a breakdown, of the Tercentenary Classical Concert?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1074 to 1078 and 1080 to 1082 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1080 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TERCENTENARY EVENTS

Can Government confirm the date, time and venue of the Tercentenary Classical Concert?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1074 to 1079, 1081 and 1082 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1081 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TERCENTENARY EVENTS

What will be the venue, date and time of the Exhibition of Ecclesiastical Treasures planned as part of the Tercentenary celebrations?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1074 to 1080 and 1082 of 2004.

NO 1082 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TERCENTENARY EVENTS

Can Government confirm the date time and venue of the Tercentenary Local Talent Variety Show?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

No "super stars" have been booked for the December event as this is a local event for Gibraltarian sportsmen and women. It is not appropriate to publish information about Artistes' that have been considered. Negotiations are presently under way for a concert by a particular artiste, and that artiste will be made public when and if it materialises. As a decision has not yet been taken on the superstar artiste, the issue of not being able to perform in Gibraltar does not arise.

There is no definite projected cost of the Tercentenary Rock Concert or the Classical Concert as this will depend on the fees charged by the artiste chosen. The choice of date for the Tercentenary Rock Concert, the classical Concert and the local talent variety show have yet to be finally decided. The identity of the star attraction for the Rock Concert cannot be revealed until negotiations are complete, as this may prejudice the discussions.

The venue, date and time of the exhibition of Ecclesiastical Treasures is under discussion with representatives of the various religious denominations who have expressed an interest in participating in this event.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1074 TO 1082 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Does the Minister not consider that given that we are already five months into the tercentenary year, many of these issues should have been sewn up much earlier, in relation to dates of exhibitions, artistes who are going to be performing, the budgets for classical concerts, the Rock Concert, the star who will be in the Rock Concert, practically the answer to every question has been that negotiations are under way or that no decision has been taken. Should this all have not been sewn up much earlier?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

An announcement will shortly be made in respect of all these.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

I asked the question in relation to obviously the tourist aspect, if there are going to be charter flights or coaches or tour operators, we will need time to organise these things, hotels will need notice. Surely it makes sense to sort these things out with a considerable amount of time so that it can be properly marketed and advertised and attract more visitors to Gibraltar, which is the object of the exercise. Does the Minister not agree?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

The purpose of these events are not for tourists. Our main interest in this is obviously the local community.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

If I recall correctly, was there not some type of a statement made that we were expecting so many visitors to Gibraltar in the tercentenary year that we may even have to bring in two cruise ships to cope with the numbers? While I accept that primarily this is an event for the people of Gibraltar to participate in and to enjoy, given what we are celebrating, surely it would make sense to have a tourism or a marketing aspect at the same time, whereby it would attract people to come here to stay in our hotels, eat in our restaurants and spend money in our shops. For that to happen people need to have dates, times, venues and plenty of notice of what is going to go on. That is certainly not the case at the moment. I looked at the website of the tercentenary and on many of these major events for example, like the Rock Concert or like the Variety Show, the Classical Concert, all it says is 'to be confirmed', the venue, the time to be confirmed and even the artiste to be confirmed. I think it is totally unacceptable that at this stage in the tercentenary year, we should still be waiting for these things to be announced. Do the Government not agree?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Not really. There are different sorts of events for different sorts of audiences. When the Government put that agenda on the website, it was made perfectly clear that it was an incremental agenda. In other words, as the agenda developed, information would be put on the website and the principal purpose of putting on the website was for local purposes. In other words, clubs and organisations that wanted to themselves organise events, would have some idea of what dates were available and what dates were vacant or taken so that people would have an idea of how the calendar was filling up during the year's worth of events of many different kinds. There is a great deal of interest that has been shown in visiting Gibraltar in relation to the principal military tercentenary event, which is the granting of the Freedom of the City to the Royal Navy. For the rest of events, certainly as far as the Government are concerned, the cultural events are for the benefit of the local community. Obviously people will come, they are very welcome but we are not staging a concert for the entertainment principally of visitors. We are staging cultural events to celebrate the

tercentenary principally as a local community celebration. Now, it is true that the fact that it is Gibraltar Tercentenary Year, does provide a prop generally for the tourism flavour of the year so to speak in terms of tourism marketing, and that different types of potential visitor to Gibraltar have an interest in different types of events, and if they are interested in coming to Gibraltar because it is Tercentenary Year and their interest is prodded by that, then they will pick the time of the year when there are events of the sort that they want. The main one in terms of foreign visitors will be the military connection and retired people and all that, is the 4th August event and indeed that is that week, that 10 day period is the principal part of the year for us locally here as well, but the organisation of a major musical event is intended as a local thing, not as a tourist attraction. Principally, obviously if it has the effect of attracting visitors too, fine.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

I understand what the Chief Minister has said but I certainly do think that the fact that these events for example, if there is a super star coming to have a rock concert in Gibraltar it is something which is capable of attracting a far wider audience than purely people in Gibraltar themselves, who are the primary beneficiaries of the events and on whose behalf the money will be spent, but I certainly think the marketing aspect of the Tercentenary, given what the Government have said, is totally inadequate. I know they have studied this, for example, if they want taxis et cetera, the new logo, the tercentenary logo, which indicates that there is some kind of intention to advertise the tercentenary for tourism marketing purposes, but at present I think it would be in everybody's interest that things are announced as quickly as possible so everybody knows, both locally and people who may be interested in coming from abroad, that they know what is going on, who will be coming and when they will be performing and the sooner that happens the best it will be from a marketing point of view.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I think there is a difference of focus and approach here. Certainly from the Government's point of view the fact that it is Gibraltar's Tercentenary is something which is valuable that people abroad should know. It is not just an important event in our history in terms of chronology of time, it is also a very useful political prop in terms of our general political campaigning. It is another issue around which Gibraltar's supporters can focus, tercentenary year. Certainly there has been no shortage of publicity for the fact that it is Gibraltar's tercentenary year and that event has received plenty of publicity, as the hon Member has said, it is a focal point of the taxis et cetera and the books being issued and widely circulated, cufflinks and all sorts of things, simply to highlight the fact that it is the tercentenary year. Now, the hon Member appears to be extending that principle to the actual plethora of events that take place, everything from individual sporting associations organising special tercentenary events, all the way through some of the more political events, to the cultural events to the military events. The hon Member appears to be taking the view that each of those events is also for the purposes of attracting visitors to Gibraltar, and of course they may or may not attract people to Gibraltar but from the Government's point of view, the focus of events as opposed to the fact that it is the tercentenary year, is an internal commemoration of an important landmark in our history, the passage of 300 years of time in this community and their formation. Therefore it is principally for local enjoyment, for local celebration and for local consumption, which is not to say that to the extent that it is also capable of being

used to attract visitors, then that is an additional benefit but the hon Member seems to be focusing the events directly as if they were a marketing tool. The events as such, all the various celebratory events, they themselves are not marketing tools. The marketing tool is the fact that it is Gibraltar's tercentenary but the events themselves, obviously except for the ones that we held in London, are very much for local celebration. That is why they are spread throughout the community at almost every level of activity. So, I hear what the hon Member says about what he thinks of the marketing job but I think his assessment may be based on the fact that he seems to be using these events for a slightly different purpose to the one that the Government are actually using them for. Having said all of that, there is an event, the Freedom of the City, that has attracted a lot of interest, obviously from retired people from the Navy and people that have served in Gibraltar in the past, and we are expecting quite a lot of visitors around that time.

HON F R PICARDO:

Can I just say that the Chief Minister rightly says that this is principally a celebration for the people of Gibraltar and it is right that that should be so, although I of course share my hon Friend's views that we can use this more effectively as an international marketing tool, but the fact that these events are seen by the Government principally as events for the people of Gibraltar does not exonerate the Government, surely, from planning these events properly and with time, and that decisions should already have been made about who the artistes are, when events are going to be held, so that Gibraltarians also can plan their own calendar of events and agenda around the events that are going to take place in Gibraltar. I think that the most important point to take, that is my first point, the second point is this. Sometimes we tell things in this House, both in the sessions in which I have been a Member of this House and in earlier sessions, which are either specifically giving us statements to one effect or designed to give us an impression in one particular direction, which then turn out to be completely different. In fact I was this morning greatly surprised to read in the Gibraltar Magazine for example, that the Hon Mr Holliday seems to have told a journalist that the dredging works in respect of the Queen Mary II had already began, and he is quoted as saying that. Whilst in this House we were yesterday told something completely different. So I think that there are two points to be made and I wonder whether the Chief Minister would care to comment on them. First, that even though these plans are for essentially a Gibraltarian audience and market, that does not exonerate the Government from effective and careful planning of those events. Secondly, that the Government should be circumspect about what they say in this House and ensure that they do not mislead the House or parties outside the House, of what the Government's plans are.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not intend to address the second part of the hon Member's question which I think is entirely inopportune. First of all the hon Member assumes that the journalist is correctly reported. Secondly he brings to this House journalistic reports as if they were facts, and on the basis of it actually uses the words misleading this House. Well, I do not intend to engage the hon Member in a debate on that issue. Suffice it to say that in my opinion it is important for both sides of the House to always be true to the facts when they are addressing this House. Frankly in my view, if we were to run a league table of who infringes that rule more frequently, I suggest quite strongly that the hon Members would top it with flying colours. As to the first part of his question, which is an entirely appropriate issue for the hon Member to press the

Government on, of course he is right except that we do not agree with the underlying premise of his question, which is that we think that these things are being effectively and opportunely organised. The fact that the hon Members who of course, as they criticise each and everything that the Government do, whether it is the new buses, or whether it is the hospital, or whether it is the Theatre Royal, or as they criticise each and everything that the Government do, as far as the hon Members are concerned the Government do everything badly and wrong and absolutely nothing well. Of course it seems to be their political strategy to actually undermine and criticise everything that the Government do, never acknowledging that anything is done even half well. I take this remark in the same context. I take note of the fact that the hon Member thinks that the Government have not opportunely and effectively organised the events in relation to the tercentenary, and I assert the contrary. Therefore that is where the matters lie. The fact that the hon Members assert things does not make them facts or correct, in fact almost always they are not.

HON F R PICARDO:

Can I just rise in relation to those three issues that the Chief Minister has identified as evidence of the fact that we tend to criticise the Government at every turn hoping to see the Government fail. I think that that really is quite unfair. The Opposition are here to do a job and are doing it as best they can. I think we are doing an effective job but let me take those three examples. First of all the hospital. The Chief Minister promised the people of Gibraltar a new hospital by 2003. The people of Gibraltar did not have a new hospital by 2003. The Chief Minister promised the people of Gibraltar a bus service which Gibraltar deserved. Of course Gibraltar needed a new bus service and of course the Opposition will hope to see the bus service that has been provided flourish, despite the fact that we have to put that bus service under the microscope and ensure that Government expenditure has been incurred properly. That is what we are here for, that is why the Western parliamentary democracy has an Opposition for. In relation to the Theatre, the Chief Minister himself yesterday half admitted the mistake. Come on.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, if the hon Member wants a mini debate, a re-run of the last General Election campaign, I am game. I know of no practice of honest, western parliamentary democracy that in order to hold the Government to account, which is of course the Opposition's function, for example on the buses, that it is legitimate or even acceptable for the Opposition to invent facts, mis-state facts, fail to research facts, mis-read documents and mis-represent them on television, and then on the back of their factual, legal mis-statements, to launch a criticism of the buses. He may think that that is holding the Government to account, and he may think that that is doing a very good job, and he may think that that is the role of oppositions in western parliamentary democracies. I accept that it is the role of opposition in western parliamentary democracies to hold the Government factually to account on the basis of correct facts. Then on correct facts one can make whatever judgement one likes. That is a different matter. Once one deals with truths, one can then think it is a good thing, a bad thing, that the Government have done it well, that the Government have done it badly, that they could have done it better or that they should not have done it so badly. The question of assessment and judgement of the Government's performance is one thing. To base that assessment on fabricated facts by the hon Members for the purposes of them doing what they subsequently describe as being their democratic role, in my opinion is wholly legitimate, and that is what the hon

Members have done for example with the buses. They were too heavy, they were too long, they were too short, they were too thin, Government had not done any research, we had not done any research for the buses, we had not done any research for the Theatre Royal. Apparently we had not done any research for the new hospital because we had forgotten that patients had to be fed in hospital, and how can a Government design a new hospital without making allowance for people eating. This is the entire approach, everything is reduced to a simplistic analysis based on a foundation stone of fabricated facts and assessments which they first lay in order to then provide themselves with a prop with which to criticise the Government. This is systematically so, issue by issue. Look, it is entirely a matter of political judgement for them, he obviously thinks that they are doing a very good job and they are doing it effectively and of course, ultimately the electorate will tell. I do not know if they would regard it as pertinent for me to offer some advice but if I were doing the same thing, my fear would be that people would regard my criticisms as being so systematic, so unobjective and so politically self-serving that eventually my fear would be that I might lose credibility, and when I do criticise something rightly with justification because the Government genuinely have got it wrong, people are just not going to believe it. That would be my concern, but it is also part of western democratic principles that every political party conducts its fortunes and conducts its affairs as they think they are most likely to bring electoral success and so be it. As for the Theatre Royal, the Government have made no such admission of the sort that the hon Member has suggested that we got it wrong. We think the hon Members have got it entirely wrong. The fact that the Government are suggesting that it is re-assessing their priorities for capital expenditure projects, should not be misinterpreted by the hon Members as meaning that the Government have decided to abandon doing the Theatre Royal. It is simply that we are stopping, and it is not just in relation to leisure activities, it is a question of whether we want to do the Theatre Royal before we do for example the Leisure Centre, or whether we want to do the Theatre Royal before we do other projects that are also in Gibraltar's interests. It is a re-assessment of priorities of order of doing things, not necessarily the hon Members have rushed to assume something different. It is all very well for the hon Members to now pretend that the Government again did not do their homework. I was amused to catch part of what the Hon Mr Linares said. The only thing that was missing by way of prop was a builder's helmet. I notice that he positioned himself carefully outside the Theatre Royal. The hon Member may wish to lead public opinion again on a false premise to think that the Government have not done reports, that the Government have not done their homework, but the hon Member must surely know that amongst all the reports, as well as all the reports that the Government did, the Hon Mr Linares appears to be anxious that the words 'two' get into Hansard. I am therefore perfectly content so that I can move on, to ask Hansard to record that as I was speaking Mr Linares was anxious that the words 'two reports' should appear on the record, and I am delighted that that should be so. So if he is now satisfied that his views are properly recorded, I perhaps can move on.

It is all very well for the hon Members now to pretend that the Theatre Royal project has sort of crept out of the woodwork. It is almost as if something that the Government decided over breakfast, no planning, no homework, over breakfast, wrong place, no reports, bad this, everything bad, but the hon Member cannot overlook the facts as they occurred. I am assuming he is interested in adding to his factual knowledge and that he has some interest in what I am saying to him here today. The hon Member cannot surely have forgotten, and if he has forgotten then I think people are entitled to know the factual basis, or the non-factual basis upon which he makes the remarks. If he has not forgotten then I think people should know the basis upon which he makes the remark, namely, a misrepresenting basis. He must know that not only was there a long consultation process with members of the

public and users and people involved, a long consultation process with almost every conceivable user group, before this decision was made, but that indeed before the decision was made the plans for the Theatre Royal and the project as it was envisaged, was exhibited to the public and it was publicised as being exhibited to the public in the John Mackintosh Hall for a week. I do not remember anybody else, but let alone him, saying at the time 'it is too big, too small, wrong place, right place, it should not be here, it should be there'. So first of all he pretends that there has been no preparation when there has been detailed, excruciating research and preparation. He forgets the fact that there has been a full public consultation period in which he chose not to participate, or he chose not to react to the information then put into the public domain, and then he thinks he can stand up in this House with any credibility in May 2004 and pretend that this is something that the Government have pulled out of their sleeves in the last 48 hours. It is just typical of the basis upon which the hon Members choose to make their political attacks. Well, we are now going to go to the trouble of putting in the public domain, so that they can understand, not just the facts about the Theatre Royal but so that they can understand the credibility of the hon Member's statement, we shall remind people of all these facts so that they can really do what he asked them to do yesterday on television, which is to make up their own minds. The Government are always happy for people to make up their own minds, and on the last three occasions when the people have been asked to make up their own minds, he knows what the result has been, but I insist that people make up their minds on the basis of fact. Events as they have happened, not events that I spin and distort in order to create a convenient political backdrop for my self-serving political interests that is the difference between him and me, and it is also going to become clear in relation to the Theatre Royal.

So, in concluding the debate that the Hon Mr Picardo invited us to have on these issues, the Government genuinely welcome being held to account by the hon Members. That is why we put at their disposal unprecedented amounts of information. Not just unprecedented by reference to Gibraltar's parliamentary history, but unprecedented amounts of detailed information as for example is contained in the answers to these nine hundred odd questions, unprecedented even in respect of western parliamentary conventions as he describes. There is no parliament in the world in which the information for example that is published by the Government annually or quarterly in an official way, we then give in addition, broken down, in the way the Opposition wants it in respect of the months and time periods that the Government want. There is no parliament in the world where that takes place. So we are very happy to give all the information that the Opposition wants, save on the rare occasion that we say that there is some good reason, which we also then try to explain to the hon Members what it is, precisely because we welcome being held to account by them. Of course there is a difference between being held to account in the parliamentary context and the political cut and thrust between two opposing political parties, where the difference between the former and the latter very often is that the actual fact and truth gets second stage because the principal objective is not information, the principal objective is to do down ones political opponent, and therefore the presentation of fact as a matter of objective takes a second plane.

HON F R PICARDO:

I just have to ask the Chief Minister exactly what part of that answer was designed to reply to my suggestion that members of his Government had to be very careful about what they said in this House, because it is a feature of western parliamentary democracies that there is great care taken by Ministers about what they say in the House of Parliament to which they may be elected. I have also, I think, to illustrate

that by Mr Holliday's own behaviour yesterday when at one stage he was telling us that he did not know an answer, and when pressed slightly further he then went on to read us those magical notes that Ministers seem to have just below the written answers that we get, which in fact contained the complete answer to what he was being pressed on at the time. As to the number of questions that are asked in this House in relation to statistical issues, on which the Chief Minister has addressed us, I would ask him this: 'in what other western parliamentary democracy are statistics published so late by the Government? Sometimes three or four years later, that Oppositions have to rely on asking question in the House in order to elicit information that would otherwise be publicly available?' Finally, what I have to ask the Chief Minister is, 'what facts is it alleged to have been invented by the Opposition?'. All the Opposition did, and I am sure that the hon Gentleman who has responsibility for these matters gets to this in time in relation to these questions, was ask Government to explain the weight of the buses set out in the manual. We did not invent that weight, all we did was put that in the public domain and ask the Government to comment on whether or not these buses were too heavy. That was not an invention and to suggest the opposite is really just evidence of the way that the hon Gentleman conducts his political campaigns in and out of this House, which is simply to say when a fact is not convenient to me it is a fact which is invented, and I have in my gift from St Peter's chair what the real facts are. As for our criticism being so systematic and so self-serving, I would ask the Chief Minister this, 'does he not accept that in fact his political project is slowly falling apart systematically', and all we are doing is pointing that out. Far from being self-serving, it is bad for the whole of Gibraltar when Government's business goes wrong. We are only here to say 'be careful this might happen', but we do not rejoice when things go wrong for Government. It would be wrong for any Gibraltarian to rejoice when things go wrong for its own Government.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, another of the hon Member's devices is to say things and then when they are caught out, pretend that they did not say it and that it is the person pointing it out that has got it wrong. Look, if the hon Member really believes, with sincerity and integrity, that when his Colleague Mr Randall appeared on television to denigrate the buses on the basis that they were too heavy, he said 'oh look, here is a clause in the manual, I do not quite understand what it is. Please could the Government explain to me what this means. Does this mean that the buses are too heavy? Does it mean that the buses are not, because I do not really understand'. This is the impression he is now trying to give. He is now trying to suggest that in the Government's attack on the weight of the buses, that they did not misrepresent the fact that they were somehow innocently, as the sort of tame lambs that they think they like to misrepresent when they want to project themselves as the victims of this terribly ogre and aggressive Government, when they want to paint themselves as innocent lamb-like victims, they simply distort their own initial assault. The Hon Mr Randall appeared on television asserting as a fact that he had caught the Government. 'See these buses are too heavy. See, here I have obtained through my own sleuth work, a copy of the users manual and it says here, 18 tons, because these buses are too heavy and every time they cross the bridge, the bridge will fall down because they have got a 10 ton limit and here it says quite clearly that they are 18 tons'. It transpires that he was not looking at the weight of the buses at all, he was looking at the weight capacity of the axles of the bus. He still says it is not correct. He is still therefore asserting that he is correct, it is incredible. It is absolutely incredible. So far from the situation being what the Hon Mr Picardo says that they were just asking for clarification, talk about being inconsistent in the House and changing the story, not three minutes ago the Hon Mr Picardo has said that all that they were doing was not inventing facts on the

buses, just seeking clarification. Three minutes later, from a sedentary position, the perpetrator of the invention and the fabrication, asserts, re-asserts the allegation that the buses are too heavy, so who is inventing the facts? It is not the Government that invent facts, the hon Members are constantly, as a matter of political system, inventing and distorting facts for the purposes of them launching a political campaign on the Government.

Now, I am sorry that the hon Member thinks that the Government take too long to publish statistics. I can tell him that they are published much more quickly, infinitely more quickly, nearly twice more quickly than the GSLP used to publish them when they were in office. So, however difficult he finds it to be an Opposition Member, let me tell him by his measure of tardiness or promptness of publishing statistics, his job is at least twice as easy as ours, because in the case of statistics that there was no obligation to publish, the Opposition Members did not even publish unemployment statistics. Where there was a statutory duty to publish statistics, it always used to take much, much longer. He may not be aware of this because of course, he only joined the House at the recent election, but the flow of publication of statistics is infinitely more timely than it used to be, and it is true that the Abstract of Statistics was not published for a couple of years whilst the Statistics Office was doing it, but the Abstract in respect of most of the statistics simply puts together information most of which is already otherwise published. If one takes the Tourist Survey, the Employment Survey, all the surveys that we lay in this House, the unemployment statistics which are now published quarterly, this is an infinite improvement on the situation that we inherited. Mr Holliday did not fail to give this House information that he had simply because he only gave it when he was pressed. Again, a distortion of the events as they happened by the hon Member. What the Minister said was that he was not aware what the RIO was. He never said that he did not know what the current position was about delays and that, this arose in a supplementary and when the issue arose in a supplementary he gave it. What we were saying to the hon Members, I certainly did not know what RIO is, that we are not accountable in this House for the Gibraltar Regulatory Authority, and it is important that we should not be held accountable in this House for the Gibraltar Regulatory Authority, because under Statute it needs to be independent of the Government. It will not work as a mechanism if by the way that we deal with its affairs and information and become accountable for it, other supervening authorities in the EU think that this is just an extension of Government. Then the hon Member re-formulated his question, the Leader of the Opposition, by asking us the question as if it were directed at the company, and that is when the information was given about the extension having been given until September and things like that. There was no revelations in supplementaries of facts which the hon Member had said he did not know about in the first place. It is true that facts were given in supplementary but they were not facts which had been withheld or asked for in the principal question, that is the position as that happened.

HON J J BOSSANO:

That is not correct, what he has just said. Will the Chief Minister not agree that the original question was about something which should have happened in January 2004? The answer was that we should ask the Regulator and then we said, 'Is the Chief Minister telling us to ask the Regulator because he does not want to tell us the information, or because he has not got the information?'. The answer was 'because we do not have the information'. Then I said 'how can you not have it, if the person that has to do the action is not the Regulator but the Government-owned company?' When I asked that we were then told, which could have been given in the original

answer to the original question, which was 'the Regulator has not received that information because the company has asked for a delay and he has granted it'. So that was the information required in the original question and that was eventually given, but I mean it is not a big thing but that is factually what has taken place.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well if it is not a big thing we can move on, but we do not accept that that is factual. I understand that that is his assessment and analysis of how it happened factually, it is not the events as they actually happened. If the hon Member does not want to make it a big deal we can move on, but the question asked 'have they been revised and if not when do they expect the RIO to be revised by?'. The information that was given was that the Regulator has given an extension, but the facts had they been revised and if not when do they expect to be revised by, is not information that we know. We know when the extension has been given till but when the company intends to issue its revise, I do not know unless the Hon Mr Vinet might know as Chairman. As to not having addressed his point about Ministers having to be careful about what they say in this House, I did address that. I said that of course Ministers have to be careful and Ministers are careful, but that they have to be careful as well, and we think that we are much more careful than them. Does he not remember an answer to that effect?

Finally, as to the Government's political project "falling apart", he wishes, he wishes. The problem with Opposition Members is that they actually believe their own propaganda. The hon Members lose the third general election on the trot to a Government that is the first Government in history to win three general elections with all eight of its members in the first eight slots of the ballot, and with more than 50 per cent of the vote in each successive election, and within two months of that the hon Members are pretending that the Government's political projects are falling apart. The hon Members can delude, of course as Harold Wilson used to say, 'a week is a long time in politics' and between now and the next general election much can happen politically to both sides let me say, but the suggestion on almost the morning after the general election when they were saying 'well, never mind we have lost. We have not actually managed to increase our share of the vote, it is still languishing at the 40 per cent that we have had but never mind because now we have decided to inject enthusiasm into ourselves and to begin to look like a party in waiting'. It is such a tiresome inconvenience that the electorate should have just beaten us in the election. This is terrible that we should now be made to wait another four years when it was quite obvious that the logical thing is that we should have won this time round. They can hype themselves up and hyperventilate politically as much as they like. It is terribly dangerous of them to actually believe it. In four year's time this Government, as all previous Governments before it, will be judged on its record. We were elected on a manifesto, four years from now the electorate will look at our performance in Government, they will decide whether they like it or not, they will take a long hard look, at least I hope they take a long hard look, at the Opposition Members and their track record, and they will say now what is it going to be. Is it going to be a change of Government or not? That is how these things normally work in a democracy, but I have to say that I have never come across a situation where a party that loses the election is immediately, lands on its feet proclaiming almost victory, because the Government's margin of victory had crashed too 11 per cent. This is terrible, the Government's political project is falling apart because its margin of victory was only 11 per cent, when their share of the popular vote was 30 per cent. They had made no progress in 8 years of opposition. With eight years of political erosion, which is always suffered by parties in Government, the hon Members were

not the political beneficiary of a single percentage vote, and their analysis of their political position nevertheless, based presumably on the fact that they saw off the Labour Party, that is the only element of good news as far as I can tell for them. Apparently their political panacea is measured in the fact that they prevented the Labour Party from winning a seat on the House. On the basis of that somewhat limited achievement, they base their statements that the Government's political project is falling apart, systematically. Well, the problem with the hon Member is that he is falling victim of what I have been trying to explain to them. They actually think that they have succeeded in establishing that the bus service is terrible. They think that the tactic is to throw enough mud. They throw mud at every issue. In the hope that enough of it has stuck, in the hope that enough of it sticks to tarnish everything that the Government do. Then they think that they succeed. They actually believe that the bus service, never mind that the Women Association have written to the Government praising, forget all those objective assessments, they actually persuade themselves that on the spurious basis of a factual misrepresentation of the fact that the Government have not done their homework, never mind the fact that a bus was bought last year to do the runs and the trials and to be tested on the roads and to establish what needed to be amended and what roads needed to be widened and whether the bus was suitable, they forget all that and assert the fact that the Government did not do their homework. On the basis of invented facts about the weight of the bus, they throw mud and they actually think they have succeeded because presumably the bus service is another one of the political projects which have fallen apart, presumably, since it is the only major policy initiative that has come on stream since the electorate returned us by a margin of 11 per cent, since that is the only major policy initiative that has come on stream since then, I can only assume that his statement that the Government's political project is falling apart, must be a reference to the bus service. They actually believe themselves when they think that they have succeeded in converting the bus project into something politically negative for the Government. The problem with the hon Members is that they do not distinguish between propaganda that they have themselves launched, and reality which they must not lose sight of. They are different things. One just has to look at this little pamphlet called *The Key*, that the Opposition Members publish, to see the lies and the diatribe and the inventions to which the people of Gibraltar are systematically fed by the hon Members' attempt to con the electorate into thinking that the Government are bad and they are good. They feed the people of Gibraltar an intense diet of lies, lies and more lies through the letterbox, because of course the reason why they feed it through the letterbox is that they fear that the lies that they have systematically been fed in the New People, that does not get far enough, because as it has lost all credibility, presumably nobody buys it any more. So now the same lies that were published in the New People are reduced into a little pamphlet and shoved into peoples houses. Well, they are still lies and this is the problem. I am perfectly happy if the hon Member's definition of political project systematically falling apart is what the Government are going to deliver to the people of Gibraltar during the next three and a half years, then let me say that the political falling apart, as he calls it, is not going to be any good to the Opposition Members political prospects.

MR SPEAKER:

Yes, that was the end but because there was an allegation against the Hon Mr Randall, that he invented a lie, I give him permission if he wishes, to make a statement. He tried to before.

HON L A RANDALL:

Thank you very much. What I asserted is what is in the document that I obtained, when I made my intervention. I can tell the Chief Minister that I have never been and am not, unlike others, in the habit of distorting the facts.

ORAL

NO 1083 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

INDUSTRIAL PARKS

Can Government list the criteria used, or to be used, in determining the allocation of vacant units in the industrial parks advertised in the tender notice of 30 March 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

The criteria to be used in determining the allocation of industrial units will be based on the proposed use, the creation of employment opportunities, premium offer and whether applicants are existing businesses or new businesses.

ORAL

NO 1084 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

LATHBURY BARRACKS

Can Government say on what date and for what reason the units at numbers 1, 5, 10, 17, 18, 19, 23, 24, 26, 27, and 28 Lathbury Barracks industrial park became vacant?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1085 to 1088 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1085 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

EUROPA BUSINESS CENTRE

Can Government say on what date and for what reason the unit at number F10A Europa Business Centre became vacant?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1084 and 1086 to 1088 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1086 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

12 GOVERNOR'S COTTAGE CAMP

Can Government say on what date and for what reason the unit at number 12 Governor's Cottage Camp became vacant?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1084, 1085, 1087 and 1088 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1087 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

NEW HARBOURS

Can Government say on what date and for what reason the units at numbers 73, 74, 90, 91, 98 and 102 Harbour's Walk, New Harbours became vacant?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1084 to 1086 and 1088 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1088 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

NEW HARBOURS

Can Government say on what date and for what reason the units at number 44B and 61 Harbours Deck, New Harbours became vacant?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

The information sought in this question is being handed over to the hon Gentleman in a schedule with the information that he has requested.

SCHEDULE

Q1088

Units 1, 5, 10, 17, 18, 19, 23, 24, 26, 27 and 28 Lathbury Barracks have been vacant since completion of construction.

Unit F10A at the Europa Business Centre was not vacant on 30 April 2004.

Unit 12 Governor's Cottage Camp became vacant in January 2004, when the tenant was successful in tendering for a unit at the Lathbury Barracks Industrial Park.

Unit 73 and 74 Harbours Walk became vacant in April 2003, as a result of the repossession of the units due to arrears of rent and service charges.

Unit 90 Harbours Walk became vacant in January 2000. The Unit was surrendered by the tenant and has since been used as a Government store.

Unit 91 Harbours Walk became vacant in January 2003. The unit was surrendered by the tenant.

Unit 98 Harbors Walk became vacant in November 2003. The Unit was surrendered by the tenant.

Unit 102 Harbours Walk became vacant in August 2003, as a result of the repossession of the unit due to arrears of rent and service charges.

Unit 44B Harbours Deck became vacant in November 2003. It was repossessed as a result of arrears of rent and service charges.

Unit 61 Habours Deck became vacant in May 2003. It was repossessed as a result of arrears of rent and service charges.

ORAL

NO 1089 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

LATHBURY BARRACKS

How many tenders have been submitted in respect of unit numbers 1, 5, 10, 17, 18, 19, 23, 24, 26, 27 and 28 at Lathbury Barracks industrial park?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1092, 1095, 1098 and 1101 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1090 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

LATHBURY BARRACKS

Can Government say how much was bid by each tenderer in respect of Unit numbers 1, 5, 10, 17, 18, 19, 23, 24, 26, 27 and 28 at Lathbury Barracks industrial park, indicating which bid was successful?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1093, 1096, 1099 and 1102 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1091 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

LATHBURY BARRACKS

Of the tenders submitted by interested parties in respect of units 1, 5, 10, 17, 18, 19, 23, 24, 26, 27 and 28 at Lathbury Barracks industrial park can Government say how many were submitted by parties already established elsewhere in Gibraltar, and how many were submitted by new parties wishing to set up a business?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1094, 1097, 1100 and 1103 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1092 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

NEW HARBOURS

How many tenders have been submitted in respect of unit numbers 44B and 61 at Harbours Deck, New Harbours?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1089, 1095, 1098 and 1101 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1093 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

NEW HARBOURS

Can Government say how much was bid by each tenderer in respect of unit numbers 44B and 61 at Harbour's Deck, New Harbours, indicating which bid was successful?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1090, 1096, 1099 and 1102 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1094 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

NEW HARBOURS

Of the tenders submitted by interested parties in respect of units 44B and 61 at Harbour's Deck, New Harbours, can Government say how many were submitted by firms already established elsewhere in Gibraltar, and how many were submitted by new firms?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1091, 1097, 1100 and 1103 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1095 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

NEW HARBOURS

How many tenders have been submitted in respect of unit numbers 73, 74, 90, 91, 98 and 102 at Harbours Walk, New Harbours?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1089, 1092, 1098 and 1101 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1096 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

NEW HARBOURS

Can Government say how much was bid by each tenderer in respect of Unit numbers 73, 74, 90, 91, 98 and 102 at Harbour's Walk, New Harbours, indicating which bid was successful?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1090, 1093, 1099 and 1102 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1097 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

NEW HARBOURS

Of the tenders submitted by interested parties in respect of units 73, 74, 90, 91, 98 and 102 at Harbour's Walk, New Harbours, can Government say how many were submitted by parties already established elsewhere in Gibraltar, and how many were submitted by new parties wishing to set up a business?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1091, 1094, 1100 and 1103 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1098 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

EUROPA BUSINESS CENTRE

How many tenders have been submitted in respect of unit number F10A at Europa Business Centre?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1089, 1092, 1095 and 1101 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1099 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

EUROPA BUSINESS CENTRE

Can Government say how much was bid by each tenderer in respect of unit number F10A at Europa Business Centre indicating which bid was successful?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1090, 1093, 1096 and 1102 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1100 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

EUROPA BUSINESS CENTRE

Of the tenders submitted by interested parties in respect of unit F10A at Europa Business Centre can Government say how many were submitted by parties already established elsewhere in Gibraltar, and how many were submitted by new parties wishing to set up a business?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1091, 1094, 1097 and 1103 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1101 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GOVERNOR'S COTTAGE CAMP

How many tenders have been submitted in respect of unit number 12 at Governor's Cottage Camp?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

The number of tenders for the relevant units at the various industrial parks was as follows:

Lathbury Barracks	33 tenders
Europa Business Centre	1 tender
Governor's Cottage Camp	11 tenders
Harbours Walk	4 tenders
Harbours Deck	20 tenders

ORAL

NO 1102 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GOVERNOR'S COTTAGE CAMP

Can Government say how much was bid by each tenderer in respect of unit number 12 at Governor's Cottage Camp indicating which bid was successful?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Tenders closed on 23rd April 2004, and the tender submissions are presently being analysed and collated. It is not possible to provide the information sought until after the tenders have been adjudicated.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1090, 1093, 1096, 1099 AND 1102 OF
2004**

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Will the Minister undertake to provide the information at that stage, or do I need to table the questions again?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Once the tenders have been adjudicated I have no problem in supplying the information.

ORAL

NO 1103 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GOVERNOR'S COTTAGE CAMP

Of the tenders submitted by interested parties in respect of unit 12 at Governor's Cottage Camp can Government say how many were submitted by parties already established elsewhere in Gibraltar, and how many were submitted by new parties wishing to set up a business?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

The information sought in this question is too voluminous to be read out in this House, nor would the hon Member be able to note the information given for the purposes of formulating supplementaries if it were read out. I hand the hon Member a schedule giving the information requested.

SCHEDULE

Q1091

28 tenders were submitted by firms already established in Gibraltar and 5 by parties wishing to set up a business.

Q1094

16 tenders were submitted by firms already established in Gibraltar and 4 by new firms.

Q097

4 tenders were submitted by firms already established in Gibraltar, none by new businesses.

Q1100

Only one tender was submitted by a party already set up in Gibraltar.

Q1103

4 tenders were submitted by firms already established in Gibraltar and 7 by parties wishing to set up a business.

ORAL

NO 1104 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

LATHBURY BARRACKS – SUNSET CLOSE

Can Government say how much has been received for the lease of the area of the Sunset Close project near Lathbury Barracks?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1105 to 1107 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1105 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOWN RANGE BARRACKS

Can Government say how much has been received for the lease of the area of the Town Range Barracks project?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1104, 1106 and 1107 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1106 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

ADMIRAL'S PLACE

Can Government say how much has been received for the lease of the area of the Old Naval Hospital project (Admiral's Place)?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1104, 1105 and 1107 of 2004.

NO 1107 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

THE CLIFTONS

Can Government say how much has been received for the lease of the area of the Naval Hospital project (The Clifton's)?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

The premium paid was as follows:-

Sunset Close	£ 333,000
Town Range Barracks	£ 381,000
Admiral's Place	£1,386,000
The Cliftons	none

In the case of The Cliftons, this development was an exchange for land at Gun Wharf which the developers already held as part of the Queensway Quay development.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1104 TO 1107 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is that the land which is being given back to the MOD?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, as part of the deal which was several months ago with the MOD to relocate the tugs to Gun Wharf so that the small boat owners could come into Coaling Island, there was a mismatch of numbers of metres of berthing, in other words the berthing provided by the Gun Wharf arm is much less than the berthing provided on the inside of the Coaling Island arm. Gun Wharf is shorter than Coaling Island and the deal was done on the basis that the MOD would get back the berth on the outside of Gun Wharf, which was owned by Queensway Quay or whoever had by then bought Queensway Quay, the current owner. They also had certain development rights over part of the island itself and those development rights and the Wharf were exchanged,

I think it was still with Taylor Woodrow, were exchanged for the plot of land where The Cliftons is now being built.

ORAL

NO 1108 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

ROCK HOTEL – PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

Can Government say who will conduct the environmental impact assessment into the proposed development of 76 apartments to the rear of the Rock Hotel?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1109 and 1110 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1109 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

CASEMATES – FUNICULAR TO ROCK GUN

Has an environmental impact assessment been submitted in respect of the application by 21st Century Rock Ltd to provide a funicular installation from Casemates to Rock Gun?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1108 and 1110 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1110 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

SIR HERBERT MILES ROAD – PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

Has an environmental impact assessment been submitted in respect of the proposed development of 65 residential units and car parking at Sir Herbert Miles Road?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

No environmental impact assessment has been submitted in respect of either 21st Century Rock proposal or the Sir Herbert Miles Road development.

The Government are not aware of who will conduct the environmental impact assessment for the project at the rear of the Rock Hotel.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1108 TO 1110 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is it the case then in relation to the Rock Hotel project that no assessment has been submitted either, otherwise the Government would know who has conducted it, is that correct?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

That is correct.

ORAL

NO 1111 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DEVELOPMENT PLAN

When do Government expect the Development Plan to be ready?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

It is hoped that a draft plan will be published in late 2004.

ORAL

NO 1112 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING COMMISSION

How many meetings of the Development and Planning Commission have taken place since 6 January 2004 and on what dates?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

The four meetings of the Development and Planning Commission since 6 January 2004 were held on:

18 February 2004
17 March 2004
07 April 2004
22 April 2004

ORAL

NO 1113 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

BOTH WORLDS

Are Government now in a position to say at what stage is the application for planning permission to construct two additional houses at the northern end of Both Worlds?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question No. 1114 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1114 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

MARINA BAY – PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

At what stage is consideration by Development and Planning Commission of the application by Marina Bay Complex Ltd to construct a multi-storey car park/commercial development?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

The application from Marina Bay Complex Limited was received on 18 February 2004, and it is being processed. No Outline Planning permission has been given as yet for this project.

With regard to the project at the north end of Both Worlds, Outline Planning permission was granted on 31 March 2004.

ORAL

NO 1115 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

CATALAN BAY

Can Government say whether the tender in respect of Phases 2 and 3 for the upgrading and beautification of Catalan Bay has now been awarded, and if so to whom and for how much, listing the amounts bid by the unsuccessful tenderers?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

It has not been awarded as yet.

ORAL

NO 1116 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

CASEMATES DEVELOPMENT

When are the empty units in the Casemates development going out to tender, and since what date has each unit been empty?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1117 and 1118 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1117 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

CASEMATES DEVELOPMENT

How many units within the Casemates development have been sold by the original successful tenderer to a third party, and which units are they?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 1116 and 1118 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1118 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

CASEMATES DEVELOPMENT

How many units in the Casemates development, the arcade inside or the old Health Centre building were empty as at 31 March 2004 and for what reason?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

There are no empty units in the Casemates development, so they cannot be put out to tender.

No units have as yet been assigned by the original successful tenderer to a third party, although the following three units are in the process of being assigned:

Casemates Barracks
Watergate House

Units 6B and 6D
Unit 2/2

ORAL

NO 1119 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

OCEAN VILLAGE

How many representations have been received following the application for planning permission by Ocean Village (Gibraltar) Ltd to construct a "premier international health spa with glass exterior restaurant" over water next to pier A?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

The period for public consultation expired on 29 April 2004, and at the time that this reply was prepared no representations had been received.

ORAL

NO 1120 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

SHEPPARD'S MARINA

Were any inspections and recommendations made by Government Health and Safety inspectors in relation to the demolition of the Sheppard's Marina building to make way for the Ocean Village project, if so when and what were they?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question No. 1121 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1121 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

SHEPPARD'S MARINA

On what date were Government made aware of the discovery of asbestos at the old Sheppard's Marina building in Glacis Road which is being demolished to make way for the Ocean Village project?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Two site visits were carried out on 4th February 2004 and 25th March 2004. The Inspectorate asked for a method statement for the proposed works, a risk assessment and a notification of the project on the correct forms. The Inspectorate pointed out on 4th February that the roof was made of asbestos and that it had to be removed by a competent asbestos removal contractor. The Inspectorate was aware that, in common with many other buildings of its age, the building in question contained corrugated asbestos sheets.

ORAL

NO 1122 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SHEPPARD'S MARINA

Can Government state whether there has been a change of use in respect of the land previously utilised to provide repairs to visiting yachts at the Sheppard's Marina, and if so, whether change of use was granted, to whom and when?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question No. 1123 of 2004.

NO 1123 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

OCEAN VILLAGE

Can Government state whether any Government land was sold in connection with the development known as Ocean Village?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

No Government land was sold in connection with the Ocean Village development.

A change of use was agreed in respect of the land in question in August 2003 with the developers of the Ocean Village.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1122 AND 1123 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

In respect of the change of use, was the leaseholder required to make any payment to the Government for obtaining the change of use?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

A premium was negotiated in respect of the change of use and the extension of the lease from 99 to 150 years.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can Government say how much had to be paid for this?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

The sum of £225,000.

NO 1124 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

OLD GUARD HOUSE

Can Government say whether restoration and refurbishment works at the Old Guard House in John Mackintosh Square have now commenced, and if not when are they programmed to start?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

It is evident to the naked eye that restoration and refurbishment works on the Old Guard House have not yet commenced. Government hope to commence those works this financial year.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1124 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Will this be put out to tender in the normal way?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The decision has not yet been made but it is not the only model available. It could be added as an extension into the Piazza project, this is just a possibility I am not suggesting to him that it is the preferred possibility. Sometimes when JBS does work it is not put out to tender, JBS being the Government's own construction company. So if it were to be decided that they should do it, it then would not go out to tender, but if it were not through either of those models then it would go out to tender. In other words, it would not be given out to a new contractor without going out to tender.

ORAL

NO 1125 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PIAZZA PROJECT

Can Government give the cost to date of the Piazza project, showing the cost of the underground toilets?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question No. 1126 of 2004.

NO 1126 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PIAZZA PROJECT

How much is payable by the contractor to the Government if the Piazza project overruns its target completion date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

The cost to date of the project is £1,500,209.

The cost to date of the toilet block is £131,992.

The amount payable in Liquidated Damages to the Government should the Contractor fail to complete by the Contract Completion Date is as follows:

Whole of the Works	£5,000.00 per week
Piazza Grill South Unit	£2,000.00 per week
Piazza Grill North Unit	£2,000.00 per week

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1125 AND 1126 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Minister confirm that the project is behind schedule?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes it is behind schedule, I believe by a few weeks.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Minister say whether the underground toilets contain access points for the disabled or for ladies with prams, or for the elderly or others who will have difficulty in going down steps?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, there is a separate toilet for the disabled, presumably made available to mothers with prams as well, above ground so the block that one now sees under construction in block stones, that contains a hut which is partly a street level toilet for the disabled but is also the housing for a staircase that goes down to the main toilet for those of us that can go up and down stairs.

NO 1127 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

LAND RECLAMATION WITHIN THE HARBOUR

What conclusions have been drawn by the report on land reclamation within the harbour which has been submitted to the Government?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

The options with regard to land reclamation within the harbour are presently being studied by Government, and it would be premature to debate the issue until decisions are taken.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1127 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is it possible for the Minister to say what area of the harbour the report looks at?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

The area in question is the area in front of the Royal Gibraltar Yacht Club and Calpe Rowing Club and Rooke, all that area in front.

HON J J BOSSANO:

When, in fact, have they received this report, how long have they had it?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

The date of the report dates back to 22 April 2003.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is that still what is being looked at now or has anything been added subsequently because of any changes in the area?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No, there have not been any changes because the report took into account the possibility of the release of MOD land et cetera so therefore that is why the different options that were reported in the report.

NO 1128 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

RELOCATION OF MOD FACILITIES

Can Government state when was the last financial year in which expenditure was incurred to relocate MOD facilities and how much was the expenditure and which were the facilities relocated?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

No specific record of this is readily available. LPS, however, recollects that Navy Ground No 2 and the Special Boat Squadron facilities were re-provided by the Government in 1989/90 at Coaling Island. A recreational block was also re-provided by the Government at Chilton Court around the same time.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1128 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

In terms of the intended move, in fact it did not really happen, because the plot of land there was retained by the Government, is that not the case? The answer that is given about the relocation of the football ground.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, the Special Boat Squadron Headquarters on the reclamation next to the north of Coaling Island, that was a re-provision for the same facilities that there were on the site that became the West Side reclamation. They had it there near the Montagu Basin and that facility was re-provided by the Government to the Coaling Island site as part of the vacation of what was then known as USSC, and that facility is still there and is one of the things now offered to us if we re-provide them again into Gun Wharf. There was the finger jetty and the headquarters ashore, a two storey building with mess rooms and things of that sort.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Was that done by the Government or by the developers of West Side?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

My understanding is that it was done by his government at the time. In fact I distinctly remember the Hon Michael Feetham giving us an explanation of that in the House at the time.

NO 1129 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CHANGE OF USE OF LEASE

Can Government state whether it is Government policy to charge a premium where change of use is required in respect of a lease in order to proceed with a development?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Yes, if it represents added value to the leaseholder.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1129 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

In the case of the development of the Servants Quarters in the grounds of the Rock Hotel, did that involve a change of use or was it not required because it already had a residential use?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes, there is added value to the developer from changing it from the servants quarters to a residential, so therefore there is a premium involved.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is that something which has already been negotiated and agreed or is it still under?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes it has been negotiated, agreed and paid, the only thing is I am not quite sure of the actual sum involved but it has been agreed and settled.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In that case was there just the change of use or was there also a lengthening of the existing lease?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I would need notice of that particular question but am happy to make it available if required.

NO 1130 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SALE OF LAND

Can Government state which was the most recent sale of land for development giving the financial year, location of the land, the price per square metre and total revenue obtained?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS

The most recent sale of land for development was the area known as Little Genoa.

The sale was completed on 25th October 2002 and the price paid was £438,950 representing a rate of £260 per square metre of land.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1130 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is it the case then that the land in the recent housing development in the area of Safeways was going to have been sold prior to this date?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It depends whether the hon Member is talking to the southwest of Safeways or to the east of Safeways.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I mean the one that is going up now.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Euro Plaza. That site was actually sold by the hon Member and not by us. That site was part of the original lease of the original developers of Europort. It was Plot A as it was then called and they simply sold it. The Government have not been involved in that transaction.

ORAL

NO 1131 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DEVELOPMENT APPEALS TRIBUNAL

Has any decision been taken on the appeals before the Development Appeals Tribunal that were pending or awaiting comments in answer to Questions 296-298 of 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1132 of 2004.

NO 1132 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DEVELOPMENT APPEALS TRIBUNAL

Can Government say if any new appeals have been lodged before the Development Appeals Tribunal since September 2003, and, if so, list the appeals showing the date they were lodged and the issue at stake?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Since the answer to Question Nos. 296-298 of 2004, one new appeal has been received against refusal to grant permission for the construction of a water heater cabinet.

The Tribunal met on Thursday 25 March 2004 and again on 2 April 2004 to consider two of the appeals listed in answer to Question No. 298 of 2004. In one case the Tribunal accepted the appeal and in the other the Tribunal deferred its final decision pending receipt of further and better particulars from the parties.

NO 1133 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

SALE OF GOVERNMENT HOUSING

Can Government say what formula it intends to apply to determine affordability in respect of the sale of Government housing?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

It is difficult to give the hon Member a much fuller answer than to say that affordability is a subjective thing. It depends on the income and financial means of the purchaser. Government intend to sell the houses that they build at cost. They cannot be more "affordable than that", but of course, some people may still not be able to afford it. The Government have already given a public outline of their intended variant of the current 50/50 scheme.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1133 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

With all due respect to the Chief Minister, if he starts off by saying that what is affordable depends on how much money one has got, however reasonable it may be to sell something at no profit it may still not be affordable if the cost happens to be too high.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Of course that is the very essence of the answer.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I see, but if the Government are promising affordable houses, they must have a notional figure in their heads of what they think is affordable in today's level of wages presumably.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, and the answer to that is in the last sentence of my answer. The Government have already given a public outline of their intended variant of the current 50/50 scheme, which as the hon Member will remember, is based on the need not to buy 50 per cent but to buy that share for which one can get a mortgage on at 3.5 times salary. In other words, whatever percentage that buys. People will buy the percentage that they can afford. That was the variant. I cannot afford the cost of the product and I cannot alter the cost of the product except to make no profit on it and not to charge financing costs and not to charge land value costs. I cannot alter the fact that different buyers have different levels of income but I can develop a 50/50 scheme which would no longer be 50/50. A home ownership scheme which unlike the previous one, allows affordability to people who cannot afford 50 per cent. Before one could either afford 50 per cent or one could not afford to take part in the scheme. Our variant of the home ownership scheme allows people to access the level of ownership that they can afford under the formula that the Government have already explained publicly. Therefore, it seems to me that the Government have done as much as they possibly can to make this as accessible to as many people, regardless of and taking into account the subjective element of affordability.

ORAL

NO 1134 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

HOUSING – 50/50 SALES

Can Government provide the indicative percentage increase in and the value of each estate in the 50/50 sale offer in respect of the offer made in 2002 and in respect of the offer made in 2003?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The information the hon Member seeks is on the schedule attached.

	2002 % increase on Original Value	2004 % increase on Original Value	2004 % increase on 2002 % increase
Sir William Jackson Grove	34%	67%	24.63%
Harbour Views	66%	113%	28.31%
Montagu Crescent	116%	135%	8.80%
Montagu Gardens 1 & 2	173%	226%	19.41%
Montagu Gardens 3	51%	95%	29.14%
Brympton	105%	125%	9.76%
Westview Park	108%	117%	4.33%

Government's share value in each Estate

	2002	2004
Sir William Jackson Grove	£2,533,018.07	£3,156,900.42
Harbour Views	£6,465,322.77	£8,295,655.65
Montagu Crescent	£3,705,287.56	£4,031,352.86
Montagu Gardens 1 & 2	£5,688,784.21	£6,792,977.23
Montagu Gardens 3	£1,770,159.07	£2,285,983.42
Brympton	£930,489.79	£1,021,305.59
Westview Park	£1,771,440.67	£1,848,144.05
	<u>£22,864,502.14</u>	<u>£27,432,319.22</u>

The 2002 value of Government's share in these properties is based on Government's share in the properties as at 2004.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1134 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

The answer provides the increase on the original value in 2004. I take it that is the offer in 2003 which is what the question asks.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I am not sure that it does, nor am I sure that the question is that clear in asking that. I believe that the table that the hon Member has tells him what was the increase in 2002, in other words in calendar 2002 and then in calendar 2004.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Yes, but the question does not ask anything about calendar 2002. It says, '*in respect of the offer made in 2002*', and the offer made in 2002 was an offer to sell the houses at 4 per cent increase over the original value. Is that the information that is provided?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, I do not think that that is how the person that has answered this question has understood it at all. I think that these are percentage increases in value, percentage and quantum increases in the value of the Government's real estate so to speak. I think that is how the question has been understood and answered.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So it has nothing to do with the offer?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not think it is a valuation of the offer. I think it is a valuation of the estate but I will find out. My reading of the information given is that his question has been understood as asking for a valuation of the Government's estate rather than a quantum valuation of the offer as such.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is the value of the estate then in 2002 and 2004 based on the 7 per cent per annum?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not think so, it is probably based on market values but I am uncited on that. I will have to get clarification of the whole basis of this answer for him. I do not think his question has been answered. I think he has had a lot of information but not the one that he asked.

HON J J BOSSANO:

At least I would like to understand what the information that I have been given is. I would like to know how those percentages have been arrived at in respect of 2002, since I cannot relate it to the information that has been given previously. In respect of the information in the lower part of the table that has been provided, where there is a footnote saying the 2002 value of the Government shares in this property is based on the Government shares in the property as at 2004. I take it that means subsequent to the sale that took place as a result of the offer made in 2002, is that the correct interpretation?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

That is my interpretation of it.

-

HON J J BOSSANO:

The percentages 2002/2004 are the same and the values 2002/2004 are the same, except that this one has got 22p more than this one.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

We will have to clear this up later but can the hon Member make clear why he believes that that is not the information that the question seeks?

HON J J BOSSANO:

It is not that I am asking whether this is the information the question seeks, it is just that the answer that this information supplies is not consistent with the information he has supplied.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, that is the next question, that is the one about the 50/50 scheme. What the hon Member has just said refers to the breakdown between 50 per cent of market value or 4 per cent of annual uplift.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In terms of how many were sold under one and how many were sold under the other. That is the next one, but in respect of this one where I have asked him to give the indicative percentage increase and the value which they state in the offer made in 2002, and in the offer made in 2003, the percentage mark-up of market value in 2002 that he gave me in 2002 was based on the 7 per cent per annum. How come Montagu Gardens have gone up by 173 per cent and William Jackson Grove has gone up by 34 per cent? When he told me market value meant 7 per cent per annum..... *[Interruption]* yes, I am afraid that is what he said then, I have got the

answer here. I asked him whether market value was the amount that was actually raised in transactions. What he answered was, I will quote. This is Question No. 655 of 2002 and I said 'have Government obtained valuation advice on transactions to arrive at the current market value?'. The reply that I got was that since the purchase would be restricted to 7 per cent per annum, and any money that they pay for fixtures and fittings is not taken into account, market value means 7 per cent per annum because that is what is legally permissible. He actually told me that the values he was giving me was 7 per cent multiplied by the number of years.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, but that is market value in a wholly different context. That is market value in relation to what people could sell their houses for. This is market value in the context of the offer made by the Government to sell their share, and it is not the same thing.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I accept that it is not the same thing but it was the same question and it is not the same answer, that is the whole point. The question that I was asking was, if the offer for sale that was made then is 50 per cent of market value, 50 per cent of the prices that are being paid for these houses in the market. The Chief Minister said no, it is not. Market value in the offer for sale means 50 per cent of nine years at 7 per cent per annum. That is what he said, it is in the Hansard of Answers to Questions answered by him in 2002.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The hon Member must be mis-reading or misquoting that because it is one or the other it cannot be both. If the offer is 50 per cent of market value or cost price plus a certain number of percentage uplift per annum, it is nonsensical to say that for the purposes of that equation, market value is the percentage that they can mark up, they would both be the same. The whole essence of the offer was.... The Government have never charged 7 per cent. Seven per cent is what they can charge when they sell to third parties. The Government have never offered to sell at 7 per cent. The Government have offered to sell on one year it was at 4 per cent and I think the other year it was more. Four and five per cent. The whole essence of the Government's offer was that it was being offered more "cheaply" than the Government were entitled under the lease. Government could have said 'well I will charge 7 per cent like everybody else does'. The Government's offer was that we were willing to sell for less than the 7 per cent per annum up rate.

HON J J BOSSANO:

When I asked in one of my supplementaries specifically, is the £80 million (which was the result that he had given me) of the market value, the result of the value in the books of the company that owned the property or the result of valuation advice. His reply was 'it is a result of what the hon Member asked for in his question which was market value'. The market value means, because of the conditions attached to the trust deed, the market value actually means cost plus 7 per cent per year. Therefore, how is it that market value which is cost plus 7 per cent per year, represents an

increase of 116 per cent in Montagu Crescent and 34 per cent in William Jackson Grove?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The hon Member is comparing apples with pears. Not only is he comparing apples with pears but he is completely misapplying an answer to a completely different question.

HON J J BOSSANO:

No, it is exactly the same question.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is not exactly the same question. At the time, he was asking what the Government's shares in these estates were worth, and in saying what is the Government's share of all these flats were, he said are they being valued at 7 per cent up rates or at market value, and he got an answer for that purpose. Then along come the Government and say 'I am going to offer my shares for sale', on what basis? On the basis either of 50 per cent of the market value, meaning 50 per cent of what the properties are worth on the open market, or at the original cost up rated, ignoring market value, at the original cost up rated by 4 per cent in the first offer and 5 per cent in the subsequent offer, and people could choose. This question relates to the latter of the two exercises. In other words the Government's offer, not the question that he asked back then. In the context of the Government's offer it is nonsensical for the hon Member to think that the phrase 'market value' means a figure arrived at by reference to an annual percentage up rate because that is nonsensical. The whole basis of the offer is that there is a choice either open market value or original cost, increased per annum of ownership by 4 per cent. So the hon Member is comparing apples with pears and he is completely misquoting and misapplying my answer to a wholly different question, in a wholly different context to this question in this context which relies specifically to can the Government provide the indicative percentage increase in and the value of each estate in the 50/50 sale offer, in respect of the offer made. Not what is the Government's share of the flats worth. He is asking for the information in respect of the offer made, and in respect of the offer made it is either 50 per cent of market value, or, that is the offer made.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I think that when the Chief Minister becomes less excited, if he cares to go back and read the explanations he gave me, he will find that I am not misquoting him or misreading. I just happened to pick part of what was several pages of exchanges and throughout he keeps on saying that it is not based on open market values, it is based on the fact that the trust deed will not allow the houses to be sold for more than 7 per cent. If the houses were sold in that nine year period for more than 7 per cent, it is because of people asking for fixtures and fittings. So when the Government said it is either 50 per cent of the market value or 4 per cent instead of 7, as the following answer will clearly show, to the next question, what he was telling us then was that in fact 4 per cent would invariably be less than 50 per cent of the annual uplift of 7 per cent per annum. That is what he said then. He can get all

worked up about it but look, I am not criticising him or anything. All I am doing is to try and make sense of the answer he has given me today and the answer he gave me the last time I asked about the sale of these houses.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. It is not a question of excitement. It is not a question of comparing like with like. The hon Member is completely and utterly misinterpreting what he is reading there, and he is misquoting it and he is misapplying his own misquotations. The information in relation to 7 per cent can only apply to transactions between third parties. If he asks me at a given point in time what is the Government's share of the houses worth, and I said to him the share of the houses are worth what they can be sold for. At the moment that is a 7 per cent per annum uplift. Then along comes the Government later and makes an offer on a different basis. Now he comes and asks me questions not related to the basis of his first question in 2002, but related to the different basis upon which the Government made subsequently an offer. The information provided therefore relates to the offer and not to the general generic question of 2002 about how these things were valued and whether it was on a 7 per cent or on an open value basis. I do not need to re-read Hansard. I can tell the hon Member just from the bits that he has quoted from it. It is not a question of criticism, this is statistical information, it is not open to political criticism. The facts are what they are. I do not feel criticised by it, and even if he were criticising me for it, that is not the issue. The hon Member is perfectly free to criticise me, he has spent quite a lot of time doing it. The point is that he should not stand up in this House and assert that the Chief Minister is giving him answers inconsistent with answers given to him previously, relying on the fact that he happens to have the Hansard in front of him and I do not, and expect to get away with it. On this occasion he has not got away with it because just by the limited amount he has read from it, his error is clear. That is the reason why I am engaging him on this, not because there is any underlying criticism, but because he is just asserting that there is an inconsistency of an answer and the answer is that there is no inconsistency of an answer. What there is, is a comparison of apples and pears by him.

HON J J BOSSANO:

First of all I have not got the whole of the Hansard here, I have just got some bits that I brought in as background to this question, but I will return to this subject when I have got the information in order to put the record straight in the House on a point of clarification, when the time comes.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

What is the number?

HON J J BOSSANO:

There are several questions involved. Since the Chief Minister has the practice of saying 'I will answer this question with 20 others', all I have done is pick one out of the 20, but it affects 665, 647, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654 of 2002. Now, in all that long list and in all the supplementaries, there were a number of exchanges when he gave me that explanation.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Next time he raises it with me in the House, I will be armed with Hansard too.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am not armed with all of it, this is what I am telling him. In any case, I know that when I am able to demonstrate to him that this is in fact what took place, he will not feel criticised because he will then blame whoever it was that prepared the answer for him.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Does the hon Member think that I prepare the answers to these questions?

HON J J BOSSANO:

No, but if the Chief Minister thinks that I have made a mistake then he gets very worked up about it and defends it very virulently. If he goes on the defensive because he thinks I may be right, then he says it must be the Civil Servant that got the figures wrong that I have just read.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No this is not about figures.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Yes it is, about whether the valuations has been based on 7 per cent or on an open market percentage.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No this difference is not about that distinction.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is it not?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

See, he is still not understanding the explanations that he has had from me. This issue is not about whether it was produced on the basis of 7 per cent or open market value back then, the answer to 2002. The issue now is about whether the answers given in answer to that question, howsoever they were calculated, are comparable to the information being given now in answer to what is a different question here, in 1134, that is the issue between us. Therefore, I will not on this occasion, since he

says I always have recourse to it, on this occasion it will not be open to me to have recourse to that device, if that is what he thinks it is, because that is not the issue on which I will seek to defend myself when we debate this issue on the next occasion. Debate it we will. Believe me, debate it we will.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can I just say that I predict that when we have this discussion again and I am able to demonstrate to the Chief Minister that I am not misinterpreting it, he will blame the Civil Servants.

NO 1135 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

HOUSING – 50/50 SALES

Can Government say in respect of 50/50 sales other than Westside 1 Phase 2, whether it was found necessary to apply the alternative method of charging the 50 per cent market value as lower than 4 per cent add on increase on the original cost and if so, can Government identify the estate and the number of housing units out of total sales in each estate?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Apart from 18 of the 57 flats sold in Montagu Gardens Phase 1, which were sold using the 4 per cent uplift per annum formula, all other properties were sold at 50 per cent of market value.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1135 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am astonished. That is in direct conflict with the answer I got the last time. Is that not the case?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, I have to say that I was surprised by this answer. I have asked for it to be re-checked and the answer has been left in front of me the same. My understanding is that it had been the other way around. In other words, the 4 per cent had been the norm. I am just trying to work out from the information that I have been provided here for any possible supplementaries, whether I can just work out, I am told that sales using 4 per cent in Montagu Gardens Phase 1 was 18 units and that the alternative is 57 units. No it does not give me a clue as to whether this answer is erroneous or the previous one, but I agree with the hon Member because I had the same reaction when I read this and I asked for this to be checked, and I am assuming, perhaps wrongly, that because no one has come back to me saying 'yes *Chief Minister, you were right, we made a mistake*' it may be that they were not expecting me to have to answer this question this morning, given that the whole thing has been advanced and when I get back to the office at lunchtime all will be revealed. It might be that because I was not scheduled to start answering my

questions until much later or possibly even on Thursday. So I will have to come back on that, I agree that at first sight the answers had the same effect on him that they had on me and I would just like to come back to him to see whether this piece of paper that I still have in front of me, represents the result of having been checked or of not yet having been checked.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In fact, do the Government recall that in the answer given to Westside 1 Phase 2, which is why I am excluding it from this, I think I was told, speaking from memory but we can check the Hansard, that only two out of 180 had been sold at 50 per cent and that is why my question excluded that particular group of units because that answer had already been given. So perhaps if that answer was wrong, could the Government correct it?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I give him this answer, I have not had an opportunity to review it myself, it has just been given to me, but it does seem to make more sense than the previous one. Under the 2002 50/50 discount scheme, the computations of 39 out of the 57 sales in Phase 1 were lower when computed on the market value basis. A total of 39 out of 57 in the case of the Montagu Gardens Phase 1. Under the 2004 50/50 discount scheme, the computations were all lower when computed on the uplift per annum basis. Presumably because the market values had risen in those two years and changed the equation for the rest of them. Which of the two methods of computation was lower, depended on whether original completions took place in 1992 or 1993, thereby explaining the marginal differences between both bases of computation. Of course not all the houses in the estate were completed in the same year originally, and as it is 4 per cent per annum, the multiplier is different as it alters the equation. In respect of Montagu Gardens Phase 2, under the 2002 scheme offer, the offer price on all but two sales, and this information is the one that he had carved out of the question because I think that he had it already, the offer price on all but two sales in the phase was lower on the uplift per annum basis. Under the 2004 50/50 offer, the computations were lower when computed on the uplift per annum basis in all cases. Now, in addition to that I hand the hon Member a schedule, of which unfortunately again a spare copy has not been made for me, so in case he has supplementaries I would not have it in front of me.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well, while I am waiting for that, in fact if the Chief Minister remembers, when I asked about the two systems originally when he brought the proposal to the House originally and we asked questions about it, I said to the hon Member that as I had understood it in all cases it was expected that the 4 per cent per annum would be the more effective formula for the tenant to buy. In fact, it was because he had already told me that the market value was limited to 7 per cent per annum. What I said to him then in relation to this particular question was that in fact, if the higher price is going to be the 7 per cent per annum, then it must follow that the 4 per cent per annum will be better for everybody in every case. His reply was, everything that the hon Member has said is correct, but that in the case of Westside 1 Phase 3, the

provision for open market value and 50 per cent had been put because even applying the 4 per cent since they had started off from a higher base, the 4 per cent might be more than the open market value. That is what he told me, and he said that I had identified correctly that the provision of open market value had been there only for that purpose. I can go back and dig it all out if he wants. Therefore, he confirmed in supplementaries to Question No. 417 of 2003, put by the Hon Dr Valarino, that indeed it was only in the case of Westside 1 Phase 3 that the 50 per cent of open market value had been applied as he had predicted originally. In a subsequent answer he said that there had been two instances of Westside 1 Phase 2 which had in fact resulted in the 50 per cent of open market value out of 180. Since the formula was intended to apply universally and really the other one was an exception, as he explained it originally, because these houses had started at such a high price that the Government thought that even if they offered them a 4 per cent per annum uplift, it would not be such a bargain because they could not possibly have gone up by so much in the period of time. Then the questions that we were asking generally indicated that in most other cases, as predicted, it was the 4 per cent that was available. That is why I was surprised by the answer which seemed to be indicating the very opposite and particularly, the inconsistency in the values, because if we are talking about the answer that he has given me to the previous question, and we are saying well in Montagu Gardens 1 and 2 the price of the houses is 226 per cent of what they were when they were bought, and the Government are going to charge either 50 per cent of 226 or 4 per cent per annum, I would have thought that the more the increase in value the more the 4 per cent is likely to be the cheaper element. The very explanation that was given for the 50 per cent of the market value was because the 50 per cent of market value would prove to be below 4 per cent per annum, and that that was going to be in the place where the market value had gone up least, because it started off from being very high already.

MR SPEAKER:

What is the question, the supplementary?

HON J J BOSSANO:

The supplementary is, in the light of the explanation that he has just provided, and the figures he has provided, is it in fact the case that the answers that he gave previously, which was in the first answer that he gave us was that nobody had bought at 50 per cent of market value except the last phase, Phase 3, where the prices had started higher. Subsequently, in a subsequent answer they told us that there had been two out of 180 in Phase 2 that somehow, I did not quite understand why there should be two that were different from the other 178, but there were two where the market price was such that 50 per cent of the market price was less than 4 per cent per annum. Now we are being told that it is much higher than that, that it was 39 out of 57 in Phase 1.

MR SPEAKER:

I have got to insist, what was your specific question?

HON J J BOSSANO:

My question is in the light of the answer I have been given today, am I to take it then that the information provided about the prices which these houses were sold in the previous answer is not the correct information.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I am not willing to compare the information provided today with the information provided in answer to the other questions until I have had an opportunity to do a detailed comparative test myself. I am certainly not willing to do it on the basis of the hon Member's skimpy summary of what he says. So what I will do, is that I will take cognisance of his last supplementary and I will respond to him by other means. I will write to him to explain, but certainly it would appear, this much is true, that after that question was answered, more purchases had been completed on the market value basis than was anticipated at the time by either him or me. Now, there has got to be a reason for this. It could be the variable, the years passed from completion, I will get to the bottom of it. First of all I will do the comparison of the answers to see if there is an inconsistency and if there is an inconsistency, which he appears to be clear that there is and there may be, I will find out when I do the comparison myself, I will write to him to give him an explanation why the facts now look different. Can the hon Member just remind me what the questions are?

HON J J BOSSANO:

Yes, there were the original questions in 2002 which were 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 649 and 647 and then there were supplementaries in answers to question 417 of 2003, and there may be others because this was raised on a number of occasions. I can tell him on the 2003 occasion, when I was asking precisely as to which units triggered off the 50 per cent of the market value, he cited the following example. In respect of Westside 1 Phase 3, all interested purchasers are under 50 per cent of market formula, just to give him an idea why. Using the 4 per cent per annum annual increase would give a price of 36 per cent over cost, and using 50 per cent of the market value formula gives a figure of 25.5 per cent over cost. Therefore, the market value figure has been used in Westside 1 Phase 3. The Chief Minister will recall that the reason for that was basically the explanation that he has given. He can see from the schedule that many of the sales in Westside 1 Phase 3 have all been under the 50 per cent formula. So everything that I have quoted there, it is not that I calculated something and it has turned out to be different, it is that I calculated it based on the explanation that he gave me which he has been confirming until today. The results of today would indicate that those explanations were not accurate and therefore, all I want is to be sure which of the two is accurate.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Or that the answer to this question is still not right.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I cannot judge, that is the honest truth.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well that is the clarification that I will write to him on, promptly.

2002 50:50 DISCOUNT SCHEME

Q1135/2004

Estate	Average yr of completion	% Mkt value increase in 2002	Revised Offer		No. of years from original purchase	Revised Offer		Applicable method
			50% of market value as % of original cost	A		4% multiplier as % of original cost	B	
Sir William Jackson Grove	1994	34%	67%	67%	8	132%	67%	Market value method
Harbour Views	1992	66%	83%	83%	10	140%	83%	Market value method
Montagu Crescent	1998	116%	108%	108%	4	116%	108%	Market value method
Montagu Gardens I	1992	173%	137%	137%	10	140%	137%	Market value method
Montagu Gardens II	1993	173%	137%	137%	9	136%	136%	Marginal difference between methods
Montagu Gardens III	1993	51%	76%	76%	9	136%	76%	Market value method
Brympton	1993	105%	103%	103%	9	136%	103%	Market value method
Westview Park	1998	108%	104%	104%	4	116%	104%	Market value method

* 4% per annum x number of years from original completion to 2002

2004 50:50 DISCOUNT SCHEME

Estate	Average yr of completion	% Mkt value increase in 2002	Revised Offer		No. of years from original purchase	Revised Offer		Applicable method
			50% of market value as % of original cost	A		5% multiplier as % of original cost	B	
Sir William Jackson Grove	1994	67%	84%	84%	10	150%	84%	Market value method
Harbour Views	1992	113%	107%	107%	12	160%	107%	Market value method
Montagu Crescent	1998	135%	118%	118%	6	130%	118%	Market value method
Montagu Gardens I	1992	226%	163%	163%	12	160%	160%	Marginal difference between methods
Montagu Gardens II	1993	226%	163%	163%	11	155%	155%	5% uplift method
Montagu Gardens III	1993	95%	98%	98%	11	155%	98%	Market value method
Brympton	1993	125%	113%	113%	11	155%	113%	Market value method
Westview Park	1998	117%	109%	109%	6	130%	109%	Market value method

* 5% per annum x number of years from original completion to 2004

ORAL

NO 1136 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – 50/50 SALES

Can Government state what has been the response to the current offer for sales 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 417 of 2003?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I set out the very detailed information that he seeks in the schedule which I hand to him.

Total Letters Sent	Total sum of Replies Received "Yes"		Total sum of Replies Received "No"		Total sum of No replies Received Yet		Total sum of Government Share	
	Government Share	Replies Received "Yes"	Government Share	Replies Received "No"	Government Share	No replies Received Yet		
Brympton	36	£1,021,305.59	6	£154,423.13	2	£51,840.00	28	£815,042.46
Harbour Views	401	£8,295,655.65	22	£437,358.25	51	£1,046,090.68	328	£6,812,206.72
Montagu Crescent	152	£4,031,352.86	8	£192,698.94	10	£262,174.36	134	£3,576,479.56
Montagu Gardens	309	£9,078,960.65	12	£358,375.63	29	£829,124.47	268	£7,891,460.55
Sir William Jackson Grove	165	£3,156,900.42	6	£97,633.21	13	£240,943.43	146	£2,818,323.78
Westview Park	82	£1,848,144.05	9	£190,560.81	8	£181,570.32	65	£1,476,012.92
	1,145	£27,432,319.22	63	£1,431,049.97	113	£2,611,743.26	969	£23,389,525.99

NO 1137 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – 50/50 SALES

Can Government say whether any further sales of Government 50 per cent share of the co-ownership homes have taken place as a result of the late application for the 4 per cent uplift offer for sale since the answer to Question No 417 of 2003, and if so, provide the table of such transactions to date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

A further three applications were processed after the answer to Question 417 of 2003 as follows:

Harbour Views	2	£34,745.88
Montagu Gardens	1	<u>£30,272.24</u>
		£65,018.12
		=====

ORAL

NO 1138 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

LANDLORDS AND TENANTS ORDINANCE

Can Government confirm that they will be in a position to publish legislative proposals to reform the Landlord and Tenant Ordinance by the end of June 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

It is Government's present hope and working assumption that the legislation will be published and legislated before the end of this year.

ORAL

NO 1139 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TRANSFER OF MOD LAND

What land and properties have been identified in the negotiations between the Government and the MOD that MOD could transfer to the Government of Gibraltar?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1140 to 1144 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1140 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

CHILTON COURT

Can Government state how many housing units will become available with vacant possession on the transfer from MOD of Chilton Court and give a breakdown of the room composition of these units?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1139 and 1141 to 1144 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1141 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

CHILTON COURT

Is it Government policy that the housing units that become available on the transfer of Chilton Court from MOD will be allocated for rental to persons on the waiting list?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1139, 1140 and 1142 to 1144 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1142 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

ROSIA COURT

Can Government confirm that the MOD proposes to transfer Rosia Court and can it state how many housing units are involved, their composition and whether it will be available for rental to persons on the waiting list?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1139 to 1141, 1143 and 1144 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1143 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

RELOCATION OF MOD FACILITIES

Can Government state what relocation costs it expects to have to meet in the current financial year in connection with the transfer of properties from the MOD?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1139 to 1142 and 1144 of 2004.

NO 1144 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

RELOCATION OF MOD FACILITIES

Can Government state what the total relocation costs it expects to have to meet in connection with the transfer of properties from the MOD?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I am sure hon Members will appreciate that some of the information they have requested has become public since the date of the answer to this question, but I do not know if they have had an opportunity to see it altogether but I hand to the hon Members a copy of my recent public statement giving details of the properties to be transferred, they may have seen this I think it was set out in full in one of the local newspapers, to be transferred under the MOD/GOG agreement recently signed. Room composition is not currently available to us and we hope to have this information shortly. I hope to be in a position to give it to him the next time he asks the question.

The flats being transferred to GOG at Chilton Court, which are 33 in number, two blocks overlooking Queensway will be as I said publicly for rental for people on the housing waiting lists.

We expect to meet this financial year relocation costs relating to MSG, that is the black and yellow tugs, move to Gun Wharf and some of the Four Corners flat conversions. Total relocation costs are not known at this stage. The costs that Government expect to pay will be in the order of £3.5 million. The other costs will (we intend) be borne by private developers that acquire land for development.



**Statement by the
Chief Minister
Peter Caruana**

in relation to details of the
Lands Transfer Agreement
between GOG & MOD
signed on 20th April 2004
by the Chief Minister and the
Secretary of State for Defence, Geoff Hoon.

Thursday 22nd April 2004.

For many decades successive Gibraltar Governments have recognised that the transfer of surplus MOD lands and buildings is important to enable and facilitate the social, economic and infrastructural development of Gibraltar.

In more recent years progress in achieving substantial land transfers has been prevented by, mainly, two factors. The MOD's need to decide upon its estate requirements, and, the policy of successive Gibraltar Government's to refuse (given the economic effects of MOD cutbacks) to pay for lands transferred, even in circumstances where the current Lands Memoranda (which regulate MOD/GOG lands transfers generally) require such payments.

Accordingly, in order to break this impasse, whilst preserving GOG's position in relation to the Lands Memoranda, GOG invited MOD at the highest level to engage in a lands negotiation outside the scope of the Lands memoranda, and without prejudice to the position of the parties in that respect. The Agreement signed on Tuesday is the fruit of that negotiation.

During these negotiations the Government has been mindful of certain important issues, as follows: -

- (1) Not to accept lands, and relocate MOD facilities, in a way which confines MOD activities territorially within Gibraltar such that would make the Military Base "red line issue" significantly easier to overcome in the context of any future joint sovereignty initiative between UK & Spain;
- (2) Not to accept lands which resulted in justification for job cuts in the MOD directly employed labour force or in the WSM workforce.
- (3) Not to accept land which undermined the Trade Unions' and the Government's opposition to privatisation and contractorisation of MOD Activities and labour;

- (4) The need to ensure that the interests of the Royal Gibraltar Regiment were properly safeguarded, whilst, at the same time, obtaining important benefits for Gibraltar as a whole.

This Agreement achieves and safeguards all the above.

The following are details of the Agreement. Agreed transfer dates are given in brackets: -

1. Residential Accommodation: Individual houses.

- (1) Bruce's Farm (April 04).
- (2) Ince's Farm (July 04)
- (3) Humphrie's Huts (April 04)
- (4) Lind House (April 04)
- (5) New Aloes (April 04)
- (6) Rock Cottage (April 05)
- (7) St Bernard's House (June 05)
- (8) Beaulieu House (June 05)
- (9) 19 Scud Hill (Sept 06)
- (10) Rose Tree Cottage (Sept 06)
- (11) The Elms (Feb 06)
- (12) Lower Elms (Feb 06)
- (13) Loquat House (April 05)
- (14) St Stephen's House (Feb 06)
- (15) Mount Barbary (April 05)
- (16) Lancashire House (June 05)
- (17) John Snow House (Jan 06)
- (18) Suffolk House (Jan 06)
- (19) Surrey House (Jan 06)

These houses have a very substantial resale value and it is the Government's intention to sell them and to reinvest the proceeds in building more affordable homes for first time local home buyers.

2. Residential Accommodation: blocks/multi-dwellings.

(20) Rosia Court	(32 units)	July 04
(21) Sandpits House	(12 units)	July 06
(22) Carter House	(12 units)	TBC
(23) Tangier View	(12 units)	Mar 08
(24) South Pavillion OMQ	(9 units)	Aug 05
(25) Europa Pass Battery	(16 units)	TBC
(26) F Block ONH	(4 units)	July 06

These units would have a lower market price than the individual houses. But in total have a substantial capital value. It is the Government's intention to sell these houses to local home buyers, and to reinvest the proceeds in building more affordable homes for local home buyers.

3. Chilton Court

(27) 2 Blocks (overlooking Queensway) comprising 32 flats. These flats will be added to the Government's housing stock for rental to people on the housing waiting list on the same terms as Edinburgh House.

4. Sites for Development

(28) Cormorant Wharf (April 04)

(29) Fleet Pavilion (April 04)

The transfer of this site will enable the Government to build a new first and middle school to accommodate demand in the Town and Westside areas

(30) The Coaling Island, basin and berthing strip.

This transfer enables the Government to proceed with the relocation of the small boat owners. (Pending reprovisioning)

- (31) No4 Dock. (Pending reprovisioning)
The transfer of this site enables major additional development opportunities to proceed, including a large new reclamation in front of Rooke and the RGYC, creating further development land and the construction of a new road linking Westside Reclamation and Queensway.
- (32) Land at Navy W/T Station (April 04)
- (33) Queensway Club Swimming Pool area. (April 04)
- (34) Site of Thompson's cottages/Naval Hospital Hill (April 04)
- (35) North Front Ariel Farm site/Eastern Beach (April 04)
- (36) Dutch Magazine site (except the part occupied by MOD laundry, unless relocated) (April 04)
- (37) MOD Medical Facility, Queensway (when MOD build new hospital)
- (38) RNH Europa Road (when MOD build new hospital)
- (39) Gibraltar Squadron facilities (subject to relocation at Gunwharf)
- (40) Navy W/T Station. (Aug 10)
- (41) Rosia Tanks (April 04)

In its recent election manifesto the Government committed itself to ensuring that some development sites would be made available to private developers on condition that they built low cost, affordable housing for first time local home buyers. This will result in still more such homes being built.

5. Industrial Assets

- (42) MOD ex Motor Transport Garage (Opposite Air Terminal).
Government intends to use this existing facility as the depot for the new bus service. (April 04)
- (43) The Shell hangar at the airfield. (Pending reprovisioning)
- (44) Large area of land to the North of the airfield. (April 04)
- (45) The old MOD Sullage Plant at North Mole. (April 04)
- (46) Williams Way OFD and Orillion Gap Tunnel. (April 04)

- (47) Coaling Island Cold Store. (April 04)
- (48) Eastside (disused) fuel depot (April 04)
- (49) Eastside Jetty and related instalations. (April 04)
- (50) WSM Stores, Waterport. (July 04)
- (51) Ex-Naafi Stores, Waterport. (Aug 07)
- (52) Commercial Port use, for account of GOG, of Southern (MOD) half of detached mole. (Immediate)

6. Other Sites

- (53) The freehold (subject to existing long lease) of La Rotunda, Winston Churchill Avenue; (April 04)
- (54) The freehold (subject to existing long lease) of Britannia House; (April 04)
- (55) The freehold (subject of 150 leases in favour of MOD & RGR) of the remaining blocks of Chilton Court. (80 flats) (April 05)
- (56) The MOD Eastside Water Catchments. (April 04)
- (57) Middle Hill, Upper Rock. (April 05)

7. Other Social Facilities/Assets

- (58) Ownership of the road leading to Western Beach. (April 04)
- (59) Command Education Centre, Queensway/Bowling Alley. (April 04)
- (60) Queensway Club. (April 04)
- (61) Central Hall. (April 04)
- (62) Navy No1 Ground (Sept 04)
- (63) Land for expansion of Cemetry. (April 04)
- (64) A sea-shore strip of land to link Camp Bay and Little Bay. (April 04)
- (65) Reduction in waters designated as Admiralty Waters. (Pending Re provisioning)

8. Other Issues

(1) Commercial Lettings

In the recent past MOD has been letting premises to commercial entities that competed in the local market. These companies operated in a lower cost environment and therefore competed unfairly with companies established in premises outside the MOD estate. In future such companies will pay rates to GOG and rent to MOD equivalent atleast to their Net Annual Values for rating purposes. Tenancies must be registered with The Rent Assessor, and all GOG authorities and inspectors will have full access. This will eliminate the commercial advantage over competitors.

(2) Pending documentation

This agreement allows the documentation of the transfer of Cumberland and Tower sites, Rosia Road, to proceed, making two further sites available for development.

9. In exchange for all the above, GOG has agreed the following in favour of MOD: -

(1) As is usual practice historically, facilities for which there is continuing need by MOD will be reprovided by GOG at its expense as follows: -

- (a) Weather Balloon Station, airfield.
- (b) 100 car parking spaces for MOD at Commonwealth Parade (until construction of proposed underground car park by GOG at Navy 1 Ground).
- (c) Gibraltar Boat Squadron to new finger jetty at Gunwharf.
- (d) MSG tugs & boats from Coaling Island to Gunwharf.
- (e) Water sports and other facilities from No4 dock to Gunwharf. Gunwharf site thus reverts to MOD.
- (f) Conversion and upgrading of five existing blocks at Four Corners estate into 15 flats.

- (2) £250,000 annual reduction in MOD payment to GOG in lieu of Rates (CILOR) (This corresponds roughly to the exemption of the airfield and the Bufadero training grounds to which GOG does not provide services).
- (3) Return to MOD of current airport car park, which GOG will reprovide next to Air Terminal.

10. Royal Gibraltar Regiment

During the last few days there has been a substantial amount of comment based on misconception and incorrect facts and speculation. Far from being about depriving the Royal Gibraltar Regiment of housing for present or future recruits, the Government's purpose in the negotiation has been to secure that housing for the Regiment indefinitely, thus providing the Regiment with permanent security, so that it can not be withdrawn by MOD in any future spending review.

The issue in the deal is not the question of whether MOD stops providing housing, but rather how financial value can be given to MOD without affecting the housing issue. To understand the logic of this it is necessary first to understand UK Treasury Accounting Rules.

Under UK Treasury Accounting rules which apply to MOD, the MOD is obliged to pay in cash out of its Gibraltar operating budget every year, a sum of money equivalent to several percent of the book value of its property. This reduces the cash budget available for spending on actual MOD operations. By transferring the freehold of the property to GOG the MOD local budget avoids this loss of spending power. It is in Gibraltar's economic interests that the local MOD spendable budget should be as high as possible.

But this does not mean that MOD will cease to provide the housing or that MOD ceases to be the landlord of its RG soldiers. This is because, as part of the deal, GOG will lease back the property for 150 years, free of rent. Therefore the transfer of property is technical only, because it is leased back to MOD for 150 years. A lease for 150 years is what private home owners in Gibraltar get.

In order to give the Gibraltar Regiment long term protection in respect of housing for its soldiers, GOG has opted (in close consultation with the Regiment) to give the 150 lease to the Regiment itself. The Regiment will then in turn give another 150 lease to the MOD. MOD, as 150 year lease holder of these Chilton Court blocks will then continue to let the flats to the Regiment's soldiers on existing terms. These arrangements therefore represent no adverse change whatsoever to the regiment's soldiers.

However, because the Government's lease will be to the Regiment (who then lease – on to MOD), if MOD ever seek to withdraw the housing from Regiment soldiers, the MOD's 150 year lease of the flats reverts to the Regiment, which can then keep the housing facility in place indefinitely.

Furthermore, an agreement has been reached in relation to the Repair and Maintenance of these flats.

The Royal Gibraltar Regiment considers, rightly, that these arrangements are very positive, because without adverse effect on soldiers (who remain MOD tenants) the Regiment keeps its housing entitlements with unprecedented security for the next 150 years. The Government is delighted to have been able to support the Regiment in this very substantial manner.

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SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1139 TO 1144 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

The £3.5 million is the answer to Question No. 1144, is it, which is the total?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, it is the total. Basically, the re-provision that the Government expect to have to pay for access to the land, obviously there is expenditure on our land once we get it but that is a different matter that is not relocation, is an item which was already on the cards. In other words the cost of moving the MSG to Gun Wharf so that the small boat owners can go into Coaling Island, and four blocks, four or five, a number of blocks in Four Corners Camp that need to be upgraded, I think 25 flats have got to be converted into 15 of a higher grading in MOD jargon, but of course that is spread over a period of time so £3.5 million is our best estimate to date of the whole of that exercise and all of the boats. There are other things, for example, the relocation of the Gib Squadron to Gun Wharf and indeed the relocation of the No 4 Dock, I do not remember I always know it as the Army Watermanship Centre but it is not called that any more. That will involve expense but that will be borne by whoever acquires the development, the Government do not expect themselves to pay out for those relocations but they do arise out of the deal just as the Government do not expect to have to fund it themselves.

HON C A BRUZON:

Can Government state out of those 33 flats that would be available for rental for people on the housing waiting list, whether there are some on the ground floor that could suitably be used for elderly people who have been waiting quite a long time to be given ground floor flats?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Of course there are ground floor flats. In those two blocks there are two blocks' worth of ground floor flats. I do not know what the policy of the Housing Allocation Committee is. I hope obviously that they bear in mind the physical needs of different tenants when they come to allocate the ground floor flats and they do not put healthy people on the ground floor and then find that they have to put elderly people on the upper floors. I hope that they will take that into consideration. I say that many elderly people are rather looking forward to the elderly peoples housing being built but there will be some demand I suppose for these houses as well.

NO 1145 OF 2004

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – PRIVATE SECTOR

Can Government state what is the estimated number of private sector dwellings built between 1945 and 1959 fit for human habitation and currently rented?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I cannot explain why this question has been allocated to me and been slipped in here when all the rest relating to this issue were dealt with by the Minister for Housing. I think this has been an oversight. I suspect that all of this issue has been fully discussed when there was a similar batch of questions for the Minister. In any case the answer is that this information is not available to Government, which are the views that we exchanged when very similar questions were taken by the Hon Mr Netto.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1145 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

Presumably the information on the number of dwellings built between 1945 and 1959 is available to the Government? The Government have got to know when buildings are built.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

That is not the question. The question is houses built between 1945 and 1959 fit for human habitation and currently rented.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I see. So what the Government are saying is that they do know how many were built but they do not know whether those that were built are fit for human habitation today and rented today, is that the answer?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I am not certain that even that is correct. I suppose somewhere there must be a record of when houses were built but I suspect that it is not as easy as the hon Member might think for the Government to get a list of houses that were built between 1945 and 1959, I cannot even assure him that that information is readily available. There is a property register, I suppose the planning authority must have but that is ownership rather than building of properties. There is presumably, I assume, the planning records go back to 1945. There will be a date when planning permission was granted, even perhaps a certificate of fitness, I do not know, which might suggest completion of construction. There might even be a record of when properties came onto the rating list for example, which might be evidence. So I suppose by those routes it might be possible to construct a picture of when properties were built, but in any case the answer to the question as formulated is that the information is not readily available. I do recall that we have had this exchange before. I mean, the Government cannot know whether properties are fit for human habitation, this is private sector dwellings, unless it were to inspect each and every property.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Yes, I know that has been said generally about the previous questions that tried to establish the pool of houses that were available. That is why the concept of fit was there because if the house is derelict and standing it can hardly be considered to be part of the available housing stock, but of course is it that the Government in fact, having taken a policy decision on the capping of the 45 year rule, when they changed the Landlord and Tenants Ordinance, have done this without having the remotest idea as to how many properties had been affected by the 45 year rule, between 1945 and 1990?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

We have debated that very question at the last session of Question Time and I have given him the answer to that.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The answer is what, that they have no idea because they are not able to give the answer?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The answer is that we have debated the very question of the basis upon which the Government moved to amend the Landlord and Tenant Ordinance the last time that we discussed this, and that is not the question being asked here. The answer to the question asked is that the information is not available to the Government.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I see. So in fact the answer to Question No. 565 which was that the number of properties each year that became rent controlled since 1990 as a result of having been built 45 years previously, which was five properties, is completely unrelated to the information that they do not have in this question. In other words we are talking about the same 45 year period.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, the hon Member can mistreat the words that I utter to him as much as he likes. The question asks 'Can Government state what is the estimated number of private sector dwellings built between 1945 and 1959, fit for human habitation and currently rented?', to which the answer is that Government do not have that information available.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I see, and since the Government do not have the information that meet the three criteria, I am trying to establish whether the Government have got any notion at all of how many houses were built between 1945 and 1959. Do they have any notion? Were 1,000 houses built between 1945 and 1959 or one? No notion, is that the position? I find it very odd.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

That specific question has been dealt with in the exchanges on previous questions between the Hon Mr Bruzon and the Minister for Housing in the last 48 hours.

HON C A BRUZON:

What the Minister and I discussed, I think, was the fact that they did not have enough resources or it would cost too much to ensure that inspectors went round all these places to establish whether or not they were empty and so forth.

HON J J NETTO:

In addition to what the hon Member does say, I have also additionally said that I have tried to get this information for the hon Members because they have asked this question and when they asked it about three months ago. What I have been informed is that in relation to the private sector, neither the Government Building Control Department has got the register which the Leader of the Opposition was mentioning before, partly due I am told because about five years ago when they were housed in the City Hall there was a lot of water penetration and it went into all the boxes where they had all the register and that meant that they did not have a complete picture of the situation. The Town Planner has not got the information, LPS have not got the information (this is what I have been told) and when I went to the extreme of trying to get the information from the actual source themselves, being the landlords in the private sector, they themselves also have not got the information. So we have tried to provide the information through all these various sources and we

have not been able to provide the information, but this I have said in the House before.

HON J J BOSSANO:

My supplementary is, given that in answer to Question No. 565, which he must have a bit of paper there on it, he told us that there were five properties that became rent controlled in the period 1945 to 1959, having been built in that period, are those five properties then an indication that only five properties were built in all those years?

HON J J NETTO:

Yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So then the Minister does know. Five.

HON J J NETTO:

This is the information that has been given to me by LPS.

ORAL

NO 1146 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

HARBOUR VIEWS

Can Government state when they expect to complete the remedial works to the podium at Harbour Views and whether the completion of the remedial works is a prerequisite to the sale of parking places to the tenants of the estate?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Government expect to commence these works this year. The sale of parking places is being held back in case the remedial work throws up the need to offer car parking spaces temporarily to the owners whilst the works are executed.

ORAL

NO 1147 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

LAND PROPERTY SERVICES LTD

Can Government state whether they have now concluded a new contract with Land Property Services?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Not yet.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1147 OF 2004

HON L A RANDALL:

Could the Chief Minister say when they hope to conclude the new contract by?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I cannot give the hon Member a date, I am afraid, no.

ORAL

NO 1148 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

LATHBURY BARRACKS – RETREAT CENTRE

Can Government state what has been the cost of refurbishing the Retreat Centre at Lathbury Barracks?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1149 to 1151 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1149 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

LATHBURY BARRACKS – RETREAT CENTRE

Can Government state how many different groups and/or entities have availed themselves of the facilities of the Lathbury Barracks Retreat Centre since its inauguration?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1148, 1150 and 1151 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1150 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

LATHBURY BARRACKS – RETREAT CENTRE

Can Government state who is assigned with the management of the Retreat Centre at Lathbury Barracks?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1148, 1149 and 1151 of 2004.

NO 1151 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

LATHBURY BARRACKS RETREAT CENTRE

Can Government state what is the annual cost of the Retreat Centre at Lathbury Barracks?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answer to Question No. 1148

The cost of converting the derelict shell at Lathbury Barracks into a Retreat Centre was £1,084,941.37

Answer to Question No. 1149

Since its opening in November 2002, the Retreat Centre has been used by 14 different entities, namely: The Mission Group; Christian Charismatic Renewal; Secular Franciscan Order; Faith & Light; World Marriage Encounter; Catholic Youth Ministry; St Paul's Youth Prayer Group; Co-Worker of Mother Theresa; Cursillo Movement; St Anne's School; Royal Gibraltar Police; Marriage Care; Residents of Mount Alvernia; visiting journalists to cover the Referendum; and several persons whose homes were badly affected as a result of the fire at Horse Barrack Lane.

Answer to Question No. 1150

The home is run by a charitable trust, the Trustees of which employ a full-time manager to run the facility.

Answer to Question No. 1151

The approved estimate for 2003/2004 was £117,000 for the running costs of the home.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1148 TO 1151 OF 2004

HON S E LINARES:

Just one question, the charitable trust, is there a specific charitable trust or is it various ones?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, it is a specific trust. The Government used the same model as for Dr Giraldi originally, and for the New Hope Trust for the Rehabilitation Centre and indeed for the Citizens Advice Bureau. There is a trust set up with trustees. The trustees are representatives of various sectors of the community who run this, and it is a retreat centre for all walks and activities of life. Companies use it, Government Departments use it, Clubs and Associations use it and religious groups use it, of all denominations. So there is a trust, I am not sure that the trust has got a name, we call it the Retreat Centre Trust. There is a trustee even.

NO 1152 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GARRISON LIBRARY

Can Government say when was the last time that there were any discussions for the transfer of the Garrison Library to the Government?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

We have agreed with the Senior Officers of the Garrison, which is the phrase that I use only because they are the people who own the library and not the MOD, there is apparently some sort of cohesive body called Senior Officers of the Garrison, they must all be very wealthy given that there are so few of them left and they own the Garrison Library, they are represented by a Senior Officer in the MOD and we have agreed to undertake discussions imminently on this issue. As to his actual question of when was the last time they met, I have not been able to obtain an exact day but it is certainly probably over a year ago. There has now been a resolution so to speak that we will get down to this and discuss it, the agreement was after Easter, well it is now after Easter and I can tell him it has not happened yet but it is on the cards.

ORAL

NO 1153 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GOVERNMENT LAND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

What are the terms of reference and the function of the Government Land Management Committee?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1154 and 1155 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1154 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GOVERNMENT LAND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Can Government list the composition of the Government Land Management Committee?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1153 and 1155 of 2004.

NO 1155 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GOVERNMENT LAND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

How often and on what dates have the Government Land Management Committee met in 2003 and 2004 to date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Government do not think it appropriate to provide this information. The Land Management Committee is an informal, internal Government administrative structure to consider and decide upon routine lands issues. It comprises both Ministers and officials, and I would not want the hon Member to get the impression that this is a formal structure. In other words, it is just a label given to the officials that get together with the Ministers that they get together with to decide these issues. I do not mind telling him that there are two Ministers and one of them is the Hon Mr Holliday and the other is the Hon Mr Vinet. They are the members, for the rest it is just relevant officials in the departments concerned with the issues under discussion. So it is not actually a sort of formal, official group it is just a label given to the people that get together to perform this particular administrative function. It is no more than that, it has no legal characteristic.

ORAL

NO 1156 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TERCENTENARY EVENTS – HOLDING HANDS

Can Government say whether they have received any requests for assistance, financial or otherwise, from the organisers of the holding hands round the rock event on the 4 August?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1157 of 2004.

NO 1157 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TERCENTENARY EVENTS – HOLDING HANDS

Can Government say whether they will be supporting in principle and in practice the holding hands round the rock event on 4 August?

ANSWER

Answer to Question No. 1156

The organisers of the event held a meeting with my Colleague the Hon Joe Holliday to inform him of the event and to co-ordinate it with other events taking place on 4th August. No financial assistance has been requested.

Answer to Question No. 1157

Participation by each individual member of the Government in the event is a personal matter for each Member of the Government.

ORAL

NO 1158 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TERCENTENARY EVENTS – USA

What Tercentenary event is planned to take place in the USA?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1159 to 1166 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1159 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TERCENTENARY EVENTS – LONDON

What was the cost with a breakdown of the reception at the Savoy Hotel following the Tercentenary Church service in London?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1158 and 1160 to 1166 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1160 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TERCENTENARY EVENTS – LONDON

How many MPs were invited to the Tercentenary Church service in London, how many attended and who were they?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1158, 1159 and 1161 to 1166 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1161 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TERCENTENARY PARLIAMENTARY DINNER

What was the cost, with a breakdown, of the Tercentenary Parliamentary dinner in London, and can Government provide a list of those MPs who attended?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1158 to 1160 and 1162 to 1166 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1162 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TERCENTENARY EVENTS – LONDON

Can Government list the persons from Gibraltar who accompanied the Chief Minister for the Tercentenary events in London, showing the cost with the breakdown?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1158 to 1161 and 1163 to 1166 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1163 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TERCENTENARY EVENTS – LONDON

How many persons from Gibraltar were invited by the Government to the Tercentenary church service and Savoy reception and who were they?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1158 to 1162 and 1164 to 1166 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1164 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TERCENTENARY EVENTS – LONDON

How many officials from the Gibraltar Government or Gibraltar Development Corporation were present at the Tercentenary events held in London, what posts do they hold, what hotel did each of them stay in and what was the cost with a breakdown?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1158 to 1163, 1165 and 1166 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1165 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TERCENTENARY EVENTS – LONDON

What were the total flight costs due by Government in respect of persons from Gibraltar who were invited by the Government to the Tercentenary events in London?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1158 to 1164 and 1166 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1166 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TERCENTENARY EVENTS – LONDON

What were the total accommodation costs due by Government in respect of persons from Gibraltar who were invited by the Government to the Tercentenary events in London?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I am not aware of any formal specific Tercentenary event in the USA.

The other details requested are set out in the Schedule attached.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1166 OF 2004

Answer to Question 1159/2004

The total cost of the reception at the Savoy Hotel was £35,055. The breakdown of costs is as follows:

The Savoy Hotel

Room Hire and Service Charge		6,518
Consumables	26,633	
Room set-up		1,354
Security		500
Total (inclusive of vat)		£35,005

Answer to Question 1160

Contd Answer to Question 1166

A total of 149 MPs were invited to the Tercentenary Church Service. A total of 60 MPs and peers attended the Church Service and they were as follows:

The Rt Hon	Donald	Anderson	MP	Chairman of the Select Committee on Foreign Affairs
The Rt Hon	Michael	Ancram	MP	
The Earl	John	Attlee		
The Lord		Bethell		
Mr	Graham	Brady	MP	
Mr	Colin	Breed	MP	
Mr	David	Burnside	MP	
Mr	David	Chidgey	MP	
Mrs	Helen	Clark	MP	
Sir	Patrick	Cormack	MP	
Mr	Tom	Cox	MP	
Mr	David	Crausby	MP	
Mr	Ian	Davidson	MP	
Lord	David	Davis of Colty		
Mr	Jim	Dobbin	MP	
The Rt Hon	Iain	Duncan Smith	MP	
The Hon Mrs	Gwyneth	Dunwoody	MP	Chair of the Transport Select Committee
Mr	Nigel	Evans	MP	
Lord	Ronald	Fearn		
Mr	Glyn	Ford	MEP	
Mr	Mark	Francois	MP	
Mr	Edward	Garnier	MP	
The	Lord	Greenway		
Ms	Cheryl	Gillan	MP	
Mr	Dominc	Grieve	MP	
Mr	Jimmy	Hood	MP	
The Hon	Lindsay	Hoyle	MP	Chairman All Party Gibraltar Group
Lord		Hoyle		
The Rt Hon	Michael	Howard	MP	
Mr	Simon	Hughes	MP	
Mr	Eric	Illsley	MP	
Rt Hon	Adam	Ingram	MP	Minister of State for the Armed Forces
Mr	Robert	Jackson	MP	
Mr	Brian	Jenkins	MP	
Mr	Nigel	Jones	MP	
Mr	Robert	Key	MP	
Mrs	Eleanor	Laing	MP	
Mr	Bob	Laxton	MP	
Lord		Luce of Adur		
Mr	John	Lyons	MP	
The Rt Hon	Francis	Maude	MP	
Lord		MacKenzie of Culkein		

Mr	Andrew	Mackinlay	MP	
Mr	John	McWilliam	MP	
Mr	Alan	Meale	MP	
Lord		Monson		
Mr	Michael	Moore	MP	Shadow Minister for Foreign & Commonwealth Affairs
Mr	Neil	Parish	MEP	
Mr	Andrew	Rosindell	MP	Chairman C.F.G.
Mr	Jim	Sheridan	MP	
The	Baroness	Symons of Vernham Dean		Minister of State, Foreign Office
Miss	Geraldine	Smith	MP	
Revd	Martin	Smyth	MP	
Baroness	Jean	Strange		
Baroness		Thatcher		Former Prime Minister
Mr	Dennis	Turner	MP	
Mr	Bill	Tynan	MP	
Sir	Nicholas	Winterton	MP	
Lady		Winterton	MP	
Sir	Teddy	Taylor	MP	

Answer to Question 1161

The total cost of the Parliamentary Dinner was £6,530 inclusive of VAT and comprised the following:

Food and Drink	£5,090
Microphone Hire	£ 70
Menu Cards	£ 420
Staff gratuities at 12½ %	£ 745
Supplementary Charges	£ 218
Total inclusive of VAT	£6,543

Here are the names of those who attended the parliamentary dinner:

Mr	David	Arness	MP	House of Commons
The Rt Hon	Michael	Ancram	QC DL MP	House of Commons
Baroness		Anelay		House of Lords
Mr	Tony	Banks	MP	House of Commons
Mr	Harry	Barnes	MP	House of Commons
Miss	Anne	Begg	MP	House of Commons
Mr	Roy	Beggs	MP	House of Commons
Mr	Henry	Bellingham	MP	House of Commons
Mr	John	Bercow	MP	House of Commons
The Rt Hon the Lord	Peter	Blaker	KCMG	House of Lords
Mr	Colin	Breed	MP	House of Commons
Lord		Brookman		House of Lords
Mr	David	Burnside	MP	House of Commons
Mr	David	Cameron	MP	House of Commons
Mr	Ben	Chapman	MP	House of Commons
Mr	David	Chidgey	MP	House of Commons
Mr	Christopher	Chope	OBE, MP	House of Commons
Mr	Paul	Clark	MP	House of Commons
Mr	David	Clelland	MP	House of Commons

Mr	Tony	Colman	MP	House of Commons
Sir	Patrick	Cormack	MP	House of Commons
Mr	Tom	Cox	MP	House of Commons
Mr	David	Crausby	MP	House of Commons
Mr	Wayne	David	MP	House of Commons
Mr	Ian	Davidson	MP	House of Commons
The Rt Hon	Denzil	Davies	MP	House of Commons
Lord	David	Davies of Colty	CBE	House of Lords
Mr	Jim	Dobbin	MP	House of Commons
Mr	Brian	Donohoe	MP	House of Commons
The Hon	Gwyneth	Dunwoody	MP	House of Commons
Mrs	Louise	Ellman	MP	House of Commons
Mr	Nigel	Evans	MP	House of Commons
Lord		Evans of Walford		House of Lords
Mr	Michael	Fabricant	MP	House of Commons
Lord		Fearn		House of Lords
Mr	Howard	Flight	MP	House of Commons
Mr	Mark	Francois	MP	House of Commons
Mr	Edward	Garnier	QC MP	House of Commons
The Rt Hon	Bruce	George	MP	Chair Defence Select Committee
Ms	Cheryl	Gillan	MP	House of Commons
Mr	Roger	Goddsiff	MP	House of Commons
The Baroness	Llin	Golding		House of Lords
Lord		Greenway		House of Lords
Mr	David	Hamilton	MP	House of Commons
Mr	Fabian	Hamilton	MP	House of Commons
Mr	Michael	Hancock	MP, CBE	House of Commons
Mr	Nick	Hawkins	MP	House of Commons

Rt Hon	David	Heathcoat-Amory	MP	House of Commons
Mr	Ivan	Henderson	MP	House of Commons
Mr	Jimmy	Hood	MP	House of Commons
Mr	Gary	Hooper	MP	House of Commons
Mr	Gerald	Howarth	MP	House of Commons
The Rt Hon the Lord		Howe of Aberavon	CH, QC	House of Lords
The Hon	Lindsay	Hoyle	MP	Chairman All Party Gibraltar Group
Lord	Doug	Hoyle		House of Lords
Mr	Simon	Hughes	MP	House of Commons
Mrs	Joan	Humble	MP	
Mr	Eric	Illsley	MP	House of Commons
Rt Hon	Adam	Ingram	MP	Minister of State for the Armed Forces
Mr	Brian	Jenkins	MP	House of Commons
Mr	Martyn	Jones	MP	House of Commons
Mr	Nigel	Jones	MP	House of Commons
The Rt Hon	Gerald	Kaufman	MP	House of Commons
Mr	Paul	Keetch	MP	House of Commons
Mr	Robert	Key	MP	House of Commons
The Rt Hon the Lord		Kilclooney		House of Lords
Ms	Julie	Kirkbride	MP	House of Commons
Dr	Ashok	Kumar	MP	House of Commons
Mrs	Eleanor	Laing	MP	House of Commons
Mr	Bob	Laxton	MP	House of Commons
Dr	Julian	Lewis	MP	House of Commons
Mr	John	Lyons	MP	House of Commons
The Rt Hon	Andrew	MackKay	MP	House of Commons
Mr	Andrew	Mackinlay	MP	House of Commons

The Rt Hon	Francis	Maude	MP	House of Commons
Mr	John	Maples	MP	House of Commons
Ms	Anne	McIntosh	MP	House of Commons
Mr	John	McWilliam	MP	House of Commons
Mr	Alan	Meale	MP	House of Commons
The Lord	John	Monson		House of Lords
Mr	Chris	Mullin	MP	FCO
The Lord	Michael	Naseby	PC	House of Lords
Baroness	Northover			House of Lords
Mr	Eddie	O'Hara	MP	House of Commons
Mr	Mike	Penning		Conservative Party Candidate
Mr	ERic	Pickles	MP	Shadow Secretary of State for Local Government
Mr	Colin	Pickthall	MP	House of Commons
Mr	Peter	Pike	MP	House of Commons
Mr	Ken	Purchase	MP	House of Commons
Rt Hon	Joyce	Quin	MP	House of Commons
Mr	John	Randall	MP	House of Commons
Mr	Syd	Rapson	BEM MP	House of Commons
Mr	Andrew	Rosindell	MP	House of Commons
Mr	Frank	Roy	MP	House of Commons
Mr	Jim	Sheridan	MP	House of Commons
Mr	Keith	Simpson	MP	House of Commons
Miss	Geraldine	Smith	MP	House of Commons
Revd	Martin	Smyth	MP	House of Commons
Mr	Richard	Spring	MP	Shadow Minister of State
Rt Hon Sir	John	Stanley	MP	House of Commons
Mr	Gerry	Steinberg	MP	House of Commons

Dr	Howard	Stoate	MP	House of Commons
Baroness	Jean	Strange		House of Lords
Mr	Gary	Streeter	MP	House of Commons
Mr	Desmond	Swayne	MP	House of Commons
Sir	Teddy	Taylor	MP	House of Commons
The Rt Hon	David	Trimble	MP, MLA	Leader of the Ulster Unionist Party
Lord		Tristan Garel-Jones		House of Lords
Mr	Dennis	Turner	MP	House of Commons
Baroness	Muriel	Turner of Camden		House of Lords
Mr	Bill	Tynan	MP	House of Commons
Mr	Keith	Vaz	MP	House of Commons
Mrs	Angela	Watkinson	MP	House of Commons
Mr	Brian	White	MP	House of Commons
Mr	Damian	White	Committee Member of the Conservative	Friends of Gibraltar Group
Mr	David	Wilshire	MP	House of Commons
Mr	John	Wilkinson		House of Commons
Mr	Peter	Wilson		Senior Researcher for the Hon Lindsay Hoyle
Sir	Nicholas	Winterton	MP	House of Commons
Lady		Winterton	MP	

Answer to Question 1162

The Chief Minister

Mrs C Caruana

Mr Francis Cantos

Mr Martin Figueras

Bishop Charles Caruana

Monsignor Father Bear

The Dean of Gibraltar, Rt Reverend Alan Woods

Nathan Payas

Andrea Martin

Alice Mascarenhas, Gibraltar Chronicle

Stephen Ignacio, Vox

Anselmo Torres, Panorama

Gerard Teuma, GBC

William Bear, GBC

John Bugeja, photographer

Total cost £12,331.12 broken down into Flights £5,924.38, Accommodation and subsistence £6,406.74.

The Minister for Trade Industry and Communications and Mr Peter Canessa accompanied the Chief Minister to the Tercentenary Events in London but were already there on other business.

Cont'd Answer to Question 1166

Answer to Question 1163

There were five people who were invited from Gibraltar to attend the Service of Thanksgiving and Celebration.

The following people attended the Service and Reception:

Mr Marcus Killick, Commissioner, Financial Services Commission,

A representative on behalf of Trevor Thomas of Taylor Woodrow.

Lt Col Mark Randall of the Royal Gibraltar Regiment attended the Service.

Finally Mr Greg Butcher, Managing Director, Ocean Village came with Lt Col Francis Brancato.

Answer to Question 1164

A total of six officials from the Government of Gibraltar were present at the Tercentenary events including the Service of Thanksgiving and the Parliamentary Dinner.

They were:

The Chief Minister

The Minister for Trade, Industry and Communications

The UK Representative

Chief Executive, Gibraltar Tourist Board

The Chief Minister's Press Secretary

The Chief Minister's Private Secretary

The Chief Minister stayed at The Savoy Hotel and the cost was £937.65.

The Minister for Trade, Industry and Communications stayed at the Gloucester Hotel but was in London already for other events therefore does not have a cost.

The same applies to the Chief Executive of the Gibraltar Tourist Board.

The Chief Minister's Press Secretary stayed at the Swissotel The Howard and the cost was £797.46.

The Chief Minister's Private Secretary stayed at the Swissotel The Howard and the cost was £616.

Answer to Question 1165

Total flight costs were £2,736.38, in respect of persons from Gibraltar who were invited by the Government.

Answer to Question 1166

The accommodation costs were £3,553.85 in respect of persons from Gibraltar who were invited by the Government.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1158 TO 1166 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The supplementary on Question No. 1166 which refers to the cost of the reception at the Savoy Hotel which was just over £35,000, the reference to consumables is broken down in terms of room hire and service charges, consumables £26,600 is obviously the food and drink, is that the case?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I promise that we did not provide cocaine or anything like that. Yes, food and drink.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

As a matter of interest, the parliamentary dinner which it says here cost £6,500, lists as one of the items in the breakdown staff gratuities at 12½ per cent £745, is that a sort of House of Commons practice where one has to give a certain amount?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, I am told by the London Office that it is not actually voluntary, it is part of the terms of using the parliamentary dining facilities there.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The reference to the Tercentenary events in the USA was, if I recall correctly, on the website of the Tercentenary website the last time that I looked. Is the Minister able to clarify why that should have been there?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not know, I am not aware. Coinciding with my UN visit there is sometimes a lunch that I host for the Gibraltar/American Council and it may be that this year it is going to be called a Tercentenary lunch, but I am not aware of any specific event.

ORAL

NO 1167 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TERCENTENARY EVENTS – WAR VETERANS

Who will organise the catering for the British war veterans who will be invited to Gibraltar as part of the Tercentenary celebrations, how much will it cost and when did this go out to tender?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1168 to 1171 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1168 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TERCENTENARY EVENTS – WAR VETERANS

What is the projected cost, with a breakdown, of inviting 500 war veterans to Gibraltar during Tercentenary year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1167 and 1169 to 1171 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1169 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TERCENTENARY EVENTS – WAR VETERANS

What airline are Government intending to use to transport 500 war veterans between London and Gibraltar, were both existing airlines allowed to bid for this business or was this the subject of competitive tender?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1167, 1168, 1170 and 1171 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1170 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TERCENTENARY EVENTS – COMMEMORATION

Have the Gibraltar Government been invited to the Tercentenary commemoration of the loss of Gibraltar by any town in Spain this year and will they be attending or not?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1167 to 1169 and 1171 of 2004.

NO 1171 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TERCENTENARY EVENTS – SPANISH MAYORS

Have the Mayors of any Spanish town been invited to any Tercentenary event in Gibraltar this year, if so who and to what event, and will they be attending or not?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answer to Question No. 1167

For the first three groups of visiting veterans, the caterers at Mount Alvernia the cooks, who will at that stage have themselves moved into the Retreat centre kitchen whilst the Mount Alvernia kitchen is being refurbished, will provide the catering. The estimated cost for this is £12.00 per person per day. This will cover the expense of a full breakfast, light lunch and dinner. Once Mount Alvernia caterers vacate the Retreat, local companies will be asked to provide a quotation for the service.

Answer to Question No. 1168

Costs based on 10 groups of 50 people each. On that basis the overall cost is estimated at £210,000. Giving a breakdown will provide tenderers with sensitive commercial information given that the number of people is known as is the number of days and meals required.

Answer to Question No. 1169

Both schedule airlines serving Gibraltar were asked to tender, subsequently, Monarch Airlines has been chosen to provide the service for all the veterans.

Answer to Question No. 1171

No Spanish mayor has yet been invited to any of our events. I emphasize the word “yet” and in relation to whether we have been invited to any of their celebrations for what he calls in his question ‘celebration of the loss of Gibraltar’, I do not think that that is what they are celebrating. I think that certainly Los Barrios is not celebrating that. Los Barrios is celebrating the fact that it is also the 300th anniversary of the founding of Los Barrios. They regard the history of Gibraltar as having been

instrumental in the fact that they exist. So this is positive for them not negative. They are not celebrating the loss of Gibraltar, it is true that the loss of Gibraltar resulted in the establishment of San Roque and less publicly known the establishment of Los Barrios as well, and that is what they are celebrating. They are celebrating 300 years of their history just as we are celebrating 300 years of our history, and we are not celebrating the 300th anniversary of a conquest and I do not think they are celebrating the 300th anniversary of any loss.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1167 TO 1171 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In relation first to the airlines, can the Chief Minister say whether the quote by Monarch was chosen because it was the lowest airline or because logistically it was from Luton airport?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

They were the lowest.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

When the mayors came here in January, there was public reference to collaboration between Gibraltar and the Campo towns as regards Tercentenary celebrations, can the Chief Minister say whether that collaboration has now been progressed and in fact anything is going to be done in that respect?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not know what talk of collaboration he is referring to. I certainly recall saying that it was my hope to be able to extend invitations to mayors of the Campo in appropriate events that they felt they could take part in without feeling any degree of discomfiture as Spanish people and Spanish politicians. That was my position then and that remains my position. I sincerely hope that we shall be able to persuade them, or some of them, that this is not a celebration of a military loss or a military conquest but is celebration of 300 years, for good or for bad, for richer for poorer, in richness and in health, 300 years of history of Gibraltar which is worth celebrating and that they are a part of that history and that we should commemorate it together. There are some events which lend themselves to that, mainly the non military ones, the cultural ones, and there are some events which obviously do not lend themselves to that like the military ones. That is the Government's approach.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Chief Minister say how much, going back to the airlines, how much Monarch is charging for the flights for each of the veterans?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I think it would be wrong to give that information out, which is of a commercial nature, in public but I will tell him privately in the ante room afterwards.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Am I correct in assuming the £210,000 in relation to Question No. 1168, when I asked for the projected cost of inviting them with a breakdown, the £210,000 figure that I was given does not include the flights, is that correct or not?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It does include the flights.

ORAL

NO 1172 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY GROUP

Can Government confirm whether or not they consulted the Environmental Safety Group (and if so when) prior to the purchase of the buses now operated by the Gibraltar Bus Company Limited in order to have the benefit of the ESG's views on the type of propulsion and fuel systems employed by the buses?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1173 of 2004.

NO 1173 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

BUS SERVICE

Can Government state why the buses now being used by Gibraltar Bus Company Limited met emission standard Euro 3 instead of standard Euro 4, given the impending implementation of the latter?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answer to Question No. 1172

The Environmental Safety Group was not formally consulted nor is there any reason why they should be, but they were provided with the environmental credentials of the new buses at their request. I did actually have a general meeting with the Environmental Safety Group dealing with matters generally, at which one of its members, a gentleman who as I recall lives in Estepona, was urging the Government I seem to recall, to buy buses that run on used cooking oil, which the Government took the view was not a practical or realistic solution. Nor did we have any feedback, as far as I am aware of, to the information that we provided them on the buses that we were intending to order.

Answer to Question No. 1173

The order for the new buses stipulated that they should fully comply with all the relevant emission standards in force at the time and which incidentally still apply today, namely Euro 3. Buses complying with the Euro 4 standard were not available at the time of placing the order, which as the hon Member knows was early last year.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1172 AND 1173 OF 2004

HON F R PICARDO:

Can I just seek clarification, in particular of one aspect of what the Chief Minister has said? He said that the Environmental Safety Group were provided with the technical specifications, more or less, of the buses, which he was intending to order. Can I assume from that, that the Government are representing to the House that the ESG were provided with the technical specifications of the buses before the order was placed?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, one cannot assume anything. The meeting with me was something quite different, it was a general agenda meeting and there was this gentleman there whose name I do not recall. I cannot say, what I am told is that they were provided with the environmental credentials, not the technical specifications let us be clear, and I cannot say to him whether they were given before or after the event nor I repeat, is the Environmental Safety Group. The Government have their own experts in these matters and the Government are advised, remember these buses were manufactured for Gibraltar they were not just bought. One will have seen the Minister photographed in front of the production line at some time. These buses were manufactured to the latest European environmental standards available. I suppose now it may be that buses are being made to a different standard, but the Euro 4 I am advised, will not affect buses that were in service before and these are the buses that are still being bought for use in the United Kingdom and elsewhere throughout Europe.

ORAL

NO 1174 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

BUS SERVICE

Can Government state the name of the directors of Gibraltar Bus Company Limited as at close of business on Friday 5 March 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1175 to 1178 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1175 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

BUS SERVICE

Can Government state which Government wholly owned company purchased the trans-buses?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1174 and 1176 to 1178 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1176 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

BUS SERVICE

Can Government state what is the anticipated operating loss of the Gibraltar Bus Company Limited in its first full year of operation?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1174, 1175, 1177 and 1178 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1177 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

BUS SERVICE

Can Government state the terms of the agreement that was concluded between Rock City Services and the Gibraltar Bus Company Limited in respect of the transfer of the licence and when this agreement was signed?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1174 to 1176 and 1178 of 2004.

NO 1178 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

BUS SERVICE

Can Government state whether the rates of pay and conditions of service of the employee vacancies, as advertised in the edition of the Gibraltar Chronicle of the 6 March 2004, were arrived at by negotiation with any union or determined by the Gibraltar Bus Company and if the latter what analogues were used?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Directors are Andrew Perera, Brian Delaney and Richard Armstrong.

The buses have been acquired by the Gibraltar Bus Company Limited, a wholly owned Government company.

The financial performance of the Company will depend on the usage of it by citizens. It is not possible to assess what that will be at this early stage.

The agreement with Rock City Services was negotiated over a long period of time and completed on 5 April 2004. Government have purchased the licences for the sum of £875,000. Employees' terms were not negotiated nor was any analogue used.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1174 TO 1178 OF 2004

HON L A RANDALL:

Can the Chief Minister confirm that the three Directors which are mentioned, I believe there are four not three, the other is the Accountant General, they were in place on 5th March 2004, which is the question asked?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, I cannot, if he wants to be that specific. I notice that the question was asked at a specific date and the answer that I have been given is that one, which I am assuming is as at the date specified in the question but if he asks me personally to vouchsafe it and to confirm it, I would have to check it out. I assume that my officials have put in front of me the right factual answer.

HON L A RANDALL:

I would like the Chief Minister to confirm this because the information that I have is that they were not in place on 5th March. How was the purchase of the buses funded, by loan to the Gibraltar Bus Company from the Government, and if so was this included in the 2003/2004 estimates or the 2004/2005 estimates?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, the bus company is part of the Government's group of companies and was funded from the cash balances held in the Government's company structure. It was not funded from Consolidated Fund sources. As to whether the money has actually been injected by way of loans or by way of share capital, I would need notice of that question because that has been dealt with by the Accountant General. I suspect at this stage it has been dealt with by loan capital which might at some stage be converted.

HON J J BOSSANO:

When the buses were originally purchased, were they purchased in the first instance by the Gibraltar Bus Company or by another Government company and subsequently transferred to the Gibraltar Bus Company?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I am relying on memory now so I cannot be certain that what I am saying is exactly correct. I am almost certain it was not the Gibraltar Bus Company. Remember that at the time that the buses were ordered the Government were still in negotiation with Calypso on that issue. I am almost certain but I would need to check, I do not think the buses were ordered, in other words there is a purchase agreement or manufacture/purchase agreement with the suppliers of the buses. I do not think that contract was in the name of the Gibraltar Bus Company, I think it would have been in the name of some other Government entity, but I can check that out and let him have it when next we meet.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can I point out to the Government that Question No. 1175 says 'which Government wholly owned company purchased the buses?'. The reply was that 'they have been acquired by the Gibraltar Bus Company'. Well they have been acquired presumably from another company which had previously purchased them, is that correct?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It does not necessarily follow that way. It may be that by the time it came to actually obtain the title to the buses, that by that stage it was done directly. In other words, there may be a difference between the company that signed the order agreement and the company that eventually took delivery and paid for the buses. That is a possibility too but I would have to check the choreography of that and confirm it to the hon Member.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In terms of the Gibraltar Bus Company, given that when it was already inviting applications it was still a company with two £1 shares issued and registered with somebody else, presumably at that stage it did not own any buses?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, I do not know about registered with somebody else, whilst the negotiations which ultimately did not come to successful conclusion were being conducted between the Government and Calypso Transport, the parties agreed that we would get on with forming the company that would ultimately deliver the service and that if a successful agreement was concluded, it would be owned in accordance with whatever was agreed in that negotiation, but if there was not a successful agreement it would become a wholly owned Government company. So during the negotiations the company was formed by the lawyer then in effect helping both parties and as the negotiations between those two parties were not successful, and as had been agreed, the Government took over the company at which stage and I think it stayed with that lawyer for a while and then eventually it was changed to wherever the Government companies lived and the registered address is now No. 6 Convent Place and this is why there are Civil Servants who are Directors. So there is a process during which the company is being set up during the negotiating process and then when the service starts taking shape, namely the acquisition of the buses, the acquisition of staff and all that, at that point the company becomes active, but it is not an unusual way of doing business.

HON J J BOSSANO:

It may not be unusual in other circumstances but on this particular occasion, in fact is it not the case that the bus company was already advertising and in fact the bus company was not yet wholly owned by the Government, it was still sort of a shelf company?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not think that is true. The Government were the owners of the company from the moment that we broke off negotiations with the other party and the agreement previously in place that on that happening the Government were to be regarded as the sole owners of the company, had been invoked. The fact that shares may not have been issued to the Government is neither here nor there, as the hon Member sitting on his right will advise him. The lawyer who set up the company owns the founding shares on behalf of whoever he regards as his client, which by then had become the Government, because the negotiations with Calypso, which was a negotiation leading to a possible joint venture, we just did not come to terms so the Government proceeded by themselves.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In terms of the company that originally placed the order for the buses, would this be one of the property companies which seems to be the company that has actual cash balances?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I have already agreed that I will find out the name of the entity which signed the contract and let him know.

HON L A RANDALL:

In answer to Question No. 1176 the Chief Minister said that the loss or profit of the bus company would depend on the usage by citizens. Is the Chief Minister therefore saying that during the thorough planning stage which the Government went through, they did not construct a business plan so that they had a view as to what the return on investment would be on circa £2 million?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The hon Member must be living in cloud-cuckoo-land if he thinks that the Government have entered into this venture with a view to a return on investments. This is a municipal, publicly funded, publicly subsidised public service which has not the remotest chance of delivering a return, probably never even breaking even let alone delivering a return on investment, any more than the Government look for a financial return on investment when they are running a hospital or running schools or running anything else. This is a publicly funded social service to which users make a contribution. It is the Government's decision to proceed with a public transport service of this sort, is in no case linked to the business case that could be made for it. Obviously a lot of information was researched at the time that we were negotiating a joint venture partnership, because we had to understand as between the two joint ventures, who was bringing in more passengers given that they have passenger numbers and Rock City Service that we were going to buy had passenger numbers and obviously there are pro-forma profit and loss accounts. In other words, there is an operating cost analysis for a 12 month period, all that of course is in place, but what the loss would be in other words what the revenue over expenditure will be, or the expenditure over revenue more likely in this case, what the gap between the two will be depends on the amount of traffic that we succeed or passengers that we succeed in attracting to the bus services. Clearly, with the proper working conditions that the staff of the company enjoy, as has to be the case with a Government owned company and indeed should be the case whether they are owned by the Government or not, but certainly the Government are not willing to cut corners with the terms upon which they employ people in companies owned by it, if the traffic, if the volume of usage remains as it used to be when it was run by Rock City Services at a much lower operating cost, then there will certainly be a shortfall of revenue over expenditure. We could calculate what we think that might be, I suppose that now that they have got a few days of paying traffic, they can try and extrapolate that over a 12 month period and do calculations, but remember that it is quite recent that the tariffs have been set and that we have passenger usage numbers. So I suppose the company's management will now start working projections into what revenue they think they can actually raise during the year, bearing in mind that what they hope is going to be one of the principal sources of revenue for the Government have not yet been marketed, that is season tickets, I do not know if that is the right word. The sort of weekly, monthly, quarterly and annual cards, all of which will have a much reduced tariff attached to them, and that is a source of revenue which has not yet been put on the market. So it is very early days to have an idea. My personal view is that it will not even break even and we certainly will not make a profit but it will not break even and this is a publicly subsidised public service.

HON L A RANDALL:

I agree with the Chief Minister that the bus company will probably at best break even and I think it will make a loss and the basis of the question was for myself to determine what the level of that loss would be. A business case is based on assumptions and assumptions change with the passage of time but it would be very helpful if the Chief Minister could let me know what is the expected carriage of passengers in one year for the bus company.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The hon Member expects me to give him that information now? Well I am afraid.....

HON L A RANDALL:

Well an assumption, he said before that he had worked with private operators to come up with pro-forma profit and losses et cetera. Surely it must have based those pro-formas, profit and loss and cash flows must have been based on the number of passengers expected to be carried in one year and the average fare per paying passenger?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, the Government's decision to invest in this public service is not based on a business case or a business model. Obviously we know what was the average per day passenger movements when it was being run under the present service, I do not have the figures on my fingertips from memory, I think it was something of the order of 4000 movements per day, there were days when it was more and there were days when it was less. We hope obviously to improve on those figures. Now, by how much we think we are going to improve well time will tell. We are hoping that the fact that the service is in better, more comfortable buses, that is in more attractive, comfortable buses, that it is more regular, that it is more reliable, we hope that all of these things will increase the number of people using buses. Therefore we hope to improve substantially on the daily movements carried by the operator whose activities we have taken over, but we are not sort of prognosticating and converting that prognostication into a sort of profit and loss account. We have obviously got a statement of our anticipated operating costs for the next 12 months. That obviously we have because the Government have got to make sure that the company has sufficient funding to operate on that basis, but it is far too early for the Government to be able to form our own view let alone one that is reliable enough to give to the hon Member as to what might be the performance on the revenue side.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is the fact that there is a token figure in the draft estimates an indication that in fact the expectation is that the House will have to vote a sum of money to bridge the gap in the current financial year?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well I would put it differently. The fact that there is a token in a document to which he should not yet be making public reference, is

HON J J BOSSANO:

I think that I am not breaking the fact that it is a confidential document by saying there is a token figure without mentioning the figure.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is fine by me, I am not saying that I am agreeing with his comments he should be making no reference to the content but never mind, it does not matter. The fact that it is a token precisely is a recognition of the fact that we just do not know how much it is going to be. So because the token is there, the funds can be provided either from the Supplementary Funding vote or from virement or from somewhere else. Although the Financial and Development Secretary could create a head during the year, even though one is not provided, I think by the inclusion of the token we wanted to recognise as part of the budget debate that yes, here was a new source of Government expenditure because we are expecting it to be so. We cannot give the House an indication of how much it will be, well we could tell the House how much it would be if there was no revenue at all because we know what the cost is and we can say to the House 'well if we keep the 4000 average movements a day, we can calculate how much we think that is going to produce in terms of revenue', that sort of idea will be available by the time we meet in the budget.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In the terms of Question No. 1178, where the company did not use any analogues, to what did it look to decide what was the going rate, or rather perhaps more than the going rate because as the Chief Minister has said the standards in the Government company are not going to be the ones that apply in current bus and coach companies, where quite often people are employed on a casual day basis and they only get paid if they work? They must have used some guidance to decide what a driver should get.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I cannot say, this was a proposal put up by the intended management, the Directors, to the Government and the Government just approved it. I cannot explain to the hon Member what was the rationale. I suspect and I assume that it was a reasonable figure at which they thought they could attract staff of the right calibre. I can only assume that. I notice afterwards that it is not a million miles from what drivers in Government Service get, but of course it is not the same there is no analogue but maybe that might have been an influencing factor in the minds of whoever made this proposal in the first place.

HON F R PICARDO:

Just in relation to Question No. 1177, can the Government confirm exactly what it has paid £875,000 for? Seeing as I assume they are not intending to use the buses which that company was operating at the time.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well I think the intention is post modification and repainting and all that. I think there are some buses that will be used. I think the double-decker buses, at least two or three of them will be used on the frontier route. There is another bus, a 10 metre bus, which is very important for training because that is under EU directives one needs to pass ones test on such a bus. So some of the buses will be used, in terms of route service we envisage it only being the better standard double-decker, certainly none of the Toyotas will be used on the other routes. In effect what we were purchasing was the licence and the undertaking. In other words, the business as a going concern. The Government could have taken a different approach but we chose not to as a matter of policy. We could have simply de-regulated the public transport system and simply muscled in to the market. We took the view that that was not the basis upon which Government should do business and in effect dispossess an established operator, so even though we had the wherewithal to have done it by another way, we chose to do it on the basis of a purchase and sale of an on-going business. It is just that the assets that the business was using, the buses, were not of the right standard. So in effect what we were buying was "the goodwill, the licences and the established clientele of the route services", that is in effect what we were buying.

HON F R PICARDO:

Was it therefore a purchase of the shares of the company including its liabilities or not?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No it was not the purchase of the company it was the purchase of the licences and the vehicles. We had actually acquired the vehicles just as a means of making sure they were taken off the roads so to speak. I should also say to the hon Member that it was not for cash. In other words, it is not that we have paid £875,000 of value and of course in strict financial terms it makes no difference, but it is £875,000 minus, in other words the amount actually paid out in a cheque written out is £875,000 minus the substantial amount which they then owned in Government arrears. I have given the figure of £875,000 because that is in effect the value. It does not cease to be value because it is set off, so in other words, the amount of value, the amount of cost to the taxpayer is £875,000. It is just that in terms of cash flow disbursement a substantial figure, I have here a note of £325,000, was owed to the Government by that company in respect of various things and therefore the figure that was paid was the net figure.

HON F R PICARDO:

In respect of any other liabilities that company may have had, not to Government, have the Government taken on those liabilities or simply hived down the assets they wanted to take?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I think we agreed to make a token, included in the figure of £875,000 there is a token provision I think of £10,000, the Government's token contribution on a no responsibility it is your liability basis, for redundancy costs and redundancy entitlement and all that, but we did not take over those responsibilities, those exceed that amount but the figure of £875,000 as part of the build up has a small £10,000 contribution under that head.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I do not know how many employees the Rock City Services actually had at the time, but would they not have been affected by the transfer of undertakings provision if the service they were providing was now going to be provided by the Gibraltar Bus Company?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No because it was a private company. Some of the employees did apply for jobs in the new company and got them, I cannot remember the exact number there, but I am not an expert on TUPE but my understanding is that this was not a transfer of undertaking as defined in the legislation. I think these transfers of undertaking are mainly from public to private rather than from private to semi public, I believe, but if he knows better so be it, I do not profess to be an expert on employment law.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I accept that the normal thing is privatisation rather than nationalisation in today's world, but this is in the opposite direction. My recollection is that the requirement does not specify that the transfer of undertaking has to be only from the public to the private and not in the opposite direction.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

He may be right, I just do not know.

ORAL

NO 1179 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

BUS SERVICE

Can Government state the cost incurred up to and including the 31 March 2004 in connection with the technical preparations carried out for the new bus service?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1180 to 1197 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1180 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

BUS SERVICE

Can Government state the number of parking bays that were forfeited up to and including the 31st March 2004 in connection with the technical preparations carried out for the new bus service?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1179 and 1181 to 1197 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1181 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

BUS SERVICE

Can Government state the cost of the logistical preparations to start the new bus service carried out in the area of 27 Cumberland Road?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1179, 1180 and 1182 to 1197 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1182 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

BUS SERVICE

Can Government state the cost of the logistical preparations to start the new bus service carried out in the area of St Joseph's First School, South Barrack?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1179 to 1181 and 1183 to 1197 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1183 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

BUS SERVICE

Can Government state the cost of the logistical preparations to start the new bus service carried out in the area of Europa Road opposite the Gibraltar Social and Athletic Association?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1179 to 1182 and 1184 to 1197 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1184 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

BUS SERVICE

Can Government state the cost of the logistical preparations to start the new bus service carried out in the area of the junction between Main Street and Governor's Lane?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1179 to 1183 and 1185 to 1197 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1185 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

BUS SERVICE

Can Government state the cost of the logistical preparations to start the new bus service carried out in the area of Lover's Lane?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1179 to 1184 and 1186 to 1197 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1186 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

BUS SERVICE

Can Government state the cost of the logistical preparations to start the new bus service carried out in the area of the Alameda Kiosk, Grand Parade?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1179 to 1185 and 1187 to 1197 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1187 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

BUS SERVICE

Can Government state the cost of the logistical preparations to start the new bus service carried out in the area of Trafalgar House, Trafalgar Road?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1179 to 1186 and 1188 to 1197 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1188 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

BUS SERVICE

Can Government state the cost of the logistical preparations to start the new bus service carried out in the area of Europa Road by the retaining wall of the Tennis Court at The Mount?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1179 to 1187 and 1189 to 1197 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1189 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

BUS SERVICE

Can Government state the cost of the logistical preparations to start the new bus service carried out in the area of Transport Road?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1179 to 1188 and 1190 to 1197 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1190 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

BUS SERVICE

Can Government state the cost of the logistical preparations to start the new bus service carried out in the area of South Pavilion Road?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1179 to 1189 and 1191 to 1197 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1191 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

BUS SERVICE

Can Government state the number of parking bays that were forfeited when carrying out the logistical preparations for the new bus service in the area of 27 Cumberland Road?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1179 to 1190 and 1192 to 1197 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1192 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

BUS SERVICE

Can Government state the number of parking bays that were forfeited when carrying out the logistical preparations for the new bus service in the area of St Joseph's First School, South Barrack?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1179 to 1191 and 1193 to 1197 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1193 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

BUS SERVICE

Can Government state the number of parking bays that were forfeited when carrying out the logistical preparations for the new bus service in the area of Lover's Lane?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1179 to 1192 and 1194 to 1197 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1194 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

BUS SERVICE

Can Government state the number of parking bays that were forfeited when carrying out the logistical preparations for the new bus service in the area of the Alameda Kiosk, Grand Parade?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1179 to 1193 and 1195 to 1197 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1195 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

BUS SERVICE

Can Government state the number of parking bays that were forfeited when carrying out the logistical preparations for the new bus service in the area of Europa Road by the retaining wall of the Tennis Court at the Mount?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1179 to 1194, 1196 and 1197 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1196 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

BUS SERVICE

Can Government state the number of parking bays that were forfeited when carrying out the logistical preparations for the new bus service in the area of Transport Road?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1179 to 1195 and 1197 of 2004.

NO 1197 OF 2004**THE HON L A RANDALL****BUS SERVICE**

Can Government state the number of parking bays that were forfeited when carrying out the logistical preparations for the new bus service in the area of South Pavilion Road?

ANSWER**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

The cost of undertaking the logistical works in connection with the new bus service and the number of parking spaces lost at each of the mentioned locations is as follows:

<u>AREAS</u>	<u>COST</u>	<u>NUMBER OF PARKING SPACES LOST</u>
St Joseph's First School	£6,300.00	6
Europa Road opposite Gibraltar Social & Athletic Assoc.	£4,300.00	4
Junction between Main Street and Governor's Lane	£3,800.00	0
Lover's Lane	£3,711.12	6
John Mackintosh Hall, Ince's Hall, Charles V Wall	£20,000.00	9
Alameda Kiosk, Grand Parade	£10,314.91	0
Trafalgar House	£2,857.62	0
Europa Road/Tennis Court at The Mount	£2,500.00	6 m/c
Transport Road	£2,300.00	0
South Pavilion Road	£4,500.00	9
27 Cumberland Road	£4,700.00	1
Brympton	Not yet available	0
Windmill Hill junction	£2,853.00	2
	£67,330.65	37 + 6 m/c

The total cost incurred to date on the technical preparations is £67,330.65, of which £17,358.12 was actually paid out as on 31 March 2004, with the balance to be paid during the current Financial Year.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1179 TO 1197 OF 2004

HON L A RANDALL:

I note that the number of minor road works required were well in excess of the one or two places which they spinned in the press release No. 49 of 2004.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, I take the slap on the wrist as perhaps further evidence on behalf of the hon Member that the bus service is very bad for Gibraltar.

HON L A RANDALL:

I have not said that, he has. What I am saying is that I see my responsibility in this House, is to ensure that the investments the Government make are on a value for money basis, are within the laws of Gibraltar, not changed at the last moment and adhere to the highest standards of health and safety. Nothing would give me greater pleasure than for the bus service to be a successful bus service in Gibraltar, because believe it or not, the Chief Minister may not believe this, but my standing for election was driven by my desire to serve the people of Gibraltar.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I believe him but there are many who would not. Actually I think on the subject of the buses I do not accept for one moment that he has the interests of Gibraltar first at heart. I think that on the question of the buses he has more than amply demonstrated that he has only his own political party's self interest and opportunistic self interest at heart. That is my personal view with which he would no doubt disagree. I have heard nothing in the nature of the comments that he has made in relation to the buses or in his entire approach, I mean to lead me to believe that there is truth in what he has just said in this House, but that is my personal assessment. He is rightly concerned that the Government should stay within the law and that Government's investments should be value for money. Well, he referred to laws being changed at the last minute, certainly if he is referring to any issue of weight of the buses, he should understand that no laws have been changed, they do not need to be changed, just as they have not needed to be changed for all the previous buses, which also operated on the basis of exemptions under the Statutory law. There has been no change of law in relation to the weight of the buses, last minute or otherwise. There has been a change of the law in relation to the question of the regulations which did not exist, which were envisaged but did not exist in relation to the transferability of licences.

As to value for money, we think Gibraltar at long last has a public transport system of which it can be proud and which I think of which the vast majority of citizens, at least those that come to the issue with an objective mind and not with a desire to simply tarnish everything for political purposes, anybody that comes to the issue of the bus system with an objective mind believes that Gibraltar now has a public transport system of which we can be proud, which we deserve and which brings Gibraltar up into the 21st Century. Frankly, in terms of value for money, I think that £67,330.65 on infrastructure works to facilitate the provision of that service with buses of this size and quality, is excellent value for money, just as I think the buses

are excellent value for money and I regard the loss of 37 parking spaces as minute, it does not even feature on any balance of decision, (a) because the improvement of public transport is more important than the loss of 37 parking spaces; and (b) because we have provided many more than this number of lost parking spaces in other new parking projects that we have created, both in Commonwealth Parade and in the Landport Ditch. So in fact there is a much bigger gain of parking than loss, but in any case even if there had not been any gain, even if we had just lost the 37 parking spaces, I would still think it is a price worth paying, so there has been no failure to comply with the law and in the Government's judgement, with which the hon Members may well disagree, there is also value for money in this logistical work.

HON L A RANDALL:

I just asked factual questions and I wished to thank the Chief Minister for answering them all. I did not make any comment as to the value for money of the cost of the logistical preparations. This is a further example of how he distorts things to please his.....

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

To everything that I have said about the hon Member so far he should add lack of memory. The very last thing he said in his last supplementary to which I was answering was that he regards it as his duty to press the Government on changes of legislation at the last minute and value for money. So when I assure him, presumably he was asking a question, this is question time not statement time by the Opposition, I assume that the essence of the supplementary was that he is raising issues about value for money on the basis of the question that he has asked, and I responded to him on the basis of value for money. He may have forgotten that he mentioned the phrase 'value for money' and having forgotten that he mentioned the phrase 'value for money' when I mention the phrase 'value for money' he then gets up and accuses me of yet another example of my distortion. I say to him, 'you see it is not another example of my distortion. It is another example of what I say they do, which is forget what they say and then make false accusations on the basis that they did not say what in fact they did say'. That is what it is another example of, not of any distortion on my part.

HON L A RANDALL:

I beg to differ with the Chief Minister, obviously, and when I said 'value for money' I said 'value for money' he should not make any assumptions, but I can tell him what I meant by value for money. A project as a whole, and the project as a whole includes what they paid for the licences, what they paid for the buses and the costs of the logistical preparations and the forfeiture of the parking spaces.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

That is exactly what I addressed through value for money answer. Why he thinks that when I answer that very issue that I am distorting anything is beyond my comprehension.

ORAL

NO 1198 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

BUS SERVICE

Can Government state what is the service life expectancy of the new trans-buses?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1199 to 1202 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1199 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

Can Government state the life expectancy of the 18 Trans-Buses?

ANSWER

Question withdrawn.

ORAL

NO 1200 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

BUS SERVICE

Can Government state the name of the local company that will be providing the servicing arrangement for the Trans-Buses and their evaluation of the experience of the company with these type of buses?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1198, 1199, 1201 and 1202 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1201 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

BUS SERVICE – UPPER TOWN

Can Government state the name of the company that will supply the two vehicles that will provide the bus service to the areas of Moorish Castle and Willis' Road?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1198 to 1200 and 1202 of 2004.

NO 1202 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

BUS SERVICE – UPPER TOWN

Can Government state whether the cost of the two smaller vehicles that will provide the bus service to the areas of Moorish Castle Estate and Willis' Road forms part of the £1.875 million stated by Government in answer to supplementaries to Question No 3 of 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answer to Question Nos. 1198 and 1199

The life expectancy of the 18 Trans-Buses is between 15 to 20 years provided a regular service programme is maintained. I am sure the hon Member will understand that that life expectancy can be lengthened with good maintenance and shortened with bad maintenance, as with all mechanical equipment.

Answer to Question No. 1200

The local company that will be providing servicing arrangements is A M Capurro & Sons. This company was nominated and selected by the manufacturers themselves when they visited Gibraltar and checked the various local companies. Trans-Bus appointed A M Capurro & Sons as their after sales representative after considering experience and facilities available. In other words, it is the vendor that has the obligation for a maintenance period as part of the warranty, and therefore it is the vendor, the bus company, that has to make arrangements to provide servicing arrangements for the buses.

Answer to Question No. 1201

The two temporary vehicles for the Upper Town bus service were obtained from Bassadone Motors.

Answer to Question No. 1202

The cost of the two smaller vehicles is not included in the stated sum of £1.875 million.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1198 TO 1202 OF 2004

HON L A RANDALL:

Can the Chief Minister confirm that I was wrong when I tabled my question saying two vehicles and that in fact there will be four vehicles as per the press release No. 49 of 2004, and can he inform the House the cost of providing those four additional vehicles?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I understand that there are only two vehicles in fact, and that the company is evaluating the service, evaluating their performance and may increase the size of the fleet, but the question is right as the facts are at present. At present only two vehicles have been purchased and the cost was £14,500 each.

ORAL

NO 1203 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

BUS SERVICE

Can Government state the date the application for the transfer of the licence from Rock City Services to Gibraltar Bus Company Limited was submitted?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1204 of 2004.

NO 1204 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

BUS SERVICE

Can Government state the date that the transfer of the licence from Rock City Services to Gibraltar Bus Company Limited was authorised?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answer to Question No. 1203

The Secretary of the Transport Commission received an application for the transfer of an operator licence from Rock City Services to the Gibraltar Bus Company on 5 April 2004.

Answer to Question No. 1204

The Transport Commission approved the transfer of an operator licence from Rock City Services to the Gibraltar Bus Company Limited on 6 April 2004.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1203 and 1204 OF 2004

HON F R PICARDO:

Is that a time frame that any other operator wishing to transfer licences is to expect in respect of transfers?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, when it requires a transition from an old operator to a new operator, without any interruption in the service, and that the old operator has got to continue to be the holder of a licence until the last minute that he provides the service and the new operator has got to be in possession of a new licence as from the first moment that it provides the service. The answer is yes, provided those are the facts and circumstances.

ORAL

NO 1205 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Can Government state what was the distribution of average annual earnings in respect of all employee jobs as shown in table 16 of the October 96 Employment Survey Report showing separately the distribution in the case of:

- (a) MOD Employees;
- (b) GoG Employees;
- (c) Government and JVC's;
- (d) Private Sector?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1206 to 1211 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1206 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Can Government state what was the distribution of average earnings in respect of all employee jobs as shown in table 16 of the October 97 Employment Survey Report showing separately the distribution in the case of:

- (a) MOD Employees;
- (b) GoG Employees;
- (c) Government and JVC's;
- (d) Private Sector?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1205, 1207 to 1211 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1207 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Can Government state what was the distribution of average earnings in respect of all employee jobs as shown in table 16 of the October 98 Employment Survey Report showing separately the distribution in the case of:

- (a) MOD Employees;
- (b) GoG Employees;
- (c) Government and JVC's;
- (d) Private Sector?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1205, 1206 and 1208 to 1211 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1208 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Can Government state what was the distribution of average earnings in respect of all employee jobs as shown in table 16 of the October 99 Employment Survey Report showing separately the distribution in the case of:

- (a) MOD Employees;
- (b) GoG Employees;
- (c) Government and JVC's;
- (d) Private Sector?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1205 to 1207 and 1209 to 1211 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1209 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Can Government state what was the distribution of average earnings in respect of all employee jobs as shown in table 16 of the October 2000 Employment Survey Report showing separately the distribution in the case of:

- (a) MOD Employees;
- (b) GoG Employees;
- (c) Government and JVC's;
- (d) Private Sector?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1205 to 1208, 1210 and 1211 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1210 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Can Government state what was the distribution of average earnings in respect of all employee jobs as shown in table 16 of the October 01 Employment Survey Report showing separately the distribution in the case of:

- (a) MOD Employees;
- (b) GoG Employees;
- (c) Government and JVC's;
- (d) Private Sector?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1205 to 1209 and 1211 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1211 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Can Government state what was the distribution of average annual earnings in respect of all employee jobs as shown in Table 16 of the October 2002 Employment Survey Report showing separately the distribution in the case of:

- (a) MOD Employees;
- (b) Government of Gibraltar Employees;
- (c) Government and Joint Venture Company's;
- (d) Private sector?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I am advised that in respect of October 1996 and October 1997 the information is not available because of the way the Surveys were compiled at that time, but in respect of the subsequent years, the appropriate tables have been created for the hon Member showing the breakdown that he has requested. I should also perhaps point out to him that there is not a joint venture companies breakdown because he would first have to define what he understands by joint venture company, since it is not actually a categorisation used and it is not automatically evident from the Employment Survey records, but it may be possible to provide him with the information if he will give us an indication of what he regards by the phrase 'joint venture companies' of which actually there are not any. Except in the strict sense of the word the only jointventure companies are the Gibtelecom and Lyonnaise.

Answer to Question 1211

Answer to Question 1207

Distribution of Average Annual Earnings of Private Sector Employee Jobs, October 1998

£ PER ANNUM	PRIVATE EMPLOYEE JOBS			MALE EMPLOYEE JOBS			FEMALE EMPLOYEE JOBS		
	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME	TOTAL	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME	TOTAL	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME	TOTAL
	0 - 999	1	5	6	1	2	3	0	3
1,000 - 1,499	0	13	13	0	5	5	0	8	8
1,500 - 1,999	1	38	39	1	7	8	0	31	31
2,000 - 2,499	1	83	84	0	22	22	1	61	62
2,500 - 2,999	6	157	163	4	53	57	2	104	106
3,000 - 3,999	41	538	579	12	380	392	29	158	187
4,000 - 4,999	92	221	313	44	49	93	48	172	220
5,000 - 5,999	111	133	244	40	28	68	71	105	176
6,000 - 6,999	245	117	362	119	23	142	126	94	220
7,000 - 7,999	608	72	680	312	14	326	296	58	354
8,000 - 8,999	582	37	619	297	9	306	285	28	313
9,000 - 9,999	708	45	753	438	12	450	270	33	303
10,000 - 10,999	765	22	787	576	5	581	189	17	206
11,000 - 11,999	524	15	539	365	6	371	159	9	168
12,000 - 12,999	482	13	495	326	6	332	156	7	163
13,000 - 13,999	402	7	409	271	1	272	131	6	137
14,000 - 14,999	320	4	324	228	1	229	92	3	95
15,000 - 17,499	671	5	676	453	3	456	218	2	220
17,500 - 19,999	437	3	440	336	1	337	101	2	103
20,000 - 22,499	348	1	349	277	1	278	71	0	71
22,500 - 24,999	257	5	262	208	3	211	49	2	51
25,000 and over	677	4	681	621	1	622	56	3	59
TOTAL	7,279	1,538	8,817	4,929	632	5,561	2,350	906	3,256

Answer to Question 1211

Answer to Question 1207

Distribution of Average Annual Earnings of Gibraltar Government Employee Jobs, October 1998

£ PER ANNUM	GOG EMPLOYEE JOBS			MALE EMPLOYEE JOBS			FEMALE EMPLOYEE JOBS		
	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME	TOTAL	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME	TOTAL	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME	TOTAL
	0 - 999	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1,000 - 1,499	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1,500 - 1,999	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2,000 - 2,499	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	2
2,500 - 2,999	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3,000 - 3,999	16	1	17	16	0	16	0	0	1
4,000 - 4,999	21	100	121	18	0	18	3	100	103
5,000 - 5,999	4	21	25	1	4	5	3	17	20
6,000 - 6,999	10	21	31	0	0	0	10	21	31
7,000 - 7,999	19	38	57	4	0	4	15	38	53
8,000 - 8,999	93	31	124	49	0	49	44	31	75
9,000 - 9,999	87	13	100	40	2	42	47	11	58
10,000 - 10,999	193	12	205	138	0	138	55	12	193
11,000 - 11,999	64	10	74	27	0	27	37	10	47
12,000 - 12,999	64	10	74	27	0	27	37	10	47
13,000 - 13,999	151	8	159	57	0	57	94	8	102
14,000 - 14,999	83	13	96	41	1	42	42	12	54
15,000 - 17,499	215	11	226	109	0	109	106	11	117
17,500 - 19,999	219	4	223	119	0	119	100	4	104
20,000 - 22,499	246	2	248	164	1	165	82	1	83
22,500 - 24,999	308	2	310	200	0	200	108	2	110
25,000 and over	716	2	718	575	1	576	141	1	142
TOTAL	2,509	301	2,810	1,585	9	1,594	924	292	1,216

Answer to Question 1211

Answer to Question 1207

Distribution of Average Annual Earnings of MoD Employee Jobs, October 1998

£ PER ANNUM	MOD EMPLOYEE JOBS			MALE EMPLOYEE JOBS			FEMALE EMPLOYEE JOBS		
	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME	TOTAL	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME	TOTAL	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME	TOTAL
0 - 999	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1,000 - 1,499	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
1,500 - 1,999	0	8	8	0	1	1	0	7	7
2,000 - 2,499	0	9	9	0	1	1	0	8	8
2,500 - 2,999	0	3	3	0	1	1	0	2	2
3,000 - 3,999	0	11	11	0	0	0	0	11	11
4,000 - 4,999	0	25	25	0	4	4	0	21	21
5,000 - 5,999	3	8	11	0	0	0	3	8	11
6,000 - 6,999	2	13	15	2	0	2	0	13	15
7,000 - 7,999	8	6	14	3	0	3	5	6	11
8,000 - 8,999	5	0	5	1	0	1	4	0	4
9,000 - 9,999	162	2	164	87	0	87	75	2	77
10,000 - 10,999	52	2	54	31	0	31	21	2	23
11,000 - 11,999	71	1	72	50	0	50	21	1	22
12,000 - 12,999	120	0	120	86	0	86	34	0	34
13,000 - 13,999	97	0	97	50	0	50	47	0	47
14,000 - 14,999	56	0	56	44	0	44	12	0	12
15,000 - 17,499	92	0	92	78	0	78	14	0	14
17,500 - 19,999	93	1	94	77	0	77	16	1	17
20,000 - 22,499	66	1	67	61	0	61	5	1	6
22,500 - 24,999	73	0	73	69	0	69	4	0	4
25,000 and over	156	0	156	156	0	156	0	0	0
TOTAL	1,056	91	1,147	795	7	802	261	84	345

Answer to Question 1211

Answer to Question 1208

Distribution of Average Annual Earnings of Private Sector Employee Jobs, October, 1999

£ PER ANNUM	PRIVATE EMPLOYEE JOBS			MALE EMPLOYEE JOBS			FEMALE EMPLOYEE JOBS		
	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME	TOTAL	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME	TOTAL	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME	TOTAL
	0 - 999	0	16	16	0	10	10	0	6
1,000 - 1,499	0	21	21	0	8	8	0	13	13
1,500 - 1,999	0	41	41	0	11	11	0	30	30
2,000 - 2,499	1	101	102	0	34	34	1	67	68
2,500 - 2,999	29	218	247	21	47	68	8	171	179
3,000 - 3,999	84	567	651	55	401	456	29	166	195
4,000 - 4,999	48	212	260	36	56	92	12	156	168
5,000 - 5,999	92	161	253	37	33	70	55	128	183
6,000 - 6,999	220	135	355	97	24	121	123	111	234
7,000 - 7,999	552	85	637	279	16	295	273	69	342
8,000 - 8,999	517	66	583	273	12	285	244	54	298
9,000 - 9,999	670	47	717	427	8	435	243	39	282
10,000 - 10,999	677	29	706	459	11	470	218	18	236
11,000 - 11,999	567	17	584	363	2	365	204	15	219
12,000 - 12,999	632	15	647	410	6	416	222	9	231
13,000 - 13,999	411	8	419	266	0	266	145	8	153
14,000 - 14,999	368	2	370	253	0	253	115	2	117
15,000 - 17,499	712	4	716	471	1	472	241	3	244
17,500 - 19,999	520	2	522	391	1	392	129	1	130
20,000 - 22,499	351	2	353	263	1	264	88	1	89
22,500 - 24,999	254	2	256	210	1	211	44	1	45
25,000 and over	708	0	708	628	0	628	80	0	80
TOTAL	7,413	1,751	9,164	4,939	683	5,622	2,474	1,068	3,542

Answer to Question 1211

Answer to Question 1208

Distribution of Average Annual Earnings of MoD Employee Jobs, October 1999

£ PER ANNUM	MOD EMPLOYEE JOBS			MALE EMPLOYEE JOBS			FEMALE EMPLOYEE JOBS		
	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME	TOTAL	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME	TOTAL	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME	TOTAL
	0 - 999	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1,000 - 1,499	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1,500 - 1,999	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2,000 - 2,499	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0
2,500 - 2,999	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3,000 - 3,999	1	1	2	1	1	2	0	0	0
4,000 - 4,999	0	6	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
5,000 - 5,999	1	14	15	1	0	1	0	0	0
6,000 - 6,999	0	11	11	0	0	0	0	0	0
7,000 - 7,999	5	5	10	1	0	1	1	4	5
8,000 - 8,999	5	2	7	1	0	1	1	4	5
9,000 - 9,999	107	6	113	52	4	56	55	2	57
10,000 - 10,999	61	5	66	30	4	34	31	1	32
11,000 - 11,999	68	2	70	44	1	45	24	1	25
12,000 - 12,999	79	2	81	55	1	56	24	1	25
13,000 - 13,999	90	0	90	50	0	50	40	0	40
14,000 - 14,999	41	1	42	26	1	27	15	0	15
15,000 - 17,499	97	1	98	81	1	82	16	0	16
17,500 - 19,999	68	0	68	54	0	54	14	0	14
20,000 - 22,499	64	0	64	63	0	63	1	0	1
22,500 - 24,999	65	0	65	57	0	57	8	0	8
25,000 and over	153	0	153	152	0	152	1	0	1
TOTAL	905	57	962	668	14	682	237	43	280

Answer to Question 1211

Answer to Question 1209

Distribution of Average Annual Earnings of Private Sector Employee Jobs, October 2000

£ PER ANNUM	PRIVATE EMPLOYEE JOBS			MALE EMPLOYEE JOBS			FEMALE EMPLOYEE JOBS		
	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME	TOTAL	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME	TOTAL	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME	TOTAL
	0 - 999	0	11	11	0	6	6	0	5
1,000 - 1,499	0	12	12	0	5	5	0	7	7
1,500 - 1,999	0	44	44	0	20	20	0	24	24
2,000 - 2,499	6	84	90	3	25	28	3	59	62
2,500 - 2,999	27	188	215	13	42	55	14	146	160
3,000 - 3,999	1	687	688	1	466	467	0	221	221
4,000 - 4,999	11	250	261	6	83	89	5	167	172
5,000 - 5,999	117	170	287	45	42	87	72	128	200
6,000 - 6,999	214	114	328	75	23	98	139	91	230
7,000 - 7,999	575	76	651	274	27	301	301	49	350
8,000 - 8,999	563	36	599	290	8	298	273	28	301
9,000 - 9,999	712	34	746	462	11	473	250	23	273
10,000 - 10,999	666	12	678	414	5	419	252	7	259
11,000 - 11,999	615	16	631	426	5	431	189	11	200
12,000 - 12,999	549	7	556	346	4	350	203	3	206
13,000 - 13,999	390	4	394	245	2	247	145	2	147
14,000 - 14,999	431	1	432	293	1	294	138	0	138
15,000 - 17,499	822	11	833	534	9	543	288	2	290
17,500 - 19,999	512	0	512	378	0	378	134	0	134
20,000 - 22,499	399	0	399	302	0	302	97	0	97
22,500 - 24,999	276	0	276	204	0	204	72	0	72
25,000 and over	866	0	866	713	0	713	153	0	153
TOTAL	7,752	1,757	9,509	5,024	784	5,808	2,728	973	3,701

Answer to Question 1211

Answer to Question 1209

Distribution of Average Annual Earnings of Gibraltar Government Employee Jobs, October 2000

£ PER ANNUM	GOG EMPLOYEE JOBS			MALE EMPLOYEE JOBS			FEMALE EMPLOYEE JOBS		
	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME	TOTAL	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME	TOTAL	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME	TOTAL
	0 - 999	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1,000 - 1,499	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1,500 - 1,999	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	3	3
2,000 - 2,499	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
2,500 - 2,999	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
3,000 - 3,999	0	9	9	0	0	0	0	9	9
4,000 - 4,999	0	143	143	0	2	2	2	141	143
5,000 - 5,999	10	11	21	3	2	5	7	14	16
6,000 - 6,999	4	22	26	1	3	4	4	19	22
7,000 - 7,999	31	24	55	1	0	1	3	24	25
8,000 - 8,999	20	14	34	6	0	6	14	20	26
9,000 - 9,999	102	8	110	43	0	43	59	8	67
10,000 - 10,999	87	3	90	36	0	36	51	3	54
11,000 - 11,999	220	4	224	161	0	161	59	4	63
12,000 - 12,999	103	0	103	39	0	39	64	0	64
13,000 - 13,999	113	0	113	43	0	43	70	0	70
14,000 - 14,999	97	0	97	38	0	38	59	0	59
15,000 - 17,499	194	1	195	83	0	83	111	1	112
17,500 - 19,999	218	0	218	112	0	112	106	0	106
20,000 - 22,499	203	0	203	120	0	120	83	0	83
22,500 - 24,999	214	0	214	141	0	141	73	0	73
25,000 and over	959	0	959	705	0	705	254	0	254
TOTAL	2,575	244	2,819	1,532	9	1,541	1,043	235	1,278

Answer to Question 1211

Answer to Question 1209

Distribution of Average Annual Earnings of MoD Employee Jobs, October 2000

£ PER ANNUM	MOD EMPLOYEE JOBS			MALE EMPLOYEE JOBS			FEMALE EMPLOYEE JOBS		
	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME	TOTAL	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME	TOTAL	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME	TOTAL
	0 - 999	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1,000 - 1,499	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
1,500 - 1,999	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2,000 - 2,499	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
2,500 - 2,999	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
3,000 - 3,999	0	13	13	0	0	0	0	0	0
4,000 - 4,999	0	11	11	0	0	0	0	0	0
5,000 - 5,999	2	12	14	0	0	0	0	0	0
6,000 - 6,999	1	14	15	0	0	0	0	0	0
7,000 - 7,999	2	11	13	1	0	1	1	1	1
8,000 - 8,999	4	1	5	1	0	1	0	0	0
9,000 - 9,999	121	5	126	64	0	64	0	0	64
10,000 - 10,999	100	2	102	67	0	67	0	0	67
11,000 - 11,999	53	1	54	27	0	27	0	0	27
12,000 - 12,999	74	0	74	43	0	43	0	0	43
13,000 - 13,999	65	0	65	37	0	37	0	0	37
14,000 - 14,999	74	0	74	46	0	46	0	0	46
15,000 - 17,499	108	1	109	81	1	82	1	0	83
17,500 - 19,999	63	0	63	54	0	54	0	0	54
20,000 - 22,499	54	0	54	46	0	46	0	0	46
22,500 - 24,999	62	0	62	54	0	54	0	0	54
25,000 and over	192	0	192	190	0	190	0	0	190
TOTAL	975	78	1,053	711	8	719	264	70	334

Answer to Question 1211

Answer to Question 1210

Distribution of Average Annual Earnings of Private Sector Employee Jobs, October 2001

£ PER ANNUM	PRIVATE EMPLOYEE JOBS			MALE EMPLOYEE JOBS			FEMALE EMPLOYEE JOBS		
	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME	TOTAL	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME	TOTAL	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME	TOTAL
	0 - 999	0	10	10	0	5	5	0	5
1,000 - 1,499	0	21	21	0	9	9	0	12	12
1,500 - 1,999	0	38	38	0	11	11	0	27	27
2,000 - 2,499	2	78	80	1	25	26	1	53	54
2,500 - 2,999	28	215	243	23	52	75	5	163	168
3,000 - 3,999	82	177	259	46	26	72	36	151	187
4,000 - 4,999	69	570	639	45	411	456	24	159	183
5,000 - 5,999	74	206	280	20	39	59	54	167	221
6,000 - 6,999	185	129	314	67	33	100	118	96	214
7,000 - 7,999	535	112	647	259	31	290	276	81	357
8,000 - 8,999	500	78	578	230	15	245	270	63	333
9,000 - 9,999	618	52	670	362	15	377	256	37	293
10,000 - 10,999	615	29	644	398	4	402	217	25	242
11,000 - 11,999	594	17	611	403	2	405	191	15	206
12,000 - 12,999	617	17	634	401	3	404	216	14	230
13,000 - 13,999	505	12	517	321	1	322	184	11	195
14,000 - 14,999	445	12	457	277	2	279	168	10	178
15,000 - 17,499	974	11	985	669	5	674	305	6	311
17,500 - 19,999	610	6	616	457	2	459	153	4	157
20,000 - 22,499	507	3	510	361	0	361	146	3	149
22,500 - 24,999	366	1	367	254	0	254	112	1	113
25,000 and over	979	0	979	868	0	868	111	0	111
TOTAL	8,305	1,794	10,099	5,462	691	6,153	2,843	1,103	3,946

Answer to Question 1211

Answer to Question 1210

Distribution of Average Annual Earnings of Gibraltar Government Employee Jobs, October 2001

£ PER ANNUM	GOG EMPLOYEE JOBS			MALE EMPLOYEE JOBS			FEMALE EMPLOYEE JOBS		
	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME	TOTAL	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME	TOTAL	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME	TOTAL
	0 - 999	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1,000 - 1,499	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1,500 - 1,999	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
2,000 - 2,499	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2,500 - 2,999	0	6	6	0	0	0	0	6	6
3,000 - 3,999	3	3	6	1	0	1	2	3	5
4,000 - 4,999	5	3	8	0	0	0	5	3	8
5,000 - 5,999	0	122	122	0	1	1	0	121	121
6,000 - 6,999	4	22	26	1	2	3	3	20	23
7,000 - 7,999	7	14	21	2	0	2	5	14	19
8,000 - 8,999	25	32	57	3	1	4	22	31	53
9,000 - 9,999	45	23	68	14	0	14	31	23	54
10,000 - 10,999	47	10	57	21	0	21	26	10	36
11,000 - 11,999	76	9	85	24	0	24	52	9	61
12,000 - 12,999	125	2	127	77	0	77	48	2	50
13,000 - 13,999	82	1	83	32	0	32	50	1	51
14,000 - 14,999	72	0	72	32	0	32	40	0	40
15,000 - 17,499	217	2	219	88	0	88	129	2	131
17,500 - 19,999	200	1	201	97	0	97	103	1	104
20,000 - 22,499	225	1	226	122	0	122	103	1	104
22,500 - 24,999	198	1	199	134	0	134	64	1	65
25,000 and over	1,225	0	1,225	875	0	875	350	0	350
TOTAL	2,556	253	2,809	1,523	4	1,527	1,033	249	1,282

Answer to Question 1211

Answer to Question 1210

Distribution of Average Annual Earnings of MoD Employee Jobs, October 2001

£ PER ANNUM	MOD EMPLOYEE JOBS			MALE EMPLOYEE JOBS			FEMALE EMPLOYEE JOBS		
	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME	TOTAL	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME	TOTAL	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME	TOTAL
	0 - 999	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1,000 - 1,499	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
1,500 - 1,999	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
2,000 - 2,499	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
2,500 - 2,999	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
3,000 - 3,999	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
4,000 - 4,999	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	4
5,000 - 5,999	1	11	12	0	0	0	0	0	12
6,000 - 6,999	1	19	20	1	0	1	0	0	19
7,000 - 7,999	2	17	19	2	2	4	0	0	15
8,000 - 8,999	5	6	11	0	0	0	0	0	11
9,000 - 9,999	16	1	17	0	0	0	0	0	17
10,000 - 10,999	142	1	143	3	0	3	0	0	146
11,000 - 11,999	61	0	61	79	0	79	0	0	140
12,000 - 12,999	38	0	38	37	0	37	0	0	75
13,000 - 13,999	82	0	82	21	0	21	0	0	103
14,000 - 14,999	73	0	73	50	0	50	0	0	123
15,000 - 17,499	127	0	127	48	0	48	0	0	175
17,500 - 19,999	82	0	82	80	0	80	0	0	162
20,000 - 22,499	64	0	64	62	0	62	0	0	126
22,500 - 24,999	51	0	51	55	0	55	0	0	106
25,000 and over	215	0	215	47	0	47	0	0	262
TOTAL	959	64	1,023	685	2	687	274	62	336

Answer to Question 1211

Answer to Question 1211

Distribution of Average Annual Earnings of Private Sector Employee Jobs, October 2002

£ PER ANNUM	PRIVATE EMPLOYEE JOBS			MALE EMPLOYEE JOBS			FEMALE EMPLOYEE JOBS		
	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME	TOTAL	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME	TOTAL	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME	TOTAL
0 - 999	0	11	11	0	3	3	0	8	8
1,000 - 1,499	0	12	12	0	5	5	0	7	7
1,500 - 1,999	0	25	25	0	6	6	0	19	19
2,000 - 2,499	6	57	63	3	10	13	3	47	50
2,500 - 2,999	36	199	235	22	61	83	14	138	152
3,000 - 3,999	61	253	314	39	58	97	22	195	217
4,000 - 4,999	107	548	655	69	361	430	38	187	225
5,000 - 5,999	66	168	234	25	29	54	41	139	180
6,000 - 6,999	172	155	327	55	44	99	117	111	228
7,000 - 7,999	331	100	431	134	28	162	197	72	269
8,000 - 8,999	598	64	662	270	14	284	328	50	378
9,000 - 9,999	571	64	635	309	13	322	262	51	313
10,000 - 10,999	711	38	749	470	10	480	241	28	269
11,000 - 11,999	551	27	578	353	3	356	198	24	222
12,000 - 12,999	678	29	707	470	7	477	208	22	230
13,000 - 13,999	544	15	559	345	3	348	199	12	211
14,000 - 14,999	418	11	429	288	2	290	130	9	139
15,000 - 17,499	968	22	990	619	7	626	349	15	364
17,500 - 19,999	638	12	650	431	3	434	207	9	216
20,000 - 22,499	562	6	568	425	1	426	137	5	142
22,500 - 24,999	397	2	399	312	0	312	85	2	87
25,000 and over	1,131	3	1,134	957	0	957	174	3	177
TOTAL	8,546	1,821	10,367	5,596	668	6,264	2,950	1,153	4,103

Answer to Question 1211

Answer to Question 1211

Distribution of Average Annual Earnings of Gibraltar Government Employee Jobs, October 2002

£ PER ANNUM	GOG EMPLOYEE JOBS			MALE EMPLOYEE JOBS			FEMALE EMPLOYEE JOBS		
	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME	TOTAL	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME	TOTAL	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME	TOTAL
	0 - 999	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1,000 - 1,499	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1,500 - 1,999	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2,000 - 2,499	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2,500 - 2,999	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
3,000 - 3,999	13	7	20	7	1	8	6	2	2
4,000 - 4,999	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
5,000 - 5,999	0	156	156	0	1	1	0	0	1
6,000 - 6,999	4	20	24	2	1	3	2	1	155
7,000 - 7,999	12	13	25	3	1	4	9	12	21
8,000 - 8,999	12	7	19	1	1	2	11	6	21
9,000 - 9,999	17	28	45	5	0	5	12	28	17
10,000 - 10,999	74	13	87	33	0	33	41	13	40
11,000 - 11,999	67	7	74	10	1	11	57	6	54
12,000 - 12,999	120	5	125	59	0	59	61	6	63
13,000 - 13,999	86	4	90	44	0	44	42	4	66
14,000 - 14,999	76	5	81	35	0	35	41	4	46
15,000 - 17,499	197	7	204	80	0	80	117	7	46
17,500 - 19,999	200	5	205	118	0	118	82	5	124
20,000 - 22,499	193	4	197	95	0	95	98	4	87
22,500 - 24,999	219	4	223	134	2	136	85	2	102
25,000 and over	1,265	0	1,265	913	0	913	352	0	87
TOTAL	2,555	288	2,843	1,539	8	1,547	1,016	280	1,296

Answer to Question 1211

Answer to Question 1211

Distribution of Average Annual Earnings of MoD Employee Jobs, October 2002

£ PER ANNUM	MOD EMPLOYEE JOBS			MALE EMPLOYEE JOBS			FEMALE EMPLOYEE JOBS		
	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME	TOTAL	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME	TOTAL	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME	TOTAL
	0 - 999	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1,000 - 1,499	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
1,500 - 1,999	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2,000 - 2,499	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
2,500 - 2,999	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
3,000 - 3,999	0	7	7	0	1	1	0	0	1
4,000 - 4,999	2	2	4	1	1	2	1	1	6
5,000 - 5,999	3	19	22	1	0	1	2	1	2
6,000 - 6,999	5	9	14	2	2	4	3	19	21
7,000 - 7,999	15	5	20	1	0	1	4	7	10
8,000 - 8,999	6	2	8	1	0	1	14	5	19
9,000 - 9,999	3	3	6	0	0	0	6	2	8
10,000 - 10,999	69	6	75	0	1	1	3	2	5
11,000 - 11,999	76	2	78	32	0	32	37	6	43
12,000 - 12,999	64	4	68	43	1	44	33	1	34
13,000 - 13,999	72	2	74	41	0	41	23	4	27
14,000 - 14,999	53	1	54	43	1	44	29	1	30
15,000 - 17,499	178	2	180	31	1	32	22	0	22
17,500 - 19,999	84	0	84	120	0	120	58	2	60
20,000 - 22,499	63	1	64	75	0	75	9	0	9
22,500 - 24,999	67	0	67	53	1	54	10	0	10
25,000 and over	226	0	226	61	0	61	6	0	6
TOTAL	986	70	1,056	717	10	727	269	60	329

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1205 TO 1211 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

In fact the breakdown that the question seeks is the same breakdown that is asked in the distribution of tax payable on the PAYE, so effectively I would have expected, although I know it is different departments, but whatever classification the Tax Office uses would be the one that I would be seeking to see how the earnings compare with the tax yields that are provided by the Government in answer to the other question.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I will ask the department to apply that definition and see if they can get that breakdown for him.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am grateful for the information provided.

ORAL

NO 1212 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Can Government state how many of the frontier workers shown in Table 5 of the October 2002 Employment Survey Report were employed directly or indirectly by the Gibraltar Government showing the breakdown by nationality?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

None Sir.

ORAL

NO 1213 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

When do Government expect to be able to Table the Employment Survey Report 2003?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

This is now ready and I expect to be able to table it during this meeting of the House, possibly at the very next sitting.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1213 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

I take it it may be possible to have it before we have the budget debate, will it?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Oh yes, and if by any chance it is not ready for publication then, I will let him have a copy privately so that he can make whatever use he wants of it.

ORAL

NO 1214 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

COMMUNITY CARE LTD

Can Government confirm that Community Officers employed by Community Care Ltd are shown as part of the private sector in the Employment Survey Report and if so, can they state in which industrial sector they are included?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1215 of 2004.

NO 1215 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

COMMUNITY CARE LTD

Can Government state in respect of which year's Employment Survey Report, Community Officers employed by Community Care Ltd, were first shown as being in part-time instead of full-time employment?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I can confirm that Gibraltar Community Care Limited is included for the purposes of the Employment Survey under the private sector and the "Real Estate and Other Business Activities" industry group.

Community Officers employed by the Gibraltar Community Care Limited were re-classified as part-time employees in the October 1998 Employment Survey Report. These officers had been included as part-time employees by the Statistics Office since the start of the Company, up to and including the April 1992 Employment Survey. During the period October 1992 to April 1998, when data input for the Surveys was carried out at the Income Tax Office from the PAYE returns submitted by employers, these officers were then shown as being in full-time employment.

With effect from October 1998 the Survey reverted to a questionnaire basis and has been prepared by the Statistics Office from the information received from all known employers. With effect from this Survey the employment status of Community Officers has been shown as part-time.

NO 1216 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Further to the answer to Question 285/2004, can Government confirm whether the Europa Incinerator Company Limited and the Regulatory Authority were included as private sector in the 2001 and 2002 Employment Survey Report, and if so, state the number of employees and the industry classification?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Gibraltar Regulatory Authority was included under the private sector and the Public Administration and Defence Industry in the 2001 and 2002 Employment Survey Reports. The number of employees as shown in the questionnaires completed by employers cannot be published under the provisions of the Statistics Ordinance. However, in the case of the Authority, this information is available on their website and as such, I can inform the House that their 2001 return included five employees, and their 2002 return included seven employees. The Europa Incinerator Company Limited did not exist, as such, at the time of these two Surveys. This was a company that the Government formed in order to provide transitory employment to people who were then in the employ of another company called Onyx Gibraltar Limited.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1216 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

Should I then ask is Onyx included in the private sector?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

He can do. Well, I am very happy to prompt the hon Member's supplementary questions. Yes, that company was included in the private sector electricity and water supply. The company had 16 employees in 2001 and also in 2002.

ORAL

NO 1217 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

CONSTRUCTIVE DISMISSAL

Will the Government , in the light of the statements made by the Chief Minister in respect of the Employment (Amendment) Ordinance 2004 (Bill No 3 of 2004), confirm what consultation it has undertaken in respect of the potential implementation in Gibraltar of the provisions on Constructive Dismissal?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1218 of 2004.

NO 1218 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

CONSTRUCTIVE DISMISSAL

Have Government now taken a decision on whether or not they will be presenting a Bill to this House for the implementation in Gibraltar of those provisions of United Kingdom legislation which provide for the principle of "constructive dismissal"?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

As I previously said would happen, a consultation paper was indeed drawn up and it was tabled to the Labour Advisory Board, which met on 22nd April. The Government are now considering the views expressed by the various parties represented on the Labour Advisory Board, and he will be presumably as surprised as I was that on both sides of the fence there were divisions, as between the players on each side of the fence. I should say, that the Government's instinct is to amend the legislation, we are just considering for example one of the Unions represented agreed in principle but said he would like further time in order to fully consider their views. So the Government's position is not that we will only act if there is consensus, a consultation process is a consultation process, it is not the determining factor. The Government's instinct is that there should be full rights of constructive dismissal as requested by the Transport and General Workers Union in their pre-election material, and as to when the legislation will come through I cannot tell him but I would certainly expect it to be this year if the Government decide to proceed.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1217 AND 1218 OF 2004

HON F R PICARDO:

I am grateful for that answer and for the statement as to what the Government's instinct is, even if the consultation process does not produce an overwhelming suggestion from the Labour Advisory Board that that should be the case, but can I ask him to keep under very active consideration how soon this legislation comes into the House, because even though he has already told me that it is going to come this year, he will understand that there are people presently in employment who may be in a fix as to how they should act, whether they should resign themselves literally to the prospect of having been done out of a job by an employer who is not going to terminate them. Therefore, as it is almost exclusively in his gift to decide when the legislation is to come, that it should come sooner rather than later, but generally, I welcome the statement made by the Chief Minister.

NO 1219 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR CHRONICLE

What is the latest position in the negotiations between the Government and the Gibraltar Chronicle Limited?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

There have been no substantial developments in the negotiations since the matter was last raised by the hon Member in this House. A recently retired Government officer, the previous Commercial Director, when he retired from the Service, has been taken on in some consultancy capacity by the Chronicle to advise them, or to help them on their side of the investigative fence. It is entirely their matter, and I know that there is on my desk some papers but there has been no progress in the negotiations themselves. In other words, nothing has been agreed or consolidated, nor have there been any developments since the last time we discussed this matter.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1219 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

I think the last time, which was some time ago, the indication was that the Government felt that the Chronicle side had not come back with a positive answer or accepting the criteria the Government want, but I think that is where it was last left which was quite some time ago. Has there been any move from that?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I think that that is precisely what this retired officer is helping them with. In other words, putting together a modus operandi and indeed an incomes plan, a salaries structure that would comply with the Government's criteria for sanitisation and working practices and that sort of thing.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Has any payment actually been made to the Chronicle in any of this period where the thing has been under discussion between the two sides?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I honestly do not recall, I do not think so. I remember that some time ago we gave them an advance in relation to some consultancy fees or professional fees of some sort. No, I am almost certain that the answer is, certainly not since we last discussed this in the House but if I am wrong I will come back to him.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I think in answer to a previous question the Government said that what they had actually paid for was the original study carried out by somebody that was brought in, and I think that the hon Member said that the person who actually did the study had been selected by the Chronicle but that the Government had actually given them a grant to pay for it.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

There may have been, I just say it in order to cover my back. There may have been, although I am not suggesting that there has been, there may have been a payment in relation to legal fees.

NO 1220 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

ROYAL GIBRALTAR POLICE ASSOCIATION

Can Government state what are the terms of the settlement reached with the Royal Gibraltar Police Association in respect of their outstanding claims?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The outstanding claim from the Royal Gibraltar Police Association related to the application of the rules for overtime payments on rest days and public holidays, which gave rise to underpayments and this has been settled with retrospective effect to 1st September 1994. Outstanding payments to both serving and retired officers will be effected as follows:-

- Officers that are due less than £500 will be paid in full in July this year.
- Officers that are due between £500 and £1,000 will be paid in two equal instalments in July 2004 and July 2005.
- Officers that are due more than £1,000 will be paid in three equal instalments in July 2004, July 2005 and July 2006.
- I am assuming that the hon Member knows what the nature of the claim was and how it arose, but am happy to fill him in if he wants to.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1220 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

Perhaps what the Chief Minister can confirm is, I would be grateful for the details because all I know is that it has something to do with whether the overtime was calculated properly in relation to the analogue in the UK or not, and the argument that I have heard is that it had been miscalculated and that therefore it was an underpayment because somebody had made a mistake in the Treasury.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, it is not a question of mistake and miscalculation, it is a question of the parties signing pay settlement agreements in ignorance, both of them, of a particular feature in the UK pay award which had changed in 1994. The rule in question is that in 1994, I think it was September 1994, the rules changed in the UK so that officers were entitled to be paid overtime hours at a higher rate than usual, if they were not given a certain number of days notice of the requirement to work overtime, and no one had appreciated that that situation had changed in the UK. So, of course, our officers who are analogued to those conditions, had been doing overtime without the necessary notice and had the analogue been properly in place, they would have been entitled to overtime, which they were paid, but at a higher rate under this new agreement. Now the Government's position was that the Government do not normally agree to re-open signed pay agreements, but we agreed to do it in this case in recognition of the fact that uniquely amongst workers in Gibraltar, police officers are not entitled to belong to a Trade Union and therefore do not have full-time, professional Union officials to research these things for them. Had this been another Union the Government would not have agreed to re-open, a deal is a deal and parties are assumed to be advised as to what their rights are in a negotiation, but in recognition of the fact that these workers do not by law have the right to belong to a trade union, and therefore it is a do-it-yourself, it is one of them who does it in his spare time, the Government did not think that it was equitable to hold them to a deal that they had done in ignorance of facts, of which incidentally the Government were ignorant too.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In terms of the provision that we have to debate in the budget, did the agreement come too late for that to be reflected in those estimates?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I believe so, and I believe it is going to be dealt with through the supplementary pay review. I believe it is reflected in the emoluments head of the Police Department.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In terms of on-going costs, from the nature of the explanation we have been given, obviously there is the option there of giving people enough notice in future.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, this was corrected as soon as we discovered it in 2001. So the settlement is between 1994 and 2001. It was corrected in 2001 but of course the hon Member's remarks still applies. They can manage their budget and pay at the lower rate by giving notice, which is possible when one has pre-planned events, ceremonial events but it is very difficult for the Police because a lot of the overtime is when people report ill and that sort of thing.

ORAL

NO 1221 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSING DEPARTMENT

Can Government state whether the industrial dispute with the Driver and Vehicle Examiners at the Motor Vehicle Licensing Department has now been resolved?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The staff to which he refers have submitted a claim which Government do not believe to be reasonable or justified and it has therefore not been met. Pursuant to that claim, the effective staff members are declining to carry out certain responsibilities that they have been carrying out in the past. The Government will shortly decide what action to take in this respect.

ORAL

NO 1222 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

PAYMENT TO BUILDING CONTRACTORS

Can Government state how much was paid to building contractors in the financial year ended 31 March 2004, giving a breakdown of the amounts paid to each contractor and in respect of which project?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The information requested by the hon Member is contained in the written Schedule.

PROJECT	CONTRACTOR	EXPENDITURE UP TO 31/3/04
New Harbours M & E Works	Rotary	£355,960.94
Alameda Estate Lift Shafts	GJBS	£335,360.70
Alameda Estate Lifts	Otis	£95,014.44
Varyl Begg Estate Lift Shafts & Associated Works (Phase I)	GJBS	£1,049,148.80
Varyl Begg Estate Lifts	Otis	£47,201.80
Landport Ditch Car Park	GJBS	£264,686.61
Frontier Building Refurbishment	Sharrock Shand	£65,168.58
Industrial Park Lathbury Barracks	Amco	£25,399.19
Retreat Centre Lathbury Barracks	Sharrock Shand	£24,703.00
Incinerator Roof Repairs	Limaran	£6,785.00
Gralda Gardens - Toilets	JBS	£13,668.15
Administration Block - Victoria Stadium	Sharrock Shand	£353,911.00
Grandstand - Victoria Stadium	Mackley Tricon Wilkie	£674,502.64
Brympton Estate - Stabilisation Works	Sharrock Shand	£194,009.54
Brympton Estate - Various Repairs	Profield	£6,827.42
32-36 Town Range	GJBS	£49,409.66
Podium Waterproofing - Sir William Jackson Grove	GJBS	£263,085.69
Upper Galleries Retaining Wall	Amco	£43,790.31
Erection of a Permanent Frangible Boundary Fence (Phase II)	Amco	£12,549.48
Highways Maintenance Term Contract	Amco	£977,098.85
Gully Cleansing Term Contract	Amco	£85,021.68
Replacement of Balconies - Coelho House	Brookwest Company Ltd	£35,588.61
Ferry Terminal Phase II	Sharrock Shand	£17,004.99
Europa Road Resurfacing Works	H.L. Wilkie Ltd	£7,833.16
Loreto Convent Retaining Wall	Profield	£637.86
Town Centre Beautification Phase IV	Amco	£26,259.52
John Mackintosh Square	Amco	£1,188,070.83
Taxi Signposts	Straits Overseas	£6,240.00
Airport Terminal	GJBS	£87,623.27
Windows and Shutter Maintenance Term Contract	FibreGlass & LIA	£290,461.56
Scaffolding Maintenance Term Contract	Haymills	£195,202.70
Laguna Estate External Refurbishment	Amco	£119,764.57
Heathfield House External Refurbishment	Sharrock Shand	£4,360.29
Renovation of External Corridors 16 George's Lane	Calpe Construction	£50,489.94
External Refurbishment of Tankerville House / Prison Quarters	Sando	£179,374.98
External Refurbishment of Belvedere House / Electra Flats	GJBS	£531,257.82
External Refurbishment of Rosia House / Vineyard House	Haymills	£501,393.03
Upper Withams House / lower Withams House	Haymills	£42,210.27
Renovation of External Staircases - St Joseph's Estate	GJBS	£42,519.28
External Works - Knight's Court	GJBS	£22,971.08
External Refurbishment of Scud Hill House	Haymills	£374,707.96
Roof and Pavements - Edinburgh House	ECS	£58,421.22

ORAL

NO 1223 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

GIBTEL/NYNEX

Can Government state what is the latest position regarding the complaints, roaming and numbering, filed with the European Commission by Gibtel and GNC in 1996?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

There has been no change in the complaints and litigation process since the hon Member last raised this matter in the House. Gibtel have initiated proceedings in the roaming case, court proceedings.

NO 1224 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

FINES ON FOREIGN REGISTERED VEHICLES

Can Government state what they propose to do to improve on collection rate of the fines imposed on foreign registered vehicles?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Government have no plans at present in this respect. The only possible improvement is to introduce a system of fines payable on the spot which Government are not presently contemplating.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1224 OF 2004

HON L A RANDALL:

Do Government not agree that it is unfair to impose a fine of £100 for parking in a bus stop and allow 90 per cent of the fines imposed on foreign registered vehicles to go unpaid?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The situation that the hon Member describes in his supplementary applies and has always applied to fines regardless of the fine involved. It has always been the position.

HON L A RANDALL:

Is it not true that the fine has been raised to level 2, that it was less than £100 before?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

That is what I have said to him, it is true that the fine has been increased for certain offences related to bus stops to £100. That applies equally to residents and non-residents. The extent to which residents are less able to get away with not paying

the fine than non-residents, is the case whether the fine is for £100 or £25, as has always been the case for all fixed penalty notices related to motoring offences. It does not arise because of this particular £100 situation that he describes.

HON L A RANDALL:

Will the Government therefore not consider introducing the same policy as they said yesterday for unfair trading, namely reciprocity?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, as I said in my answer, the Government are not presently contemplating this. There are issues of wider economic policy to take into consideration. Who are the foreign motorists that come to Gibraltar? What do they do when they come here? What do they come here for? Do we want to encourage or discourage? Do we want to be more or less aggressive with them than we are at the moment? These are wider issues than the simple management of traffic fines. It is a matter of judgement, but no Government in the past has ever thought it appropriate to impose an on-the-spot system of fining. It has always been the case in Spain that certain types of fines are payable on-the-spot, with very severe consequences if one does not. I understand that one gets ejected from ones car and things of the sort. It has never been the policy of successive Gibraltar Governments to replicate that very un-Anglo-Saxon principle of summary justice and the Government are not contemplating to do it now. We do not think that the principle has changed because one fine for one type of offence has risen from £25 to £100. The principles do not change and therefore we can debate the issue by reference to the principles, but it has nothing to do with the bus stops and the £100.

ORAL

NO 1225 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

MERCOMED

Has the Joint Venture Agreement between Mercomed (Gibraltar and Los Barrios) Ltd and Mercomed (Gibraltar and Los Barrios) SA now been concluded?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1226 and 1227 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1226 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

MERCOMED

Who will be the Company Directors of Mercomed (Gibraltar and Los Barrios) Ltd and Mercomed (Gibraltar and Los Barrios) SA?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1225 and 1227 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1227 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

MERCOMED

Has Mercomed (Gibraltar and Los Barrios) SA now been incorporated in Spain?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The joint venture agreement has not yet been concluded. The Directors of Mercomed (Gibraltar and Los Barrios) Limited are myself and the Mayor of Los Barrios. Two other Directors and a Secretary have yet to be appointed.

The Directors of Mercomed (Gibraltar and Los Barrios) SA are myself, the Mayor of Los Barrios, the Deputy Mayor of Los Barrios, the Commercial Director of something called Iniciativas Los Barrios, which I understand is their equivalent of our Gibraltar Development Corporation and the Secretary has yet to be appointed.

The incorporation of Mercomed (Gibraltar and Los Barrios) SA has not been concluded.

In short, the position is very much as it was when he last asked the questions.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1225 TO 1227 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

I think, I do not know, I am not sure whether we had yourself and the Mayor as Directors at that particular juncture, but is it the policy of the Government that there should be an equal number of directors and shareholders. That the shareholding should be equal between the two sides in both companies, and the number of directors should be equal in both companies?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

This has been covered in the draft agreement and I cannot quite remember what it was, but my understanding of it is that we would have more directors in the Gibraltar company, they would have more directors in the Spanish company and there would be an equal number of directors in the EEIG when the two companies come together to form a European interest grouping.

ORAL

NO 1228 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

INVESTMENTS FOR LOS BARRIOS

Can Government say if any outside investments are planned for Los Barrios through Gibraltar and what are they?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

If any. I am not aware of any agreed investments at this time.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1228 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

When the Mayors last came to Gibraltar they made a reference to a paper, some kind of paper factory or establishment which had arrived there, was going to arrive there through Gibraltar. Can the Chief Minister throw any light on that comment?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I am afraid I do not know anything about that.

ORAL

NO 1229 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

OFFICIAL TRAVEL

Further to questions 1056/2002, 393/2003 and 473/2004 can Government say what amount of the sum in question refers to:

- (a) official travel by the Chief Minister;
- (b) official travel to Gibraltar by Government guests;
- (c) official travel by civil servants;
- (d) official travel by Ministers;
- (e) official travel by GDC employees?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1230 of 2004.

NO 1230 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

OFFICIAL TRAVEL

Further to questions 1056/2002, 393/2003 and 473/2004 can Government say what subheads or sub totals each of the following is divided into:

- (a) official travel;
- (b) invited guests;
- (c) political?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The breakdown of the sum in question is as follows:

(a)	Official travel by Chief Minister	£32,792.64
(b)	Official travel to Gibraltar by Government guests	£ 8,718.10
(c)	Official travel by civil servants	£88,235.20
(d)	Official travel by Ministers	£12,260.67
(e)	Official travel by GDC employees	Nil

Official travel is divided into the following sub-categories:-

(1)	Official travel by Chief Minister
(2)	Official travel by civil servants
(3)	Official travel by Ministers

There are no sub-divisions in respect of invited guests and political.

ORAL

NO 1231 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

EUROPEAN ELECTIONS

On what date will copies of the full European elections register and the edited version of the register be made available to the John Mackintosh Hall Library and British Library?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1232 to 1237 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1232 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

EUROPEAN ELECTIONS

Can Government say whether any request has been made by any entity or individual, for a full copy of the European election register, and if so indicate when the request was made and who was the party?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1231 and 1233 to 1237 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1233 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

EUROPEAN ELECTIONS

Can Government say whether any request has been made by any entity or individual, for a copy of the edited version of the European election register, and if so indicate when the request was made and who was the party?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1231, 1232 and 1234 to 1237 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1234 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

EUROPEAN ELECTIONS

What is the cost, with a breakdown, as at 31 March 2004 of the European elections office?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1231 to 1233 and 1235 to 1237 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1235 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

EUROPEAN ELECTIONS

How many persons have been added on to the European elections register after 27 February 2004, with a breakdown by nationality?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1231 to 1234, 1236 and 1237 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1236 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

EUROPEAN ELECTIONS

What is the total number of persons on the European elections register to date with a breakdown by nationality?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1231 to 1235 and 1237 of 2004.

NO 1237 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

EUROPEAN ELECTIONS

How many persons had registered to vote for elections to the European Parliament as on 27 February 2004, giving a breakdown showing the numbers who are:

- (a) British/Gibraltarian;
- (b) EU Nationals;
- (c) Commonwealth Citizens (who are not British/Gibraltarian)?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

As is now known, the Register was published on Tuesday 27 April 2004. I should start perhaps by saying, that this is not a Government activity as such, any of this. The Government are not strictly accountable in this House but I am happy to provide the information that the local Returning Officer has made available to me for answering the question. The Register was published on Tuesday 27 April and a copy of the "Full Register" as provided for in section 48 of the European Parliamentary Elections Ordinance 2004, will be made available to the British Library and the John Mackintosh Hall Library. It may have already been done, I cannot say.

There is no provision in the Ordinance for an "Edited Register" to be made available.

As at 19 April 2004, no requests had been made by any entity or individual for a full copy of the European Register or the edited version of the European election register. The cost, as at 31 March 2004, of the European election office is as follows:

	£	£
Staff Remuneration		9,725
Advertisements	6,193	
Stationery	2,201	
Mailing Machine Service	1,877	
Equipment	1,710	
Telephone	1,131	
Security	462	
Miscellaneous	438	
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		14,012
		<hr/>
		23,737

The remainder of the information as to the number of persons added to the Register after 27 February, with a breakdown of nationality, the total number of persons on the European election register to date, with a breakdown by nationality. The number of persons that had registered to vote for elections to the European Parliament as on 27 February, itself with a breakdown by nationality, is not readily available and is unobtainable without considerable administrative effort and cost. The computer system was not programmed to provide the information on this basis, but I see that the Electoral Officer has now published the final figures of the breakdown, the total number of people on the Register and how many of them were British/Gibraltarian, EU Nationals and Commonwealth Citizens.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1231 TO 1237 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Does the Chief Minister have those figures available for the purposes of Hansard? The final figures on the register which have now been published.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, the information is a matter of public record and it is not Government information. It is Electoral Registration Officer information. It is not really for me to place it in Hansard.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Were any records kept as to how many people had registered by 27 February or not?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I cannot say, but it appears from the fact that the Registration Officer cannot give it, that there cannot have been. If it had been kept, he would not have told me that it cannot be made available.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

I understand what the Chief Minister saying but If I recall correctly, there was a date on the registration form which was sent to all households in Gibraltar, that date was 27 February and it was subsequent to that, based on the returns that had been received that they decided to go round house to house and collect the information from those who had not returned the forms. So there must have been some kind of list, so they knew where to go and who had already returned it.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, I do not know whether that is how it was done, but in any case, the hon Member is perfectly free to contact the Registration Officer directly and put this

information to him. The whole process of organising these Elections is not a Government function, it is an independent function.

NO 1238 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

PROVISION OF EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT (DISQUALIFICATION) (UK AND GIBRALTAR) ORDER

Can Government confirm whether consultations were held with the UK Government on the provisions of the European Parliament (Disqualification) (UK and Gibraltar) Order, and if so, when and with whom?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

There was no meaningful consultation as to the content of that particular piece of UK legislation.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1238 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

Are the Government aware of the reply given by the Minister in the UK when the Disqualification Order was discussed and a Member of the House of Commons wanted to know to what degree Gibraltar had been consulted?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, I am not. What I can tell him is what the position is from our point of view. I can tell him that whereas in respect of the other bits of legislation that we debated at length when we were taking the Order, well we did not debate at length but we referred to at length or frequently, when we were debating our local piece of legislation. This is one of the areas where they would not let us legislate on locally, but the substance, the text of this particular legislation I am told by the LSU came through as a fait accompli a couple of days before it was promulgated, with the somewhat disingenuous question, 'do you have any comments?', as if we were still in time to influence the content. This is why I have said in my answer that there has not been any meaningful consultation, because it was sent through with that question, at a time when it could not possibly have given us an opportunity to influence its content. Thitherto, this was one of the items that we wanted to include in our local legislation. So when we had that debate, this was on our list and they did not agree.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Particularly I think in the light of that final bit of information, I think the House in the UK was misled by the Minister who said that we were quite content here to go along with this, and it is quite obvious that it would have been the preference of this House to do it the way the Chief Minister says he tried to persuade the United Kingdom that we should be able to do it, and that is not the impression they have been given in the House of Commons when they were looking in Committee Stage at approving this Order, I can tell him. The impression was quite the contrary, that the parties consulted had gone happily along with it as it was being done.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The information that I have given to him in this House is the information provided to me by the Legislation Support Unit, that have been involved. It has not even come up to me, there was not even time to put it up to me in the timescale, unlike all the other legislation where I have been intimately involved in the toing and froing between Gibraltar and the UK as to content. This is in a different category.

ORAL

NO 1239 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DATA PROTECTION ORDINANCE

Can Government say as from what date are local businesses or affected parties expected to comply in full with the Data Protection Ordinance?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

As I informed the House during the debate on the Bill (as it then was), the transitional implementation provisions of this directive are set out in Article 32 of the Directive. Government intend to use the time available to give a reasonable and proper opportunity to data controllers affected by the Ordinance, to understand its provisions and prepare for compliance. This is quite an onerous burden. To achieve it Government are preparing an explanatory paper for businesses, especially small businesses, and will also consider the organisation of seminars. These are not yet ready. I cannot give the hon Member a date, although Government are also mindful of the desirability of extending the Ordinance's protection to data subjects.

ORAL

NO 1240 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

VISAS

What was the number of visas issued in British Consular offices in Morocco for non-EU nationals wishing to travel to Gibraltar, on a monthly basis, since January 2004 inclusive?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The total number of visas for Gibraltar issued in Morocco since 1 January 2004 up to and including 16 April 2004, on a monthly basis is as follows:-

January 2004	-	91
February 2004	-	66
March 2004	-	72
April 2004 (up to and Including 16 April 2004)	-	35
Total No. of Visas issued	-	264

ORAL

NO 1241 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

POLICE AND CRIMINAL EVIDENCE ACT 1984

Will the Government, in the light of the answer given to question 424 of 2004, confirm what consultation it has undertaken in respect of the potential implementation of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 in Gibraltar in whole or in part?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

At present the situation is that a working party, chaired by the Attorney General and with representation on it from the Bar, the Police and the Government, is doing its work. That working group is almost at the end of its task and is due very shortly to submit its recommendations to the Government. The consultation process would follow that.

NO 1242 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EXTERNAL FRONTIERS REGULATION

Have Government now received a substantive reply to the letter sent to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on 22 December 2003 seeking clarification from HMG regarding Spain's objection in November to Gibraltar's participation in a future External Frontiers Regulation?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Yes Sir. The Regulation to which the hon Member refers is a regulation establishing a European Borders Agency. The UK and Ireland have opted, or tried to opt perhaps is a better word, have opted to participate but the EU has decided that they are not entitled to do so while they remain outside the Schengen borders measures, since this Regulation builds on them. It is now proposed that the UK and Ireland do not form part of the Agency but simply sit in as observers. Spain objects to even that arrangement covering Gibraltar. We have made clear to HMG the importance, given that it is an external borders measure, we have made clear to HMG the importance of Gibraltar being included in whatever degree/manner the United Kingdom participates, whether it is as an observer or whatever. The matter is currently under discussion by the UK in the Justice and Home Affairs Council.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1242 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is the implication of Spain's objection that the United Kingdom would not be able to take a seat as an observer if they continue to maintain this issue? Is it something that requires the unanimity of the rest?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, the latest text of the Regulation under discussion, contains an article which I think is 10 bis dealing with co-operation with Ireland and the UK, given that their attempt to actually subscribe to it lock, stock and barrel was turned down, and article 10 bis reads '(1) *The Agency shall facilitate operational co-operation of the Member State with Ireland and the United Kingdom in matters covered by its activities and to the extent required for the fulfilment of its task set out in article 2(1).* (2) *Support to*

be provided by the Agency pursuant to article 2(1)(f) shall cover the organisation of joint return operations of Member States in which Ireland or the UK or both also participate.' So in other words, they do not participate, they cannot sign up to the Regulation because they have been turned down, they have observer status at the meetings of the Agency, but there is a clause in the Regulation itself permitting co-operation with Ireland and the UK who are not participants. If they were participants they would not need to meet this co-operation clause. Our position is that that clause has got to extend to Gibraltar because it is easy to see what will otherwise happen. This will be the equivalent of the second air liberalisation directive where if there is some sort of Gibraltar language, it will be a precedent, and it will be a precedent all the way up to the actual external.... so we have made it perfectly clear in writing to the United Kingdom what is the importance of Gibraltar not being excluded from any of these arrangements and what the policy consequences will be of that, and it has been clearly spelt out to them that, of course, the document itself does not contain anything which is Gibraltar excluding. I have read to him the clauses UK would normally be deemed to include Gibraltar, but of course the danger is, and I think that this is what Spain was proposing, is that Spain may enter reservations language in the minutes or somewhere to the effect that well, this will not apply as between Spain and Gibraltar, for example, because it is not language, Spain would not need to be excluding language. They would simply have to be excluding Gibraltar from the ambit of the co-operation clause. What we have said to the United Kingdom is that it is not enough for the UK to say we do not accept the language in the minute. In other words, enter a counter reservation, because of course if the UK goes along with this in practice, that is where the damage comes. The fact that they enter a counter reservation, well we do not agree with Spain's counter reservation, is simple words if in practice Gibraltar is excluded from the ambit of the co-operation clause. Of course, in due course if the United Kingdom subscribes to the Schengen Chapters on borders, the UK will then be signing this Regulation in full. Of course it can only join the Regulation as it then stands. Spain would then say 'ah, the regulation does not apply to Gibraltar because remember you conceded the ground to me back in May 2004, when you accepted the....'. The United Kingdom's position on the matter, the position as set out in letters to the Government, is that because this is a Schengen matter we are entitled for its application to us automatically. That is what they are saying to it. Well, automatically once the UK subscribes to it. In other words, that this is an area where there is no scope for exclusion, in other words one is entitled to participate as a matter of right, but that as now they are only observers and they do not have the vote, we have said look that does not stack up. I mean, either UK participates in it with Gibraltar's inclusion or UK participates in it with Gibraltar's exclusion, and that is where the latter would be terribly damaging and that is where the matter presently rests.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is the text that the Chief Minister is quoting from, is that a draft at this stage which still has to go through some negotiation or approval, or is that the final thing?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, it is still in draft, it has not yet been approved but it is regarded as more or less settled draft. In other words, the issue for us is not the language of this, the issue for us is things that might be inserted in the minutes, or declaration or minute statements, things of that sort. There is nothing damaging to us in the language of the draft regulation.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is it possible for the Government to provide a copy of that, or is it readily available on the internet or something?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I will check. This copy has been sent to us by the Foreign Office. Obviously if it is available on the internet there is no reason why I should not give it to him, but I just need to check, that it has reached that stage of publicity.

NO 1243 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EU – REGIONAL SELECTIVITY

Can Government explain what they and the UK Government have done so far to intervene in the case on Regional Selectivity before the European Court of Justice involving the Azores and Portugal?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I am informed that at our request the United Kingdom Government have now intervened in that case. Yes, they have a period of time that they did it and they were pressed to do it and they agreed to do it. The Gibraltar Government's own application to the Court for leave for it to intervene, has been turned down by the Court on the grounds that we do not have sufficient interest as a party in the facts of that case. Of course this situation does not arise in the case of the United Kingdom, because under the rules of procedure of the European Court, Member States are always entitled to intervene in all cases as a matter of right, whereas other parties have to establish a sufficient interest. If I could just add, that is why we urged the UK to intervene at the outset, because we feared that this would happen, we were advised that there was a real possibility of this happening and we did not want our situation to be represented together before the Court.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1243 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

Given that in fact the Chief Minister brought this to the attention of the House in last year's budget, can he say what it is that has actually happened in the last 12 months? I mean, as regards the progress of that case.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I cannot remember where the matter stood at that time and therefore what it is that he already knows. I think that the Advocate General has now issued an opinion, I think but let me check with Michael Llamas on that and I will come back to that.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can he say when in fact the Government were informed that their application had been turned down by the Court on the grounds that they did not have sufficient interest?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I cannot tell him the date but it was more than several weeks ago, several weeks, two or three months, perhaps around Christmas, New Year, January. Let me just say I do not recollect what it is that we discussed at the budget time but the Government's desire to intervene in this case was to make sure that the Court had not, in an ill-informed way, had made any jurisprudence that would affect our case when our case subsequently came. In other words we wanted to make sure that the Court limited itself to the facts in Azores and not make any general law without us being there to argue that subsequently have impacted on us.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I believe that is in fact the explanation that was given last year at budget time, that it was for that purpose.

ORAL

NO 1244 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR REGULATORY AUTHORITY

How many persons applied for the vacancy for Regulatory Officer in the Gibraltar Regulatory Authority which was advertised on 3 March?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Gibraltar Regulatory Authority is statutorily independent of the Government. Given its functions, particularly under EU directives that require such independence, the Government would not wish to answer in this House for the GRA in a way that might lead others to believe that such independence is less than it should be. The hon Member should seek that information directly from the GRA.

NO 1245 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

EU – AIRLINE OVERBOOKING COMPENSATION

On what date did the Government last make representations to the United Kingdom for the inclusion of Gibraltar in the EU airline overbooking compensation measures, what was the nature of the representations made and what was the reply from the United Kingdom?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

As I have previously stated in this House, on 20 March 2002 the Gibraltar Government were notified that the UK had reached an understanding with Spain on the application of EU aviation measures to Gibraltar. The understanding is that the UK will accept a suspension clause if the Commission, when asked by Spain and the UK jointly, indicates that the relevant EU measure places obligations on airports.

On 8 May 2002, the European Commission Aviation Working Group considered the proposal for a denied boarding compensation regulation. In accordance with the agreed formula, the suspension clause was requested by Spain and surprise, surprise, agreed by the UK.

As the Government have already stated publicly, they reject and condemn these arrangements as illegal and politically unacceptable.

Gibraltar is entitled, in our view, as of right, to participate in all aviation measures. The Government will consider taking legal action to contest these exclusions at the appropriate time, and at the appropriate time means if we can find a way around the procedural hurdles that the hon Members faced when they did the airport case.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1245 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Although no action has been commenced, has legal advice been taken on this subsequent issue?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Let me just tell the hon Member that the matter is under active management, in the terms of legal advice and seeking ways forward. The UK knows that this is an area in which we have every intention of litigating at the earliest opportunity.

NO 1246 OF 2004

THE HON S E LINARES

REPORTS

Can Government state what were the nature of each of the reports?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The question is nonsensical and incapable of being answered. It is clear from the plethora of repetitive questions before the House that hon Members value quantity over quality. That is a matter for them, but in stringing out a question into many separate questions in order to boost their total, hon Members should take care to ensure that each question stands by itself.

NO 1247 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

GOVERNMENT LOTTERY

Can Government state whether they propose to implement any changes to the structure of the lottery, and if so, what are the changes?

ANSWER

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

Options with regard to the structure of the lottery are currently being considered by Government.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1247 OF 2004

HON L A RANDALL:

Can the Minister give me a date by which the considerations will be concluded?

HON C BELTRAN:

No.

HON S E LINARES:

Did the Government not bring out a tender for the commissioning of the lottery which is going to last five years, to the company that is currently running it? Therefore, how can they change now the contract with the tender?

HON C BELTRAN:

The tender that the hon Member is referring to is to do with the administration of the lottery, but any changes that would become necessary would obviously be done in conjunction with the administrator.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is this the same study that has been going on for the last two or three years, or is it a new initiative?

HON C BELTRAN:

It is the same change with renewed vigour. The last change occurred in 1993 when the hon Member's party was in government and the lottery has had a volatility and problems since then. That is why this has become necessary.

HON J J BOSSANO:

It has been identified as something that has been necessary for a number of years. Mainly I think, because the fluctuations in whether the Government wins the lottery with the tickets it does not sell, dramatically alter the reliability of the estimates. I think that has been the main thing identified by the Auditor year after year. Is something being looked at in that context?

HON C BELTRAN:

That is one of the issues. Also the fact that since the change in 1993, to fortnightly draws and changing the price of the tickets, the number of returned tickets has dropped from 20 per cent to 32 per cent. That is unacceptable to the Government.

ORAL

NO 1248 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

TRANSFER OF SENTENCED PERSONS

Can Government state from May 1987 to 2002 what were the provisions in Gibraltar which governed the transfer of sentenced persons?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1249 to 1251 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1249 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

TRANSFER OF SENTENCED PERSONS

Can Government state when the Council of Europe Convention on the transfer of sentenced persons done at Strasburg on 21st May 1983 was extended to Gibraltar?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1248 and 1250 to 1251 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1250 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

TRANSFER OF SENTENCED PERSONS

Can Government state whether the agreement on the application, amongst Member States of the European Community, of the Council of Europe Convention on the transfer of sentenced persons done at Brussels on the 26th May 1987, was applicable in Gibraltar from the same date as other Member States, and if not, what were the different dates?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1248 to 1249 and 1251 of 2004.

NO 1251 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

TRANSFER OF SENTENCED PERSONS

Can Government state which were the sections of the Schengen Acquis that Gibraltar had to comply with which required the Transfer of Sentenced Persons Ordinance 2002 to be brought to the House?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The 1983 Council of Europe Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons was extended to Gibraltar on 1 May 1987. The Convention entered into force in respect of other Member States as follows:

Austria	-	1 January 1987	Italy	-	1 October 1989
Belgium	-	1 December 1990	Luxembourg	-	1 February 1988
Denmark	-	1 May 1987	Netherlands	-	1 January 1988
Finland	-	1 May 1987	Portugal	-	1 October 1993
France	-	1 July 1985	Spain	-	1 July 1985
Germany	-	1 February 1992	Sweden	-	1 July 1985
Greece	-	1 April 1988	UK	-	1 August 1985
Ireland	-	1 November 1995			

The Convention was implemented in Gibraltar by the Transfer of Sentenced Persons Ordinance 2002, in accordance with our obligations under Article 67 to 69 of the Schengen implementing Convention.

Prior to 2002 we had no legislation covering the ground falling within the ambit of the 1983 Convention, even though it had been extended to us as long ago as May 1987.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1248 TO 1251 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is the fact that it was extended to us something that created an obligation for us to have in place something to give effect to the terms of the Convention or not?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, technically Gibraltar has extended to it in 1987 a Convention that requires it to be willing to do certain things. It should then have put into place local legislation authorising the courts and the Superintendent of Prisons to do those things. In fact it never happened. So we had an international obligation which Gibraltar had not legislated to comply with. It happens that under the Schengen implementing Convention this whole area of sentenced persons was included, and this is how it came to our attention that it had not been legislated for, because it was one of the things that we had to satisfy the EU we had done in order to gain access to the Schengen Convention. So the obligation arises primarily and initially from the extension of the Convention to us in 1987, and then it was repeated as an obligation as part of the Schengen implementing Convention accession provision.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So in fact the answer to Question No. 1248 then is none, that there was nothing between 1987 and 2002.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Nothing whatsoever, no.

HON J J BOSSANO:

But in practice something was happening, was there not?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. We were able, even the receipt, this area is fraught with difficulty unless one has local legislation, because of course even if somebody offers to send one a prisoner, I remember there was a case of a Gibraltarian in prison in Portugal, even if we have that there has to be statutory authority for the incarceration of the person in Gibraltar. I mean the Superintendent of Prison cannot keep somebody locked up in the territory of Gibraltar just because they have been sentenced by a court in Portugal. Under the local law there has got to be a legitimisation of the withholding of liberty, whatever the phrase is, deprivation of liberty.

ORAL

NO 1252 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

MOD – MANNING LEVELS

Can Government say whether MOD has any plans to reduce manpower levels below the figures provided for the 31 December 2003?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1253 of 2004.

NO 1253 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

MOD – BUDGET FOR GIBRALTAR

Can Government say what is the approved MOD budget for Gibraltar for the current financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

No, the extent of the MOD's approved budget for Gibraltar for the current financial year is not a question that relates to the affairs of Government or to any issue for which the Government are accountable in this House. He should put his question to the MOD, which is what I would have to do. I would have to write to the MOD. In fact, last time he asked me this question there was some reluctance to give it to me and I had to sort of threaten to say that they were refusing to give it to me in the House. So I am reluctant to establish the practice whereby the Government has to go and beg for information in order to bring it to the House, when it is not Government business. He is as entitled to the information as I am directly from the MOD. The Government are not aware of any plans by MOD to reduce its manpower levels.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1252 AND 1253 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

Would the Government expect to be informed by MOD of such plans if they existed?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Sometimes they bring things to our attention in advance and sometimes they do not. I would hope that they would, and I would most certainly expect if there was anything other than a minimal number of jobs involved, which might be the normal turnover staff, I would certainly hope and expect the MOD to give us maximum advance notice of any significant manning level reductions. I think in fairness to them, when they have been of that nature, they have in the past given us advance notice.

NO 1254 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

FINANCIAL SERVICES OMBUDSMAN

Will the Government, in the light of the answer given to question 446 of 2004, make a statement as to what progress if any they have made in respect of the establishment of a body with jurisdiction similar to that of the Financial Services Ombudsman in the UK (and elsewhere in the EU) to deal with complaints relating to licensees under the Financial Services Ordinance 1989 and 1998, and with the power to provide redress to complainants?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

When I read this question I had come to the conclusion that it was an opportunity for a statement by the hon Member rather than seeking information from the Government. To ask the Government the question it would have been enough to say 'what progress have the Government made in setting up a financial services ombudsman?'. The answer is, in any event, that there has been no substantial development since Question No. 446 of 2004 was answered. I understand, but I am not party to them myself, that there may have been discussion between the Financial Services Commissioner and the Finance Centre Director. So it is operating at that level at the moment. A specific legislative proposal has not come up to me as Minister.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1254 OF 2004

HON F R PICARDO:

As I urged the Chief Minister in relation to PACE, it is in his gift to accelerate these things and I would ask him to consider doing so, given that there have been instances when, in the very recent past, in the past calendar year, the existence of such a body would have been of great assistance to investors, and we never know when again a large number of investors are going to require the assistance of a body such as a financial services ombudsman, or indeed a small number of investors would benefit from the existence in Gibraltar of such a body. I know it is something that the Chief Minister reacted if not warmly then positively to when I first put my question last time, so I would be very grateful if he could press the accelerator on this.

ORAL

NO 1255 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

CATEGORY 2 STATUS

Can Government provide a breakdown of the number of individuals taking up Category 2 status in the month of January 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1256 to 1260 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1256 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

CATEGORY 2 STATUS

Can Government provide a breakdown of the number of individuals taking up Category 2 status in the month of February 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1255 and 1257 to 1260 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1257 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

CATEGORY 2 STATUS

Can Government provide a breakdown of the number of individuals taking up Category 2 status in the month of March 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1255, 1256 and 1258 to 1260 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1258 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

CATEGORY 2 STATUS

Can Government state how many individuals are registered with Category 2 status in Gibraltar as at the end of the month of January 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1255 to 1257 and 1259 to 1260 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1259 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

CATEGORY 2 STATUS

Can Government state how many individuals are registered with Category 2 status in Gibraltar as at the end of the month of February 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1255 to 1258 and 1260 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1260 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

CATEGORY 2 STATUS

Can Government state how many individuals are registered with Category 2 status in Gibraltar as at the end of the month of March 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

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

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1260

Answer to Questions 1255, 1256 and 1257

The breakdown of the number of individuals taking up Category 2 is as follows:

January 2004	-	3
February 2004	-	5
March 2004	-	5

Answer to Questions 1258, 1259 and 1260

The number of individuals registered with Category 2 status in Gibraltar is as follows:

January 2004	-	161
February 2004	-	166
March 2004	-	171

ORAL

NO 1261 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

INVESTMENT SERVICES

Can Government state if there have been any applications for passporting in investment services in the month of January 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1262 and 1263 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1262 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

INVESTMENT SERVICES

Can Government state if there have been any applications for passporting in investment services in the month of February 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1261 and 1263 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1263 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

INVESTMENT SERVICES

Can Government state if there have been any applications for passporting in investment services in the month of March 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Financial Services Commission has not received any application for passporting in investment services during any of the three months that he asks about.

ORAL

NO 1264 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

COMPANIES ORDINANCE

Will the Government commit itself to issuing a consolidated version of the Companies Ordinance and subsidiary legislation incorporating all amendments to the legislation to date, which would be of real assistance to professionals in the Finance Centre who are called upon to advise on the legislation?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1265 and 1266 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1265 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

COMPANIES ORDINANCE

When do Government expect to bring into effect the provisions of Section 45A of the Companies Ordinance?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1264 and 1266 of 2004.

NO 1266 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

COMPANIES ORDINANCE

Will Government agree to review the provisions of the Companies Ordinance which relate to the companies trading whilst insolvent?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Under current legislation, if a company trades whilst insolvent, the directors are personally liable for the company's debts and obligations. The Government have not received any representations to the effect that this aspect of our legislation should be reviewed.

The Companies Ordinance has been undergoing a process of consolidation for very, very many months now as part of the general consolidation of laws process. This is now complete and the consolidated text is due to be published shortly.

Section 45A will be commenced in full also shortly.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1264 TO 1266 OF 2004

HON F R PICARDO:

The Chief Minister will be aware that the provisions in the United Kingdom in relation to directors of companies trading whilst insolvent are much more onerous on those directors than they are in Gibraltar. That is why I raised the issue in this particular case, to protect others in the market who may find themselves dealing with such companies, but I am grateful for his indication that a consolidation of the Companies Ordinance is due soon. Can I ask him whether it is also to be issued to the general public in electronic form, and also how shortly he expects that section 45, which deals to get a little bit technical, with the whitewash procedures and which would be welcome, I think, across the board in the Finance Centre, is to be brought into effect? I note that it has been on the Statute book already for many years.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, actually it was amended, the reason why I said to the hon Member that it would be commenced in full, is that we currently have the somewhat curious situation

whereby section 45 itself was never introduced, but the amendment of it, section 45 was first legislated in 1992 and for reasons we have never understood the previous administration never commenced it, and we spent some time trying to work out whether there was a reason for this or not. In fact, a new Ordinance was passed in 1999, amending that section 45A and the amending Ordinance was commenced but not the original section 45. So that is why I said in full. The amendments were commenced but not the Ordinance itself. I would expect this to happen in the next two or three weeks at the most. That is the sort of timescale. As to the electronic publication, in fact initially it will only be electronic because consolidated texts do not have the force of law until they have been fiatd by the Attorney General. That leaves a lot of these things stacked up, but of course there is nothing to stop the Government, which is what we are going to do, publishing it on the basis of Lexis. So long as people know that it is not a text that they can quote in court, because it has not yet got the force of law, it is still nevertheless very helpful, just like Lexis or one of these computer things. So initially, actually, it will only be published electronically and it will be published on paper when the consolidated version actually has the force of law.

HON F R PICARDO:

Both of those comments are very welcome.

ORAL

NO 1267 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

FINANCIAL SERVICES

In relation to financial services, can the Chief Minister give the dates in the month of January 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

Answered together with Question Nos. 1268 and 1269 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1268 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

FINANCIAL SERVICES

In relation to financial services, can the Chief Minister give the dates in the month of February 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

Answered together with Question Nos. 1267 and 1269 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1269 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

FINANCIAL SERVICES

In relation to financial services, can the Chief Minister give the dates in the month of March 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

The information the hon Member has requested is on the attached sheet.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1269

Answer to Questions 1267, 1268 and 1269

During the months of January, February and March 2004 the Chief Minister has been away from Gibraltar on Government business relating to Financial Services on one occasion.

Details are as follows:-

Date: Friday 27th February 2004
Event/Function: Meeting to discuss the EU Commission state aid enquiry on Gibraltar tax reform
Venue: Foreign & Commonwealth Office
City/Country: London, United Kingdom

Officials Travelling with Chief Minister:

Mr E Montado, Chief Secretary
Mr J Reyes, Private Secretary (Legal)
Mr M Llamas, Director, Government of Gibraltar Brussels Office

Flights	Total: £2,312.00
Accommodation	Total: £ 500.00
Travelling Expenses	Total: £ 262.00
Subsistence	Total: £ 204.00
	Total: £3,278.00

ORAL

NO 1270 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

FINANCIAL SERVICES

Can Government give the cost, with a breakdown, of attending all and any conferences which related or were considered to relate to financial services in the month of January 2004, giving the offices of those who might have attended as part of the Government delegation?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1271 and 1272 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1271 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

FINANCIAL SERVICES

Can Government give the cost, with a breakdown, of attending all and any conferences which related or were considered to relate to financial services in the month of February 2004, giving the offices of those who might have attended as part of the Government delegation?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1270 and 1272 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1272 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

FINANCIAL SERVICES

Can Government give the cost, with a breakdown, of attending all and any conferences which related or were considered to relate to financial services in the month of March 2004, giving the offices of those who might have attended as part of the Government delegation?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The information is on the attached schedule.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1272

Answer to Question 1270/2004

Government did not attend any conferences in January 2004.

Answer to Question 1271/2004

In the month of February the Finance Centre attended the “Willis Insurance Seminar in London” on the 24th February 2004.

The following 3 (three) persons made up the Government delegation at the “Willis Insurance Seminar in London”:

James Tipping	Finance Centre Director
Joseph Macano	Director Licensing Unit
Chris Collins	Financial Services Commission – Head of Insurance Supervision

The breakdown of the costs is as follows:

Flights	£ 396.00
Accommodation	£ 695.00
Subsistence	£ 103.00
Expenses	£ 243.00
Courier	£ 190.00

TOTAL: £1,627.00

Cont...

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1272

Answer to Question 1272/2004

In the month of March the Finance Centre hosted an Insurance Seminar in Geneva on 23rd and 24th March 2004.

The following 5 (five) persons made up the Government delegation at the "Insurance Seminar in Geneva":

James Tipping	Finance Centre Director
Joseph Macano	Director Licensing Unit
Guy Canessa	Marketing and Liaison Officer
Maite Mir-Parody	Personal Assistant
Chris Collins	Financial Services Commission – Head of Insurance Supervision

The breakdown of the costs is as follows:

Flights	£1,056.00
Accommodation	£2,084.00
Subsistence	£ 648.00
Expenses	£ 852.00
Courier	£ 617.00
Printing	£ 248.00
Hire of Equipment	£ 104.00
Hotel Des Bergues Conference Room Hire including Catering	£3,348.00
TOTAL:	£8,957.00

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1270 TO 1272 OF 2004

HON F R PICARDO:

Can I just have clarification from the Chief Minister that the figures provided in relation to the answer to Question No. 1271 represent the cost in respect of the two officials from the Gibraltar Government travelling and not the third official who is with the Financial Services Commission?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I am afraid I cannot. I do not know when they go on these Government trips, whether the Government pay for the FSC or whether they pay their own way. I suspect that the Government pays for them, but I do not know the answer to the question. As presented here, it is for the three persons and I have assumed that that meant that the Financial Services Commission Head of Insurance who is making a presentation, has his costs paid for him by the Government. I have assumed that when I read the answer.

HON F R PICARDO:

Not out of their budget.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Not out of their budget, no. They have no budget for marketing. Marketing is not in their statutory.

ORAL

NO 1273 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

PROTECTED CELL COMPANIES

Can Government state how many Protected Cell Companies are registered in Gibraltar in the month of January 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1274 to 1278 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1274 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

PROTECTED CELL COMPANIES

Can Government state how many Protected Cell Companies are registered in Gibraltar in the month of February 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1273 and 1275 to 1278 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1275 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

PROTECTED CELL COMPANIES

Can Government state how many Protected Cell Companies are registered in Gibraltar in the month of March 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1273, 1274 and 1276 to 1278 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1276 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

PROTECTED CELL COMPANY

Have any applications to form a Protected Cell Company been submitted in the month of January 2004 which remain pending consideration or which have been rejected?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1273 to 1275 and 1277 to 1278 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1277 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

PROTECTED CELL COMPANIES

Have any applications to form a Protected Cell Company been submitted in the month of February 2004 which remain pending consideration or which have been rejected?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1273 to 1276 and 1278 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1278 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

PROTECTED CELL COMPANIES

Have any applications to form a Protected Cell Company been submitted in the month of March 2004 which remain pending consideration or which have been rejected?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

During those three months, one Protected Cell Company appears as registered. There are no applications for Protected Cell Companies which remain pending consideration or which have been rejected, between the months of January, February and March 2004.

ORAL

NO 1279 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

COMPANIES REGISTER

Can Government list the companies formed in Gibraltar in the month of January 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1280 to 1284 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1280 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

COMPANIES REGISTER

Can Government list the companies formed in Gibraltar in the month of February 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1279 and 1281 to 1284 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1281 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

COMPANIES REGISTER

Can Government list the companies formed in Gibraltar in the month of March 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1279, 1280 and 1282 to 1284 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1282 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

COMPANIES REGISTER

How many companies have been removed from the companies register in the month of January 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1279 to 1281 and 1283 to 1284 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1283 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

COMPANIES REGISTER

How many companies have been removed from the companies register in the month of February 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1279 to 1282 and 1284 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1284 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

COMPANIES REGISTER

How many companies have been removed from the companies register in the month of March 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Assuming that by 'listing the companies' he means how many and not a list of their names, the information is on the attached schedule.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1284

Answer to Question 1279, 1280 AND 1281

The companies formed in Gibraltar in the months of January, February and March 2004 are as follows:

January	255
February	271
March	316

Answer to Question 1282, 1283 AND 1284

The companies removed from the companies register in the months of January, February and March 2004 are as follows:

January	1671
February	9727
March	332

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1279 TO 1284 OF 2004

HON F R PICARDO:

Does the Chief Minister know, and I appreciate that he may need specific notice of this supplementary question, whether the figure for companies removed includes the figure for companies which may have been redomiciled out of Gibraltar?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, I cannot break down the figure for him between strikings out for another reason or redomiciliation. I understand there have been quite a number of redomiciliations so it is not as if the number is not significant, but I cannot give him that information, it has not been provided to me.

HON F R PICARDO:

Just if I may be allowed to go back and ask him whether he knows the month in which these particular PCC's had been formed?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No I did not tell him that they had been formed in the first quarter. It appears as registered and has been there for some time.

HON F R PICARDO:

Just that one.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes.

ORAL

NO 1285 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

BANKING LICENCES

Can Government state whether any new applications for banking licences have been received in the month of January 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1286 and 1287 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1286 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

BANKING LICENCES

Can Government state whether any new applications for banking licences have been received in the month of February 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1285 and 1287 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1287 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

BANKING LICENCES

Can Government state whether any new applications for banking licenses have been received in the month of March 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

As far as the Government are aware, the Financial Services Commission has not received any applications for banking licences during the months of January, February and March 2004.

ORAL

NO 1288 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 month of January 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1289 to 1293 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1289 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 month of February 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1288 and 1290 to 1293 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1290 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 month of March 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1288, 1289 and 1292 and 1293 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1291 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 month of January 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1288 to 1290 and 1293 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1292 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 month of February 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1288 to 1291 and 1293 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1293 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 month of March 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The information the hon Member has requested is on the attached sheet.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1293

Answer to Question 1288

As at 31st January 2004 the insurance industry in Gibraltar included 28 employers with a total of 186 registered employees (121 of which are Gibraltarian, 50 British, 1 Belgian, 1 Czech, 1 French, 1 Irish, 1 Portuguese, 10 Spanish).

Answer to Question 1289

As at 29th February 2004 the insurance industry in Gibraltar included 28 employers with a total of 188 registered employees (121 of which are Gibraltarian, 51 British, 1 Belgian, 1 Czech, 1 French, 1 Irish, 1 Portuguese, 11 Spanish).

Answer to Question 1290

As at 31st March 2004 the insurance industry in Gibraltar included 28 employers with a total of 190 registered employees (120 of which are Gibraltarian, 53 British, 1 Belgian, 1 Czech, 1 French, 1 Irish, 1 Portuguese, 12 Spanish).

Answer to Question 1291

As at 31st January 2004 the banking sector in Gibraltar included 16 employers with a total of 645 registered employees (450 of which are Gibraltarian, 100 British, 18 Danish, 6 Dutch, 3 French, 10 German, 3 Irish, 1 Maltese, 1 Italian, 3 Moroccan, 1 Portuguese, 37 Spanish, 1 Swedish, 11 Swiss).

Answer to Question 1292

As at 29th February 2004 the banking sector in Gibraltar included 16 employers with a total of 640 registered employees (447 of which are Gibraltarian, 100 British, 18 Danish, 6 Dutch, 3 French, 10 German, 3 Irish, 1 Maltese, 1 Italian, 3 Moroccan, 1 Portuguese, 36 Spanish, 1 Swedish, 10 Swiss).

Answer to Question 1293

As at 31st March 2004 the banking sector in Gibraltar included 15 employers with a total of 644 registered employees (453 of which are Gibraltarian, 101 British, 19 Danish, 6 Dutch, 2 French, 9 German, 3 Irish, 1 Maltese, 1 Italian, 3 Moroccan, 1 Portuguese, 34 Spanish, 1 Swedish, 10 Swiss).

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1288 TO 1293 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can the Government confirm that the source of the information is the number of open contracts registered with the ETB?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes it is.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In terms of information that we have been given in the past, there is a tendency for the commencement to be registered straight away but sometimes a lack in the termination, although probably the insurance industry and the banking industry are better than other sectors of the private sector, but can he confirm that in fact if a termination comes in which refers to something that happened in a previous month, does the ETB register that in the month in which it receives the notice or in the month in which the termination actually took place, when it arrives late?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The de-registration can only be recorded on the date that the de-registration is notified, but I hope, I do not know the answer to the hon Member's question, but when it comes to the management of statistics in terms of how many people were employed in a given sector in a given month, I would hope that the information is on the first basis of his question. In other words, that the information is attributed to the period to which it relates rather than to the period in which it is notified.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So the figures come, in fact, updated on the basis of later information?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, and I think that we have had this in the past in the House when in answer to the same question, different answers are given, and the explanation has been that there has been in respect of that period a subsequent notification which caused the figure to be amended.

ORAL

NO 1294 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

TRADED ENDOWMENT POLICIES "TEPS"

Can Government state whether it has received any further information from the Financial Services Commission, or any member thereof, in relation to the sale in Gibraltar of Traded Endowment Policies ("TEP's), which have occasioned serious loss to a large number of Gibraltarian investors, some of them having lost all their life's savings and only source of income by being induced to invest in a financial services product which was advertised as "guaranteeing" the capital invested?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

There has been no substantial change in so far as the Government are concerned, since the hon Member last raised the matter in the House.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1294 OF 2004

HON F R PICARDO:

The last time that I raised the matter in the House, the Chief Minister told me that he was from time to time provided with information by the Financial Services Commission or by the Company involved itself. I asked him whether he would be able to share information with the investors and he told me that he could not commit himself to do that because that very much depended on the source of the information and whether that information was provided to him in confidence. In his answer is the Chief Minister telling me that he has received no further information or that the information that he has received he is unable to share with the investors?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The former.

ORAL

NO 1295 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

QUALIFYING COMPANIES

Can Government state what was the total number of persons employed by qualifying companies in October 1998 giving a breakdown by industry and nationality?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1296 to 1299 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1296 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

QUALIFYING COMPANIES

Can Government state what was the total number of persons employed by qualifying companies in October 1999 giving a breakdown by industry and nationality?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1295 and 1297 to 1299 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1297 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

QUALIFYING COMPANIES

Can Government state what was the total number of persons employed by qualifying companies in October 2000 giving a breakdown by industry and nationality?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1295, 1296 and 1298 and 1299 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1298 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

QUALIFYING COMPANIES

Can Government state what was the total number of persons employed by qualifying companies in October 2001 giving a breakdown by industry and nationality?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1295 to 1297 and 1299 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1299 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

QUALIFYING COMPANIES

Can Government state what was the total number of persons employed by qualifying companies in October 2002 giving a breakdown by industry and nationality?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The information that the hon Member requests is set out in the written schedule attached.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1299

Answer to Questions 1295, 1296, 1297, 1298 and 1299

According to the Employment and Training Board the total number of persons employed by Qualifying Companies as at March 2004 was 1058.

A breakdown by industry is as follows:

Financial Services	221
Gaming	468
Bunkering	6
Exporter of Motor Vehicle	89
Shipping	210
Co. Management	33
Philatelic	7
I.T.	1
Communications	10
Other	13
Total:	1058

A breakdown by nationality is as follows:

Gibraltarian	424
British	369
Irish	12
Spanish	129
Swiss	7
Portuguese	15
Danish	2

Cont.....

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1299

Dutch	6
German	6
Australian	1
French	6
U.S.A.	2
Italian	3
Swedish	1
Hong Kong	8
Belgian	1
Lithuanian	1
Indian	1
Moroccan	17
Maltese	1
Russian	4
Bulgarian	3
Thailand	2
Yugoslavian	3
South African	5
Brazilian	2
Canadian	1
Greek	2
Hungarian	1

Contd.....

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1299

Israeli	4
Korean	8
Malaysian	11

Total: 1058

It has not been possible within the allocated time frame to provide the above information as at October 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2002.

However, statistics from late 2001 available to the Government states that there were "about 1,450 people directly employed by Qualifying Companies".

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1295 TO 1299 OF 2004

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The hon Member will see that the information has been provided in respect of March 2004 and there is a statement that it has not been possible, in the timescale available, to provide the information in respect of the earlier years.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Obviously the March 2004 has nothing to do with the returns made to compile the Employment Survey Reports, I take it. Or is it that we are talking that the March 2004 is the return for October 2003?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, I do not think this is anything to do with the Employment Survey Reports, because the source is the Employment and Training Board.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I see. Well, I think perhaps I can draw the attention of the Chief Minister that I am asking for October in each year, because what I assumed would be possible would be that knowing that there are 140 companies, the Statistics Office would be able to identify those companies and give me the figure for the 140 companies as reflected in the reports of the private sector of the Employment Surveys, that is why it says October in each year. I take it then that this is the information of the open contracts registered with the ETB?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Correct.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Does the Chief Minister have a figure as to the number of employers that are involved?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, I do not.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can the Chief Minister say whether it would be possible, for example, to find out whether the Statistics Office could do such an exercise in respect of the Employment Survey that is currently being processed, the October 2003?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is physically possible, the Statistics Office can read out of the information as it comes in, of the returns as it comes in against a checklist of the 140 qualifying companies, identify the 140 that relates to the qualifying companies, tot them all up, it is mechanically possible but I do not think it is reasonable for the hon Member to expect that sort of administrative effort to be deployed. What I can do is ask the Statistics Office, because presumably they computerise much of this as it comes in, whether they can create a separate reporting category for qualifying companies, so that in future the information will just be available on the press of a button. I will ask them if that is viable in the context of the next Survey that they do, or at least of the Survey that they have not yet inputted, they have not yet input the current one and it is possible they might do that.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Do the Government agree that in the light of the discontinuance of qualifying companies as a result of the last decision, it is important to know just how many jobs in the private sector are dependant on the existing qualifying companies?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, it is very important. Obviously we have an idea, I have an idea operationally on the ground which are the sensitive companies, the gaming companies, for example Bassadone, the one operating the four wheel drive vehicles, that sort of thing. This is one of the issues that we are very acutely aware of in the context of the transition to a new tax scheme. In other words, what is going to happen to these qualifying companies, and of course now that we have to abandon the qualifying company legislation, the Government are considering that, we will probably just grant them all exempt certificates and allow them to trade and alter that.

ORAL

NO 1300 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

QUALIFYING COMPANIES

Can Government confirm how many qualifying companies were trading in the tax years:

- (a) 1998/1999;
- (b) 1999/2000;
- (c) 2001/2002;
- (d) 2002/2003?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1301 to 1303 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1301 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

QUALIFYING COMPANY

Can Government state when was the last qualifying company approved and how many qualifying companies were in existence on that date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1300, 1302 and 1303 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1302 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

QUALIFYING COMPANIES

Can Government state how many qualifying companies were trading in the tax year 1998/1999, 1999/2000, 2000/2001, 2001/2002 and 2002/2003?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1300, 1301 and 1303 of 2004.

NO 1303 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

QUALIFYING COMPANIES

Can Government provide a list of the qualifying companies that have been added to or removed from the active company list previously provided as at 31 October 2001?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answer to Question No. 1300

There are currently around 84 Qualifying Companies trading according to the records of the Income Tax Department, out of a total of 122 active Qualifying Companies (according to our records). Qualifying Companies remain registered as active until such time as the company or its representative notifies us to the contrary. It is not possible for the Income Tax Department, within the limited time frame available, to provide the information requested in respect of the previous three years.

Answer to Question No. 1301

The last Qualifying Company was approved on 2nd April 2002. The total number of Qualifying Companies appearing on the register at that time was in the region of 146. This number included active and dormant companies, some of which were subsequently removed from the register.

Answer to Question No. 1302

I refer the hon Member to the answer given to Question No. 1300 of 2004.

Answer to Question No. 1303

The Qualifying Companies that have been added to or removed from the active list previously provided as at 31st October 2001 are as follows:

Qualifying Companies added	5
Qualifying Companies removed	29

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1300 TO 1303 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

The Government provided the list which I think had 147 names on it, on 31st October outside the House. Would they be able to provide us now with the added five and the removed 29, so that the list can be amended?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I am surprised that the Government did that, there are provisions in the Income Tax Ordinance prohibiting it.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well, I do not think the Chief Minister is correct, because otherwise what he has just told us is incorrect. He said that the active list had nothing to do with the tax, because there are 84 people according to the tax and 122 according to the Government, and it is the active list and not the.....

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I suppose that we can give provisions from our own register of Qualifying Companies. There are, as he knows, provisions in the Income Tax Ordinance prohibiting the publication of tax affairs of individual tax payers. If the information was provided before, I do not suppose we can object to continuing to do so. I would not have agreed to do it.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I know, he was not in the House when it was agreed. We were lucky.

ORAL

NO 1304 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

QUALIFYING COMPANIES

Can Government state how many of the qualifying companies which remained in the month of January 2004 are considered by them to be active or trading?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1305 to 1309 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1305 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

QUALIFYING COMPANIES

Can Government state how many qualifying companies which remained in the month of February 2004 are considered by them to be active or trading?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1304 and 1306 to 1309 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1306 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

QUALIFYING COMPANIES

Can Government state how many qualifying companies which have remained in the month of March 2004 are considered by them to be active or trading?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1304, 1305 and 1307 to 1309 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1307 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

QUALIFYING COMPANIES

How many qualifying companies have discontinued their qualifying status in the month of January 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1304 to 1306, 1308 and 1309 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1308 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

QUALIFYING COMPANIES

How many qualifying companies have discontinued their qualifying status in the month of February 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1304 to 1307 and 1309 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1309 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

QUALIFYING COMPANIES

How many qualifying companies have discontinued their qualifying status in the month of March 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

As far as our records show there were 122 active Qualifying Companies in the months of January, February and March 2004. As far as our records show, during the months of January, February and March 2004, no Qualifying Company discontinued their qualifying status.

ORAL

NO 1310 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

TAX EXEMPT COMPANIES

Can Government state whether they will continue to issue Tax Exempt Certificates in light of the decision by the EU Commission not to approve its tax reform proposals?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1311 to 1320 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1311 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

TAX EXEMPT COMPANIES

Can Government state how many tax exempt company certificates were issued in the month of January 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1310 and 1312 to 1320 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1312 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

TAX EXEMPT COMPANIES

Can Government state how many tax exempt company certificates were issued in the month of February 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1310, 1311 and 1313 to 1320 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1313 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

TAX EXEMPT COMPANIES

Can Government state how many tax exempt company certificates were issued in the month of March 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1310 to 1312 and 1314 to 1320 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1314 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

TAX EXEMPT COMPANIES

How many tax exempt companies have terminated their tax exemption certificates in the month of January 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1310 to 1313 and 1315 to 1320 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1315 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

TAX EXEMPT COMPANIES

How many tax exempt companies have terminated their tax exemption certificates in the month of February 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1310 to 1314 and 1316 to 1320 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1316 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

TAX EXEMPT COMPANIES

How many tax exempt companies have terminated their tax exemption certificates in the month of March 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1310 to 1315 and 1317 to 1320 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1317 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

TAX EXEMPT COMPANIES

Can Government state what was the total number of persons employed by exempt companies in October 1998 giving a breakdown by industry and nationality?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1310 to 1316 and 1318 to 1320 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1318 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

TAX EXEMPT COMPANIES

Can Government state what was the total number of persons employed by exempt companies in October 1999 giving a breakdown by industry and nationality?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1310 to 1317 and 1319 to 1320 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1319 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

TAX EXEMPT COMPANIES

Can Government state what was the total number of persons employed by exempt companies in October 2000 giving a breakdown by industry and nationality?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1310 to 1318 and 1320 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1320 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

TAX EXEMPT COMPANIES

Can Government state what was the total number of persons employed by exempt companies in October 2001 giving a breakdown by industry and nationality?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answer to Question No. 1310

The Government will continue to issue tax exempt certificates. The EU Commission's recent Ruling does not relate to Exempt Companies.

The other statistical information requested is set out in the schedule attached.

CONT ANSWER TO QUESTION 1320

Answer to Questions 1311, 1312 and 1313

The tax exempt certificates that have been issued are as follows:

January 2004	61
February 2004	104
March 2004	71

Answer to Questions 1314, 1315 and 1316

The tax exempt companies which have terminated their tax exemption certificates are as follows:

January 2004	106
February 2004	84
March 2004	91

Answer to Questions 1317, 1318, 1319 and 1320

According to the Employment and Training Board the total number of persons employed by Exempt Companies as at March 2004 was 643.

A breakdown by industry is as follows:

Financial Services	343
Gaming	289
Bunkering	6
Other	5
Total:	643

Cont.....

CONT ANSWER TO QUESTION 1320

A breakdown by nationality is as follows:

Gibraltarian	229
British	237
Irish	11
Spanish	37
Swiss	10
Portuguese	11
Danish	2
Australian	3
German	17
French	10
Italian	6
Malaysian	2
USA	5
Philippino	1
Greek	1
Swedish	1
South African	1
Israeli	18
Dutch	8
Antiguan	10
Austrian	3
Brazilian	2

Cont.....

CONT ANSWER TO QUESTION 1320

Chinese	3
Finnish	1
Indian	1
Japanese	1
Korean	7
Russian	5
Total	643

It has not been possible within the allocated time frame to provide the above information as at October 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2001.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1310 TO 1320 OF 2004

HON F R PICARDO:

The Chief Minister has rightly said that the Decision of the Commission does not relate to tax exempt certificates, because the Decision of the Commission relates to what we were to put in place of tax exempt certificates. He told the House in answer to Question No. 423 last time, that he had had some indication that he would not be pressed by the United Kingdom to stop the existing regime until the new regime had been put in place. Has he any further assurances in that respect, and is that what leads him to make a statement to the effect that we are able to continue issuing tax exempt certificates?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The subject matter touched on by the hon Member's last supplementary is at an extremely sensitive stage of management in relation to the Commission and the Government are not willing to make any statement publicly on the matter whatsoever.

HON F R PICARDO:

Will the Chief Minister brief the Opposition in respect of that, not publicly?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Not at this stage. I hope to be in a position to do so in the not too distant future but not right now.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can the Government confirm that the employment figures given are on the same basis as in the answer to the questions on the Qualifying Companies?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

What basis is the hon Member referring to?

HON J J BOSSANO:

The fact that they were open contracts with the ETB.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, Employment and Training Board source.

ORAL

NO 1321 OF 2004

THE HON F R PICARDO

TAX REFORM PROPOSALS

Can Government state whether they are considering making an application to the European Court of Justice for interim measures in any proceedings the Government may issue in that Court in respect of the rejection by the EU Commission of the Governments tax reform proposals?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

For reasons which will be obvious to the hon Member, the Government will not reveal their tactics and strategy in the forthcoming litigation at this early stage in the process, but the Government hope to avoid the need for the measure that he has mentioned in his question.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1321 OF 2004

HON F R PICARDO:

Given the sensitive nature of the information requested, I will not be pressing the Chief Minister for anything further.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Sensible.

NO 1322 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

REFORM OF BUSINESS TAXATION

Have Government now received a reply from the United Kingdom Government on whether UK's submission to the European Commission in respect of the planned reform of business taxation in Gibraltar can be made available on a confidential basis to the Opposition?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

No, but I shall pursue it. This matter has fallen off my radar screen and I have just lost sight of it. I will pick up the thread and see where it is.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1322 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is it possible for the Government to supply us with a copy of their own submissions whilst we wait for them to make representations to the UK?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I would rather give them to him together if we are going to give them both, and only consider his latter request if the UK decline permission. All this area is beginning to enter very sensitive situations. I have no difficulty giving the Government's arguments to him confidentially, it would always have to be subject to that caveat, but I would prefer to give them both to him together and I would rather ask that he indulges me a bit longer on that, and I will come back to him as soon as possible in the next few days.

ORAL

NO 1323 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

OFFSHORE BETTING

Have there been any new applications for licences to conduct offshore betting since the last Question Time in this House in January?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1324 of 2004.

NO 1324 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

OFFSHORE BETTING

At what stage are the four applications for licences to conduct offshore betting in Gibraltar which were under consideration in January?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answer to Question No. 1323

Since the beginning of January 2004 eight enquiries have been received of which only one is being taken forward.

Answer to Question No. 1324

All four applications referred to in answer to Question No. 460 of 2004, have been approved in principle and are at varying stages in the licensing progress.

ORAL

NO 1325 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INDEX OF RETAIL PRICES

Can Government explain what action has been taken to review the calculation of the index of retail prices and when the review is expected to be concluded?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1326 and 1327 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1326 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INDEX OF RETAIL PRICES

Can Government state how are increasing residential rent levels reflected in the Index of Retail Prices?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1325 and 1327 of 2004.

NO 1327 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INDEX OF RETAIL PRICES

Can Government state how rent levels from office and commercial premises are reflected in the Index of Retail Prices?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answer to Question No. 1325 of 2004

A complete review of the basis on which the Index of Retail Prices is calculated is only possible after the conduct of a Family Expenditure Survey. Such a survey is undertaken at times when it is believed that there have been significant changes to the pattern of consumers' expenditure. The present Index, which commenced in April 1998, is based on the weights obtained from the household expenditure patterns of 1995/1996.

Consideration is currently being given to carrying out a new Family Expenditure Survey. Notwithstanding this, the Statistics Office continues to up-date the range of goods and services that are priced as part of the Index of Retail Prices.

Answer to Question Nos. 1326 and 1327 of 2004

The Index of Retail Prices measures changes in the retail prices of goods and services available to households in Gibraltar. Increases in the rent levels of office and commercial premises therefore fall outside the parameters of the Index.

Residential rent levels form part of the "Rent" sub-group of the "Housing" group which itself is one of the eight main groups which comprise the Index. Rent levels are determined quarterly both from Government records and from information provided by Land Property Services Ltd. Any increases in rent levels are therefore reflected both in the Housing group and in the overall General Index of Retail Prices.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1325 TO 1327 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am of course aware that there is a survey undertaken of household expenditure and that it was done to construct the present base of the present Index, but perhaps the Chief Minister has forgotten that he said he was asking for a review to be carried out when he announced the 2 per cent minimum increase in Civil Service pensions, because he said he considered the Index was under-reflecting the rate of inflation. That is the review that I am talking about.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I have not forgotten, that is why consideration is being given to carrying out a new Family Expenditure Survey.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I see. So when the Chief Minister said a review is being carried out, what he meant was consideration is going to be given to carrying out a new Family Expenditure Survey and constructing a new Index, not that they were actually going to re-examine the existing one to see if there was any explanation as to why there appeared to be such a low level of increase over some of the months of the year.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Correct. The first line of the answer was a complete review of the basis on which the Index of Retail Prices was calculated is only possible, this according to the Statistics Office, after the contact. So I am advised that in order to even contemplate a possible re-structure of the Index, the starting point is a new Survey. That is where the matter lies.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So in fact there will not be a review unless it is decided to have a new Survey. That is the answer, is it?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I would rather put it a different way. There will not be a review until there is an Expenditure Survey, rather than unless.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well, yes, obviously on the basis that at some time in the future there will be another one because there has always been one every sort of 10 or 20 years, but it is not that other than in the normal course of events something is being done because the Government had decided at the time they brought the legislation to make the pension increase 2 per cent minimum, that in fact there was a need to do this because the Index of Retail Prices was not adequately reflecting the level of inflation that was taking place. It is good that we have protected Civil Service pensions against

inflation that may be higher than recorded, but surely it is not a good thing to continue to under-record it if the Government believe that is what is happening.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

That is why consideration is being given to a new Family Expenditure Survey, much sooner than would otherwise have come up for reconsideration.

ORAL

NO 1328 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

ARREARS REPAYMENT AGREEMENT

Can Government state which is the company identified by the Principal Auditor that on 24 April 2001 signed an arrears repayment agreement and ceased to honour the agreement after paying one instalment and can they state how much arrears the repayment agreement covered and how much was the instalment paid?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1329 to 1332 and 1341 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1329 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

ARREARS REPAYMENT AGREEMENT

Can Government state what action if any has been taken since June 2002 in respect of the company identified by the Principal Auditor which had signed an arrears agreement on the 24 April 2001 and failed to honour it after making one instalment?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1328, 1330 to 1332 and 1341 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1330 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

ARREARS REPAYMENT AGREEMENT

Can Government explain why in the case of the company identified by the Principal Auditor that on the 24 April 2001 signed an arrears repayment agreement the Accountant General gave instructions to the CAU on the 15 February 2002 not to proceed with the winding up due on the 5 March 2002?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1328, 1329 to 1332 and 1341 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1331 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

ARREARS REPAYMENT AGREEMENT

Can Government state what was the amount of arrears of social insurance contributions due from the company identified by the Principal Auditor that on the 24 April 2001 signed an arrears repayment agreement and ceased to honour the agreement after paying one instalment in June 2002 and as at the end of December 2003?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1328 to 1330, 1332 and 1341 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1332 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

ARREARS REPAYMENT AGREEMENT

Can Government state in respect of the company identified by the Principal Auditor that on the 24 April 2001 signed an arrears repayment agreement and ceased to honour the agreement after paying one instalment, what was the number of employees as at the end of December 2001, 2002 and 2003?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1328 to 1331 and 1341 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1333 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CENTRAL ARREARS UNIT

Can Government state as at December 2003 what was the total arrears passed to the Central Arrears Unit since May 1997 and how much had been collected and of the balance how much was covered by agreement and how much pending action?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1335 to 1337 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1334 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CENTRAL ARREARS UNIT

Can Government state what criteria is applied by the Treasury in determining whether approval is granted or withheld in respect of proceedings with legal action to collect arrears of revenue and whether such criteria have been established as a matter of Government policy and if so when?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Except for final winding up action, where Government approval is required in view of wider economic considerations, follow-up action is taken by the Treasury as far as possible.

ORAL

NO 1335 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CENTRAL ARREARS UNIT

Can Government state in respect of each financial year from 1st April 1996, how many companies have been referred to the Treasury for legal proceedings to be started with a view to enforcing collection of arrears of revenue?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1333, 1336 and 1337 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1336 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CENTRAL ARREARS UNIT

Can Government state in respect of the companies that have been referred to the Treasury for legal proceedings to enforce collection of arrears, how many have not been proceeded with because of the failure of the Treasury to grant approval with a breakdown by financial year since 1996/1997?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1333, 1335 and 1337 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1337 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CENTRAL ARREARS UNIT

Can Government state in respect of the companies referred to the Treasury for approval to commence legal proceedings to collect arrears of revenue, what was the amount owed by those companies for which approval for legal action was not granted giving a breakdown by financial year since 1996/1997?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

With the Unified Collection System, arrears are no longer passed to the Central Arrears Unit. The Central Arrears Unit has access to the departmental databases and monitors all arrears. Follow-up action is taken and repayment agreements are entered into as far as possible.

The number of repayment agreements managed by the Central Arrears Unit is currently 429, covering debts amounting to £10,014,699.74.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1333 AND 1335 TO 1337 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

Presumably the change that the Chief Minister is talking about has happened subsequent to the last audited published accounts of the Government, because at that stage the Auditor still talks about them being passed to the Central Arrears Unit, unless it is that the Auditor does not know of the new arrangements.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, one or other of those two must be right. Either the Principal Auditor is using inaccurate language, or it started after that Report.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I see. Does he know which it is?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I am just trying to remember when we introduced the unified collection system. It was on 1st January the year before.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The last accounts are the ones for the financial year 2001/2002, which were tabled in January this year. There it is still talking about passing it.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I think it is just after that.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In terms of the Treasury granting or withholding approval, what is the answer to Question No. 1334? The criteria that the Treasury uses.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Sorry, this question has not been included in the batch that I am answering. Has it? I see, it has been read out but it was not supposed to have been included. It is 1335 and 1336 and 1337. This question was done for a separate answer. Question No. 1334 was down for a separate and individual answer.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well I have already asked it. Does the Chief Minister wish me to ask it again?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, I am happy just to deal with it now. Except for final winding-up action, where Government approval is required in view of the wider economic considerations, follow-up action is taken by the Treasury as far as possible. In other words, they enter into the arrears agreement, they monitor and manage the arrears agreement, if there is a failure to honour the arrears agreement the next step is proceedings to wind-up the company, because there is a view, it sometimes works and sometimes does not, that when one publicly threatens a company with liquidation, that might act as a spur. Of course in some cases it does not and we find ourselves sort of on the court's steps so to speak. Then it comes to me actually so that I can see how many jobs are there and then at stake. If, as sometimes is the case, it reaches that stage in respect of a company that there are many jobs at stake, we make a further effort to explain the gravity of the situation. In other words, there is a further effort, not at political level in the sense of political with a capital 'p', but my office might get involved in making direct contact with the company to see if one final attempt cannot be made to save the company. Not to save the company but really to save the jobs. That is really the routine.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So, in fact, when the Principal Auditor talks about the Treasury withholding permission, it is not really the Treasury at all then.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, the Treasury is not authorised to authorise the winding-up of companies when there are jobs at stake. That comes to No 6 Convent Place.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I understand that because he has just told me, but in fact the Principal Auditor in this year's Report and almost in every year's Report, constantly says that the effectiveness of the Central Arrears Unit is undermined because nobody takes them seriously, because when they try to take action against somebody that is not complying with what they have agreed to do in terms of payments, they request permission from the Treasury and the Treasury says no. Now, in fact what the Report says is in fact incorrect, the Treasury does not take the responsibility for deciding, it is referred to the Chief Minister's office and then depending on the impact on jobs, the answer is either yes or no.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, I cannot say what happens before it gets to me, or what happens to cases that do not get to me. For example, I can tell the hon Member that recently in the last 10 days or so, I have seen a batch, all of which I have allowed through except one which involved a significant number of jobs, and that one has been subjected to the treatment that I have just described. So it is actually quite rare for them to come up to me and for the next step not to be allowed to go ahead. It has to be something with significant economic impact, five, six, seven, eight, ten jobs, that sort of thing. Most of them get approved, the bulk of them get approved, the vast majority of them get approved by my office when they come to us.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Presumably by that stage most of them are either not doing very much or employing very little people.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

That is normally the case but from time to time, the odd one gets through where they resist, they resist, and they are still active, they are still trading and they are still employing, they are just not responding. Of course, it is a very careful balancing act that needs to be done, because whilst I am sure the hon Member would agree with me that it is worth going the extra mile to save the jobs, by the same token one has got to balance that with the need not to be unfair to competitors of that company who are paying their dues and who are competing with this company, paying their dues. So it is a tight-rope walk act and one does what one can but ultimately, if jobs have to go, jobs have to go because at the end of the day there is little point in retaining jobs

in companies that are simply unviable. If they do not fail now they are going to fail at some further stage down the road. So really it is an attempt to see whether the company is salvageable, and if the company is salvageable then we exercise patience, if it is not then we might as well pull out the rug sooner rather than later.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I do not know whether we are in the process of answering Question No. 1335 or not, because I think that one was called out as well.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, Question No. 1335 has been covered.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I do not recall having been given the numbers referred in each year from 1st April to the Treasury for legal proceedings.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I think that this is because there is no longer a referral. I think this is the point. The arrears are no longer passed, it all happens from within the Treasury. So the Treasury then makes the decision, or does not, to initiate proceedings. I think it is on that basis that the information has not been provided.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Yes, but since I am asking from 1st April 1996 and the system has changed since the last Audited Accounts of 2002, then presumably the answer to the question should have been up to 2002, when the system stopped.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I will try and find out that information and will provide him with as much information as can be provided. I do not have it here.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In terms of some of the other questions, they are in fact the supplementaries that would follow if the questions had been answered. So perhaps whoever looks at this question can look at the ones as to what happened to those companies that actually were sent by the Central Arrears Unit to the Treasury, which in fact the Auditor mentions. I am trying to establish what has been the pattern until 2003, when obviously now that there is a new system in place, we will see if that shows up as something else happening from what was happening previously.

NO 1338 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CENTRAL ARREARS UNIT

Can Government state in respect of the companies referred to the Treasury for approval to commence legal proceedings to collect arrears of revenue, what was the amount owed by those companies for which approval for legal action was granted giving a breakdown by financial year since 1996/1997?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

No companies are referred to the Treasury for approval to commence legal proceedings. The Central Arrears Unit monitors all arrears due to Government, enters into repayment agreements where possible, issues reminders, statutory demands, summonses and initiates legal proceedings when this is deemed necessary. That is the basis upon which this question, whoever has drafted these answers has done it on the basis that there is not actually a referral process, but they have not then gone on to provide the information from within so to speak, regardless of referrals.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1338 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

All I can say is that I find it peculiar that there is no referral process. I think the Chief Minister originally was telling me that there is no longer one but that there was one before. I do not know whether, this answer seems to be drafted on the basis that there has never been one. Well, if there has never been one it is most peculiar that the Principal Auditor has audited the accounts all these years thinking there was one in place and nobody has disabused him of that idea, because he mentions it every year.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Not an illogical supplementary. I will try and get to the bottom of it for him.

NO 1339 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CENTRAL ARREARS UNIT

Can Government explain why according to the Principal Auditor there is an apparent unwillingness on the part of the Treasury to take the final step and proceed to wind up companies with a poor payments record and very substantial debts to Government?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Government do not agree that there is any such reluctance. However, before this decision is taken, Government engage such companies in dialogue to see what scope exists to obtain payments of arrears, keep up to date with current payments and thus save the jobs at stake.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1339 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

So in fact, what the Government are saying is that the Principal Auditor has perceived an apparent unwillingness on the part of the Treasury which (a) is non-existent, and (b) cannot exist because the Treasury have nothing to do with it.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

In respect of the first part of the question that is the Treasury's view. In respect of the second part of the question, it is true that where there are jobs at stake, the final decision to press the button to take the final step to wind-up is not taken by the Treasury.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am not sure whether there is a distinction being made or not.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

There is not a distinction being made. I am just trying to put it in its correct form.

HON J J BOSSANO:

That is to say, I can understand that when there are jobs at stake that is something that is evaluated in terms of is it better to close it down, or is it better not to close it down. That I understand, but is it that the companies that get passed for approval to the Chief Minister's office are those where it is known that there are jobs at stake, and if it is known that there are no jobs at stake the Treasury can take the decision? Or is it that they all go and the Treasury decides on none of them? I am not very sure which of the two it is.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not know the answer to that myself. I only see the ones that I see. Now, amongst the ones that I see, they come up to me in a standard form with information on it, name of company, amount due, period of time outstanding, how far down the process towards liquidation it is, whether there is an arrears agreement, are there arrears of that agreement, are they up to date with their current or not. One of the question is number of employees. Now sometimes I have seen some with none. So it is not that only the ones with employees come to me, but I cannot be sure that all of them are coming to me. I only become aware of the ones that come to me, but I can tell the hon Member that sometimes they come up to me with no employees revealed on the form.

NO 1340 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CENTRAL ARREARS UNIT

Can Government state how many companies have been wound up in 2003 because of arrears of revenue owed to Government and can Government provide a breakdown of arrears in each case showing the amounts of PAYE, Social Insurance, general rates, company tax and other arrears?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Eleven companies were wound up during 2003. A full breakdown of arrears is not readily available. I can give the hon Member the arrears relating to corporation tax, Social Insurance and PAYE.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1340 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

I note that quite a lot of them have got nil Social Insurance and PAYE, which is rather surprising. Is it that these companies would have been not trading for some time, because otherwise if they had been trading near the time of liquidation it is surprising that they should not have debts in that area?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

This is the information, how we interpret it is a matter for speculation. This is the amount of debt that was available at the time that the answer was drafted that could be put together. Yes, they are not necessarily trading companies although I recognise some that were. A company can have liability to corporation tax without having liability to PAYE. It may not have many employees.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I accept that, but given that presumably these people were on the list that he saw at some stage before this happened.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No this was before the event I think.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Given the information he gave us earlier, that the trigger was that he saw this list, presumably he must have seen them on another list before they got to this list.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

What I am saying is, it would suggest that maybe they had actually stopped trading some time back and that the corporation tax could be quite old that they owed. Would that be?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, it suggests that amongst other possibilities. I just do not want to say 'yes what he is speculating is right', because I do not know, but it certainly suggests that as a possible explanation for this.

NO 1341 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CENTRAL ARREARS UNIT

Can Government explain why by mid June 2002 no further action was being taken to collect arrears by the CAU from the company identified by the Principal Auditor which had failed to honour an arrears agreement signed on the 24 April 2001 and which by that date owed £139,176, excluding social insurance contributions?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I suspect the company is not the one which the hon Member suspects. It is not appropriate for Government to disclose the identity or other information in respect of individual companies. I am willing to give the name of the company to the hon Member privately. Publicly I am willing to tell him that it is a computer company.

The repayment agreement covered £141,000 and the first instalment that was paid was £1,500. Only £3,284 was recovered from the company.

Winding up action on the company was deferred by the Accountant General on receiving knowledge that the company had ceased trading and had no assets. Follow-up action commenced against the director personally for unpaid PAYE debts amounting to £66,000. £39,000 of Social Insurance contribution debt was included in the interim repayment agreement entered into with this company on 24th April 2001. The amount due by the company on June 2002 was £80,978, and on 11th April 2003, the date the company was wound up, it was £81,828. All contributions assessed amounting to £71,930 have been credited to the employees' Social Insurance records, except for the director of the company. The number of employees, all British, were as follows:

As at 31 December 2001	5
As at 31 December 2002	1
As at the date of winding up (11 th April 2003)	1

The company ceased trading in early 2002. However, action did continue by the Central Arrears Unit and the company was finally wound up on 11th April 2003.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1328 TO 1332 AND 1341 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

In not mentioning the name of the company, if the company has been wound up for failure to pay Government debts, does the name of the company not appear Gazetted in the winding-up?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, but the Government have not yet made a policy decision on any naming and shaming policy. It is one of the options under consideration and we think it would be unfair to subject this one to treatment to which we have not subjected other companies. Yes, he can go to the Gazette of April 2003 and see which was the company which was wound-up by the Accountant General. I am not asking him to do that, I am going to give him the name as soon as we step outside into the ante-room.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Given the fact that the Principal Auditor actually mentions this company two years running in the Audited Accounts of the Government, can the Government explain how it is that the explanation that is given today was not provided to the Principal Auditor? Because reading the audited accounts, one gets the impression that the Principal Auditor is saying 'well look, nothing is being done to collect the money from this company and nothing is happening', and there is no indication in the 2002 Report that it was not still trading. It just says the Accountant General says do not do it, without any reason being given. I find it strange that the explanation which has been given here, which is obviously that there was no point in closing it down at that time because it was not trading anyway and had no assets anyway, was not provided to the Principal Auditor.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not know whether it was or it was not, but in any case the flow of information and exchange of correspondence between the Accountant General and the Principal Auditor is a matter for them. We neither get to hear of the Principal Auditor's enquiries nor are we party to the formulation of any response. I cannot imagine that the Accountant General did not provide information which was available to him. It may be that the research was not done to provide him with the answer as it has been done to provide me with this answer. I would be surprised. I have not read, I cannot recollect the part of the Report to which he is replying, so I do not know whether the Principal Auditor uses language which makes clear that no explanation was given to him.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I can tell the Chief Minister that the language is the language that is reflected in the questions, which said that nothing was done, and nothing is still being done and the action that was being taken was stopped by the Accountant General. I appreciate that he is not directly involved in that because that is what I used to say to him when

he used to ask me questions about what went on between the Principal Auditor and the Accountant General.

HON F R PICARDO:

Just for clarification, it may be that the Chief Minister does not have the information, but was it the same petition that was finally seen through to wind it up?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not know, I assume so but I do not know.

ORAL

NO 1342 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CENTRAL ARREARS UNIT

Of the £4.2 million of arrears owed by companies where action was still pending by the CAU as at the 31 March 2002, can Government state the number of companies affected and in respect of how many of these action had been taken by 31 March 2003?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The £4.2 million of arrears referred to by the Principal Auditor is in respect of social insurance arrears as at 31 December 2002 and not 31 March 2002. Details of the number of companies is not readily available although follow-up action by the Central Arrears Unit in the form of the issue of reminders, statutory demands and summonses has been initiated on all amounts due. A breakdown in respect of the action taken by 31 March 2003 is not readily available. This more or less confirms what we had speculated might be the position earlier on. In other words, that they had been pursued but that they just cannot put together the information as to which action has been taken in respect of which company, in this sort of timescale.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1342 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

The answer is that action has been taken in respect of all of them. Is that correct?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Some stage of the process has been initiated in respect of all the amounts due.

ORAL

NO 1343 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

COMPANIES REGISTER

Can Government state how many of the 90 companies wound-up between May 1997 and March 2002 were trading when winding up proceedings were instituted and what was the total number of employees in these companies, giving a breakdown by nationality?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1344 of 2004.

NO 1344 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

COMPANIES REGISTER

Can Government list the 90 companies wound-up between May 1997 and March 2002 showing the amounts owed by each for PAYE and social insurance and in respect of each the number of employees such payments had been deducted from?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Frankly, as each of these have been wound-up and the fact of the winding-up has been Gazetted, presumably, I see no reason why the House should not have information in respect of them. Theoretically it ought to be possible for them to cobble this information together just by searching all the Gazettes. So, at least in so far as the name of the company, the winding-up date, the amount of PAYE and social insurance, which is the information that is on the schedule, that information has been passed to him. None of the 90 companies were trading at the time they were dissolved. It seems to me that there is a part of this question that is not being answered, and that is in respect of each, the number of employees such payments had been deducted. Unless the officials thought that the answer is nil because as none were trading they did not have any employees, but that is probably not what the hon Member is asking. He is asking in respect of the arrears how many employees were affected by the arrears. That actually would be a very difficult exercise. It would be possible but it would be a very difficult exercise going back. In any event, I understand the policy is to credit, except where the person is culpable I understand these things are credited.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1343 AND 1344 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

In respect of the last point I imagine if they are credited it must be a provision that is in the Social Insurance Ordinance, or in the Regulations under the Ordinance, because there certainly does not appear a payment from the Government to the Insurance Fund in respect of insurance not collected. So it must be that the rights are preserved in some way.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I presume so, because there is no payment. That is certainly true.

NO 1345 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CENTRAL ARREARS UNIT

Can Government state of the companies owing £4.2 million at the 31 March 2002 in respect of which action by the Central Arrears Unit was still pending how many were trading at the time and what was the number of employees in these companies, giving a breakdown by nationality?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I am advised that this information is not readily available to the Central Arrears Unit.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1345 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

When action is pending by the Central Arrears Unit, which is what the Auditor's Report says, that is the people who have not got agreements, the people who are not paying and the people against whom action is not being taken, what exactly is it that is pending that is stopping anything being done?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

My interpretation of the answer is that there is an arrears situation and internally within the Treasury there is a system or a process by which they get tackled, but at that point and until they start tackling them and investigating them as part of that process, they do not have available to them information as to whether they are trading and the number of employees that they have, with breakdown by nationality. Obviously the Central Arrears Unit knows which are the companies and how much they owe, but that is not the essence of the question. The essence of the question is in respect of those companies, how many were trading and what were the number of employees of these companies, and the Central Arrears Unit is saying that they do not have that information, which I presume at some stage they must get, because by the time the paper reaches me, the paper which I described yesterday, it has that information on it. So that information must be compiled from various sources within the Government, as during the course of processing by the Central Arrears Unit. My interpretation of this answer is that whilst they are pending, in other words they have not been tackled yet, that information is not yet available to them. They start

obtaining that information once they pick up the files so to speak, and start processing that particular company for its arrears.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Given that what I am quoting is the 2001/2002 Auditor's Report on the Government Accounts, is it that we are being told that of the companies that were pending on 31 March 2002, because I am not asking about the ones that are pending now, I am asking about the ones that were pending two years ago, that they are still pending and that nothing has happened in respect of these companies in the last two years?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I cannot tell him the answer to that but it does not follow from the answer that I have given that that is the case, because of course if they have tackled some but not others, in order to answer the question they would have to go back to the £4.2 million as at March 2002, break it down into each constituent company and see which have been progressed and which have not been progressed. The fact that they are not in a position to give the information in relation to the companies that were pending at £4.2 million does not, as I read the situation, necessarily mean that none of them have been tackled, but I do not want him to misunderstand my answer. Nor am I in a position to tell him with the information that I have in front of me that any of them have been tackled. I just do not have that information here.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Presumably, if some of them have been tackled it would not be all that difficult for the Treasury or the Central Arrears Unit to know which they have tackled. The impression given by the Auditor's Report, when he looks at the procedure that is being followed, and it may no longer be the procedure that exists because I think when he answered the previous questions he said something else was now happening. This is a reference to the situation that existed where there were cases where agreements had been entered, there were cases where action was being taken and there were cases, as it were, in the in-tray waiting to be tackled. I have quoted the case in the in-tray in March 2002. If any had been taken out of that tray and put in the other one, I would not have thought it difficult to know which one it is. Therefore it might be that they might not have been able to give me, for the reasons he has given in respect of all of them, but I would have thought it would have been possible to give an answer in respect of those which have now been moved from the pending list.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It must be possible to give the information in respect of those that have been processed, and some must have been processed because the Central Arrears Unit has remained active throughout these years. This is their working progress so to speak, it is not as if they had been disbanded or anything, so it is hugely improbable, though I dare not commit myself, it is hugely improbable that they have not processed any of these since then, but I cannot now give him a breakdown. Presumably, in respect of the ones that have been dealt with since then, the

information is available, but it has not been provided because it is not available in respect of the whole of the £4.2 million which is what the question asked.

ORAL

NO 1346 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR INDUSTRIAL CLEANERS PENSION FUND

Can Government state what was the balance in the Gibraltar Industrial Cleaners Pension Fund on the 31 March 2003?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Gibraltar Industrial Cleaners Ltd does not have its own pension fund.

A total of 36 employees of Gibraltar Industrial Cleaners Ltd are members of the Gibraltar Provident Trust (No. 1) Pension Scheme. The value of the combined pension fund moneys in respect of these employees, as at 31 March 2003, stood at £1,256,843.11.

In addition, 34 members of Gibraltar Industrial Cleaners Ltd employees have pension rights values, in respect of their previous service with the Government, held in a Gibraltar Savings Bank account earning interest at 8 per cent per annum. The total value of these pensions funds, as at 31 March 2003, stood at £389,023.95.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1346 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is the No. 1 Pension Fund providing a pension for employees of any other company or is this the only one?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I cannot answer that question with any certainty without notice, but I believe there may be one or two other ex-GSL type people on special terms. They were not the only members of this Fund when it was set up. Whether there are still any left in it I cannot tell him, but it was not set up just for them.

NO 1347 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR INDUSTRIAL CLEANERS COMPANY LTD

Can Government say how many Gibraltar Industrial Cleaners Co Ltd employees have retired with a right to a pension, giving the year of retirement and what arrangements are in place for the payments of such pensions?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

A total of eight employees have retired with pension rights for their service in Gibraltar Industrial Cleaners Company Limited as follows:

1997	-	1
1998	-	2
2000	-	1
2002	-	1
2003	-	<u>3</u>
		<u>8</u>

Gibraltar Industrial Cleaners Company Limited employees are covered by the Gibraltar Provident Fund (No. 1) defined contribution pension scheme. Under this scheme, employees are entitled to receive up to 25 per cent of their accumulated fund as a tax-free gratuity, and to the purchase of an annuity with the remaining 75 per cent, or in certain cases (depending on the size of the accumulated fund) an employee may receive the full accumulated fund in cash. Interest on the accumulated fund attracts interest at 8 per cent per annum from the Gibraltar Savings Bank.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1347 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

The arrangements that are in place for the payment of the annuity, has that actually been triggered in respect of any of these eight employees, beginning with the one that started in 1997?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Does the hon Member mean the new arrangements that we are about to make or the historical arrangements?

HON J J BOSSANO:

The ones that were in existence. Have any of these pensioners since 1997 been able to buy an annuity?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes. It has only become difficult, now I believe impossible, to buy an annuity in Gibraltar relatively recently in the last year or so, when the last of the UK insurance companies that used to sell annuities to people resident in Gibraltar pulled out on the basis that they were re-trenching to their domestic market in the UK only for annuities. That is why the Government have now arranged for the Gibraltar Savings Bank to become a pensions annuity provider. If the hon Member is intending to ask whether any of those eight employees purchased annuities with their retirement proceeds, the answer is yes. Three have purchased an annuity, one received the accumulated funds in cash and four are awaiting the purchase of an annuity when the Savings Bank publishes its rules, which is imminent.

NO 1348 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR INDUSTRIAL CLEANERS – PENSIONS

Can Government state what are the improvements in the pension entitlement of employees of Gibraltar Industrial Cleaners arising from the transfer of the pension scheme to the Gibraltar Provident Trust Fund No 2 Scheme Sub-fund?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Members of the Gibraltar Provident Fund (No. 1) Scheme (which include employees of Gibraltar Industrial Cleaners) who transfer to the Gibraltar Provident Trust Fund (No. 2) Scheme, are able to retain any conditions that are more favourable to them under the Gibraltar Provident Fund (No. 1) Scheme on a personal-to-holder basis.

In addition, they will be able to take advantage of some improved benefits under the Gibraltar Provident Trust Fund (No. 2) Scheme, for example:

- 1) The possibility of a pension draw down from their accumulated fund.
- 2) The possibility of making additional contributions to the scheme; and
- 3) Continued pension benefits payable to dependants.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1348 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can the Chief Minister explain exactly what a pension draw down means? I thought the pension was payable when they reach pensionable age and not before.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

There are provisions in the No. 2 Scheme for pension draw down in certain circumstances.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Like illness?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, because remember these are personal funds. Unless and until one buys an annuity, externally, one of the advantages of the Government's new annuity scheme is that it actually protects the capital in the ownership of the pension and its dependents. The hon Member knows that when one buys an annuity in the market place, one gets 75 per cent of ones pension capital rights and one goes and buys an annuity. So in exchange for paying some company £200,000 or £300,000 or whatever it is, they pay one for life an annual sum, hence the word annuity, of x thousand pounds a year. But if one dies the next day, one loses the capital. The Government have devised a scheme whereby the sum of the annuity is the income from the sum, but the sum remains, so that any capital left on the death of the annuitant, so to speak, remains part of the estate of the deceased and is not forfeited to the pension company. In other words, there is no life and death lottery so to speak any more. That is one of the advantages of the new annuity scheme that the Government are going to make available through the Savings Bank. In the context of that, under an actuarial table that is being produced, one is allowed to draw down apart from the income of the fund, a certain percentage of the capital amount of the sum per annum, but this would be under the annuity rules. So for example, if somebody is very ill and still has their capital in tact, they might say 'well, look it is all very well to say my family is going to inherit it, but I would like a bit of extra whilst I am still alive and kicking', and there is a formula by which the older one gets, in other words the nearer death one gets the less capital one theoretically needs, and therefore a small number of percentage points of ones capital is drawn down in addition to the income every year. All this will become clear to the hon Member when the details of that are published, as they will be.

HON J J BOSSANO:

These are all related to the annuity scheme. That is to say, there is nothing to stop, given that the annuity scheme is going to be available to others, there is nothing to stop anybody else, without being in the No. 2 Pension Fund, accessing it. Is it?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

This is for the whole of Gibraltar, because our Income Tax legislation sensibly requires at least 75 per cent of ones pension fund to be spent on an annuity, and the reason for that is that it is to protect people from blowing their pension fund and then having nothing to live on in their retirement. The problem is that it is now not possible to buy an annuity in Gibraltar, so this is not just for this, this is for everybody in Gibraltar to buy themselves an annuity. That is everybody on a money purchase pension scheme. Obviously it does not apply to people on final salary pension schemes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I acknowledge that. The point that I am making is that this in fact is not something that people are gaining by virtue of moving from the No. 1 to the No. 2 Pension Scheme, because anybody in Gibraltar would be able to access it.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Oh I see, that is his question, I thought I had answered that part of his question much earlier. There are some provisions in the No. 2 Scheme, I am advised, which are not present in the No. 1 Scheme, dealing with the possibility of draw down from the accumulated fund in certain circumstances. With notice of the question I could have found the provision and given him details of it but on my feet I suspect it is not going to jump out at me from the page. I will write to the hon Member and let him know which is that provision in the Pension No. 2 that does not exist in the Pension No. 1. I have got the document here in front of me but I cannot take the House's time just to scan through it. Yes, I can see there is a heading in the No. 2 Scheme benefits payment prior to retirement. I can see that there is a provision here about the transfer of the scheme fund to another permitted or approved scheme, which I think is new and is not there. I would rather give him the answer authoritatively.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can I just point out, that that is in fact what the original question was asking. That is, the benefits arising from the transfer to the No. 2 Scheme, not the benefits arising out of being able to purchase an annuity from the Savings Bank. I am grateful for that information but that is not what the original question asked.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I have given him the three differences.

HON J J BOSSANO:

But the differences that he has given me are the differences that exist in the provision of the annuities by the Government.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. My first answer is the answer to his question. In other words, the benefits of the No. 2 Scheme over the No. 1 Scheme is (1) the possibility of making a pension draw down from accumulated funds. The hon Member has just asked me for details and I have told him I will give him details of that first item. (2) The possibility of making additional contributions to the scheme; and (3) continued pension benefits payable to dependants. Those are three advantages of the No. 2 Scheme over the No. 1 Scheme. Nothing to do with the annuities issue.

HON J J BOSSANO:

But he has also said, and I am identifying that as advantage No. 1 and advantage No. 3, which is that the people who join the scheme from wherever they join it, will be able to draw down some of their accumulated fund. I do not know whether we are using the word 'draw down' in two different circumstances to mean two different things, but if the draw down that is in the No. 2 Scheme is the draw down that is in the annuity, then anybody that buys the annuity will have that advantage, without being in the No. 2 Scheme. If the other advantage is that the capital that survives the death of the annuitant goes to the survivor's estate, that advantage is also available to everybody that buys an annuity, even if they are not in the No. Pension Scheme.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, perhaps I should not have given him so many, or perhaps any details about the annuity scheme. It is a bit of a red herring. There is a Pension No. 1 Scheme and a No. 2 Scheme and the hon Member asked me 'how is one better off transferring from one to the other?'. The first thing I said to him, well any advantages in the No. 1 one keeps. In addition, there are three, and these are the advantages of transferring therefore, there are three. The possibility of making a pension draw down from accumulated funds, the possibility of making additional contributions to the scheme and the continued pension benefit payable to dependants. That is in relation to the No. 1 and the No. 2, nothing to do with the annuity scheme. If the hon Member says 'are those advantages available to anyone from wherever they come who joins the No. 2 Scheme?' the answer is yes, as a matter of No. 2 Scheme rules.

HON J J BOSSANO:

What I am saying is, for somebody who is not in the No. 2, wherever they come from, buys an annuity with the 75 per cent, is it not the case that buying an annuity produces the advantage of the draw down and the advantage of the survivor estate getting the accumulated fund, because that is what he told me would be available to everybody in the annuity.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, but that as part of the rules of the annuity scheme, not of the No. 2. Remember the Provident No. 2 Scheme, the principal issue of the rules is the rules whilst one is still at work, there are contribution rules and then there are benefit rules. Whereas the annuity scheme being set up by the Savings Bank, only applies once people have retired and have their pension entitlement in hand so to speak, and are walking around with a lump sum worth 75 per cent of their cashed in pension, saying 'who will sell me an annuity?'. At that stage the Savings Bank Scheme will come into force. At this stage they are still pensioners.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Of the three advantages that he has spoken, the one for example on the balance of the amount in accumulated capital going to the survivor, will not be when the man is working and it will not even be when he is going round saying 'here is my 75 per

cent', it is happening when he has gone to North Front, that is when that comes into play. So that is advantage number three, the survivor getting the cash.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, that is part of the No. 2 Scheme rules, and No. 1 for that matter.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So that is not a difference between the two?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, I have not.....

HON J J BOSSANO:

Yes, he has. He has told me that that is one of the advantages from moving from No. 1 to No. 2.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I have indeed. Continued benefits payable, let me just. Well, the truth is that if the hon Member wants a detailed answer about the rules of the Schemes, he has got to give me notice of the questions. I mean, they are just listed here by the Treasury.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The notice of the question is that I would like to see what the advantages are in the No. 2 Scheme compared to No. 1. If it is something that is more complicated than in the answer that he has given me, and he puts it to me in writing, I would be grateful. On the basis of what he has told me, my interpretation of what he has said is that there are three advantages, two of which would be there from the purchase of the annuity from the Savings Bank even if they were not there in the rules, but I will read what he has to tell me and come back with another question in the future.

ORAL

NO 1349 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SAVINGS BANK

Can Government state what was the average rate of interest earned by the Savings Bank's deposits with the Gibraltar Banks in the financial year 2001/2002, the total amount of such deposits and the amount of interest received?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1350 of 2004.

NO 1350 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SAVINGS BANK

Can Government state what was the average rate of interest earned by the Savings Bank's deposits with the Gibraltar Banks in the financial year 2002/2003, the total amount of such deposits and the amount of interest received?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

In order to establish a meaningful average rate of interest earned on deposits held in Gibraltar banks by the Gibraltar Savings Bank, the return would have to be both money-weighted and time-weighted – ideally on a daily basis.

These statistics are not readily available by the Treasury.

However, I hand over a statement showing end-of-month Gibraltar Savings Bank deposits in Gibraltar Banks and the interest earned during each month for the financial years 2001/2002 and 2002/2003. Gross average can then be worked out by division by him.

ANSWER – APPENDIX TO Q 1350**INTEREST EARNED BY THE GIBRALTAR SAVINGS BANK DEPOSITS WITH GIBRALTAR BANKS**

2001/2002	END OF MONTH DEPOSITS	INTEREST EARNED
30/04/01	£34,000,344.87	£143,090.45
30/05/01	£33,186,256.04	£133,446.85
30/06/01	£22,103,191.46	£124,908.98
30/07/01	£21,816,254.17	£98,926.19
29/08/01	£22,729,703.32	£85,158.23
30/09/01	£21,019,535.30	£85,054.96
30/10/01	£20,056,406.04	£84,486.55
30/11/01	£19,860,322.03	£60,003.61
28/12/01	£15,859,835.58	£49,898.25
28/01/02	£15,996,448.59	£51,149.61
28/02/02	£16,119,306.74	£45,702.22
28/03/02	£29,024,221.87	£44,185.06

2002/2003	END OF MONTH DEPOSITS	INTEREST EARNED
30/04/02	£26,364,808.85	£77,990.23
30/05/02	£24,162,435.14	£78,222.68
30/06/02	£21,202,263.24	£62,799.10
30/07/02	£22,882,733.66	£71,501.60
29/08/02	£24,338,684.55	£62,564.73
30/09/02	£20,897,100.40	£79,076.20
30/10/02	£17,594,104.85	£60,336.22
30/11/02	£16,007,639.53	£49,006.87
31/12/02	£9,186,595.48	£37,330.70
31/01/03	£18,850,235.56	£47,838.80
28/02/03	£21,520,220.34	£52,749.16
31/03/03	£24,256,336.05	£60,117.69

NO 1351 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GOVERNMENT DEBENTURES

As at the end of December 2003, what was the value of Monthly Income Debentures and Pensioners Monthly Income Debentures issued by the Gibraltar Savings Bank?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The value of the Monthly Income Debentures and the Pensioners Monthly Income Debentures as at 31 December 2003 is as follows:

Monthly Income Debentures	£23,241,700
Pensioners Monthly Income Debentures	£53,503,200

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1351 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

Does the Chief Minister have readily available the end of March figure, or is that not something that has been given to him?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, it is jotted down here under the heading 'Supplementary'. Monthly Income Debentures £24,612,000. Pensioners Monthly Income Debentures £57,737,100.

NO 1352 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SECURITY GUARDS

Can Government state how many security guards were employed through the use of contracted services in the financial year 2002/2003 and 2003/2004 and the period of their employment?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Government employed a total of 22 security guards for the financial year 2002/2003 and 20 for the financial year 2003/2004 through the use of contracted services.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1352 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

Does that imply that they were employed for the whole of the 12 months? The question of the period of their employment was in case that employment was intermittent in those financial years.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, my only doubt is about when the arrangements commenced. I mean some of them are permanent. For example, he knows that the arrangements for the security guards at No. 6 has been a contracted service for many years and that arrangement has been going on for years. There are other areas of Government where the contract is either for one year or for two years. Also they have different expiry dates. So they are not all.....

HON J J BOSSANO:

The reference in the original question to the period of employment, was in case there was a situation where the contract was people coming in for a few months to do a particular security job and then not carrying on. That is not the case?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

From time to time it has happened. For example, at one point security arrangements were put up at one of the Homes, and it is still in place, but that is not necessarily intended as a permanent arrangement. When it will cease to be the case I do not know, but all of these are by contracts for one or two years, which suggests it is not the sort of on and off temporary arrangements that he has described.

NO 1353 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

RECURRENT REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

Can Government state what was the recurrent Government revenue and expenditure as defined in the notes to the audited accounts for the financial year 2002/2003 and give a breakdown?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Either the answerer or the questioner has made a mistake here. The annual accounts for the year 2002/2003 are still being audited. On my feet now I have just thought that he might have meant 2001/2002.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1353 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

What I meant was that could the Government give the Government Recurrent Revenue and Expenditure as it is defined in the notes to the Audited Accounts. There is a definition of Government Revenue and Expenditure which goes beyond the Consolidated Fund.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Government publish annually, and have just in fact laid in this House, the Forecast Outturn Revenue and Expenditure for the year 2003/2004, and the actual figure for the year 2002/2003. That is the format in which the information is laid in this House. If the hon Member is saying that the classification is different in the Audited Accounts and can he have that?

HON J J BOSSANO:

What I am saying is, that Government Recurrent Revenue and Government Recurrent Expenditure, in notes 2 and 3 of the 2001/2002 Accounts and in preceding years, is defined differently from being limited to expenditure from the Consolidated Fund only. The final figures for that are not obviously in the Expenditure Estimates

laid before the House because that is only Consolidated Fund, which is what we have to vote.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

If the hon Member is asking me to give him an advance publication of accounts, which by statute have got to be produced by the Accountant General and then submitted to the Principal Auditor, and then laid before this House in accordance with the terms of legislation and the Constitution, I do not think it is appropriate for him to do that. The Government give as much information as they can but honestly, there comes a time when the hon Member is just, through the mechanism of question time, trying to bring forward by 12 months the production of the Government's Accounts. I do not think that is a reasonable expectation to have of the Government in terms of providing information. I have no difficulty giving him, there is a period of time between the Accountant General signing off the accounts and the Principal Auditor auditing them. I can consult the Principal Auditor and the Accountant General, if they cannot think of any reason why we should not, I do not mind giving him a confidential copy, without prejudice obviously, subject to audit, of the accounts at that stage. That is not asking me to advance the production. That is asking me just to give them to him as soon as they are available rather than waiting until they have been audited. That is a different matter.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The question is not in fact seeking, perhaps I should have been more specific in drafting the question, but it is not seeking an advance copy of the entire book. The final figures for 2002/2003, as the Chief Minister has correctly said, is already in the book that has been tabled in the House today and on a confidential basis in advance of the budget debate, but in notes 2 and 3 of the Audited Accounts what it does is, it produces a different definition of recurrent expenditure and recurrent revenue, which adjusts for movements between the Health Authority, the Savings Bank, the Development Corporation and the Consolidated Fund. All that is an additional three lines to the information that is already available. That information, of course, is not necessarily something that is produced for the Auditor, because the Auditor does not have to actually audit the Health Authority or the Development Corporation, although I think he audits the Savings Bank, but it is something that the Auditor includes in the report, in the same way let me say that the Government do when they produce the tables after we have approved the Estimates. This information is in fact included in the Approved Estimates of Expenditure but not in the Draft Estimates of Expenditure.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

As I say, I do not think that this is information which the hon Member is entitled in accordance with the Government's obligation to provide factual information to the House at Question Time, but I repeat, I have no difficulty, in fact I have here an advance copy of the Accountant General's report on the accounts for the year March 2003 which contains the notes that he is referring to. So the information now exists, if required to be produced in an accelerated fashion, simply to make it available for him sooner than the system normally produces it, the answer would have been no. I said to him before that if the information is available, and Treasury and the Principal Auditor cannot think of a good reason why we should not advance, in effect I am putting information in the public domain before the Auditor has had a chance to audit

it. Now, I cannot personally, I will not give it to him until after I have consulted the Principal Auditor and the Accountant General to see if there is any reason why that should not happen. If they confirm it, I will send it to him.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am grateful for that. It is just that I am pointing out is that what I am asking for is less than that. That is the whole point. All I am asking for is these two pages which do not include anything other than three lines compared to the Estimates he has already tabled. That is to say, of these two pages only the bit at the bottom is not included.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, I understand what he is saying, but in the Estimates booklet it is described as Forecast Outturn. In the papers that he is asking me for, it no longer qualifies as being forecast outturn. It is now described as being the signed off figure. So in other words, there is no longer any possibility of coming back and saying 'well the figure has been revised or has been modified'. So before publishing figures that the Accountant General has in effect signed off, but before they have been audited by the Principal Auditor, I just want to check with them that there is no good reason why I should not give the information at this stage to the hon Member. If they confirm that there is no good reason I will send it to him. If they think that there is a good reason, I will explain that reason to him as well.

HON J J BOSSANO:

All I am doing is, in case they say there is a good reason, can I just say that I do not mind if what I get is the forecast outturn. It is just that at the moment in the Estimates as they are presented, we have got three quarters as forecast outturn and that after we have approved it, in fact, the Government then publish it with the missing quarter. That is the whole point. As forecast outturn.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I understand. All the less reason why they should have objections. In other words, if the hon Member is willing to accept the information still on the basis that it is not closed, that presumably would address any concerns, but I will come back to him.

ORAL

NO 1354 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GOVERNMENT COMPANIES – CASH RESERVES

Can Government state whether the Government company cash reserves shown in the audited accounts, as part of Government's general revenue reserve as at 31 March 2002, are based on the actual cash position on that date of each company, or on the cash balances shown in each company's latest available audited accounts?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1355 to 1358 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1355 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GOVERNMENT COMPANIES – CASH RESERVES

Can Government give a breakdown of the Government companies that make up the £4 million of Government revenue reserve at the 31 March 1999, showing the cash available to Government in each such company?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1354 and 1356 to 1358 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1356 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GOVERNMENT COMPANIES – CASH RESERVES

Can Government give a breakdown of the Government companies that make up the £1.1 million of Government revenue reserve at the 31 March 2000, showing the cash available to Government in each such company?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1354, 1355, 1357 and 1358 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1357 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GOVERNMENT COMPANIES – CASH RESERVES

Can Government give a breakdown of the Government companies that make up the £6.3 million of Government revenue reserve at the 31 March 2001, showing the cash available to Government in each such company?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1354 to 1356 and 1358 of 2004.

NO 1358 OF 2004**THE HON J J BOSSANO****GOVERNMENT COMPANIES – CASH RESERVES**

Can Government give a breakdown of the Government companies that make up the £5.4 million of Government revenue reserve at the 31 March 2002, showing the cash available to Government in each such company?

ANSWER**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

The Government-owned Company balances shown as part of the end-of-year Government Reserves are based on the actual cash in hand at the end of the financial year. A breakdown of the cash balances held by companies is as follows:

	£'M Y/E	£'M Y/E	£'M Y/E	£'M Y/E
	31/03/99	31/03/00	31/03/01	31/03/02
Gibraltar Land Holdings	0.1	-	0.1	0.2
GRP Investments Company Ltd	0.2	-	0.1	-
Gibraltar Commercial Company Ltd	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.6
Gibraltar Co-Ownership Company Ltd	1.8	0.2	4.7	2.7
Brympton Co-Ownership Company Ltd	0.1	-	-	0.1
Gibraltar Information Bureau	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Gibraltar Shiprepair Ltd	0.2	0.5	0.8	0.8
Gibraltar Industrial Cleaners	0.3	-	-	-
	4.0	1.1	6.3	5.4

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1354 TO 1358 OF 2004**HON J J BOSSANO:**

In terms of how the figure is arrived at in respect of each company, it is the end of the Government's financial year not the end of the company's year, is that correct?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Assuming that there is a difference between the two, yes. In other words, I just cannot remember what is the financial year end of these companies, whether it is March or December.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I think quite a lot of them were December.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, in that case, yes. What is the figure that the companies hold on the last day of the Government's financial year, it is at 31 March, which may or may not be the company's own financial year end as well.

HON J J BOSSANO:

That figure constitutes what the cash deposits that they have in this investment account in the Gibraltar Savings Bank, or would it be other cash holdings?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is all in cash, as a matter of Treasury management I do not know whether all of these companies have all of their cash balances in the Savings Bank, or whether they have them elsewhere, but it is all cash. If by other portfolios he meant other sorts of investments, the answer is no. If he meant cash deposits at an entity other than the Savings Bank, possibly, some of these may be held on deposit accounts through the Government, I do not know what the cash holding arrangements are.

NO 1359 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GHA – EUROPORT BUILDING

Can Government state what effect, if any, do increases in base rates have on the £3 million annual payment to the Royal Bank of Scotland by the GHA, in respect of the Europort Building?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

None.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1359 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

If there are variations in the contract being conducted in building the conversion, is that something that is reflected in the agreement between the Government and the Bank?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Sorry, I do not follow the question.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I think when we originally told about the agreement, presumably it was based on the amount of money that the Bank was providing for the conversion that was taken on at the time. If there are or have been subsequent changes in the work that was required would that be reflected in that agreement or is the agreement for a fixed sum and that is it?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, the hon Member will recall when we had a lengthy discussion on this issue at the time in the House, that I explained to him that we had fixed the rate of interest under

a swap arrangement. So, the rate of interest is fixed for the whole period of the arrangement, twenty odd years, and in fact that swap contract is now quite valuable, because interest rates have risen. I think we are more than £1 million up on the capital value of that swap. Obviously it is not worth cashing it in because then one would have re-finance at higher rates of interest, but it does show the value of fixing under a swap, particularly when interest rates were low and really could only go in one direction long term. Now, the arrangement has been repeated in respect of the increased costs of the project.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Presumably the repeated agreements will have reflected what the interest rate was at the time that that was done, it would not have been at the original one.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It was struck at a very slightly higher rate. I think the market had moved perhaps up to half a per cent.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is the swap arrangement for the whole of the life of the financing period?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, not only is it for the whole of the life but of course, remember that I also explained to him that there were exit provisions.

NO 1360 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

ESTIMATES OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

Can the Government now state what has been the estimated receipt of revenue in the current financial year to the 31st December 2003 by head of revenue?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Either we are misunderstanding the same terminology or there is an error here as well. The estimated revenue for the full year ended 31 March 2004 is contained in the Estimates book Tabled in the House at the start of this meeting. Government have not produced the figures for the nine months to 31st December.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1360 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

In January I asked for the figure for December and the answer that I got in January was that I would be provided that figure at the time that the Estimates were produced. In previous years, when I have asked for the figures for nine months, I have been given the figure for nine months, which is an estimated figure of revenue and expenditure for a nine month period. Since I was told that I was going to be given it at this meeting, I am asking for it.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not remember what he was told last time. He now has more than the estimated, of course he has the forecast outturn figure, which is better than an estimate. He now has the forecast outturn figure for the 12 months to March. It would not make sense to speak of the estimated figure to December. He could say the forecast outturn to December but the figure to December is no longer the subject of an estimate, it is now at worst a forecast outturn. I would have hoped by now more than that. By now the figure to December should be pretty certain. If the hon Member is particularly interested in having, I mean amending his question to read forecast outturn instead of estimated, I am sure they can be produced for him. The Treasury has these things on computer and they can, of course the Treasury figure is on a

cash basis. In other words, any PV's that have not come through up to that date would not be included in the figure.

HON J J BOSSANO:

That is in fact why it would still be an estimate.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, it would not be an estimate now.

HON J J BOSSANO:

When I asked for the original information in January, that is what I asked for and that is what I was told would be given to me at a later stage. I think the significance of the December cut off is that that tends to be what then determines the forecast.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Correct. We start preparing the Draft Estimates long before the end of March and therefore the forecast figure is struck on the basis of the December figure, otherwise we would have to wait until the end of March to start even preparing the Estimates booklet. It would not be an estimate by now, we are now in May. The figure for December might have been subject to fluctuation if one asks in January, because there are still things coming through, but by May the following year it cannot any longer be an estimate. The figure for March might be an estimate. In other words, things in respect of March might still be coming through in April but things in respect of November/December would not still be coming through the system in May. So whatever the figure is available that the machine produces, being the figure as at December, by now, by 7th May I would expect it to be more accurate. The hon Member now has the Estimates, is that not sufficient for his purposes?

HON J J BOSSANO:

I now have the Estimates and the forecast outturn. I am asking for it because I was told in January that I could have that information now.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

If the hon Member continues to want it, I will get it for him. The question that I am asking him is, given that the time that has passed whether it is still of any value to him, because it takes some work to produce.

HON J J BOSSANO:

No, it is Okay.

ORAL

NO 1361 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

ESTIMATES OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

Can the Government now state what has been the estimated expenditure from the Consolidated Fund in the current financial year to the 31st December 2003 by head of expenditure?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The estimated expenditure for the full year ended 31 March 2004 is contained in the Estimates book Tabled in the House at the start of this meeting.

NO 1362 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

JOHN MACKINTOSH HOMES

Can Government state what is the source of the receipt of the John Mackintosh Homes sub-fund of £1.5 million for the financial year 2001/2002?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The sum of £1.5 million held by the John Mackintosh Homes (their money) was made available to the Government by the Board of Governors as part of the agreement to transfer the homes (Mount Alvernia and the Jewish Home) to the Elderly Care Agency. The moneys have been used towards the cost of refurbishment works at Mount Alvernia.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1362 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

My question relates to the audited accounts of the Government which shows the receipt of this money in that financial year.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, that is the question that I think I have answered. In other words, where did the money come from? What was the source of the receipt? The money came from the governors of the John Mackintosh Trust.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So the agreement with the John Mackintosh Trust was done when? At the beginning of the 2001 financial year?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, around 2000 I think it was. It has been going for some time.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Exactly, that is why I am wondering why it is that this happened in 2001/2002.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Remember that this was money for capital works that did not start immediately, so they must have held on to the money and paid it later.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The money appeared originally as being available to the Elderly Care Agency for capital works, but in 2001/2002 a John Mackintosh Home sub-fund appears for the first time, with this receipt.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, I am not quite sure what distinction he is trying to draw. We do an agreement with the Mackintosh Trustees, that the Elderly Care Agency is going to take over the building, and we say to the Trustees 'but the building needs revamping, we are relieving you of the running costs of the Home in effect, make that money available to us for the capital works'. The Trustees do that, I cannot tell him exactly the date upon which they paid the money over, but of course the money is ring-fenced for the purpose which the Government asked for it, namely the capital works. Well, the capital works started later. In the meantime the money appears to have been put in something called the John Mackintosh Home sub-fund. I am not understanding what the hon Member is asking about that.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well I find it odd that the John Mackintosh Home sub-fund should have surfaced in the year 2001/2002 and since there is another question which has not yet been called but is relevant to this, which is Question No. 1364, the Government appear to have issued a special debenture for the money to be put in that debenture. Given that the money originally was provided at an earlier stage for the capital works, it seems to have been put in this fund as if it were going to be put aside for some time.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It was just invested, ring-fenced and invested. Initially in a sub-fund and then it was invested in a debenture, and then presumably now it has been cashed in because the works have proceeded.

ORAL

NO 1363 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

JOHN MACKINTOSH HOMES

Can Government provide the details of the account for the year ended 31st March 2003 of the John Mackintosh Homes sub-fund?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The annual accounts for the year ended 31 March 2003 are not yet available as these are being audited. However, expenditure on refurbishment works funded from the Trust Fund during the year ended 31 March 2003 totalled £693,459 and this is reflected in appendix E of the Government Estimates for 2004/2005.

NO 1364 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

JOHN MACKINTOSH HOMES

Can Government say when the £1.5 million 7 per cent tax free debenture 2003 was sold by the Savings Bank to the John Mackintosh Homes sub-fund?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The £1.5 million Gibraltar Savings Bank debenture held by the trustees of the John Mackintosh Homes were transferred to the Government Trust Fund on 25 January 2002.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1364 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

So the answer is that it was issued to the Trustees prior to the creation of the sub-fund.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, prior to their alienation of the money to the sub-fund, yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So in fact, the answer to Question No. 1362 is that the source of the receipt was that in January 2002 the Mackintosh Homes Trust handed over a £1.5 million debenture which they already had.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So it is not that the money was invested in that debenture for a particular purpose at that particular time. The debenture was previously held, that was how the Trust previously had their money invested.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Exactly so. The sub-fund is just a legal structure to hold the asset, whether it is cash or debentures, it was debentures.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Then presumably, is that a debenture that is redeemable at the request of the holder? Because if it is in a debenture and we have been told that £653,459 have been spent, that must have come out of the £1.5 million?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

At that point it becomes a matter of Treasury management. If the money was due to be spent before there was a draw down possible, before there was the redemption of the debenture was possible, somebody must have provided bridging liquidity. I do not know what the details of the debenture are, it may be that the debenture was on terms that was redeemable on giving a certain period of notice. I would need details of the actual debenture to see what might have happened.

ORAL

NO 1365 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SALES OF LAND

Can Government state how much was raised by sales of land and properties and credited to Government owned property companies in the financial year 2003/2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Revenue raised by sales of properties and credited to Government owned companies during financial year 2003/2004 was £4,350,195.91.

ORAL

NO 1366 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SALES OF LAND

Can Government state how much was raised by sales of land and properties and credited to the Improvement and Development Fund in the financial year 2003/2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Revenue raised by sale of land and buildings, credited to the Improvement and Development Fund in financial year 2003/2004 was £1,794,303.

ORAL

NO 1367 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

ESTIMATES OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

Can Government state what is the forecast Government recurrent revenue and expenditure for the financial year 2003/2004 inclusive of the Gibraltar Development Corporation and the Gibraltar Health Authority and give a breakdown?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

This information is contained in the Estimates book Tabled in the House at the start of this meeting.

ORAL

NO 1368 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT INJURIES FUND

Can Government explain why the contribution from the Employment Injuries Funds to the Gibraltar Health Authority increased in the financial year 1999/2000 from £45,000 to £100,000?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1369 of 2004.

NO 1369 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT INJURIES FUND

Can Government explain why the contribution from the Employment Injuries Fund to the Gibraltar Health Authority increased in the financial year 1999/2000 from £45,000 to £100,000?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

In view of the increasing cost of providing health care, it was considered reasonable to review the contribution accordingly. This contribution had not been increased since 1992. In fact, it may appear from the information in the booklet, that the intention is to increase it further.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1368 AND 1369 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

I was not aware of that. In fact, is he saying then that the Treasury did an exercise and came to the conclusion that in the year 2000 the average cost had gone up in a proportion of over 100 per cent?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I am not sure of the basis on which they do it. The hon Member knows why this transfer takes place in the first place and what it is supposed to cover, the people whose healthcare it is supposed to cover. I cannot tell him whether the increase from 1992 to 1999/2000, which was from 45 to 100, was proportionate to the increased percentage in health spending over those years and whether the increase from 100 to the figure proposed, which I have already mention in the 2003/2004 thing is also a proportion, the figure that I have in front of me seems higher than the percentage by which health spending has increased over the same period. This is the figure that he does not have, he only has the figure of £100,000 which is the figure to which it was raised in 1999/2000. It is intended to raise it again in respect of the year 2003/2004, has been raised. There does not seem to be, necessarily a mathematical thing, since there are more people deemed to be covered. There are two variables the amount and people.

HON J J BOSSANO:

This is really people who need hospitalisation or hospital treatment, or Health Centre treatment as a result of industrial injuries, because it comes from the Employment Injuries Fund. That is what that covers.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, it is in respect of the provision of health services to people in respect of injuries at work.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I agree that there are two variables. Either there are more people with injuries at work or it has become more expensive to treat them. I am not aware that there has been any significant increase in numbers.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I am not alleging that there is necessarily a mathematical, the last two or three exchanges between us have been on the assumption, which is not a fact necessarily, that there is some scientific formula being applied. It may just be a figure. The original figure was not scientific either.

ORAL

NO 1370 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE FUND

Can Government explain the item of receipts being recovery of maternity allowance misallocated which was credited to the Social Assistance Fund in the financial year 2002/2003?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Maternity allowance was introduced as a new social security benefit in July 1999. Pending the enactment of the relevant legislation, payments to beneficiaries were advanced from the Social Assistance Fund. Initially, this was an interim arrangement until payments could be charged to the Short Term Benefit Fund once the Social Security (Insurance) Ordinance had been duly amended. Although the new legislation was enacted in October 1999, due to an oversight payments continued to be charged to the Social Assistance Fund until June 2002. Consequently, an adjustment was made in respect of this misallocation by crediting the Social Assistance Fund with the sum of £137,514.89 (that is, all payments made since July 1999) and debiting the Short Term Benefit Fund with the same amount.

ORAL

NO 1371 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 month of January 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1372 and 1373 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1372 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 month of February 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1371 and 1373 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1373 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 month of March 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

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

Answer to Question Nos. 1371, 1372 and 1373

	<u>31-Jan-04</u>	<u>28-Feb-04</u>	<u>31-Mar-04</u>
<u>Fund Account - Opening Balance</u>	£5,656,414	£5,628,704	£5,634,843
<u>Add</u>			
Receipts	£44,257	£59,273	£39,356
	<hr/> £5,700,671	<hr/> £5,687,977	<hr/> £5,674,199
<u>Less</u>			
Payments	<hr/> (£71,966)	<hr/> (£53,134)	<hr/> (£56,202)
<u>Closing Balance</u>	<hr/> £5,628,704	<hr/> £5,634,843	<hr/> £5,617,997

ORAL

NO 1374 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SOCIAL INSURANCE – SHORT TERM BENEFITS FUND

What was the balance of the Short Term Benefits Fund as at the end of the 2002/2003 financial year inclusive of any changes in the market value of the underlying investments?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1375 to 1381 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1375 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SOCIAL INSURANCE – SHORT TERM BENEFITS FUND

What was the estimated balance of the Short Term Benefits Fund as at the end of the 2003/2004 financial year inclusive of any changes in the market value of the underlying investments?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1374 and 1376 to 1381 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1376 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SOCIAL INSURANCE – OPEN LONG-TERM BENEFITS FUND

What was the balance of the Open Long Term Benefits Fund as at the end of the 2002/2003 financial year, inclusive of any changes in the market value of the underlying investments?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1374 to 1375 and 1377 to 1381 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1377 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SOCIAL INSURANCE – OPEN LONG TERM BENEFITS FUND

What was the estimated balance of the Open Long Term Benefits Fund as at the end of the 2003/2004 financial year, inclusive of any changes in the market value of the underlying investments?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1374 to 1376 and 1378 to 1381 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1378 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SOCIAL INSURANCE – CLOSED LONG TERM BENEFITS FUND

What was the balance of the Closed Long Term Benefits Fund as at the end of the 2002/2003 financial year, inclusive of any changes in the market value of the underlying investments?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1374 to 1377 and 1379 to 1381 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1379 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SOCIAL INSURANCE – CLOSED LONG-TERM BENEFITS FUND

What was the estimated balance of the Closed Long Term Benefits Fund as at the end of the 2003/2004 financial year, inclusive of any changes in the market value of the underlying investments?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1374 to 1378 and 1380 to 1381 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1380 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT INJURIES INSURANCE FUND

What was the estimated balance of the Employment Injuries Insurance Fund as at the end of the 2003/2004 financial year, inclusive of any changes in the market value of the underlying investments?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1374 to 1379 and 1381 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1381 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SOCIAL INSURANCE – SHORT TERM BENEFITS FUND

What was the estimated balance of the Short Term Benefits Fund as at the end of the 2003/2004 Financial Year inclusive of any changes in the market value of the underlying investments?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

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

ANSWER TO QUESTIONS 1374/2004 TO 1381/2004

<u>Fund</u>	<u>31-Mar-03</u>	<u>31-Mar-04</u>
Short Term Benefits Fund	£6,201,342	£6,145,961
Employment Injuries Insurance Fund	£6,045,472	£5,617,997
Closed Long Term Benefits Fund	£482,863	£670,835
Open Long Term Benefits Fund	£14,013,251	£11,724,519

ORAL

NO 1382 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INSOLVENCY FUND

Can Government state how much has been collected in each financial year in respect of employer's contributions to the Insolvency Fund since 1 April 1996?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1383 and 1384 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1383 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INSOLVENCY FUND

Can Government state how much has been paid from the Insolvency Fund in each financial year since 1 April 1996?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1382 and 1384 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1384 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INSOLVENCY FUND

Can Government state how much of the sums paid out from the Insolvency Fund in each financial year, since 1 April 1996 have subsequently been recovered from the assets of the relevant employers to date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

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

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1384

Answer to Question 1382

The sums collected by the Gibraltar Development Corporation (Insolvency Fund) in each financial year since 1st April 1996 are as follows:

1996/1997	£175,388	
1997/1998	£204,013	
1998/1999	£151,245	
1999/2000	£267,718	
2000/2001	£172,234	
2001/2002	£306,019	}
2002/2003	£315,079	} *Subject to adjustment by Department of Social Security
2003/2004	£786,438	}

* Social Insurance contributions have been erroneously allocated to the Insolvency Fund as a result of a computer program malfunction. The adjustment is in the process of being quantified by the Department of Social Security. This anomaly was reported by the Principal Auditor in his report to the Annual Accounts 2001/02 (paragraph 3.3.7 to 3.3.9)

Answer to Question 1383

The payments made from Gibraltar Development Corporation (Insolvency Fund) in each financial year since 1st April 1996, are as follows:

1996/1997	£119,226
1997/1998	NIL
1998/1999	£34,664
1999/2000	£200,267
2000/2001	£34,489
2001/2002	£45,991
2002/2003	£49,193
2003/2004	£89,863

Answer to Question 1384

The sums received by the Gibraltar Development Corporation (Insolvency Fund) from assets recovered from companies that have been liquidated since 1st April 1996, is as follows:

1996/1997	£2,022	(liquidation of Fabri Construction [1992])
1997/1998	NIL	
1998/1999	NIL	
1999/2000	NIL	
2000/2001	NIL	
2001/2002	£9,028	(liquidation of Globe Trading Co. Ltd)
2002/2003	NIL	
2003/2004	NIL	

ORAL

NO 1385 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR PROVIDENT TRUST

Can Government say what has been the return on investment by the Gibraltar Provident Trust each year since it was set up?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1386 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1386 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR PROVIDENT TRUST

Can Government state what has been the return on investment earned by the Gibraltar Provident Trust each financial year since it was set up?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

In order to establish a meaningful return on investments by the Gibraltar Provident Trust Fund, the return would have to be both money-weighted and time-weighted, ideally on a daily basis.

These statistics are not readily available to the Treasury. However, I hand over a statement showing end of month Gibraltar Provident Trust Fund investments and the interest earned for each year since its inception.

GIBRALTAR PROVIDENT TRUST NO. 2 PENSION SCHEME

	End of Month Balance	Interest Earned
Nov '00	£240,455.44	£223.47
Dec '00	£247,577.82	£1,963.51
Jan '01	£257,838.48	£1,156.54
Feb '01	£267,793.82	£1,094.38
Mar '01	£283,439.27	£1,167.59

	End of Month Balance	Interest Earned
April '01	£329,036.57	£1,175.13
May '01	£379,850.64	£1,489.43
June '01	£433,057.61	£1,481.28
July '01	£479,408.55	£1,858.72
Aug '01	£526,997.18	£1,970.30
Sept '01	£582,089.81	£2,024.10
Oct '01	£635,415.46	£2,238.65
Nov '01	£693,219.09	£1,811.40
Dec '01	£751,468.17	£2,536.79
Jan '02	£806,013.93	£2,369.30
Feb '02	£859,994.90	£2,329.31
Mar '02	£919,262.46	£2,822.33

	End of Month Balance	Interest Earned
April '02	£979,999.99	£2,676.89
May '02	£1,036,325.99	£3,259.18
June '02	£1,100,840.75	£2,984.83
July '02	£1,158,627.49	£3,375.16
Aug '02	£1,214,649.22	£3,860.39
Sept '02	£1,273,992.47	£3,780.55
Oct '02	£1,332,212.57	£4,144.87
Nov '02	£1,391,012.77	£3,706.03
Dec '02	£1,463,314.83	£4,086.20
Jan '03	£1,526,060.86	£4,360.38
Feb '03	£1,594,818.71	£4,098.04
Mar '03	£1,660,006.06	£4,916.39

	End of Month Balance	Interest Earned
April '03	£1,727,790.77	£4,065.42
May '03	£1,795,972.17	£4,869.13
June '03	£1,879,911.32	£5,013.69
July '03	£1,948,055.33	£5,025.53
Aug '03	£2,006,085.28	£5,349.36
Sept '03	£2,079,325.12	£5,692.93
Oct '03	£2,139,943.54	£5,891.39
Nov '03	£2,223,529.95	£6,244.43
Dec '03	£2,306,748.56	£2,405.69
Jan '04	£2,405,873.52	£8,395.74
Feb '04	£2,509,900.55	£8,313.60
Mar '04	£2,594,077.34	£9,302.31

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1385 AND 1386 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is it the case that until now the Provident Trust has been investing its accumulated funds with the Gibraltar Savings Bank, or has it been handled by the Crown Agents and invested in the UK?

CHIEF MINISTER:

No, I believe they are handled by the Crown Agents as separate accounts, and the eligible investments opened to the Trustees, there are trustees in these Schemes, is explained in the Fund Rules. Actually each account holder gets I think it is an annual or perhaps an even more frequent statement, showing the accrual to his fund in respect of the year. So there is quite a sophisticated system up and running now.

ORAL

NO 1387 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR PROVIDENT TRUST FUND

Can Government state how many persons have retired with an entitlement to an annuity from the Gibraltar Provident Trust Fund giving a breakdown by year and how many are currently being paid a pension purchased by 75 per cent of the accrued sum?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The information requested is provided in the statement that I hand to the hon Member.

Gibraltar Provident Trust Fund (No 2) Pension Scheme

Year	No of Persons Retired	No of Persons Receiving a Pension	No of Persons who Purchased an Annuity	No of Persons Awaiting Purchase of an Annuity	No of Persons who Received the Full Accumulated Fund in Cash
2001	2	0	0	0	2
2002	3	0	0	0	3
2003	3	0	0	0	3
	8	0	0	0	8

Gibraltar Provident Trust Fund (JMH) Pension Scheme

Year	No of Persons Retired	No of Persons who Purchased an Annuity	No of Persons Awaiting Purchase of an Annuity	No of Persons who Received the Full Accumulated Fund in Cash
2001	4	0	0	4
2002	2	0	0	2
2003	3	0	0	3
	9	0	0	9

Gibraltar Provident Trust Fund (Bond 1)

Year	No of Persons Retired	No of Persons who Purchased an Annuity	No of Persons Awaiting Purchase of an Annuity	No of Persons who Received the Full Accumulated Fund in Cash
1996	1	0	0	1
1997	5	3	0	2
1998	3	3	0	0
1999	0	0	0	0
2000	1	0	0	1
2001	0	0	0	0
2002	2	1	1	0
2003	3	0	3	0
	15	7	4	4

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1387 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

The final column which shows the people who have received the full accumulated fund in cash, these are the people who have a sum that was too small at the time when annuities were available to get an annuity, is that the case?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, not so much because it was too small to get an annuity, but because there are rules that say if it is less than a certain amount one can have it in cash and is not bound by the 75 per cent/25 per cent split. A combined annuity for any ridiculously small amount of money is just not worth it. The reason, I suspect, why there are, if one looks at the No. 2 Scheme, no retired person is actually receiving a pension or purchased an annuity, are that when these Government owned companies were given pensionable terms, some people were approaching retirement age and by the time they retired there was not enough money.

ORAL

NO 1388 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

NO. 2 PENSION FUND

Can Government list the employers that contributed to the No 2 Pension Fund in the year ended 31 March 1999, and further state for each employer, the amount contributed and the number of employees covered by such contributions?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1389 to 1392 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1389 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

NO. 2 PENSION FUND

Can Government list the employers that contributed to the No 2 Pension Fund in the year ended 31 March 2000, and further state for each employer, the amount contributed and the number of employees covered by such contributions?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1388 and 1390 to 1392 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1390 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

NO. 2 PENSION FUND

Can Government list the employers that contributed to the No 2 Pension Fund in the year ended 31 March 2001, and further state for each employer, the amount contributed and the number of employees covered by such contributions?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1388, 1389, 1391 and 1392 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1391 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

NO. 2 PENSION FUND

Can Government list the employers that contributed to the No 2 Pension Fund in the year ended 31 March 2002, and further state for each employer, the amount contributed and the number of employees covered by such contributions?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1388 to 1390 and 1392 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1392 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

NO. 2 PENSION FUND

Can Government list the employers that contributed to the No 2 Pension Fund in the year ended 31 March 2003, and further state for each employer, the amount contributed and the number of employees covered by such contributions?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Let me first say that the Government would not provide this information in respect of a private company. In fact we are providing the information because there are none of those and the Government are happy to provide this information in respect of publicly funded agencies, Government-owned companies and things of that sort. Should any private company ever participate in this Scheme, we might give the numbers of the companies involved and the numbers of employees but we will not provide their names. As it happens, the information requested is provided on the schedule I hand to him, because in fact they are all in the category of things that should be disclosed in this House.

Financial Year :-**April 98 - March 99**

Employer	Total Contributed	Total No of Employees as at 31/3/99
Gibraltar Joinery & Building Services	£60,034.31	65
	£60,034.31	65

Financial Year :-**April 99 - March 00**

Employer	Total Contributed	Total No of Employees as at 31/3/00
The Office of the Ombudsman	£6,252.03	5
Gibraltar Joinery & Building Services	£61,787.79	61
	£68,039.82	66

Financial Year :-**April 00 - March 01**

Employer	Total Contributed	Total No of Employees as at 31/3/01
The Office of the Ombudsman	£9,450.00	5
Gibraltar Regulatory Authority	£2,645.84	2
Gibraltar Joinery & Building Services	£63,978.81	65
Gibraltar Community Projects	£14,942.09	168
	£91,016.74	240

Financial Year :-**April 01 - March 02**

Employer	Total Contributed	Total No of Employees as at 31/3/02
The Office of the Ombudsman	£8,453.57	3
Gibraltar Regulatory Authority	£8,027.77	4
Gibraltar Joinery & Building Services	£77,395.62	69
Gibraltar Community Projects	£186,143.37	175
Gibraltar Development Corporation	£92,253.95	66
Elderly Care Agency	£46,805.01	59
	£419,079.29	376

Financial Year :-**April 02 - March 03**

Employer	Total Contributed	Total No of Employees as at 31/3/03
The Office of the Ombudsman	£8,414.34	4
Gibraltar Regulatory Authority	£11,042.34	4
Gibraltar Joinery & Building Services	£93,622.83	143
Gibraltar Community Projects	£171,728.98	163
Gibraltar Development Corporation	£105,817.48	71
Social Services Agency	£13,062.02	50
Elderly Care Agency	£73,703.98	68
	£477,391.97	503

ORAL

NO 1393 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EUROPA INCINERATOR LIMITED

Can Government state which is the most recent year in respect of which the accounts of Europa Incinerator Limited have been audited?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Accounts from commencement have not been audited.

NO 1394 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

COMMUNITY CARE LIMITED

Can Government explain why they have come to the conclusion since 1999 that Tabling the accounts of Community Care Limited in the House may enable others to argue that the accounts are not private and non Government?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

No, the hon Member knows the answer to the question. I do not consider that it is in the public interest of Gibraltar to air this issue in public.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1394 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

No, I do not know the answer to the question. Given that I am not aware that anything in relation to Community Care post-1999 has altered, when in fact in 1999 the Government considered it was all right to table it and did table it. Given that in the last financial year, when the Government were proposing to transfer £5 million from the Consolidated Fund, I asked that it should be done through the transfer of Import Duty money to the Social Assistance Fund, and he said that things had now moved on and there was really no need for this mechanism any more, but since I insisted that I would feel more relaxed about it if it were done that way, he said if it made me feel better he would do it. So, in fact, the indications in last year's Budget were that there was not a problem now to the degree that there had been in the past and therefore that is why I cannot understand, if things have improved in terms of the latest pronouncements in relation to Community Care, confirming what we have always argued in this House, that it is a private charity, and we are able to vote in the Budget money for them out of the Consolidated Fund, we are not able to do what we were doing in 1999. I do not understand it.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, I cannot help the Leader of the Opposition publicly to improve his levels of understanding, except to tell him that the two things to which he has just referred to and has tried to link, has no linkage whatsoever. What I agreed to restore, if he felt happier with it, was simply to describe next to the grant, to put the source of the

funds. That has got nothing to do with the subject matter of the question, which is whether the Government consider that it is appropriate to continue to Table the accounts of Community Care. Those two things are completely unrelated. The fact that the Government were happy to modify the practice on the first, is completely non germane to the second issue. All that I will say on the second issue and no more, however many times he gets up to ask supplementaries, is that the Government's modified position is a sensitive reaction to evolving arguments on the other side. I do not mean the other side of the House, I mean on the other side of those that seek to challenge the arrangements.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is he saying then that the Tabling of the accounts is an evolving argument to the other side? If that is the case then, of course, it is not an argument I have heard used by the other side but it may well be that he has got information that I have not.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I have said all that I am going to say on this subject.

HON J J BOSSANO:

This was not something that the Government were concerned about in 1999, which was the last time they Tabled it. Can he confirm? It is something that has developed since 1999.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The hon Member presumably knows what the word 'evolving' means.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well, yes, I know that he thinks he is omniscient and that the rest of us ought to be put with a pink cap in the corner, but I do know what the word 'evolving' means, without needing to do what he did on National Day in 1996, which is to look in the Oxford Dictionary to find out whether we were a nation or not.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I will accept that diatribe as a concession on the substance that we were discussing.

NO 1395 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

NATIONAL INCOME ESTIMATES

When do Government now expect to publish the National Income Estimates for the years 2001/2002?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I expect to do so during my budget address to this House later during this meeting.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1395 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

It will be published what, in the middle of his address?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

That is simply a repetition of the same question. I do not intend to repeat the answer, it is already in Hansard.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I see. I do not know whether in fact what the Chief Minister is telling us is that he intends to mention the figures in his speech, and therefore that is the equivalent of publishing them, or in fact a document is going to be circulated but not until he has actually read it out. Is it the case that he wants to make them public only during the budget speech, or that they are not ready until he actually stands up to talk?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The question asked was 'when do Government now expect to publish the National Income Estimates for the year 2001/2002?', to which the answer is 'I expect to do so during my budget address to this House later during this meeting.'

HON J J BOSSANO:

Yes and given that the answer that I was given in January was that it was going to happen before then, I am trying to establish what has brought about the change in timetable.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

That is when the Government now want to do it.

ORAL

NO 1396 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GDP FIGURE

Can Government state what is the relationship between the gross trading profits component in the income method of calculating GDP and taxable trading profits of companies for any given financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1397 to 1402 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1397 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GDP FIGURE

Can Government confirm that the profits of qualifying companies are included in the gross trading profits shown in the Gross Trading Profits calculation?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1396 and 1398 to 1402 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1398 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GDP – MANSELL REVIEW

Can Government list the recommendations made in the Mansell review to improve the accuracy of the calculations of the GDP?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1396, 1397 and 1399 to 1402 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1399 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GDP – MANSELL REVIEW

Can Government state in respect of the import and export values in the 1996/1997 expenditure method calculation of GDP, what was the effect of these values for each of the three changes implemented that year as a result of the Mansell Review?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1396 to 1398 and 1400 to 1402 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1400 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

NATIONAL INCOME CALCULATION

What was the imputed rent element in the rent component of the National Income Calculation for each of the years 1994/1995, 1995/1996, 1996/1997, 1997/1998, 1998/1999, 1999/2000 and 2000/2001?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1396 to 1399, 1401 and 1402 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1401 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INPUT/OUTPUT STUDY

Can Government now provide the fees charged by Professor Fletcher for providing answers to Opposition questions seeking clarification of items in the Input/Output Study Report?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1396 to 1400 and 1402 of 2004.

NO 1402 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GDP – PAYMENTS TO PROFESSOR FLETCHER

Can Government state whether any further payments will be made to Professor Fletcher beyond the £46,635 already paid?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

For National Income purposes, Gross Trading Profits are calculated by the grossing up of the amount of corporation tax received in a given year to arrive at an estimate of taxable profits and the addition of an estimated amount in respect of profits that have not yet been assessed to tax. The profits of qualifying companies are not included in the gross trading profits shown in the GDP calculation.

The recommendations made in the Mansell Review were for the Statistics Office to:

1. Examine the coverage of the estimates for Government trading enterprises.
2. Examine the coverage of the estimates of Government final consumption.
3. Examine the coverage of the estimates of Gross Fixed Capital Formation.
4. Consider whether any further coverage adjustments need to be made to the figures of exports and imports of goods.
5. Consider whether any further activities need to be included in the figures of exports and imports of services.
6. Consider how the hidden economy is to be treated in the accounts.
7. Consider arrangements for compiling long-run series on an improved basis.
8. Examine how tax information can be used to derive estimates for income GDP, and possibly production GDP.
9. Consider certain issues related to the estimation of rent.
10. Assess the quality of the estimates from the Family Expenditure Survey and examine ways in which the benchmark estimates of consumers' expenditure might be projected forward.
11. Improve procedures for and quality of estimates of Gross Fixed Capital Formation.
12. Improve the quality of the estimates of tourist expenditure, for both exports and imports.
13. Improve the estimation methodology for the new components of exports and imports of services.
14. Review the need for a stock-building variable in the accounts.
15. Consider how estimates of net property income from abroad might best be made to estimate GDP.

16. Consider the needs for constant price figures and what new price data might be needed.
17. Consider the importance of the sector accounts in determining priorities for improving the national accounts.
18. Consider arrangements for dealing with the new system of national accounts.
19. Consider arrangements for increased liaison with users and suppliers of data.
20. Consider the need for a timetable for the publication of the national accounts estimates.
21. Consider the resources implications of improving the national accounts.

The effects on the estimated values of imports and exports of goods and services as a result of the adjustments recommended by the Mansell Review were as follows:

1. The gross value of imports of goods, for National Income purposes, fell by £78.5 million as a result of the adjustment in respect of the imports of notes, coins, stamps and gold. The adjustment does not apply to the export side.
2. The adjustment in respect of re-exports of cars increased the value of imports of goods by £4.59 million with no effect on the export side. As regards tobacco, the adjustment is only on the export side with re-exports estimated at £14.28 million.
3. The inclusion of financial and maritime services as export income increased the value of exports of services by £31.54 million and £3 million respectively.

The value of imputed rents contained within the rent element of the National Income Accounts for the period in question was as follows:

	£ million
1994/95	28.54
1995/96	28.79
1996/97	35.81
1997/98	37.87
1998/99	40.15
1999/00	42.37
2000/01	44.67

I can confirm that no fees have been charged by Professor Fletcher in respect of House of Assembly Questions so far, and that the Input/Output model will be updated but as yet no contractual agreement has been finalised.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1396 TO 1402 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is there a particular reason why in 1996/1997 the imputed rent value went up by £7 million, which was a 25 per cent increase, and then it seems to have sort of settled down to £2 million a year?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I cannot offer the hon Member, without notice of the question, a reason for that. Presumably the reason must be indicated in the working papers that resulted that produced the figures.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In terms of the list of recommendations made in the Mansell Review, which appear from listening to be very extensive, is it that something has only been done that has affected the calculation in respect of the imports and exports, because that seems to be the only ones that he has identified as having had an effect?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Those are the ones that have been implemented that have had an effect. I do not suppose the hon Member was able to take down the full list of recommendations. Well, he can get it when he gets it after the meeting of the House, he can see the whole list in print, otherwise I would have handed him a copy now.

ORAL

NO 1403 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

POBJOY MINT

On what date did the contact with Pobjoy Mint to produce Gibraltar coinage come to an end?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The contract with Pobjoy Mint expired on 31 October 2003.

NO 1404 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

MINTING OF GIBRALTAR COINS

When was the contract for the minting of Gibraltar coins put out to tender, how many parties expressed an interest and who were they?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The tender for the production of circulating coinage and for the production, marketing and distribution of commemorative coinage was put out to tender on 15 May 2002. All UK Mints were invited to tender.

Four bids were received from the following UK Mints:-

Birmingham Mint
The Royal Mint
Pobjoy Mint; and
Tower Mint

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1404 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Chief Minister say what the different bids were, or whether the contract was awarded to the, in this case, cheapest bidder?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is a bit more complex than that, because this is not just a question of price. The Government had grown dissatisfied with the Pobjoy Mint, who were otherwise efficient, but the deal just did not leave enough for the Government. In other words, the Government were getting very little out of those particular arrangements. This agreement that was negotiated with the new tenderer, the new successful tenderer, considerably increases the Gibraltar Government's share of the commercial value of the use of Gibraltar as a jurisdiction for coinage issue, particularly commemorative coinage, and is an altogether more attractive, commercial proposition for the Government, as well as being set up on a more transparent basis than the previous

one. Our disagreement with Pobjoy was not as the result of any unhappiness as to their quality of production or anything of the sort, but it was just not, the hon Member just has to look at the figures in the revenue from these sources over the years to see. For example, now we have a minimum guaranteed revenue which is higher than it used to be all together under the previous arrangements.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

That package, that deal, the best package or deal was the one offered by Tower Mint compared to the Birmingham Mint and the Royal Mint?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, there are extraneous factors in the choice. Let me just say first of all that the Birmingham Mint actually went into liquidation shortly after this tender was issued, so really it was down to three, one of which was the incumbent Pobjoy. The other was Tower and the third was the Royal Mint. There were non financial reasons why the Tower Mint was a better offer for the Government, as well as being the one that was financially more attractive to the Government.

NO 1405 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOWER MINT

Can Government say how and when Tower Mint became known to the Government as having the capacity and interest to mint Gibraltar coinage?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Department of Trade and Industry, which was at that time responsible for coinage, in fact it has subsequently been transferred to the Treasury as a responsibility, but at that stage I think it was from the days the Opposition Members were in Government that it first became DTI, I do not know if it had been before that but it certainly was DTI in their days, I have now actually transferred that function to the Treasury where it more logically belongs, but in any case the Department of Trade and Industry at that time approached all the UK Mints and invited them to tender for the coinage contract. The Tower Mint is one of the four UK Mints.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1405 OF 2004

HON DR J J GARCIA:

I understand that but I think the Tower Mint was not involved in the production of coinage before even though it is called Tower Mint. Is that correct or not?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, it is not correct as the hon Member has stated it. Tower Mint is one of the leading Mints of commemorative coinage and in fact used the same distribution agency network as Pobjoy used to use for the marketing, but they did not have a history in circulating coinage. The difference is basically just security arrangements, the technology is the same, so before giving them the contract, consultants were engaged in the UK by the Treasury, to ensure that they had put in place the necessary security arrangements, and those were checked and audited before the contract was finally confirmed in their favour and production began. So it is in respect of circulating coinage that this is their first major contract, but they were perfectly experienced in commemorative coinage. By commemorative coinage I do not mean, as I read in one of the local newspapers, of chocolate coins. Commemorative coins of the sort that Gibraltar mainly produces, and all other

jurisdictions, but of course the security implications are much greater. The need for security is much greater in the case of circulating coinage.

ORAL

NO 1406 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOWER MINT

Can Government give details of the contract with Tower Mint and explain how this differs from the contract which existed with Pobjoy Mint?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1407 of 2004.

NO 1407 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOWER MINT

Can Government give the reasons why they awarded the contract for the minting of Gibraltar coinage to Tower Mint?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Although the formal contract with Tower Mint has not yet been signed by both parties, the main differences in the contract with Pobjoy Mint and Tower Mint are as follows:

- 1) the cost of supply of circulating coins – Tower Mint prices are lower; and there we are just buying the coins.
- 2) the royalty payments on commemorative coins – the new contract with Tower Mint provides a more equitable share of profits with the Royalties being based on the sale price of coins rather than on the metal value as was the case with Pobjoy Mint. Hon Members should bear in mind that commemorative coins are still legal tender, and therefore the issuing jurisdiction has a technical redemption liability, and a form of contract that gives one as a jurisdiction, with the redeeming obligation a stake only based on the metal value of the metal, where the hon Members can see that that can be very disadvantageous when one has a very high denomination coin with a relatively low metal content value.
- 3) Open Book Accounting – Tower Mint will disclose all accounting details of their coinage operations including costs, sales et cetera. Only limited information was supplied by Pobjoy Mint under the terms of their contract, and to date no details have been forthcoming from them on the sales value of Gibraltar coins sold by them nor on the cost of such sales.
- 4) A proper distinction between commemorative coins and circulating coins are now made and of the royalties payable in each case.

The award of the contract was based on an evaluation of the tender submissions by the various mints. Apart from considerations regarding adequacy of infrastructure and security requirements, other factors taken into account in the selection of the successful tender included:

- 1) Cost of circulating coins to Government.
- 2) Level of Royalty Payments for Commemorative Coins.
- 3) High level of transparency in accounting.

ORAL

NO 1408 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOWER MINT

On what date did the Government commence negotiations with Tower Mint for the production of Gibraltar coinage, and on what date was the agreement concluded?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The tender was awarded to Tower Mint on 23 September 2003.

Based on the tender submissions, which were agreed to by the Government, a formal contract has been drawn up and this is expected to be formally executed by both parties shortly. Nevertheless, work on the first designs, both circulating and commemorative coins, is already at an advanced stage and these will be minted shortly.

ORAL

NO 1409 OF 2004

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOWER MINT

Can Government say whether there is a Gibraltar agent for Tower Mint and if so who is it?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

We do not believe that there is a Gibraltar agent but certainly the Government through the Treasury deals directly with Tower Mint in the United Kingdom and not through any local agent.

ORAL

NO 1410 OF 2004

THE HON L A RANDALL

SALE OF BANK NOTES

Can Government state whether the system for the sale of the banknotes via the internet is now operational?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

No, it is not.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1410 OF 2004

HON L A RANDALL:

Can the Chief Minister give us any idea as to when in effect it will be operational by, in view of the comments made by the Auditor in Part 2(10).5 of the 2001/2002 Report?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Treasury is presently reviewing a proposal for the sale of bank notes by the Gibraltar Philatelic Bureau.

ORAL

NO 1411 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX - £5,000 ALLOWANCE

Can Government state what steps they have taken to establish whether the introduction of £5,000 tax allowance in respect of income from investment has resulted in an increase in personal investment savings?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1412 of 2004.

NO 1412 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX - £5,000 ALLOWANCE

Can Government state how many taxpayers claimed the £5,000 tax allowance in respect of investment income introduced in the Tax Year 2002/2003?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Given that there are many factors that influence the saving habits of individuals, Government cannot gauge with any degree of accuracy the effect of any one of these factors on the collective savings of the tax paying population. Neither can it be ascertained, with any degree of accuracy, if there has been an increase in personal investment and savings as a direct result of the Budget 2002 measures to increase from £600 to £5,000 the exemption from income tax that individuals enjoy on their investment income.

It is also not possible to provide the hon Member with a figure for the number of tax payers that have benefited from Government's decision to increase the exemption limit.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1411 AND 1412 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

When it was announced in the Budget, what the Government said was that in fact this was being done to encourage savings, I would have thought they would want to know whether that objective was being achieved or not.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Not everything in life that one would want is possible. This is not Christmas every day of the year for the Government. There is no means, there is no mechanism to.... How can Government measure whether there has been an increase in savings? Let alone what the reason for the increase in savings is, even if we could follow the savings patterns of locals, one could never say that it is attributable to the fact of the increase in the allowance. One might want to deduce it but there is no means. It is not that we are not interested, these things are done in the knowledge that it will have an effect, but one cannot necessarily measure what the quantum effect is. Nor,

incidentally, does the existence of the allowance necessarily lead to more savings. It is a way of sort of rewarding people who choose to save. In other words, if one saves one can get a bit more income without paying tax on it. There is not necessarily the nexus between the two issues that the hon Member assumes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I only assumed it because that is how I understood the initiative when it was taken. To be an initiative of the Government with the purpose of encouraging more saving to take place. I think he actually said that at the time.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not recall if I said it or not, but I am not saying that I did or that I did not. Certainly, this was a tax measure and as a tax measure it is just a way of giving money back to certain categories of taxpayers. At the end of the day I suppose the nexus can be made. In other words, if people think 'if I save money and I invest it, the tax man is going to take 35 per cent of it'. I suppose they might be more encouraged to save if the tax man is not going to take 35 per cent of it. It is just another way of delivering tax cuts.

ORAL

NO 1413 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX – OCCUPATIONAL PENSIONS

Can Government state whether persons in receipt of an occupational pension from Gibraltar who are living in Spain are entitled to deduct personal allowances in respect of the tax chargeable on such pensions?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1414 of 2004.

NO 1414 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX – INVESTMENT INCOME

Can Government say whether persons living in Spain are taxed on investment income arising in Gibraltar, and if so, whether personal allowances are deductible from such income?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The information sought by Question No. 1413 and Question No. 1414 is governed by law and is contained in the provisions of the Income Tax Ordinance and subsidiary legislation.

Rule 24 of the Income Tax (Allowances, Deductions and Exemptions) Rules provides that any non-resident individual, irrespective of nationality, who is in receipt of a pension accruing in, derived from, or received in Gibraltar is entitled to deductions, allowances and reliefs as if he was a resident in Gibraltar.

Rule 3(12) of the same Rules exempt from tax any interest received in respect of deposits in Gibraltar in any bank or building society by any non-resident individual.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1413 AND 1414 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

In respect of the second one, the investment income, is that limited to deposits and investments? For example, would somebody having a business here and drawing income from that business be covered by that Rule?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No it is banked deposits.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So in terms of investment income of that other nature, it would be taxable....

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, taxed, if the hon Member will give me the opportunity just to modify my answer to make sure it is complete. The Rule also exempts from tax, interest received by any exempt company. So it is individuals or exempt companies.

HON J J BOSSANO:

But it still.....

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, it is still deposit income.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So an investor, for example, who is a resident in Spain but actually has a business here and gets a dividend, that is taxable.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Absolutely.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is that profit taxable? Can he claim personal allowances against that or not?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, there was a time when I used to charge a fee for giving tax advice. My understanding is that with the exception of this regulation, many of the other normal tax allowances depend on residence. Some do and some do not. For example, the mortgage interest relief depends on the property being in Gibraltar. I think the insurance premium, life insurance, that is for residents, so the same rule does not necessarily apply to all the allowances.

ORAL

NO 1415 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX – PAYE

Can Government now state what was the amount of PAYE payable in the tax year 1995/1996 by area of employment and number of employees in each area as follows:

- (a) MOD;
- (b) Government of Gibraltar;
- (c) Government Owned and Joint Venture Companies;
- (d) Private Sector Employment.

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1416 to 1423 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1416 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX – PAYE

Can Government now state what was the amount of PAYE payable in the tax year 1996/1997 by area of employment and number of employees in each area as follows:

- (a) MOD;
- (b) Government of Gibraltar;
- (c) Government Owned and Joint Venture Companies;
- (d) Private Sector Employment.

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1415 and 1417 to 1423 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1417 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX – PAYE

What is now the current estimated amount of PAYE payable for the tax year 2002/2003 by area of employment and the number of employees as follows:

- (a) MOD;
- (b) Gibraltar Government;
- (c) Government owned joint venture companies;
- (d) Private sector?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1415 to 1416 and 1418 to 1423 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1418 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX – PAYE

What is the amount of tax collected in PAYE in the financial year 2003/2004 by area of employment as follows:

- (a) MOD;
- (b) Gibraltar Government;
- (c) Government owned joint venture companies; and
- (d) Private sector employment?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1415 to 1417 and 1419 to 1423 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1419 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX – PAYE

Can Government state what was the total arrears of PAYE as at the 31 March 2004, giving a breakdown by previous tax years from 1988/1989 to 2002/2003?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1415 to 1418 and 1420 to 1423 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1420 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX – PAYE

How much was collected in PAYE each month since November 2003?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1425 to 1419 and 1421 to 1423 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1421 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX – PAYE

As at the end of March 2004 how many employers had returned their 2002/2003 Employer's Declaration and PAYE Certificate and what was the total amount of tax deducted and the number of employees involved?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1415 to 1420 and 1422 to 1423 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1422 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX – PAYE

As at the end of March 2004 how many of the employers who had returned their 2002/2003 Employer's Declaration and PAYE Certificate had not paid the full amount of PAYE deducted and what was the shortfall?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1415 to 1421 and 1423 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1423 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX – PAYE

As at the end of March 2004 how many employers had not yet returned their 2002/2003 Employer's Declaration and PAYE Certificate and what is the estimated number of employees?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The only recompense for the hard work that goes into producing this information is that whilst he is number crunching and considering it, he cannot be doing anything else. I hand the hon Member a schedule containing the information he has requested.

Answer to Question No 1415 of 2004

Based on the 1995/1996 Employers' Annual Statement, Declaration and Certificate submitted up to 21 April 2004 the information sought is as follows:

	£m	Approximate No of Employees/Deduction Cards
a) MOD	4.5	2750
b) Gibraltar Government	13.3	5500
c) Government owned and joint venture companies	2.0	550
d) Private Sector employment	<u>22.1</u>	<u>12650</u>
	====	=====

Answer to Question No 1416 of 2004

Based on the 1996/1997 Employers' Annual Statement, Declaration and Certificate submitted up to 21 April 2004 the information sought is as follows:

	£m	Approximate No of Employees/Deduction Cards
a) MOD	4.5	2850
b) Gibraltar Government	13.6	5500
c) Government owned and joint venture companies	2.3	1150
d) Private Sector employment	<u>22.1</u>	<u>12700</u>
	====	=====

Answer to Question No 1417 of 2004

Based on the 2002/2003 Employers' Annual Statement, Declaration and Certificate submitted up to 21 April 2004 the information sought is as follows:

	£m	Approximate No of Employees/Deduction Cards
a) MOD	4.7	2650
b) Gibraltar Government	21.1	6050
c) Government owned and joint venture companies	3.1	700
d) Private Sector employment	<u>32.3</u>	<u>16600</u>
	====	=====

cont'd.....

Answer to Question No1418 of 2004

The exact total amount of PAYE collected in the financial year ended 31 March 2004 is currently pending the reconciliation of the records of the Income Tax Office with the Treasury Books. The following analysis includes an estimate in respect of March 2004 PAYE tax accounted through the Treasury Books and is therefore subject to change.

	£M
(a) MOD	5.0
(b) Government of Gibraltar	24.1
(c) Government owned and joint venture companies	3.0
(d) Private Sector employment	<u>32.0</u>
	<u>64.1</u>

Answer to Question No 1419 of 2004

Total arrears of PAYE tax as at 31 March 2004.

Pre 1988/89	12,883.95
1988/1989	9,733.92
1989/1990	39,508.43
1990/1991	83,666.65
1991/1992	57,406.79
1992/1993	157,788.45
1993/1994	114,602.17
1994/1995	114,747.75
1995/1996	141,944.35
1996/1997	214,737.60
1997/1998	368,988.44
1998/1999	608,317.41
1999/2000	526,845.26
2000/2001	841,162.82
2001/2002	2,540,177.42
2002/2003	2,605,382.26
2003/2004	6,061.07
Total	£ 8,443,954.74

cont'd....

Answer to Question No 1420 of 2004

The PAYE (net of refunds) collected since November 2003 is as follows:-

	£m
December 2003	5.2
January 2004	6.8
February 2004	6.0
March 2004	6.2 (Estimate)

Answer to Question No 1421 of 2004

A total of 1681 returns for the year 2002/2003 had been received at the Income Tax Office by the 22 April 2004. The total PAYE tax deducted and payable was £61.2m in respect of 26016 employee/deduction cards.

Answer to Question No 1422 of 2004

Based on the 2002/2003 Annual PAYE Employer's Returns received at the Income Tax Office by the 31 March 2004, 225 such employers owed PAYE tax totalling £2.6m

Answer to Question No 1423 of 2004

As at 31 March 2004, 310 employers had not returned their 2002/2003 Employer's Declaration and PAYE Certificate. The estimated number of employees affected was 532.

ORAL

NO 1424 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX – SELF EMPLOYED

Can Government state as at the end of March 2004 what were the amounts assessed in respect of self-employed persons for each tax year 1995/1996 to 2002/2003 giving the amounts discharged, confirmed and paid and the number of taxpayers involved in each year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I hand the hon Member a schedule giving the information he has requested.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1424 OF 2004

	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Assessed	8.0	8.5	11.1	11.1	46.4	14.6	14.5	8.9
Discharged	5.5	5.5	7.1	6.9	41.9	9.1	8.3	3.8
	2.5	3.0	4.0	4.2	4.5	5.5	6.2	5.1
Paid	2.0	2.4	2.8	3.1	3.4	3.6	3.7	2.9
Outstanding	0.5	0.6	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.9	2.5	2.2
No. of Taxpayers	1236	1216	1252	1232	1265	1193	1075	871

ORAL

NO 1425 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX – ASSESSMENTS

Can Government state what is the most recent tax year for which tax assessments have been completed in respect of individuals?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The year of assessment 1999/2000 is the most recent year that the issue of income tax assessments on individuals on the PAYE system has been completed. Also issued are approximately 50 per cent of the assessments for the year of assessment 2000/2001.

ORAL

NO 1426 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CATEGORY 2 STATUS

Can Government state in respect of each tax year since 1995/1996 how many High Net Worth or Category 2 Individuals were liable to a tax payment of either £10,000 or in excess of £10,000?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1427 to 1432 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1427 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CATEGORY 2 STATUS

Can Government state in respect of each tax year since 1995/1996 how much tax was payable in respect of all the High Net Worth and Category 2 Individuals registered in each particular year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1426 and 1428 to 1432 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1428 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CATEGORY 2 STATUS

Can Government say as at the 31 March 2004 how much had been collected in respect of tax due from High Net Worth or Category 2 Individuals for each tax year from 1995/1996?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1426 to 1427 and 1429 to 1432 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1429 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CATEGORY 2 STATUS

How much revenue was received in respect of tax paid by High Net Worth and Category 2 Individuals in the financial year 2001/2002, and in which category in the breakdown given in paragraph 3.1.1 on page 20 of the Principal Auditor's Report of that financial year, is this sum reflected?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1426 to 1428 and 1430 to 1432 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1430 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CATEGORY 2 STATUS

Can Government state in respect of each tax year, since 1995/1996, how many High Net Worth or Category 2 Individuals were liable to a tax payment of:

- (a) £10,000;
- (b) in excess of £10,000,

and in each case the total amount of tax liability in respect of all such individuals?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1426 to 1429 and 1431 to 1432 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1431 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CATEGORY 2 STATUS

Can Government state in respect of each tax year since 1995/1996 how much of the tax liability in respect of High Net Worth and Category 2 Individuals had been paid by the 31 December 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1426 to 1430 and 1432 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1432 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CATEGORY 2 STATUS

Can Government state in respect of each financial year since 1995/1996, how much income was received from the payment of tax by High Net Worth or Category 2 Individuals?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The data sought by the hon Member in Question Nos. 1426 to 1432 of 2004 is not available in the format required. However, I can, and now do, hand the hon Member a comprehensive table providing detailed information regarding the assessment and collection of tax payable by High Net Worth and Category 2 Individuals for the years of assessment 1995/1996 to 2002/2003. In other words, this is the most information that can be provided.

Answer to Question 1432 of 2004

	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/2000	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03
Individuals with liability of £10,000 or less	48	55	72	83	106	142	148	138
	£M	£M	£M	£M	£M	£M	£M	£M
Tax payable	0.49	0.56	0.72	0.82	0.94	1.21	1.31	1.32
Tax paid	<u>0.41</u>	<u>0.49</u>	<u>0.68</u>	<u>0.76</u>	<u>0.86</u>	<u>1.07</u>	<u>1.22</u>	<u>1.14</u>
Outstanding	<u>0.08</u>	<u>0.07</u>	<u>0.04</u>	<u>0.06</u>	<u>0.08</u>	<u>0.14</u>	<u>0.09</u>	<u>0.18</u>

Individuals with liability of £10,000 or more	7	21	39	42	35	40	41	35
	£M	£M	£M	£M	£M	£M	£M	£M
Tax payable	0.14	0.43	0.78	0.85	0.68	0.76	0.75	0.62
Tax paid	<u>0.06</u>	<u>0.11</u>	<u>0.26</u>	<u>0.39</u>	<u>0.44</u>	<u>0.51</u>	<u>0.48</u>	<u>0.44</u>
Outstanding	<u>0.08</u>	<u>0.32</u>	<u>0.53</u>	<u>0.46</u>	<u>0.24</u>	<u>0.25</u>	<u>0.27</u>	<u>0.18</u>

In answer to the second part of Question 1429 of 2004 I can confirm that the tax paid by High Net Worth and Category 2 Individuals is reduced under 'Individuals' in the breakdown shown in paragraph 3.1.1 on page 20 of the Principal Auditor's Report for the financial year 2001/2002.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1426 TO 1432 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is there a mechanism whereby they lose the status if they do not pay? Is there a time limit?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is a good question. The certificate is issued and to be withdrawn it would have to be recovered. In other words, it would have to be cancelled. There is, to my knowledge, there would almost be no point if they are not paying, withdrawing the certificate would expose them. The ones that do not pay are not here. This is the problem, they have gone. So there would be, I suppose, some theoretical effect of exposure but no probability of recovery. So yes, we can recover the certificate, one can even cancel the status but it will not necessarily result in any further collections of tax.

ORAL

NO 1433 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX – INCOME BELOW £7,000

Can Government state in respect of the tax year 2001/2002, how many persons had a taxable income below £7,000?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1434 to 1444 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1434 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX – INCOME BELOW £7,000

Can Government state of the persons who had a taxable income below £7,000 for the tax year 2001/2002, how many were eligible to apply for the tax refund of up to £100?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1433 and 1435 to 1444 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1435 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX – INCOME BELOW £7,000

Can Government state for the persons eligible for a tax refund of up to £100 because they had a taxable income below £7,000 in the tax year 2001/2002, how many have applied to date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1433 to 1434 and 1436 to 1444 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1436 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX – INCOME BELOW £7,000

Of the persons who have applied to date for the tax refund of up to £100 because they had a taxable income below £7,000 in the tax year 2001/2002, how many have been granted the refund, and what has been the total amount refunded in respect of such persons?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1433 to 1435 and 1437 to 1444 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1437 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX – REFUNDS

Of the persons who have applied to date for a tax refund of up to £100, how many had a tax liability of £100 or less and how many had a tax liability of more than £100?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1433 to 1436 and 1438 to 1444 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1438 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX – INCOME BELOW £8,000

Can Government state in respect of the tax year 2002/2003, how many persons had a taxable income below £8,000?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1433 to 1437 and 1439 to 1444 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1439 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX – INCOME BELOW £8,000

Can Government state of the persons who had a taxable income below £8,000 for the tax year 2002/2003, how many were eligible to apply for the tax refund of up to £130.00?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1433 to 1438 and 1440 to 1444 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1440 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX – INCOME BELOW £8,000

Can Government state for the persons eligible for a tax refund of up to £130.00 because they had a taxable income below £8,000 in the year 2002/2003, how many have applied to date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1433 to 1439 and 1441 to 1444 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1441 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX – INCOME BELOW £8,000

Of the persons who have applied to date for the tax refund of up to £130.00 because they had a taxable income below £8,000 in the tax year 2002/2003, how many have been granted the refund, and what has been the total amount refunded in respect of such persons?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1433 to 1440 and 1442 to 1444 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1442 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX – INCOME BELOW £7,000

Can Government state whether persons with income below £7,000 in respect of the year 2001/2002 whose employers have not paid their PAYE have been able to claim their £100.00 refund?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1433 to 1441 and 1443 to 1444 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1443 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX – INCOME BELOW £8,000

Can Government state whether persons with income below £8,000 in respect of the year 2002/2003 whose employers have not paid their PAYE have been able to claim their £130.00 refund?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1433 to 1442 and 1444 of 2004.

NO 1444 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX – REFUNDS

Can Government state what is the position of employees whose assessments show that they are due a tax refund in cases where the employer has not paid their PAYE?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

There are a number of errors in terminology and concept in the hon Member's questions. The first is that this is not a matter of a refund, this is a matter of a tax credit. One can deduce, however, from his questions that he is referring to the Low Income Earner's Tax Credit, which are the only things to which the figure of £7,000 and £8,000 of income relate. So I am answering the question to the extent that it is possible to answer the questions, ignoring all references to refunds and assuming that they are references to entitlement to tax credit, it is not a refund as such.

The detailed administrative statistical data that the hon Member seeks is not available. However, I can appraise him on the legislation and the operational measures introduced to give effect to that Budget measure, information that hopefully will allow him to formulate substantive supplementary questions on the Tax Credit if he wishes to.

Before I do so, however, I need to point out that the information relates to taxable income that the hon Member seeks in eight of his questions, is irrelevant to issues regarding the tax credit given that the tax credit is based on the assessable income of tax payers and not on taxable income.

The tax credit is a mechanism by which tax payers, whose computed assessable income is equal to or less than £7,000 in the year of assessment 2001/2002, or equal to or less than £8,000 in the years of assessment 2002/2003 and 2003/2004, are entitled to a credit amounting to a deduction or a reduction of their liability of £100 in the first year and £130 in the year 2002/2003 and £230 in the case of year 2003/2004. Where an individual's tax liability does not exceed the amount of the entitlement, the tax credit is obviously limited to the amount of the liability. In other words, there is no net balance in favour of the tax payer. It is the amount of the liability or the tax credit, whichever is greater.

The Commissioner of Income Tax, in accordance with the legislation enacted when the tax credit was introduced, does not require tax payers to claim the deduction as is required for the normal allowances, for example, life insurance or mortgage interest relief. Entitlement to the deduction is established at assessment time when the

necessary deduction is made from the total liability due. In other words, this is not something that is claimed by the tax payer. If somebody submits a return and the figure qualifies, it is simply factored in by the Income Tax Office.

The tax credit is therefore allowed at assessment time. There is, as I informed the hon Member in answer to previous questions, a backlog in the issue of assessments to those on the PAYE system. Consequently, the benefit has, in the main, not yet filtered through to those it targets. Every effort is being made to reduce the backlog and it is expected that the issue of 2001/2002 assessments, that is the year that the deduction kicks in, will commence before the end of the year.

In answer to Question No. 1444, I can inform the hon Member that assessments on those whose employer has not paid over the PAYE tax deducted are not raised until payment is made. The legislation, in circumstances where an employer has failed to pay over to Government any PAYE tax deducted, does not allow the Commissioner of Income Tax to set off that tax against the tax otherwise chargeable. Therefore unless the tax deducted is actually paid over there is no tax credit.

However, there is no loss to any individual as the legislation allows the tax not paid by the employer to be set off once the amount not paid over has been abandoned and written off. So in other words, there is a sort of deferment of value rather than a loss of value.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1433 TO 1444 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

Let me say that when the Chief Minister announced the £8,000 and £130, which was of course before the Election, he actually said in his speech that he urged people to claim the £100 credit for the allowance. That is why I have used the word 'claim'.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

That was before the legislation was done. This was the measure. When it came to doing the legislation it was decided to eliminate the need for the claim. People have to claim the Homeowners Allowance for example, but this was done in the form of tax credit. In other words, it is a credit, evident from the..... I am not sure I actually said that.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I can produce Hansard for him, I read it before I wrote the question, but I accept the point. If the legislation subsequently did something different then I had not noticed that change in the legislation. This business of it not being a refund, surely if people have not been given the credit before the tax has been deducted, then will the credit not result in a refund when the assessment is made? If somebody has £7,000 in the year 2001/2002 and in the near future they are going to be identified as someone that should have had the credit, that will mean they will get £100 refunded, if they have paid £100, yes?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, that is why I said at the beginning that it was a matter of terminology. A refund, in the language of tax administration, is when one gets back tax that one has paid. This is not getting back tax that one has paid, this is the tax bill being reduced before one pays it, to reduce the amount that one pays. There is no refund as such, and even in the case that he has just explained of the people whose entitlement is in fact deferred, in the event that their employer has not paid their PAYE, it will still be a credit.

HON J J BOSSANO:

No, I am afraid I do not think that he has understood my question. I am saying, when this starts happening there are bound to be people who will have an assessment made which does not require them to pay more tax. It will result in a repayment of the tax that they have paid because of the £100 but that is not a refund.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, it is not a refund. There is a difference between a refund, in terms of tax assessment there is a difference between a refund and a tax credit. Of course if the assessment is in arrears, and the effect of a credit is to reduce the amount of tax payable to the amount of tax that was actually deducted in PAYE and paid over, then that will result in money being due to the taxpayer, but it does not arise in the form of the way refunds normally arise. It is a tax credit. I do not want to make too much of that point, I just did not want the hon Member to think that the way this works is that the tax is calculated, a sum is declared payable, the taxpayer pays it and then he is returned money. The mechanism is that it is allowed above the line so to speak. In other words, the credit is credited before the amount of tax payable is calculated, but of course in cash flow terms, if a payment is due one gets a cheque in the post. If that is the hon Member's definition of refund, yes, to that extent.

HON J J BOSSANO:

It will always have to be delivered like that, because in fact, how can the Tax know.....?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is in the case of PAYE people not the self-employed.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well how is the Tax going to know that somebody is below £7,000 until after they have received the return by which time surely the tax has been paid?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Only in the case of PAYE payers. In the case of self-employed people, there is no payment in advance of assessment. That is the importance of distinguishing them. The mechanics, even though the result is a cheque in the post in the case of PAYE payers, the correct analysis is not of a refund because in respect of those taxpayers who are not on the PAYE system, self-employed, it is not a refund even as he is defining it, because it never comes to that.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In practice, given that there are 500 self-employed and 26,000 PAYE, and that one assumes that there are not all that many people self-employed for £7,000, which is below the minimum wage, unless there is something very peculiar in their returns, there may be people who say they only make £7,000 self-employed but I cannot see why they are doing that instead of working as labourers on the minimum wage.

ORAL

NO 1445 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX – CORPORATION TAX

As at the end of March 2004, how many companies in each tax year 1995/1996 to 2002/2003 had been assessed for company tax, and what were the amounts of tax payable and paid in respect of each tax year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1446 to 1449 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1446 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX – CORPORATION TAX

As at the end of March 2004 how many companies, in each tax year 1995/1996 to 2002/2003 had been assessed for company tax, and what were the amounts of tax payable and paid in respect of each tax year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1445 and 1447 to 1449 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1447 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX – CORPORATION TAX

As at the end of March 2004 how many companies had been assessed by the Commissioner of Income Tax without having made a return of taxable profit:

- (a) below £35,000; and
- (b) above £35,000 for the years 1998/1999 to 2002/2003,

what was the tax assessed and paid in each case and for each category and each year and what were the amounts assessed and paid by qualifying companies?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1445 to 1446 and 1448 to 1449 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1448 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX – CORPORATION TAX

What was the amount of Company Tax collected in each month since November 2003?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1445 to 1447 and 1449 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1449 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX – CORPORATION TAX

As at the end of March 2004 how many companies had declared taxable profits:

- (a) above £35,000; and
- (b) below £35,000

for each of the tax years 1998/1999 to 2002/2003, what was the tax assessed and paid in each category and can Government state in each category and for each year how many were qualifying companies and what were the amounts of tax assessed and paid by such companies?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

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

Question No 1445 duplicates Question No 1446 and is therefore ignored in this answer.

Answer to Question 1446 of 2004

	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Assessed	15.8	15.6	18.6	25.1	88.2	26.6	24.6	25.8
Discharged	5.6	4.9	7.8	12.0	74.0	13.0	10.9	13.0
	10.2	10.7	10.8	13.1	14.2	13.6	13.7	12.8
Paid	9.5	10.3	10.3	12.5	13.6	12.7	12.9	11.0
Outstanding	0.7	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.9	0.8	1.8
No. of Companies	1443	1418	1465	1445	1522	1538	1430	1294

Answer to Question 1447 of 2004

COMPANIES OTHER THAN QUALIFYING COMPANIES

YEAR OF ASSESSMENT	1998/1999	1999/2000	2000/2001	2001/2002	2002/2003
	£	£	£	£	£
Under £35,000					
No of Companies assessed	806	655	411	460	577
Total assessed (i.e. total tax payable)	1.6M	1.1M	0.8M	1.0M	1.4M
Total paid	1.2M	0.7M	0.3M	0.3M	0.3M
OVER £35,000					
No of Companies assessed	45	36	9	22	31
Total assessed (i.e. total tax payable)	2.9M	2.7M	0.2M	1.4M	1.3M
Total paid	2.8M	2.6M	0.1M	1.2M	0.8M
QUALIFYING COMPANIES					
UNDER £35,000					
No of Companies assessed	12	13	11	1	2
Total assessed (i.e. total tax payable)	13K	13K	13K	1K	3K
Total paid	3K	1K	NIL	NIL	NIL
OVER £35,000					
No of Companies assessed	1	4	5	NIL	NIL
Total assessed (i.e. total tax payable)	18K	0.3M	0.4M	NIL	NIL
Total paid	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL

Answer to Question No 1448 of 2004

The Corporation Tax collected (net of refunds) in each month since November 2003 is as follows:

	£M
December 2003	0.3
January 2004	0.3
February 2004	0.3
March 2004	6.6

Answer to Question No 1449 of 2004

COMPANIES OTHER THAN QUALIFYING COMPANIES

	Year of Assessment				
	1998/1999	1999/2000	2000/2001	2001/2002	2002/2003
	£	£	£	£	£
<u>Under £35,000</u>					
No of Companies assessed	197	262	329	351	278
Total assessed (i.e. total tax payable)	461K	515K	767K	824K	695K
Total paid	438K	479K	729K	768K	646K
<u>Over £35,000</u>					
No of Companies assessed	63	73	96	103	100
Total assessed (i.e. total tax payable)	5.3M	7.5M	10.2M	10.1M	10.6M
Total paid	5.2M	7.5M	10.1M	10.0M	10.4M

QUALIFYING COMPANIES

Under £35,000

No of Companies assessed	6	9	6	6	1
Total assessed (i.e. total tax payable)	3K	6K	3K	4K	0.2K
Total paid	3K	6K	3K	3K	0.2K

Over £35,000

No of Companies assessed	9	20	23	16	4
Total assessed (i.e. total tax payable)	852K	1.7M	1.4M	856K	164K
Total paid	852K	1.7M	1.4M	672K	96K

ORAL

NO 1450 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

QUALIFYING COMPANIES

Can Government explain why only 29 qualifying companies were assessed for company tax for the tax year 1998/1999 by January 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1451 to 1454 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1451 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

QUALIFYING COMPANIES

Can Government explain why only 46 qualifying companies were assessed for company tax for the tax year 1999/2000 by January 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1450 and 1452 to 1454 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1452 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

QUALIFYING COMPANIES

Can Government explain why only 47 qualifying companies were assessed for company tax for the tax year 2000/2001 by January 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1450 to 1451 and 1453 to 1454 of 2004.

ORAL

NO 1453 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

QUALIFYING COMPANIES

Can Government explain why only 13 qualifying companies were assessed for company tax for the tax year 2001/2002 by January 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1450 to 1452 and 1454 of 2004.

NO 1454 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

QUALIFYING COMPANIES

Can Government explain why only five qualifying companies were assessed for company tax for the tax year 2002/2003 by January 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I am advised by the Commissioner of Income Tax that as at the end of December 2003, all Qualifying companies that required the issue of an assessment for any of the years of assessment 1998/1999, 1999/2000 and 2000/2001 had had an assessment raised.

As at the same date the issue of estimated 2001/2002 assessments was delayed and the issue of estimated 2002/2003 assessments was, following departmental practice, not yet due. Estimated assessments are issued in cases where financial accounts are not submitted to the Income Tax Office and the Commissioner is of the opinion that a company may be in receipt of taxable profits.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1450 TO 1454 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

The figures that I have quoted are the figures from the answer provided to Question No. 552 of 2004, which is the equivalent of the information I have been given in this House, where the figures may have gone up, but at that time, if they had all been assessed on that date as we have just been told, then presumably there will be no difference in the numbers that I have been given today compared to the numbers that I was given in January. In answer to a previous question he said that the Tax Office considered there were 85 Qualifying Companies trading. Well, there are not 85 in any year either in the answer he gave me in January or in the answer he has given me today.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Indeed, if what the hon Member wants to do is try to reconcile the number of assessments raised with the number of companies with qualifying status, it is not an exercise that would be constructive for him to try. There are, as he says,

approximately 100 I cannot remember the figure in the answer I gave him earlier in this meeting, companies with qualifying status. The Tax Office nevertheless raises assessments only on those companies that to the best of its knowledge have taxable profits.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I see. So there must be a reason why they thought there were 47 of those in 2001 and only 13 in 2002.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The issue of estimated 2001/2002 assessments and 2002/2003 assessments on those qualifying companies that have not submitted accounts will be undertaken shortly.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I could understand it if in fact there was an indication here that if the ones that had submitted accounts is less, the ones who have been assessed for not submitting accounts was higher, but that is not the pattern in the answers he has given me. The pattern shows that, and if I may remind the Chief Minister, although we have had a figure of qualifying companies that were trading which was over 100, but what he said was that the ones that the Tax Office considered to be trading, and that actually means actually making money, was 85, that was the figure he gave me in answer to an earlier question. That the Tax Office treated 85 of them as actually trading and therefore, although I was relating I must say, the figures I have been given to the 147. Even when we relate it to the 85, in the information he has provided today for example, in 2001 we have 29 that made returns and 29 that did not make returns. There is another lot that either did not make it or made it. I would have thought they would have to fall into one or the other, they make it or they did not make it.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes. Of the ones who make returns, of course there may not be an assessment because they may show no profit. Not all qualifying companies are profitable. I happen to know that quite a lot of resource goes into the administration of this area of tax, because they think there are companies that if there is something to be paid would pay quickly and it is not for me to defend the nitty gritty of the tax administration system, but it seems to me that companies fall into three categories. They could be those who submit returns showing a profit, which would then be assessed because there will be something payable. Those who submit a return, accounts rather, showing a loss, in which case there is nothing to assess. Or those that have a qualifying certificate but do not submit returns. Now, that last category may include two types of company. It may include companies that are active, either profitably or unprofitably, we do not know, and who simply default in submitting a return. The only reason why they have qualifying status is usually for some overseas tax planning purpose and it would be very unusual that such a company would prejudice that to save themselves tax, which in any case he has volunteered to pay. Otherwise he would have applied for exempt status. The third category could then include companies who do not submit accounts and are not trading and are defunct

and the system has not yet recognised the fact that they are defunct, but it is highly unlikely that somebody liable to pay money into the coffers, does not do so. Remember these guys are doing this voluntarily, they could be on a certificate that requires them to pay nothing, namely an exempt certificate. There are a few exceptions to that obviously. There are a couple of local trading companies with qualifying status that do not fall into that generic description.

ORAL

NO 1455 OF 2004

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX – CORPORATION TAX

Can Government confirm that the answer given to Question No 555 of 2004 regarding the difference in the number of total companies and those liable to tax, also applies to the number of companies since 1988/1989 given in answer to Question Nos 552, 553 and 554 of 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I can provide the hon Member the confirmation he requires on the assumption that the reference to 1988/1989 in the question is a typographical error, and that the correct year is 1998/1999.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1455 OF 2004

HON J J BOSSANO:

Yes.