

ORAL

NO. 1 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

CEMETERY

Can Government state the commencement and the finishing date for the works in connection with the refurbishment and beautification of the North Front Cemetery?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

The contractor is currently mobilising for the works and is programmed to start on site in April 2006, with an anticipated completion date of December 2006.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1 OF 2006

HON L A RANDALL:

Can the Government confirm that in the contract of the works there exist such things as penalty payments or progress payments or how is the sum of £630,000 odd to be paid to the contractor?

HON J J NETTO:

I am not sure whether in this specific contract there is penalty payments as such but I would dare say that it is normally a standard form of contract which will include it, but to be honest I have not seen the contract itself so I cannot categorically tell him that it is included but I will say that it is normally in a standard form.

HON L A RANDALL:

Would the Minister be so kind as to inform me whether this is in fact the case, at a later date in writing?

HON J J NETTO:

So long as the hon Member writes to me I would be more than welcome to pass the information to him.

ORAL

NO. 2 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT

Can Government state whether they have now received the consultant's report in respect of the Sewage Treatment Plant?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

The Consultant's report on the preliminary study and assessment of this project was received in early January. This is currently receiving the Government's consideration.

NO. 3 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

DUDLEY WARD TUNNEL

Can the Government state the date on which they propose to open Dudley Ward Tunnel for vehicular traffic and what is the latest estimated cost of the project?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

No Sir. Neither the proposed opening date nor a meaningful cost estimate can be provided as yet.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 3 OF 2006

HON L A RANDALL:

What route will the cement lorries that will deliver obviously cement to the works follow in Gibraltar?

HON J J NETTO:

I am not quite sure I have understood the question, could he please repeat that?

HON L A RANDALL:

Yes, cement lorries will deliver cement on site for the works to commence, what route will they follow from the frontier to the site?

HON J J NETTO:

The hon Member needs to clarify what site he is referring to.

HON L A RANDALL:

I am sorry, the south district site.

HON J J NETTO:

I would need notice of that question to be able to indicate a proper answer.

HON L A RANDALL:

I will write to him again.

NO. 4 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

SOUTH BARRACK ROAD

Can Government provide an indication of when the road works being carried out outside the entrance to the car park of the Gibtelecom premises at South Barrack Road will be concluded and when they propose to resurface the stretch of road from the entrance to the garage at Brympton to the top of Sunny Side Steps, which is in an advanced state of dilapidation?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

The trenches which have been excavated outside the Gibtelecom premises at South Barrack Road are not Government works. It can however be stated that representations have been made to the contractor and the entity responsible for the works, Gibtelecom, to have these completed without further delay.

With regard to the resurfacing of the named stretch of South Barrack Road, this remains under consideration. However, repairs are programmed to shortly be undertaken to improve the situation.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 4 OF 2006

HON L A RANDALL:

Am I correct that given that it is a private contractor the Government have to authorise the works on the roads?

HON J J NETTO:

Yes, that is correct.

HON L A RANDALL:

Is a stipulated period of time given to the contractor to complete the works?

HON J J NETTO:

Normally there is but I am not quite sure in this particular contract.

HON L A RANDALL:

The object of the question is that the works have been going on for months and there seems to be little progress, in fact a hole for the third time was just opened and it is there waiting for somebody to come and do something with it and it seems to be going on and on and unless something is done about it.....

HON J J NETTO:

Yes, I can echo the same sentiments on this side of the House and that is why I said that the Technical Services Department has made observations and comments with regard to this and will be making some further comments if it needs to, to improve the situation.

ORAL

NO. 5 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

ROAD WORKS

Can Government state the areas of Gibraltar's public highways that were resurfaced during the period December 2005 to date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Since the award of the Highways Term Maintenance contract a number of roads have been resurfaced, namely:

1. Smith Dorrien Avenue from Smith Dorrien bridge up to Winston Churchill Avenue.
2. Lime Kiln Road.
3. Rosia Lane from the entrance to Vineyard's Estate to Rosia Steps.
4. City Mill Lane from Main Street to Cornwall's Lane.
5. Cathedral Square.

In addition to these, works have started on the Orange Bastion link road project as well as the Engineer and Bell Lane beautification works.

NO. 6 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

MAIN STREET - SOUTH

Can Government say how many tenders were received for the beautification works at Main Street – South, the tender for which closed on 27 January?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

One tender was received for the Main Street (South) beautification works project.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 6 OF 2006

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Has the tender been awarded to that one tenderer?

HON J J NETTO:

Government are currently assessing the tender and no decision has as yet been taken on an award.

NO. 7 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

UPPER TOWN – CAR PARK

Can Government state how many tenders they received for the Willis' Road Car Park Scheme as a result of the Invitation to Tender of the 16 April 2003?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

A total of four tenders were received by Government for the Willis' Road car park scheme.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 7 OF 2006

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can Government say why a decision was taken not to proceed with the work at the time?

HON J J NETTO:

Yes, the Board's initial recommendation was to award to Sharrock Shand on the grounds that this company had the acceptable track record and had submitted the lowest tender. However, before awarding the contract various qualifications needed to be clarified, namely, the company's assumption that the Highways Engineer would exempt the transportation of the tower crane in segments from a pylon grid from current load restrictions and their non inclusion in the tender price of the cost of building a new sub-station, and their assumption that these works would be covered in the provisional sum provided. Additionally, Lyonnaise Des Eaux, AquaGib, also qualified the need to divert main services affected by the construction of the car park.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In the light of those complications shall we say, does it mean then that the idea of doing a car park there is not feasible?

HON J J NETTO:

No, the scheme is going ahead it is feasible. The contractor is currently finalising under a design and build contract format and is expected to mobilise on site in April of this year with completion expected at the end of 2007.

HON J J BOSSANO:

It is the same contractor that initially put the lowest bid, is it?

HON J J NETTO:

Correct.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Have the Government negotiated an additional sum to cover these other factors?

HON J J NETTO:

Correct.

HON F R PICARDO:

Will these car parking spaces be for sale or will they be simply available for residents in the area?

HON J J NETTO:

I am afraid I have not got the answer to that question with me, if the hon Member wishes to write to me I will endeavour to find the answer.

NO. 8 OF 2006

THE HON F R PICARDO

OESCO

Will Government now state what are the details of the work for the noise insulation of the OESCO power station at Europa Business Centre and what costs it will entail?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Government are not presently in a position to state what the exact works will be or the cost of the insulation of the OESCO power station as details have yet to be finalised and this work is likely to be the subject of a future tender.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 8 OF 2006

HON F R PICARDO:

At the last meeting of the House, which I recall was now last year, the Minister referred me to the definition in the dictionary of the word 'soon' when he told me that works would be commencing in respect of this matter soon. Having had regard to that definition, can he please tell us when it is that he expects to be in a position to put this matter out to tender?

HON J J NETTO:

Well soon always has to be taken into context and not in isolation. What I can say is that we want to be in a position to have consultants to be engaged by the Government in order to report to us on the type and cost of insulation that is needed and we are hoping that works will start in the new financial year.

HON F R PICARDO:

Do the Government expect to fund that insulation work itself or will it be financed by OESCO or jointly?

HON J J NETTO:

Well, there are aspects which may fall on the Government and there are aspects which may fall on the company in accordance with the contract. There are different views being held whether the building belongs to the Government and there are views held whether the machines, obviously, are owned by the company and in relation to each respective category where the cost will come, so I anticipate there will be areas which belong to the building, for which the Government are the owners and for which the Government would have to find the finance for that particular part of the insulation.

HON F R PICARDO:

The hon Gentleman said in accordance with the contract, what contract did he refer to?

HON J J NETTO:

The contract between the Government and OESCO.

ORAL

NO. 9 OF 2006

THE HON F R PICARDO

CALPE MARRIED QUARTERS

Why have Government not built the same 'ape proof' cage around the rubbish dumps in the area of Calpe Married Quarters that they have erected in the area of Willis' Road?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Answered together with Question No. 10 of 2006.

NO. 10 OF 2006

THE HON F R PICARDO

CASTLE STEPS

What action do Government intend to take in respect of the state of the rubbish dump at the bottom of Castle Steps?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

The bin holding facility at Willis' Road is only a 'temporary' structure that is not of the standard that Government wishes to adopt. The construction of the new road from Moorish Castle to Willis' will necessitate the relocation of the present bin cubicle, consequently the temporary nature of that which presently exists. The new bin cubicle to be constructed will be of a more permanent nature and one that is more aesthetically pleasing.

A permanent structure will be erected at Calpe Married Quarters. These works were actually started some months ago but shortly thereafter a disused water cistern was uncovered and this has necessitated the complete redesign of the cubicle. The new design is now practically complete and work should resume within weeks.

The refuse holding facility at the bottom of Castle Steps is, as are all other refuse receptacle areas, under review. These enclosures were constructed some considerable time ago and some have reached the end of their useful life whilst others are no longer suited for the purpose for which they were constructed at the time. Government are therefore systematically looking at all such areas and plans are being drawn up to enhance or to replace such facilities. This project will be spread over a number of financial years.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 9 AND 10 OF 2006

HON F R PICARDO:

Can the Minister tell me when it is exactly that he alleges that the work in respect of the bins at Calpe Married Quarters started?

HON J J NETTO:

I cannot answer the question but this is information passed on by my own Civil Servants.

HON F R PICARDO:

Yes I appreciate that but the Minister is answerable to the House especially in relation to a question as clear as this. Will he take it from me that there has been no evidence whatsoever of any work having been done in respect of the area of Calpe Married Quarters and that that has now become the main feeding zone for apes that no longer access the rubbish dump at Willis' Road.

HON J J NETTO:

Well, I hear what the hon Member has to say and no doubt I will be asking my Civil Servants for an explanation. Suffice to say that the problem as he just alluded to is still there, is one where we are now completing the new designs for the new cubicle bins and hopefully works should start within a few weeks to resolve the problem.

HON F R PICARDO:

Does the Minister not agree with me that the wait is becoming too long? For some time I have been asking questions of the Government in this House about this issue and we were told that the bin holding facility was being designed. We then saw after about a year and a half the erection of this now apparently temporary facility in Willis' Road, which whether temporary or otherwise aesthetically pleasing or otherwise, works well. The apes cannot get into it, they cannot feed, they cannot break the rubbish out. They have not erected a similar temporary facility at Calpe Married Quarters so all the apes have been moved, in effect the action that the Government have undertaken has resulted in the apes being moved from one rubbish dump to another and all congregating in the same one, in an area where children play, where there is now rubbish strewn on the floor, which might be very funny but if a child falls it is really going to cause a problem. Now, frankly would the hon Gentleman not agree with me that it is time to stop designing and redesigning and to stop doing things soon and actually make them happen.

HON J J NETTO:

I have already answered the question.

HON F R PICARDO:

In relation to Question No. 10 of 2006, given that the only answer that it appears we are going to get from the Minister in relation to the other matter is that he is going to ask his Civil Servants, how and on what basis does the hon Gentleman describe the rubbish dump at the bottom of Castle Steps as a refuse holding facility when it does not hold any refuse? That is the problem, the refuse is spread out in the area in front of St Bernard's School?

HON J J NETTO:

I do not detect a clear question from the hon Member, perhaps he can make it clearer.

HON F R PICARDO:

How is it that the hon Gentleman can describe that area or that dump as a refuse holding facility when it does not hold refuse, the refuse is everywhere?

HON J J NETTO:

The title he suggests is the title being given by those people in those particular services, by the particular industry itself. It is not a title which I have invented but those who work there use that particular vocabulary.

HON F R PICARDO:

Is the hon Gentleman not concerned that rubbish is strewn all over the area of the bottom of Castle Steps? Is that not an issue which as Minister for the Environment, with his commitment to the environment, should be causing him serious concern because the environment in which the people in that area have to live is really not up to standard?

HON J J NETTO:

Let me say that that particular facility was not done under this present Government, it was done by the previous GSLP Government, I have already recognised the fact that they have ceased to exist for what they were intended to do and have also said that we intend to upgrade them whenever we get a moment to do it. So I have recognised that there is an issue, an issue that was started before this administration and we are going to put it right.

HON F R PICARDO:

No, that is not right. The rubbish dump at the bottom of Castle Steps used to work but it is now dilapidated, most of the walls are broken down, therefore there is nothing any longer to hold the rubbish and that is something which has happened during this administration. It has happened in the past 10 years because the place is just falling to bits and my question to him and I ask it again because the residents in the area are entitled to consideration is, is he not concerned at the fact that rubbish is strewn all over the area?

HON J J NETTO:

The rubbish is held in bins not actually strewn all over the place.

HON F R PICARDO:

Well, would the Minister agree to go up to the area at the bottom of Castle Steps on a Sunday afternoon and see exactly what it is like in that area when one has to negotiate the area around that rubbish dump, so that he can understand that it is not actually kept in the bins?

HON J J NETTO:

I have been many times before.

HON F R PICARDO:

Would he agree to go again to see it on a Sunday afternoon?

HON J J NETTO:

There is no need to answer that silly question.

HON F R PICARDO:

It is not the same question he has not answered it. Will he go again to see the area strewn with rubbish on a Sunday afternoon?

MR SPEAKER:

I think the last question which I understood was will the Minister go again, the operative word being again, after the Minister answered he had been there before. I think it calls for an answer, either yes, no or maybe whatever it is and that might end the debate.

HON J J NETTO:

I will go whenever I think it is necessary to go, given the fact I have been several times before.

ORAL

NO. 11 OF 2006

THE HON F R PICARDO

APES DEN

Are there any plans to move the Apes Den from its present location?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

There are no plans to relocate the apes den from its present location.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 11 OF 2006

HON J J BOSSANO:

There are no plans then to move it nearer to the feeding area?

HON J J NETTO:

No.

NO. 12 OF 2006

THE HON F R PICARDO

PIGEON CULL

What has been the cost of the pigeon cull to date and which parties have been remunerated in respect of the cull and in what amounts?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

The three entities participating in the pigeon cull are the Animal Welfare Centre, GONHS and the Environmental Agency.

The Government's contract with the Animal Welfare Centre includes the culling of pigeons as a routine operation and consequently costs incurred in this respect are what would normally have been incurred in the normal course of events and which is allowed for in the contract. There has therefore not been any additional cost beyond that.

GONHS has an on-going contract with Government for the culling of seagulls. Government have decided that for some weeks effort would be directed towards the culling of pigeons. No costs beyond that already included in the contract have been incurred.

The Environmental Agency, as part of the services included under their contract with Government, assigned staff to undertake this specific role. There has therefore not been any cost incurred beyond that already included in the contract.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 12 OF 2006

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is it that the seagulls were being killed with lethal injections? We have been told there is no additional cost and therefore the seagulls that were due for execution in that period have had their lives spared and pigeons are being killed instead. So I am asking, since he is saying that the resources were previously aimed at the massacre of seagulls has now been devoted to the massacre of pigeons, were the seagulls being killed with lethal injections?

HON J J NETTO:

The answer is that as the question implies they have directed their human resources in order to get pigeons as opposed to seagulls.

HON J J BOSSANO:

That is not my question. Are the pigeons being killed by the same methodology as the seagulls were being killed?

HON J J NETTO:

The answer is no.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Therefore if the same methodology is not being used and the pigeons are being killed with lethal injections who is paying for the lethal injections?

HON J J NETTO:

Obviously, indirectly the Government through their own contract with the Animal Welfare Centre.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The Minister is telling the House that in the contract which the Government had which previously resulted in seagulls being killed, there was no provision for the cost of lethal injections and that in the new contract there is a need to buy or import these lethal injections.....

HON J J NETTO:

I think the hon Member is confusing some of the contracts. One has got to bear in mind that there is one specific contract with GONHS and there is another specific normal contract with the Animal Welfare Centre. In relation to the contract with GONHS, it says there shall be a culling of seagulls by a certain methodology. The contract with the Animal Welfare Centre also provides for the culling of pigeons every year, and in accordance with how many pigeons have been culled it gets a payment. So therefore, what I am saying is that there have not been any additional costs beyond that of the contract which means that only in accordance with those pigeons being culled there has been a payment for the lethal injection that the hon Member was referring to.

HON J J BOSSANO:

But the Animal Welfare Centre, I am not sure the pigeons or the seagulls would agree with that particular description, the Animal Welfare Centre is also using lethal injections or are they using some other less attractive method?

HON J J NETTO:

All pigeons being culled are using the same lethal injection, humane lethal injection as opposed to massacre.

HON J J BOSSANO:

It is not true then that the pigeons are being killed in any other way other than by lethal injection, that is the fact?

HON J J NETTO:

Yes.

NO. 13 OF 2006

THE HON F R PICARDO

SOUTH DISTRICT – NOXIOUS SMELLS

What action are Government taking to deal with the problems of noxious smells being suffered by residents of the south district and recently highlighted by both GONHS and the ESG?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

The Government ensure that all operators abide by the bunkering code of practice and the provision of MARPOL Annex 6 which is referred to in the Gibraltar Code of Practice. Although it is accepted that there may have been incidents of unpleasant smells in the past no bunkering operator has been found to be in breach of the Regulations.

The Government have met all bunkering operators in order to reduce unpleasant smells. The operators are able to make use of additives, all bunker operators now use these. In addition, all operators are now allowing the fuel to settle for a minimum of 48 hours before supply. The cumulative impact of these measures which the industry has introduced has resulted in a significant reduction in the unpleasant smells from bunkering operations.

I would like to make it clear that even when there have been unpleasant smells the levels of hydrogen sulphide have always been within the legal limits.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 13 OF 2006

HON F R PICARDO:

What has happened to make the Government change their view that these noxious smells actually do originate from bunkering operations?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

What has happened is that over the past few months we have been monitoring the instances of unpleasant smells and eventually we have been able to trace these to some bunkering operations which take place in the Bay. Therefore we have tried to take steps in order to reduce and hopefully eradicate them.

NO. 14 OF 2006

THE HON F R PICARDO

STEELMAC LTD

What conclusions if any have Government reached in their consideration of the situation and assessment of options in relation to the contract with Steelmac Ltd in respect of recycling?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

The agreement with Steelmac Limited has recently been terminated and a tender for the service is being prepared by the Department of the Environment.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 14 OF 2006

HON F R PICARDO:

When do the Government expect that tender to be published?

HON J J NETTO:

Well, I will avoid the word 'soon'. Realistically speaking it will probably be in the new financial year.

HON F R PICARDO:

In the first quarter of the new financial year or in the second quarter of the new financial year?

HON J J NETTO:

I should imagine in the first quarter, I would hope so anyway.

NO. 15 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

UPPER ROCK - FIREBREAKS

Can Government state to what Head of Expenditure the annual cost of clearing the Upper Rock firebreak is charged?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

The annual cost of clearing the Upper Rock firebreak is charged to Head 104(6) – Upper Rock Improvements and Maintenance.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 15 OF 2006

HON J J BOSSANO:

Head 104(6) in the Improvement and Development Fund, is that the case?

HON J J NETTO:

Yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Would the Minister not agree that if this is supposed to be done annually it is annually recurrent expenditure as opposed to Improvement and Development Fund expenditure?

HON J J NETTO:

I understand that it has always been in the Improvement and Development Fund although there seems to be some logic in what the hon Member seems to be saying in terms of annual recurrent expenditure, but the history seems to be that it has always been in the Improvement and Development Fund.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am not sure that that is accurate, I seem to remember perhaps some years ago of having it detailed in the actual recurrent expenditure and voting on it, so I am just putting it to the Minister that perhaps it needs reviewing if it is an annual event.

HON J J NETTO:

Fine, thank you.

NO. 16 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CATALAN BAY – BUND WALL PROJECT

Have Government abandoned the Catalan Bay Bund Wall Rockfall Protection Project, which was originally included in the 2003/2004 Improvement and Development Fund approved expenditure?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Work on the Catalan Bay Bund Wall Rockfall Protection scheme started on 10 October 2005 and is programmed to be completed on 8 April 2006.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 16 OF 2006

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can the Minister say why it was not in fact commenced in the year in which the funds were originally voted, in 2003/2004?

HON J J NETTO:

What I do know is that this project has been put out to tender on two occasions. The closing date for the first was 3 October 2003 where three tenders were received. However, the sums tendered exceeded the funding allocated to the project by a substantial margin and were not considered acceptable. The second tenders were returned on 10 December 2004 when two tenders were received and it went to the lowest bid.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So in fact is the Minister saying that the bids that were put in in 2004 were lower than the ones in 2003?

HON J J NETTO:

No, what I am saying is the opposite, that the first tender brought results which were far in excess to the estimates by the Department and for which we had no such allocation of funds. The current bids, my understanding, is much lower.

HON J J BOSSANO:

That is what I asked. I said is it the case that the bids in 2004 were lower than the lowest one of 2003, that is the case is it?

HON J J NETTO:

Yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

And it was with the same specification or does the Minister not know?

HON J J NETTO:

I do not hold that information with me.

NO. 17 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

LATHBURY BARRACKS – CLIFF STABILIZING

Can Government explain why they have decided not to proceed with the Cliff Stabilizing Project at Lathbury Barracks, which was ready to proceed to tender in November 2003?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

The only cliff stabilisation work in the area of Lathbury Barracks are those to the area of the cliff above the upper section of Windmill Hill Road. These works were started on 23 January 2006 and were completed on 10 March 2006.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 17 OF 2006

HON J J BOSSANO:

Was there a decision not to proceed with the tender in November 2003 which is in fact identified as having happened by the Principal Auditor?

HON J J NETTO:

I am afraid I have not got that information with me.

ORAL

NO. 18 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

BUILDINGS & WORKS AUTHORITY

Can Government state whether it is still their intention to proceed with the setting up of a Buildings and Works Authority?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

The Government are not actively proceeding with the setting up of a Buildings and Works Authority.

ORAL

NO. 19 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

POLICE BARRACKS

By when do Government expect that Police Barracks will be vacated?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Government do not have a completion date for the decanting of the Old Police Barracks.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 19 OF 2006

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is this a process which has already commenced, has it already started?

HON C BELTRAN:

Yes.

ORAL

NO. 20 OF 2006

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – WAITING LIST

Can Government state how many applicants on the Housing Waiting List, to date, are medically recommended, giving a breakdown of their medical category?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 21, 22, 36 and 38 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 21 OF 2006

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – PERSONS MEDICALLY RECOMMENDED

Can Government state how many persons, to date, are medically recommended, apart from those who are described as applicants on the Housing Waiting List, giving a breakdown of their medical category?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 20, 22, 36 and 38 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 22 OF 2006

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – SOCIAL CATEGORY ‘A’ LIST

Can Government state how many persons are currently on the social category ‘A’ list?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 20, 21, 36 and 38 of 2006.

NO. 23 OF 2006

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – WAITING LIST

Can Government state how many housing applicants have been removed from the Waiting List in each financial year since 1996/1997 because the department had not received the relevant signed form confirming their housing application details?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Prior to 2002 the computer system did not provide for the recording of the information requested. This information is available as from 2002 and I now hand the hon Member a schedule containing the information requested as from 2002.

Answer to Question No. 23

Financial year 2002/2003	18
Financial year 2003/2004	42
Financial year 2004/2005	23
Financial year 2005 to date (15.3.06)	166

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 23 OF 2006

HON C A BRUZON:

It seems from the statistics provided, that the number of people being crossed off from the waiting list is increasing. Rather disturbingly in 2005 to date the figure comes to 166. Could the Minister consider that the time from the moment the letter is sent to the applicant the waiting time is just not long enough. As evidenced by myself somebody was away for Christmas last year, they received the letter informing them that should they not return the signed form their application would be suspended and just a couple of weeks later in January another letter came saying that they had been removed from the waiting list.

HON C BELTRAN:

No, the hon Member has not got it right, there are in fact three letters in the process not two as he indicates. There is not an increase in the figures provided there is certainly a huge bump in the year 2005 to date which can be explained, otherwise the year 2002 18 and in 2003 42 and then in 2004 it went down to 23 so there is not a consistent increase in the number of people who are, as it were, losing their application if they do not follow a certain process. The bigger figure of 166 in fact arises as a result of a screening process which was carried out during that particular year and a number of applications which had been temporarily suspended as it were, a permanent decision was taken there and then and that is why the figure is higher in 2005. The process of letters is in fact the annual review letter in which they actually find out whether the applicant still is interested in applying and also whether there are any changes in the circumstances of the applicant, more children or whatever, which will support his application. That letter goes out, which is the first letter, by the way all these letters are registered mail to ensure that it gets there and people know about this, then there is a reminder which is the second letter which reminds them that they have not returned it and the third letter actually says the application has been suspended or cancelled, as the case may be. So it is really a three letter process. I think that people are given a certain amount of time.

HON C A BRUZON:

The relevant point is not the number of letters but the time from the moment the first letter is sent to the point in time when the actual applicant is removed. Also could I ask the Minister for Housing if there is not hand written information prior to 2002 before computers were used in his Department?

HON C BELTRAN:

As I said there are three letters and whether the hon Member feels that there is not enough time given in between the letters is debateable and certainly can be looked into if that is causing problems to people. Certainly that has not come to the notice of my office as a problem. Checking physically through thousands of files going back 10 years to find out whether there were people who were being crossed out of the list or not, in theory I suppose could be done but would be a massive exercise, as I say involving thousands of files and I think frankly myself would be unreasonable to ask

the clerks in the Housing Department to leave important work that they do on a daily basis to carry out this type of historical search.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is everybody that is on the waiting list sent one of these letters?

HON C BELTRAN:

As far as I know yes, this is the procedure.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is this done every year?

HON C BELTRAN:

Yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

What the Minister is saying is that bar 18 for example in 2003 they got 500 replies out of the 518 as it were? That is the position?

HON C BELTRAN:

Yes.

ORAL

NO. 24 OF 2006

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – WAITING LIST

Can Government state of the 670 persons who were on the waiting list as at the 5th August 2005, how many have been rehoused giving a breakdown by month and category of accommodation?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 25 to 28 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 25 OF 2006

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – WAITING LIST

Can Government state in respect of each waiting list to which an applicant was added in the year ended 5th August 2005 who had previously been a homeowner, the number of persons on the list on the date such applicants joined?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 24 and 26 to 28 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 26 OF 2006

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – WAITING LIST

Can Government state in respect of each list to which an applicant was added in the year ended 5th August 2005 who had previously been a homeowner, the position on the list obtained by the applicant when joining?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 24, 25, 27 and 28 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 27 OF 2006

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – PRE-LIST

Can Government state how many of the 64 persons who had previously chosen to sell their homes and had joined the pre-list after the 5th August 2003 who were not in the 20 that joined the main list in the 12 months to the 5th August 2005, have since joined the main list, giving a breakdown by month and size of accommodation?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 24 to 26 and 28 of 2006.

NO. 28 OF 2006

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – WAITING LIST

Can Government provide a breakdown by size of accommodation required for the 20 applicants who joined the Housing Waiting List in the 12 months to the 5th August 2005, who had been identified as being homeowners who had previously sold their homes?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

I hand the hon Member a schedule containing the information requested. Before doing so, however, I wish to clarify that:-

The information requested in Question Nos. 25 and 26 which is to do with the 5th August people who went into a list, how many people there were on that list and what position they took up, this information cannot be provided absolutely accurately to the day because the positions and the number of applicants in the lists fluctuates constantly and daily backups are only kept for two weeks. So today I can tell what position and how many people there were in those lists for the last two weeks. However, archive copies of the waiting lists are kept for the end of each month so there is a list for the end of the month and looking at these, therefore, the information requested can only be an approximation as the date of entry into the lists of these applicants might not necessarily coincide with the date that the waiting lists were archived.

Answer to Question 28

Answer to Question 24

A total of 12 applicants have been rehoused. A breakdown by month and flat composition is as follows:

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

Answer to Questions 25 and 26

The following is a breakdown of the applicants who had previously been homeowners:

Date of entry into main list	List	No. of applicants in list	Position in list
August 2004	3RKB	116	13
August 2004	3RKB	116	105
September 2004	3RKB	190	162
September 2004	2RKB	51	44
November 2004	3RKB	126	95
January 2005	3RKB	136	26
February 2005	3RKB	146	94
February 2005	1RKB	347	245
February 2005	1RKB	347	36
March 2005	1RKB	404	205
April 2005	4RKB	65	2
April 2005	3RKB	147	147
April 2005	1RKB	380	263
April 2005	3RKB	147	119
May 2005	3RKB	151	54
June 2005	1RKB	383	375
June 2005	4RKB	68	5
July 2005	3RKB	159	150
July 2005	3RKB	159	85
July 2005	1RKB	390	122

Cont'd.....

Continued. Answer to Question 28

Answer to Question 27

A total of 24 persons have joined the main list. A breakdown by month and flat composition is as follows:

August 2005	-	3RKB x 1
September 2005	-	1RKB x 1
		2RKB x 1
		3RKB x 2
October 2005	-	3RKB x 3
		4RKB x 3
November 2005	-	4RKB x 1
December 2005	-	1RKB x 1
		3RKB x 2
		4RKB x 1
January 2006	-	2RKB x 1
		4RKB x 1
February 2006	-	2RKB x 1
		4RKB x 4
March 2006	-	2RKB x 1

Answer to Question 28

A breakdown of the flat composition of the 20 applicants is as follows:

1RKB	-	5
2RKB	-	2
3RKB	-	11
4RKB	-	2

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 24 OF 2006

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can I just ask for clarification to the answer provided to Question No. 24. The question was 'Can Government state how many of 670 persons on the waiting list on 5th August have been rehoused giving a breakdown by month and category of accommodation'. There is no month shown, it says the breakdown by flat composition is as follows and then it says 1 bedroom, 2 bedroom, 3, is that for the whole period since 5th August without the breakdown by month?

HON C BELTRAN:

The month seems to have disappeared.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Has it just disappeared in our copy?

HON C BELTRAN:

No in mine as well, this is obviously a typo somebody has left it out.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So in fact the figures that we have here is what from 5th August to date?

HON C BELTRAN:

As at 5th August.

HON J J BOSSANO:

No it says how many have been rehoused by month.

HON C BELTRAN:

Since 5th August.

HON J J BOSSANO:

What I am asking him is, is it from 5th August to date since there is not an indication of how many were rehoused in each month.

HON C BELTRAN:

I am afraid I cannot give a categorical answer to that question I shall have to find out.

ORAL

NO. 29 OF 2006

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – PRE-WAR FLATS

Can Government state how many pre-war housing units have been allocated, to date, since the answer given to Question No. 1098 of 2005?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question No. 30 of 2006.

NO. 30 OF 2006

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – NUMBER OF REPOSSESSED FLATS

Can Government state how many Government flats have been repossessed, to date, since the answer given to Question No. 1099 of 2005, giving a breakdown of pre-war and post-war?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

A total of 6 pre-war flats have been allocated to date since the answer given to Question No. 1098 of 2005.

A total of 7 Government flats have been repossessed to date since the answer given to Question No. 1099 of 2005.

The breakdown is as follows:

Pre-war	-	3
Post-war	-	4

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 29 AND 30 OF 2006

HON C A BRUZON:

What is the time lapse from the point in time when the house is repossessed to the time that these houses are given to other people on the waiting list?

HON C BELTRAN:

It is very difficult to give a typical answer because each house will have different types of problems that need doing, different levels of refurbishment or what we call cleaning, removing unwanted stuff by the tenant who has left. Therefore it is very difficult to know exactly how long Buildings and Works will take with any particular dwelling.

ORAL

NO. 31 OF 2006

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – RENT RELIEF

Can Government state how many households have applied for rent relief in December 2005 and January and February 2006 and how many were approved?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 32 to 35 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 32 OF 2006

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – RENT RELIEF

Can Government state how many households were on full rent relief in December 2005 and January and February 2006?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 31 and 33 to 35 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 33 OF 2006

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – RENT RELIEF

Can Government state how many households have received rent relief in December 2005 and January and February 2006?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 31, 32, 34 and 35 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 34 OF 2006

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – RENT RELIEF

Can Government state how many households on rent relief have had this benefit terminated in December 2005 and January and February 2006?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 31 to 33 and 35 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 35 OF 2006

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – RENT RELIEF

Can Government state how many households have had the level of rent relief reduced in December 2005 and January and February 2006?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

I hand the hon Member a schedule containing the information requested.

Answer to question 35

Answer to question 31

The number of households that have applied for Rent Relief in December 2005, January 2006 and February 2006, and the number that were approved is as follows:

December	-	1	(1 approved)
January	-	6	(4 approved)
February	-	9	(6 approved)

Answer to question 32

The number of households on full rent relief in December 2005, January 2006 and February 2006 is as follows:

December	-	79
January	-	78
February	-	72

Answer to question 33

The number of households that have received rent relief in December 2005, January 2006 and February 2006 is as follows:

December	-	725
January	-	715
February	-	694

Answer to question 34

The number of households on rent relief that have had this benefit terminated in December 2005, January 2006 and February 2006 is as follows:

December	-	3
January	-	26
February	-	20

Answer to question 35

The number of households that have had the level of rent relief reduced in December 2005, January 2006 and February 2006 is as follows:

December	-	53
January	-	67
February	-	58

ORAL

NO. 36 OF 2006

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – PRE-LIST

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

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 20 to 22 and 38 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 37 OF 2006

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – PRE-LIST

Can Government state how many, if any, of the 64 persons who had previously chosen to sell their homes and had joined the pre-list after the 5th August 2003 were in the 20 that joined the main list in the year ending 2005, giving a breakdown by size of accommodation?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

The answer is none.

ORAL

NO. 38 OF 2006

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – WAITING LIST

Can Government state how many applicants are currently on the Housing Waiting List giving a breakdown of their flat requirements?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

I hand the hon Member a schedule containing the information requested.

Answer to Question 38

Answer to Question 20

A total of 66 applicants, to date, have been medically categorised, as follows:

A+	-	3
A	-	19
B	-	20
C	-	24

Answer to Question 21

A total of 226 persons, who are non-applicants, have been medically categorised, as follows:

A+	-	14
A	-	71
B	-	64
C	-	77

Answer to Question 22

A total of 81 persons are currently on the Social Category 'A' List.

Answer to Question 36

A total of 471 applicants are currently on the pre-list, as follows:

1RKB	-	303
2RKB	-	31
3RKB	-	89
4RKB	-	42
5RKB	-	5
6RKB	-	1

Answer to Question 38

1RKB	-	398
2RKB	-	68
3RKB	-	204
4RKB	-	83
5RKB	-	12
6RKB	-	2

ORAL

NO. 39 OF 2006

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – WAITING LIST

Can Government state how many applicants for housing were rejected on the grounds that they were homeowners who had chosen to sell their homes, giving a breakdown by month, since Question No. 1079 of 2005?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

None have been rejected.

NO. 40 OF 2006

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – WAITING LIST

Can Government state how many applicants for housing were accepted because in the judgement of the Housing Allocation Committee the sale was genuinely necessary, giving a monthly breakdown, since Question No. 1080 of 2005?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

One such case was accepted in December 2005.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 40 OF 2006

HON J J BOSSANO:

Presumably it is possible to deduce from the answer to the two questions that the one accepted was the only applicant since none were rejected.

HON C BELTRAN:

It is possible to deduce that but it is the wrong deduction, there could be some more in the pipeline being looked at by the Housing Allocation Committee.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Who may have applied in that period but no decision has yet been taken?

HON C BELTRAN:

Yes.

ORAL

NO. 41 OF 2006

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – WAITING LIST

Can Government state, in respect of applicants already on the Housing List, for each category of list and for each month since Question No. 1081 of 2005, how many applicants had overcrowding points disallowed because other people who had sold their homes had moved in with them?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question No. 42 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 42 OF 2006

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – WAITING LIST

Can Government state, in respect of applicants already on the Housing List, for each category of list and for each month since Question No. 1082 of 2005, how many applicants were allowed points for overcrowding when other people who had sold their homes had moved in with them?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

The answer to both questions is none.

ORAL

NO. 43 OF 2006

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – MINOR WORKS

Can Government state how many Government tenants are currently listed as requiring work to be done in their homes by the Housing Department as landlords?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question No. 44 of 2006.

NO. 44 OF 2006

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – DWELLINGS BEING REFURBISHED

Can Government state how many empty Government dwellings are presently refurbished or in the hands of Buildings and Works for refurbishment?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

In respect of Question No. 43 there are presently 1,717 tenants who require some extent or other of work to their flat to be carried out.

In respect of Question No. 44 there are 38 flats at present for refurbishment.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 43 AND 44 OF 2006

HON C A BRUZON:

Could the Minister repeat the answer? I am not too sure because it is a double-barrelled question, there are 38 flats presently being refurbished or.....

HON C BELTRAN:

At present for refurbishment at Buildings and Works, I cannot tell him exactly what number exactly, how many masons and how progress is going on, I cannot give that detailed an answer.

HON C A BRUZON:

In connection with Question No. 43 the answer given of 1,717 must refer as I have asked the question to the number of tenants, but can the Minister from the information he has in front of him confirm that this equates with the number of jobs to be done or could there be more than one job required doing in a specific household?

HON C BELTRAN:

I dare say there would be in some cases more than one job required but that is a different question.

NO. 45 OF 2006**THE HON C A BRUZON****HOUSING – ARREARS OF RENT**

Can Government state how many tenants have entered into agreements to pay arrears of rent in December 2005 and January and February 2006, and what is the total of arrears covered by such agreements?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING**

The number of tenants that have entered into agreements to pay arrears of rent in December 2005, January and February 2006, and the total amount of arrears covered by such agreements is as follows:

Month	No. of Tenants Entering Agreements	Amount
December 2005	4	£7,170.61
January 2006	15	£51,290.42
February 2006	17	£53,805.26
TOTALS	36	£112,266.29

NO. 46 OF 2006

THE HON C A BRUZON

BUILDINGS & WORKS DEPARTMENT

Can Government say if there have been any changes in the Bonus Scheme of the Buildings and Works Department in the current financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

There have been no changes in the Bonus Scheme in the current financial year.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 46 OF 2006

HON C A BRUZON:

We have information which I think is reliable that the group of employees involved in outside maintenance are receiving less bonus than the other groups. Is the Minister willing to comment on that?

HON C BELTRAN:

I have just said that there have been no changes as far as Government are concerned in the Bonus Scheme. Which individual employees get what level of bonus within the scheme I do not know, I do not have it with me here.

NO. 47 OF 2006

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – ANONYMOUS PHONE CALLS

Can Government state, since the policy inviting anonymous phone calls on the non-use of Government rented dwellings was introduced on 14 December 2005:

- (a) how many phone calls have been received;
- (b) in how many cases was the information received correct;

and give a breakdown by month and estate?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

I hand the hon Member a schedule containing the information requested.

Answer to Question 47

A total of 74 phone calls have been received since the 14 December 2005 as follows:

December 2005	-	11 of which 3 were found to be correct
January 2006	-	3 of which 1 was found to be correct
February 2006	-	54 of which 7 were found to be correct
March 2006 (to date)	-	6 of which 3 were found to be correct

Out of the total calls received the following is a breakdown according to Estate:

Laguna Estate	-	5
South District	-	5
Alameda Estate	-	3
Varyl Begg Estate	-	50
Glacis Estate	-	5
Catalan Bay	-	1
Upper Town	-	2
Town Area	-	3

ORAL

NO. 48 OF 2006

THE HON S E LINARES

ST BERNADETTE'S CENTRE

Can Government state the management structure of St Bernadette's Occupational Therapy Centre?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 49 to 51 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 49 OF 2006

THE HON S E LINARES

ST BERNADETTE'S CENTRE

Can Government state how many cleaners are currently at St Bernadette's Occupational Therapy Centre?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 48 and 50 to 51 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 50 OF 2006

THE HON S E LINARES

ST BERNADETTE'S CENTRE

Can Government state how many classroom aides are currently at St Bernadette's Occupational Therapy Centre?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 48, 49 and 51 of 2006.

NO. 51 OF 2006

THE HON S E LINARES

ST BERNADETTE'S CENTRE

Can Government state how many teachers are currently at St Bernadette's Occupational Therapy Centre?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

The management structure of St Bernadette's Occupational Therapy Centre is as follows:-

- 1 Manager
- 1 Deputy Manager

There are currently three cleaners employed at St Bernadette's Occupational Therapy Centre, two full-time and one part-time.

There are currently 14 classroom aides, seven full-time and seven part-time.

There is currently one teacher.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 48 TO 51 OF 2006

HON S E LINARES:

What is the role of the classroom aide?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

That is a supplementary that diverts quite a lot from the actual question itself but from the top of my head I can say that the role of the classroom aide is to supervise and lend support in the personal care and in other spheres to the people attending St Bernadette's.

HON S E LINARES:

Why is it that they are classified as classroom aides if there is no classroom or teaching as such?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

They can also be classified as learning assistants but due to the nature of the work that is done at St Bernadette's I myself consider the name 'classroom aide' to be an anomaly and there are moves to try to rectify it. The whole area of St Bernadette's is being very carefully looked into.

HON S E LINARES:

A learning assistant is still the wrong terminology because if we look at St Bernadette's Occupational Therapy Centre which the Minister in answer to Question No. 119 of 2005 last time she said was not an educational centre, and therefore not being an educational centre the learning should come from the teacher and therefore the terminology is wrong, so is the Minister going to change the terminology of the classroom aide or learning assistant to some other name?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

As I said, we are looking at the whole situation at St Bernadette's, I am sure that the hon Member is aware that St Bernadette's is not the only place which employs classroom aides, the name classroom aide is historical, they are employed in schools as well and as I say we are looking at a complete reshuffle of St Bernadette's from the teacher, everything that is involved with education will be looked at thoroughly.

HON S E LINARES:

Has the Minister had any proposals from the teacher to see how the post can be put to a better use, as she commented in the last answer to my Question No. 119 of 2005?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

The latest proposal that we have had from the teacher is that he is stating that he feels that he is a wasted resource within St Bernadette's and he has actually asked for a transfer to the Education Department.

HON S E LINARES:

In view of the fact then that the teacher might be moved back to some other school or wherever, will St Bernadette's then not have a teacher and for how long?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

It is the intention once that happens, if it happens, to replace the post of teacher with the post of a qualified occupational therapist which is more suited to the work which is carried out at St Bernadette's as the name itself suggests.

HON S E LINARES:

Who will then after that happens look at the educational programmes and I mean the programmes not the actual delivery, because as we rightly said last week the delivery can be done by speech therapists and other therapists, the delivery of even educational programmes but who will look into the educational aspect of St Bernadette's Occupational Therapy Centre after that teacher is moved?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

The teacher himself feels he is a wasted resource precisely because he cannot deliver any sort of structured educational programmes. There is a limit to the degree of education that the person attending the Centre receives, the name of the Centre is an occupational centre and that is why we think it would be best suited by being served by an occupational therapist as opposed to a teacher.

ORAL

NO. 52 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

HM PRISON

What was the number of receptions into HM Prison in 2005 and the population in custody as at 31 December 2005?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

The number of receptions into HM Prison in 2005 was 192.

The population in custody as at 31 December 2005 was 27.

ORAL

NO. 53 OF 2006

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 each of the months of December 2005 to the end of February 2006?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 54 to 60 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 54 OF 2006

THE HON C A BRUZON

SOCIAL INSURANCE – SHORT-TERM BENEFITS FUND

Can Government state what was the income, expenditure and balance of the Short-Term Benefits Fund in respect of December 2005 and January and February 2006?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 53 and 55 to 60 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 55 OF 2006

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 December 2005 and January and February 2006, showing the amount from UK and Local Funds and the expenditure to former Spanish workers and to pensioners from Local Funds?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 53, 54 and 56 to 60 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 56 OF 2006

THE HON C A BRUZON

SOCIAL INSURANCE – OPEN LONG-TERM BENEFITS FUND

Can Government state what was the income, expenditure and balance of the Open Long-Term Benefits Fund in respect of December 2005 and January and February 2006?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 53 to 55 and 57 to 60 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 57 OF 2006

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 December 2005 and January and February 2006?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 53 to 56 and 58 to 60 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 58 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

SOCIAL INSURANCE – SHORT-TERM BENEFITS FUND

Can Government state whether the Closing Balance as at 30 September 2005 of the Social Insurance (Short-Term Benefits) Fund is £1,058,264, as provided in answer to Question No. 594 of 2005, or £1,062,587, being the Opening Balance provided in answer to Question No. 1131 of 2005?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 53 to 57 and 59 to 60 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 59 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

SOCIAL INSURANCE – CLOSED LONG-TERM BENEFITS FUND

Can Government state whether the Closing Balance of the Closed Long-Term Benefits Fund as at 30 September 2005 is £1,170,271 as provided in answer to Question No. 588 of 2005, or £596,844, being the Fund Account Opening Balance provided in answer to Question No. 1132 of 2005?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 53 to 58 and 60 of 2006.

NO. 60 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

SOCIAL INSURANCE – OPEN LONG-TERM BENEFITS FUND

Can Government state whether the Closing Balance as at 30 September 2005 of the Social Insurance Open Long-Term Benefits Fund is £13,354,776 as provided in answer to Question No. 592 of 2005, or £13,246,668, being the Opening Balance provided in answer to Question No. 1135 of 2005?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

I hand the hon Member statements giving the information requested in Question Nos. 53, 54, 55 and 56 of 2006.

The transfers made from the Open Long-Term Benefits Fund to the Closed Long-Term Benefits Fund for December 2005 and January and February 2006 are as follows:

December 2005	£1,310,000
January 2006	£650,000
February 2006	£900,000
	<u>£2,860,000</u>

The revised balance of the Social Insurance (Short-Term Benefits) Fund as at 30 September 2005 is £1,064,754.

The revised balance of the Closed Long-Term Benefits Fund as at 30 September 2005 is £600,025.

The revised balance of the Social Insurance Open Long-Term Benefits Fund as at 30 September 2005 is £13,252,959.

Answer to Question No. 60 of 2006

Answer to Question No. 53

The income, expenditure and balance of the Employment Injuries Insurance Fund in each of the months of December 2005 to the end of February 2006 is as follows:

EMPLOYMENT INJURIES INSURANCE FUND

	<u>31-Dec-05</u>	<u>31-Jan-06</u>	<u>28-Feb-06</u>
<u>Fund Account -</u>			
<u>Opening Balance</u>	£4,491,132	£4,454,353	£4,418,917
<u>Add</u>			
Receipts	£40,126	£23,546	£5,868
	<u>£4,531,258</u>	<u>£4,477,899</u>	<u>£4,424,785</u>
<u>Less</u>			
Payments	<u>(£76,905)</u>	<u>(£58,982)</u>	<u>(£54,760)</u>
<u>Closing Balance</u>	<u>£4,454,353</u>	<u>£4,418,917</u>	<u>£4,370,025</u>

Cont'd Answer to Question No.60 of 2006

Answer to Question No. 54

The income, expenditure and balance of the Short-Term Benefits Fund in respect of December 2005 and January and February 2006 is as follows:

SOCIAL INSURANCE (SHORT-TERM BENEFITS) FUND

	<u>31-Dec-05</u>	<u>31-Jan-06</u>	<u>28-Feb-06</u>
<u>Fund Account -</u>			
<u>Opening Balance</u>	£1,084,663	£1,083,213	£1,117,908
<u>Add</u>			
Receipts	£63,928	£95,386	£89,053
	<u>£1,148,591</u>	<u>£1,178,599</u>	<u>£1,206,961</u>
Payments	<u>(£65,378)</u>	<u>(£60,691)</u>	<u>(£66,312)</u>
<u>Closing Balance</u>	<u>£1,083,213</u>	<u>£1,117,908</u>	<u>£1,140,649</u>

Cont'd Answer to Question No.60 of 2006

Answer to Question No.55

The income, expenditure and balance of the Closed Long-Term Benefits Fund for December 2005 and January and February 2006, showing the amounts from UK and local funds and the expenditure to former Spanish workers and to pensioners from local funds is as follows:

CLOSED LONG-TERM BENEFITS FUND

	<u>31-Dec-05</u>	<u>31-Jan-06</u>	<u>28-Feb-06</u>
<u>Fund Account -</u>			
<u>Opening Balance</u>	£327,770	£696,100	£376,282
<u>"Local Account"</u>			
Opening Balance	£35,971	£169,435	£57,901
<u>Add</u>			
Transfers from the Open Long-Term Benefits Fund	£1,310,000	£650,000	£900,000
Other Receipts	£2,390	£2,294	£90
	<u>£1,348,361</u>	<u>£821,729</u>	<u>£957,991</u>
<u>Less</u>			
Pension Payments	<u>(£1,178,926)</u>	<u>(£763,828)</u>	<u>(£891,188)</u>
Closing Balance	<u>£169,435</u>	<u>£57,901</u>	<u>£66,803</u>
<u>"Spanish Account"</u>			
Opening Balance	£291,799	£526,665	£318,381
<u>Add</u>			
Receipts from DFID	£1,370,000	£10,000	£160,000
	<u>£1,661,799</u>	<u>£536,665</u>	<u>£478,381</u>
<u>Less</u>			
Pension Payments	<u>(£1,135,134)</u>	<u>(£218,284)</u>	<u>(£176,806)</u>
Closing Balance	<u>£526,665</u>	<u>£318,381</u>	<u>£301,575</u>
<u>Fund Account</u>			
<u>Closing Balance</u>	£696,100	£376,282	£368,378

Cont'd Answer to Question No.60 of 2006

Answer to Question No.56

The income, expenditure and balance of the Open Long-Term Benefits Fund in respect of December 2005 and January and February 2006 is as follows:

OPEN LONG-TERM BENEFITS FUND

	<u>31-Dec-05</u>	<u>31-Jan-06</u>	<u>28-Feb-06</u>
<u>Fund Account -</u>			
<u>Opening Balance</u>	£13,393,610	£12,673,949	£13,124,179
<u>Add</u>			
Receipts	£742,759	£1,188,187	£1,052,897
	<u>£14,136,369</u>	<u>£13,862,136</u>	<u>£14,177,076</u>
Payments	<u>(£1,462,420)</u>	<u>(£737,957)</u>	<u>(£1,003,279)</u>
<u>Closing Balance</u>	<u>£12,673,949</u>	<u>£13,124,179</u>	<u>£13,173,797</u>

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 53 TO 60 OF 2006

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can the Minister explain how it is that the receipts, presumably from insurance contributions for the Employment Injuries Insurance Fund in December is over £40,000 and in January it goes down to £23,500 and in February it is £5,800, given that the rate is the same every month and presumably the levels of employment are more or less the same as well?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I am afraid I would not be able to provide an answer off the top of my head but I can certainly pass on the information to the hon Member once I obtain it.

HON L A RANDALL:

In answer to Question Nos. 58, 59 and 60 of 2006 the Minister has provided me with figures which are neither the balances at the end of September, the closing balance, or the opening balance as at 1st October, can she explain why this is the case?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I am informed by Treasury who obviously compile the answers to these questions that the accounts of the Government remain open until nine months after the end of the financial year, and therefore figures are provided as and when requested are only tentative and subject to amendment until the accounts are finalised.

HON L A RANDALL:

I have been keeping records of all these balances and I can tell the Minister that from April to August the balances were correct. In order to keep a true account of these figures could she then provide me with where the differentials are so that I can at least come to sensible balances? In answer to Question No. 58 of 2006 there is a difference of £2,200, which of the components has changed?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Yes certainly, if the hon Member writes to me asking exactly which years or which months, the exact information that he is requesting I will certainly forward it to him.

HON L A RANDALL:

I am saying it in my question, 30 September 2005 the closing balance was £1,058,264 and then I am given £1,064,754. Could she not write to me in this respect?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Yes and I have provided an answer being the balance as revised.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The point is that if we are being given on a month by month basis the opening balance, the receipts and the payments and the closing balance and then the closing balance of one month is different from the opening balance of the previous month when there has been no interval of time between it, it can only be because the original information provided in the House on expenditure and on income was incorrect. I would think that the Minister would want to correct the incorrect figures that had been provided previously and which are on record.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I do not agree that they would be necessarily incorrect. As I explained the accounts are open nine months after the end of the financial year and they are revised again at that date, that is why the figures do not tally.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well I know that the Minister has repeated three times the explanation that she has been given, except that I can tell her that the explanation that she has been given does not make sense. It may be that she is not able to distinguish between an explanation that makes sense and one that does not and therefore has just told us what she has been given. These are cash balances so therefore it is not as if one goes back, either one pays out so much money that month or one has not paid it. The information that has been given to us today is that for example, in the Social Insurance Short-Term Benefits Fund there were payments of £66,312. Now, these figures have been provided for a very long time and we have never previously had a situation when the closing balance that has been given in one Question Time has been altered as the opening balance in the next Question Time without any explanation. It has never happened, it is the first time it happens. If there was a technical reason which required revision then it would be something that would not be happening for the first time. So it can only be that either the figures that they gave us for income were incorrectly too high or the expenditure side was incorrectly too low. There is no other possible explanation because I am sure the Minister will be able to confirm, and I would ask her to do so, that in fact if somebody has paid or makes a payment that is recorded in the month in which it is received not in respect of the month that it was due for, and we have always understood that these figures we have been given as cash so there is no need to go back and make revisions because of late payments for example.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

These are obviously accounting practices and measures that are taken by the Treasury and I will not pretend to know the answer to his question. What I will do is that I will ask the Financial and Development Secretary to shed some light on the matter and I will write to the hon Member with the information requested.

HON J J BOSSANO:

We are quite happy for the light to be shed here and now given that the Financial Secretary continues to be a Member of the House.

HON T J BRISTOW:

The answer could simply be, I do not know what the detailed answer is, but it could simply be that there was a mis-posting in the month in question which was then subsequently corrected and he would find that across all the accounts, but as my hon Colleague said she will write and explain in more detail.

NO. 61 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SOCIAL INSURANCE – OPEN LONG-TERM BENEFITS FUND

Can Government explain to whom was the sum of over £107,000 paid by the Social Insurance Long-Term Benefits Fund in the financial year 2003/2004, in respect of Unified Collection System Expenses?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

The sum of over £107,000 paid by the Open Long-Term Benefits Fund in the financial year 2003/2004 in respect of Unified Collection System Expenses is made up as follows:-

Payment of £87,164 made to TQS Ltd for on-going development of the unified collection computer system, programming required in connection with the scanning and computerisation of all manual social insurance records and annual maintenance fees.

Payment of £12,356 to several suppliers in respect of special computer paper, ink cartridges and other computer equipment.

Payment of £5,000 paid to UK Government Actuaries in respect of work carried out in connection with the Actuarial review of the funds and which were erroneously allocated under the heading Unified Collection System Expenses.

Payment of £2,997 made to BSG Computer Services for a currency machine, also erroneously allocated under this heading.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 61 OF 2006

HON J J BOSSANO:

The £5,000 to the UK Government Actuaries does that mean that the Government have now had an actuarial review done of all the Social Insurance Fund and is this the total cost?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I would not know if the exercise has as yet been completed or this is part-payment if it is on-going. I would not know the answer to his question but I can find out for him.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Presumably if the actuaries have submitted their report and recommendations the Minister would know because presumably they would have given it to her.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

That is correct and actually I knew that this was on-going and I recall having asked for it quite recently and it has not been provided. So I assume that it is not ready yet.

HON J J BOSSANO:

It is not yet completed. So given the fact that this is a sum that was actually paid in 2003/2004 there may be then payments in subsequent financial years then if the final report has not yet come through, is that correct?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

That could be the case.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In the work done on the unified system presumably it is work that a policy decision was taken to charge it to the Long-Term Benefits Fund as opposed to any other one but obviously it affects the operation of all the funds. This has to do I take it with the quarterly schedules, is that correct?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Yes, they are the expenses incurred as a result of the unified collection system to do with the schedules as the hon Member has rightly pointed out.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The Minister mentioned that it involved scanning social insurance records, does that mean now that the records that existed prior to the unified scheme when people paid by sticking stamps on insurance cards have now been included in the computer?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

That is the purpose of the exercise, what I do not know is if the exercise has actually been completed. I suspect that it has not because I did ask whether there would be

further costs incurred in forthcoming years and I have been told that there are. That the work of TQS will not have finished until a couple of years time.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So this is not a one off thing that happened just in that year, it is a continuing exercise the scanning, is it?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I think it started in 2002 if I am not mistaken and will continue for several years more.

ORAL

NO. 62 OF 2006

THE HON C A BRUZON

SOCIAL INSURANCE – NUMBER OF PENSIONERS

Can Government state what was the number of pensioners being paid or with entitlement to payment in December 2005 and January and February 2006 from the Closed Long-Term Benefits Fund, giving a breakdown of Pre-1969 Spanish pensioners and locally funded pensioners, showing the number of Gibraltarians/UK Nationals, Moroccans and other nationalities for each of the months in question?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 63 and 64 of 2006.

NO. 63 OF 2006

THE HON C A BRUZON

SOCIAL INSURANCE – NUMBER OF PENSIONERS

Can Government state of the pensioners being paid or with entitlement to payment from the Open Long-Term Benefits Fund, how many were also being paid or with entitlement to payment from the Closed Long-Term Benefits Fund giving the numbers for each month since April 2005 and a breakdown by nationality as follows:

- (a) UK/Gibraltar pensioners;
- (b) Spanish pensioners
- (c) Moroccan pensioners; and
- (d) Other nationalities?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 62 and 64 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 64 OF 2006

THE HON C A BRUZON

SOCIAL INSURANCE – NUMBER OF PENSIONERS

Can Government state what was the number of pensioners being paid or with entitlement to payment for each month since April 2005, from the Open Long-Term Benefits Fund, giving a breakdown of:

- (a) UK/Gibraltar pensioners;
- (b) Spanish pensioners
- (c) Moroccan pensioners; and
- (d) Other nationalities?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

I hand the hon Member lists giving the information requested.

ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 64/2006

Answer to Question No. 62 of 2006

The following pensioners were in receipt of payments from the Closed Long-Term Benefits Fund from December 2005 to February 2006.

	Dec-05	Jan-06	Feb-06
<i>Pre-1969 Spanish Pensioners</i>	6094	6071	5966
<i>British Pensioners (Gib/UK Nat.)</i>	5064	5069	5085
<i>Moroccan Pensioners</i>	1644	1648	1687
<i>Other Nationalities</i>	470	474	476
Total	13272	13262	13214

Cont'd...

Cont'd ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 64/2006

Answer to Question No. 63 of 2006

The following pensioners were in receipt of payments from the Open Long-Term Benefits Fund and also in receipt of payments from the Closed Long-Term Benefits Fund since April 2005.

	Apr-05	May-05	Jun-05	Jul-05	Aug-05	Sep-05	Oct-05	Nov-05	Dec-05	Jan-06	Feb-06
BRITISH PENSIONERS (GIB/UK NAT.)	2073	2101	2116	2144	2165	2195	2222	2240	2266	2287	2308
SPANISH PENSIONERS	96	98	98	99	99	100	100	100	102	104	104
MOROCCAN PENSIONERS	576	582	582	577	579	584	584	583	582	609	611
OTHER NATIONALITIES	30	29	29	30	30	30	33	33	33	33	33
TOTAL	2775	2810	2825	2850	2873	2909	2939	2956	2983	3033	3056

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Cont'd ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 64/2006

Answer to Question No. 64 of 2006

The following pensioners were in receipt of payments from the Open Long-Term Benefits Fund since April 2005.

	Apr-05	May-05	Jun-05	Jul-05	Aug-05	Sep-05	Oct-05	Nov-05	Dec-05	Jan-06	Feb-06
BRITISH PENSIONERS (GIB/UK NAT.)	2080	2108	2123	2152	2173	2203	2230	2248	2274	2295	2316
SPANISH PENSIONERS	101	103	103	104	104	105	105	105	107	109	109
MOROCCAN PENSIONERS	576	582	582	577	579	584	584	583	582	609	611
OTHER NATIONALITIES	30	29	29	30	30	30	33	33	33	33	33
TOTAL	2787	2822	2837	2863	2886	2922	2952	2969	2996	3046	3069

ORAL

NO. 65 OF 2006

THE HON C A BRUZON

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

Can Government state what was the number of persons receiving Social Assistance in December 2005 and January and February 2006 giving a breakdown by age and sex?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 66 and 67 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 66 OF 2006

THE HON C A BRUZON

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

Can Government state how many persons receiving Social Assistance in December 2005 and January and February 2006 have been employed since and how many are still receiving social assistance, giving a breakdown by age and sex?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 65 and 67 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 67 OF 2006

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 December 2005 and January and February 2006, giving a breakdown of their age and sex?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

I hand the hon Member lists giving the information requested.

ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 67/2006

Answer to Question No. 65 of 2006

Persons receiving Social Assistance for the month of December 2005 & January & February 2006 by month, sex and age.

2005	Males	Females	Total	18/25	26/35	36/45	46/60
December	184	287	471	67	152	121	131

2006	Males	Females	Total	18/25	26/35	36/45	46/60
January	180	290	470	69	153	119	129
February	178	289	467	70	152	115	130

Answer to Question No. 66 of 2006

Persons in receipt of Social Assistance for December 2005, January & February 2006

QTR	Month	Males	Females	Total	18/25	26/35	36/45	46/60
4 th	Dec-05	184	287	471	67	152	121	131

QTR	Month	Males	Females	Total	18/25	26/35	36/45	46/60
1 st	Jan-06	180	290	470	69	153	119	129
	Feb-06	178	289	467	70	152	115	130

Persons employed during December 2005, January & February 2006

QTR	Month	Males	Females	Total	18/25	26/35	36/45	46/60
4 th	Dec-05	0	1	1	1	0	0	0

QTR	Month	Males	Females	Total	18/25	26/35	36/45	46/60
1 st	Jan-06	4	1	5	0	2	2	1
	Feb-06	6	4	10	4	1	5	0

Persons in receipt of Social Assistance as at 17th March 2006

As at	Males	Females	Total	18/25	26/35	36/45	46/60
17.03.06	179	289	468	70	150	118	130

Cont'd ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 67/2006

Answer to Question No. 67 of 2006

Months	0-10	11-20	21-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	61-70	Total	Male	Female
Dec-05	26	26	25	11	19	9	0	116	83	33
Jan-06	25	26	25	10	19	10	0	115	81	34
Feb-06	25	26	26	10	19	10	0	116	81	35

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 65 TO 67 OF 2006

HON S E LINARES:

In relation to Question No. 67 of 2006 where it states that there is a disability allowance under the Social Assistance arrangements, does the Minister know how many of those people who are on that allowance are in St Bernadette's Occupational Therapy Centre?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I would suspect that all of them.

ORAL

NO. 68 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SOCIAL INSURANCE – MINIMUM INCOME GUARANTEE

Can Government provide a breakdown for the number of pensioners in receipt of the Minimum Income Guarantee showing the number receiving the single and married rates in bands of £5 up to the full amount as at end of December 2005?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question No. 69 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 69 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SOCIAL INSURANCE – MINIMUM INCOME GUARANTEE

Can Government state how many of the pensioners in receipt of the Minimum Income Guarantee as at end December 2005, if any, had the amount of this entitlement reduced following the increase in the quarterly Household Cost Allowance payment made by Community Care Limited in respect of the fourth quarter of 2005?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

I hand the hon Member the answer to Question No. 68 of 2006 in written format.

In December of every year all cases of persons in receipt of Minimum Income Guarantee are re-assessed for any changes in income. As a result of the increase in the quarterly Household Cost Allowance in respect of the fourth quarter of 2005, 417 cases have had a reduction in their benefits as from 1 January 2006.

ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 69

Answer to Question No. 68

Number of pensioners in receipt of the minimum income guarantee, receiving the single and married couple rates in bands of £5 up to the full amount as at end of december 2005.

	£		£	Singles No		Couple No		Total No
From	133	To	135	0		1		1
From	126	To	130	0		0		0
From	121	To	125	0		0		0
From	116	To	120	0		0		0
From	111	To	115	0		0		0
From	106	To	110	0		0		0
From	101	To	105	0		0		0
From	96	To	100	6		1		7
From	91	To	95	14		0		14
From	86	To	90	1		0		1
From	81	To	85	0		0		0
From	76	To	80	1		0		1
From	71	To	75	0		0		0
From	66	To	70	0		1		1
From	61	To	65	22		0		22
From	56	To	60	1		0		1
From	51	To	55	2		2		4
From	46	To	50	6		0		6
From	41	To	45	14		1		15
From	36	To	40	16		2		18
From	31	To	35	10		1		11
From	26	To	30	22		0		22
From	21	To	25	30		2		32
From	16	To	20	31		7		38
From	11	To	15	211		2		213
From	6	To	10	18		8		26
From	0	To	5	11		4		15
				416		32		448

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 68 AND 69 OF 2006

HON J J BOSSANO:

That means everybody because there are 416 singles and 32 couples so out of the 448 there were some whose allowance was not reduced?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

That is correct, 31.

ORAL

NO. 70 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS

Can Government provide an explanation why industrial accidents by cause of injury, classified as Others, show an increase from 8 in the year 2000 to 101 in the year 2003?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

My Department is carrying out an exercise to re-check the data provided. As soon as this is completed I will provide an explanation in writing to the hon Member. It is obviously evident that there is some explaining to do.

NO. 71 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY

Can Government confirm that they have recently advertised in Spain vacancies for Supply Care Workers in the Social Services Agency?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

I can confirm that vacancies for supply Support Workers have recently been advertised in Spain.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 71 OF 2006

HON J J BOSSANO:

What is the nature of the work that Support Workers do in the Social Services Agency?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I draw the distinction between Care Workers and Support Workers because the former, the Care Workers, work in the childrens' residential service whereas Support Workers work in the area of Dr Giraldi and it is in this area that the Agency are having extreme difficulties in recruiting workers.

HON J J BOSSANO:

What the Minister is saying is that they have extreme difficulty in recruiting Supply Workers because they have no difficulty in recruiting permanent workers, do they?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Well, the occasion for recruiting permanent workers has not arisen as of late so we would not know what the situation would be like. We will know very shortly because we have some vacancies coming out but the more constant recruitment is of Supply Workers and as I say it is in the area of recruiting Supply Workers where we are having a lot of difficulties.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The Supply Support Workers who work in the Dr Giraldi Home are these people who are in fact Supply Workers in theory but on permanent supply on a regular basis?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

No, they work a lot but not permanently. On different occasions during the year quite a lot because they cover all the leave absences of the permanent workers, that is, annual leave, sick leave and because the amount of people on the supply list is quite reduced because of the difficulties in recruiting, they do work not on a constant basis I would not say but quite a lot, yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Coming to the conclusion that the difficulty was such that it required the unusual step of advertising vacancies in Spain, has the Minister sought the use of the services of the Employment Service to fill these vacancies? Are these vacancies put up on boards in the ETB?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Of course, they are advertised in the ETB as well as the local newspapers.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The ETB from amongst people who are registered with them have not been able to offer the possibility of any recruitment in that area?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Well, I assume that they have sent some people along but either the numbers were limited and/or they were not suitable.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Does the Agency require any specific qualifications from these Supply Workers?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Not qualifications as such but certain personal qualities and skills.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Are these personal qualities and skills listed in the advertising or are they only made available to people once they apply?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

They are actually stipulated in the vacancy.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In the vacancies as they are advertised in Spain?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Yes and the same here in Gibraltar.

ORAL

NO. 72 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GOVERNMENT HOSTEL

Can Government state whether there is a Waiting List of applications for a place in the Government Hostel, and if so, how long is it and what is the date of joining of the person longest on the list?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 73 to 78 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 73 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GOVERNMENT HOSTEL

Can Government state whether places that become available at the Government Hostel are offered to persons on the Waiting List based on the length of time that has elapsed since they were added to the list?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 72 and 74 to 78 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 74 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GOVERNMENT HOSTEL

Can Government state what are the criteria for eligibility to a place at the Government Hostel?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 72, 73 and 75 to 78 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 75 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GOVERNMENT HOSTEL

Can Government state the number of beds provided at the Government Hostel and how many are occupied?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 72 to 74 and 76 to 78 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 76 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GOVERNMENT HOSTEL

Can Government state how many of the beds at the Government Hostel are occupied by pensioners?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 72 to 75, 77 and 78 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 77 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GOVERNMENT HOSTEL

Can Government state how many of the beds in the Government Hostel are occupied by persons who are currently unemployed?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 72 to 76 and 78 of 2006.

NO. 78 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GOVERNMENT HOSTEL

Can Government state how many beds they plan to have in the proposed new Government Hostel that is intended to replace the existing facilities?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

I can confirm that there are two waiting lists of applications for a place in the Government Hostels. That is, one for persons who only want a place in the Devil's Tower Hostel and one for those who do not mind being accommodated at either of the two hostels (the other being Buena Vista Hostel). The details are as follows:-

Devil's Tower Hostel has a waiting list of 23 persons. The person who has been longest on the list made a request for accommodation on 19 July 2002.

For those who do not mind either one or the other there are nine persons on that list. The person who has been longest on the list made a request for accommodation on 26 April 2005.

In answer to Question No. 73 of 2006 yes, this is the normal procedure. Any person who is in employment in Gibraltar and not eligible to apply for Government accommodation can request a place in the Government Hostels.

A total of 200 beds are provided at the Government Hostels, 197 are currently occupied and three are in the process of being allocated.

There are 19 beds occupied by pensioners.

There are 37 persons in the Government Hostels who are currently unemployed and there are provisional plans to provide 200 beds in the new hostel but no final decision has been taken on this matter.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 72 TO 78 OF 2006

HON C A BRUZON:

Is the Minister aware as to whether or not there is anybody on that list which is medically categorised 'A' or socially categorised 'A' who would need housing immediately?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I am not aware.

There are provisional plans to provide 200 beds in the new hostel but no final decision has been taken on the matter.

ORAL

NO. 79 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

On behalf of the Hon Miss M I Montegriffo

MOUNT ALVERNIA

Can Government state how many elderly citizens are awaiting a place at Mount Alvernia, and how many of these are occupying a bed at St Bernard's Hospital as at the end of February 2006, giving a breakdown by sex and age?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

As at the end of February 2006 a total of 98 Elderly Citizens are in the Waiting List for Mount Alvernia out of which 28 are occupying a bed at St Bernard's Hospital.

I hand the hon Member a written schedule giving a breakdown by age and sex.

Answer to Question No. 79/2006

Breakdown by Age and Sex of those occupying a bed in Hospital

Sex	Age			
	60-70	70-80	80-90	90+
Male	0	1	8	1
Female	0	6	9	3

Breakdown by Age and Sex of all others in Waiting List

Sex	Age			
	60-70	70-80	80-90	90+
Male	2	5	6	5
Female	1	11	28	12

Breakdown by Age and Sex of all in Waiting List

Sex	Age			
	60-70	70-80	80-90	90+
Male	2	6	14	6
Female	1	17	37	15

ORAL

NO. 80 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SENIOR CITIZENS – SWIMMING POOL

Can Government state how much money has been spent to date on the Senior Citizens Swimming Pool project?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question No. 81 of 2006.

NO. 81 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SENIOR CITIZENS – SWIMMING POOL

Can Government say whether they have received any money to date from OEM towards the costs of the construction of the Senior Citizens Swimming Pool project?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

The expenditure of the Senior Citizens Swimming Pool project as at 15 March 2006 is £890,439. However, the project is not yet fully complete.

I confirm that the Government have received money from OEM towards the costs of the construction of the Senior Citizens Swimming Pool project.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 80 AND 81 OF 2006

HON J J BOSSANO:

Does the money that the Government receive from OEM go into the Improvement and Development Fund and is it then that the payments to the contractor are made from the Fund?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

That is correct.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is the position of OEM then to make a payment up to £1 million and then if there is any additional cost that would be met by the Government or is OEM actually funding whatever the pool will cost?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

No, OEM has made a contribution of £1 million irrespective of what the pool costs.

ORAL

NO. 82 OF 2006

THE HON F R PICARDO

SOCIAL SERVICES – WELFARE REPORTS

What is the period that the courts have had to wait for the preparation of welfare reports delivered in December 2005 and January to February 2006 (giving a breakdown by month) from the date that the preparation of such a report had been ordered by a court and what was the number of such reports, giving a breakdown between Magistrates' and Supreme Court matters?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question No. 83 of 2006.

NO. 83 OF 2006

THE HON F R PICARDO

SOCIAL SERVICES – WELFARE REPORTS

Can Government state how many pre-sentence and child welfare reports have been prepared in each month of 2005 and in each full month of 2006 to date by Social Services for hearings involving access to children in both the Magistrates' and Supreme Courts?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

In December 2005 no reports were prepared.

In January 2006 two reports were prepared. One was requested by the Supreme Court on the 21 September 2005 and another was requested by the Magistrates' Court on 17 November 2005.

In February 2006 two reports were prepared. Both were requested by the Supreme Court. One on the 8th February 2005 and another on 15th June 2005.

I hand the hon Member a list of child welfare reports prepared by Social Services for Hearings involving access to children in both the Magistrates' and Supreme Courts.

As a legal practitioner himself, I assume he is aware that pre-sentence reports are prepared as sentencing documents for convicted offenders in criminal proceedings and not in cases involving access to children. However, if the hon Member is still interested in knowing the number of pre-sentence reports prepared I have the information readily available and can pass it over to him.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 83

List of Child Welfare Reports prepared each month of 2005 and in each full month of 2006 to date by Social Services for hearings involving access to children in both the Magistrates' and Supreme Courts,

January	2005	1
February	2005	1
March	2005	1
April	2005	2
May	2005	2
June	2005	4
July	2005	5
August	2005	0
September	2005	1
October	2005	1
November	2005	4
December	2005	0
January	2006	2
February	2006	2

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 82 AND 83 OF 2006

HON F R PICARDO:

Of course I am fully aware of that and I would not for one moment expect there to be pre-sentencing reports on children's matters. This Question was answered in this format in the previous House and I am surprised that the point should be taken now that I am still interested in the information so I would be grateful to have it. In her answer to Question No. 82 of 2006 one of the things that the Minister told us was that one of the reports delivered in January related to a request in November 2005 and the other one to September 2005, but that reports delivered in February related one of them to a year before and the other one to June 2005. Is the Minister now satisfied that the backlog has finally been dealt with or not?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

No the backlog has not been dealt with because the two new Social Workers have only started or been appointed very recently, in fact last week.

HON F R PICARDO:

When does the Minister expect that the backlog will be dealt with?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I would not dare say the rate of work that these two new Social Workers are going to produce, it depends how many reports they can get through in a certain day as they are going to be dealing exclusively, initially obviously, with working with court welfare reports.

HON F R PICARDO:

Is the Minister telling us then that the decision to employ two was taken without considering how long it would take them to clear the backlog?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I do not know whether that played part in the decision to employ two, that was the recommendation made by the professionals in the Agency that two were required, they must have come to that conclusion in some way or other.

ORAL

NO. 84 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

On behalf of the Hon Miss M I Montegriffo

GHA – OUT-PATIENT ATTENDANCES

Can Government state the total number of outpatient attendances at the Primary Care Centre in the months of December 2005 and January and February 2006, keeping to the format given in answer to Question No. 66 of 2005 and additionally giving details of other departments if they are not shown there?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 85, 86 and 87 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 85 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

On behalf of the Hon Miss M I Montegriffo

GHA – OUT-PATIENT ATTENDANCES

Can Government state the number of outpatient attendances at the Primary Care Centre, including the number of outpatients being attended to by District Nurses, Occupational Therapists and Physiotherapists in the months of December 2005 and January and February 2006?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 84, 86 and 87 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 86 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

On behalf of 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 in December 2005 and January and February 2006?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 84, 85 and 87 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 87 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

On behalf of the Hon Miss M I Montegriffo

GHA – GP ATTENDANCES

Can Government state what was the total number of GP Attendances at the Primary Care Centre in December 2005 and January and February 2006?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

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

Answer to Question 87 of 2006

Answers to Questions 84, 85, 86 and 87 of 2006

DEPARTMENT	Dec-05	Jan-06	Feb-06	TOTAL
AUDIOLOGY	66	154	92	312
DIETICIAN	63	93	91	247
CLINIC SISTER	1524	1465	1365	4,354
SCHOOL HEALTH	233	256	251	740
SPEECH & LANGUAGE	58	136	138	332
MENTAL WELFARE	136	184	186	506
GP CLINIC	6669	6882	8256	21,807
HOUSE CALLS *	407	413	510	1,330
DENTAL	1206	1405	1420	4,031
CHILD WELFARE	656	954	1090	2,700
NURSE PRACTITIONERS	871	875	1092	2,838
DERMATOLOGIST	90	DNA	96	186
CRYOTHERAPY	119	131	104	354
TOTAL	12,098	12,948	14,691	39,737

* Calls received during working hours are recorded until 4.00p.m. Night calls do not form part of these statistics.

*** COMMUNITY**

PHYSIO	166	167	204	537
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY	129	129	111	369
DISTRICT	2558	1819	1727	6,104
TOTAL	2,853	2,115	2,042	7,010

NO. 88 OF 2006**THE HON F R PICARDO****GHA – APE RELATED INJURIES**

How many patients were treated at St Bernard's Hospital and the Primary Care Centre for "ape related injuries" in each month of 2004 and 2005?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

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

Answer to Question 88 of 2006**St Bernard's Hospital**

Month	2004	2005
January	9	15
February	7	7
March	11	13
April	11	8
May	9	10
June	14	17
July	28	21
August	29	3
September	16	29
October	16	21
November	12	15
December	12	1
TOTAL	174	160

Primary Care Centre

No patient has been treated in the Primary Care Centre for "Ape related injuries". Any such patients would automatically be referred to the A&E department at St Barnard's Hospital.

NO. 89 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

On behalf of the Hon Miss M I Montegriffo

GHA – AVIAN FLU

Can Government state the conditions that would have to be experienced in Gibraltar before the Government triggers off protecting the population from Avian Flu by administering the anti-viral drug Tamiflu?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

There seems to be an assumption in the question that at some trigger point the Government will administer Tamiflu to everyone as a prophylactic. This belief is erroneous, Tamiflu is intended as a treatment to be used by doctors and nurses for patients, not by the Government but by doctors and nurses, for patients who experience symptoms and not given to everybody. It is not a vaccine, it is similar to a stockpile of antibiotics. Other than that, the situation remains as given in answer to Question No. 1146 of 2005.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 89 OF 2006

HON L A RANDALL:

Can the Minister confirm whether the viral drug Tamiflu is now in Gibraltar? If I remember correctly he said late March, has it arrived or is it just due shortly?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I have not been notified and neither do I see any reason why I should have been notified of its arrival. I am assuming it has not arrived yet but there is nothing to indicate that it is not arriving on time. So if it has not arrived it is about due.

NO. 90 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

On behalf of the Hon Miss M I Montegriffo

GHA – MRSA INFECTION

Can Government state whether cases of MRSA Infection were detected at St Bernard's Hospital in the months of December 2005 and January and February 2006?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

A total of 14 cases were identified of which seven were hospital acquired, three were intrinsic, that is, when the person arrived at hospital he or she was already infected.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 90 OF 2006

HON L A RANDALL:

Am I correct in assuming that the other four were imported? The Minister gave 14 cases and if I heard him correctly he said seven and three intrinsic.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

That is correct, four were imported.

HON F R PICARDO:

Of the three that are described as intrinsic did the patient gain admission to St Bernard's Hospital from another medical institution, from another hospital, or are those simply the imported ones?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

We group MRSA under four definitions – imported, intrinsic, hospital acquired and indeterminate which by implication answers the question that if they were intrinsic they were not imported. If they are imported they are imported from another hospital.

HON F R PICARDO:

If somebody were to be an in-patient at St Bernard's Hospital or another hospital and were to be discharged from their particular ailment that they were originally suffering and they were to be admitted into the hospital two weeks later and they happen to have MRSA, would that be featured in this list as intrinsic?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

If they did not have MRSA whilst they were actually in the hospital then yes, they would be as intrinsic.

HON F R PICARDO:

So if a person was released from, for example, St Mary's referred from St Bernard's to St Mary's released at St Mary's, returns to Gibraltar and has MRSA at the stage that he leaves St Mary's when he is re-admitted in Gibraltar because he has not come back straight to hospital he comes back to his normal life and then is admitted into hospital, that is intrinsic?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

If he is not known in St Mary's to have had the illness then yes it would be as intrinsic.

HON F R PICARDO:

If it was known it would be imported?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes, if he went back into St Bernard's straight from St Mary's for example or from any other hospital and he was carrying the disease then it would be shown as imported.

HON F R PICARDO:

Yes but when he is known to have the disease when he leaves hospital, it may not be possible but I am just trying to understand the headings, and he is released knowing that he has got MRSA or having been diagnosed with MRSA believed to be cured and after say a number of days of being back at home he is then re-admitted or admitted into St Bernard's is that imported, intrinsic or...?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The definition of 'imported' is where the person arrives at hospital with the MRSA infection which has been acquired outside Gibraltar. It is irrelevant whether it comes in direct or whether it comes in via a stay at home, if it is known.

HON L A RANDALL:

Does the Minister not consider that seven hospital acquired cases of MRSA is a high number and if not, why not?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No, the Minister considers nothing of the sort. In fact I said it before and I will say it again, our figures in Gibraltar are much lower than they are in the UK. If we used the same system, we are much stricter on ourselves, we measure to a very much higher standard. I will give an example, if we had used the same yardstick in Gibraltar that they use in the UK, then for the period 1999/2005 only eight cases in total would have been reported. Here we are going out of our way to test to try to prevent the disease spreading. Nowhere else, as far as we know, in no other jurisdiction is every patient returning from an overseas hospital to a general hospital systematically screened and if having the disease then isolated until the disease is cured. In many places including the UK published statistics only deal with MRSA bacteraemias, that is the most severe case of the infection whereas Gibraltar counts and publishes every single case of MRSA infection, and as I said if we used the same yardstick of bacteraemias then only eight would have been reported in that six year period.

HON F R PICARDO:

But surely the incidence of patients returning to a hospital in the UK after treatment from an overseas hospital is much lower than it is in Gibraltar.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

But it is the principle, it is the principle of moving between one hospital and another, the principle of coming into a hospital. We are testing every single case and we are recording every single case that emerges irrespective of the degree of the infection, whereas UK is recording and reporting only bacteraemias which are severe cases of infection.

HON F R PICARDO:

Just on the parameters the Minister said that we are the only place that is testing all patients returning from an overseas hospital but we obviously have more patients returning from an overseas hospital than for example the United Kingdom which will not have that many patients returning from overseas hospitals. They might come from other hospitals in the United Kingdom but if the criteria is overseas hospitals, then really the fact that we are testing more of those does not say much does it?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

We compare ourselves not just with the United Kingdom but also to the Channel Islands, Jersey, Guernsey, Isle of Man, which are smaller jurisdictions with which we compare more favourably.

HON F R PICARDO:

Can I very quickly crave your indulgence and just go back one question to ask the Minister this? Of the figures that he gave of detected MRSA cases, were any of those fatal?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I am sure that if they had been I would have known about it so I will say probably not. I think when I answered this question some time ago I said there had been either no deaths or one death attributed to MRSA, this was in answer to a question some months ago, so I would think the answer is almost certainly no.

NO. 91 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GHA – SMALLPOX VACCINES

Can Government confirm that between 1999 and 2004 they purchased Swiss Serum Institute smallpox vaccines from UK, and if so, how many doses were obtained?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Yes a total of 290 ampoules of 100 doses each, that is a total of 29,000 doses were purchased from the UK Department of Health in 2003.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 91 OF 2006

HON J J BOSSANO:

Given that there is no indications that we are about to have a smallpox epidemic and that there are only 22,000 of us Gibraltarians, is there a particular explanation why this apparently large volume was considered necessary?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I was not Minister for Health at the time as the hon Member knows but from my connections with C3, the Contingency Planning Committee and also from memory of other situations I can tell him that at the time, we are talking about the time of the Iraq War and events surrounding it, at the time there was considerable concern in circles to do with this that they were being used by terrorists basically, so this was a preventative measure taken by Government at the time which was difficult to achieve I might say, it is not easy to get smallpox vaccines because they are strictly controlled and difficult to come by, and they were bought at the time as a preventative measure and are still held in stock. I think the hon Member said 22,000?

HON J J BOSSANO:

Gibraltarians.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Well the population is 27,000 and in case of an outbreak we cannot distinguish on grounds of nationality.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Have these got an expiry date?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

All medicines have an expiry date, I asked that question myself. I do not know what the expiry date of this is but I understand that for vaccines it is fairly long term but I could not tell him on my feet what the expiry date is.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Does the Minister have available to him what it cost at the time?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

It cost £46,400. To give the answer completely they come complete with something called, I think it is bifurcated needles which are not straight needles they are fork shaped and if the transport costs are added we are talking of £50,763.83.

ORAL

NO. 92 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

On behalf of the Hon Miss M I Montegriffo

GHA – NON-ENTITLED PATIENTS

Can Government state how many non-entitled patients have been admitted to St Bernard's Hospital during the months of December 2005 and January and February 2006?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 93, 94, 99, 100, 101 and 102 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 93 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

On behalf of the Hon Miss M I Montegriffo

GHA – OUT-PATIENT ATTENDANCES

Can Government state what was the total number of out-patient attendances at St Bernard's Hospital during the months of December 2005 and January and February 2006?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 92, 94, 99, 100, 101 and 102 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 94 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

On behalf of the Hon Miss M I Montegriffo

GHA – IN-PATIENT ATTENDANCES

Can Government state what was the total number of in-patient admissions and the average number of patients per day at St Bernard's Hospital during the months of December 2005 and January and February 2006?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 92, 93, 99, 100, 101 and 102 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 95 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

On behalf of the Hon Miss M I Montegriffo

GHA – NUMBER OF BEDS

Can Government provide a breakdown by ward of the number of beds available at St Bernard's Hospital as at 0800 on Monday 20th February?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 96, 97 and 98 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 96 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

On behalf of the Hon Miss M I Montegriffo

GHA – NUMBER OF BEDS

Can Government state the number of beds that were occupied at St Bernard's Hospital as at 0800 on Monday 20th February 2006?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 95, 97 and 98 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 97 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

On behalf of the Hon Miss M I Montegriffo

GHA – NUMBER OF BEDS

Can Government state during the months of December 2005 and January and February 2006 of the beds occupied by Elderly Persons who have been formally discharged from St Bernard's Hospital how many fell into each of the three categories identified by the Government specifying sex and age:-

1. Elderly persons living alone;
2. Elderly persons needing support; and
3. Others able to be looked after?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 95, 96 and 98 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 98 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

On behalf of the Hon Miss M I Montegriffo

GHA – ELDERLY CARE PATIENTS

Can Government state how many long stay Elderly Care patients there were at St Bernard's Hospital during the months of December 2005 and January and February 2006, giving a breakdown by sex and age?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

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

Answer to Question 98 of 2006

Answer to Question 95 and 96

Ward	Beds	Transfers	Occupied	Unoccupied
Victoria	30	+1	31	0
John	30	+1	31	0
Dudley Toomey	30	+1	31	0
Captain Murchison	30	+1	31	0
Rainbow	21	-	11	10
Emily Macintosh	11	-	5	6
Dr Giraldi Unit	13	-	8	5
Closed Wards	40	-4	-	36
Day Surgery	5	-	-	5
A&E	2	-	2	-
Total	212	-	150	62

Answer to Question 97

1. Elderly patients formally discharged:

December		
Age	Male	Female
71-80	8	20
81-90	4	16

2. All elderly patients require some sort of support be it physical, psychological or social.
3. All patients who have been formally discharged are able to be looked after.

Cont Answer to Question 98 of 2006

Answer to Question 98

The number of elderly patients at St Bernard's Hospital as at the end of December 2005, end of January 2006 and end of February 2006 were as follows:

December 2005:

Age	Male	Female
65-70	4	8
71-80	7	24
81-90	11	17
91-100	2	3

January 2006:

Age	Male	Female
65-70	1	6
71-80	6	24
81-90	12	10
91-100	1	3

February 2006:

Age	Male	Female
65-70	2	5
71-80	4	25
81-90	13	10
91-100	1	3

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 95 TO 98 OF 2006

HON L A RANDALL:

Can the Minister confirm that of the 212 beds available only 176 are usable as 36 appear to be in closed wards?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Normally 40 are not unusable but not open for use at any given moment. On the date that the question is framed four of those beds had been transferred from the closed wards to the open wards and that is why the figure there is at 36, but normally as at today for example, of the 212 available beds in the hospital 40 are in a closed ward that is not being used. I had difficulty with the hon Member's use of the word 'available' because I was not quite sure what the question meant and that is why in the answer it has been changed from 'available' to 'occupied' and 'unoccupied' in order to make it absolutely clear.

HON F R PICARDO:

In answer to Question Nos. 95 to 96 of 2006, looking at the schedule it would appear that there is a total of 62 unoccupied beds at St Bernard's Hospital in the days in question but obviously that includes not 40 but 36 which are unavailable, to coin the phrase that is perhaps the one that the Minister does not like, and 10 in the Children's Ward.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

It is not that I do not like the word, I changed it to unoccupied and occupied to avoid misunderstanding so that I could give a clear answer. By occupied and unoccupied what is meant is that on the snapshot that the hon Member asked me to take at 8 o'clock in the morning on that particular day those beds were occupied meaning that they had a patient lying in the bed and being looked after and those that are unoccupied, other than the 36 beds in the closed ward, are unoccupied because there are no patients in them but if at one minute past eight a patient had been trundled in on a trolley that figure would have been 61 and not 62 if he sees what I mean.

HON F R PICARDO:

Yes absolutely but the substance of this debate that we have had now for some considerable time, certainly since I have been elected to this House and very recently publicly as well as a result of the bed shortage problem really is this, we are still being given a total number of beds of 212 and yet even with acute shortages like the ones that even the Health Authority itself accepts that it suffered in the past three weeks, 40 of those beds are not really available beds in any way shape or form by any definition.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

That is exactly why I changed the answer not to use the word 'available' to avoid misleading Opposition Members because how does one define 'available'? If the bed is behind the doors of a closed ward technically according to the dictionary definition of the word a bed is available because it is there but I have changed it to 'unoccupied' so as to make it clear the difference between available and it is unoccupied at that particular moment in time which does not mean to say that it could not be occupied if it were necessary to occupy it but the policy, to get it clear once and for all, the policy of the Government and the GHA is at this moment in time to keep that ward closed and not to use it for reasons that we have rehearsed publicly and I am quite willing to rehearse again but for the avoidance of wasting the time of the House I will not unless the hon Member presses. The policy is to keep those 40 beds closed under normal circumstances. Now having said that, not currently because we are in the middle of the week but last weekend, I have lost track now whether we are in the middle of an initiative or just finished one but the initiatives that we are taking last for about a week. Now what we have done for the last new initiative is to avoid a recurrence of the situation that we had three weeks ago when the new initiative contributed to the shortage of beds and the problems that were raised. For the new initiative this time we have opened a small ward of 10 beds and the new initiative operations have been carried out in that small ward. The beds have been opened up for a short period of time and as soon as the knee patients have gone home the beds have been closed down again.

HON F R PICARDO:

It sounds like a knee jerk reaction to the bed shortage problem to me but anyway, let us try and cut to the chase. Is the Minister telling us and let us try and analyse his language, is the Minister telling us that today in St Bernard's there are 212 available beds?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

If by 'available' we mean are there physically 212 beds in the hospital the answer is yes, there are physically 212 beds in the hospital in the locations given in the answer to the Question.

HON F R PICARDO:

Is the Minister telling us that there are 212 beds available for patients, for example at Accident & Emergency if those people turn up. If the hospital were empty and 212 patients were to turn up at Accident & Emergency would there be 212 beds available?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Then it depends how one defines the word 'available'. The hon Member raises his hands as if I were talking nonsense, well he should listen more carefully and maybe he will understand the explanation that I am giving because the rest of his Colleagues obviously do, he is the only who does not so maybe he should listen more attentively. It depends how one defines 'available'. If he is asking me whether

212 people arrived at the hospital today, now at this minute and wanted to lie on a bed then the answer is yes, there are sheets and there are 212 beds which could be used and can be used. Now if he asked me, and he has not asked me so I volunteer the information to cut the debate, if he asked me whether the hospital is staffed for 212 beds then the answer is no. The hospital is not staffed for 212 beds but it is staffed for 212 minus 40, yet we have opened up 10 for the initiative and we have taken on the extra staff for the initiative. So that is the situation both clearly, transparently and openly. There are 212 physically there one can go and touch them and they are made up and they are ready, there is not in the hospital today in the GHA today staffing to man 212 beds and that is not by accident that is deliberate. There is not because we do not think, and this is where we disagree with Opposition Members if one judges by their comments publicly, we do not agree and neither do the experts as they like to call them that we brought in to advise us, neither do they, that Gibraltar needs a hospital with 212 beds under normal circumstances and because we do not think that the hospital needs to be staffed for that number of beds on a permanent basis that is why those wards are not open and that is why those wards are closed.

HON F R PICARDO:

So the hospital is then staffed for less beds than there were at the old St Bernard's?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The hospital is staffed for 172 beds. There were 167 beds in the old St Bernard's.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Would the Minister not confirm that it has already been agreed and established in these exchanges that the old St Bernard's had more than 167 beds until they decided to put the Physiotherapy where a ward had been after the move of the kitchen when the refurbishment was completed, because that point has already been conceded and they reduced the number of beds.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

If we are going to go back into the archives and into history then let us go back to 1988 not to 1996 but beyond. In 1988 when the hon Members came into office there were 192 beds in the hospital and they cut them down not this Government.

HON F R PICARDO:

No.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

What does he mean no? It is not that I will give him the opportunity he has the opportunity to ask as many questions as Mr Speaker allows. So there were more than that back in 1988/1989 when the hon Members came into office. In fact I have

got the figures here in front of me. The number of beds that there were, were cut down by the GSLP in Government by 29. I will tell how they were cut down, they closed down the private corridor which had 17 beds in it and they lost 12 beds in the acute wards in the refurbishment they did and 17 plus 12 is 29. It is also true as the hon Member says that when the GSD came into office in 1996 the situation that we inherited is 192 minus 29 which is 163. Now, the GSD contrary to what the hon Member said that we reduced beds, we actually increased beds by four because in the transfer of wards that they alluded to a moment ago where we transferred Lewis Stagnetto into the private corridor we gained four beds. There used to be four beds less in Lewis Stagnetto Ward than there were when we moved to private corridor. We had 29 between Lewis Stagnetto Ward and Lady Begg Ward initially and we went up to 33. It is also true that we transferred the kitchen and we put in the physiotherapy treatment rooms where the old kitchen had been. The net result, which hon Members cannot get away from, is that when they came into Government there were 192 they reduced by 29 to 163 and when we came into Government in 1996 during the first four years we increased by four beds to 167, 167 is the number that remained in the old hospital up to February last year when we moved and when we moved we moved from a hospital that had 167 beds into a hospital with 212 which we cut down to 172 for use. Added to that we opened up an extra 50 beds which hon Members very conveniently like to forget about, we opened up an extra 50 beds not in the hospital but in Mount Alvernia.

So we closed down Lady Begg and Lewis Stagnetto Wards and transferred the patients that were there into Mount Alvernia and we moved down into the ward with plenty of empty space. Whether the hon Members like it or not it is a fact and if they say I am presenting excuses, they say that the Government have not planned for this, the reality is that we left the old hospital with very few elderly patients, still some but very few, we transferred 50 elderly patients into Mount Alvernia and since we have been in the hospital the number of elderly patients has been increasing and the number of spare beds has been decreasing. When hon Members look at it they should study where the bed shortage is before they make wild accusations.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I think the Minister does deserve that round of applause for the incredible fiction that he has put up before the House today. In fact, I do not believe for one moment that the position is as bad as he has painted it because if indeed it were it would show that the health of this community had deteriorated massively, given that we apparently managed with 167 beds to have less people move to Mount Alvernia, no problems of bed blocking and no massive complaints of people being kicked out of hospital when they wanted to stay, and we did all that according to him with 167 beds but he seems to have forgotten and would he not agree that he should look back and check his figures that at the beginning of 1996 when the refurbishment which was started prior to 1996 was still continuing, the Government in fact I believe the Minister might have been Keith Azopardi at that time, were saying in this House that the number of beds that had been temporarily lost as the refurbishment went on from ward to ward would be recovered at the end and then a policy decision was taken to change that and not recover the beds that were being lost. That is recorded in Hansard and if he does not want to look it up I will look it up and let him have a copy.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes, I invite the hon Member to look it up and he will find that what I have said is correct. When they refurbished the wards in their period in Government, if the Leader of the Opposition will stop and think for a moment and re-picture the wards as they used to be, what I call Florence Nightingale wards in which all the beds are side by side and there are no partitions, what they did when they were in Government and it is always a good sign that one is striking home and saying the unpalatable and the acceptable when the Opposition Member starts making side comments and strikes. When they were in Government they changed the old-fashioned Nightingale wards into more modern, partitioned areas of four beds each in the old hospital and in doing so, whether they like it or whether they do not and I am not saying it is a bad thing, but whether they like it or whether they do not because they put in walls inside an open area that had no walls before in doing this they lost 12 beds in total. They lost three beds in each of the acute wards. Now that is history I am not inventing it, that is history and they can look up all the Hansards they like and they can go up to the old hospital and measure it for themselves and ask the people who were there at the time but that is, whether we like it or not, fact. We made the wards smaller but we made them better I will grant the hon members that and that is that. What they also did was close down because that was their policy at the time, close down the private corridor as part of the refurbishment that they were doing, and in doing that they lost another 17 beds and that is also fact. Again if they want to look at the Hansard look at the Hansard, what Keith Azopardi my predecessor would have said in this House that as a Government we were not losing the beds, and I am right in the figures that I have said we inherited 163 from Opposition Members and during that period of time we actually increased it to 167 because by transferring Lewis Stagnetto Ward into what had been the private corridor we gained four beds. So if Keith Azopardi said that in Hansard, as the hon Member says, there is no reason to say he was wrong he was right but he was right in our time. We took a hospital with 163 beds and during the first eight years of the GSD in Government we increased it to 167.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is it not a fact that when the present Government took over the hospital there was a refurbishment in process which had not been finished and what they said in the House was that whether they stuck to the policy that they inherited, which was that when the refurbishment was completed the number of beds would be recovered or whether they did something else was something on which they had not yet taken a decision and that they subsequently came back and took the decision related to the movement of the kitchen and the physiotherapy. They decided there was a refurbishment going on, it was clear that there was a question of musical chairs as the work was being done with patients in the hospital, a hospital ward that was finished was closed down and another one was gutted, while that was going on it was clear that we were not intending to have patients with construction workers clambering over their beds. When the process was completed they chose not to go back to what it was at the start of that process because it was completed in their time and that was in fact confirmed here as their policy which we did not question or challenge them on assuming they did not think they needed those beds. There was no indication, if the Minister will recall, that in that time when it was 167 because they did not restore the 13, at that time no great pressure from patients about needing more beds it came much later for reasons that are not very clear.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I have nothing to add.

HON F R PICARDO:

Coming to another aspect of the bed shortage problem, is the Minister satisfied that people should wait in the hospital for 12 hours for a bed in Accident & Emergency?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No, and I would be less satisfied if I were in the UK where unfortunately delays are much longer but that does not in any way make the situation locally any better. Let us get it in perspective, that has happened twice in the period that we have been in the hospital over the period of the month of February when we had a particularly difficult period. During February our admissions through A & E went up by 30 per cent over the weekends. During February we had the initiatives which meant an extra 10 patients in. We have had an increase of activity in the hospital due to the excellent track record of this Government in having extra consultants, extra doctors in the Primary Care Centre, to the introduction of the CT Scan, in the introduction of mammography and in the introduction of all the new measures that we are doing. This is generating new movement in the hospital. For example, the work in the Laboratory has gone up by 17 per cent; the output for the ITU has gone up by 20 per cent; admissions have gone up by 15 per cent; long-stay patients are up from 22 to 52; we have already carried out in the period since the CT Scan opened, we have carried out almost as many CT Scans as were carried out in the whole of last year. So all that is providing extra work and extra input, we have more doctors, we have more consultants and therefore more people are being seen and more work is being generated and all that is translating itself to extra demands on beds. Now, I am not in any way complacent or satisfied to be standing here and to be answering questions on why people have to wait for 18 hours in A & E, it is not something that I would like to see. I would like people to whiz in and out of A & E as if it were a Tube Station. Unfortunately, in real life it does not quite work out that way but we need to keep it in perspective that we had a bad period over two weekends during the month of February and this is what made the problem more acute. Under normal circumstances the problem is not there and as I have given to the hon Member in answer to either in this series of Questions we have, as the hon Member will see there, in February we have 42 elderly patients who have been formally discharged and we have 43 elderly patients who are occupying beds in St Bernard's Hospital. We have as we have given in answer to a previous question I think it was 28, I stand to be corrected but I think it was 28 patients are occupying beds in St Bernard's Hospital who are waiting a place in Mount Alvernia. Now leaving everything else aside and leaving away all the fog and obfuscation and all the conflicting details that are being generated in public between us in the last few days in the past few weeks, taking that statistic in isolation there are 28 patients in St Bernard's Hospital doing nothing more than waiting for a place in Mount Alvernia. Now by definition and implication those patients do not need medical care, ergo they do not need a medical bed, ergo they are not in need of occupying space and if we had those 28 beds vacant, which we should have, then there would be no challenge at any time of people waiting in A & E or long-stay admissions into hospital. That is the true situation.

HON F R PICARDO:

What is the Minister going to do to ensure that next year nobody has to wait for 12 hours at Accident & Emergency for a bed?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Well we will strive to learn from our mistakes and we will strive and try to avoid the same thing happening again, but I notice that equally he has not taken up the challenge which I issued in a press release when I said that the Opposition instead of criticising should also try to provide constructive criticism and say how they propose that the problem be solved.

HON F R PICARDO:

Is that all the Minister is going to come up with? A placebo that he intends to learn from his mistakes and a challenge to the Opposition to solve the problem for him. What plan is he making to ensure that next year elderly, young or middle aged people who are taxpayers and who need health care and who need a bed at the hospital do not have to wait for 12 or 18 hours or even six hours at Accident & Emergency? He is the Minister for Health it is his responsibility, what plan is he going to activate to ensure that the management of the hospital next year does not suffer the indignity of having people having to wait for 12 hours?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

He shall have to wait until next year to be able to see whether he has to criticise me or congratulate me.

HON F R PICARDO:

I will take that as, 'I have no plan I will think of one'.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

He can take that exactly in the way it has been said. We have looked at what has gone wrong this year and we shall attempt to prevent it happening. I cannot guarantee, and the hon Member well knows it, I cannot guarantee that there will not be a major disaster God forbid in the future, I cannot guarantee that the avian flu will not break out, I cannot guarantee that we will have an epidemic or something else. If that happens we will have similar problems. We will strive to prevent under normal circumstances this sort of thing happening and I do not know any Health Minister of any Government who can stand up on his feet in any country and guarantee that there will not be a problem of that nature.

HON F R PICARDO:

Ministers of all Governments are expected, barring disasters like aircraft accidents, avian flu et cetera and with the normal year on year statistics that we see, to provide

that guarantee and in fact the Minister told us when he was introducing the new hospital that many of the problems that had been experienced before had been dealt with. In particular the bed shortage problem because of the moving of the 50 elderly patients to Mount Alvernia, that did not materialise. It does not take an expert to know that more elderly people unfortunately, more people certainly, get ill in December, January and February, they are the obvious acute months the elderly are more susceptible to colds et cetera, what is he doing subject to a major disaster breaking out to ensure that in those months he has got more beds available. Why does he not simply tell me that he is going to ensure that the extra ward with 40 beds is ready to go in December, January and February next month.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I have already answered that question twice just as I have already given Opposition Members a full, frank and detailed analysis of the bed situation in St Bernard's and I am not prepared to be drawn down the route of giving the Opposition Member a platform for making political broadcasts to whoever is listening to us on the radio.

HON F R PICARDO:

Anybody might think that we had forgotten the answer he gave a few moments ago which was in fact prefaced with a political broadcast about how it was the GSD's policies increasing the activity in the hospital that were causing people to wait for 12 hours at Accident & Emergency. Never mind. Can I ask the Minister perhaps also to consider not answering questions like Question No. 102 in writing by way of schedules because I think the answer to Question No. 102 is an answer that should have been read out for the benefit of everybody who may be in the House and it is not a table that needs to be passed around?

MR SPEAKER:

Well the answer has been provided and it is a matter which I am sure the Minister.....

HON F R PICARDO:

With respect, it is a question put for oral answer. Now we all agree that because a lot of the information required is statistical it is sometimes easier for the Minister to pass us a table but a question put for oral answer to which the answer is there is normally no distinction in timings between adult and child surgery other than in the ENT waiting list initiative programme where children are being scheduled after 1300 hours, that is clearly an answer that should be read out and not passed in a sheet of paper.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I take the hon Member's point, I am not quite sure why that was grouped with the statistical questions other than I am checking on all the questions that were grouped together and they were all in terms of out-patient attendances and in-patient admissions and they were all to do with patients and they may have been grouped

together for that reason. There is no reason why it should not have been given verbally and equally no reason why it should not have been given in the schedule as part of the package, but I take the hon Member's point, I try to restrict the schedules to statistical information and I take his point that this one is not statistical.

ORAL

NO. 99 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

On behalf of the Hon Miss M I Montegriffo

GHA – SCHEDULED SURGERY

Can the Government state whether scheduled surgery has now commenced by specialities other than Gynaecology?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 92, 93, 94, 100,101 and 102 of 2006

ORAL

NO. 100 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

On behalf of the Hon Miss M I Montegriffo

GHA – NUMBER OF OPERATIONS

Can Government state how many operations were performed in St Bernard's Hospital at Europort in December 2005 and January and February 2006, by specialists, specifying which were elective and which were emergencies?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 92, 93, 94, 99, 101 and 102 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 101 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

On behalf of the Hon Miss M I Montegriffo

GHA – ELECTIVE SURGERY

Can Government state how many persons were waiting for Elective Surgery in each speciality as at end February 2006?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 92, 93, 94, 99, 100 and 102 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 102 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

On behalf of the Hon Miss M I Montegriffo

GHA – CHILDREN’S SURGICAL OPERATIONS

Can Government confirm that programmed children’s surgical operations at the GHA are carried out only after 1300 hours?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

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

Answer to Question 102 of 2006

Answer to Question 92

The following number of non-entitled patients were admitted to St Bernard's Hospital during the months of December 2005, January 2006 and February 2006:

December 2005	-	3
January 2006	-	3
February 2006	-	3

Answer to Question 93

The total number of Out-Patient attendances during the period in question were –

2005/2006	Clinics	A&E			Physiotherapy
		Clinics	Dressings	Plasters	
December 2005	1520	1863	450	55	433
January 2006	1845	1871	461	67	553
February 2006	1639	1856	443	50	468
Totals	5004	5590	1354	172	1454

Answer to Question 94

The total number of In-patient admissions during the months of December 2005, January 2006 and February 2006 was as follows:-

December 2005:	338
January 2006:	423
February 2006:	381

The average number of in-patients per day during the months of December 2005, January 2006 and February 2006 was as follows:-

December 2005:	104
January 2006:	117
February 2006:	133

Answer to Question 99

Scheduled surgery has now commenced in Ophthalmology.

Contd. Answer to Question 102 of 2006

Answer to Question 100

Elective operations performed during the period in question were as follows:-

	December 2005	January 2006	February 2006
General surgery	54	70	70
Gynaecology/Obstetrics	15	20	16
Medical	-	3	-
Ophthalmology	13	19	34
Oral Surgery	14	30	22
Orthopaedics	34	26	28
Otorhinolaryngology	14	22	34
Pain relief	-	8	9
Plastic Surgery	9	-	-
Total	153	198	213

Emergency operations performed during the period in question were as follows:-

	December 2005	January 2006	February 2006
General Surgery	7	13	9
Gynaecology/Obstetrics	6	9	8
Medical	1	-	-
Oral Surgery	-	-	-
Orthodontics	-	-	2
Orthopaedics	1	15	8
Otorhinolaryngology	2	-	-
Total	17	37	27

Contd..

Contd. Answer to Question 102 of 2006

Answer to Question 101

The elective surgery waiting list as at the end of February 2006 by speciality is a follows:-

General Surgery	296
Orthopaedics	319
Ophthalmology	48
Gynaecology	53
Otorhinolaryngology	134
Orthodontics	175
Plastic Surgery	178

Answer to Question 102

There is normally no distinction in timings between adult and child surgery other than in the ENT waiting list initiative programme where children have been scheduled after 13.00Hrs

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 92 TO 94 AND 99 TO 102 OF 2006

HON F R PICARDO:

Perhaps whilst my hon Colleagues look through those tables I can take the Minister to Question No. 102 of 2006 where we are told that in respect of ENT initiative surgery children's surgery is being scheduled for after 1300 hours, is there a particular reason for that?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes and no, the question implies is there a reason why it cannot be done at any other time then the answer is no. If the question is why is it being done at 1300 hours or after 1300 hours it is because in the administration of the hospital that was the convenient spot or vacant time in theatre and that is what was allocated but there are no hidden agendas, motives or reasons. It could have been after 9 o'clock if circumstances had been different.

HON F R PICARDO:

I would not think there was a hidden agenda in respect of scheduling children's operating hours but I had recent experience of this in relation to some friends and of course children when they are going to have surgery need to fast just like adults when they are going to have surgery and it appears to be particularly harsh on children to make them fast from the evening before through the morning until 1 o'clock or thereafter. It starts at 1 o'clock many of the children are not being operated on until 4 or 5 o'clock in the afternoon and that means that they are without the ability to eat or drink anything other than just a glass of water during the course of the day. Is it possible for the Minister to look into whether this type of operation could be re-scheduled to earlier in the day for that reason?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes I will certainly look into it but this is a decision that has been made by clinicians who are experienced in these matters. I would have assumed that they would have taken into account the fact pointed out by the hon Member but be that as it may I will certainly take it up with Management and make the point to them.

HON F R PICARDO:

Would the Minister write to tell me what the solution to that is or would he rather I write to him to prompt a reply?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I always prefer, as hon Members know, to answer a question rather than to offer an explanation that may not meet the criteria. In this particular case maybe the question is clear and implicit so can I suggest to the hon Member that he gives me a telephone call the middle of next week and if I can give him a satisfactory answer

over the telephone then he may be satisfied, if not we can then exchange correspondence.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I would like to clarify a possible confusion that certainly has arisen in the way the media has reported part of my answers yesterday. I just want to clarify just in case the same confusion should exist on the Opposition side of the House. When I refer to non-entitled patients the media in the reports today appear to have interpreted that, and in fact I have been in contact with them and they have confirmed it, appear to have interpreted the term 'non-entitled' to refer to elderly people who are in hospital who in their words are not entitled to be there. Now, that is not what I have always meant by non-entitled and I thought I would clarify it for the sake of the media but also to avoid any possible confusion. When I speak of 'non-entitled patient' I am referring of course to persons not entitled to free medical care under the GPMS Scheme, like for example, a foreign national off a liner, or off a cruise ship or off an oil tanker who comes to the hospital with an accident and is treated in the hospital, he would be classified as a non-entitled patient and charged for the service that is provided to him by proof of his insurance or passport. I thought I would clarify that for clarification for the media but also just in case the confusion should exist anywhere else.

HON F R PICARDO:

Can I just come back to the Minister in respect of his answer, I think we all agree that we have been using the term non-entitled as he suggests and not in any other way, but in effect if an elderly person were to remain at St Bernard's despite having been medically discharged, on the basis of the proposals that the Minister made publicly not in this House which he said were his proposals that he was going to put to the Government, they were not Government proposals, in effect also those elderly people would be charged for remaining in the hospital by the taking of their pension in exchange for remaining in the hospital bed, is that not correct?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No, this widens the debate considerably. I am not going to dodge the question but let me clarify that the term non-entitled does not cover elderly persons in any shape or form except for non-entitled elderly person. Now in relation to the proposals that I made those proposals are still being put together, have not yet been put to the Government, I do not agree that the proposal to remove the pension as happens in Mount Alvernia would be in effect to charge, persons who are entitled cannot be charged that is statutory, so whatever proposals the Government accept or do not accept would have to be dealt with when they are made and when they are accepted.

ORAL

NO. 103 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

On behalf of the Hon Miss M I Montegriffo

GHA – PHYSIOTHERAPY TREATMENT

Can Government state how many patients are on the Waiting List for Physiotherapy treatment, who have been referred by a doctor at the Primary Care Centre?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 104 and 105 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 104 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

On behalf of the Hon Miss M I Montegriffo

GHA – PHYSIOTHERAPY TREATMENT

Can Government state what is the waiting time that a patient has to experience at the moment when referred to a physiotherapist for treatment by a doctor at the Primary Care Centre?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 103 and 105 of 2006.

NO. 105 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

On behalf of the Hon Miss M I Montegriffo

GHA – PHYSIOTHERAPY TREATMENT

Can Government state whether they are aware that doctors at the Primary Care Centre are telling patients that Physiotherapy waiting lists are so long that they may as well go private instead of even being put on the waiting list?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

There are 158 patients waiting for Physiotherapy treatment who have been referred by a doctor at the Primary Care Centre. The waiting time for such referrals is four to five months.

It is against GHA policy for doctors to refer patients to private practitioners.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 103 TO 105 OF 2006

HON L A RANDALL:

Just because it is against GHA policy I am sure that it could be happening. It is against GHA policy but in fact people come to us and report the fact that they are being told by doctors at the Primary Care Centre that if they do not want to wait that long they have got to go private.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The investigations that have been done have not been able, predictably I suppose, to show that anybody has admitted to having done this. If the hon Member has any information which links a patient or a doctor and can produce that information to me I can give him an undertaking here and now that I will follow it up. At least I will get Management to follow it up. On the other hand human nature being what it is it depends on how this is phrased but it would I think be almost understandable if the doctor knowing that there is a four to five month waiting list and seeing that a patient needs the treatment, out of his duty of care a doctor could conceivably say something like 'you have a waiting list of so long, it is going to take you so long to see a public physiotherapist, maybe it is in your interest to go and make alternative arrangements or to go and see someone privately'. It depends on the choice of

words and the way the question is phrased, 'one might as well go private' is a disciplinary offence. The policy is that the doctor is not supposed to refer people outside the GHA circle. I would also like to add that we are talking here about outpatients and by and large, there may be exceptions to this, but by and large the outpatient who needs physiotherapy needs it for relatively minor ailments or relatively minor afflictions. This waiting list does not apply to patients in the hospital who may have been there because of an accident or who may be there for a broken bone where there is a separate team of physiotherapists who will give him that physiotherapy straight away whilst they are in the hospital. I want to draw a distinction between one and the other.

HON L A RANDALL:

Can the Minister say whether he has any plans in hand to reduce this waiting time which I consider to be too long? Are there any plans in hand in order to reduce it from four to five months to something more acceptable?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Let me first of all analyse the reasons why there is a waiting list and we put it down to the investigation that has been done because there is a review being done of physiotherapy as a whole and it is being put down to extra input. Again what I have said before, we have extra doctors, we have now got nurse practitioners, there is an increase of input through the Health Centre to the hospital, one of the hon Members before said 'are we less healthy?'. It is not that we are less healthy it is that we are more healthy and that we are living longer and drugs are getting better and people have a greater life expectancy and therefore statistically there is a greater demand on existing services. We have engaged an extra physiotherapist in order to bring down the waiting lists as well as in helping with the new initiative because an extra demand on the service is that all the new initiative patients need intensive physiotherapy after the operation. We are carrying out a review of all physiotherapy to see what can be improved and certainly we are looking at how we can improve the service by providing more group work and less individual work, because at the moment the physiotherapy is focused on one to one and individual work outs and there are, I am told, many areas where three or four patients can be grouped to do the same or similar type of exercise under one physiotherapist rather than what they are doing now. That and any other measures that may be identified through the review.

HON L A RANDALL:

The Minister mentioned that one extra physiotherapist had been employed, when did he start his service?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I cannot commit myself to a date I do not have the information with me but it is relatively recent, it is not a year ago it is within the last month or two months that sort of thing.

HON L A RANDALL:

In that time frame has the Minister detected an improvement in the time patients have to wait to receive treatment or is it too early yet?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

It is early and no notable improvement has yet been noticed mainly because there is extra demand because of the new initiative. So no tangible improvement has been noticed yet.

ORAL

NO. 106 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

On behalf of the Hon Miss M I Montegriffo

GHA – NON-ENTITLED PATIENTS

Can Government state whether they have finalised the Review of Private Fees for non-entitled patients accessing secondary care, and if so, provide details of the fees now being charged?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

The amendments to the Hospital Rules, which include the schedule of Hospital Fees, are currently at the drafting stage. Maybe I should add for the benefit of the hon Member that when he asked me to provide details, these details will be provided automatically because the changes to the Hospital Rules will be Gazetted so they will become public knowledge as soon as they are published.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 106 OF 2006

HON L A RANDALL:

Could the Minister provide an estimated date by when this will be ready?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No because it is entirely out of my hands, it is in the hands of the LSU and it depends on their workload and the frequency of meetings of the House. No wrong, it does not depend on the House because these are Regulations so it does not need to come to the House, it is not primary legislation but I would not think it is going to take long. I am pressing for it to be done as quickly as we can.

ORAL

NO. 107 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

On behalf of the Hon Miss M I Montegriffo

GHA – NUMBER OF PRESCRIPTIONS

Can Government give a breakdown of the total number of prescriptions issued, the number of items and the cost of the medicines covered by such prescriptions under the GPMS for the accounting periods 6 to 11 of 2005/2006?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 108, 109, 110, 111 and 112 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 108 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

On behalf of the Hon Miss M I Montegriffo

GHA – PAYMENTS TO PHARMACISTS

Can Government confirm how much has been paid to Pharmacists for periods 6 to 11 of 2005/2006?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 107, 109, 110, 111 and 112 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 109 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

On behalf of the Hon Miss M I Montegriffo

GHA – PAYMENTS TO PHARMACISTS

Can Government say what was the amount paid to Pharmacists for the periods 6 to 11 of 2005/2006, and the comparable figure for the same periods 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. 107, 108, 110, 111 and 112 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 110 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

On behalf of the Hon Miss M I Montegriffo

GHA – NUMBER OF PRESCRIPTIONS

Can Government state the total number of prescriptions issued, the number of items and the cost of the medicines covered by the GPMS prescriptions for accounting periods 6 to 11 of 2005/2006 in respect of which £2.50 per item was paid by patients to the Dispensing Pharmacists?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 107, 108, 109, 111 and 112 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 111 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

On behalf of the Hon Miss M I Montegriffo

GHA – NUMBER OF ITEMS

Can Government state the number of items that have been issued, that exceed the three items and which pay a total of £7.50 for the accounting periods 6 to 11 of 2005/2006?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 107, 108, 109, 110 and 112 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 112 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

On behalf of the Hon Miss M I Montegriffo

GHA – PAYMENTS TO PHARMACISTS

Can Government state how much has been paid to the Pharmacists as Dispensing fees for periods 6 to 11 of 2005/2006?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

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

Answer to Question 112 of 2006

Answer to Question 107

	Financial year 05/06				
Period	6	7	8	9	10
Scripts	11980	13686	12586	14039	12076
Items	45010	51077	46230	53852	46391
Cost	£459,711.48	£518,135.21	£482,222.74	£575,545.45	£504,068.90

Answer to Question 108

	Financial year 05/06				
Period	6	7	8	9	10
Paid to Pharmacy	£516,516.98	£580,873.81	£538,906.74	£642,746.55	£561,820.20

Answer to Question 109 and 112

	Financial year 05/06					
Period	6	7	8	9	10	11
Dispensing Fees	£81,018.00	£91,938.60	£83,214.00	£45,728.40	nil	nil

	Financial year 04/05					
Period	6	7	8	9	10	11
Dispensing Fees	£88,977.60	£91,675.80	£94,055.40	£49,796.40	nil	nil

Answer to Question 110

	Financial year 05/06				
Period	6	7	8	9	10
Scripts	5181	6067	5543	6037	5276
Items	9685	11680	10612	11893	10301
Cost	Not possible to identify costs.				

Contd.

Cont Answer to Question 112 of 2006

Answer to Question 111

No. The following are the number of items on paying prescriptions that have not attracted a charge:-

	Financial year 05/06				
Period	6	7	8	9	10
No.of items	3505	4120	3775	4439	3832

The foregoing is in respect of completed periods only. Some accounts are yet to be submitted in respect of period 11.

ORAL

NO. 113 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

On behalf of the Hon Miss M I Montegriffo

GHA – PATIENT REFERRALS

Can Government state the number of patient referrals to the UK in the months of December 2005 and January and February 2006?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 114, 115 and 116 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 114 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

On behalf of the Hon Miss M I Montegriffo

GHA – SPONSORED PATIENTS

Can Government state what has been the number of Sponsored Patients treated in the UK in the months of December 2005 and January and February 2006?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 113, 115 and 116 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 115 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

On behalf of the Hon Miss M I Montegriffo

GHA – SPONSORED PATIENTS

Can Government state how many patients have been treated in Spain as opposed to the UK, as Sponsored Patients, in the months of December 2005 and January and February 2006?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 113, 114 and 116 of 2006.

NO. 116 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

On behalf of the Hon Miss M I Montegriffo

GHA – MALAGA CLINIC

Can Government state how much was spent by the GHA with regards to patients being sent to Malaga Clinic for scans in December 2005 and January and February 2006?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

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

Answer to Question 116 of 2006

Answer to Question 113

292 patients were referred to the United Kingdom during the months of December 2005, January and February 2006.

Answer to Question 114

257 sponsored patients were treated in the UK during the months of December 2005, January and February 2006

Answer to Question 115

97 Patients were treated in Spain, as sponsored patients, during the months of December 2005, January and February 2006.

Answer to Question 116

The amount spent by the GHA with regard to patients being sent to Malaga Clinics for scans in December 2005, January and February 2006 was as follows:

December 2005	=	Nil
January 2006	=	Nil
February 2006	=	£1,526.75

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 113 TO 116 OF 2006

HON L A RANDALL:

In answer to Question No. 116 of 2006 for December and January the figure is nil and for February it is also a very low figure, is this because scans are currently being carried out in Gibraltar?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes that is correct. The figure for February of £1,526.75 is probably just one scan, at the most two and these are the type of more specialist scans that are not carried out locally.

NO. 117 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

On behalf of the Hon Miss M I Montegriffo

GHA – CT SCAN

Can Government state the commencement date of CT Scan Services at St Bernard's Hospital and how many CT Scans have been undertaken to date, providing a breakdown by month?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

The CT Scans services at St Bernard's Hospital commenced on 17th October 2005. A total of 517 CT scans have been carried out up to the end of February in comparison to a total of 305 scans which were carried out in Spain in the same period between October 2004 and February 2005.

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

Answer to Question 117 of 2006

MONTH	TOTAL CT SCANS	
	04/05	05/06
18 th – 31 st October	36	60
November	70	119
December	60	115
January	70	126
February	69	97
TOTAL	305	517

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 117 OF 2006

HON L A RANDALL:

Regarding the statistical information to Question No. 117 of 2006, the figures for 2004/2005 I take it the CT Scans took place outside Gibraltar?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes that is correct, the scan in St Bernard's opened on 17th October 2005 so any scans up to 31st October would have been done in Spain.

HON L A RANDALL:

Then all those for 2005/2006 were done in Gibraltar?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes.

ORAL

NO. 118 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

On behalf of the Hon Miss M I Montegriffo

GHA – GENERAL PRACTITIONERS

Can Government confirm whether they have now finalised the discussions with the General Practitioners regarding their job description?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question No. 119 of 2006.

NO. 119 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

On behalf of the Hon Miss M I Montegriffo

GHA – GENERAL PRACTITIONERS

Can Government state whether they continue to be committed to the principle of parity with the UK in respect of the salaries of GP's, and if so, what is the UK analogue?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

The position in respect of discussions with the General Practitioners remains as stated in answer to Question No. 1181 of 2005.

The salaries of the General Practitioners have never been analogued to those of General Practitioners in the UK.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 118 AND 119 OF 2006

HON L A RANDALL:

Perhaps the Minister could confirm whether I am correct or not in saying that some of the GP's, not all of them but some of them, are on Civil Service terms? They are considered as Civil Servants.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes.

HON L A RANDALL:

So are the Government saying they are not committed to the principle of parity of wages with the UK for the Civil Servants?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No, the Government are saying nothing of the kind. There are some GPs who are permanent and pensionable which is what I take what he means by being Civil Servants and all the conditions of permanent and pensionable apply to them. What I am saying is that there has never been an analogue simply because there is not an equivalent in the UK. There are no salaried GPs in UK and therefore at the time when parity was introduced it was not possible to find a body of GPs that were salaried to compare and have an analogue. So what was done was to link it to the mid-point of the UK Consultant scale and that is the analogue. It is not an analogue to a GP scale.

ORAL

NO. 120 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

On behalf of the Hon Miss M I Montegriffo

GHA – NUMBER OF NURSES

Can Government state how many nurses were in post as at the end of February 2006, giving a breakdown by grade?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 121 and 123 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 121 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

On behalf of the Hon Miss M I Montegriffo

GHA – CONTRACT NURSES

Can Government state the number of contract nurses employed by the GHA as at the end of February 2006, listing the speciality in which they are employed?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 120 and 123 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 122 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GHA - NURSES

Can Government say when the requirement for Nurses to be qualified at RGN level before qualifying as Midwife or RMN was discontinued by the GHA?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question No. 124 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 123 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

On behalf of the Hon Miss M I Montegriffo

GHA – NUMBER OF NURSES

Can the Government confirm what is the present distribution of nurses by wards and departments at St Bernard's Hospital, Europort, specifying their grades?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

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

Answer to Question 123 of 2006

Answer to Question 120 of 2006

The following is a breakdown by grade of nurses in post as at the end of February 2006:

Director of Nursing & Patient Services	1	
Deputy Director of Nursing Services	1	
Clinical Nurse Managers	6	
Education Development Officer	1	
Senior Nurse Tutor	1	
Nurse Lecturer	1	
Nurse Practitioners	2	
Charge Nurses	32	
Staff Nurses		
112 Full-timers		} 125.5
7 Part-timers (3.5 Full-time equivalents)		
Midwives		
8 Full-timers		
4 Part-timers (2 Full-time equivalent)		
Operating Department Practitioners	5	
Senior Enrolled Nurses	5	
Enrolled Nurses		
79 Full-timers		
14 Part-timers (7 Full-time equivalents)	86	
Nursing Auxiliaries		
8 Full-timers		} 93
1 Part-timer (0.5 Full-time equivalent)		
Nursing Assistants		
77 Full-timers		
9 Part-timers (4.5 Full-time equivalent)		
4 (28 hours) (3 Full-time equivalent)		

Answer to Question 121 of 2006

The following is a breakdown within nursing specialities of the contract nurses employed by the Gibraltar Health Authority , at the end of February 2006:

DIRECTOR OF NURSING & PATIENT SERVICES	1
EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT OFFICER	1
NURSE LECTURER	1
NURSE PRACTITIONERS	2
CHARGE NURSES	3
STAFF NURSES	25
STAFF NURSES (PART-TIME)	1
REGISTERED SICK CHILDREN'S NURSE	5

Contd..

Contd. Answer to Question 123 of 2006

Continued Answer to Question 121 of 2006

REGISTERED MENTAL NURSE	6
THEATRE NURSES	2
MIDWIVES	8
MIDWIVES (PART-TIME)	2
OPERATING DEPARTMENT PRACTITIONERS	5
ENROLLED NURSES	2

Answer to Question 123 of 2006

Department	Charge nurse/Sister	Staff Nurse	ODP's	Senior enrolled nurse	Enrolled Nurse	Nursing Assistant
Phlebotomy	-	1.5	-	-	-	-
Eye	1	2	-	-	-	0.5
Clinics	-	1	-	1	10	-
CSSD	1	1	-	-	-	2
John	2	9	-	-	8	11
Victoria	2	7	-	-	9.5	10.5
ITU	2	19.5	-	-	6	-
Night Sisiter	4		-	-		-
Dudley Toomey	2	10	-	-	8	10
Captain Murchison	2	10	-	-	7	10.5
Rainbow Ward	1	8	-	1	5.5	2
A&E	2	12.5	-	-	10.5	-
Theatre	2	8	5	-	-	1
Maternity	2	13	-	-	1	3.5
Dialysis	-	1	-	-	-	-

The above figures do not include arrangements for the Waiting List Initiative (Knee) whereby 8 Staff Nurses and 4 Nursing Assistants are engaged on an ad hoc basis.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 120, 121 AND 123 OF 2006

HON J J BOSSANO:

Are any of these contract nurses that there were in the end of February employed through an Agency or all they all directly employed by the Health Authority?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

If he looks at the last two lines of the answer he will see that the arrangements for the waiting list initiative those were employed through an agency. Everybody else would have been employed under short-term employment, all the others were employed by the GHA.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The people on the waiting list initiative that are shown at the bottom, are they engaged on a specific term for a specific period?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes, I think I am right in saying that they are engaged only for the period of the given operation, that is, for the one week.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can the Minister say what terms the nurses are paid? Are they sort of paid pro-rata the same as other contract nurses or do they have a different...? Does the Authority pay the Agency and the Agency pays them as happens with agencies in the UK?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes that is the situation. I do not have details of the figures but the employment is through the Agency, we contact the Agency and the Agency supplies x number of workers and we pay the Agency. It has worked reasonably well so far.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is this the first time that this approach has been used or has it been done on other occasions before?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

As far as I know this is the first time for the new initiative. I qualify that because we now have had three sessions of operations so it has been done three times but three times since the beginning of February. I know it has not been done in my time as Minister for Health, I cannot say whether it has been done before.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Would this agency be in the UK?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes. Let me qualify that, I know that there are some Spanish nurses that have been employed so there may have been two agencies, one in the UK and one in Spain. We have also, let me add, given the first choice to any unemployed but currently qualified nurses who are in Gibraltar who are not currently working for GHA. So we have advertised and we have given those people the choice and then we have gone to the two agencies.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I see, so the ones that are local nurses that may be able or may be in a position to take on temporary employment of this nature do not have to go through the agency then?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

That is correct yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

They are offered employment directly by the Authority.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

We have gone one further, we are now in negotiation with the Union post the first three initiatives and at the request of the Union, to which we have agreed, we are now giving the option to employed staff on conditions that have been worked out to apply to do the short-term work as long as they meet a number of criteria, that is does not affect their normal work, that they do not suddenly go sick after they finish doing the extra work they then go off sick for a week and whatever other conditions have been worked out with the Union to give our own staff a chance to earn some extra money as well.

HON J J BOSSANO:

What is it that they would be sort of working on their off duty days, would that be the case?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes, call it overtime for want of a better word, off duty days or they are on leave other than the scheduled contracted hours.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In the case of the ones that are brought out from the United Kingdom by the UK agency, do Government payments to the agency cover everything or does the Health Authority have to pick up things like accommodation and travel costs?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I am subject to correction on this but the payment covers everything including travel and accommodation. Now whether we are paying one lump sum to the agency and the accommodation separately I am not sure but I do not think so. I think we pay the agency one lump sum per nurse and they meet the accommodation and the transfer fees. I think that that is correct.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The payment then to the agency is for the contracted period and the agency pays the wages of the individual nurses.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

That is correct. Let me say also that we are maintaining a strict supervision of the people that we are being sent and there has already been a case of at least one and I think possibly two nurses who have been sent back in the middle of their contracted one week period, thereby forfeiting the payment because they have not met the standards.

NO. 124 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GHA – SUPERVISOR OF MIDWIVES

Is it Government's intention to fill the vacant posts of Supervisor of Midwives at St Bernard's Hospital, and if so, how long has the post been vacant and when is it proposed to be filled?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

The training for midwives was changed by the Nursing Midwifery Council a number of years ago and it is now no longer a post-registration qualification. Direct entry midwifery training is a three year programme at the end of which they are fully qualified autonomous midwifery practitioners. The first cohort of three Gibraltarian midwives who have completed this programme and qualified earlier this year have now been employed by the GHA. Similarly, the GHA policy with respect to RMN training has been adjusted to take into account the changes to RMN training. This is no longer a post-registration qualification either. This brings Gibraltar in line with employment practices elsewhere and enables students to train directly in their specialist area of practice.

There has never been a Supervisor of Midwives post on the complement at St Bernard's Hospital. There are therefore no vacancies. The role of supervisor of Midwives is not a post in its own right. It is an additional responsibility that is taken on voluntarily by experienced Midwives who have the respect and confidence of their peers. Indeed, it is essential that anyone taking on these duties is currently in practice to ensure that they are clinically up to date. The GHA has made good progress in introducing this important development for Midwifery services. The Midwifery unit underwent a review by a Local Supervising Officer who made a series of recommendations to prepare the unit for this work. Two senior midwives were recommended as fulfilling the criteria and all the Midwives in GHA have now been allocated a supervisor and have had their first annual review.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 124 OF 2006

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well perhaps the terminology of Supervisor of Midwives may not be the accurate terminology but there certainly was somebody in post on a salary and in a grade that was not replaced when the person retired, of that I have no doubt and I think in fact in one of the area lists provided by the Minister the post appeared there when the

person was in post. I will check the terminology and come back with a different question on that.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

If the hon Member would like to do that, it may be because the terminology has confused the drafter of this answer which obviously has not been me, unintentionally giving the wrong answer. If he would like to write to me specifying the post or if he would like to ring me I can then investigate and give him the information either by letter or in a future answer in the House.

HON J J BOSSANO:

As regards the RMN training I think perhaps the Minister would be able to clarify for me, I thought I detected a distinction in that in respect of the midwives he referred to it no longer being a post-registration qualification whereas in the case of the RMN he talked about the employment practice elsewhere now being adopted here.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No, there are certainly five lines on the midwives but I will read again the part of the answer on RMN training: similarly the GHA policy with respect to RMN training has been adjusted to take into account the changes to RMN training. This is no longer a post-registration qualification. It is not here but I added 'either' when I read the answer so my understanding is that it is exactly the same situation in the verbal explanation that was given to me. Before people used to train as nurses and then have to take the extra qualification, now they train as midwives or they train as Registered Mental Nurses in their own right in their own careers.

HON J J BOSSANO:

But is the Minister then saying that this was driven by a change in training requirements in the UK because certainly that is not my understanding?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

That is my understanding certainly in terms of midwives and I suspect it is the same in terms..... I am not sure whether the RMN training is done locally or not.

HON J J BOSSANO:

This is the whole point. Given that in the case of midwives the Minister did not say that this was following employment practice elsewhere, what I am trying to establish is in fact whereas in the case of the midwives they did a normal nurses course and then they did midwifery as a post-registration course, in the case of the RMN there has been no such change. That is to say that RMNs in the United Kingdom did not have to be general nurses before they became RMNs from a training point of view. Is the Minister saying that when we used to have that requirement in Gibraltar it was

because we were following UK training requirements and these have changed, which is what he was saying about the midwives?

HON-LT COL E M BRITTO:

It may be that the drafter of the question certainly has not taken that into account. I am certainly saying that the practice changed in the UK with regard to the midwives, my answer to the question does not talk about changes to the RMN training in the UK and therefore I cannot give him that information here and now because I do not know. I can certainly say that the policy in Gibraltar now is for people not to become general nurses before they become RMN.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Yes I am aware. I am trying to establish when that practice was introduced and why, given that unlike the midwife answer it is not training driven. I think in the last House when I asked when was this brought about I was told by the Minister that he did not have that information available and to put the question again and that is what this question is doing, seeking the information that he did not have the last time, which is when did it happen. I asked the last time, if the Minister will recall, whether it was still required and he told me it was no longer required. I then asked in a Supplementary when did the requirement stop and he was not able to tell me the last time I asked and this is why I am asking now what he was not able to do. Can Government say when the requirement was discontinued by the Health Authority? Now that information has not been given in the answer I take it. We have been told about changes in the UK and changes in employment practices elsewhere but we have not been given a date.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Fair enough, I will take note of what the hon Member is saying and I will try and find out the dates for him. Can I clarify whether he is talking about both the midwifery changes and the RMN changes or just the RMN changes?

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am interested in getting the information on both because given that the first one seems clearly to have been driven by the fact that the UK stopped demanding that people should be trained as general nurses before they were able to enter into midwifery training, but the UK to my knowledge had never demanded that of people doing the RMN, that was a Gibraltar condition for reasons that were thought to be desirable when that was the policy and therefore a policy that was there which was not driven by UK entrance requirements as it were, has been changed and I am interested in knowing whether the change happened in both instances at the same time given that it may well be that somebody thought they were doing it for midwifery and they might as well do it for the RMNs, although I can assure the Minister that the reasons for the RMN were reasons that had nothing to do with the UK training to my knowledge.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I appreciate that the hon Member has background knowledge and information on this subject. I am sorry that I have not given all the information in the answer that he was looking for, obviously in drafting the answer no account has been taken of the previous answer that was given, I will obtain this information and I will communicate it to him.

NO. 125 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GHA- OUT OF DATE DRUGS

Can Government say in how many Wards in St Bernard's Hospital have drugs been found to be out of date, when and what is the procedure for removing and replacing drugs when the expiry date is reached?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

When drugs are dispensed from the St Bernard's Pharmacy the expiry date is checked by the person dispensing who is responsible for ensuring that only items with a good "best before" date are issued. It is the duty of the person administering the drug to check the expiry date before administration to the patient. If the drug is found to be expired it is not administered and is returned to the Pharmacy where it is exchanged for new stock. The expired stock is recorded and disposed of by the Pharmacy. It is the responsibility of the Ward Manager to ensure that drugs held are always current. Precisely because drugs have an expiry date, it follows that all wards and units holding drugs periodically return quantities of expired drugs to the hospital Pharmacy. Similarly, the Pharmacy itself also identifies expired drugs held in its own stocks.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 125 OF 2006

HON J J BOSSANO:

Yes, but that is the practice that is intended to happen. My question is, in how many Wards the stock has been found to be expired and it has not been returned and presumably something has been done about it, or is the Minister telling the House that in fact, I am not suggesting that one thing is right or the other one wrong I am just trying to establish which of the two it is, that in fact as long as it is clear and nobody would suggest otherwise that patients are not being put at risk by being given expired stock, the fact that the expired stock has not been returned is not something that is monitored and enforced?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Well, the hon Member may be alluding to something that happened in one of the Wards recently where as part of a review of the Ward in general and of practices in the Ward that was being carried out, a number of drugs were found on one of the

emergency trolleys which were expired. As a consequence disciplinary action was taken against people concerned. This appears to have triggered off a reaction in other wards and there has been, in a short period of time recently, a fairly large number of wards all returning drugs. So if that is what the hon Member is alluding to that certainly happened and as a result there has been an inspection by the people responsible, by the Ward Managers, of all the drugs in their own wards. Also by other entities like District Nursing and in the Endoscopy Unit.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am aware of that particular incident and what I am trying to establish is if in fact this was happening in many wards then obviously it was triggered off by the decision of the Health Authority that this should be treated as a disciplinary offence because previously it had not been treated as a disciplinary offence, it was presumably the practice until that moment that as long as it was clear that the expired..... if one does not have a routine in place of checking stuff then presumably most nurses who usually have got more important things to do will only notice that the medicine is expired when they go looking for it to make use of it and they do not administer it if it is expired. Now given that at one point in time there seems to have been a change, what I am asking is as a result of that change in practice how many wards were affected and when did this happen and what is the procedure? In fact, if there is no procedure surely the Minister will agree that it is difficult to understand how somebody can be considered to be committing an offence if they have not got instructions that the medicine must be sort of returned say within 24 hours of its date being expired or something similar.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

That is precisely the point. I draw the hon Member's attention to that part of the answer where I said, 'it is the responsibility of the Ward Manager to ensure that drugs held are always current'. That is not a change, that has always been the rule and should have been the practice. Whether it has been or not been is a different issue but it is the responsibility of the Ward Manager to ensure that drugs held in the ward are current. In this case it was found that the ward was holding drugs that were not current and action was taken because someone had broken the rules. As a result it sent out alarm signals and a number of other wards returned drugs and now there is a system in place where there will be periodic revisions and periodic checks to prevent it happening again. But there has not been a change in the policy, now whether the policy was being implemented before or not is a different issue but there has not been a change of policy.

HON J J BOSSANO:

When this particular incident happened did anybody actually go round checking if a similar situation was occurring in any other wards or not?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I cannot answer that question because I do not know. Strictly speaking it is a management responsibility, whether management sent out a warning to all wards

saying check your stocks or whether someone went round physically or how it was done I could not tell the hon Member.

HON J J BOSSANO:

But the Government do not have the actual information as to when this noticeable discovery of expired stock took place?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

In the last three to four months, I do not have a date in front of me but in the last three to four months.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The question of which I have given notice does ask for specific information on the wards affected and when.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The answer to his question strictly speaking is that in one ward drugs were found to be out of date. As a consequence of the action that was taken the other wards applied the policy that I have read out of checking their own stocks and they returned drugs but no one actually went and found them, it was not necessary to do so. That is a straight answer to the question the way it was raised.

ORAL

NO. 126 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GHA – MEDICAL CARDS

Can Government explain what criteria is adopted by the GHA in deciding whether an applicant is issued with a Medical card for 1 year or 5 years?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question No. 127 of 2006.

NO. 127 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GHA – MEDICAL CARDS

Can Government explain why persons who contribute to the GPMS are required to produce an ID card to obtain the EU format Medical Card from the GHA?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

The Identity Card is required for identification purposes.

Entitled persons to whom paragraphs 1(a), 1(b) or 1(c) of Schedule 1 to the Civilian Registration (Amendment) Ordinance apply are issued with a Gibraltar Health Authority Health Card and a European Health Insurance Card, each valid for five years.

Entitled persons who do not fall under any of these categories will be issued with a Gibraltar Health Authority Health Card and a European Health Insurance Card each valid for the period ending either with the date of termination of employment or the date of termination of the permit of residence, whichever is the later; but in any case for not more than five years.

In order to avoid inconvenience to the public initially when we were issuing the cards and in order to expedite the issue of cards in the first wave of applications, it was decided that a one year validity period would be given to all the cards when they were first issued to persons in the second category. In other words, those to whom paragraphs 1(a), 1(b) and 1(c) did not apply. New instructions have now been issued since the beginning of this month before the Question was tabled, for the staff to ask for employment or permit of residence documents and to make the expiry dates of the cards coterminous with the relevant document.

It may not have escaped the notice of the hon Member that the easiest way for the staff at the Primary Care Centre to establish the status of the applicants is by having sight of the Identity Card and the card. However, passports would be accepted in the absence of Identity Cards. So if I can paraphrase the answer, when we started issuing cards those people who qualify under paragraphs 1(a), 1(b) and 1(c), in other words resident Gibraltarians and others in similar category, were given five year cards. In order to speed up things because of the large number of cards that needed to be issued those people who did not or do not qualify under paragraphs 1(a), 1(b) and 1(c) were issued cards for one year irrespective of nationality, length of stay in Gibraltar, job employment or whatever. As from the beginning of this month that second policy has changed and we are now asking to see the employment document or the residence permit and we are issuing the card for a period to coincide with the

end of either the employment contract or the residence permit, whichever comes later, but in any case not more than five years.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 126 AND 127 OF 2006

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is the Minister aware that people were being asked to produce both an ID card and a passport and that if they just came with the passport they were told they had to come back with the ID Card?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes, I am aware that there was some confusion initially in the line of management on the way the instructions were issued and the AO or the clerk on the ground was at some stage either asking for both or I even heard reports of the Identity Card being asked for and the passport being refused. Some of those instances happened in the initial rush to issue the cards but not because instructions were given for that to happen that way but because of confusion or because of mal-administration. As those were brought to the notice of management they were corrected and the instruction is now very clearly they are asked for the ID Card, because it helps to identify for reasons which the hon Member will obviously know. It helps to identify whether it is Category A, B, C or Category D but there is an Opposition Member absent today which is a good case in point. If a member of the public does not have an ID Card for whatever reason then the passport is accepted in lieu of the ID Card.

HON J J BOSSANO:

It is not compulsory to have an ID Card, I do not have an ID Card.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

It is an interesting question. If the hon Member is asking me whether it is compulsory to have an ID Card in order to get a GHA Health Card or the European Card the answer to the question is no because we do not ask for the ID Card. Well we ask for the ID Card but if the ID Card is not produced for whatever reason we accept the passport in lieu. If the hon Member is asking whether the ID Card is compulsory, it is an interesting question which I am not going to debate with him but the advice that I got earlier on today or yesterday was that under section 2 of the Civilian Registration Ordinance and under section 3(1) combined, and also under the Ordinance itself that it is compulsory to register. Any person other than a registered person to whom these Regulations apply shall within three days of entering into Gibraltar make application to the Registration Officer for registration, and entering into Gibraltar is interpreted to include..... The Registration Officer receiving..... shall issue to that person an identity card the Civilian Registration Card. Before we enter into debate, can I draw the hon Member's attention to the date of the Gazette which is Thursday 25th March 1993 so it was enacted by Opposition Members when they were in Government. I am not proposing to enter into a debate whether ID Cards are compulsory or not compulsory.

HON F R PICARDO:

They are not compulsory, the Ordinance is from 1950 and ID Cards are not compulsory.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Well in 1993 it was an amendment to that Ordinance.

HON F R PICARDO:

Yes the 1993 amendment but it is not compulsory.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is the Minister saying that before 1993 they were not compulsory and they were made compulsory in 1993, is that what he is saying?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I do not propose to enter into a debate on this. I made it very clear, I said that if I was being asked whether an ID Card is compulsory before getting a Health Card the answer is no. If I am being asked whether it is compulsory to have an ID Card, there are those who would interpret this legislation to say that it is compulsory not to have an ID Card but to register under the Civil Registration Regulations. It is compulsory to register and then when one registers the Registration Officer shall issue to that person an Identity Card. But it is not for me to say whether it is compulsory or not compulsory I just pointed it out to the hon Member.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can I ask the Minister whether in fact it is not the case that frontier workers are entitled to be registered with the GPMS, and if they are, how does the Regulation apply to them?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

They come under paragraph 1(d) I believe of the Regulation which says, 'an individual who is not a visitor to Gibraltar entitled to be resident in Gibraltar and present in Gibraltar subject to such conditions and for such periods as may be specified'.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So they do not have to show an ID Card?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

That category of individual registers under 1(d) registers for the Civilian Registration Card not for the ID Card.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well is the Health Authority then saying to frontier workers that they have to produce their Civilian Registration Card?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I say again, I am not entering into a debate, I am saying that in terms of the Health Authority and the issue of the Health Authority Card and the European Health Card this does not apply. I only bring it up because the hon Member asked me whether it was compulsory. I said it is not compulsory for the Health Card, now whether it is compulsory for other reasons it is for others to decide, I am not prepared to say whether it is or whether it is not. I just drew the hon Member's attention to the legislation.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am aware that he has chosen to draw attention to it and my attention has been duly drawn. What I am trying to draw his attention to is, I understand that they are no longer asking for ID Cards of anybody so what is the procedure for registration of frontier workers? What do they have to produce, their passports?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

A frontier worker has to be entitled in the first place. To be entitled he must be a contributor to the GPMS. Now, once he is a contributor to the GPMS he then, as identification, can show whatever identification he has which can be an EU Identity Card or a passport, and then if he is entitled, if he has contributed to the GPMS then he will be issued with the card and if he can obviously identify himself. The ID Card, I stress again, is not necessary, is not essential, is not compulsory for the issue of the Health Card or the European Health Card. It just makes the job of the administration a lot easier.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I accept that and certainly I take the point that initially people were being told that it was and this is one of the things that reached us and we thought we would need to raise the matter and clarify it and that is what we are doing. Given that it seems no longer possible to have a GPMS entitlement without the EU element of being able to access medical services elsewhere, that is to say, the E111 has gone.....

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Can I correct the hon Member? The fact that the card is being produced on both sides on the same piece of plastic is purely for administrative convenience and for the ease of the member of the public, for the patient. They are two separate documents. There are conceivably circumstances where one could issue one without the other except that the old E111 used to be necessary only when one was travelling. Now the EU directive requires the EHC to be issued on a permanent basis to each individual member of the family as opposed to one E111 covering the whole family. So under the EU Regulation it is necessary to have the EHC and under the local Regulation it is necessary to have the Health Card so we decided to combine them both giving the same date of termination for ease of renewal and to make it easier for everybody, the patient and the administration.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I see, but in fact then under the bringing into force of the EU format medical card does not require that it should be on the same document as the GPMS?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

That is correct.

HON J J BOSSANO:

But if frontier workers are being handed the same card as everybody else how does the Health Authority deal with the fact that surely frontier workers do not have passporting rights as it were based on their contributions in Gibraltar in their place of residence or anywhere else?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

But they do under the new EU Regulations if they are entitled patients in Gibraltar by virtue of their employment whether they are frontier worker or not frontier worker does not matter. If they are entitled they get the local card and they are entitled to the EHC and when they travel they are entitled to European benefits.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is that something that at least in theory is supposed to be at the expense of the Gibraltar Health Authority which gets subsequently billed for the treatment that is provided elsewhere or has that now disappeared?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The regime is the same, it depends for different categories. Now we are dealing into the other E111 forms that I do not have information at my fingertips, but if the patient is travelling in Europe and claims medical care it eventually comes back onto

Gibraltar via the UK. It comes back to Gibraltar via the UK, the hon Member can come to his own conclusions.

NO. 128 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

GHA – AMBULANCE ATTENDANCES BY CFB

What was the number of ambulance attendances carried out by the City Fire Brigade in each year from 1997 to 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

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

Answer to Question 128 of 2006

The number of ambulance attendances carried out by the City Fire Brigade from 1998 to 2004 is as follows:-

1998 (as from 20 June)	-	266
1999	-	341
2000	-	294
2001	-	332
2002	-	390
2003	-	364
2004	-	235

ORAL

NO. 129 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

On behalf of the Hon Miss M I Montegriffo

GHA – KGV HOSPITAL

Can Government state what has been the expenditure in each of the last five financial years on the maintenance of the KGV hospital by the GHA?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 130, 131, 132, 133 and 134 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 130 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

On behalf of the Hon Miss M I Montegriffo

GHA – KGV HOSPITAL

Can Government state what has been the number of beds provided in the KGV hospital Acute Ward at the end of each of the last five financial years?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 129, 131, 132, 133 and 134 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 131 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

On behalf of the Hon Miss M I Montegriffo

GHA – KGV HOSPITAL

How many of the beds in the KGV hospital Acute Ward were occupied at the end of each of the last five financial years?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 129, 130, 132, 133 and 134 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 132 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

On behalf of the Hon Miss M I Montegriffo

GHA – PSYCHO-GERIATRIC PATIENTS

Can Government state how many Psycho-Geriatric patients have been admitted in KGV during the months of December 2005 and January and February 2006?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 129, 130, 131, 133 and 134 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 133 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

On behalf of the Hon Miss M I Montegriffo

GHA – KGV HOSPITAL

Can Government state what has been the number of beds provided in the KGV hospital Long Stay Ward at the end of the last five financial years?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 129, 130, 131, 132 and 134 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 134 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

On behalf of the Hon Miss M I Montegriffo

GHA – KGV HOSPITAL

Can Government state how many of the beds in the KGV hospital Long Stay Ward were occupied at the end of each of the last five financial years?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

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

Answer to question 134 of 2006

Answer to Question 129 of 2006

Up to the end of March 2005 the works at KGV Hospital have not been accounted for separately. The figures shown in the table below are estimates based on works records. The figure for 05-06 is the actual amount spent on works at KGV Hospital.

Financial Year	Estimated expenditure for maintenance
01-02	£29,557
02-03	£30,500
03-04	£19,200
04-05	£37,900
05-06	£59,700

None of the above include the cost of labour employed or seconded to the GHA

Answer to Question 130 of 2006

I can state that there has been a provision of 24 beds in the KGV Hospital Acute Ward at the end of each of the last five financial years.

Answer to Question 131 of 2006

Out of the 24 beds available 19 beds were occupied in the KGV Hospital Acute Ward at the end of June 2001, 17 beds occupied at the end of June 2002, 22 beds occupied at the end of June 2003 and June 2004 and 20 beds occupied at the end of June 2005.

Answer to Question 132 of 2006

1 psycho-geriatric patient was admitted in KGV during the month of December 2005 and 3 psycho-geriatric patients were admitted during the month January 2006. There were no psycho-geriatric patients admitted in February 2006.

Answer to Question 133 of 2006

There has been a provision of 31 beds in the KGV Hospital Long Stay Ward at the end of each of the last five financial Years.

Answer to Question 134 of 2006

Out of the 31 beds available 26 beds were occupied in the KGV Hospital Long Stay Ward at the end of June 2001, 29 beds were occupied at the end of June 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005 respectively.

ORAL

NO. 135 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

On behalf of the Hon Miss M I Montegriffo

GHA – INDEPENDENT REVIEW PANEL

Can the Government confirm how many complaints have been lodged with the new Independent Review Panel in the months of December 2005 and January and February 2006, by users of the Health Service, specifying the date of each complaint?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Only one complaint has been referred to the Independent Review Panel at the request of the complainant during the period December 2005 to February 2006 inclusive. The complaint was first submitted to GHA on 13th April 2005.

ORAL

NO. 136 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

On behalf of the Hon Miss M I Montegriffo

GHA – SHOWER SEATS

Can Government confirm that the shower seats for the elderly or disabled at St Bernard's Hospital have now been fixed by the contractor, and if so, whether the contractor has provided the GHA with a full certification that all seats have been fixed to design specifications as per industry norms?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

The shower seats at St Bernard's Hospital, which are for the use of all patients and not just for the elderly or disabled, have now been individually inspected and where necessary modified by Fitzpatrick Rotary. The GHA is awaiting formal certification from McDermott's (who were the company sub-contracted by Fitzpatrick Rotary).

ORAL

NO. 137 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

On behalf of the Hon Miss M I Montegriffo

GHA – TV SETS

Can Government state whether they have finalised the negotiations with the UK company in connection with the TV sets at St Bernard's, which they referred to in answer to Question No. 1160 of 2005, and if so, when do they expect all of the TV sets to be back in operation?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

I can confirm that the negotiations have been finalised. The works are due to commence on Tuesday 2nd May 2006 and are expected to last approximately six weeks.

NO. 138 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GHA – INTRUDER ALARM

Can Government confirm that the intruder alarm for the stores of the St Bernard's Hospital pharmacy was connected earlier this year following a year without an intruder alarm?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

An intruder alarm system for the pharmacy store, which is located somewhere different to the pharmacy, was not part of the tender specifications for the new hospital because these stores were not intended to be used and have never been used to store controlled drugs. However, an alarm was requested and subsequently installed at the pharmacy stores as part of the contract works for additional security because of the costs of products stored there.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 138 OF 2006

HON J J BOSSANO:

So the cost of the products is the reason for having the intruder alarm and there are no drugs kept in the store at all even after the intruder alarm is there, is that the case?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No, there are no controlled drugs kept in the store, there may be other drugs like Panadol for example. It was not thought necessary initially but then because of the cost of items there and because the store may have been used for other things the Head Pharmacist asked for an alarm. The case was considered and it was approved and the alarm was installed in February of this year, it was ordered last September installed in February and it is expected to be finally commissioned by the 16th or it will have been done by now, by 16th March.

HON J J BOSSANO:

What I am saying is the store will not be used for controlled drugs even after the intruder alarm

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

That is correct.

ORAL

NO. 139 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

On behalf of the Hon Miss M I Montegriffo

GHA – NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

Can Government provide the breakdown of Laboratory confirmed notifiable diseases for 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question No. 140 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 140 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

On behalf of the Hon Miss M I Montegriffo

GHA – CAUSES OF DEATH

Can Government provide the 2004 percentage distribution for causes of death?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

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

Answer to Question 140 of 2006

Answer to Question 139 of 2006

The following table shows the breakdown of Laboratory confirmed notifiable diseases in 2004.

Organism	Total
Salmonella	90
Campylobacter	32
Shigella	8
Giardia lamblia	1
Myco. tuberculosis	2
Cryptosporidium	2
E coli O86: K61	1
E coli O111 :K58	1
Trichomonas vaginalis	3
Chlamydia	8
Bartonella (Cat scratch)	1
Mycoplasma pneumoniae	1
Adenovirus	19
Rotavirus	14
Respiratory Syncytial Virus	8
Hepatitis C	3
Hepatitis B	3
Hepatitis A IgM	2
Total	199

Answer to Question 140 of 2006

The percentage distribution for causes of death in 2004 is as follows:-

Cause of Death	Percentage	Number of Deaths
Heart disease	22%	49
Cancer	15%	34
Stroke	23%	50
Respiratory diseases	16%	36
Infections	12%	27
Degenerative diseases	6%	14
Accidents & Injuries	< 1%	1
Others	5%	10
Total	100%	221

NO. 141 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

On behalf of the Hon Miss M I Montegriffo

GHA – HEALTH CARE DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Can Government state how many recommendations were contained in the work carried out by the Health Care Development Team and which did GOG reject?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

The situation remains the same as given in answer to Question No. 1162 of 2005.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 141 OF 2006

HON L A RANDALL:

I have not got Question No. 1162 of 2005 in front of me but I seem to recall that the Minister asked me to ask a specific question which he would answer because he did not have the information at hand when through the Supplementaries it came down to identifying the number of recommendations and those that had been rejected, but I stand to be corrected.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I honestly cannot remember that but that is not to say that it did not happen but what I may have asked, because the underlying theme of my answer was that the programme cannot be simply viewed as a finite number of recommendations. It is not as though it is a report that ends with recommendations Nos. 1 to 10, it is 20 different workstreams and the recommendations are weaved into the text, some are and some are not and it needs to be looked as a series of high level proposals, structure processes practice et cetera, and what I may have said to him at the time was that if he had a specific interest in a specific area, if he asks about something if he identifies what he is interested in it may be possible to come back to him with a definite answer. The question he has asked now is virtually the same question as he asked the last time so that is why he has been given the same answer, if not to say the same words.

HON L A RANDALL:

I do not agree that it is the same question but nonetheless I will check Hansard and if I think it necessary I will write to him to the effect.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

From memory, because I do not have Question No. 1162 of 2005 either I have the answer but I do not have the question, but from memory having prepared the answer to the question this time he is asking 'how many recommendations were contained in the work carried out by the Health Care Development Team and which did GOG reject?' and that was exactly what he asked last time, 'how many recommendations were contained and how many were accepted and how many were rejected?' The words may not be the same but the thrust..... Be that as it may, the answer remains the same if he would like to look at it, Question No. 1162 of 2005. If he wants to identify particular items that he is interested in I am only too willing to give him the information but it is not possible to answer it in its current form.

HON L A RANDALL:

As I said before I will check Hansard and if I think it necessary I will write to him.

ORAL

NO. 142 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

On behalf of the Hon Miss M I Montegriffo

GHA – COST OF ACCOMMODATION

Can Government confirm what is the expenditure figure to end January 2006 for accommodation under Subhead 22 for the current financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 143 and 144 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 143 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

On behalf of the Hon Miss M I Montegriffo

GHA – STUDY LEAVE

Can Government confirm what has been the expenditure for study leave up to the end of January 2006, which is included in Subhead 30, School of Health Studies of the GHA?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Answered together with Question Nos. 142 and 144 of 2006.

NO. 144 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

On behalf of the Hon Miss M I Montegriffo

GHA – LEGAL CLAIMS

Can Government state the quantum they have paid in respect of legal claims settled against the Health Authority in the period October 2005 to February 2006, providing a breakdown by month?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

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

Answer to Question 144 of 2006

Answer to Question 142 of 2006

The expenditure figure to end January 2006 for Accommodation under subhead 22 is £392,291.49.

Answer to Question 143 of 2006

The expenditure included in sub-head 30, School of Health Studies of the GHA up to the end of January 2006 in respect of study leave is £101,172.16

Answer to Question 144 of 2006

Two claims amounting to £8,404.90 were settled during the period October 2005 to February 2006.

NO. 145 OF 2006**THE HON S E LINARES****EDUCATION – MAINTENANCE EXPENDITURE**

Can Government give a breakdown from the schedule given in answer to Question 1200 of 2005 as to what was actually spent on maintenance and on minor works?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CIVIC AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

The statistical information requested is set out in the schedule attached.

Answer to Question 145 of 2006

	MINOR WORKS	REPAIRS
Bayside	£245,505.70	£10,349.49
Westside	£111,767.58	£19,369.18
College	-	£19,004.63
St Joseph's Middle	£4,137.44	£4,269.79
St Anne's Middle	£49,119.39	£14,750.00
Sacred Heart	-	£5,163.93
Bishop Fitzgerald	£101,648.19	£11,676.81
Hebrew	-	£661.51
St Martin's Special	-	£14,557.62
Notre Dame	-	£15,080.52
St Paul's First	£41,581.26	£10,157.27
St Mary's First	-	£15,075.60
Governor's Meadow	-	£9,091.66
St Bernard's First	-	£6,792.04
St Joseph's First	-	£7,418.22
Varyl Begg Nursery	£12,595.57	£185.40

ORAL

NO. 146 OF 2006

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – BULLYING IN SCHOOLS

Can Government state how many schools have a written policy in relation to bullying?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CIVIC AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question No. 147 of 2006.

NO. 147 OF 2006

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – BULLYING IN SCHOOLS

Can Government state what criteria are used by the Department of Education to define bullying?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CIVIC AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

All schools have a written Behaviour Policy which provides guidance for teachers, parents and pupils on how to deal with bullying incidents.

All schools take the issue of bullying very seriously and include it as a theme in their Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) programmes which is part of the Curriculum.

The Government define bullying as a series of deliberately hurtful acts, physical or verbal, repeated often over a period of time and which makes it difficult for victims to defend themselves.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 146 AND 147 OF 2006

HON S E LINARES:

In answer to Question No. 1194 of 2005 which the Minister actually wrote to me because we had a sort of cross debate and he told me he was going to answer in writing, he has a definition, 'bullying has been defined as a serious incidence or allegation requiring that parents be called in to the school and which have been found, upon investigation, to have some degree of substance'. There is a disparity between the one he is giving me now and the one he wrote to me, is it that there have been any changes recently or that there has been an increased awareness, because I understand that there has been an increased awareness as of late to do in relation to bullying? The latest definition that the Minister has given me is that the one that I am supposed to be concentrating on or looking at?

HON DR B A LINARES:

The definition I have given here is more concise, it encapsulates pretty much other factors that we have debated across the floor previously, particularly with reference to Question No. 1194 of 2005 but it is just really sort of getting to the crux of the matter. Of course I could go on and for instance tell him that a more technical definition of bullying in the sense of the word 'bully' is sometimes misused and therefore it is sometimes difficult to differentiate between bullying and teasing. I have just tried to be as brief and concise as possible.

HON S E LINARES:

Does the Department then define bullying for that bullying to be included in the Behavioural Policy which the Minister has just mentioned? There has to be a uniform definition of bullying across every school because when I am given statistics and I ask how many children are being bullied in Bayside or Westside or whichever school, there has to be a uniform definition of what bullying is if not the statistics are useless, they have no foundation because one school might define bullying in one way and another school defines bullying in another way. The Department should define bullying albeit in consultation with Heads and schools and people to do with pastoral care, there has to be a uniform definition of bullying in order to ascertain statistics.

HON DR B A LINARES:

I would say there has to be a uniform understanding of bullying rather than a formula and a definition. The definition can be as broad or as concise as one likes to make it but so long as it points to an understanding, a real practical living existential understanding of what bullying is about, I agree with the hon Member. I am sure the hon Member knows that Headteachers and teachers know exactly what bullying is and the distinction between bullying, major incidents and teasing.

HON S E LINARES:

Yes but unfortunately we had the problem last time when I asked the question, 'can the Minister give us incidents of bullying in schools?' and then we had another statistic coming saying that Headteachers were not happy with the divulging of information, therefore that is why I am posing the question now because if one does not have a uniform definition of what bullying is across the board then what will happen is that one Headteacher will say in the statistics 'well this is bullying, I am going to put it in my statistics' whilst the other one says 'I will ignore that bullying because I do not think it is bullying'. Therefore, what I am stating is that the statistics will be completely useless, so does the Minister not agree that there should be at least a consensus across schools, of which some of them might not even have a bullying policy albeit they might have a behavioural policy but not a bullying policy specific.

HON DR B A LINARES:

If the hon Member is concerned about the statistics and fitting and tailored in the statistics to the broad definition then I would actually go back to the definition that I gave in Question No. 1194 of 2005. That is, a distinction between trivial incidents

reported to teachers to serious parental complaints or incidents requiring parents to be called in and which have some degree of substance. Now, I can go on on that one actually getting into that and splitting it up and breaking it down into other features and factors involved in bullying. The traditional distinction can be broken down into three types of bullying, physical - hitting, kicking, taking belongings et cetera; verbal – name calling, insulting, offensive remarks; indirect bullying – spreading nasty stories, social exclusion, malicious rumours, offensive e-mails and text messages and so we can carry on breaking up the broad concept and the broad definition which I have put before him, but I think really we are talking two very abstract things which in fact in the day to day practice of each school most teachers know exactly what they are about.

NO. 148 OF 2006

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION - NURSERIES

Can Government state how many teachers are employed in all Government nurseries giving a breakdown by nursery and session that is, am/pm?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CIVIC AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

The statistical information requested is set out in the schedule attached.

Answer to Question 148 of 2005

NURSERY	NUMBER OF TEACHERS
St Joseph's First	1 full-time
St Bernard's First	1 full-time
Notre Dame First	1 full-time
St Paul's First	1 full-time 1 part-time (am only)
Varyl Begg	1 officer in charge – not a qualified teacher

ORAL

NO. 149 OF 2006

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION - GASA

Can Government state why schools not listed in answer to Question No. 1195 of 2005 did not use the GASA swimming pool?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CIVIC AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 150 to 152 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 150 OF 2006

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION - GASA

Can Government state how schools not using the GASA swimming pool are fulfilling the National Curriculum requirement for PE (which includes swimming)?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CIVIC AND CONSUMER
AFFAIRS**

Answered together with Question Nos. 149, 151 and 152 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 151 OF 2006

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION - GASA

Can Government state how much the Department of Education paid GASA per child for the use of GASA in the academic years of 2002/2003 to 2004/2005 and 2005 to date?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CIVIC AND CONSUMER
AFFAIRS**

Answered together with Question Nos. 149, 150 and 152 of 2006.

NO. 152 OF 2006

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION - GASA

Can Government state whether the payment for sessions in the GASA swimming pool are still being paid from Examination Expenses or from the schools capitation budget?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CIVIC AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Government schools are able to make limited use of the GASA swimming hall to enable students, as the hon Member pointed out, to meet the National Curriculum standards of swimming which in effect is for a student to be able to swim a distance of 25 metres unaided by the end of Key Stage 4. The hon Member will know that the age of Key Stage 4 is Years 4 and 6 of Middle School, which equates to Year 6 when students are 10-11 years old. Most of the children in our schools are well able to do this. In cases where they are not, schools can carry out the assessment sessions and follow these with a series of lessons to bring this limited group of individuals up to standard but this can be done throughout Key Stage 2 by the requirements of the National Curriculum. One can deduce that the schools not listed before is because they have not got round to it yet and I think we listed if I recall properly Bayside, Westside, Bishop Fitzgerald. I can add to that now Sacred Heart and St Anne's for the reasons that I have just explained. That in the course of Key Stage 2, Years 6 and 7, they have found the opportunity. Let me say that in order to assess the 25 metre stretch skill GASA is not the only means of assessing that, we have got plenty of beaches here and there are plenty of trips by schools to beaches when they can actually observe and assist that. So we must not get things out of proportion.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 149 TO 152 OF 2006

HON S E LINARES:

I appreciate the answer from the Minister but he has omitted to give me how much the Department pays, there are a couple other questions that have not been answered.

HON DR B A LINARES:

I apologise. The rate is still the same as last time we spoke about this which is, I think, £1.50 per student per session. The payments are made from examination expenses centrally and not from the school's capitation.

NO. 153 OF 2006

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – SCHOOLS CAPITATION

Can Government state what the capitation was for the academic years 1996/1997 to 2005/2006 giving a breakdown by school?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CIVIC AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Given that schools' capitation allowances are conditioned on numbers on roll, children's ages and special needs, a generic figure for "capitation" by schools would not provide an accurate picture since the 'total' would tend to fluctuate.

I will now therefore hand over to the hon Member a table with the rates by school sectors rather than just by schools –nurseries rates and first schools rates et cetera, if that is acceptable to him.

Answer to Question 153 of 2006

SCHOOL	Rate per Child									
	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06
SECTOR										
Nurseries	£29.84	£31.33	£34.63	£38.10	£39.24	£40.42	£41.63	£42.88	£44.17	£46.86
First Schools	£29.42	£30.90	£33.90	£38.10	£39.24	£40.42	£41.63	£42.88	£44.17	£46.86
Middle	£40.37	£42.38	£45.77	£49.20	£50.68	£52.20	£53.76	£55.38	£57.04	£60.51
Secondary										
Year 8/9	£47.31	£49.67	£52.15	£55.28	£56.94	£58.65	£60.41	£62.22	£64.08	£67.99
Year 10/11	£67.44	£70.81	£74.30	£78.75	£81.11	£83.55	£86.05	£88.63	£91.29	£96.85
Year 12/13	£68.12	£71.52	£75.10	£79.61	£82.00	£84.46	£86.99	£89.60	£92.29	£97.91
Special Unit children	£103.10	£108.25	£119.00	£125.00	£128.75	£132.61	£136.59	£140.69	£144.91	£153.73
Total Amount spent	£330,005	£371,749	£384,121	£346,858	£372,709	£409,370	£409,924	£415,871	£442,034	£476,559 to date

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 153 OF 2006

HON S E LINARES:

Yes, the question reflects that, that is why I wanted a breakdown by school if not I would have asked what is the capitation generally. Understanding that each school has a different type of capitation because of what the Minister has just said, that is why the question states 'in each school'. I understand that there are still even breakdowns within the school as in special needs and all that but I wanted to know in general what the capitation was in each section.

HON DR B A LINARES:

Well even within one school, Bayside School, Years 10 and 11 have one rate and Years 12 and 13 have another rate and the Special Unit has another rate but it is all there.

NO. 154 OF 2006

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – ST BERNARD’S SCHOOL

Can Government state whether they have taken a decision in relation to St Bernard’s School and whether it will be relocated in the development of the site of St Bernard’s Hospital?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CIVIC AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

The matter is still under consideration by the Government.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 154 OF 2006

HON S E LINARES:

Does the Minister have any inkling as in what date we are talking about because there does not seem to be any prospect or visible prospect of the project going ahead now or in the future? We know of the limitations of St Bernard’s School and therefore my worry is that if the development is not going to take place in say three, five or ten years that St Bernard’s School remains in that situation for that period of time?

HON DR B A LINARES:

No, it certainly will not be anything like ten years or anything like that. Definitely the project is on within the reasonable and feasible and viable time that we have before us. I have already given in a previous question assurances that certainly we are seriously looking at the overall site of the old St Bernard’s Hospital, there are inter-Ministerial discussions about that but it would be inappropriate for me to give details as to what the Ministers are discussing.

ORAL

NO. 155 OF 2006

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – ENTITLED PUPILS

Can Government state the legal background to entitled pupils as opposed to services pupils and why the children of Gibraltar Regiment parents are not considered as services children for educational purposes?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CIVIC AND CONSUMER
AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question No. 156 of 2006.

NO. 156 OF 2006

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – ST CHRISTOPHER’S SCHOOL

Can Government state whether Gibraltar Regiment children are entitled to attend St Christopher’s School?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CIVIC AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Entitlement to free schooling by Ordinance is subject to the Education and Training Ordinance Part 12 Section 73. Essentially what this says is that education is free for a child residing in Gibraltar. Section 73(2) then defines when a child is deemed to be legally and formally residing in Gibraltar.

In the case of Services Children, there is a long-standing agreement with the MOD whereby they are not considered resident for schooling purposes hence why fees are paid by MOD to the Gibraltar Government for the children in our secondary schools. As far as children of Gibraltar Regiment parents are concerned, they are told they are not entitled to the MOD school at St Christopher’s and therefore the Government enrolls them in our own First and Middle schools.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 155 AND 156 OF 2006

HON S E LINARES:

Is there any reason why any child whose parents are in the Gibraltar Regiment should not be in a Services School? I remember that historically it used to be children of a certain religion which used to go to St Christopher’s. If they were Roman Catholics they used to come to our local schools, if they were Church of England they were entitled to go to St Christopher’s. I cannot understand why the Gibraltar Regiment, who are Services people, their children cannot attend St Christopher’s. Can the Minister state why this is the case?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I cannot state why as a Minister because it is an MOD decision, it is not a Gibraltar Government decision it is the MOD which has told and barred, to put it bluntly, Gibraltar Regiment Gibraltar children from their school, but it is something that we

can discuss with them but certainly it is their decision and not a Government decision as such he will understand.

ORAL

NO. 157 OF 2006

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – HEALTH AND SAFETY

Can Government state the financial implication for introducing as they did at the beginning of this month, the Health and Safety policy within the Education Department?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CIVIC AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

As an initial exercise the Department will be engaging the services of a professional Health and Safety body to carry out a Health and Safety audit of all our institutions. Then also the Health and Safety Inspectors locally are working very closely with the Department of Education and Training and with NASUWT to this end. It is only following the audit that all recommendations will be carried out over a reasonable period of time and it is only then that we will be able to establish the cost implications of the outcome.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 157 OF 2006

HON S E LINARES:

In relation to the professional safety body that the Minister is saying that they will engage, is it going to go out to tender or is it going to be a direct appointment? May I also add which company will it be a UK company based or a locally based company?

HON DR B A LINARES:

To be honest we have not made a decision about that at Departmental level. What we really want is people who know what they are about and they carry out with experience the particular specific needs of health and safety within the school environment.

NO. 158 OF 2006

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – TEACHERS ON TEMPORARY CONTRACTS

Can Government state whether the Human Resources Department have been able to draw up an appropriate legal contract for teachers who are employed on a temporary basis?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CIVIC AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

The matter is still under consideration by the Human Resources Department.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 158 OF 2006

HON S E LINARES:

We keep on coming up to this question again. Is there not anybody who can pressurise the Human Resources Department in order to get that contract, which I presume is not a very extensive legal document? A contract to any employee is just a simple A4 written paper, or even if it is not all one has to do is get the contract of a teacher, what job description a teacher has, it does not take a rocket scientist to draw up a contract whilst it is affecting those on the supply list as we have debated before in this House. Can the Minister then please push the Human Resources Department in order to draw up this long-awaited contract?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Let me say a few things. First of all and most importantly is that the assurances given to this House by the Chief Minister agreeing that long-term supplies of this nature merit and deserve a contractual arrangement, that still stands. Now to put this into practical terms and implementation obviously we have to go through the expertise of the Human Resources Department and it is not as simple as they say as one might think, not just handing out a piece of paper as was suggested. They have to look at repercussions of what they do in this particular sector of the Civil Service, teachers are Civil Servants, in other areas of the Civil Service. There are complexities they say, which they need to really get well formulated and worked out. Perhaps that is the reason for the delay but of course as Minister caring for my

teachers in my Department, of course I will definitely do what I can to see that things move in the right direction and as speedily as possible.

NO. 159 OF 2006

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – MATERNITY LEAVE FOR TEACHERS

Can Government state whether any progress has been made in relation to the negotiations taking place with the NASUWT(GTA) about maternity leave for teachers since this Question was last asked in this House?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CIVIC AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

I am very pleased indeed to announce that the GTA's claim in relation to maternity and paternity leave entitlement has been met in full by the Government.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 159 OF 2006

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Minister give us an indication of what agreement has been reached?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Exactly the claim that was made upon us by the NASUWT. That is, paternity leave is increased from 0 to 10 days because there was no paternity leave before. Now fathers have 10 days paternity leave. Maternity leave has been increased from 14 weeks to 18 weeks excluding holidays. May I say that this arrangement becomes effective as from 1st February and it covers teachers already on maternity leave at that date. Not the unpaid leave that many teachers ask after maternity leave but those who are in maternity leave on 1st February will be covered by this enhancement in their leave entitlement.

ORAL

NO. 160 OF 2006

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – TLR AND EXCELLENT TEACHER

Can Government confirm whether they have reached the stage of formal negotiations with the NASUWT(GTA) in relation to restructuring our schools and the TLR and excellent formats?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CIVIC AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question No. 161 of 2006.

NO. 161 OF 2006

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – WORKLOAD AGREEMENT

Can Government confirm whether they are negotiating the workload agreement as part of the package for the restructuring of our schools?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CIVIC AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

The Department of Education and Training and NASUWT (GTA) are engaged in very productive discussions at this stage aimed at arriving at a mutually beneficial working model for schools in Gibraltar. Of course these discussions encompass all the issues, including the allocation of TLR's, Teaching Learning Responsibilities as opposed to the present management allowances, a localised workload agreement and the notion of the Excellent Teacher scheme. As the hon Member will understand, it would be inappropriate for me at this stage of the discussions/negotiations to give details to that effect.

ORAL

NO. 162 OF 2006

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – SCHOOL CLEANERS

Can Government state the complement of cleaners in the Department of Education giving a breakdown by school institution, college and department?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CIVIC AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 163 to 165 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 163 OF 2006

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – CLASSROOM AIDES

Can Government state the complement of classroom aides giving a breakdown by school and whether they are on permanent and pensionable or supply?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CIVIC AND CONSUMER
AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 162, 164 and 165 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 164 OF 2006

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – SCHOOL SECRETARIES

Can Government state the complement of secretaries in schools giving a breakdown by school and whether they are part-time or full-time?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CIVIC AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 162, 163 and 165 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 165 OF 2006

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – NUMBER OF TEACHERS

Can Government state what is the complement of teachers giving a breakdown by school, responsibility held and whether they are on supply basis or permanent and pensionable status?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CIVIC AND CONSUMER
AFFAIRS

The statistical information requested is set out in the schedule attached.

Answer to Question 165 of 2006

Answer to Question 162

The two cleaners working in the Main Office of the Department are employed via a private company. The cleaners working in schools and the college are employed by Government. The breakdown is the following:-

	Cleaners
Bayside	25
Westside	22
College	6
Hebrew	2
St Martin's Special	2
Bishop Fitzgerald	8
St Anne's Middle	10
Sacred Heart	6
St Joseph's Middle	8
St Paul's First	6
St Bernard's First	5
St Mary's First	6
St Joseph's First	8
Notre Dame	7
Governor's Meadow	6

Answer to Question 163

SCHOOL	PERMANENT	SUPPLY
Governor's Meadow	1 f/t	
Notre Dame	3 f/t & 2 p/t	2 f/t & 1 p/t
St Bernard's		1 f/t covering vacant post & 2 p/t
St Joseph's First	1 f/t	1 f/t & 2 p/t
St Paul's First	2 f/t	1 f/t covering vacant post*
St Mary's First		1 p/t
St Anne's/Bayside	1 f/t	1 f/t
Bishop Fitzgerald	2 f/t & 2 p/t	1 f/t & 1 p/t
Westside	2 f/t	1 f/t
Bayside	3 f/t & 2 p/t	
St Anne's	2 f/t	
St Martin's	3 f/t & 12 p/t +B38	1 p/t

* selection board to meet soon

Contd

Contd Answer to Question 165 of 2005

Answer to Question 164

The complement of school secretaries is 15, of whom 11 are part-timers and 4 are full-timers. The breakdown by School is the following:-

	SCHOOL SECRETARIES
Bayside	2 full-timers
Westside	2 full-timers
St Anne's	1 part-timer
Bishop Fitzgerald	1 part-timer
Sacred Heart	1 part-timer
St Joseph's Middle	1 part-timer
St Paul's First	1 part-timer
St Joseph's First	1 part-timer
Governor's Meadow	1 part-timer
Notre Dame	1 part-timer
Hebrew/College	1 part-timer
St Mary's First/St Bernard's First	1 part-timer
St Martin's Special/St Mary's First	1 part-timer

Answer to Question 165

School	No. of Teachers	No. of responsibility posts inc. HT and DHT	No. of P&P teachers	No. of supply teachers
Governor's Meadow	17	9	17	0
St Joseph's First	19	11	18	2 p/t
Notre Dame	15	9	15	0
St Bernard's	11	5	10	1*
St Mary's	10	8	10	0
St Paul's	18.5	9	18	1 p/t
Bishop Fitzgerald	26	14	25	1*
St Joseph's Middle	19	11	17	2*
Sacred Heart	16	10	16	0
Hebrew	6	4	5	1
St Anne's	22	14	22	0
Bayside	65.5	38	63.5	2
Westside	66.5	38	64.5	2
College	25	14	24	1
St Martin's	6	2	5	1*

*post-holder on unpaid leave

ORAL

NO. 166 OF 2006

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – PUPIL/TEACHER RATIO

Can Government state the pupil teacher/ratio in schools giving a breakdown by school?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CIVIC AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question No. 167 of 2006.

NO. 167 OF 2006

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – AVERAGE CLASS SIZE

Can Government state what is the average class size for this academic year in each school giving a breakdown by year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CIVIC AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

The statistical information requested is set out in the schedule attached.

May I make a couple of points with regard to this schedule. I think the hon Member will understand that the complex nature as to class sizes that he is asking, the complex nature of the Secondary School timetable means that any figure about class sizes would be useless really. As an example there could be a class in a Secondary School of 27 for Year 8 English and then say five pupils in an A-level minority subject. There is such a variety of class sizes that really the best thing to do is to give the pupil/teacher ratios overall. The second point is very similar really. The reason for omitting class size in the information about the College is also because the College has a substantial number of part-time students as well as the full-time ones and indeed some of the part-time students attending are already also enrolled in the Secondary Schools and then they go for some subjects to the College. Again it is complex and there is no point in giving class sizes there because they are so varied.

Answer to Question 167 of 2006

Answer to Question 166

School	p/t ratio
Governor's Meadow	17.59
St Joseph's First	16.78
Notre Dame	15.85
St Bernard's	12.60
St Mary's	14.60
St Paul's	16.24
St Paul's	15.94
Bishop Fitzgerald*	19.29
St Joseph's Middle	18.84
Sacred Heart	15.06
St Anne's Middle	19.55
Hebrew	14.67
Bayside	15.11
Westside	15.27
St Martin's	2.83

Answer to Question 167

School	Average Class Size							
	YR	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Y7
Governor's Meadow	21.0	20.7	21.5	22.0				
St Joseph's First	19.8	21.5	21.3	18.3				
Notre Dame	21.0	24.5	19.3	19.0				
St Bernard's	14.5	15.0	15.0	18.5				
St Mary's	18.0	16.5	17.0	21.5				
St Paul's	18.5	18.5	19.7	23.0				
Bishop Fitzgerald					27.0	24.2	25.8	28.6
St Joseph's Middle					25.5	27.7	22.0	21.3
Sacred Heart					20.0	18.0	19.7	22.7
St Anne's Middle					27.8	27.3	27.3	25.3
Hebrew		24.0		17.0		13.0		17.0

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 166 AND 167 OF 2006

HON S E LINARES:

Just looking at the statistics it is striking that St Anne's Middle School class sizes have increased substantially, is there any reason why this is happening at St Anne's? St Anne's have always usually had low numbers, is it because there is an increase, a demographic move down there now?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Well yes I suppose it is. It must be a demographic reason behind it, these schools respond to their catchment area and the pupil population in each school is related to the population of that catchment area.

NO. 168 OF 2006

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION - TRUANCY

Can Government state at what stage they are at present in relation to the legislation on truancy?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CIVIC AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

The matter is still under consideration.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 168 OF 2006

HON S E LINARES:

I deliberately put this Question because I have not put this question for the past two years and before I was accused of putting the same question every time. I have given a two year lapse in order because the last answer to this question was exactly what the Minister is saying today, that it is still under consideration. Two years on they are still under consideration. Are they really considering it or is it just a way of just trying to avoid the question, because two years on we have not had any movement on truancy?

HON DR B A LINARES:

We are certainly considering and taking very seriously the problem of truancy but I think we also have to get things in proportion. The problem of truancy in Gibraltar is not as acute, within the small ambit of our population here and the nature of our social conviviality, it is not as acute as the huge problem of truancy in UK. Therefore, the rather draconian legislation which we have as a model in the UK, that is an area that we are considering, whether that sort of legislation is really relevant to the real situation in Gibraltar. Again, the hon Member will know that the actual legislation in the UK has also taken quite a bit of time so that may be another reason for the delays to make sure that we do attend to the model that we can rely on. But as I say, we begin to think it may not be all that relevant to us.

HON S E LINARES:

Whether the UK has done it or not done it and whether we should follow the UK, I do not think really is the relevance of what I am trying to do and I understand that it is low, the numbers. What is ridiculous quite frankly is that the Department of Education, and I think we have spoken about this before, that the Department of Education goes through the whole process and it is a very long process of trying to monitor whether the child comes to school, how many days of the week does he come to school, are the parents aware, there is sort of like a warning shot to the parents, 'look your child is not attending school'. There is a whole process and it takes a long time and after all that, when the Department decides to take it to Court and litigate and actually try and get the parents to be responsible to send the child to school, the ridiculous fine is £5 which probably dates back to the 1950's I presume. I am not thinking of the draconian way of how to hammer down parents or put them into jail in some cases in the UK, I am not thinking about that. It could well be that we keep the one that we have now with a little amendment or just amending because parents sometimes, non-responsible parents, go there to the Court 'well who is it that I have to pay the £5 to?'. They pay the £5 and along goes the process again, we start again trying the charges to come to school because there is no deterrent. There is not a deterrent as such so what I am asking then, can the Minister not then look at it as in what we have and try and amend it to put it to the context of nowadays as in financial consideration?

HON DR B A LINARES:

The Minister looks at everything of course but one thing that I look at is precisely that going to Court is really a last resort for exceptional cases. The hon Member knows perfectly well that before we take that step all means have been taken by the school in counselling, in social attention to the social background of the family, those are the things that count rather than just bringing the law upon people.

ORAL

NO. 169 OF 2006

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – REGISTER OF ASBESTOS

Can Government state how many inspections have taken place to ascertain the presence of asbestos in schools since Question No. 1202 of 2005, giving a breakdown by school?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CIVIC AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question No. 170 of 2006.

NO. 170 OF 2006

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – REGISTER OF ASBESTOS

Can Government state how many schools hold an asbestos register giving a breakdown by school?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CIVIC AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

There have been no further inspections to ascertain the presence of asbestos in schools since the hon Member asked Question No. 1202 of 2005. Two schools hold an asbestos register, that is, Bishop Fitzgerald and Governor's Meadow Schools.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 169 AND 170 OF 2006

HON S E LINARES:

In the last debate that we had in this House in relation to asbestos the Minister actually stated that there was no need to have an asbestos register. I disagreed with him and I think that.....

HON DR B A LINARES:

Inspections not registers.

HON S E LINARES:

I am talking about the register of asbestos and there was a debate as to whether it was legal or not legal. Not going down that road about whether it is legal or not legal, the Minister stated that there are these schools Bishop Fitzgerald for example, was an old building, the old building that was there when the old New Camp, there are other old buildings around which for example again the College had a problem in the John Mackintosh Hall but the College itself, St Anne's School was built in the 1950's. These two schools, that is the old Bishop Fitzgerald now the College and St Anne's are old schools and therefore I think it would be advisable, and I said this last time, for the Minister to have people in to ascertain whether there is asbestos, for the

simple reason that children get up to, I would not say no good but children do not realise the consequence of just for example kicking a board or something like that. If we knew exactly where the asbestos was, at least in schools which is what I mentioned last time, we can then take safety precautions. Does the Minister not agree with that?

HON DR B A LINARES:

The Minister does not agree with that for the simple reason that the hon Member says that it is advisable. Well the advice that we have from experts is that this is not the way to go about it, that invasive investigation to determine whether asbestos is present or not in any particular building is just not necessary, it is time-consuming and more importantly that it might well disturb the asbestos increasing the risk of asbestos disbursement. That is the advice we have got from as I say expert authorities in this matter and that is the policy that we are following. It is only when asbestos in the prima-facie suspicion that there could be some real risk of that and this is also part of the health and safety audits that they are going to carry. If that is of any comfort to the hon Member then of course yes we will take the appropriate measures.

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Minister state who are the expert authorities?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I actually gave the names of the expert authorities that we called in when the Bishop Fitzgerald incident but I have not got the actual names before me. I can assure him that they are very credible, one of them was connected actually to the Rotterdam and other health and safety authorities locally and in the UK but I will give him the information.

HON S E LINARES:

So the Minister is saying that the expert authority is somebody who came from abroad? I recall the Minister stating that the experts who had come to deal with the asbestos from the Rotterdam they had contracted to do some work or look at some aspects of I think it was the Bishop Fitzgerald incident, but when these experts are not here who are the people locally?

HON DR B A LINARES:

The Health and Safety Inspectorate of course.

ORAL

NO. 171 OF 2006

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – PRIVATE NURSERIES

Can Government state whether any further meetings have taken place between the owners of the private nursery situated at the Fleet Pavilion site in relation to their temporary move elsewhere and whether any alternative premises has been offered as a permanent option for the nursery?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CIVIC AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 172 and 173 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 172 OF 2006

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – PRIVATE NURSERIES

Can Government state how many children attend private nurseries giving a breakdown by ages and nurseries?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CIVIC AND CONSUMER
AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 171 and 173 of 2006.

NO. 173 OF 2006

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – PRIVATE NURSERIES

Can Government state how many private nurseries are currently in operation?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CIVIC AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

With regard to Question No. 171 of 2006 about the Fleet Pavillion site this is a matter which is being pursued by Land Property Services, the developers of the site and the owners of the nursery as to the reallocation of the premises.

With regard to Question No. 172 of 2006 about the number of children in private nurseries giving a breakdown et cetera by ages we do not collect this information as a matter of course in the Department.

In answer to Question No. 173 of 2006 there are nine registered private nurseries in Gibraltar.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 171 TO 173 OF 2006

HON S E LINARES:

When the Minister states that there are nine registered is it a requirement for private nurseries, crèche or pre-school institutions to register with the Department of Education?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Yes that is a statutory requirement.

HON S E LINARES:

Does the Minister then not think that if there are nine registered and they have to register that it should be the Department's responsibility to look at and not work closely but actually to know exactly how many children there are in each institution, in

order to ascertain whether they are fulfilling legal requirements? For example, one might have a small room and I am not talking about the Environmental Health going there and visiting it, whether they have a basin or a toilet, what I am talking about is the actual educational input that might be delivered there and should Government not be looking at how many pupils are there, how many pupils have special needs or whatever?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Yes, the hon Member says looking at the number of children. Now we do look at the number of children, I gave a very lengthy explanation of all this in answer to a previous question, Question No. 783 of 2005, about the relationship and the liaison between the Department and the private nurseries but the reason why we do not keep exact statistical figures of numbers enrolled in these establishments is because they are very misleading. Some of these nurseries are involved or operating child-minding, crèche, drop-in facilities, sometimes parents call in at short notice and ask for their children to be supervised for a short period of time. The figures reflect flexibility and a variety which actually changes from day to day very often in some nurseries and therefore it is almost impossible to say this is the number of children in this particular nursery at this particular time. We get a snapshot but really a snapshot is just a snapshot but in terms of looking at it, in terms of the number of children in relation to the pupil/teacher ratio and all that, yes the Department does look at that in establishing standards before authorising registration.

HON S E LINARES:

How many times have the Department of Education gone to these private nurseries to look at these things?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Officers from the Department, I did explain all this before, officers from the Department visit private nurseries as and when necessary and appropriate. There is a constant flow of interaction between the Department and very often it is just a question of telephone calls, conversations answered if the nursery wants an adviser to go and see for himself and seek advice on any particular element in the curriculum or in the programme, then we are always attentive to that. I am not going to go into all the details which I gave and which will be found in Hansard.

ORAL

NO. 174 OF 2006

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – CO-EDUCATION WORKING GROUP

Can Government state how many times the Co-Education Working Group has met since October 2005?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CIVIC AND CONSUMER
AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question No. 175 of 2006.

NO. 175 OF 2006

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – CO-EDUCATION WORKING GROUP

Can Government say whether they have considered the interim report produced by the Co-Education Working Group and state what have been its findings?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CIVIC AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

The Co-Education Working Group has met once since October 2005 – (17th November 2005). The Report has not yet been considered by the Government and it would therefore be inappropriate to divulge its contents at this stage.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 174 AND 175 OF 2006

HON S E LINARES:

Does the Minister have any inkling as in when they will be looking at the report, and can the Minister state when that report was actually given to the Department of Education?

HON DR B A LINARES:

The problem is, as I explained to him in a previous Question, that the Co-Education Working Group has now been subsumed by the 14-19 Working Group which has a much wider agenda considering all aspects of the 14-19 curriculum, including all the White Papers which as the hon Member knows are quite controversial in itself. Therefore I tend to think that it is better to look at it globally, generically, holistically rather than just look at the Co-Education bit in isolation. Therefore that is being considered by the Co-Education 14-19 Working Group. I was being a bit jocular, I meant this one body which now covers the whole range of issues.

HON S E LINARES:

Taking all that the Minister has just said and all this about the wider agenda and all that, why does it not meet more frequently? I mean, to say that it has met once since

October 2005 when they have such a wide remit of things to discuss, is the Minister satisfied with the amount of times that this committee meets?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Yes I am satisfied. The Committee met in 2004 six times and put in a lot of work into producing an overview as I said of the whole picture. I think it is time now for them really to decide how often they want to meet, what is their need in terms of developing their studies and consideration, they have to keep tabs on what is happening in the UK, what is happening in the UK is also very fluid so those are technical issues which the Committee being professional people will know when and how often to meet.

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Minister confirm then that there are two reports, one for the 14-19 issue and another one about Co-Ed or is it a general report?

HON DR B A LINARES:

There is an interim report on Co-Ed which was studied at the very beginning. That now is being seen within a wider agenda of the 14-19 issues and again, in the same way as the group has been merged, the report on co-education has been merged with the wider studies of the 14-19 working group.

ORAL

NO. 176 OF 2006

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – VOCATIONAL TRAINING SCHEME

Can Government state how many trainees in the Vocational Training Scheme have obtained employment in the past 3 years in Government Departments or Agency giving a breakdown by Department or Agency?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CIVIC AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 177 to 183 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 177 OF 2006

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – VOCATIONAL TRAINING SCHEME

Can Government state how many trainees in the Vocational Training Scheme are currently attached to Government Departments or Agency giving a breakdown by Department or Agency and for how long have these trainees been in each Department or Agency?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CIVIC AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 176 and 178 to 183 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 178 OF 2006

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – VOCATIONAL TRAINING SCHEME

Can Government state what is the formula used to arrive at the payment made to persons in the VTS?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CIVIC AND CONSUMER
AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 176, 177 and 179 to 183 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 179 OF 2006

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – VOCATIONAL TRAINING SCHEME

Can Government state how many inmates from our local prison have taken the offer of enrolling in the Vocational Training Scheme or any other course or scheme that the Department of Education have offered them?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CIVIC AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 176 to 178 and 180 to 183 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 180 OF 2006

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – VOCATIONAL TRAINING SCHEME

Can Government say how many of the trainees in the VTS scheme as at the end of February 2006 have obtained employment distinguishing between those who were employed by the company or entity with which they trained and those who obtained employment elsewhere?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CIVIC AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 176 to 179 and 181 to 183 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 181 OF 2006

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – VOCATIONAL TRAINING SCHEME

Can Government provide a breakdown by gender and age of the 146 trainees who enrolled in April 2005 and were still completing the three years stint in the Vocational Training Scheme?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CIVIC AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 176 to 180, 182 and 183 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 182 OF 2006

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – VOCATIONAL TRAINING SCHEME

Can Government state out of the 161 new entrants to the Vocational Training Scheme that came in on January 2005 to October 2005, how many continue currently in training?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CIVIC AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 176 to 181 and 183 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 183 OF 2006

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – VOCATIONAL TRAINING SCHEME

Can Government provide the number of VTS trainees as at the end of February 2006, giving a breakdown by sex, age and date of commencement on the scheme?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CIVIC AND CONSUMER
AFFAIRS

The statistical information requested is set out in the schedule attached.

Answer to Question 183 of 2006

Answer to Question 176

A total of 18 Trainees from the Vocational Training Scheme have obtained employment in the past three years in Government Departments or Agencies, the breakdown is as follows:-

Department of Education & Training	1
Philatelic Bureau	3
Elderly Care Agency	2
Gibraltar Broadcasting Corporation	2
Royal Gibraltar Police	3
St John's Ambulance	2
Gibraltar Health Authority	2
Gibraltar Tourist Board	2
Sports and Leisure Authority	1

Contd Answer to Question 183 of 2006**Answer to Question 177**

A total of 45 Trainees from the Vocational Training Scheme are currently undertaking training provided to them by Government Departments or Agencies. The following are details of the Departments and Agencies who kindly agreed to take on these 45 Trainees, as well as the Trainees' start date for training purposes within that Department or Agency.

Department or Agency	No. of Trainees	Start Date
Bayside School	2	September 2005 December 2005
Citizens Advice Bureau	1	October 2005
Consumer Affairs	1	December 2005
Department of Education & Training	1	January 2006
Department of Shipping	1	January 2006
Department of Social Security	1	November 2004
Elderly Care Agency	2	January 2005 August 2005
Employment Services	1	May 1999
Gibraltar College of FE	1	December 2000
Gibraltar Health Authority	5	November 2004, March 2005, August 2005, November 2005, February 2006
Gibraltar Electrical Authority	1	November 2005
Gibraltar Museum/John Mackintosh Hall	2	December 2005 February 2006
Gibraltar Port Authority	1	December 2005
Gibraltar Tourist Board	1	October 2005
Governor's Meadow School	1	October 2005
Income Tax Department	3	October 2003, October 2003, September 2004
Magistrates Court	1	August 2005
Notre Dame School	1	November 2003
Ombudsman	1	May 2005
Philatelic Bureau	1	April 2005
Registry of Ships	1	July 2005
Royal Gibraltar Police	1	November 2005
Social Services Department	3	September 2002 November 2005, January 2006
St Anne's School	1	January 2006
St Joseph's School	2	August 2005 September 2005
St Martin's School	1	August 2005
St Paul's School	1	April 2005
St Mary's School	1	January 2006
Technical Services Department	2	October 2005 January 2006
Varyl Begg Nursery	1	March 1999
Westside School	2	January 2003 October 2003
TOTAL TRAINEES	45	

Contd Answer to Question 183 of 2006

Answer to Question 178

Trainees enrolled in the Vocational Training Scheme are paid a monthly Trainees' Allowance commensurate with age. Trainees' Allowances payable are as follows:

Gross Allowances:	Age 15 and 16	£227.08
	Age 17	£254.08
	Age 18	£330.00
	Age 19	£356.41

Answer to Question 179

Inmates from our local prison are unable to participate in the Vocational Training Scheme because the very nature of their internment does not allow them to undergo training through work-experience placements.

The Prison Service provides some training for inmates through tuition classes delivered with the Prison itself. These courses are run on the initiative of the Superintendent of Prison, and are not funded by the Department of Education and Training.

Answer to Question 180

Year	No. of Trainees
2003	31
2004	32
2995	38

The European Social Fund records only require statistics on number of Trainees who obtained employment by their Training Provider. Therefore, it is not possible to say where the other Trainees obtained employment, and after what period of time since completion of their training period.

Answer to Question 181

In my response to Q210/2005, I answered by stating that there were 176 Trainees enrolled on the Vocational Training Scheme. The breakdown given, as at 22 April 2005, was as follows:-

VTS - 145 still from previous Intakes completing their three year stint
VTS5 - 17 new entrants in Intake 5
Non ESF - 14 not under EU Funding but still subsidised by Government
Grand Total 176 Trainees

The breakdown by gender and age of the 145 VTS Trainees is as follows:-

Male - 84
Female - 61

Contd Answer to Question 183 of 2006

Contd Answer to Question 181

The Trainees ages, as at April 2005, was as follow:

No. of Trainees	Age
15	15
9	16
25	17
31	18
16	19
14	20
9	21
6	22
5	23
5	24
3	25
2	26
2	27
1	29
1	32
1	33

Answer to Question 182

Of the 161 new entrants into the Vocational Training Scheme from January 2005 to October 2005, 90 continue in training as at March 2006.

Contd Answer to Question 183 of 2006

Answer to Question 183

As at 28 February 2006 there were a grand total of 167 Trainees on the Vocational Training Scheme, these trainees were 81 females and 86 males. Their corresponding breakdown by age is as follows:

No. of Trainees	Age
11	15
23	16
21	17
27	18
16	19
14	20
14	21
4	22
9	23
6	24
3	25
3	26
1	27
1	28
5	29
2	30
1	34
1	35
1	36
2	40
1	43
1	46

Contd Answer to Question 183 of 2006

Contd Answer to Question 183

The breakdown by date of commencement of Training is as follows:

No. of Trainees	Commencement date
24	February 2006
16	January 2006
13	December 2005
13	November 2005
16	October 2005
20	September 2005
7	August 2005
3	July 2005
4	June 2005
5	May 2005
5	April 2005
1	March 2005
4	February 2005
2	January 2005
5	November 2004
4	October 2004
3	September 2004
1	August 2004
1	April 2004
3	November 2003
1	October 2003
1	August 2003
1	April 2003
2	September 2002
1	May 2002
1	April 2002
1	May 2001
1	December 2000
1	February 2000
1	October 1999
1	June 1999
1	May 1999
1	March 1999
1	October 1998
1	June 1998
1	April 1998

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 176 TO 183 OF 2006

HON S E LINARES:

Since the Minister has answered a number of questions together I need to look at all the answers and it is going to take time. I do not want to take the time now because I am sure Members want to go home for the evening, will Mr Speaker aid me in telling me how I should approach this, whether I should come back some other time after I have looked at it or should I pose questions?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

These are oral questions.

MR SPEAKER:

Exactly, I was thinking of that. They are oral questions and on the face of it supplementaries should follow the answers. I appreciate there is a lot of statistical information requested and provided. In the past whilst the Minister is in the Chamber and answering questions I have allowed Members to go back one or two questions. I do not know what the hon Member has in mind.

HON S E LINARES:

I did not have anything in mind as in going specifically question by question. If anything crops up, for example, something that I see that is unusual that I could come back say some time during the Session in the House say tomorrow.....

MR SPEAKER:

But the Minister may not be here.....

HON S E LINARES:

Just on that point I would not go through every question I guarantee. In fact, what I would do is to go through the whole thing and come back with questions in the next House like I have done previously.

MR SPEAKER:

If it is the odd question which needs to be dealt with then I will allow some latitude. Not a question of having to come back and go through the whole Supplementaries.

HON S E LINARES:

I do not intend to do that.

HON DR B A LINARES:

Far be it for me to reply for Mr Speaker but this is I would have thought quite feasible really for the hon Member to bring questions the next time round based on previous questions. He often does that.

MR SPEAKER:

I think the hon Member appreciates that, what he has asked is to be given some latitude in the sense that if a particular question arises on just the information provided, just the odd question which he feels ought to be answered now as opposed to wait for the next Session, I will allow that latitude whilst the Minister is in the Chamber.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I think that I would just like to ensure that we do not establish a new form of operation here in the House or for the future in that we find ourselves at Question Time having to come back backwards and forwards all the time during the whole Session. As long as we do not establish a new principle I think that I would like to make it known that we are not happy with that being formulated and accepted unless we establish that it is not going to be something that is going to be coming through to us in the future.

MR SPEAKER:

No I certainly do not understand the hon Member to expect a full range of Supplementaries at a later part of this Session. What I understood was that he will of course follow up the information provided by way of questions at the next House. What he has asked though is to be allowed latitude in terms of the odd one or two questions which he feels ought to be answered at this sitting as opposed to the next sitting whenever that may be. I believe, bearing in mind the amount of information sought and provided and the fact that we have indeterminate dates for the next sitting, one ought to allow some latitude so that the momentum is not lost until the next sitting.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

If I may reiterate what my hon Colleague is saying, the procedure in this House all the time that I have been here has been that oral questions are answered when they are asked. It is always up to Opposition Members, as I have said more than once, for detailed questions of this statistical nature for them to submit them in writing to Ministers who will provide the answers and then they can come to the House fully prepared to ask a supplementary. What they cannot do is get the best of both worlds, to ask detailed questions here when the detailed answer is given, then to ask for more time to ask supplementaries, if they need the time then they should ask the question in writing and then they can have all the time they like in order to prepare for supplementaries.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

I think in all fairness Mr Speaker has explained the situation quite clearly and explained the circumstances in which it is being allowed and therefore made a ruling. I think as Members of the House we should bow to the ruling.

MR SPEAKER:

Yes, I think to clarify from everyone's point of view I am not proposing to change the practice or procedures of this House by changing the whole system. I think I have indicated I will allow in this session based on a small degree of latitude, the odd question which may occur to the hon Member when he goes home and takes the material and looks at it and if he came back tomorrow, if the Minister is still available in the Chamber, and asked the odd question which cannot really wait till the next Question Session. That would be allowed as an exceptional concession, it is not intended to change the practice of the House. Having said that what I would do is commend to Opposition Members and Ministers a practice which I know has been adopted between the Hon Fabian Picardo and the Minister for Education, where information is sought on a written basis and provided. I would commend that to Members on both sides as a means of overcoming this particular issue. It has struck me in the year and a half that I have been in this Chair that there is so much information being handed across in written terms it does not really lend itself to supplementaries there and then. But again I cannot compel Opposition Members to put written questions, I cannot compel Ministers to give answers but if a modus is agreed and worked on by both sides it will overcome the problem.

ORAL

NO. 184 OF 2006

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – BLEAK HOUSE/GCFE

Can Government state how many students are enrolled in courses run by the Department of Education in Bleak House Training Institute and the Gibraltar College of Further Education giving a breakdown by course, institute, (whether of a professional or vocational nature or run on a private basis)?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CIVIC AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

The statistical information requested is set out in the schedule attached.

Answer to Question 184 of 2006

College of Further Education Courses

COURSES OFFERED	NO. OF STUDENTS ENROLLED		
	FULL-TIME COURSES	PROFESIONAL COURSES	CONTINUING EDUCATION /ADULT EDUCATION
Business Level	33	-	-
Psychology	63	-	-
ICT Level 2	45	-	-
Construction Level 2	12	-	-
Art Level 2	7	-	-
Spanish A/S	59	-	-
PE A/S	8	-	-
Preparatory Level 1	30	-	-
Business Level 3	47	-	-
Psychology A2	33	-	-
Construction Level 3	9	-	-
ICT Level 3	94	-	-
Art Level 3	18	-	-
Spanish A2	38	-	0
AAT	-	68	-
CMI	-	23	-
ILEX	-	16	-
English GCE	-	-	11
French GCSE	-	-	5
Italian GCSE	-	-	30
Spanish GCSE	-	-	17
Sociology A/S	-	-	7
Maths GCSE	-	-	28
English (ESOL)	-	-	23
Art (Leisure)	-	-	10
Introduction to the PC	-	-	24
Microsoft Word (Intermediate)	-	-	5
Microsoft Excel (Intermediate)	-	-	12
French (Conversation)	-	-	13
Spanish for Beginners	-	-	73
Sewing (Leisure)	-	-	10
TOTALS	266	107	265

- Key:
- AAT - Association and Accounting Technicians (offered at 3 levels: Foundation (35 students); Intermediate (18 students); Technicians (15))
 - CMI - Chartered Management Institute (offered at Certificate level (18 students) and Diploma level (5 students))
 - ILEX - Institute of Legal Executives (offered at Professional Diploma level (8 students) and Professional Higher Diploma level (8 students))

Contd

Contd Answer to Question 184 of 2006

Bleak House Courses

Course	No. of Students
CLAIT Level 1	24
CLAIT Level 2	5
Numeracy Level 1	19
Numeracy Level 2	31
GCE English	8
Literacy Level 1	18
Literacy Level 2	6
Diploma in Business Administration	5
BTEC First Certificate in Tourism and Travel	10
ACCA	9
CAT	31

Key	ACCA	Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (courses delivered by the Gibraltar Society of Chartered and Certified Accounting Bodies. Paper 2.3 (6 students); Paper 2.4 (3 students))
	CAT	Chartered Accounting Technicians (courses delivered by GSCCAB). Papers 1&2 (22 students, the majority being Civil Servants from Income Tax and Treasury Departments; Paper 7 (6 Students); Paper 9 (3 students))

Other Training Providing Renting Bleak House Facilities

(i) Campbell's College

Running Certificate in Offshore Finance and Administration and the Diploma in Offshore Finance and Administration

(ii) MC Squared Ltd

Running AQA Advanced Certificate in Counselling

(iii) EA Management Services

Running Health and Safety Courses for the Private Sector.

(iv) In-House Training

Private companies using Bleak House facilities to run their own in-house training courses. Banks and Gaming companies are the main users.

NOTE: These are private initiatives, hence the Department has no access to numbers of enrolled students.

NO. 185 OF 2006

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – BLEAK HOUSE/GCFE

Can Government state what are the fees charged by the Department of Education in the Gibraltar College of Further Education and Bleak House Training Institute for Companies, Associations, individuals or others to run courses?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CIVIC AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

The Gibraltar College of Further Education does not hire out its facilities for Companies, Associations, individuals or others to run courses therein.

However, the range of facilities available at Bleak House Training Institute are available for hire by Companies wishing to deliver the courses on a commercial basis. The rate is £30 per day for usage during normal working hours. Use after hours is charged at £10 per hour.

Use of Bleak House Training Institute during normal working hours by Charitable Groups or In-House Training by Companies from Gibraltar's Private Sector carry no charge.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 185 OF 2006

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Minister just explain what he means as in the Companies in-house training?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I can give an example, a bank wants to sort of induct some or all of its employees into a particular scheme and it is not a profit-making thing, it is just an in-service course or seminar, since it is not commercially based we facilitate the premises for them to run this.

ORAL

NO. 186 OF 2006

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – GRADUATE TRAINING SCHEME

Can Government confirm whether the report with recommendations to Government has been concluded in relation to the Graduate Training Scheme and if so what was its outcome?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CIVIC AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question No. 187 of 2006.

NO. 187 OF 2006

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – GRADUATE TRAINING SCHEME

Can Government state whether the graduate training scheme is still in existence and if so how many graduates are currently in the scheme giving a breakdown by year in which the trainees commenced the scheme?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CIVIC AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Graduates returning to Gibraltar upon completion of their studies may join the Vocational Training Scheme in order to obtain work-related experience in their specialist fields.

Training opportunities offered to Graduates upon completion of their studies is very much demand-led so it is therefore difficult to predict how many Graduates at any particular time will request this opportunity for work-related experience after their period of studies in UK. However, the Department of Education and Training is currently working together with the Employment Services in order to bring about a partnership with Private Sector Employers with a view to offering such training opportunities to returning Graduates.

As at March 2006 there were two Graduates furthering their training within the Vocational Training Scheme and these two Graduates commenced within the VTS on 1st March 2005 and 1st November 2005.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 186 AND 187 OF 2006

HON S E LINARES:

The two Graduates that entered in March there has not been anyone prior to that then?

HON DR B A LINARES:

One in March and one in November.

HON S E LINARES:

So what the Minister is saying, one started in November and the other one started in March.

HON DR B A LINARES:

Well, if he wants to put it that way. March comes before November so.....

ORAL

NO. 188 OF 2006

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – VOCATIONAL TRAINING SCHEME

Can Government provide a breakdown by gender and age of the 176 Trainees in the VTS who were enrolled in April 2005?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CIVIC AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 189 and 190 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 189 OF 2006

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – VOCATIONAL TRAINING SCHEME

Can Government provide a breakdown by gender and age of the 17 Trainees in intake 5 of the VTS as at April 2005?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CIVIC AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 188 and 190 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 190 OF 2006

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – VOCATIONAL TRAINING SCHEME

Can Government provide a breakdown by gender and age of the 14 Trainees who were not in ESF scheme in April 2005 but were paid by Government?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CIVIC AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

The statistical information requested is set out in the schedule attached.

Answer to Question 190 of 2006

Answer to Question 188

The breakdown by gender and age of the 176 Trainees who were enrolled within the VTS as at April 2005 is as follows:

Males - 98
Females - 78

Breakdown by ages is as follows:

No. of Trainees	Age
18	15
12	16
29	17
34	18
18	19
15	20
9	21
7	22
8	23
6	24
3	25
3	26
3	27
1	28
4	29
1	30
1	32
1	33
1	34
1	35
1	43
1	46

Answer to Question 189

Of the 17 Trainees from Intake 5 of the VTS, as at April 2005, 4 are males and 13 are females. The breakdown by age is as follows:-

No. of Trainees	Age
3	15
3	16
4	17
3	18
2	19
1	20
1	28

Contd Answer to Question 190 of 2006

Answer to Question 190

Of the 14 Trainees who were not funded by the European Social Fund, as at April 2005, 10 are male and 4 are female. Breakdown by age is as follows:-

No. of Trainees	Age
1	22
3	23
1	24
1	26
1	27
3	29
1	30
1	35
1	43
1	46

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 188 TO 190 OF 2006

HON S E LINARES:

How is it that we have two trainees in relation to Question No. 190 of 2006 of which I ask for a breakdown by gender and age of the 14 trainees who are not in the ESF Scheme, how we can have two trainees at the age of 43 and the age of 46 when the Vocational Training is supposed to start from the ages of 18 to 35?

HON DR B A LINARES:

That is the European Union cut-off age, it is not necessarily our cut-off age. As I say these are funded by local training funds, the hon Member is touching upon a very sensitive area and I would not like to go too much into comments because it might, within the small ambit of Gibraltar, identify the persons concerned but I want to assure the hon Member that there are personal circumstances involved in these cases which certainly warrant, from a purely humanistic point of view, supporting these persons. If he knew the real situation I am sure he would agree with us.

HON S E LINARES:

In view of what the Minister said I will not proceed.

ORAL

NO. 191 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

EDUCATION – BTEC FIRST CERTIFICATE IN TOURISM

How many persons have applied for a place in the ‘BTEC First Certificate in Tourism’ Course and corresponding training scheme that was advertised in December 2005?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CIVIC AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question No. 192 of 2006.

NO. 192 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

EDUCATION – BTEC FIRST CERTIFICATE IN TOURISM

Can Government say how many places there are in the 'BTEC First Certificate in Tourism' Course that was advertised in December 2005 and how many of those places have now been filled?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CIVIC AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

There were a total of 10 applications received to follow the BTEC First Certificate in Travel and Tourism in response to the advertisement published in December 2005.

There were no set limits on the number of places which could be offered in the BTEC First Certificate in Travel and Tourism Course. As I have just informed the hon Member, places were allocated to all the 10 applicants who applied who wished to join the course.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 191 AND 192 OF 2006

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Are all the 10 applicants still pursuing that course?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Yes, they applied and I think they entered early this year. They applied in December when the advert came out and I am not entirely sure of what the starting date has been but obviously by March this year they would still be at it.

NO. 193 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EDUCATION – POST-GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN EDUCATION

Can Government state how many scholarships for the course in Post-Graduate Certificate in Education have been awarded in the current academic year and the comparable figure for the previous year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CIVIC AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

No scholarships to read for a Post-Graduate Certificate in Education have been awarded in either the current academic year or the preceding one.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 193 OF 2006

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is it that there have been no applicants for these courses?

HON DR B A LINARES:

The reason is that two years ago the British Government, the Department of Education and Skills, in a bid to tackle the great teacher shortages in the United Kingdom and as a form of incentive were offering bursaries to all students following PGCE courses. These bursaries were very generous, they included full payment of their tuition fees and as well as a maintenance grant of £6,000 per year, something which they do not give to anybody else, and this in effect meant that the PGCE students, as per the European Union they had to offer this also to other European Union Students, could be receiving a UK Government Scholarship as well as our own. It was therefore decided and felt that there was no need for the Gibraltar Government to duplicate this award when available monies could be better redirected to students on other courses. I should point out that no student has been prevented from following a PGCE course, in fact we actually help them and assist them in their seeking in making the bid for the UK bursary. This policy will be subject to review if or when the UK bursaries cease, then of course we would revert to the traditional practice to support those who are deemed to merit such an award.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Are the students that are financed by this UK Scholarship Scheme required to stay and work in the UK at the end?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I would prefer not to comment on that, it remains in a sort of limbo at the moment. They are certainly not forced to sign any contractual arrangement but it is something left unsaid.

HON J J BOSSANO:

But presumably, I understand the PGCE is a one year course, so in fact if this happened two years ago we must have had some Gibraltar students who were financed by the UK in the first year given that the Government have not financed anybody for two years. So have the people who did the first year come back to Gibraltar or not?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Yes they have all come back to Gibraltar. Those who benefited from this bursary have come back to Gibraltar and there has been no reaction.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can the Government say what were the numbers this year and last year?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I have not got that figure with me, I would need notice of how many Gibraltar students are now following PGCE courses. It could be anything between 10 to 15.

HON J J BOSSANO:

What 10 to 15 in each year?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I do not want to commit myself to any figure.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I accept that but I just want to have an indication. Are we talking about half a dozen people or more than that? Presumably there is a fairly regular pattern to this.

HON DR B A LINARES:

Fairly regular pattern which is usually around 10 to 15.

ORAL

NO. 194 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EDUCATION – VOCATIONAL TRAINING SCHEME

Can Government provide a breakdown of the 50 trainees presented with certificates in November 2005, showing the number from the VTS, Construction Training Scheme and Cammell Laird Training Scheme and in respect of each group give the number receiving each of the awards obtained?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CIVIC AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 195 and 196 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 195 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EDUCATION – VOCATIONAL TRAINING SCHEME

Can Government state of the 50 trainees that received certificates in November 2005 whether any of them were already in employment, and if so, specify the nature of the employment in each case?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CIVIC AND CONSUMER
AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 194 and 196 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 196 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EDUCATION – VOCATIONAL TRAINING SCHEME

Can Government specify the age and gender of the 50 trainees in the VTS that received certificates in November 2005?

ANSWER

The statistical information requested is set out in the schedule attached.

Answer to Question 196 of 2006

Answer to Question 194

A total of 47 Trainees received certificates in November 2005. The details are as follows:

	VTS	GCTC	Cammell Laird
Male	16	8	3
Female	20	0	0

Qualification	VTS	GCTC	Cammell Laird
Numeracy Level 1	2	6	-
Numeracy Level 2	11	1	3
Literacy Level 1	-	1	3
Literacy Level 2	1	2	-
CLAIT Level 1	23	-	-
Diploma in Business Administration	7	-	-

Note: Some trainees received more than one certificate

Answer to Question 195

A total of 19 of the 47 Trainees who received certificates in November 2005 were already in employment.

Mechanical Engineering	3
Administration	6
Retail	3
Electrical	1
Banking	2
Gaming Industry	2
Catering	1
Cleaning	1
TOTAL	19

Contd Answer to Question 196 of 2006

Answer to Question 196

AGE	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
16	2	4	6
17	2	2	4
18	7	8	15
19	4	2	6
20	3	-	3
21	2	3	5
22	5	-	5
24	2	-	2
27	1	-	1

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 194 TO 196 OF 2006

HON J J BOSSANO:

There were 19 out of the 47 who were already in employment in November, is it that they were employed subsequent to having completed these courses or is it that it is possible to be in employment and doing the courses?

HON DR B A LINARES:

No it is not possible to be in employment and following these courses. These courses are offered to trainees as such not employees, not those in employment. The reason for that is that in the period between having passed these exams, which are GCE's and OCR examinations in literacy, numeracy et cetera and the actual presentation of certificates which comes later, remember they sit these exams in around May/June, then the results come around August and the presentation, the actual certification arrives here in November which was the time when we had the certificates ready to be presented, in between of course they find for themselves employment. That is why they were all employed in these listed trades before November 2005.

HON J J BOSSANO:

When the Minister says they are not in employment, therefore the fact that somebody is already in employment does not mean that he can undertake a numeracy or literacy or any of these other things? I can understand that if they are in the Construction Training Centre or in the Cammell Laird it is a full time thing but these other things are not available to young people who may be in employment, they have to be paid by the Government in order to be able to benefit from this?

HON DR B A LINARES:

There are other avenues for young people in employment to follow GCSE's and other courses through the College of Further Education and in some cases the Government will support, fund some of these courses but not these courses which take place in Bleak House and they are intended to be underpinning numeracy, literacy, information technology courses for trainees who are engaged in apprenticeships in whatever industrial trade. Nevertheless, it is felt that they also need some academic underpinning and that is offered to them in Bleak House whilst in training not whilst in employment.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Am I right in thinking that in terms of the courses and the qualifications what we are talking about is 47 individuals but they may have been doing more than one thing, because I note that the Cammell Laird one shows that the three in Cammell Laird appears in more than one of the tables and I assume that they are likely to be the three who found employment in mechanical engineering at the same time, given that that is the only connection there seems to be between the training and the actual

sector of industry providing the employment. Is that an accurate interpretation of the figures he has provided?

HON DR B A LINARES:

What is accurate is the fact that many of these individuals actually obtained certificates in different subjects, hon Members will notice that we are talking about 47, actually the question refers to the figure of 50. The hon Member must have gathered that from the press release we spoke about approximately 50, that is the reason for that, we were not too sure at that stage whether all of them would have been receiving certificates so it was said approximately 50, but the actual figure of those receiving certificates was 47 and he will notice that if we add all the certificates presented it comes to 60. The reason being, as suggested, that some of them actually obtained more than one certificate.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The people who are taken on in the Vocational Training Scheme are therefore what, placed with an employer by the Department or is it that they themselves look for somebody to give them experience whilst they are doing these courses, is that the case?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Yes, a bit of both actually, in some cases individual young people actually make contact with a particular employer and that is then ratified so to speak through the Department of Education establishing an arrangement with that particular employer with a structured course which requires someone in the firm to be a sort of mentor. I have explained the system before how the training programme works but in answer directly to the question it can be either a direct placement from the Department of Education when they come to the Department seeking this type of training or a personal contact of the student with an employer who is deemed by the Department to be able to offer this training.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In answer to Question No. 188 of 2006 yesterday when a breakdown was given of the 176 trainees that were enrolled within the VTS in April 2005, these 47 would have been part of the 176 is that correct?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Yes, I should think so.

HON J J BOSSANO:

What we are talking about is that once they receive the certificate what, they come off the VTS Scheme or what happens to them?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Let me clarify something, these certificates are academic certificates which I described as underpinning the industrial training. The 176 are engaged in a number of placements and trainings but not all of them seek these underpinning academic courses in Bleak House which are also open, by the way, to trainees in the GCTC and Cammell Laird. They are engaged in indentured apprenticeships but nevertheless they still require this academic background and the Department offers it to them.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So the 176 trainees which were on the VTS presumably includes the VTS but does not include the Construction, Training and the Cammell Laird, is that correct?

HON DR B A LINARES:

That is right.

HON J J BOSSANO:

My question is, if part of the Scheme is not a requirement that they undertake any of these courses, it is a voluntary thing, is there anything else that they have to do in the VTS Scheme comparable to the NVQ's in construction or in the mechanical trades?

HON DR B A LINARES:

No, the placements in VTS Scheme is a different style of training altogether, it is more on-hand placement in different areas of employment, it is intended more in terms of work experience in a place of work whether it is in an office in terms of business and secretarial work or in other areas more industrial than that but there is no indentured structured apprenticeship which is in the GCTC actually verified by the CITB and the City and Guilds, and in the Cammell Laird these are validated by EMTA engineering and marine trades. Those are what we used to call in the old days indentured apprenticeships, they are sort of set and structured in industrial trades but the VTS is a different style of training altogether.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So when does the trainee in the VTS reach the point where he is no longer being trained? How does one arrive, is it a question of time, experience or what, how do they move from being under training to being trained and able to work?

HON DR B A LINARES:

Well it is an open-ended system altogether. It is a question of time as the hon Member said. It is a scheme intended to develop skills through direct experience with the skills required in different areas of employment. It is open-ended, it is negotiable with the Department. The European Union Funding can cover a period of

three years, it is capped at three years but some trainees actually leave well before that, they find themselves a job, they feel the skills they have developed in some cases the training provider, a particular firm, actually takes them on in some cases after three or four months of having taken the young person on and they find they are very suitable and quite skilful to do whatever job is required in the firm. So it is very open-ended in terms of timing and the particular style of training.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well, in answer to Question No. 189 of 2006 the Minister said that there were 17 trainees in Intake 5, I take it these are people who commenced the training in that year? That is to say, am I correct in thinking that this information means that the 176 trainees that were given in answer to Question No. 188 of 2006 are all the trainees currently under training, for however long they have been, and that the 17 are the ones who started training for the first time in April 2005, is that the information?

HON DR B A LINARES:

That is right, we had 146 already registered so to speak and then 17 were the new intake in April.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I note that one of the new intake is a 28 year old, it is difficult to understand how somebody, presumably we are talking about somebody who has not worked because if we are giving him work experience at the age of 28 for the first time in the new intake, I thought this was really intended for school leavers who did not go into higher education.

HON DR B A LINARES:

There is an element which we discussed yesterday, an element of support for young people with special needs.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is it the case that the number under training at any given time, is the pattern static in the sense that the numbers entering and the numbers leaving are almost the same or is it in fact the case that the 176 under training is an indication that there are more people coming in than people leaving the Scheme?

HON DR B A LINARES:

I think it is a pretty regular pattern I should think but I have not got figures in front of me to be able to confirm that. From my contact with the training providers in the Department I think there is a general pattern. It depends very much, it is related to the number of young people who finish their GCSE's and those who enter into the apprenticeships, so there is a regular pattern, there must be.

NO. 197 OF 2006

THE HON S E LINARES

LEISURE CENTRE – KING’S BASTION

Are Government now in a position to state what facilities will be made available in King’s Bastion Leisure Centre?

ANSWER

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

The position remains the same as explained in supplementaries to Question No. 622 of 2005. The Government will make a statement as soon as the final design scheme is signed off.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 197 OF 2006

HON S E LINARES:

So is it the case then that at present the Government do not know anything about what is going into the Leisure Centre, is that correct?

HON F VINET:

If that were the case the position would not be the same as explained in supplementaries to Question No. 622 of 2005. In reply to that Question I explained to the House that there was a manifesto commitment which we fully expected to deliver, that manifesto commitment actually listed the range of activities that will be available at the Leisure Centre and the position remains the same.

HON S E LINARES:

So in actual fact what the Minister is saying is that the facilities that are going to be in place in the King’s Bastion Leisure Centre are the ones in the manifesto plus others, because presumably it is not going to be those only, is that the case?

HON F VINET:

Those are certainly the main substantive activities, there may be other ancillary activities and facilities available. But as I say, the full extent of those will be made public with a statement that will follow as soon as the design scheme is signed off.

HON S E LINARES:

Will the Minister then when he makes his announcement will he announce all the facilities that will be in place in the Leisure Centre?

HON F VINET:

Yes.

HON S E LINARES:

Is it not only courteous or is it not a norm that Ministers before going out public, since he is going to go out publicly soon, he must know what all the facilities are and therefore if he knows I cannot see why he cannot actually mention them here. Can he mention the ones he is going to announce?

HON F VINET:

No the Government will make a statement when they are ready to do so.

HON S E LINARES:

Will that statement be made in this House or will that be a statement made as a press release?

HON F VINET:

As a press release.

NO. 198 OF 2006

THE HON S E LINARES

YOUTH SERVICE - EXCHANGES

Can Government state what youth exchange preceded the one done to Bracknell and when did it occur?

ANSWER

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

The Youth Exchange project that preceded the current one to Bracknell took place in 2001. There have been a number of other youth projects involving groups travelling away from Gibraltar as well as others visiting Gibraltar, although not necessarily on an exchange basis.

NO. 199 OF 2006

THE HON S E LINARES

YOUTH SERVICE – PART-TIME LEADERS

Can Government state what the job description of part-time youth leaders is and what times they are expected to work?

ANSWER

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

There is not and never has been a job description to the post.

Part-time youth leaders are expected to work on a session basis each consisting of a minimum of three hours. These sessions could take place either during weekday evenings or at weekends depending on the particular needs of the Youth Service.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 199 OF 2006

HON S E LINARES:

Are these the youth leaders that have gone through the course done through the Youth Service?

HON F VINET:

Yes, all part-time youth workers must have completed a locally-recognised and validated course in part-time youth work.

HON S E LINARES:

Does the Minister not think that it would be advisable to have a job description?

HON F VINET:

I do not know whether it is advisable or otherwise, what I do know is that it is quite normal for part-time supply workers not to have a specific job description. Their role is basically to support the full-time staff.

HON S E LINARES:

Are these part-time workers supply workers? Does that mean that they are called in whenever needed or are they on the pay roll as a part-timer regularly?

HON F VINET:

As I have explained in the main reply, they are called in depending on the particular needs of the Youth Service as and when they are needed.

HON S E LINARES:

Since the Minister has mentioned that they are on a supply basis is there a rate at which they get paid?

HON F VINET:

I do not have that information before me but I will happily write to the hon Member and provide him with the information.

HON F R PICARDO:

Can I just take the Minister up on one of the things? He said that part-time workers do not have a job description surely what he must mean is that they simply have the same job description as those who they are supply workers for rather than part-time workers for?

HON F VINET:

In order to clarify, I did not say they do not have job descriptions I said it is not necessary for them to have a specific job description because their role is to support the full-time staff.

HON F R PICARDO:

That must mean that they have the job description of the full-time member of staff that they cover. It is not possible under our law for somebody not to have a job description, the job description is co-extensive with the individual that they are covering or is it that the Government policy is that part-time supply workers do not have job descriptions because that would be, I think, seismic?

HON F VINET:

No, I think logic would dictate that indeed if those supply workers are there to support full-time staff, their job description in effect mirrors that of the full-time staff.

HON F R PICARDO:

What I meant to say is that they do not have a specific job description that differs from the full-time staff.

NO. 200 OF 2006**THE HON S E LINARES****YOUTH SERVICE – REFURBISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE**

Can Government state how much has been spent on refurbishment and maintenance respectively in youth clubs in 2001/2002, 2003/2004, 2004, 2005 to date giving a breakdown by youth club?

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

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

ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 200/2006**YOUTH CLUBS – BREAKDOWN OF EXPENDITURE**

Year	Line Wall (£)	Laguna (£)	Plater (£)	Dolphins (£)
2001/2002	17,732.75	28,500.44	21,279.13	15,282.80
2002/2003	15,980.79	32,458.31	42,064.83	450.00
2003/2004	18,491.59	1,417.00	1,596.00	528.50
2004/2005	29,530.59	11,354.03	14,759.46	25,679.86
2005/2006	8,809.74	12,359.08	18,111.36	2,992.00

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 200 OF 2006

HON S E LINARES:

The schedule that the Minister has passed on to me, does this mean that this is expenditure purely on maintenance or is it maintenance and refurbishment? Which figure is maintenance and refurbishment?

HON F VINET:

I actually realised that point last night when I was going over the answers. They have not been divided into refurbishment and maintenance costs and I sought an explanation for this. I am told that it is not readily available in a two-tier format because very often the line between what constitutes refurbishment and maintenance is a very thin one. So it may include, for example, major repairs such as work to roofs, as well as minor maintenance such as broken pipes, electrical faults and so on.

ORAL

NO. 201 OF 2006

THE HON S E LINARES

ARTS ADVISORY COUNCIL

Can Government state how many times the Arts Advisory Council has met since this was asked in Question No. 48 of 2005?

ANSWER

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

Twice.

ORAL

NO. 202 OF 2006

THE HON S E LINARES

MUSIC CENTRE

Can Government state how many associations are currently using the Music Centre at the old BFBS building?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 203 to 205 and 210 and 211 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 203 OF 2006

THE HON S E LINARES

MUSIC CENTRE

Can Government state who has been assigned by the trustees to run the Music Centre?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 202, 204, 205, 210 and 211 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 204 OF 2006

THE HON S E LINARES

MUSIC CENTRE

Can Government state how many days of the week the Music Centre is made available for groups, bands, orchestras and/or individuals for practising?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 202, 203, 205, 210 and 211 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 205 OF 2006

THE HON S E LINARES

MUSIC CENTRE

Can Government state whether there is any Teaching Programmes within the Music Centre for people interested in music to enrol or attend?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 202 to 204, 210 and 211 of 2006.

NO. 206 OF 2006

THE HON S E LINARES

INCE'S HALL

Can Government state when they will start the 2nd phase of the refurbishment of the Ince's Hall and how much has been allocated for this purpose?

ANSWER

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

No Sir, not at this time.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 206 OF 2006

HON S E LINARES:

Did the Minister not say that the refurbishment was going to be done during the summer, or he came out publicly saying that this is only the first part and now he has got a second part? That is why I have posed the question because the Minister was not quite specific in the press release as to when.

HON F VINET:

Yes, it is true that in the press release announcing the first phase of the refurbishment of Ince's Hall I explained that we were hoping to commence the second phase at some point in the summer of this year. The question asks when that second phase will start and I am unable to give a specific answer to that.

HON S E LINARES:

There is also the second part of the question, how much has been allocated for this purpose? Surely the Minister must have money allocated for his second phase whether he starts early in the summer or later in the summer, there must be some sort of budget that was put aside for this purpose.

HON F VINET:

No, that would depend on the outcome of the budget this year.

ORAL

NO. 207 OF 2006

THE HON S E LINARES

THEATRE ROYAL

Can Government state whether the structural engineers that inspected the Old Theatre Royal as stated in answer to Question No. 46 of 2005 are civil servants or are contracted privately to do this work?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 208 and 209 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 208 OF 2006

THE HON S E LINARES

THEATRE ROYAL

Can Government state how many inspections have taken place by structural engineers at the Old Theatre Royal site in relation to the safety of adjacent buildings and walls that remain from what was the Theatre Royal?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 207 and 209 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 209 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

THEATRE ROYAL

Of the amounts spent on the Theatre Royal how much was obtained from EU Funding and has any of it had to be reimbursed or off-set against claims?

ANSWER

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

The structural engineers are Civil Servants from the Technical Services Department.

A total of 17 inspections have taken place – five in 2003; five in 2004; six in 2005 and one to date this year.

The sum of £481,855.94 was obtained from EU funding. No amount has had to be reimbursed or off-set against other claims.

ORAL

NO. 210 OF 2006

THE HON S E LINARES

MUSIC CENTRE

Can Government state whether the trustees have given any financial assistance to any individual or group to teach or conduct any musical performance or lessons or promote music in any way?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 202 to 205 and 211 of 2006.

NO. 211 OF 2006

THE HON S E LINARES

MUSIC CENTRE

Can Government state whether the Music Centre is being used by the National Choir for rehearsals?

ANSWER

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

As the House was informed in answer to Question Nos. 1495 and 1496 of 2004 and again in answer to Question No. 2127 of 2004, and yet again in a supplementary answer to Question No. 628 of 2005, the Gibraltar Music Centre is a charitable trust not one appointed by Government. The Music Centre is run by its trustees and it is entirely up to them to decide how to and who will manage its business. The Government do not have the information requested and are not accountable for any of the matters raised in the hon Member's Questions.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 203 TO 205, 210 AND 211 OF 2006

HON S E LINARES:

Do the Government not give a grant or gave a grant of £52,000 to the trustees?

HON F VINET:

Yes, that is a different matter altogether. The Government are certainly interested in knowing how those funds are administered as and when the funds are administered.

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Minister state who appoints these trustees?

HON F VINET:

The trustees are appointed by the Trust itself, Government have no role in this whatsoever.

HON S E LINARES:

Was it not the Government who gave this building to the Trust for a specific purpose?

HON F VINET:

Yes, but that does not in any way affect the reply given to the hon Member.

HON S E LINARES:

Do the Government not feel that a building that was given to a Trust for a specific purpose, that the Government should be monitoring whether the Trust is actually fulfilling what the building was given to them for?

HON F VINET:

I have already given the reply and if the hon Member wishes I will repeat it but it will not change my reply.

HON S E LINARES:

Is the Minister aware that the building is currently empty and in a dilapidated state and is he not concerned about this?

HON F VINET:

I am not aware of those facts.

HON S E LINARES:

How long is it that the Minister has driven by and seen the building himself? The building is in an absolute state, that building was given by this Government to the trustees for a specific purpose, the building is still lying there derelict, we still are not sure where those £52,000 as grant was given to them for and where it has gone and there are many groups out there who would like to make use of this building and do not even know who the trustees or the Trust is and who they are, is the Minister not concerned about this?

HON F VINET:

If the question were to be whether Government are interested in the Music Centre Trust building being used as effectively as possible for the purposes for which the Trust exists, the answer is of course yes. That is not the question being made, the questions being asked by the hon Member elicit the answer I have just given. Namely, that Government are not accountable for any other matters raised in those questions.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Does the Minister accept that the Government are accountable to this House if public money has been given which has been defended and voted in this House on the basis that it was a worthwhile cause to support and then if there is any doubt, I know nothing about the issue but if there is any doubt, whether the money has been used for what the House intended? The money should be used even if the Government are not in a position to explain because they have not spent the money, I would imagine they would want to be satisfied that it is achieving their intended purpose, I would have thought.

HON F VINET:

Yes, and that issue was in fact replied to in answer to Question No. 628 of 2005 which specifically dealt with the grant given to Trustees of the Music Centre Trust in the year 2004 to date.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The position then is that the Government have monitored the expenditure of that money and are happy with the way it has been spent, is that the case?

HON F VINET:

Well, the Government have not been given any information to think otherwise.

HON J J BOSSANO:

If the Government have obtained £52,000 from public funds to support what they consider to be a worthy cause and defended that here and there is any possibility that the money has not been spent as they wanted it to be spent, I would have thought they would want to satisfy themselves that there is no basis for those doubts. Are they in a position to say that they are totally satisfied that there is no basis for such doubts?

HON F VINET:

What I do know is the following: in 2004 I believe funds of £53,000 if my memory serves me right were given to the Trust for the refurbishment of shutters. Last year there was a cultural grant of I think it may have been £2,000 for the purchase of musical equipment. I have not received any information that those funds that have been given to the Trust have not been used effectively or indeed for the purpose for which they were given. If Opposition Members are highlighting that they have knowledge that that is the case, then certainly I would wish to seek further information from the Trust, of course.

HON S E LINARES:

I can assure the Minister that if he just visited the Music Centre any time of the day or night that the shutters are falling down, the building has scaffolding to hold the main entrance, the building is in an absolute state and that is why I have posed these questions, because I think the Minister is responsible because the Trust has been given this place and as I understand it a Trust is given something in trust for a reason and the reason being to be used for music. I am telling the Minister that hardly anybody uses that place, the place is falling down and I am concerned not only about the place falling down, I am concerned about people who want to use the place and cannot, I am concerned about the money that the Government have put in and has not been spent at least in what the Minister thinks it has been spent and therefore groups and associations come to us and tell us that they want to use the place and are not able to use the place because they do not even know who has the key. So could the Minister please investigate this because it is a matter for concern for people who want to use it and that is why I have posed this set of questions. The idea of posing this set of questions is that the Minister actually goes and finds out, because all the questions are to do with what I presume the Trust is supposed to have been there for – teaching programmes, allowing people to practise there, the National Choir to have a place for rehearsals, for young people to be able to go there and feel that they can have a place where they can play music – that is what I presume the Trust is there for. So it is the Minister's responsibility to make sure that the Trust actually fulfils its role. Therefore, the Minister should not only go there and have a look at the place but also ask the trustees what is happening (1) with the money; and (2) with the place. Does the Minister not agree with this?

HON F VINET:

I agree to a very limited extent. Am I concerned? Do I share the hon Member's concerns, if it is the case, that the Trust is not employing its facilities to the best of its abilities? Yes of course I share that concern. I also say, by the way, the fact that the building is not in a particularly good state does not necessarily mean to say that the funds that have been awarded to the Trust have not been used for the purpose for which they were awarded. I do not comment either way whether they have been or have not been but it does not necessarily follow that that is the case. What I do not agree with the Opposition Member is that the Government have a responsibility for the facilities which the Trust deliver, being delivered or otherwise. The thrust of my original answer is that Government are not accountable for any of the matters raised in the Questions and I fully stand by that answer.

HON S E LINARES:

Will the Minister look into the whole affair and the whole matter, will he guarantee this House that he will look into the whole matter with the Music Centre?

HON F VINET:

I have no problem whatsoever in looking into the matter notwithstanding the fact that Government are not accountable for those matters.

ORAL

NO. 212 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

GIBTELECOM – NUMBER OF CALLS

Can Government provide the number of telephone calls in 2004, giving a breakdown by National Traffic, International and Operator Assisted calls?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND
COMMUNICATIONS**

Answered together with Question No. 213 of 2006.

NO. 213 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS

Can Government provide the number of Internet connections in 2004, giving a breakdown into Residential and Business?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

The Gibraltar Regulatory Authority, as the hon Member will be aware, publishes Gibraltar telecommunications statistics in its annual report. The 2004/2005 report laid in the House on 27th July 2005, states that as at the end of March 2005 there were a total of 7,326 internet accounts in Gibraltar consisting of 4,481 dial up and 2,845 ADSL accounts. In fact, I have been asked to point out that the number of ADSL accounts should read 2,477 giving a total of 6,958 Internet accounts. A breakdown of these accounts between Business and Residential users is not available as users are not necessarily classified in this way.

With regard to the number of telephone calls, the GRA annual report breaks down voice communications by minutes for the year 2004/2005. According to Gibtelecom data the number of fixed line telephone calls in Gibraltar made in 2004 totalled 42.2 million. This is broken down as follows:

Local	-	35.2 million
International	-	7.0 million
Operator Assisted	-	102 calls

ORAL

NO. 214 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

ELECTRICITY - OESCO

Can Government state the number of units and the value of electricity purchased from OESCO in the months of December 2005 to date?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 215 to 223 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 215 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

ELECTRICITY - MOD

Can Government state the number of units and the value of electricity purchased from MOD in the months of December 2005 to date?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 214 and 216 to 223 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 216 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

ELECTRICITY – AMOUNTS BILLED

Can Government state the number of T3 (Domestic Consumers) units of electricity invoiced to customers in the months of December 2005 to date and in the equivalent months in the financial year 2004/2005?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 214, 215 and 217 to 223 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 217 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

ELECTRICITY – AMOUNTS BILLED

Can Government state the number of customers invoiced in respect of T3 (Domestic) units of electricity in the months of December 2005 to date and for the equivalent months in the financial year 2004/2005?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 214 to 216 and 218 to 223 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 218 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

ELECTRICITY – AMOUNTS BILLED

Can Government state the number of T3 (Domestic) units of electricity invoiced to customers in the months of December 2005 to date and in the equivalent months in the financial year 2004/2005?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 214 to 217 and 219 to 223 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 219 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

ELECTRICITY – REVENUE COLLECTED

Can Government state what were the amounts collected in respect of electricity in the months of December 2005, January and February 2006 and in the equivalent months in the financial year 2004/2005?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 214 to 218 and 220 to 223 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 220 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

ELECTRICITY – REVENUE COLLECTED

Can Government state the amount collected from consumers in respect of electricity in the months of October and November 2005 and in the equivalent months in 2004?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 214 to 219 and 221 to 223 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 221 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

ELECTRICITY – STANDING CHARGES

Can Government state the total value invoiced to Domestic Customers in respect of Electricity Standing Charges in the months of December 2005 to date and in the equivalent months in the financial year 2004/2005?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 214 to 220, 222 and 223 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 222 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

ELECTRICITY – FUEL COST ADJUSTMENT

Can Government state the total value invoiced to Domestic Customers in respect of Fuel Cost Adjustment (FCA) in the months of December 2005 to date and in the equivalent months in the financial year 2004/2005?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 214 to 221 and 223 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 223 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

ELECTRICITY – REVENUE COLLECTED

Can Government state what were the amounts collected and the amounts billed in respect of electricity in the months of December 2005 to date and in the equivalent months in the financial year 2004/2005?

ANSWER

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

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

Answer to Question 223/2006**Answer to Question 214**

Purchases from OESCO Ltd.

	December 2005	January 2006	February 2006
Units (kWh)	7,437,550	5,594,960	6,809,690
Value	£870,360.51	£653,741.87	£768,713.91

Answer to Question 215

Purchases from the MOD

	December 2005	January 2006	February 2006
Units (kWh)	238,996	707,173	not invoiced
Value	£24,561.42	£73,131.84	not invoiced

Answer to Question 216

Amounts billed (invoiced) to Tariff 3 Domestic Consumers - December to February - 2005 and 2006

	December	January	February
Fin.Yr. 04/05	£424,923	£553,820	£481,711
Fin.Yr. 05/06	£549,878	£666,774	£529,886

Answer to Question 217

Number of Consumers billed (invoiced) under Tariff 3 Domestic - December to February - 2005 and 2006

	December	January	February
Fin.Yr. 04/05	12,617	12,621	12,609
Fin.Yr. 05/06	12,612	12,633	12,628

Answer to Question 218

Units billed (invoiced) to Tariff 3 Domestic Consumers - December to February - 2005 and 2006

	December	January	February
Fin.Yr. 04/05	4,291,274	5,677,477	4,899,792
Fin.Yr. 05/06	4,676,799	5,788,729	4,315,774

Answer to Question 219

Amounts collected - December to February - 2005 and 2006

	December	January	February
Fin.Yr. 04/05	£913,579.25	£1,007,039.07	£941,817.74
Fin.Yr. 05/06	£1,261,154.38	£1,209,058.18	£1,300,168.47

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Contd Answer to Question 223/2006

Answer to Question 220

Amounts collected - October and November - 2004 and 2005

	October	November
2004	£987,208.04	£888,230.44
2005	£1,309,897.88	£1,344,969.33

Answer to Question 221

Standing Charges billed (invoiced) to Tariff 3 Domestic Consumers

	December	January	February
Fin.Yr. 04/05	£25,418	£25,268	£25,552
Fin.Yr. 05/06	£51,332	£49,690	£50,302

Answer to Question 222

FCA billed (invoiced) to Tariff 3 Domestic Consumers

	December	January	February
Fin.Yr. 04/05	£120,573	£159,516	£137,672
Fin.Yr. 05/06	£152,463	£188,717	£160,217

Answer to Question 223

Amounts collected and billed - December to February - 2004/05 and 2005/06

Fin.Yr. 04/05	December	January	February
Collected	£913,579.25	£1,007,039.07	£941,817.74
Billed	£1,017,478.00	£1,122,582.00	£1,050,726.00

Fin.Yr. 05/06	December	January	February
Collected	£1,261,154.38	£1,209,058.18	£1,300,168.47
Billed	£1,296,215.70	£1,425,811.81	£1,270,421.32

ORAL

NO. 224 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

ELECTRICITY – POWER FAILURES

Can Government state the number of power cuts that affected whole districts in the months of December 2005 to date, providing a breakdown of the areas affected and the reason why they occurred?

ANSWER

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

There were no power cuts affecting whole districts for the period December 2005 up to and including 14th March 2006 and to the best of my knowledge there have been none from 14th March to date.

ORAL

NO. 225 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

AQUAGIB – AMOUNTS BILLED

Can Government state the number of units of Domestic Primary Units of water invoiced in the months of December 2005 to date and in the equivalent months in the financial year 2004/2005?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 226 to 231 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 226 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

AQUAGIB – AMOUNTS BILLED

Can Government state the value of Domestic Primary Units of water invoiced in the months of December 2005 to date and in the equivalent months in the financial year 2004/2005?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 225 and 227 to 231 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 227 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

AQUAGIB – AMOUNTS BILLED

Can Government state the number of units of Domestic Secondary Units of water invoiced in the months of December 2005 to date and in the equivalent months in the financial year 2004/2005?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 225, 226 and 228 to 231 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 228 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

AQUAGIB – AMOUNTS BILLED

Can Government state the value of Domestic Secondary Units of water invoiced in the months of December 2005 to date and in the equivalent months in the financial year 2004/2005?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 225 to 227 and 229 to 231 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 229 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

AQUAGIB – AMOUNTS BILLED

Can Government state the number of customers that were invoiced for Domestic Secondary Units of water in the months of December 2005 to date and in the equivalent months in the financial year 2004/2005?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 225 to 228, 230 and 231 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 230 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

AQUAGIB – STANDING CHARGES

Can Government state the values in respect of Water Standing Charges invoiced to Domestic Customers in the months of December 2005 to date and in the equivalent months in the financial year 2004/2005?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 225 to 229 and 231 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 231 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

AQUAGIB – REVENUE COLLECTED

Can Government state what were the amounts collected and the amounts billed in respect of water in the months of December 2005 to date and in the equivalent months in the financial year 2004/2005?

ANSWER

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

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

Answer to Question 231/2006

Answer to Question 225

	December 04	January 05	February 05
Potable water Billed by Units Domestic (Primary)	366,541	387,945	373,286
	December 05	January 06	February 06
Potable water Billed by Units Domestic (Primary)	377,011	377,434	357,267

Answer to Question 226

	December 04	January 05	February 05
Potable water Billed (Primary Units) by value	£65,977	£69,830	£67,191
	December 05	January 06	February 06
Potable water Billed (Primary Units) by value	£79,172	£79,261	£75,026

Answer to Question 227

	December 04	January 05	February 05
Potable water Billed by units Domestic (Secondary Units)	174,875	260,832	181,255
	December 05	January 06	February 06
Potable water Billed by units Domestic (Secondary Units)	190,599	240,280	145,188

Answer to Question 228

	December 04	January 05	February 05
Potable water Billed by Value Domestic (Secondary)	£78,693	£117,374	£81,564
	December 05	January 06	February 06
Potable water Billed by Value Domestic (Secondary)	£99,111	£124,945	£75,497

Answer to Question 229

	December 04	January 05	February 05
No. of Consumers of Domestic Secondary Units	4,929	6,005	5,105
	December 05	January 06	February 06
No. of Consumers of Domestic Secondary Units	5,366	5,763	4,677

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Contd. Answer to Question 231/2006

Answer to Question 230

	December 04	January 05	February 05
Standing Charges (Domestic)	£17,736	£17,616	£17,563
	December 05	January 06	February 06
Standing Charges (Domestic)	£35,053	£34,716	£35,346

Answer to Question 231

Period	Amount Billed	Amount Collected
December 04	£296,938	£328,438
January 05	£356,029	£328,124
February 05	£273,592	£259,114

Period	Amount Billed	Amount Collected
December 05	£345,029	£336,885
January 06	£363,602	£374,018
February 06	£322,146	£346,018

ORAL

NO. 232 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

HERITAGE ACTION COMMITTEE

How often and on what dates has the Heritage Action Committee met since 23 November 2005?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question No. 233 of 2006.

NO. 233 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

HERITAGE ACTION COMMITTEE

Can Government say, of the 12 members of the Heritage Action Committee, how many are:

- (a) Government Ministers and officials;
- (b) persons indirectly in the pay of the Government (e.g. contract holders);
- (c) members of the Gibraltar Heritage Trust who do not fall into category (a) or (b) above?

ANSWER

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

The Heritage Action Committee has met twice, on 23rd November 2005 and on 24th January 2006. A meeting was scheduled for today but has now been rescheduled for 28th March 2006.

As for Question No. 233 of 2006 the answers are:

- (a) 5;
- (b) 4; and
- (c) 3.

NO. 234 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

HERITAGE – HEAD 102, SUBHEAD 11

Further to the answer to Question No. 1242 of 2005 in relation to Heritage projects, can Government provide a breakdown of the following payments that were made indicating what they were for:

- (a) £2825 - Carlos
- (b) £2447.50 - Eudald Guillament?

ANSWER

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

The famous mysterious gentleman by the name of Carlos we talked about last time. (a) That sum was for photographic equipment; and (b) The sum of £2,447.50 was for fees in connection with the conservation and restoration of cave art in St Michael's and Gorham's Caves.

ORAL

NO. 235 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR HERITAGE TRUST

Can Government say whether they have received any representations from the Gibraltar Heritage Trust or from any other entity for the addition of any structures to the list of those that are already listed, and if so when were these representations received and what were the structures?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 236 of 2006.

NO. 236 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR HERITAGE TRUST

Can Government state at what stage is their consideration of the draft Heritage Ordinance?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Recently the Heritage Trust has requested from me the listing of the Victualling Yard. I have confirmed that the Government see no problem with doing so, provided that it does not affect the feasibility of the Nelson's View affordable housing scheme.

Recently also, the Heritage Trust has made a public statement suggesting that other listings have been requested in the context of past discussions for a possible new Heritage Ordinance. Government have not so far been able to trace any record of that request but the search in old files continues. As soon as we are able to establish the true facts we will respond both to the Heritage Trust and to hon Members. Government will make announcements about any new Ordinance which they may wish to bring forward when they decide whether to bring such an Ordinance and if so, what it should contain. No such decisions have yet been made.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 235 AND 236 OF 2006

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Given the answer, my understanding is that there has been a Heritage Ordinance which was prepared when the Hon Keith Azopardi was Minister for Heritage. In previous questions in this House we were told that that Ordinance was being considered by the new Minister for Heritage and that they needed more time. Therefore my question is, is it the policy of the Government to proceed with the draft Ordinance which is already in existence from before or is it the policy of the Government to overhaul the Ordinance and produce a new one?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I could not answer that question because the position was, as the hon Member quite rightly says, that when the Hon Keith Azopardi in a previous GSD Administration was Minister for Heritage, he did engage with the Heritage Trust in discussions for possible amendments to the Heritage Trust Ordinance and I think they got to the

fourth or fifth draft, there were some drafts produced at a departmental level, the legislation never got out of the department in the sense that it has never been more widely considered by Ministers. I personally have had a look at it and my own view is that there are things in it which I do not think Ministers are likely to approve but that is a matter that can only be established when it comes to Ministers. So, will the Ordinance when it emerges take the form of an amended Ordinance or of a whole new Ordinance depends really on the extent of the changes. I think the more changes that there are the more desirable it is to end up with a new Ordinance so that people do not have to keep on always reading an old Ordinance against an amendment. I have to say that whilst the Government certainly remain open to the possibility of bringing legislation forward on Heritage Trust issues, this is not a legislative priority for the Government and it gets dealt with on that basis. That I think is the fairest and fullest explanation that I can give the Opposition Member. It is not that the Government are obliged to bring legislation and indeed Opposition Members, or at least their partners in Opposition when they were in Government appeared to think that the Heritage Trust Ordinance as it presently stands is perfectly suitable, or otherwise they would have amended it themselves. So certainly there is no particular compulsion, well there is no compulsion at all, but there is certainly no need which they share, or which they shared when they were in Government, to amend this legislation. If improvements to the legislation are proposed and which are nevertheless consistent with the fact that heritage, as with all other areas, are the executive responsibility of the Government and the statutory responsibility of this House then provided that amendments are consistent with that fact then the Government would of course be quite happy to consider legislative proposals.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

If I am not mistaken I think my partners in this House were the ones who introduced the Heritage Ordinance for the first time in the history of Gibraltar, for the first time ever. Be that as it may, given the controversy over the Rosia Tanks and the issues which arose as a result of that, and hearing what the Chief Minister has said in relation to the fact that to produce a new Heritage Ordinance is not a legislative priority for the Government, are the Government open to adding on the list of listed monuments in the existing Ordinance?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Oh yes of course we are. I have invited the Heritage Trust to put their views to me and in fact they have written to me very recently, I am not sure if the letter was addressed to me or to my hon Colleague but it is certainly copied to me so it has come across my desk, and they say that they are going to write in suggesting the list that they think should be listed and the Government will have no difficulty whatsoever adding to the existing list under the existing Ordinance, providing those sites with the protection afforded by the existing Ordinance which is considerable protection, but of course we will review the list on its merits. In other words, it is for this House to decide what goes on that list and nobody else. Obviously the Government will have due regard to the advice given to them by the Heritage Trust and anybody else but by the Heritage Trust in particular. It does not mean that the advice will necessarily be followed but unless the Government have a good reason for believing that something that they recommend should not be listed, unless the Government feel that there is a good reason for not doing so it is much more likely that we will follow their advice than that we will not.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is there any policy connection in the Government's scale of priorities if the position in which the draft Heritage Ordinance is and the Government's scale of legislative priorities and the decision to change the manner in which Gibraltar's application for World Heritage Status was originally put forward?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No there is no connection and there is a common misconception on this question of World Heritage Bid. No bid for the World Heritage Trust has been withdrawn for the simple reason that that has never been submitted. It is not a question of withdrawing things, there was a debate and a discussion within Gibraltar between the Government, the Minister at the time and the Heritage Trust, they conceived of this Fortress Gibraltar concept which involved not listing individual monuments, which is what happens in most places, but listing in effect the whole of Gibraltar. When that came across my desk several years ago, long before the Heritage Trust and the hon Member will have seen that I published a letter recently which showed that I was saying these things to MPs long before the Rosia Development arose, when it came across my table I asked, 'well what is the effect of the whole of Gibraltar being listed? What is the effect on the sovereignty, if I could call it that, of future Governments of Gibraltar ability to make decisions for the development of Gibraltar? Will it have any such consequences?'. I have to say that the answers that I have been given, far from satisfying me on that have in my mind justified the wisdom of my having raised the question in the first place. Particularly when given that it will be a UK listed monument it will become an international obligation of the United Kingdom, so that the United Kingdom will in future get a say in how Gibraltar can be developed because otherwise the United Kingdom will be under the spirit of its obligations to UNESCO in the context of the listing of the whole of Gibraltar. Now, when one lists individual monuments or individual sites one has to put up a management plan for that site, but that management plan is limited to that particular site. When one puts up the whole of Gibraltar as a heritage site the management plan is for the whole of Gibraltar, because one cannot do anything that affects the sites in their context. Well look, I do not want future Governments of Gibraltar to have less freedom of deciding what is in Gibraltar's best social and economic interests than I have had, and I think the interaction between the importance of our heritage and the importance of our socio-economic development are judgements that should always be left in the hands of the elected Government of Gibraltar that the people of Gibraltar can hire and fire, and not through the guise of committing to international obligations of the United Kingdom, because this is not Gibraltar being listed in its own right, this is Gibraltar being listed as part of the UK's list. It becomes a UK listed item so every time a future Government of Gibraltar wants to build something here or there they are exposed, and this is what I have asked to be relieved of this concern I have not yet been relieved of this concern, whether any future Government of Gibraltar would be exposed to be told by a Government in the United Kingdom, 'no, no you cannot build that there because I have given a commitment to UNESCO under the management plan of the UK listed heritage site and I (UK) think it will put me in breach of my international obligations with UNESCO'. I really do not think that that is a step that Gibraltar should take unless it is absolutely certain of the consequences, there is no risk of what I have just explained occurring and that we do it with open eyes, but I do not think anybody is going to thank the Government of any particular day if they take this millstone, almost constitutional millstone, around their necks and then subsequently it transpiring that they walked into that with their eyes half shut not even understanding what the possible implications might be.

So the position of the Government is that until we are entirely satisfied that these implications would not be incurred, then we are not willing to allow the bid for the whole of Gibraltar to go forward. Not that we have withdrawn it, it has never been put in because the UK have not yet given us a slot. Now the UNESCO has changed its rules and each country can only now nominate one site per year. So the UK say that the queue is now longer so it is not a question of having withdrawn a bid – no bid has ever been submitted because the slots have not been available. It was indicated to us that 2006 would be the soonest that Gibraltar might be able to get the exclusive UK berth, but of course we will not take that opportunity unless the concerns that I have just explained are properly satisfied. In the meantime, the Government are of course perfectly content to proceed with any candidature by individual sites and to put up management plans to protect that site. Insofar as things which affect the whole of Gibraltar, and one cannot do this here because it casts a shadow of that monument here, in other words developments in the whole of Gibraltar except I suppose the most peripheral bits of Gibraltar, suddenly become relevant to the management because the site that has been listed is the whole of Gibraltar. So the management plan needs to relate to the whole of Gibraltar, and that is what the Government do not wish to incur in until we are absolutely certain that that is not the consequence. If I can just finish repeating where I started, far from being satisfied on that front the answers that we have given have really confirmed to us the need for caution in this area.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Following on from the answer, the Chief Minister at the beginning of his contribution said that no bid had been withdrawn because none had been submitted. I suppose he means that no bid had been submitted by the UK to UNESCO but there was a bid or a candidature for a bid submitted by Gibraltar to the UK and that is the particular bid that we are discussing, is that the case?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No I do not think so, in fact I am almost certain that it is not the case. There were certainly talks with the United Kingdom about whether Gibraltar could occupy one of its berths. At the time berths in the plural because the United Kingdom could send more than one candidate per year. Then the UNESCO rules changed in the middle of that discussion to only one berth, one slot, one site per country, so at that point Gibraltar was in much more direct competition for that slot with other UK sites. The document that was prepared was not a bid, it was an indication of the bid. In other words, it was a paper prepared for Keith Azopardi for him to take to a UNESCO conference in Korea, I think it was in the year 2000/2001, and that was not the tabling of the bid. The tabling of the bid would require many more documents to be prepared to that which was just like a brochure so to speak of the concept of Fortress Gibraltar. But it certainly was not the bid document and no bid document has been submitted, indeed no bid document has been prepared. An essential part of the bid document is our management plans.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Just to clarify the point, no bid document has been prepared for UNESCO but was a bid document prepared to bid amongst the UK sites for one of the slots?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not think so, I will confirm this to him but I do not think this is how it works. Certainly one writes in and asks but I think this is mainly done by correspondence, it is a sort of informal arrangement, but I can have that specific question checked for him if he is particularly interested in it and I can have it confirmed to him what was the specific form of the, well what would be the specific form because of course it has not happened, the UK have not yet given us its slot. So I think the discussion was left at consideration of what might be the date available for Gibraltar and then Gibraltar would prepare for that date and send in the applications for that date. So I think the matter really has gone no further than an agreement in principle by the UK to include the Gibraltar application, followed by diary management issues about when was the earliest date that Gibraltar might be considered rather than any work having been done leading to the formalities of occupying that slot. I am almost certain that that is the position but I will have it checked and confirmed.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

If the Chief Minister could clarify that position I think it would be useful given public statements that have been made indicating that it seems to be a bid of a more formal nature for one of the slots. So I would be grateful for that clarification.

ORAL

NO. 237 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GOVERNMENT ATTENDANCES AT CONFERENCES

What was the cost, with a breakdown, of Gibraltar's participation in the "Jornada de Historia Maritima Hispano-Marroqui" conference held on 24 November in Madrid?

ANSWER

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

There was no cost to Government.

NO. 238 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

On behalf of the Hon Miss M I Montegriffo

GIBRALTAR SPORTS AND LEISURE AUTHORITY

Can Government state how many persons were employed by the Gibraltar Sports Authority as at the end of February 2005 and 2006, providing a breakdown by grade, sex and nationality?

ANSWER

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

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

ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 238/2006

PERSONS EMPLOYED BY SPORTS AUTHORITY

No.	Grade	Sex	Nationality
1	Chief Executive Officer	Male	British
1	Finance & Administration Manager	Male	British
1	Facilities & Resources Manager	Male	British
1	Sports Development & Training Officer	Female	British
1	Asst Sports Development & Training Officer	Male	British
1	Office Manager	Female	British
2	Administrative / Clerk	Female	British
1	Secretarial / Typist	Female	British
2	Supervisory Groundsman	Male	1 British, 1 Moroccan
2	Groundsman	Male	British
3	Duty Managers	Male	British
5	Sports Assistants	Male	British
1	Sports Assistant	Female	British
1	Cleaner	Female	British

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 238 OF 2006

HON S E LINARES:

In relation to the Gibraltar Sports and Leisure Authority can the Minister state whether the Youth Service is under the umbrella of this Authority?

HON F VINET:

The Chief Executive Officer has overall responsibility for youth affairs.

HON S E LINARES:

Is the Chief Executive considered to be a Civil Servant or is he now detached from the Civil Service?

HON F VINET:

No, he is an employee of the Sports and Leisure Authority.

HON S E LINARES:

Who then pays, where does the payroll from the people in the Youth Service come from, from the Authority?

HON F VINET:

No, from Government funds as is made clear in the Government Estimates.

HON S E LINARES:

But the Minister has just stated that the Chief Executive is the one who has overall responsibility, does that mean that his department are the ones who prepare the pay packets and all the wages for the Youth Service, or do they go to another department to get paid or are they paid directly?

HON F VINET:

No, wages are paid by the Treasury.

HON S E LINARES:

Does that come from the Youth Service vote in the Consolidated Fund?

HON F VINET:

I have to check that preliminary question which steers quite far away from the original question, I would have to check.

HON S E LINARES:

Well, I think it is relevant because it is to do with employment, the question has asked about how many people were employed. When the Minister has stated the persons employed by the Authority does that include the people in the Youth Service?

HON F VINET:

No, the question asked how many people are employed by the Gibraltar Sports and Leisure Authority, the answer I have given in written form sets out the list of those employees which does not include any employees of the Youth Service. Therefore, where the funds for the wages of the employees of the Youth Service comes from is completely irrelevant and does not affect in any way the answer given.

HON S E LINARES:

But he has just stated the person who is in charge of the Youth Service is actually from the Authority, so given that as it is he is from the Authority how can one have a non-Civil Service person looking out and after Civil Servants? Ultimately the people in the Youth Service are Civil Servants.

HON F VINET:

I do not understand why the hon Member has difficulty in understanding and accepting the position which is very clearly stated, that is that the Chief Executive Officer of the Sports and Leisure Authority has overall responsibility for youth affairs.

HON C BELTRAN:

There is a historical evolution of that situation, the youth used to come under Sports Department. As the Sports and Leisure Department became an Authority the Chief Executive has retained overall responsibility for that area. There is a Senior Youth Officer or Principal Youth Officer who is the Civil Servant directly responsible for the day to day working of the Youth Service. It is just that the overall responsibility comes under the ambit of the person who used to do that before but is now part of the Sports Authority. It is a historical evolution rather than anything.

HON L A RANDALL:

My question solicited information as at the end of February 2005 and February 2006, as I have only got one set of figures am I to assume that there has been no increase from February 2005 to February 2006?

HON F VINET:

I would be inclined to believe that is the case. I will certainly enquire as to whether the details are exactly the same as at the two dates but I would be inclined to believe that is the case.

HON J J BOSSANO:

These employees of the Sports Authority that are no longer in the Civil Service, are any of these that were former Civil Servants still on the Civil Service pension scheme or are they now on the new Government No. 3 Pension Fund or whatever it is called?

HON F VINET:

As part of the Sports and Leisure Authority agreement those former employees of the Civil Service retained their pension rights when they moved across into the Sports and Leisure Authority.

HON J J BOSSANO:

What I am asking is in respect of the service in the Authority as opposed to the service in the Civil Service before they moved, obviously nobody would have moved if they had lost all their years of service in the Government but what I am asking is, is it that there is a situation that they have got reserved, as it were, rights in the Government Civil Service pension scheme which they will be able to access when they retire and they start in the Authority accumulating a pension under the Authority's contributions to the No. 3 Pension Scheme, or is it that their salaries in the Authority will be used to calculate their Civil Service pension? They are two different things.

HON F VINET:

The second possibility.

HON J J BOSSANO:

This is different from the other Authorities that there have been or is it the same pattern?

HON F VINET:

The honest reply is that I do not know although from recollection I believe the negotiations relating to each particular Authority ended up with different conditions applicable to each Authority, so I would be inclined to answer that they are the same but not within a degree of absolute certainty.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I take it that the answer really is that it is more likely that they are the same than otherwise, is it?

HON F VINET:

No, it is more likely that they are not the same.

NO. 239 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SENIOR CITIZENS – SWIMMING POOL

Can Government say who is the Controlling Officer in respect of the expenditure being undertaken in the provision of the Senior Citizens Swimming Pool?

ANSWER

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

As the hon Member will have seen in the Government Estimates of Expenditure for 2005/2006 it is clearly stated the Principal Secretary, Youth and Sport is the Controlling Officer in respect of the expenditure being undertaken in the provision of the swimming pool for the disabled, elderly and teaching.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 239 OF 2006

HON J J BOSSANO:

The Principal Secretary, Youth and Sport is in fact a Civil Servant and not in the Authority, is that correct?

HON F VINET:

Perhaps the reason why I did not offer as full a reply as I could have done to the previous question was so as not to minimise the glory of answering the Leader of the Opposition in this particular question. The CEO of the Sports and Leisure Authority is carrying out the functions of the Principal Secretary Youth and Sports. This is enabled in the Sports and Leisure Authority collective agreement reached between Government and the Staff Associations.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So is he a Civil Servant or is he not a Civil Servant?

HON F VINET:

He is not a Civil Servant.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So we have got then a Controlling Officer in the Improvement and Development Fund who is not a Civil Servant for the first time.

HON C BELTRAN:

If I can just offer him as previous Sports Minister, this started in my time, simply that again it is evolutionary. Simply the project began when we had a Principal Sports and Youth Officer and he knows exactly the intricacies of this particular project and he has carried those responsibilities until completion of the project, so it is a kind of dual role. Technically of course the man is no longer a Civil Servant but he is again overseeing the project perhaps in a more temporary way than overseeing the Youth Service.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I think revolution is probably more accurate than evolution because in fact, I can assure the Minister that if he had been involved in the negotiations in London on the Constitution he would know how sensitive the UK is about Civil Servants and non Civil Servants and what their role is in the Constitution in the Public Finance and Audit Ordinance. So in fact, has any thought been given to this question of having somebody as a controlling officer in the Estimates of Expenditure who might have been a Civil Servant when he started, but if somebody has got responsibilities and duties under the law because he is a Civil Servant, then the fact that he knows the ropes surely does not mean that when he ceases to be a Civil Servant he can continue behaving as if he still was one. Unless a way is found of having a hybrid person that is half Civil Servant and half not.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I fully understand what the Leader of the Opposition is trying to say and I think we would need to clarify the matter. I believe that the point that he has made is a valid one and I can only speak for my own areas of responsibilities when I have GDC Heads of Department as such who are then subject to a controlling officer being a Civil Servant of maybe similar or even inferior position but for the sake of having a Civil Servant in post as a controlling officer, so in practice what my hon Colleague has said earlier on may be actually correct in practice. But in essence I think there may be a controlling officer who is actually a Civil Servant in post and he would need to seek clarification on that.

ORAL

NO. 240 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

GIBRALTAR BUS COMPANY LIMITED

Can Government state the cost of renovating/refurbishing in the United Kingdom two of the four double-decker buses inherited by the Gibraltar Bus Company from its previous owner and when it is proposed that these double-decker buses commence providing service?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 241 and 242 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 241 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

GIBRALTAR BUS COMPANY LIMITED

Can Government state the number of paying passengers transported and revenue collected by the Gibraltar Bus Company during the period September 2004 to March 2005, providing a breakdown by month?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND
COMMUNICATIONS**

Answered together with Question Nos. 240 and 242 of 2006.

NO. 242 OF 2006**THE HON L A RANDALL****GIBRALTAR BUS COMPANY LIMITED**

Can Government state the number of paying passengers that were transported and the value of fares collected from these passengers by the Gibraltar Bus Company Limited in the months of December 2005 to date?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS**

The cost to date of renovating/refurbishing in the United Kingdom two of the four double-decker buses inherited by the Gibraltar Bus Company from its previous owner is £116,686.32.

It is envisaged that these should commence providing a service as from the end of April.

Originally I was going to read out the statistical information required but I have asked that a copy be handed over because I realised that it is quite an extensive list with a lot of detail and it would take us a long time and probably they would not be able to be recorded accurately anyway. So that is being provided now.

Revenue – September 2004 to March 2005

Sept 04	£73,998	Jan 05	£53,738
Oct 04	£58,639	Feb 05	£56,939
Nov 04	£61,290	March 05	£67,690
Dec 04	£64,519		

Passengers – September 2004 to March 2005

Sept 04	118,841	Jan 05	85,827
Oct 04	92,861	Feb 05	90,422
Nov 04	98,501	March 05	106,487
Dec 04	103,120		

Passengers

Dec 05	110,842
Jan 06	95,979
Feb 06	100,280

Revenue

Dec 05	£69,464
Jan 06	£60,212
Feb 06	£62,798

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 240 TO 242 OF 2006**HON F R PICARDO:**

Can I also make the point that in relation to this answer that part of it is really not an answer to come in tabulated form and which is not read out to all that are here present in the House and listening, to hear. For example, part of the answer is the cost to date of renovating/refurbishing in the United Kingdom two of the four double-decker buses inherited by the Gibraltar Bus Company from its previous owner is £116,686.32.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes I have read that out, that is the part of the Question that I have read. It is only when I have got to the tabulation at the bottom that I decided to hand over the information.

HON F R PICARDO:

We all make mistakes, I am sorry I accept it and I apologise unreservedly.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

The apology is well accepted.

NO. 243 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

TRAFFIC FLOW

Can the Government state the date on which they expect the new traffic flow signals and parking restrictions in the area of Calpe will be brought into effect?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

The Government are not currently considering traffic flow and parking restrictions in the area of Calpe. Once the new road linking Moorish Castle to Willis' Road is constructed, then there will be a new one-way traffic system that will decongest traffic flow in that part of the Upper Town.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 243 OF 2006

HON F R PICARDO:

In fact, new traffic flow signals have been erected in the area of Calpe behind Anderson House and MacFarlane House. In fact some tow-away signs have been erected which have not yet been implemented. When do the Government expect those traffic flow signals to come into effect?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I am told by my Colleague that this is a Ministry for Housing matter in that they are taking decisions in respect of trying to improve traffic flow in the area of the Housing estate and it is not really a central decision as far as traffic is concerned.

HON F R PICARDO:

Is there any indication of when those are going to come into effect or not?

HON C BELTRAN:

There is no date yet.

NO. 244 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

On behalf of the Hon Miss M I Montegriffo

SENIOR CITIZENS – DRIVING LICENCE

Can Government state the number of stages that a senior citizen over the age of 70, who needs to renew his driving licence, has to go through in order to get MOT Form 19 – Regulation 87 completed?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Any person over the age of 70 who wishes to renew his licence may either download the form from the Government's website or alternatively he may collect a copy from the offices of the Department of Transport at Eastern Beach Road. This form should then be submitted to any medical practitioner who is registered in Gibraltar who will then complete the form in accordance with the provisions of the Traffic (Licensing and Registration) Regulations.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 244 OF 2006

HON L A RANDALL:

I have, over the last couple of weeks, had meetings with a number of senior citizens who have come to me complaining that the process is that they have to go to the Primary Care Centre where they have a medical test, but that ultimately the form is signed off by a private practitioner. Is this not the case?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes it is the case but I draw the hon Member's attention to the answer that my Colleague has given. The form can be submitted to any medical practitioner registered in Gibraltar. Now, it is the choice of that person over 70 to go to the Primary Care Centre or to go to a private practitioner. The Government in their effort to provide a free medical test, because in the past practitioners at the Primary Care Centre had been charging elderly persons for this test and the Government legislated last year for these tests to be provided free of charge, have put in interim arrangements. I say interim because on the back of the medical practitioners in the Primary Care Centre being required to provide the service free of charge, the medical

practitioners on advice of their Union, the BMA, have advised the Government that they are not qualified to certify fitness to drive – which is what the legislation requires. Now the Government do not necessarily accept this but there is a whole process of negotiation going on on the GP side with reference to their conditions of service and everything else to the work that they do, between inter-department between the Health Authority and the Department of Transport on the whole question of these driving licences in order to bring it into line with EU regulations and this is current and on-going, this consultation in between departments and the Legislation Support Unit on the EU requirements. That is in the melting pot at the moment, because it was in the melting pot there have been some concerns about elderly citizens who did not want to go to a private practitioner because they did not want to pay but at the same time there was, shall I say, 'resistance' from the GPs at the Primary Care Centre to provide the service. So, what has now been done and is now in place because going back to the original question there are three stages, apart from anything else the Department of Transport does, there are now three stages required by EU regulations for an elderly person. That is, stage one – a certificate of medical fitness, not fitness to drive but medical fitness; stage two – an eye test and obviously a fitness of eyesight. That sounds easy but under the new regulations it is not simply a question of standing in front of a chart and reading off letters, those of the population who are fortunate enough not to require eyesight correction or to require standard eyesight correction may get away with reading the eye chart, but those who require more complicated eyesight correction may need to be referred by the Eye Department from the routine test onto the Ophthalmologist because the original test is done by the Orthoptist in the Eye Department and may need referral to the Ophthalmologist to the Consultant in case of more specialist tests. Special concern in the field of vision and the ability to see out of the side of their eye, with an elderly person with glaucoma or cataract afflictions sometimes is prevalent and sometimes can restrict the test. So sometimes individual applicants can get delayed more than other individual applicants. To come back to what I was saying, there are three stages first the medical fitness, secondly the eyesight fitness and then once the person fulfils and meets the requirements of those two then there is the certification of fitness to drive. Now what the Government have done in the interim period whilst the legislation is sorted out, whilst the inter-Departmental requirements are sorted out, is to contract the services of a private physician, a private GP, to sign off the fitness to drive. Once all the other requirements are sorted out then new procedures will be put into place. At the moment, from a medical side, that is the procedure medical fitness, eyesight fitness and then certification fitness to drive.

HON L A RANDALL:

I am happy that the Minister has replied in the way that he has because I am sure he has the interests of the over 70s at heart, and that is basically the premise of my question because when they have come to see me they have come distressed. Distressed by the fact that now they realise that their driving licence is going to expire say within a period of two weeks and it takes them well in excess of six weeks to finalise the process, because to get an appointment to see the Ophthalmologist or whatever in the hospital to get the eye test this is not done quickly, and if they turn to the private sector for want of a better word, they are charged. Would the Government not consider refunding those pensioners that turn to the private sector for the eye test, for the £20 which they are charged which is the minimal and nominal amount for the eye test? Most of them, well all of them are old age pensioners and most of them are in the lower income group.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

My heart is indeed with the old age pensioners and that is why I have been very much on top of this issue to try to bring it to a solution. The Government considered a scheme for providing the service through opticians but considered the, when I say the Government I mean the GHA. The Government considered contracting the eyesight test through opticians in the private sector but considered the fees that the opticians wanted to charge the GHA to be excessive. This is for the interim period and therefore have not agreed, although they have agreed with the GP the private sector GP at reasonable fees they have thought what the opticians wanted to charge was not reasonable. Having said that, arrangements are now in place in the Health Authority to do away, I gather there is a two week waiting list at the moment, but arrangements are now in place to do away with that two weeks, we have allocated 18 appointments per week for elderly persons who need the eye test. So within a matter of two to three weeks anybody who has been waiting up to now will receive their eye test and will be dealt with.

I take this opportunity to advise any elderly person who is listening who is coming up to the age of 70 that there is no reason why they have to wait for their 70th birthday to initiate the process. This can be done when one is 65, that is exaggerating it is ridiculous because one's medical condition will deteriorate but in the question of the last three months before their 70th birthday the person can make his various medical appointments and get the certification that he needs. Now that the eyesight tests are in place and 18 allocations are there per week there should be no hold up for the eyesight test. Those who are unlucky enough to require further eyesight checks, which may in fact disqualify them but in the interests of road safety it has to be done, those then would need to be referred to the Ophthalmologist or Consultant Ophthalmologist and that would add a little bit of wait to the process, but that would be exceptional and only in the exceptional cases rather than the majority. But I think that the arrangements that are now in place are adequate and are good as interim arrangements and we will see what we will put in eventually as full-time arrangements.

HON L A RANDALL:

Seeing that new arrangements are being put in would it not be fair to entertain claims from those that have incurred the £20 which the Minister considers excessive because that is what I have been given to understand is being charged for the eye test by opticians in the private sector? Would they not give favourable consideration for a claim for a refund of the £20 spent in getting the private eye test?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

It is GHA policy in all fields not to refund private sector fees unless the patient or the applicant has the previous agreement of the GHA to undertake that expense. The hon Member will realise that if this policy were changed or if exceptions were made to this policy it would open up a Pandora's box of claims, and I do not think the precedent would be a good one for this Government or for any other Government.

HON L A RANDALL:

I take note of what the Minister has just said and obviously in the future if anybody else comes to me and points out that there is an inordinate delay in getting an eye test, I will give him a telephone call and ask him if the person concerned can go to private practice and GHA will undertake to refund him for the fee.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

As I have said, the arrangements in place now should eliminate the problem of waiting time.

ORAL

NO. 245 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

TRANSPORT – COMMERCIAL VEHICLES

Can Government explain the increase in new registrations of commercial motor vehicles from 318 in 2003 to 1193 in 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 246 and 247 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 246 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

TRANSPORT – PRIVATE/COMMERCIAL VEHICLES

What was the number of new registrations of:

- (a) Private; and
- (b) Commercial

motor vehicles in 2005?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND
COMMUNICATIONS**

Answered together with Question Nos. 245 and 247 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 247 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

TRANSPORT – PRIVATE/COMMERCIAL VEHICLES

What was the number of:

- (a) Private; and
- (b) Commercial

motor vehicles with current Road Tax licences on the 31st December 2005?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

This increase can be attributed to a major rise in the number of vehicles that have been registered as self-drive. In 2003 out of 318 commercial vehicles registered 164 were self-drive. In comparison for 2004, out of the total of 1,193 commercial vehicles registered 1,037 were registered as self-drive. Therefore there is an increase of vehicles registration as self-drive of 873.

During 2005 a total of 1,134 vehicles were registered as private and 557 were registered as commercial.

As at 31st December 2005 there was a total of 14,731 private motor vehicles and 2,106 commercial motor vehicles that had a current road tax.

ORAL

NO. 248 OF 2006

THE HON S E LINARES

TRADEWINDS DEVELOPMENT

Can Government state why the development beside St Anne's School has been allowed to put the crane so near it?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND
COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question No. 249 of 2006.

NO. 249 OF 2006

THE HON F R PICARDO

NELSON'S VIEW – ROSIA TANKS

Exactly what steps were taken by the Health & Safety Inspectorate to ensure that any asbestos in the area of the Rosia Tanks demolished in respect of the Nelson's View development was removed in keeping with all relevant legislation and best practice requirements?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

It is up to contractors to decide the number of cranes to erect and where to erect them as long as they are erected within the construction site boundary. Operational reasons will obviously determine this.

The Control of Asbestos at Work Regulations requires that prior to demolition works a survey must be carried out to establish the presence of asbestos bearing materials, the type of asbestos and its location(s).

A competent company undertook a full access sampling and identification survey and prepared a report.

In keeping with the relevant legislation and best practice, a method statement and a Risk Assessment for the removal of the asbestos-containing materials was carried out by the contractor and adhered to.

The Health & Safety Inspectorate ensured that the established procedure for the asbestos removal was followed.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 248 AND 249 OF 2006

HON F R PICARDO:

So there was asbestos on the site?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes.

HON F R PICARDO:

What is the competent company that carried out the survey or is it that the company is called 'competent company limited'?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I do not know what the competent company was, but I understand having asked the question, it is a company that has the relevant experience and know-how in being able to undertake and assess and analyse the materials and coming up with the relevant results.

HON F R PICARDO:

Can I just ask, is that company contracted by the Government or by the developer?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

That is the responsibility of the developer.

HON F R PICARDO:

If I write to him can the Minister endeavour to find out the name of the company from the developer?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes, absolutely.

HON F R PICARDO:

When the Hon Mr Linares was answering questions in respect of the Rotterdam and the asbestos there, he will recall that I got very detailed breakdown of exactly what it was that the Health & Safety Inspectorate had required should be done in respect of the, I think not removal but the movement of the asbestos from one part of that ship to the other. Can I ask the Minister if I write to him to give me a similarly detailed breakdown of exactly what it was that was done on site?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes, I am sure that would be possible but let me say that the word 'asbestos' is quite a wide one because I mean at the time of all the concerns I actually did want to be kept informed as to what was proceeding and there are different levels of dangerous asbestos, less dangerous asbestos and I understand that what was actually available on site was a low-risk asbestos that in fact they tell me that in the UK and America they no longer need to be treated in any special way. However, our legislation actually does stipulate, it has not been updated, that a certain procedure has to be followed and that procedure was followed.

HON F R PICARDO:

Does the Minister know the type of asbestos or is that something he would also wish to...?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No, I am afraid the only thing I know is that it is a low risk but there is a technical word for it. I am not sure whether it is something called 'white asbestos', I think it was white but I would need to check this because I know the principles of it but not the actual technical data.

HON F R PICARDO:

Is that something he will also tell me if I write to him?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes, absolutely. I suggest the hon Member write to me with all the specific questions that are required and I am sure that the Health & Safety Inspectorate will be able to assist me in formulating a reply.

HON F R PICARDO:

Obliged.

HON S E LINARES:

In relation to St Anne's School and the crane that the developers put beside the Minister stated that it needs to be within its boundaries, does the boundary actually go up into the sky, because one can put a crane inside a boundary on the base but the crane juts out quite a number of metres out and therefore it might encroach the boundaries as in the air space? Is the Minister satisfied that that is being done?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I am not the one who determines whether it is safe or not safe for any operation to take place with cranes. There are technical people within the Government who actually supervise these and they have reassured me that they are fully satisfied with what procedures have been in place in this particular case and in others. If they are not they would obviously take necessary action to do this but my understanding, and this is a very layman's understanding of the issue, is that the crane must be situated within the boundaries of the site and obviously that is erected upwards, there is a vertical axis at the top of the crane and that is able to manoeuvre outside the site so long as the loadings, in other words whatever is being moved around and the actual weight that one sees at one end of the vertical axis of the crane, are within the site boundary boards and I think that is the procedure that is adopted as a means of ensuring that safety requirements are maintained at all times. But if there is any specific concerns I am quite happy to give him further information on that but as one

can well imagine it is not only the concern of the parents in St Anne's School but personally I would be concerned for the safety of children or for adults in the area and I remember raising the issue with the Inspectorate and they reassured me that there was no concern in respect to this particular site. I mean, we had other problems prior to that in Ocean Village just a bit further south of that when we had very high winds in fact and the residents of Marina Court were extremely concerned about the proximity of the crane to the building et cetera, and I remember taking a personal interest in that myself because I had a number of people from Marina Court ringing me up personally to ensure that that was the case, and they reassured me again that the practice that was being followed then was within the relevant safety margins that are set for these operations and thank God nothing happened on that occasion and I am sure that nothing will happen on this occasion either. But obviously, I think the Health & Safety Inspectorate do take a very serious view of issues like this.

HON S E LINARES:

Just to say that as we all know there has been a public sort of concern by the parents, I did not put this question because of that, I had it before that but nonetheless there is concern and there is concern specifically now that we heard that in Spain only recently in the Malaga area there have been two cranes collapsing, of which one collapsed in a school playground with some fatalities. Therefore that is, I think, why the parents are even more concerned because they might have heard this news in Spain and therefore they see that their children are below or near the crane and therefore the high winds, over-weighting of the cranes could well make the crane collapse. Can the Minister state whether the cranes are under EU Regulation or Directives or under British Standards? The thing is I do not know which one we are under and therefore if we are under the EU standard it means that the cranes, and I am sure that we are because of the cranes coming from Spain, and therefore the cranes in Spain have collapsed, a few of them not all of them obviously there are millions of them around, and therefore I think that is the concern. So can the Minister check to see whether it is EU standard or British Standard?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes, I will check on the issue that he raises.

ORAL

NO. 250 OF 2006

THE HON F R PICARDO

EMPLOYMENT REGULATIONS (OFFENCES) ORDINANCE

What has been the outcome of the two prosecutions commenced under the Employment Regulations (Offences) Ordinance and referred to in answer to Written Question No 35 of 2005?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question No. 251 of 2006.

NO. 251 OF 2006

THE HON F R PICARDO

EMPLOYMENT REGULATIONS (OFFENCES) ORDINANCE

Are the two fixed penalty notices referred to in answer to Written Question No 34 of 2005 the same two prosecutions referred to in Written Question No 35 of 2005?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

The two prosecutions that commenced under the Employment Regulations (Offences) Ordinance referred to in answer to Written Question No. 35 of 2005 proceeded and the court returned a guilty verdict in both cases.

In respect of Question No. 251 of 2006 I can confirm that the two fixed penalty notices referred to in answer to Written Question No. 34 of 2005 are the same as the two prosecutions referred to in Written Question No. 35 of 2005.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 250 AND 251 OF 2006

HON F R PICARDO:

Can I just thank the Minister for that answer and highlight that this is the first time that we have the opportunity of referring to the Hansard of Written Questions which has been very usefully prepared by the House and appears in the Questions & Answers Volumes for 13th October 2005 section and contains all the answers that the Minister provides in answer to the questions that he and I have established in writing, and which I think is very useful for Members of the House and members of the public who might also want to consult those answers.

MR SPEAKER:

It is certainly a practice I would commend to all Members on both sides of the House.

HON F R PICARDO:

It is right to say that the practice was established at the time of the previous Minister for Employment, Mr Linares and has been continued by his successor in title.

NO. 252 OF 2006

THE HON F R PICARDO

CAMMELL LAIRD

Can Government confirm what further progress has now been made in respect of the removal of the remaining amounts of the grit mountain at Cammell Laird, how much, if any, remains and the cost of removal to date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

I confirm that the removal of all the spent grit mountain has now been completed.

The Government have received an invoice totalling £360,000 which was the contracted amount which is currently being processed.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 252 OF 2006

HON F R PICARDO:

Given the original reason given by the Government for deciding to fund the cost of the removal itself, namely that Cammell Laird was not able the Government having looked at their accounts was not able to bear this cost, are the Government now of the view that it is proper for the public purse to fund this removal given that Cammell Laird's accounts at Companies House show a profit of over £250,000?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Well, this was the subject of discussions on a number of issues in which the Government eventually, as part of a package of measures, decided that they would fund this particular item. The Government, as I think must have been explained previously in the House, were concerned about the amount of grit that was being accumulated there with very little solution to getting rid of it unless there was a willingness to pay a price for it. There were other options which may have been slightly more economical to get rid of which were not options which were viable or possible. So therefore the Government decided that they would actually agree to fund this particular aspect. Let me say that the Government have made it very clear to Cammell Laird that this will not be funded again and we do have a written undertaking from them that they have already made provision to continue disposing of this grit now in the form that this has now happened. Additionally, they have made

provisions to have a storage area for the grit in order not to have it exposed to the elements. So therefore that is the position that stands to date.

HON F R PICARDO:

I am sure that the Minister would agree with me that it was not acceptable to have that grit mountain. It was in fact also illegal to have a mountain containing the type of grit that there was there to have been permitted to accumulate by the operator Cammell Laird, and that in fact it is the operator's obligation under law to have it removed and that the Government have acted more than just fairly in assisting Cammell Laird in that particular way, and in a way which I think is good for the whole of the community because it was bad for all of us that it was there. But what package of measures have the Government considered with Cammell Laird having now seen that it has got a profit of £250,000 that might have persuaded the Government to fund this particular cost?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I am not too sure about the accounts the hon Member is referring to. I do not know whether I should be asking a question but in reply to his supplementary but the accounts that we have seen do not reflect that sort of rosy picture for Cammell Laird. It may be that we saw previous accounts which have now been updated as a result of the restructure or whether it was as a result of the fact that we have seen later versions of the accounts which have still not been filed with Companies House, but the situation was not what I would call 'a rosy one' for us not to intervene.

HON F R PICARDO:

I appreciate that. I am quite happy to refer the Minister to the accounts that I have seen which are the ones obviously which are the public ones, the audited accounts, which are at Companies House audited and publicly accessible in respect of the company. I have a print out of them, I can let the Minister have them. It may be that he is referring to obviously more recent accounts which have not yet been filed and which do not reflect that type of profit. But perhaps he can tell us which accounts it was that the Government saw or which year it was that the Government were referred to.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I cannot recollect the exact year they referred to but they were fairly recent and we did reflect management accounts which were almost up to date.

NO. 253 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

CORMORANT CAMBER BOAT OWNER'S CLUB

Have Government now been supplied with information by the Cormorant Camber Boat Owner's Club as to how many boats occupy berths in the marina that they manage?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

I confirm that the Government have now received information supplied by the Cormorant Camber Boat Owner's Club, which lists the boats that currently occupy berths in the marina that they manage.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 253 OF 2006

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Minister say to the House how many boats now occupy berths in the marina?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes, there is a total of 276 as shown on the list.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is that the total capacity of the marina?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I am told that it almost to full capacity. I have a meeting arranged with the Committee or the Management Committee in the next few weeks and I intend to raise that issue because I believe that there are still spaces available, even though that is not reflected on the list they have sent me.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

When we raised the issue originally the question I really want to find out is how many of those boats had moved there from Western Beach. Does the Minister have that information with him?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No, I actually had that list given to officials, I only received that list maybe a week ago and I am having my own people analyse that based on the information that they had in respect of those that had berthing at Western Beach and Watergardens. They do not seem to be able to provide me with that information and so we are doing those internally ourselves.

NO. 254 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

LATHBURY BARRACKS – RETRENCHMENT BLOCK

Can Government explain why the provision in the I&D Fund for the conversion of the Retrenchment Block at Lathbury Barracks into 18 industrial/commercial units was not spent in the financial year 2003/2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

The financial provision in the I&D Fund for the conversion of the Retrenchment Block at Lathbury Barracks into 18 industrial/commercial units was not spent in the financial year 2003/2004 as the Government did not obtain a satisfactory design proposal for the facility and so decided not to proceed with this project.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 254 OF 2006

HON J J BOSSANO:

So it was not then a question of finance, it was that the design proposal was not satisfactory. What did they do then, did they seek an amendment to the design proposal or what?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

This decision was actually taken by my predecessor, it was before my time. However, from the information available the Department says that the decision to proceed was abandoned as a result of the fact that the design proposals that were put forward for the actual block and how that materialised into the feasibility of actually being able to have 18 industrial/commercial units was not a good one, so they decided that they would abandon the idea of actually developing it into a sort of commercial/industrial park.

HON J J BOSSANO:

But was it not the decision to originally put that project in the I&D Fund driven by the fact that there was a perceived demand for these units?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes, I am sure there was a demand, there is a demand today. However, the decision not to proceed was based on the fact that they felt that the design of the building did not lend itself to the requirements needed for an industrial park in the area. It is not just a building but loading, unloading, accessibility et cetera, and the decision was taken by my predecessor presumably on those grounds.

ORAL

NO. 255 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – HEAD 104

Can Government say whether DHV, which was paid £19,575 on 22 February 2005, is a local entity?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 256 and 257 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 256 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – HEAD 104

Can Government say whether the work for which DHV was paid £19,575 on 22 February 2005 went out to tender and if so when?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND
COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 255 and 257 of 2006.

NO. 257 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – HEAD 104

For what purpose was the payment made of £19,575 on 22 February 2005 to DHV in connection with the Western Beach Reclamation, as shown in answer to Question No 1282 of 2005?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

For some time now the Government have been studying the possibility of reclaiming land north of the runway by Western Beach.

On 29th September 2004 the Government put out to selective tender the specialist Design/Engineering consultancy work for the proposed project. By 7th October 2005 three fully compliant proposals were received and the Government appointed DHV Environment and Transport (DHV) as the consultant engineers.

DHV is not a local entity. They are a Dutch firm undertaking specialist work for the Government.

The payment of £19,575 paid to DHV on 22nd February 2005 was 50 per cent disbursement relating to concept design work in connection with the proposed reclamation.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 255 TO 257 OF 2006

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The Minister said that they had gone out to selective tender, what does he mean by that?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

It means that a number of companies are contacted who actually specialise in the particular works and they are invited to tender based on the brief that is submitted for them to quote on.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Government said, as I understood it, that the £19,500 was 50 per cent of the fees charged by this company?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

What I have said is that the £19,575 is 50 per cent disbursement relating to the concept design work. One may have put out a tender say it may be worth £100,000, but then what one does is allocate the works by stages, it is phased out, so that at any time the project is unfeasible one can always pull out and not have the commitment to the whole of the works. In actual fact what happened is, I am not talking this particular case because these are technical matters that are dealt with by technical people, but what would actually happen is that a brief would be given out for a specific amount of work and maybe phased into two or three stages. The consultant would quote for the three stages but then would quote sub by phases and one would actually approach them, select a particular contractor, appoint them but then would only be committed to the first phase, because if the first phase shows a particular result one may decide not to want to continue because it may not be feasible to continue and we do not want to be committed to the whole phasing of phase two and phase three. So one phases it and commits oneself by phases in order to ensure that one is only exposed to the phase that is currently being worked on at that particular moment, even though one has a contract price for the whole of the work involved. I hope I have explained myself.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Yes, a very detailed explanation but what I am trying to establish is exactly what it is that that meant for the amount of money that they have been paid.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Well in this particular case it is 50 per cent of the disbursement in relation to the concept design work. If it is £19,575 it must have been about £39,000 for the concept design work phase to which we pay 50 per cent up front and then at the end of that they will come up with the concept design proposal. If we feel that we can proceed to stage two then we will proceed. If we do not then we have the option of saying 'ok that is it' and we have only spent the £39,000 in contrast to what the whole of the tender works concerned, which were for just over £104,000, that would be the total phasing.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So the total including the actual physical reclamation of the area would be £104,000?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No, these are just consultant engineers tasked to undertake a specific amount of investigative work. This is not the whole scheme or anything, if it was it would be very good value for money. No, not at all.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I see, so then the stage that it is at is still that the design part of it has not yet been finished and therefore the decision has not yet been taken?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No, what it says here is that on 22nd February 2005 these people were paid 50 per cent up front for the phase one which must have been £39,000 which is part of a contract which includes various phases, I do not know how many, but the total of what these people have been contracted for is for £104,702.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Given that this was a year ago is the phase one now over?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes, that phase has already finished.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So they have been paid the second half of that money.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

They will have been paid, the question was specific on what was the purpose of that particular payment, yes but I am not sure actually but I am sure that they must have been paid by now on the other 50 per cent. In fact, I think that the project has progressed well beyond this now.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I see. So in fact it means that the decision that was taken at the end of the first phase has been that what has been put forward was considered acceptable and that they are proceeding now to the subsequent stages.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Absolutely. In fact I would venture to say that they have completed the total phasing by now because we are at a very advanced stage in respect of this particular project in terms of investigative work and all the preliminaries that need to happen before something like a reclamation of that magnitude to take place.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Are the Government at a stage where they are able to say how big the reclamation will be?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

We are looking at various options but it looks as if the total reclamation will be approximately 90,000 square metres, which is fairly sized but that has not yet been concluded because I can say that in the overall project scheme we are now on phase three. We have gone through phase one, phase two and now phase three but this is not in relation to any of the phasing that I have mentioned in respect of this particular project, as the overall project so we are very near the end of the last phase before we actually start seeing physical work happening, which would be phase four.

NO. 258 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

COALING ISLAND

Can Government list the entities that are renting properties from the Government in Coaling Island, giving the area in square metres and the rent that is being paid in each case?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Occupiers of premises at Coaling Island are as follows:-

30/1 Queensway – Occupied by permission to use by St John’s Association for Gibraltar. This consists of 500 square metres built up and 322 square metres open area. No payment of rent in respect of this.

30/1A – Occupied by City Fire Brigade as a store. This is 29 square metres with no payment of rent.

30/3 - Cormorant Camber Boat Owners Club – This consists of 405 square metres paying a licence fee of £10.00 per month.

30/5 – Occupied by Gibraltar Health Authority as a rehabilitation centre. This is 155 square metres built up and 200 square metres open land with no payment of rent.

30/7 – Occupied by Gibraltar Community Care. This has 178 square metres of built up and 155 square metres of open area with no payment of rent.

30/11 – Occupied by permission of the Gibraltar Amateur Radio Society with no payment of fee.

30/15 – Bassadone Management Ltd. Held by licence for 949 square metres of built up and 964 square metres of open yard and paying a fee of £2,500 per month.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 258 OF 2006

HON S E LINARES:

In the area of Coaling Island the Minister has listed all the entities that actually run within the Coaling Island, is there not a big sort of warehouse where boats come out

and it is run by a private boat company that brings yachts out and refurbishes them there?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes I have mentioned that, Bassadone Management Limited, which is the last one that I have mentioned which held a licence for 949 square metres of built up area and 964 square metres of open yard and paying a fee of £2,500 per month.

HON S E LINARES:

Is Bassadone Management Limited hiring out the place to another entity?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No and that is really a provisional arrangement, it is not long-term, they basically have a monthly tenancy there. Remember that the Bassadone Management Limited are the interested parties who have an important part in the Western Beach reclamation and they intend to carry out some form of ship or yacht repairing or maintenance programme and they asked the Government whether whilst the whole issue of Western Beach came to fruition, whether they would be able to carry out that function there in order not to lose their market presence. So the Government felt that in the interests of yachting generally we would be helping them by giving them that site on a temporary basis until they are able to relocate to Western Beach, which is what their plans are.

HON S E LINARES:

Why is it then that the signs when one goes there are 'Old Sheppards Capurro Marina' who seems to be running the place? That is why I asked whether it is a sub-let.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Well, that might be the case I have not seen the signs myself but my understanding is that Bassadone Group of Companies bought out Sheppards Marina and Sheppards Marina is now part of their group. So I presume Sheppards is the trading name which they have kept because of the reputation and know-how and goodwill in the general yachting world but it is actually a Bassadone Company, and they negotiated that with us at the time of the negotiations in respect of Western Beach.

ORAL

NO. 259 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

EUROPA BUSINESS CENTRE

Can Government say how many tenders were received for the allocation of Unit F20 at the Europa Business Centre?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

There were three tenders received for the allocation of Unit F20 Europa Business Centre.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 259 OF 2006

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Minister say whether the tender has now been allocated, and if so to whom and in what amount?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No, the tender has not been awarded as yet.

NO. 260 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

EUROPA POINT

What negotiation have Government undertaken in respect of the land in the area of Europa Point and to which developer have they sold or are selling the land?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

To date there have been no negotiations in respect of the land in the area of Europa Point.

Development proposals are regularly submitted to the Government for consideration, however, the Government have not sold or are currently selling the land to a developer. The Government have earmarked this area for a public leisure project.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 260 OF 2006

HON DR J J GARCIA:

When the Minister says the area is currently earmarked for a public leisure project does that mean that that may change?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I do not know, things are always open to possible change but I can say that the Government are currently working on a scheme in order to beautify the area and bring about an interesting, touristic and leisure area for both visitors and residents to enjoy and that is what is being worked at at the moment. Hon Members will probably have seen that the ex-Goggles Discotheque has now been demolished and in fact an arrangement has been reached with the owners of the residential and shop area next to that in order to take possession of that as well because we want to make sure that all that area is integrated into the project we are hoping that will start probably some time next year.

NO. 261 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DPC – PLANNING PERMISSION

Can Government list the applications for planning permission in respect of projects that have been granted and rejected since the last meeting of the Development and Planning Commission, showing those that are still under consideration, including the name of the applicant and of the project in question?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

The extensive factual and statistical information requested by the hon Member is set out in the Schedule. Let me just say that when this Answer was prepared a meeting of DPC had not taken place which has subsequently taken place, so it is not actually up to date as such to the minute, but there was one meeting on 16th March which obviously addressed some of the applications which appear in those lists.

Answer to Question 261

Since the last meeting of the Development and Planning Commission, which was held on 27 February 2006, no application for planning permission has been granted or refused.

The list of pending applications to be considered at the next meeting of the Development & Planning Commission scheduled to take place on the 16th March 2006 and the 6th April 2006 is as follows:-

Andy Hunter	2 Sunset Close Windmill Hill Road	To relocate the access to the void area behind the property
WSRM Architects	Governor's Cottage Europa Advance Road	Proposed demolition of existing building/structures and erection of new cremation and waste incinerator
Mr Alwani Group	113 Main Street	Proposed refurbishment of premises
Estate of B Varese	42 Castle Ramp	Proposed conversion of two small one-bedroom apartments into one two-bedroom unit
M E Belilo & Partners	1 Bishop Rapallo's Ramp	Proposed internal alterations to residential unit & external conversion of roof into terrace
Derek Ghio	1 Highbury Terrace Europa Ramp	Proposed open car spaces and two garages
M E Belilo & Partners	26 Prince Edward's Road	Proposed roof top swimming pool
D Perez	30 Irish Town	Proposed change of use of shop to food & drink & internal alterations
Mrs J Delgado	21 Resolution House Laguna Estate	Proposed removal of a non loadbearing wall & proposed balcony enclosure
Maria Rocca	79 Edinburgh House	Proposed balcony enclosure
M E Belilo & Partners	1 Rosia Cottages Rosia Road	Proposed 1 st Floor extension to rear bedroom
Bentley Properties Services Ltd	Block 4 3 rd Floor Eurotowers Europort Avenue	Proposed conversion of seven vacant car units in Block 4 into seven bedroom units
D J Mosquera	125/127 Main Street	Proposed alterations and change of use
Mohamed El-Kalel	11/4 Lynchs Lane	Paintwork repaire façade, corridor was put in place between bathroom and kitchen as required and entrance corridor/hall also built

Cont.....

Contd. Answer to Question 261

Mr & Mrs Sutton	1A Mediterranean Terrace Library Ramp	Proposed refurbishment and extension to bathroom and new dining room
Mr J Olivera	1 William Gomez House Edinburgh House	Proposed enclosure of balcony
P&O Homes	15 Irish Town	Proposed change of use Shop (Class A1) to estate agents (Class 2A) and interior & exterior alterations & refurbishment
Taylor Woodrow	Mediterranean Rowing Club Glacis Road	Proposed electrical sub-station for tradewinds scheme
Andrew Kent & Stone	Victualling Yard Rosia Road	Proposed demolition
Land Property Services	Grand Casemates Building Casemates Square	Proposed construction of additional bin store
WSRM Architects	Devils Tower Road	Proposed demolition of shed & construction of 10 apartments & new storage shed
Irish Town-Holdings Ltd	45 Main Street	Proposed new frontage with new signage
D Mosquera	5B Cornwalls Parade	Proposed change of use from dance gymnasium to residential bedsitting apartment
C Lopez	28 Rosia Court Rosia Road	Proposed loft conversion and spiral stair
P Pilley	34 Miami Court Harbour Views	Proposed conversion of a two bedroom flat to a three bedroom
Charles Gomez	9 Withams Road	Proposed covering to existing bridge/walkway
Mr & Mrs Navarro	402 Neptune House Marina Bay	Proposed balcony enclosure
Turnbull's Enterprises Ltd	11/15 Turnbull's Lane	Proposed construction of 2 additional storeys and internal refurbishment as hotel
Robert Smith	11/1 Benzimra's Alley	Proposed partition to separate bedroom and living room
Andrew Kent & Stone	40 Cornwalls Lane	Proposed construction of one additional floor for residential use
OEM Buena Vista Developments	Buena Vista Barracks	Proposed construction of new residential development

Cont....

Contd. Answer to Question 261

Space Projects	Suite 943 Europort Road Europort	Proposed interior office alterations
John Perez	80 Manolo Mascarenhas Edinburgh House	Proposed enclosure of west facing balcony
Belilo & Partners	Loquat House South Pavillion Road	Proposed construction of a suspended car port
Andrew Kent & Stone	9/7 Naval Hospital Hill	Proposed steel car port structure
Andrew Kent & Stone	5 Hargraves Parade	Proposed construction of additional floor to existing building
Andrew Kent & Stone	2 & 3 Humphrey's Bungalows Engineer Road	Proposed constructin of a car port, internal alterations & extension to existing verandah
Haymills Gibraltar Ltd	Ex-Cleansing Dept Bldgs Orange Bastion	Proposed Demolition
Messrs Galliano	8/1 Bishop Rapallo's Ramp	Proposed office extension
Mr & Mrs Sheppard- Capurro	2 Engineer Road	Proposed new entrance to property
Steven Finlayson	8004 Acacia Court Sir William Jackson Grove	Proposed kitchen partition from living room
Technical Services Dept	Governor's Cottage Europa Advance Road	Proposed demolition
Deboral Bennett	5 Admirals Walk Marina Bay	Proposed interior alterations and extension
J S Langdon	8-10 Queensway Montagu Pavilion	Proposed new six storey building annex to Montagu Pavilion
Mrs M Ullger	26 Governor's Street	Proposed mixed commercial/residential building
J B Engineering Consultants	36/38 Crutchett's Ramp/ 1-4 Demaya's Ramp	Proposed extension and interior alterations
J B Engineering Consultants	13 Catalan Gardens Sir Herbert Miles Road	Proposed pool in patio area
Mr J Danino	179 Edinburgh House Queensway	Proposed balcony enclosure

ORAL

NO. 262 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING COMMISSION

How many meetings of the Development and Planning Commission have taken place since 5 December 2005 and on what dates?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Five meetings of the Development and Planning Commission have taken place since the 5th December 2005. The dates were as follows:-

16th December 2005
12th January 2006
2nd February 2006
27th February 2006
16th March 2006.

ORAL

NO. 263 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DPC – DRAFT DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Can Government say whether the draft development plan has now been presented to the Development and Planning Commission?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

The draft Development Plan has not been presented to the Development and Planning Commission as yet.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 263 OF 2006

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The Development Plan is something we have been discussing in this House for many years now, can the Minister say when it is going to be presented?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I am hoping that I will be able to present this to the Development and Planning Commission in the very near future. I am hoping that that will happen within the next month.

NO. 264 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Can Government say whether the Environmental Impact Assessment into the Eastside project is now complete and whether that into the crematorium project has been commenced?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

The Environmental Impact Assessment for the Eastside Project (Sovereign Bay) has not yet been completed.

I confirm that the Environmental Impact Assessment for the Crematorium Project has now commenced.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 264 OF 2006

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In view of the statements attributed to the Spanish Government that Gibraltar has no waters on the East Side of the Rock in relation to the discovery of HMS Sussex, can the Minister confirm that that will have no effect on this particular project?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Well, what I can confirm to him is that the project will continue and that comments that may have been made by the Spanish Government in respect of the waters on the East Side, I do not think will deter the Government from continuing to bring the project to fruition.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Has there been any involvement of the Spanish Government or the authorities on the other side of the border in relation to the environmental impact assessment, because at one point there were claims that they ought to be involved or consulted in some way?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No there has not been any involvement.

ORAL

NO. 265 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DPC- PLANNING PERMISSION

On what date, if at all, was planning permission granted to the following:

- (a) Clinical Waste Incinerator;
- (b) Crematorium;
- (c) Ocean Village Properties Ltd?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Planning permission has not been granted to the Clinical Waste Incinerator or the Crematorium projects.

Outline planning permission has been granted to Ocean Village Ltd, which I assume to what he is referring to is Phase 2, on 20th December 2005.

ORAL

NO. 266 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

VICTUALLING YARD

Can Government say, if the work that GJBS is carrying out at the Victualling Yard is funded by the Government, what is the cost and what head is it (or will it be) charged to?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 267 and 268 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 267 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

VICTUALLING YARD

What is the nature of the work GJBS Ltd intend to carry out at the Victualling Yard?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND
COMMUNICATIONS**

Answered together with Question Nos. 266 and 268 of 2006.

NO. 268 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

VICTUALLING YARD

Can Government say what part of the Victualling Yard GJBS Ltd have applied to the DPC for permission to demolish and whether this has now been granted or not?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Yes, the works are being funded by the Government.

The Government do not expect the cost of the works to exceed £450,000.

The funds are being provided by Gibraltar Land (Holdings) Ltd.

The works being undertaken by GJBS in the Victualling Yard include the refurbishment of existing units for the relocation of the RGP (MT Section) and the Gibraltar Veterinary Clinic and Kennels. The demolition of some out buildings to the rear of the yard has been undertaken to provide parking facilities for the RGP (MT Section).

The proposed demolition at the rear of Victualling Yard entails knocking down some out buildings which do not form part of the Victualling Yard building itself.

I confirm that planning permission has been granted to carry out the demolition works.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 266 TO 268 OF 2006

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Given the heritage value of the Yard, are the Government satisfied, and I understand the gates to the entrance is actually listed, are the Government satisfied that the heritage aspects of it are being preserved with the works that are being carried out?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Well, the gate is as the hon Member says listed and the building itself is not being touched at all, in fact it could do with a lick of paint but it is not part of the

refurbishment. Both the Gibraltar Veterinary Clinic and Kennels and the RGP (MT Section) actually fall outside the buildings themselves, they are outside buildings but do not form part of the main building or the gate.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Just to clarify, does this mean now that the entrance for the Police vehicles and for the Veterinary Clinic is through that one gate which is the entrance to the Victualling Yard or is there another entrance somewhere else?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No, I think the RGP (MT Section) actually have their entrance on the east side towards the rear of the yard past Rosia Dale. The vet has the entrance through the gate and the courtyard which then has access to the main Victualling Yard building.

ORAL

NO. 269 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GRAND PARADE

Can Government confirm whether the project to construct an underground car park at Grand Parade has gone out to tender and if so on what date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND
COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 270 to 279 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 270 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GRAND PARADE

What sum will Grand Developments Ltd pay the Government in exchange for permission to construct an underground car park at Grand Parade?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND
COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 269 and 271 to 279 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 271 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GRAND PARADE

What are the principal terms of the agreement between the Government and Grand Developments Ltd for the construction of a multi-storey underground car park in Grand Parade?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 269, 270 and 272 to 279 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 272 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GRAND PARADE

On what date did Government agree the principal terms with Grand Developments Ltd for the construction of a multi-storey underground car park at Grand Parade?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 269 to 271 and 273 to 279 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 273 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GRAND PARADE

Have the plans to construct an underground car park at Grand Parade been approved by the Development and Planning Commission and if so on what date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND
COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 269 to 272 and 274 to 279 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 274 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GRAND PARADE

Who will own the underground car park to be constructed by Grand Developments Ltd at Grand Parade and on what basis will it be operated?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 269 to 273 and 275 to 279 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 275 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GRAND PARADE

What will be the projected cost, if any, to the Government of the construction of an underground car park at Grand Parade?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND
COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 269 to 274 and 276 to 279 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 276 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GRAND PARADE

Can Government say whether any use will be made of existing underground tunnels by the developers of the underground car park at Grand Parade and if so which tunnels?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND
COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 269 to 275 and 277 to 279 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 277 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GRAND PARADE

Can Government say what tunnels are currently located under Grand Parade, what period they date back to, and whether they have any heritage value?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND
COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 269 to 276, 278 and 279 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 278 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GRAND PARADE

What will be the duration of the lease of the underground car park at Grand Parade and what is the premium that will be paid to the Government for it?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND
COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 269 to 277 and 279 of 2006.

NO. 279 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GRAND PARADE

Are Government aware of the results of the public consultation exercise into the Grand Parade project which was organised by the developers and if so what are they?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

No, the project to construct an underground car park at Grand Parade has not gone out to tender.

The sum that Grand Developments Ltd will pay the Government in exchange for permission to construct an underground car park at Grand Parade is £300,000.

The principal terms of the agreement between the Government and Grand Developments Ltd are as follows:

1. Consideration £300,000.
2. Issue of a 150-year full repairing and insuring Lease upon completion of the development.
3. The surface level to remain under the ownership of GOG.

The date the Government agreed the principal terms with Grand Developments Ltd for the construction of a multi-storey underground car park at Grand Parade was January 2005.

An application for outline planning permission was approved by the Development and Planning Commission on 23rd September 2005. However, the relevant documentation has not been issued pending the conclusion of the negotiations with Government as landlord.

The underground car park will be owned by Grand Developments Ltd on a 150-year Lease, although the surface area will remain under the ownership of the Crown and will continue to be operated as at present. The underground car park will be operated by Grand Developments Ltd under a variety of options depending on demand, namely on a monthly parking fee for unallocated parking, on a monthly fee for reserved parking, the sale of lock-up garages and the sale of parking spaces.

It is not envisaged that there will be any cost to the Government as a result of the construction of the underground car park.

It is envisaged that the underground car park will exit via Ragged Staff Tunnel onto Queensway, which is to the North of Grand Parade.

There are no tunnels currently located directly below Grand Parade that will be affected by the development of the car park.

The duration of the Lease of the underground car park at Grand Parade is 150 years and the premium is £300,000.

The developers of the proposed underground car park at Grand Parade have not yet completed the public consultation exercise. The Government have given the developers until the end of March 2006 to present the information.

However, the House may wish to note that free parking as it exists at present will continue to be provided at ground level, irrespective of whether the current proposals for an underground car park come to fruition or not.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 269 TO 279 OF 2006

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Surely it will be impossible to provide that whilst the construction is going on, are any arrangements made of a temporary nature to accommodate the vehicles that cannot be parked on that site?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes, I have initiated a working group to come up with proposals in order to alleviate what will be, obviously, inconvenience in the area whilst the car park is being constructed. Let me say that the worst time for this will be right at the beginning when the first third of the square is under construction, but then after that subsequently what will happen is that once the first third is completed and the underground parking is actually constructed, that will be used as free parking areas until the project is complete. Subsequently, the same will follow in subsequent phases, so we are looking at disruption in the initial stages which is currently being considered and hopefully I will have some feedback with proposals for me to consider at a later date.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The Minister mentioned the exit is planned through the Ragged Staff Tunnels which exit onto Queensway, if I am thinking of the right tunnel it is the one near the roundabout, is that the tunnel?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes it is in the proximity of the area.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Does that tunnel have any heritage value or will its use as an exit deprive the Government of further extensions to that tunnel which are connected to it and which will not be able to use as a result of this development?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

My understanding is that Ragged Staff tunnels, the tunnels itself, will not be touched at all they will be used as an exit to the underground. What there are in there is chambers which could be used for storage and this is one of the issues that I am still negotiating with the developers, because I would like them to take those on. The idea of actually putting these to use through an alternative commercial entity would make it very difficult to operate. I think there must be a unified interest in that so I am actually trying to convince them to take on the chambers, obviously at a premium in order to be able to sort of join both things up together. I do not think that there is any major accessibility to other tunnels in the area, I know that there is some form of exit from the tunnel but I think not for vehicular exit because I sometimes get asked for permission by GONHS to be able to go into the tunnel and do some of their works in there and explore and do all sorts of things. But apart from that I do not think there is anything that actually connects to that tunnel in itself.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In relation to the chambers I remember visiting these tunnels a couple of years ago and there are huge chambers there which are used for storage of ammunition or something, I cannot remember exactly what it was, but is the development of those chambers that the Minister has in mind a touristic type of development, or is it just simple storage for commercial entities who might be interested?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Well, the Government have looked at the possibility of converting those Ragged Staff Tunnels into commercial units but they are limited for a variety of reasons to their use and they would only be useful if they were used for storage on a long-term basis. The idea of actually having commercial entities operating from there on a daily basis would be very impractical and I do not think anybody would want to work in there on a daily basis. But the idea of having these chambers as long-term storage would be a possibility and that is the sort of thing that I am trying to see whether I can bring about. There is also restrictions from, for example, fire regulations as to what would need to be put in place in order to allow people to work in there, so they are not really chambers that can be turned into commercial units very easily, and that is why this negotiation is going on to see whether I can try and package something together which will enable and at least make some use of them which at the moment they are not.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The Minister said that the public consultation exercise which the developers are conducting is not yet complete. Is their proceeding with this project dependant on the result of the public consultation exercise?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Well I assume that if all of a sudden they had a very negative response to their proposal or their survey, then obviously they would have to take a commercial decision in respect of that. I think what the survey is mainly trying to achieve is not that, I think what they are trying to establish is the split between the different demands for different types of garages. The last meeting I had with them was I think probably early in the New Year and they had had, I would say, a fair amount of positive feedback from those that had responded but I think where they ask for more time was the fact that as usual with surveys a lot of people do not bother replying, what they were trying to do was gather more quantity of replies in order to ascertain the split, but what had replied had come back in a very positive way but I do not know whether that is representative of reality or not. That is why I agreed to extend the period up till the end of March.

ORAL

NO. 280 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DPC – THE NEW ALOES, EUROPA ROAD

What was the surface area of the plot at The New Aloes, Europa Road at the time the tender was awarded in December 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 281 to 286 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 281 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DPC – THE NEW ALOES, EUROPA ROAD

What was the surface area of the buildings which comprised The New Aloes, Europa Road, at the time the tender was awarded in December 2004?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND
COMMUNICATIONS**

Answered together with Question Nos. 280 and 282 to 286 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 282 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DPC – THE NEW ALOES, EUROPA ROAD

What is the surface area of the new single dwelling at The New Aloes for which planning permission was sought in January 2006?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND
COMMUNICATIONS**

Answered together with Question Nos. 280, 281 and 283 to 286 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 283 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DPC – THE NEW ALOES, EUROPA ROAD

Can Government say whether the award of The New Aloes by tender for £410,000 to Historic Buildings Conservation (Gibraltar) Ltd was on the basis that it would be refurbished and not be demolished?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND
COMMUNICATIONS**

Answered together with Question Nos. 280 to 282 and 284 to 286 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 284 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DPC- THE NEW ALOES, EUROPA ROAD

Can Government state the reasons why the successful tenderer of The New Aloes wants to demolish the current buildings on the site?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 280 to 283, 285 and 286 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 285 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DPC- THE NEW ALOES, EUROPA ROAD

Can Government say whether the Development and Planning Commission have approved the demolition of The New Aloes, Europa Road, and the construction of one single dwelling?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 280 to 284 and 286 of 2006.

NO. 286 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DPC – THE NEW ALOES, EUROPA ROAD

Can Government say whether the new single dwelling at The New Aloes for which planning permission was sought in January 2006 will comprise the same surface area as the buildings that it is intended to replace?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

The surface area of the plot at The New Aloes, Europa Road at the time the tender was awarded in December 2004 was 1,595 square metres.

The surface area of the buildings, which comprised The New Aloes, Europa Road at the time the tender was awarded in December 2004 was 234.87 square metres.

The surface area of the new single dwelling at The New Aloes is 727.80 square metres.

The award of The New Aloes tender was not made subject to any particular basis of refurbishment or demolition, although it has always been known by the state of the building that most tenderers would opt for a new building.

The existing property at The New Aloes is in a dilapidated state and mostly made of timber. The proposed new building is a much higher quality building with environmentally friendly features.

To date, no application has been submitted for the demolition of The New Aloes.

The existing building is a single storey with an area of 234.87 square metres. The proposed building is 727.80 square metres over four levels.

Therefore, the proposed building shall have a larger surface area than the existing building.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 280 TO 286 OF 2006

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Just to make sure I understood the Minister correctly, he did say there was no condition as to whether the building would be demolished or refurbished when it came out to tender, is that correct?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

That is correct.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

There has been no application for demolition as such?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No there has not been, there has been an outline planning application which has still not been approved.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

So really the only issue here which has given rise to confusion is that the tender was awarded to a company called 'Historic Buildings Conservation Gibraltar Ltd' and that the Historic Buildings Conservation Gibraltar Ltd is not going to conserve or restore a historic building, it is going to knock it down and replace it with a four storey mini-block, double the size of the original one.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

That is correct, but I believe that company has other interests in Gibraltar as well and they have done conservation and historic, not that I am defending their position at all, but yes, in essence what he has described is totally correct. But anybody that would have seen the building at the time of the tender would have realised that anybody who was bidding that substantial amount of money for the plot would have required the building to have been really demolished and a new building gone up, because the state apparently of the building is actually very dilapidated and made of timber as well, not everybody wants to live in a timber structure.

ORAL

NO. 287 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DPC – WSRM ARCHITECTS LTD

Can Government say whether planning permission has been granted to WSRM Architects Ltd to construct a residential development at Devil's Tower Road and if so on what date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question No. 288 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 288 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DPC – WSRM ARCHITECTS LTD

Can Government say how many representations were received by the DPC in relation to the application by WSRM Architects Ltd to construct a residential development in Devil's Tower Road?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

The Development and Planning Commission has not yet considered the planning application submitted by WSRM Architects.

No representations have been received by the Development and Planning Commission. However, I am not sure whether the 21 day statutory has expired or not but at the date of preparing we had not received any representation.

ORAL

NO. 289 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DPC – CUMBERLAND TERRACES

Can Government confirm whether OEM already owned the site at Cumberland Road which has been earmarked for the construction of Cumberland Terraces when the tender for North Gorge and Buena Vista was submitted?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND
COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 290 to 292 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 290 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DPC – NORTH GORGE

Can Government say whether OEM has now submitted an application for planning permission in respect of the project at North Gorge, and if so on what date?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND
COMMUNICATIONS**

Answered together with Question Nos. 289, 291 and 292 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 291 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DPC – BUENA VISTA BARRACKS

Can Government say whether planning permission has been granted to OEM Buena Vista Developments Ltd for the project at Buena Vista?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND
COMMUNICATIONS**

Answered together with Question Nos. 289, 290 and 292 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 292 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DPC – BUENA VISTA BARRACKS

Can Government say how many representations have been received by the Development and Planning Commission in respect of the application for planning permission by OEM Buena Vista Developments Ltd for the project at Buena Vista?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

No. At the time the tender offer was submitted the company had reached a conditional agreement with Steelmac Limited.

OEM has not submitted an application for planning in respect of the project at North Gorge.

Planning Permission has not been granted to OEM Buena Vista Developments Ltd for the project at Buena Vista.

To date only one representation has been received, even though I think that the 21 day consultation process I do not think has yet finished.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 289 TO 292 OF 2006

HON DR J J GARCIA:

As I understood, the project at Buena Vista was for 100 luxury flats/houses of some kind or another and town houses and the development of the stone block into a hotel, when the Minister says that planning permission has not yet been granted does he mean it has been considered and rejected or that it is still in the process of being considered?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I have just said that the statutory 21 days have not yet expired so the Commission is not able to consider the application until those 21 days are over. In any case I have said that only one representation has been received to date because the 21 days has not yet expired, so the Commission have not given consideration to that application as yet.

ORAL

NO. 293 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

DPC – GRAND MAGAZINE, ROSIA

Can Government state the amount of money that the successful tenderer offered initially and that which he eventually paid or has to pay in respect of Grand Magazine (The Anchorage)?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND
COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 294 and 295 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 294 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

DPC – GRAND MAGAZINE, ROSIA

Can Government state the original number of sellable square metres anticipated and the final number of sellable square metres agreed in respect of the tender for Grand Magazines (The Anchorage)?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND
COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 293 and 295 of 2006.

NO. 295 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

DPC – GRAND MAGAZINE, ROSIA

Can Government state what will be the cost of relocating all the various people that are presently occupying Grand Magazine (The Anchorage), such as the North Depot, the South Depot, the Buildings & Works, the RSPCA, the RGP Garage etc, and where are they going to be relocated to?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

The tender offer for Grand Magazine (The Anchorage) was for a premium payment of £2,505,000 and a payment of a contribution of £300,000 for the refurbishment of Rosia Mole. This premium offer is the same that will be paid when the entirety of the site is made available to the developer.

The tender submission for Grand Magazine did not quantify the original number of sellable square metres.

The Government do not expect the cost of the relocations to exceed £1,000,000.

The relocations will be as follows:

- GJBS has been relocated to the ex-Crag Wine Factory
- The Buildings & Works Depot has been relocated to the Ragged Staff Depot
- The Gibraltar Veterinary Clinic and Kennels are being relocated to part of the Victualling Yard
- The RGP (MT Section) is being relocated to the rear of Victualling Yard.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 293 TO 295 OF 2006

HON L A RANDALL:

If I understood the Minister correctly the premium is £2,505,000 and £300,000 for Rosia Mole, however, I seem to recall in supplementary exchanges to Question No. 1315 of 2005 it was said that the initial amount offered did not cover the cost of the refurbishment which the Minister is now saying was £1 million, can the Minister throw any light on this?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I have not got a copy of that answer that I gave but is the hon Member sure that it is not related with the wider picture? We were always looking at Buena Vista and the hostel and a number of others in this relocation so I based my answer today purely on the cost of relocation for this particular site. I can say that the information I am supplying today is correct. I would like to have a look at Question No. 1315 of 2005 to be able to offer him an explanation if indeed I said that.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is it not the case that when the Government were asked why it was that they came out to tender with a particular density and then it was allocated with a higher density and more floors, that is where the sellable metres come from, what we were told was 'because the tender with less property to sell was not high enough to compensate for the relocation', does the Minister not remember saying that?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I do not remember that but it may be correct, but this actually happened in the time of my predecessor so I am not privy to have dealt with it myself. The only thing I can say that I can recall that at the time of the tender Grand Magazine Limited actually put forward two proposals. One was for a premium which was in the region of about £1 million and another one for £2,500,000 which had different configuration. Eventually the Government opted out for the £2.5 million option and not the lower, which may have been related to the lower density, I am just speculating on what the hon Member has just said rather than just giving a factual reply.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can the Minister confirm that in fact when the thing was put out to tender and the bids were put in the eventual allocation was on the basis of a proposal which included more building and higher building than the original tender? Presumably there was an amount put on the basis of the original tender and an amount put on the basis of a revised project with greater density.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

That may well be the case. The information I have here before me was that the tender proposal was for the construction of between 80 and 100 apartments of two, three and four bedrooms on no more than three or four storeys in height, and the agreed project is for the construction of 96 apartments and town houses in the building ranging between four and nine storeys in height. I have not got information here in respect of square footage that is being referred to, it may well be that the buildings are changing configuration, they do not actually have had an effect on the actual square footage of development. Again, I am not saying one thing or the other, all I am saying is that the actual proposal in terms of quantity of apartments and the configuration of these into three and four storeys in height was subsequently agreed at a higher level and for 96 apartments instead of the original 80 to 100 apartments on a lower sort of density. Density in terms of height but not necessarily in square footage.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I think the impression that was given before that whereas at one stage the height was supposed to have something to do with the aesthetic qualities it then emerged that in order to be able to realise sufficient money from the development to relocate and show a profit, the Government had agreed to allow a development that would produce for the developer, obviously, a higher income. The logic of that is a simple arithmetical exercise, we are just trying to get it confirmed.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Well, I cannot give that confirmation I am happy to look into it and let the hon Member have it but let me say that when this exercise was being done, and as I said this was being done by my predecessor, I remember being on the sidelines, the actual exercise of cost against premium et cetera in order to make the whole thing feasible for the Government, we were looking in terms of the need to relocate the Government hostel out of Buena Vista in order to be able to allow the site to be put out to tender and the relocation of things like the shooting range in the Gorge, and these are substantial cost implications which had to be put into the equation. I remember that my predecessor was very much analysing the whole thing in terms of Buena Vista, The Anchorage, Rosia and the area of the hostel in Devil's Tower Road as an analysis in order to complete the feasibility of these sites going out to tender and having to relocate the different entities in different sites in order to bring about this development. So I do not think it was purely targeted on The Anchorage itself, I think that the calculation was being done on a wider scale because we needed to move out certain entities like JBS for example that needed to move out; there was the vet that needed to move out, and that would have implications as to where they were going, the Government Hostel in Buena Vista and Devil's Tower Road and the idea of having one hostel unified for both entities, and I remember that exercise being done and costed out and the option of actually allowing The Anchorage development to come up with a higher density development. I can definitely look into it and provide the hon Member with the analysis.

HON L A RANDALL:

I am somewhat disappointed with the answer the Minister has given to Question No. 294 of 2006 because in exchange of Supplementaries between the Leader of the Opposition and the Chief Minister as regards Grand Magazine, the Chief Minister said 'certainly, the net effect was a higher number of sellable square metres'. To which the Hon Mr Bossano replied, 'do the Government have readily available what was the original number anticipated and what was the final number agreed?'. The Leader of his Party replied, 'the information is of course available but I do not have it here', and that is why I posed the question because apparently the Chief Minister was of the opinion that the information was available it is just that they did not have it at hand.

ORAL

NO. 296 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DPC – CREMATION AND CLINICAL WASTE INCINERATOR

How many representations were made to the Development and Planning Commission in respect of the application by Environment and Waste Management Services Ltd to demolish existing buildings and construct a cremation and clinical waste incinerator at Governor's Cottage, Europa Advance Road?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 297 to 302 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 297 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DPC – LATHBURY BARRACKS

How many representations were received by the DPC in relation to the application for planning permission to construct a residential nursing home at the Old Junior Ranks Mess, Lathbury Barracks?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND
COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 296 and 298 to 302 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 298 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DPC - EUROTOWERS

How many representations have been received by the DPC in relation to the application by Bentley Property Services Ltd to convert voids into apartments at Eurotowers?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND
COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 296, 297 and 299 to 302 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 299 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DPC – CLIFFTOP HOUSE

On what date was planning permission granted for the development known as Clifftop House?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 296 to 298 and 300 to 302 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 300 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DPC – FILOMENA HOUSE

What project has been approved by the DPC for the Development of the property known as Filomena at Devil's Tower Road?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 296 to 299, 301 and 302 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 301 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DPC- ELIOTT HOTEL

Can Government say whether the application for planning permission published on 15 December 2005 for the construction of an annexe to the Elliott Hotel has been approved?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND
COMMUNICATIONS**

Answered together with Question Nos. 296 to 300 and 302 of 2006.

NO. 302 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

MID-TOWN PROJECT

What is the number of storeys and the height in metres approved by the DPC of each component building of the Mid-Town Project?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

No representations were received by the Development and Planning Commission in respect of the application by Environment and Waste Management Services to demolish existing building and construct a crematorium and clinical waste incinerator at Governor's Cottage, Europa Advance Road.

No representations were received by the Development and Planning Commission in respect of planning permission to construct a residential nursing home at the old Junior Ranks Mess, Lathbury Barracks.

No representations were received by the Development and Planning Commission in respect of the application by Bentley Property Services Ltd to convert voids into apartments at Eurotowers.

Planning permission for the development known as Clifftop House was granted by the Development and Planning Commission on 15th June 2005.

The project known as Filomena House entails the construction of 43 affordable housing units at Devil's Tower Road.

The project consists of demolition works to a two storey house and the construction of an 11 storey apartment block and basement. Adequate car parking will be provided in the ground floor and basement.

The Development and Planning Commission took the decision to approve the outline planning application subject to the building being set back at a distance to avoid a Bellasombra tree.

The Development and Planning Commission approved the new outline planning application to construct an annexe to the Elliott Hotel.

None of the different parts of the Mid-Town development projects may be determined by the number of storeys because the outline drawing does not reflect the relevant details.

The height in metres in each building as per the application is as follows:-

1. The proposed school is 17 metres high.
2. The proposed Gate House building is 48.5 metres high.
3. The height of the tower is 115 metres high.

Outline planning permission has still not been issued.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 296 TO 302 OF 2006

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In relation to the project at Devil's Tower Road known as Filomena House, the Minister said they were 43 units, if I understand it correctly he said of 'affordable housing'?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Correct.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

To know that it is affordable does he have an indication of what the price range is expected to be?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Well, the Town Planning Department have prepared that based on the application that they have, they have a description of the project. I do not know, I presume 'affordable' means what the sort of price that is in the market and affordable at the moment and that is as much as I can give. I have not got any indication of pricing or anything but I assume it is within reach of those that want to go to Waterport Terrace and wish to obtain houses in the Nelson's View and Cumberland Buildings, I am assuming. I have not been given any consideration as to the fact that they are affordable housing or not.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

That is what I mean. Is that to say that actually they may not be affordable, it is a subjective term.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

From a planning perspective it is irrelevant whether they are affordable or not affordable but that is the description which is in the application form and I assume that is what they have put in. The Town Planner drafting the reply to this has picked them up and I know he does from exactly the wording that is put in the application.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is this to assume that if a development is described as 'affordable' it may get more favourably treated than if it were not and perhaps that was why the term was used?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Absolutely not that is irrelevant, from a planning perspective it is irrelevant and I assume that from a landlord's perspective it will not either. To be able to get some form of special consideration the Government would need to negotiate special terms. In other words, pin them down to a particular, that has not happened.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The Minister said, if I understood him correctly, it will be an 11-storey block and basement which I assume is additional to the 11 storeys. Has this project been cleared or gone through the RAF channels in relation to its proximity to the runway?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes, there has not been any comeback, it does comply with the RAF requirements. The Development and Planning Commission has actually approved the development but the relevant documentations have not yet been issued.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In relation to Question No. 301 of 2006 which is the Elliott Hotel, did the Minister say that the construction of the annexe had been approved?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes the annexe has been approved, the actual permit has not been issued yet. I just want to point out for the sake of clarity and for background information that in the past planning permissions were issued and approved or whatever and then signed off and given to people and then there were negotiations held between LPS and the prospective developer in terms of premiums if they were actually going to be expanding or whatever. Because of my own involvement in land management and my responsibility for that I do not issue permits unless the premium has been agreed. In other words, they do not hold the right to develop because I feel personally that that is an asset that can be negotiated with. Therefore, I insist that LPS should have a documented premium agreement in place and therefore sometimes when the questions are asked I say, 'outline planning has been approved' but that does not mean that the developer actually has a permit in their hands unless they agree and in most cases until they pay the premium.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Will the annexe at the Elliott Hotel, if I remember the history correctly, there was one application made for a 28-storey annexe that was turned down and then a second

application was made and that has now been approved. Can he remember how many storeys or what height in metres the annexe in that second application will be?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I believe it is exactly the same height as the current building including the pool above and I think the building just goes in line, assuming there was a floor where the pool area is so it is basically, for all intents and purposes, the same height as the existing building. Do not quote me exactly because it is not quite the same, there are differences in height from the lower. If one knows that area the Elliott's Hotel is on a particular level at ground level and Cannon Lane is lower so the number of floors is one more but the actual height of the building is more or less the same.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In relation to the answers he gave me for the height of the Mid-Town Project, the 115 metre tower is that the original height that the developers wanted or has that been reduced in height?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

That is the original proposal which was accepted by DPC. However, the reason why outline planning permission has not been issued is because it is an issue with the aeronautical study that has still not been approved and there may be the need for us to negotiate with the developers the possible lowering down of the building but we are in the negotiating stages with RAF Gibraltar over the height of the building.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

I remember the last time we discussed the aeronautical study the Minister mentioned that I think it had been submitted but not to the Government, it is commissioned by the developer, if I remember correctly. Is it that the RAF have insisted that the building is too tall given its proximity to the runway or to even movements that aeroplanes might have to perform in our skies?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No, that is not strictly correct. The RAF have not come back as yet with an approval or a rejection or a suggestion for a reduction in the building, but we are in negotiations with the RAF in order to establish a set of rules for developments in Gibraltar rather than having them having to assess each project on an individual basis. We feel that it would be much better for everybody, for the Development and Planning Commission and myself in order to advise developers when they come what the set of rules are and where they can develop and where they cannot develop and that is what we are trying to establish – a code of practice and a mode of rules to be able to know that we are all keeping to the same rule book and all developments will then know how far they can go and how far they cannot go and what will be a problem and what will not be a problem.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is it not the case then that the issue that this raises is again the question of the Development Plan, of the importance of having a plan in place so that people know what they can do, where they can build, what kind of density they can have, what land use the area is going to be put to and I think it reflects the point we have been making in this House for a while that Gibraltar needs in place a Development Plan. The existing one is already considerably out of date, I think it dates back to 1991, normally these things are done every 10 years and we are still waiting in the midst of all these developments that are happening all over Gibraltar, it is really quite unacceptable that the Plan is still not in place. Does the Minister not consider that this is one issue which if a plan were in place everybody would know what the conditions are and what the rules are which he described in relation to the RAF and to the heights of buildings, for example? Do the Government not accept that view?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

The idea of having a set of rules for the development's height, height of buildings et cetera is not something that has been there in the past, it is something that I want or the Government would like to see happening now in order to establish a level playing field for everybody to know exactly what can happen and what cannot happen. The fact is that there is a Development Plan in place, I totally agree it is outdated and well overdue for renewal or for review, but in actual fact we refer to it when we have to take a decision but DPC also takes into consideration things that have changed and happened since then. So it is not, as the hon Member tries to create an impression, that the DPC just takes decisions without having any policy in place and without having any strategy and overall policy on it, that is not the case. Although there is no document in place which would have addressed a lot of those concerns there is a lot of thinking and a lot of planning, decision-making process that takes place when applications are submitted before the Development and Planning Commission.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

It is not that we are saying that the DPC has no policy and of course I would imagine that the guidelines and the 1991 Plan is still there and is still current in that respect but the point is surely that given the scale and the vast number of developments taking place all over Gibraltar, it would be helpful to developers themselves, to potential purchasers, to people who are thinking of buying in a particular area to know what kind of land use Government intend to have in that particular area, and whether it is an area that is going to be a heritage site or whether it is going to be low density or high density, that surely would reflect the height of buildings which is the issue that we are discussing now. Just to come back to one of the questions that were answered in this series together and this is Filomena House, if I understand the Minister correctly the RAF have not raised any issue in relation to the 11-storeys of Filomena House, can he just confirm that?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes I can confirm that, if it had, DPC would not allow the project to go through.

ORAL

NO. 303 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DPC- SILVERLAKE LTD

What was the reason for the extension of Development Aid Licence No. 5/2003 issued to Silverlake Ltd extending the date of completion of the project of 15 November 2005?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question No. 304 of 2006.

NO. 304 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DPC – LORD NAPIER MEWS LTD

What was the reason for the extension of Development Aid Licence No. 8/2005 issued to Lord Napier Mews Ltd extending the date of completion of the project to 28 February 2006?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Development Aid Licence No. 5/2003 was extended until 15th November 2005 following a request from the developer who stated that they had not been able to meet the estimated completion date of the project by 31st March 2005 as specified in the said licence, due to unforeseen circumstances.

Development Aid Licence No. 8/2005 was extended until 28th February 2006 following a request from the developer who stated that they would not be able to meet the estimated completion date of the project by 31st December 2005 as specified in the said licence, due to delays in construction.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 303 AND 304 OF 2006

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In relation to Question No. 303 of 2006 can the Minister say what the unforeseen circumstances were that led to the delay and to the extension of the licence?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I am not 100 per cent sure of the reason but I do recall that it had something to do with the fact that relevant certificates of fitness et cetera had not been issued, so therefore they could not proceed to finish the project until those certificates had been in place and that had created the unforeseen delay which led them to the request.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is there a policy to try to establish how justified the case is or are these extensions almost always granted?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Since I have been in charge of the Development Aid Committee extensions have usually not been for long periods of time, they have mainly been for periods of maybe three or six months, in which case if the project had been a major project the delay of three to six months is not really a major issue. We have not really come across any major delay, if there had been we would then ask for proper justification but there is always some slippage in the construction of major projects so therefore it is dependent on the extension that is requested. Up till now in my time, the extensions have never been anything of great concern.

HON J J BOSSANO:

At what stage is it that the Financial and Development Secretary has to certify the amount that has been spent on the project which qualifies for the percentage of Development Aid?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

When the project is finished and the final accounts are presented and a submission is made with corresponding evidence, which is then scrutinised by the office of the Financial and Development Secretary, who then issues a certificate based on the findings of the submission. At that stage he then decides what level of expenditure is going to be admissible for development aid.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So the developer actually claims development aid in respect of a certain figure and the Financial Secretary may agree to that or to a lesser amount, is that the position?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Absolutely, well in the end there is a total obviously but there is a complete analysis of a very detailed nature with supporting evidence of invoices et cetera. Some claims are put forward in a more detailed fashion others are not, but at the end of the day it is up to the office of the Financial Secretary to decide whether what has been submitted is approved or not. The majority of the submissions are actually submitted by accountancy firms and not developers themselves, because there is an element of accounting knowledge required to be able to make the relevant submission.

ORAL

NO. 305 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – AIRPORT LANDING CHARGES

What has been the result of the discussions between Armed Forces Minister Adam Ingram and the Minister for Tourism with regard to the decision by the Ministry of Defence to increase landing charges for commercial aircraft using Gibraltar airport?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question No. 306 of 2006.

NO. 306 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – AIRPORT LANDING CHARGES

Can Government say, as at 10 March 2006, what are the landing fees charged by the Ministry of Defence to commercial airlines which have scheduled flights to and from Gibraltar airport, indicating the amount charged, the make and model of aircraft to which the charge applies, and the passenger capacity in each type of aircraft?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

In December 2005 the Government became aware that the Ministry of Defence intended to increase landing charges at Gibraltar Airport as from 1st January 2006.

As a result, on 16th December 2005 the Government wrote to the Right Honourable Adam Ingram, Minister of State for the Armed Forces, regarding the existing scale of landing charges levied on commercial aircraft and the impending notification that the landing charges were to be increased. The Government explained their concerns and emphasised the negative effect and detrimental impact that any increase would have on commercial airlines operating the Gibraltar route. The Government laid emphasis on the fact that the rates were already high enough when compared to other airports in the region such as Malaga, Jerez and Seville. A holding reply was received in late December.

In mid-February 2006, GB Airways and Monarch Airlines confirmed that an 8.4 per cent increase in landing charges had been included in their January 2006 invoice.

On 27th February 2006, Minister Ingram wrote to the Government explaining the situation from the Ministry of Defence perspective. He said that a comprehensive review of the landing charges applicable to Gibraltar had been undertaken. He justified the reason for the increase as an attempt to narrow the gap that existed in covering the full cost to the MOD of handling commercial flights at Gibraltar. Additionally, he stated that he did not rule out other possible increases in the near future.

The Government, GB Airways and Monarch Airways are in close discussions with the Ministry of Defence to review this matter.

As at 10th March 2006 the landing fees charged by the MOD to commercial airlines which have scheduled flights to or from Gibraltar airport is as follows:

Make/model of Aircraft	MTOW (tons)	Passenger Capacity	Amount (£)
Airbus A320 (GB)	70	156*	1,228
Airbus A320 (Monarch)	71	174	1,245
Boeing 757	99	235	1,736

* maximum when all economy seating – will be less, dependent on configuration to accommodate Club loads.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 305 AND 306 OF 2006

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The Minister has explained the chronology up to 27th February when he received a reply from Adam Ingram which explained that there was a comprehensive review going on and explained what up to now are the costs of the MOD, have there been any communications since on this particular subject or is this how the position stands today?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

The airlines have written to the MOD in both their own capacity, explaining their situation, concerns and explaining to the MOD the repercussions that the current increase will have on their current operations and what any possible increase will have to them, because obviously when one compares the likes of Gibraltar Airport at sort of roughly £1,250 and comparing that with, for example, Malaga who are paying just under £350, one is talking of a substantial difference in operational costs especially with airlines who are offering fares of £29 return for example. Obviously the effect as well of passengers opting out to fly to Malaga rather than Gibraltar as a result of the fact that the airlines will take a commercial view as to whether operating out an extra flight from Malaga will be more worthwhile than actually operating into Gibraltar. So all these concerns have been put to the MOD by the respective airlines, the Government have made their own representations on the matter and we understand that the whole issue is now being reviewed. So we have taken a view of not reacting any further until they revert to us with what they say is currently being re-looked at and considered.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Just to clarify the position, there was one review which led to the 8 per cent increase in landing charges in February and now there is another review going on and then we do not know what has happened in terms of that review, is that the case?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No, there was one review. I think that what has happened is that in December they had already taken a decision that the 8.4 per cent was going to come into place as at 1st January. When I wrote to them a long brief of all the repercussions and everything, they said 'well we are going to look at all this and we are going to go to

see whether there is anything we can help with'. Then they actually did the review and on the principle of narrowing the gap that they claim existed between the cost of operating commercial aircraft out of Gibraltar and the actual revenue that they were deriving, they decided that they were going to increase that 8.4 per cent even further. On the strength of that possibility is when the reaction came from the airlines and from the Government themselves and a decision has not been forthcoming after that.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

I understand the position, then there has already been an 8 per cent increase and on top of that the review resulted in a second increase on top of the 8 per cent. Can the Minister say what the percentage increase was in relation to the second increase?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Well, there has been an increase on 1st January, there has not been a second increase but I think that was very much on the cards to happen. The only thing is that there has not been a formal announcement as to what that could be. The matter is now being reviewed. I am aware of what they were thinking in terms of the possible second but I feel it would not do us any good for us to make this public. I would say that it would be better for all of us to wait and see before we react. The airlines, I can assure the hon Member, are going to be reacting very negatively if there is an increase to follow the one that has already happened because they just cannot sustain it. Unless the Government decide that they want to support the airlines indirectly and at the end of the day that would mean paying for the operations of Gibraltar Airport without actually having the benefit of controlling it, so that option is not something that the Government would prefer to consider.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

There was an intention to introduce a second increase but that second increase has not yet taken effect and discussions are taking place to prevent it from happening, is that the position?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Do the Government know what is the gap that they claim exists and do the Government know how they arrive at a figure of what it costs them to have an aircraft landing here?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes, in the reply to my letter on 27th February there is an explanation where some figures are actually made available for us to consider. Unfortunately, I cannot really understand how they have come about to such results with the figures that have

been supplied to me and that is something that I will be taking up with the MOD at the right time, because in reality if it would have been clear cut as to how and why the justification in that, then I would have been able to understand, maybe not accept but at least understand, I either do not accept or understand at the moment how that conclusion has been reached.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Just one final question. In relation to the reaction of the airlines which the Minister spoke about, is the reaction one of where they can fly the same route with a larger aircraft and maybe proportionally they bear out the increased fee over more passengers? Or is it that they might be considering having less flights because it costs them more each time they land? Can the Minister give the House an indication of what the position is at present?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Well the position of the airlines, and I would not want to say airlines because one of them is in far a more delicate situation than another but I would not want to identify which one, but I can say that the airlines have turned round and said to me, 'why operate out of Gibraltar when I can have that aircraft operating out of Malaga at a much more economic cost base'. That is obviously an option that I would feel very disappointed about but it is a commercial reality and I think the MOD have to understand as well is that what would happen is that the gap would actually become bigger again if there is no revenue or less revenue coming in as a result of the lowering of frequency on the route. So therefore, I think that in the same way as airlines have to take commercial decisions I also feel that the MOD will need to look at this in a more commercial manner and try and expand what is there at the moment by reducing costs and increasing frequencies which would reduce the per unit cost of operating a particular flight on any of the Gibraltar/UK routes.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Are the negotiations at present taking place between the Government and the MOD locally in Gibraltar or is it between the airlines and the MOD?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No, one has to understand that the airlines are informed by the MOD here in Gibraltar about the increases and in fact they are invoiced by the MOD, they are paid directly to the MOD, so therefore their customers are strictly speaking the airlines. So the airlines are the ones that have been notified, the airlines are the ones who have expressed their concerns directly but Government have a major interest in making sure that whatever happens does not actually cause us damage in our ability to grow our communications with the UK by air.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I got the impression with the Minister's explanation that it ought to be obvious to the MOD that if there are more aircraft the gap closes and if there are less the gap

opens, so are we talking then that there are fixed costs that the MOD say would not be there which presumably would only disappear if there were no flights at all, is that the situation?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Absolutely. For example, a good number of flights that operate out of Gibraltar come in in the evening and that is outside the operational requirements for military operations, so they consider that as an expense to do with the operations of the commercial airlines. It may be, I do not know exactly the times, but I think that the MOD consider it a military requirement to operate from 9 o'clock in the morning to 5 o'clock in the afternoon, for sake of argument, and obviously the aircraft that come in at 7.00 p.m. to them it means keeping staff on until the airline actually departs at say nine o'clock plus the half hour that they have got to allow for the aircraft to be away from Gibraltar, so that is an additional expense that they claim would not be incurred if there was no commercial operation coming out from the airport. Therefore, that proportion of the costs are attached to the operation of operating a commercial flight out of Gibraltar in contrast to operating their military requirements out of that.

HON J J BOSSANO:

If there are any days, I do not know whether there are or not, but if there were any days when this would not happen I have not known the RAF airport to sort of close shop at 5 o'clock and open up the next morning. There is no evidence that it has ever operated like that is there? Even when there were not flights every day.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No there is not and I can assure that this is an issue that has been on my agenda since 1996 and I have raised this with the MOD on numerous occasions at both political and official level at every opportunity, because I feel very strongly that a lot of the reasons why airlines at the end of the day do not come in to Gibraltar at the moment is because when they see the operational costs of actually working from here they turn round to the Government and say 'this is just impossible to operate but if you are willing to subsidise our operation we will come out'. But the Government have not taken the view of subsidising airlines for the sake of subsidising. In any case it would be against State Aid rules anyway but we find ourselves in a situation that even though we have raised this issue and tried to explain the fact that what we need to do is grow the market and therefore cover their costs more adequately by increased frequency, unfortunately they do not seem to understand or want to understand.

ORAL

NO. 307 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PORT – SENIOR MARINE SURVEYOR

Are the advertisements for the vacancy of the post of Senior Marine Surveyor of 20 January and 26 January for the same post or for two different posts?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND
COMMUNICATIONS**

Answered together with Question Nos. 308 to 312 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 308 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PORT – SENIOR MARINE SURVEYOR

Can Government say how many persons applied for the vacancy for Senior Marine Surveyor which was advertised on 20 January and again on 26 January and how many were from Gibraltar?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 307 and 309 to 312 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 309 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PORT – OPERATIONS ROOM OPERATIVE

How many applications have been received for the posts of Port Operations Room Operative, how many of the applicants are from Gibraltar and what ages are the different applicants?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 307, 308 and 310 to 312 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 310 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PORT DEPARTMENT - VACANCIES

How many vacancies at the Port Department prior to 2006 have been covered by additional overtime since the last time that a person was recruited to fill a vacant post in the present structure of the Port Department?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND
COMMUNICATIONS**

Answered together with Question Nos. 307 to 309 and 311 to 312 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 311 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PORT DEPARTMENT – ADDITIONAL OVERTIME

Can Government say since the last person prior to 2006 was recruited to the present structure of the Port Department what has been the cost of additional overtime in the Department each financial year to cover unfilled vacancies?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 307 to 310 and 312 of 2006.

NO. 312 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PORT DEPARTMENT - VACANCIES

Prior to 2006, on what date was the last time that a person was recruited to fill a vacant post in the present structure of the Port Department and what was the post?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Both advertisements refer to the same post.

A total of 28 applications were received. One applicant was from Gibraltar. That was in respect of the Senior Marine Surveyor.

In respect of the Port Operatives a total of 69 applications have been received – 67 applicants are from Gibraltar – ages range from 17 to 42 years of age.

Nine vacancies have been covered by additional overtime since 5th May 2004, the date of the last recruitment.

The cost of the additional overtime in the department each financial year is as follows:-

2004/2005	Figures not available due to overtime not being categorised at the time. However, it has been calculated that this would equate to approximately £94,600 for the whole year.
2005/2006	£77,329 (manning level O/T) from April 2005 to December 2005. Categorising of overtime introduced in 2005.

This would average out roughly at about £8,600 per month.

The last person that was recruited was on 5th May 2004 as a Seaman/Mechanic.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 307 TO 312 OF 2006

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In relation to the vacancy for the Senior Marine Surveyor post, has that post now been filled?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No, the interviews were conducted I believe last week and I assume that the recommendations from the Selection Board would probably be already in the pipeline.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

I ask the same question in relation to the Operations Room Operative posts.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No, those have not been filled, I think the closing date for that was actually quite recent.

ORAL

NO. 313 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PORT DEPARTMENT - VTS

Can Government say on what date they ordered a reliable VTS facility for the Port Department?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question No. 314 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 314 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PORT DEPARTMENT - VTS

Can Government say when the training for the Port Department staff on the use of the VTS facility is due to commence?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

A VTS facility was ordered for the Port Department and purchased in 2001. This equipment was upgraded in 2005 by the purchase of a new radar.

Training for Port Department staff on the use of the VTS facility will commence as soon as vacancies for the operation room operatives are filled.

ORAL

NO. 315 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PORT – MARITIME TRAFFIC

On what date did preliminary discussions take place between officials of the Port of Gibraltar and Algeciras to consider how best maritime traffic in the Bay of Gibraltar can be de-conflicted, and who were the officials involved?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question No. 316 of 2006.

NO. 316 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PORT – MARINE SAFETY CODE

Can Government say whether they are considering the adoption of a port marine safety code similar to that in place in the United Kingdom?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Preliminary discussions took place between officials of the Port of Gibraltar and Algeciras to consider how best maritime traffic in the Bay of Gibraltar could be deconflicted on 16th September 2005 at the Finance Centre Boardroom at Europort.

The official representing the Gibraltar side was Richard Garcia who is the Co-ordinator General being Chief Executive of the Ministry for Trade, Industry and Communications.

The Maritime Administration was represented by Tony Nation the Acting Maritime Administrator, and Dylan Cocklan who is a Surveyor.

The Gibraltar Port was represented by James Ferro the Captain of the Port and Tony Davis as Chief Executive.

Then the Co-ordinator for Gibraltar in the Los Barrios Project was Stephen Ramagge.

The matter is currently under review by the Government.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 315 AND 316 OF 2006

HON DR J J GARCIA:

What matter is there under review? The answer to Question No. 316 of 2006.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Well, what is currently under review is the discussions that took place in respect of the best maritime traffic in the Bay of Gibraltar. At that meeting there were a number of proposals and options that were being considered and there has been exchange to try, this is not a matter that I think can be sorted out in one meeting, there is

another meeting due in order to see how much progress can be achieved in this particular area. In fact, there were other issues that were discussed at that meeting as well which will need to have progress on.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Where is the answer to Question No. 316 of 2006, that was my question?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

The answer to Question No. 316 of 2006 is that the matter of adopting the port maritime safety code similar to that in the UK is currently under review.

ORAL

NO. 317 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PORT – SHIP VISITS

How many ships have called at Gibraltar since December 2005 inclusive on a monthly basis for:

- (a) bunkering;
- (b) cargo;
- (c) repairs;

and how many tonnes of bunker fuel were sold each month?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND
COMMUNICATIONS**

Answered together with Question No. 318 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 318 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PORT – BUNKERING LICENCES

Can Government say whether any new applications for a bunkering licence have been made since the last Question Time in this House?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

The extensive statistical information requested is set out in the schedule attached.

Answer to Question No. 317

	Bunkers	Cargo	Repairs
Dec 2005	395	0	4
Jan 2006	446	1	3
Feb 2006	581	0	10

Bunkers sold from 1st December 2005 to 28th February 2006-04-05

Month	Tons
December	289,180
January	315,432
February	348,233

Answer to Question No. 318

No new applications for Bunkering Licences have been received since the last Question Time in this House.

ORAL

NO. 319 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB - UNIFORMS

How many tenders were received for the supply of uniforms for the Gibraltar Tourist Board before the closing date of 10 March?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND
COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 320 and 321 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 320 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – TENDER FOR CLEANING

How many tenders were received for the cleaning of the Coach Park Terminus, the Cruise Terminal and the Ferry Terminal and who was the successful tenderer, in what amount and was this the lowest tender?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND
COMMUNICATIONS**

Answered together with Question Nos. 319 and 321 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 321 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – TENDER FOR ATMs

How many tenders were received for the provision of ATMs at the Cruise Terminal, the Coach Terminus and the Air Terminal?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Two tenders were received for the uniforms of the Gibraltar Tourist Board.

Five tenders were received for the cleaning of the Coach Park Terminus, the Cruise Terminal and the Ferry Terminal.

To date the tender has not been awarded because the offers are still under consideration by the Tender Board.

There were five tenders received for the provision of ATMs at the Cruise Terminal, the Coach Terminus and the Air Terminal. Again, that has not yet been awarded either.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 319 TO 321 OF 2006

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Has the one for the uniforms been awarded?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No, not at all.

ORAL

NO. 322 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – MADRID OFFICE

In what circumstances and on what date did the post of Office Administrator at the Gibraltar Office in Madrid last become vacant?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND
COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question No. 323 of 2006.

NO. 323 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – MADRID OFFICE

How many persons have applied for the post of Office Administrator for the Gibraltar Office in Madrid which was advertised with a closing date of 27 February, how many were from Gibraltar and has anyone been selected for the post?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Miss Gillaine De los Santos's contract expired at the end of September 2005. Miss De los Santos applied for an extension of six months to her contract which was granted. The six month period ends at the end of March 2006 and Miss De los Santos has decided not to extend her contract further.

Four applications have been received. Three are from Gibraltar and one is from Spain. The selection process has not yet been concluded.

ORAL

NO. 324 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – SEATRADE, MIAMI

What was the cost with a breakdown of Gibraltar's participation in Seatrade in Miami this year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 325 to 330 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 325 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB - UKGTA

What was the cost with a breakdown of the UKGTA meeting that took place in Gibraltar on 3 February?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 324 and 326 to 330 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 326 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB - FITUR

What was the cost, with a breakdown, of the dinner held in Madrid for Spanish travel journalists during FITUR this year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND
COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 324, 325 and 327 to 330 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 327 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB - FITUR

How many persons made up the Gibraltar delegation at FITUR this year and what offices do they hold?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND
COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 324 to 326 and 328 to 330 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 328 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB - FITUR

What arrangement was made with the Mancomunidad de Municipios del Campo de Gibraltar regarding Gibraltar's representation at FITUR this year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND
COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 324 to 327 and 329 to 330 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 329 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB - FITUR

What was the cost, with a breakdown, of Gibraltar's representation at FITUR in Madrid from 25-29 January?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 324 to 328 and 330 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 330 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB - FITUR

Can Government say how and by whom Gibraltar was represented at FITUR which took place in Madrid from 25-29 January?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND
COMMUNICATIONS

The extensive factual and statistical information requested by the hon Member is set out in the schedule.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 330

Answer to Question No. 324

The cost of participating in Seatrade Miami during week commencing 13th March 2006 cannot be provided as most of the exact expenses are still not known. However, it is estimated that the total cost will be about £22,000.

Answer to Question No. 325

The cost with a breakdown of the UKGTA meeting that took place in Gibraltar on 3rd February was as follows:

	£
Taxes for air fares	125.40
Taxi & entertainment	246.05
Photocopier & other expenses in London	<u>126.90</u>
Total	<u>£498.35</u>

Answer to Question No. 326

The cost with a breakdown of the dinner held in Madrid for Spanish travel journalists during FITUR this year was as follows:

Corporate Gifts Dinner	£ 330.00
Dinner Melia Princesa Madrid	£1,480.77
Courier Costs Gifts	<u>£ 50.50</u>
	£1,861.27

Answer to Question No. 327

The following persons made up the Gibraltar delegation at FITUR this year:

Nicky Guerrero – Sales & Marketing Manager
Dylan Ferrar – Sales & Marketing Co-Ordinator
Marie Gloria Macedo – Sales & Marketing Officer

Peter Kirkby – Marketing Executive – Madrid Office
Gillaine de los Santos – Office Administrator
Madrid (on Saturday and Sunday only)

Minister with responsibility for Tourism and the Chief Executive of the GTB.

Answer to Question No. 328

No arrangements were made with the Mancomunidad de Municipios del Campo de Gibraltar regarding Gibraltar's representation at FITUR this year.

Answer to Question No. 329

The cost of attending FITUR was as follows:

Travel	£ 999.13
Stand	£14,340.54
Subsistence	£ 2,672.53
Hotel	£ 1,491.96

Cont....

CONTD. ANSWER TO QUESTION 330

Contd. Answer to Question 329

Mileage	£	198.99
Photographer	£	500.00
Insurance	£	30.00
General Expenses	£	412.97
Courier	£	<u>94.00</u>
Total		£20,640.19

Answer to Question No. 330

Gibraltar was represented at FITUR during 25-29 January by the following entities:

- Calypso Tours
- The Cable Car
- Dolphin World
- Gibraltar Taxi Association
- The Elliott Hotel
- Blands Travel
- Parodytur
- La Barcina/La Mamela/Paradiso Group of Restaurants
- Emile Youth Hostel
- Globe Travel
- Rock & Fortress/Let's Go Walking Tours

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 324 TO 330 OF 2006

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In relation to Question No. 326 of 2006 which is the dinner for Spanish travel journalists in Madrid, there is a figure here of £1,480 but can the Minister say how many journalists were invited to that dinner?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I have not got that figure, has that figure not already been given to the hon Member? I am not sure but I think there were roughly around 30, I think the figure of 32 is the figure that I remember.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In answer to Question No. 328 of 2006, which is the one to do with the Mancomunidad and FITUR do I take it then that these reports of a joint stand or whatever has actually never materialised, there has never been a joint stand, is that the case this year as well?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Well, I have always made clear that Gibraltar would continue to have its own stand irrespective of any cooperation that may have existed in doing any joint promotion or adopt any joint strategy, we would continue to do our own stand as well. This year we were not contacted to participate in their stand and therefore we went ahead and did our own thing as we would have done anyway.

ORAL

NO. 331 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – UPPER ROCK

Can Government say, since the increase of admission fees to the Upper Rock, how much money obtained as a result of the increase has been spent in upper rock improvements giving a breakdown of the money spent and what it was spent on?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND
COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 332 to 336 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 332 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

GTB – UPPER ROCK

Can Government state what is the level of arrears due as at 31st December 2004 and as 31st December 2005 by concessionaires in respect of admission fees to the Upper Rock Nature Reserve?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND
COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 331 and 333 to 336 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 333 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – REVENUE RAISED

Can Government say how much revenue has been raised on a monthly basis from December 2005 inclusive:

- (a) by charging coaches that use the coach park;
- (b) in admission fees to the Upper Rock;
- (c) in admission fees to the Gibraltar Museum?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 331, 332 and 334 to 336 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 334 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – SECOND WORLD WAR TUNNEL EXHIBITS

When do Government expect to put out to tender the operation of the Second World War Tunnel Exhibit at Hay's Level?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND
COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 331 to 333 and 335 to 336 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 335 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – CRUISE CALLS

Can Government say how many different ships account for the cruise calls that were recorded in 2004 and in 2005?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND
COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 331 to 334 and 336 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 336 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – TOURISM WEBSITE

Can Government provide a breakdown of the £21,294.89 spent on the Tourism website as at 30 November 2005?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

The extensive factual and statistical information requested by the hon Member is set out in the Schedule.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 336

Answer to Question 331

The amount spent as at 3rd March 2006 was £103,578. Works include:

- (a) Electrical System at St Michael's Cave
- (b) Medieval Castle
- (c) Line Painting
- (d) Paths
- (e) Charles' V Wall
- (f) Sewer Surveys

Answer to Question 332

The level of arrears due as at 31st December 2004 and 31st December 2005 in respect of admission fees to the Upper Rock Nature Reserve was as follows:

31 st December 2004	£385,693.00
31 st December 2005	£360,605.50

Answer to Question No. 333

The following revenue has been raised on a monthly basis from December 2005:

Upper Rock Admission Fees

Dec 05	£ 99,135.69
Jan 06	£ 90,038.64
Feb 06	£110,978.86

Coach Park

Dec 05	£3,900
Jan 06	£3,210
Feb 06	£4,390

Gibraltar Museum

Nov 05	£ 983.18
Dec 05	£2,289.25
Jan 06	£ 625.92
Feb 06	£1,079.52

Oct 05 £1,917.82

Answer to Question No. 334

The present operator has a licence agreement till April 2007. Government intends to put this to tender at that time.

Answer to Question No. 335

In 2004, 61 different ships accounted for the cruise calls.

In 2005, 62 different ships accounted for the cruise calls.

Contd..

CONT ANSWER TO QUESTION 336

Answer to Question No. 336

The £21,294.89 spent on the Tourism Website was made up as follows:-

Monthly Maintenance & Hosting March 05 to October 05 - £464.13 p.m.	£3,713.04
New Website – Technical Services	£9,106.25
New Website – Designer	£8,250.00
2 Domain Names	£ 210.45
Refreshments – Website Meeting	<u>£ 15.15</u>
	£21,294.89

ORAL

NO. 337 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB - MARKETING

Can Government say, with a breakdown, how much of the estimated £750,000 tourism marketing budget for 2005/2006 had been spent as at:

- (a) 31 December 2005;
- (b) 28 February 2006?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question No. 338 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 338 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – HEAD 104

On what repairs was the sum of £3272.49 spent on 29 July 2004 as given in answer to Question No. 1282 of 2005?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND
COMMUNICATIONS

The extensive factual and statistical information requested by the hon Member is set out in the Schedule.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 338**Answer to Question No. 337/2006**Marketing Expenditure
as at 31/12/05

	Total
Literature	35,044.36
Activity (Trade)	16,115.65
Activity (Media)	5,139.36
Promotional Material	2,555.39
Advertising	292,539.54
Trade/Consumer Fairs	19,749.81
Events	45,613.41
Other	21,294.89
Recurrent Expenditure	85,058.01
Contingencies	28,241.00
Totals	551,351.42

Marketing Expenditure
as at 28/02/06

	Total
Literature	62,073.52
Activity (Trade)	23,413.32
Activity (Media)	8,023.86
Promotional Material	2,715.39
Advertising	343,493.96
Trade/Consumer Fairs	46,593.27
Events	45,605.41
Other	26,682.15
Recurrent Expenditure	105,960.50
Contingencies	28,535.33
Totals	693,096.71

Answer to Question No. 338

Installation of beach showers and foot baths	£2,757.22
Repairs at Little Bay	£ 68.00
Repairs at Eastern Bay	£ 188.00
Manufacture of wooden steps for Sandy Bay	
Umbrella Store	<u>£ 259.27</u>
	£3,272.49

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 337 AND 338 OF 2006

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In relation to the marketing budget the table the Minister has handed me shows that £693,000 had been spent as at 20th February. There is an entry there that says recurrent expenditure £105,960 what does that refer to? What recurrent expenditure because that would not be wages or anything of that sort since it comes under marketing?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Well recurrent expenditure is actually expenditure that we have a commitment for every year in things like for example, our public relations contract in the UK, our public relations contract in Madrid, Spain, subscriptions to different associations that Gibraltar belongs to, the expenses of the UK GTA meetings and so forth. In other words, they are expenditure which we need to incur in order for us to be able to apply and adopt marketing strategies. They are the vehicles which we use and which we have contracts for throughout the year.

NO. 339 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – HEAD 104

What is the “Gaviota Show” that Master Service were paid £3706.50 for under the heading “Cleaning Western Beach and Gaviota Show” supplied in answer to Question No. 1282 of 2005?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

There was a typing error in the handout to Question No. 1282 of 2005. The correct wording should have been Gaviota Showers but somebody decided to shorten it to Show and when I actually got the question my blood pressure rose as I thought somebody had actually spent money on some form of show on the beach or something but it was proved that it was just a typographical error which I hope the hon Member will understand.

ORAL

NO. 340 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

GTB – ROSIA BAY

Can Government state whether, and if so when, they propose to carry out remedial works at Rosia Bay, which is used outside the official bathing season as playgrounds and whose surface is partly in an advanced stage of dilapidation?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND
COMMUNICATIONS**

Answered together with Question Nos. 341 and 342 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 341 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

GTB – BEACH FACILITIES

Can Government state whether they propose to have changing room and toilet facilities available at all our beaches for the Easter Holidays?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND
COMMUNICATIONS**

Answered together with Question Nos. 340 and 342 of 2006.

NO. 342 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

GTB – BEACH FACILITIES

Can Government confirm that full facilities will be available at all beaches for the official bathing season?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

The Government intend to carry out improvement and beautification works at Rosia Bay. It is envisaged that this project will be undertaken during 2006/2007. The House may recall that in this morning's question that part of the premium of £300,000 was towards that, so Government are now putting together a project for the area in order to try and convert this into a leisure/bathing facility.

Toilet facilities and changing rooms will be available at all beaches during the Easter Holidays. Shower facilities will be available at some beaches.

The usual facilities will be available at all beaches for the Official Bathing Season.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 340 TO 342 OF 2006

HON L A RANDALL:

I would encourage the Minister to consider for the works in Rosia Bay to start in early 2006 rather than in 2007 because the surface as it is at the moment constitutes a danger to the children playing there.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes, I fully understand what the hon Member says but I can only start the project once the project has been finalised and agreed to, and as soon as that happens that is when we intend to proceed.

ORAL

NO. 343 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – FLIGHTS FROM GIBRALTAR

How many flights from Gibraltar to the following airports were delayed by more than an hour on a monthly basis since January 2005 inclusive:

- (a) London Gatwick;
- (b) London Heathrow;
- (c) London Luton;
- (d) Manchester?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question No. 344 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 344 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – FLIGHTS FROM GIBRALTAR

How many flights between Gibraltar and the following airports were timetabled and how many were cancelled on a monthly basis to or from:

- (a) London Gatwick;
- (b) London Heathrow;
- (c) London Luton;
- (d) Manchester

since December 2005 inclusive?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

The extensive factual and statistical information requested by the hon Member is set out in the schedule.

Schedule to Question 344

Answer to Question 343

January to December 2005

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
LGW	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
LHR	0	0	2	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	0
LTN	0	0	4	0	2	4	3	0	2	1	1	1
MAN	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0

January to March (14th) 2006

	Jan	Feb	Mar
LGW	0	0	1
LHR	0	0	0
LTN	1	2	2
MAN	0	0	0

Answer to Question 344

December 2005

Flights timetabled

London Gatwick	30
London Heathrow	28
London Luton	22
Manchester	13

Flights Cancellations

0
0
0
0

January 2006

Flights timetabled

London Gatwick	31
London Heathrow	31
London Luton	23
Manchester	14

Flights Cancellations

0
0
0
0

February 2006

Flights timetabled

London Gatwick	28
London Heathrow	28
London Luton	22
Manchester	13

Flights Cancellations

0
0
0
0

NO. 345 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB - AIRLINES

Can Government say whether they are having discussions with any new airlines interested in flying to and from Gibraltar, other than the three that they were in discussion with at the last Question Time in this House?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

The Government are not in discussions with any new airlines interested in flying to and from Gibraltar other than the three that they were in discussion with at the last Question Time in this House.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 345 OF 2006

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Government say whether discussions proceed with the three airlines today that they were with at the last Question Time in this House?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes, I would not call them 'discussion' but at least 'contact'. They have openings where decisions are taken and so between openings there is no point in really having any form of contact but obviously we are in regular contact to be able to try and convince them to look at Gibraltar positively.

ORAL

NO. 346 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – PERSONS INTERVIEWED

Can Government say how many interviews have been carried out with persons who said:

- (a) that they had stayed at a hotel;
- (b) that they had not stayed at a hotel;

since September 2005 inclusive on a monthly basis, stating where they were interviewed and the number interviewed at each location, and in the case of those who stayed in hotels what was the average length of stay in each case?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

The extensive factual and statistical information requested by the hon Member is set out in the schedule.

SCHEDULE TO QUESTION 346

(a)

Place of Interview
Number of Interviews Stayed at Hotel

	Total No. of Interviews	Stayed at Hotel	Airport	Average Length of Stay	Frontier	Average Length of Stay	Elsewhere	Average Length of Stay
Sept 05	1,632	10	8	5.0	2	5.8	-	-
Oct 05	1,409	28	26	4.4	2	4.0	-	-
Nov 05	1,458	11	11	5.9	-	-	-	-
Dec 05	1,243	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jan 06	1,299	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Feb 06*	229	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

(b)

Place of Interview
Interviews Not Stayed at Hotel

	Total Interviews Not Stayed at Hotel	Airport	Port	Frontier	Waterport	Marina	Coach Park
Sept 05	1,622	33	21	1,568	-	-	-
Oct 05	1,381	18	37	1,242	-	11	73
Nov 05	1,447	25	36	1,235	-	-	151
Dec 05	1,243	-	-	1,243	-	-	-
Jan 06	1,299	-	-	1,259	-	-	40
Feb 06*	229	-	-	229	-	-	-

*The information in respect of February 2006 has only been partly inputted.

ORAL

NO. 347 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – MINISTER’S OVERSEAS VISITS

Can the Minister with responsibility for tourism give the dates when he has been away from Gibraltar on Government business since the last Question Time in this House, giving the event or function attended, the venue, the city and the country visited?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

I have been away on two occasions from 23rd to 25th January 2006 at FITUR in Madrid and from 29th January to 1st February 2006 in Lisbon to attend the Microsoft Government Leaders Conference.

ORAL

NO. 348 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TRANSPORT – MOTOR VEHICLES IMPORTED

What was the value and number of private motor vehicles imported by:

- (a) individuals;
- (b) licensed dealers;

on a monthly basis since November 2005 inclusive?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND
COMMUNICATIONS**

Answered together with Question No. 349 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 349 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TRANSPORT – GOODS VEHICLES IMPORTED

What was the value and number of goods vehicles imported by:

- (a) individuals;
- (b) licensed dealers;

on a monthly basis since November 2005 inclusive?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND
COMMUNICATIONS**

The extensive factual and statistical information requested by the hon Member is set out in the schedule.

SCHEDULE TO QUESTION 349

Answer to Question 348

The number and value of private motor vehicles imported by individuals and licensed dealers on a monthly basis since November 2005 was as follows:

	<u>Private Motor Vehicles Imported by Individuals</u>		<u>Private Motor Vehicles Imported by Licensed Dealers</u>	
	Number	Value (£ Thousands)	Number	Value (£ Millions)
Nov 05	21	46	547	6.8
Dec 05	17	86	333	4.3
Jan 06	20	64	435	6.5

Answer to Question 349

The number and value of goods vehicles imported by individuals and licensed dealers on a monthly basis since November 2005 was as follows:

	<u>Goods Vehicles Imported by Individuals</u>		<u>Goods Vehicles Imported by Licensed Dealers</u>	
	Number	Value (£ Thousands)	Number	Value (£ Thousands)
Nov 05	2	7	3	11
Dec 05	-	-	1	1
Jan 06	4	6	2	8

ORAL

NO. 350 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – CITY BEAUTIFICATION BOARD

What is the composition and function of the City Beautification Board and when did it meet in 2005 and 2006 to date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 351 to 353 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 351 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

COMMERCE AND TRADE ADVISORY BOARD

What is the composition and function of the Commerce and Trade Advisory Board and when did it meet in 2005 and 2006 to date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND
COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 350, 352 and 353 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 352 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD

What is the composition and function of the Labour Advisory Board and when did it meet in 2005 and 2006 to date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND
COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 350, 351 and 353 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 353 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – TOURISM ADVISORY BOARD

How often and on what dates have the following met:

- (a) the Tourism Advisory Council since 15 December 2005;
- (b) the Port Advisory Council since 8 December 2005;
- (c) the Business Advisory Council since 24 November 2005;
- (d) the E-Business Advisory Council since 15 December 2005?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND
COMMUNICATIONS**

The extensive factual and statistical information requested by the hon Member is set out in the schedule.

SCHEDULE TO QUESTION 353

Answer to Question No 350

The City Beautification Board was set up to co-ordinate the beautification works being carried out along Main Street and other areas within the City walls. The function of the Board was to co-ordinate the works with traders represented by the Chamber of Commerce and the Federation of Small Businesses. It was disbanded after the last election in November 2003. Consequently, it never met in 2005 or 2006.

Answer to Question No 351

The Commerce and Trade Advisory Board does not exist and subsequently did not meet in 2005 and 2006.

Answer to Question No 352

The composition of the Labour Advisory Board and its functions are as follows:

The Hon Minister for Employment

Mr Ernest Gracia	Director of Employment
Mr Elio Chevasco	General Manager – Ministry of Employment
Mr Charlie Sisarello	Transport & General Workers Union
Mr Edwin Reyes	Gibraltar Trades Council
Mr Andrew Pons	Prospect
Mrs Marilou Guerrero	Federation of Small Businesses
Mr Edward Macquisten	Gibraltar Chamber of Commerce
Mr George Olivera	Gibraltar Chamber of Commerce

The objective of the Labour Advisory Board is to promote a better climate for industrial relations, and to perform an advisory role in seeking broad consensus in employment and training policies, by a process of consultation between the Government, employers representatives and labour representatives.

The Labour Advisory Board serves the following specific purposes:

- (a) A forum for the provision by the Government of information relating to its labour policies.
- (b) The promotion of a better knowledge of the activities of the Ministry of Employment.
- (c) The promotion of a better knowledge of the Employment Ordinance and Regulations.
- (d) Constitute a forum for a consultation process prior to the implementation of any further Employment legislation, whenever this is possible.
- (e) The study and review of the situation of the employed, unemployed and under employed persons, taking into account local laws, regulations and practice concerning conditions of work and working life and terms of employment, draw

CONTD. SCHEDULE TO QUESTION 353

Contd. Answer to Question 352

attention to defects and abuses in such conditions and terms and submit proposals on means to overcome them.

- (f) To make technical advice available to employers and workers and their respective organisations on their request.
- (g) The Ministry of Employment will assist in the improvement of labour relations by providing or strengthening advisory services to undertaking, employers organisations and workers' organisations requesting such services, in accordance with programmes established on the basis of consultations with such organisations.
- (h) The Ministry of Employment will endeavour to provide in agreement with the employers and workers' organisations concerned, conciliation, mediation and arbitration facilities, appropriate to local conditions and laws, in case of collective disputes.
- (i) To provide a forum to enable employers and workers organisations to advise the Government on employment services, employment promotion and creation programmes, vocational guidance and vocational training programmes and unemployment benefit schemes.
- (j) The Labour Advisory Board will assist in promoting the establishment of, methods and procedures for ensuring consultations of employers' and workers' organisation, or – where appropriate – employers' and workers' representations, on employment policies, and promotion of their co-operation in the implementation of such policies.
- (k) The Labour Advisory Board will review and advise Government on manpower planning, where this is possible, and the provision of technical information and advice. Equally the advice in the integration of manpower plans with economic plans.
- (l) To monitor the working of the Job Centre.

The Board has met on 7 April 2005 and 9 January 2006.

Answer to Question No 353

The respective Advisory Councils have met as follows:

- (a) Tourism Advisory Council – since the 15th December 2005 the Council met once on the 9th March 2006.
- (b) Port Advisory Council – since the 8th December 2005 the Council met once on the 9th March 2006.

CONTD. SCHEDULE TO QUESTION 353

Contd. Answer to Question 353

- (c) Business and Commerce Advisory Council – since the 24th November 2005 the Council has not met.
- (d) E-Business Advisory Council – since the 15th December 2005, the Council has not met.

NO. 354 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EU OBJECTIVE II PROGRAMME

Can Government explain in respect of what expenditure there was a Recovery Order No. FED213368 amounting to £429,583 in the financial year 2003/2004, which had to be off-set against claims made under the EU Objective II Programme 2000/2006?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

The sum of £429,583 had to be reimbursed to the EU Commission. This amount represented the difference between the advance payments and the subsequent claims made under the Objective II 1997-1999 Programme.

As requested by the Programme Manager on 28th July 2003, the amount of euros 621,390.44 was recovered by the EU Commission on DOCUP Gibraltar Objective II 1997-1999 and was deducted from the two outstanding payment claims, that is, Claim 3 – euros 420,069.69 and claim 4 – euros 378,361.00 of the Objective II 2000-2006 Programme, Gibraltar only received the balance.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 354 OF 2006

HON J J BOSSANO:

I know all that already from reading it in the Auditor's Report. What I want to know is that there must have been a reason why we receive the money first and then they ask to have it back, a project that was started and not completed or was it that a claim was made late, there must be some explanation?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No, obviously this goes back some time, well before my time. The explanations that I have been given by officials is that when one sets up one of these Objective Programmes, one is given in advance 7 per cent of the value of the fund and therefore subsequently to that one puts in claims for a variety of projects, be it Government or private sector projects, and towards the end of the programme then there is an adjustment depending on whether there has been an under-expenditure or whether there has been claims that have not been accepted, or part-claims that have not been accepted because a lot of the claims that go to the EU are not actually

paid for in full. In respect of this 1997-1999 Programme, there was this outstanding amount of £429,583 which we should have been reimbursed because the targets were not met and subsequently, rather than actually repay the Commission, as the net programme was already on-going and we had claims No. 3 and No. 4 that had to be settled by the Commission to us, one thing was off-set against the other but the short of it is that the sum of £429,583 was as a result of the fact that we needed to reimburse the Commission as certain payments had not reached the target.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I appreciate that this is some time after the event and the Minister was not then the Minister responsible but this is when it has come out in public, this is the 2003/2004 audited accounts and therefore it was not possible to ask any question about this because there was no way of knowing that this was happening. Obviously the question seeks an explanation in respect of what expenditure there was a recovery order and the explanation given really takes me no further than what I already know from reading the Auditor's Report. It would seem to me that if we have actually had to forego £429,000 of EU money which probably means that we have had to spend some of our money doing things that we would otherwise not have to do so, it is a matter which the House is entitled to want to know what went wrong and where because after all it is costing us money. I am afraid I understand the problem the Minister has got but at the end of the day it was not the same Government that was in office in those years and therefore it is not as if they cannot get hold of the papers that belonged to a previous administration. So I would appreciate if we could identify it, I have not come across this business before, I accept that we did not give the money back but only because they agreed that money we should be getting we would not get and they retained it, which is as good or as bad as giving it back to them.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

What I have been informed by officials is that there is not a particular project as such that did not meet its criteria or there was not a particular project which was not authorised by the Commission, so they cannot pin point the shortage as a result of a particular project. That is just for the sake of clarification purposes, but it was obviously part of the whole programme which consisted of something like, I was told, 90 different projects. There is an element of the fact that 7 per cent of the programme is given to the EU Secretariat locally as an advance payment, so therefore one always has a 7 per cent value to one's credit all through the programme. The explanation is probably as a result of the fact that there was probably under-expenditure, in other words not enough projects were submitted during that programme to meet the total amount of the programme, and possibly there was some shortfall as well as a result of possible claims that were put through which were not accepted. I am told that there was not any particular claim that was not accepted, they cannot be pin pointed to one particular claim, but I was shown evidence of a number of claims where maybe there was a shortfall of 17,000 euros, 80,000 euros and therefore that eventually adds up throughout the course of the programme, which obviously is a 1997-1999 Programme but it actually spreads out to the year 2001. Therefore it is a five year programme and that is the explanation that I have been given by officials. If the hon Member wants me to go further I will try and go further for him and offer him as much information as I can on this particular issue. In fact, I actually read the question to do with the Theatre Royal and I thought when I read one and then I read the other 'ah, that must be what Mr Bossano must

be thinking', and I specifically asked a question and I want to clarify for his own piece of mind that it did not even fall within that programme so there was no evidence of that. I hope that that at least clears the hon Member's mind as far as that particular project is concerned.

ORAL

NO. 355 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

AQUACONTROL PROJECT

Can Government list their partners in the Aquacontrol project under the ERDF and say what financial or other contribution they are expected to make?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND
COMMUNICATIONS**

Answered together with Question Nos. 356 and 357 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 356 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

ADMITRON II PROJECT

Can Government say what financial contribution they are expected to make in connection with their participation in the Admitron II project and list the other participants in the scheme?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 355 and 357 of 2006.

NO. 357 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

EU FUNDING

Can Government list the parties that have applied for:

- (a) EU funding; or
- (b) Gibraltar Government funding;

since the last Question-Time in this House, indicating the amount of funding that was requested and the purposes for which it was intended, listing those applications that have been successful, those that have been unsuccessful, and those applications that are still pending?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND
COMMUNICATIONS**

The extensive factual and statistical information requested by the hon Member is set out in the Schedule.

SCHEDULE TO QUESTION 357

Answer to Question 355

Government partners in the Aquacontrol Interreg IIIB Sudoe project are:-

- (1) Diputacion Provincial de Castellon;
- (2) Consell Insular de Menorca;
- (3) Diputacion provincial de Malaga;
- (4) Syndicat Mixte Departemental de l'Eau et de l'Assainissement de l'Arige; (France)
- (5) Camara Municipal de Moura (Portugal);
- (6) AquaGib Ltd

Total project eligible cost is €98,000. All financial contributions will be made by AquaGib Ltd.
Contd. Q 357/2006

Answer to Question 356

The total eligible expenditure for the Admitron II project is €180,000 of which Government can claim back 50% (€90,000) from the Interreg IIIB Sudoe Programme.

The participants in this project are:

- (1) Diputación Provincial de Jaen
- (2) Consell Insular de Menorca
- (3) Government of Gibraltar
- (4) Centre de Recherche Commun Armines LG12P
- (5) Instituto Pedro Nunes
- (6) Centro de Iniciativas Empresariales Beira Agueira

Answer to Question No. 357

ESF PROJECTS

Project No.	Name	Sponsor	Status	ESF	GOG	Private Sector	Purpose of Project
43	Focus 5506	Employment Service	Pending	£40,140 (45%)	£49,060 (55%)	-	Employment support measure for registered long-term unemployed persons, ex-offenders or those recovering from an addiction.

ERDF PROJECTS

Project No.	Sponsor	Status	ERDF	GOG	Purpose of Grant
95	Pizzaghetti Ltd	Active	£16,409.56 (15%)	£16,409.56 (15%)	Renovation works, furniture & decorations, plant & equipment, rent & rates.
96	Technical Services Department	Active	£238,101.50 (50%)	£238,101.50 (50%)	Project execution
97	Technical Services Department	Active	£567,304.50 (50%)	£567,304.50 (50%)	Pre-contract works, project management fees, project execution
98	Fotografix Designs	Active	£5000.00 (14.62%)	£5000.00 (14.62%)	Lenses & equipment, freight & duty, studio lighting, rent subsidy, shop signage, IT equipment
99	Technical Services Department	Active	£727,500.00 (50%)	£727,500.00 (50%)	Pre-contract works, project management fees, project execution

Cont...

Contd. Schedule to Question 357

100	P&O Homes	Active	£4,599.76 (15%)	£4,599.76 (15%)	Building works, furniture, advertising, Air conditioning.
101	Party Inflatables & Amusements Ltd	Active	£7,485.97 (15%)	£7,485.97 (15%)	Equipment, freight & import duty, advertising & promotion, signage
102	Parcos Investments Ltd	Active	£4,758.90 (15%)	£4,758.90 (15%)	Building works, fixture & fittings

NO. 358 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GFSB

Can the Minister for Commercial Affairs explain why the Federation of Small Businesses were not given £12,000, as he promised, to pursue the ISO 9001-2000 certification courses programme for 2005?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

It is Government's intention to once again contribute towards the cost of training leading towards ISO accreditation for up to 16 GFSB member companies wishing to complete the programme. This information has already been communicated to the Chairperson of the GFSB by letter recently.

Unfortunately the necessary financial provision was not made during the financial year 2005/2006 to meet this expenditure.

However, I confirm that the Department of Education and Training has included a bid for funds in the estimates for the financial year 2006/2007.

ORAL

NO. 359 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

CONFERENCE SPONSORSHIP

Can Government list the conferences that they have assisted with, sponsored or co-sponsored in Gibraltar since the last Question-Time in this House, showing the dates when the conferences in question were held, the cost and the departments that were most directly involved?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

There were none that related to Ministries for which I am responsible. Such information is not centrally held about all Government Departments.

NO. 360 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

IMPORTS - COMPUTERS

What was the value and number of computer components imported into Gibraltar since November 2005 inclusive on a monthly basis?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

The value of computer hardware imported into Gibraltar on a monthly basis since November 2005 was as follows:

	Value of Computers (£ thousands)
November 2005	433
December 2005	327
January 2006	570

It is not possible to provide figures on the number of computer components imported as such records are not compiled by the Customs Department.

ORAL

NO. 361 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

IMPORTS

Can Government provide a figure for the value of imports and exports, excluding petroleum products, for the month of January, February and March in each year from 1996?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND
COMMUNICATIONS

The information requested is shown on the attached table.

Answer to Question 361

IMPORTS

£ million

	<u>January</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1996	21.6	22.8	22.9	67.3
1997	20.8	14.6	17.1	52.5
1998	14.3	15.3	23.3	52.9
1999	23.5	9.8	22.9	56.2
2000	38.4	32.5	23.4	94.3
2001	31.4	23.0	22.3	76.7
2002	18.8	18.7	19.8	57.3
2003	21.5	20.6	24.9	67.0
2004	24.2	22.4	27.5	74.1
2005	20.8	18.9	32.5	72.2

EXPORTS

£ million

	<u>January</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1996	8.5	4.4	3.1	16.0
1997	7.6	3.5	3.5	14.6
1998	2.7	3.2	5.1	11.0
1999	6.9	3.3	6.2	16.4
2000	4.8	11.0	4.6	20.4
2001	8.4	4.8	5.3	18.5
2002	5.6	7.1	5.5	18.2
2003	6.0	7.1	6.7	19.8
2004	8.4	7.9	8.8	25.1
2005	6.1	7.7	15.9	29.7

NO. 362 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX

Can Government confirm whether all of the 836 employers that made completed returns in October 2002 and 2003 also made completed returns in October 2004, and if not, give out of this total the number who did and provide a breakdown by industry?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Of the 836 employers who made completed returns for the October 2002 and for the October 2003 Employment Surveys, 758 completed returns in respect of the October 2004 Employment Survey. The breakdown by industry is as follows:

	Number of Employers
Shipbuilding	7
Other Manufacture	18
Electricity and Water Supply	4
Construction	46
Wholesale and Retail Trade	264
Hotels and Restaurants	71
Transport and Communication	54
Financial Intermediation	83
Real Estate and Business Activities	114
Public Administration and Defence	3
Education	10
Health and Social Work	18
Other Services	66
GRAND TOTAL	758

ORAL

NO. 363 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Can Government provide the comparable breakdown for October 2004 of all the full time employee jobs by industry, sex and nationality as given in Table 12 of the Employment Survey Report in respect of the 836 employers or such lesser number as returned filled questionnaires for October 2004 having also done so for October 2002 and 2003?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

The information requested is shown on the table attached.

Answer to Question 363

Full-Time Employee Jobs by Industry, Sex and Nationality, Private Sector, October 2004

INDUSTRY	ALL		GIBRALTARIAN		UK BRITISH		MOROCCAN		SPANISH		OTHER EU		OTHER	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Shipbuilding	253	12	98	8	32	0	18	1	82	3	13	0	10	0
Other Manuf.	74	35	36	25	5	4	13	1	16	4	3	1	1	0
Elec/Wtr Supply	108	14	92	14	4	0	7	0	3	0	2	0	0	0
Construction	972	51	377	34	187	9	81	2	298	5	18	0	11	1
Whsle/Retail Tr.	1,280	660	659	364	120	86	143	8	294	178	23	15	41	9
Hotels/Restrmts.	359	267	63	37	50	45	99	36	107	125	23	21	17	3
Trans/Comm.	340	143	225	107	46	14	23	1	41	16	5	4	0	1
Fin. Intermed.	363	509	205	358	78	84	2	1	25	33	36	21	17	12
Real Est./Bus.Ac.	472	478	280	319	97	82	13	7	54	60	23	8	5	2
Public Admin.	95	70	90	69	3	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Education	1	29	1	19	0	8	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
Health/Social Wk.	22	61	11	24	3	11	0	0	7	26	0	0	1	0
Other Services	526	238	242	99	170	68	25	4	37	40	30	7	22	20
TOTAL	4,865	2,567	2,379	1,477	795	411	426	61	964	492	176	78	125	48

ORAL

NO. 364 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Can Government state how many employers to date have made completed returns and how many have made Nil returns in response to the questionnaires distributed for the October 2005 Employment Survey and whether the survey is now closed?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

In respect of the October 2005 Employment Survey, a total of 1,406 questionnaires have been returned. A total of 1,080 completed returns and 326 nil returns have been submitted. The survey is now closed.

NO. 365 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Can Government provide the breakdown by industry in respect of the 1,061 employers who made completed returns in respect of the October 2004 Employment Survey?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

The figures requested are as follows:

	Number of Employers
Shipbuilding	7
Other Manufacture	27
Electricity and Water Supply	3
Construction	64
Wholesale and Retail Trade	333
Hotels and Restaurants	108
Transport and Communication	79
Financial Intermediation	130
Real Estate and Business Activities	165
Public Administration and Defence	4
Education	12
Health and Social Work	25
Other Services	104
GRAND TOTAL	1,061

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 365 OF 2006

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can I just check one figure which perhaps does not look accurate? This is in the category Electricity and Water Supply the figure I have got down is 3 and the figure that I had in the previous list of 758 was 4, is the 4 wrong? I would have expected it to be one that does not actually change.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Those are the figures that I have been given.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Have I written the '4' down correctly?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes correct, in Question No. 362 it is 4 and then it is 3 in Question No. 365.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Given that the 758 are part of the 1,061 it must follow that the column that he has just given me ought to be higher in every category than the previous one, because the total is higher and it is the same date.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I understand the point that the hon Member is making, however, I have added up the 1,061 and they add up correctly. I do not know whether the 758 add up now, I can check. The reply to Question No. 362 also adds up correctly.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am sure the Minister will agree that it cannot be correct that there were four employers in 2002/2003 who were also in 2004 and yet the total number of employers in that industry is only three. If the three is right the four must be wrong but it is peculiar that the totals should still be correct in both cases, I must say.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Absolutely, I can undertake to re-check that and let him have the correct figures. I do not think it is a major issue but I think it is something that ought to be accurate and therefore I will have that checked and I will write him a note confirming the issue.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

In the Question and Answer Session yesterday the Leader of the Opposition and myself were discussing an issue in respect of a possible error in the statistics in Question No. 362 of 2006, the answer had stipulated a figure of four when previously the answer to Question No. 365 of 2006 had actually stipulated three. I have had the matter looked into by the Statistics Office and in fact it was an error, the figure should read three in both cases so I hope that clarifies the matter.

ORAL

NO. 366 OF 2006

THE HON C A BRUZON

ROSIA COURT

Can Government state whether control over the management company of Rosia Court has now been passed on to the owners?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 367 of 2006.

NO. 367 OF 2006

THE HON C A BRUZON

ROSIA COURT

Can Government say if house No. 10 Rosia Court has been sold?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

No, control of the Management Company has not yet passed to the new owners of the properties, precisely because Unit No. 10 has not yet been sold.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 366 AND 367 OF 2006

HON C A BRUZON:

What happens then if Unit No. 10 is not sold for any length of time in the future? Will it stay in limbo, will this Management Company stay in limbo?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, the Government do not envisage that Unit No. 10 will remain unsold, there is much demand for these things as I think the hon Member knows and the reason why it has been unsold is that the person who originally won it withdrew and the Government have not yet decided how to dispose of it. In other words, whether to limit any re-draw to the people who were in the original draw or to dispose of it on some different basis. When we have made that decision it will be re-marketed and I imagine it will be sold immediately. I do not imagine that this will take very much longer.

HON L A RANDALL:

Will House No. 10 be sold at the original price offered?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, why is the hon Member interested?

HON L A RANDALL:

No, my daughter has already acquired one but can the Chief Minister confirm then that the prospective purchaser will not have to pay Stamp Duty on the price of the house whilst the others have?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, there is a question on the Order Paper specifically about that question and I think there are Rules of the House without pre-empting it.

ORAL

NO. 368 OF 2006

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – 50/50 SALES

Can Government state if there has been any sale of the Government 50 per cent share of co-ownership homes in the months of December 2005 and January and February 2006?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Yes, there have been some and I am happy to give the hon Member the usual information that he requests in respect of them.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 368

	SWJG	Montagu Gardens	Westview Park	Harbour Views	Montagu Crescent	TOTALS
Dec 05		£3,056.00		£64,135.29		£67,191.29
Jan 06		£22,933.14			£33,095.20	£56,028.34
Feb 06	£107,645.52	£40,900.74	£31,480.11		£65,548.35	£245,574.72
Totals	£107,645.52	£66,889.88	£31,480.11	£64,135.29	£98,643.55	£368,794.35

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 368 OF 2006

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can the Government say what has been the uplift in these cases over the original?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No I cannot but I have not been informed that there has been any variation from the last time.

ORAL

NO. 369 OF 2006

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – WATERPORT TERRACES

Have Government now decided what the allocation criteria for the Waterport Terraces Housing scheme will be?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 370 to 373 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 370 OF 2006

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – WATERPORT TERRACES

Can Government state, how many of the 142 applicants for Waterport Terraces who are from the Housing waiting list proper are from Gibraltar belongers living in Spain?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 369 and 371 to 373 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 371 OF 2006

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – WATERPORT TERRACES

Can Government state, how many of the 104 applicants for Waterport Terraces who are from the pre-list for Housing are from Gibraltar belongers living in Spain?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 369,370, 372 and 373 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 372 OF 2006

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – WATERPORT TERRACES

Can Government say how many "duplicate applications" were received by the Government for the Waterport Terraces development?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 369 to 371 and 373 of 2006.

NO. 373 OF 2006

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – WATERPORT TERRACES

Can Government say how many formal applications were finally submitted for the Waterport Terraces scheme and how it is that only 595 were either guaranteed a flat or took part in the draw for the balance?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The allocation criteria at Waterport Terraces are those stated publicly in the Conditions of Sale and other documents published. The effect of the application of those criteria was explained by the Government in a press statement issued on 27th February, a copy of which I now hand to the hon Member in case he has not seen it.

One applicant who was on the Housing Waiting List is a Gibraltar believer living in Spain. None of the applicants on the pre-list fall into this category.

A total of 1,112 application forms were received, of which on analysis, 15 were found to be duplicated applications. That is to say, I should explain what duplicated applications means. It does not mean photocopied or sent in twice, it means two different application forms submitted in respect of the same effective purchasers, making a total of 1,097 applications.

Not all applications went into the draw for a variety of reasons. Amongst others, prior to the allocation process, a number of applicants were disqualified on the basis that they did not meet the eligibility criteria. The remaining applicants were then subjected to assessment by merit under the published preference and priority criteria.



GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR
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PRESS RELEASE

No. 58/2006

Date: 27th February 2006

Page 1 of 3

Waterport Terraces

The Government has now completed its analysis and assessment of the applications from prospective purchasers of the 396 properties at Waterport Terraces, in the context of the published preference criteria and the size of apartments applied for by the applicants.

1. First priority will be given to 87 applicants who are surrendering a total of 88 Government rental flats. This decision has been made because it doubles the number of families whose housing needs are met, since, in addition to enabling 87 to purchase their desired home, the housing department will receive 88 extra flats for allocation to people on the housing waiting list, who may not be able to afford to purchase a home. All of these applicants are guaranteed a property at Waterport Terraces. Those who applied only for specific properties, will be allocated one of their chosen properties. Those who applied to buy any property of a particular size, while also being guaranteed a property will participate in a draw to decide which specific property, they may purchase.
2. For similar reason 8 applicants, who are existing property owners but who have applied to upgrade to a larger property at Waterport Terraces because their existing property is too small for their family needs, and whose needs have been adjudged to be genuine, will also be guaranteed a property at Waterport Terraces. Not all applicants for upgrading have been accepted on this basis. As already announced, such purchasers will be required to sell their existing flats to Government at the same price per square metre as applies at Waterport Terraces for the cheapest property of the same number of bedrooms, so that there is no possibility of profit. Government will then sell off those released, existing properties to new buyers at the same price.

3. There are 34 four bedroom maisonettes, for which co-ownership terms are not available. Three of them will be allocated to applicants who are surrendering a Government flat. The remaining 31 maisonettes will be contested in a draw by 43 qualifying applicants.
4. There are 32 four bedroom flats. 21 of these will be sold to 21 applicants who are surrendering a Government property and are therefore being guaranteed a property at Waterport Terraces. The remaining 11 flats will be contested in a draw by 41 other applicants.
5. There are 272 three bedroom flats within three price ranges. One is being allocated to a bidder with a severe social/medical need. Ten will be allocated to ten applicants who are surrendering a Government property and are thus guaranteed a property. 53 flats will be contested in a draw by 53 applicants who bid to buy 100%. 74 Co-ownership applicants (including 9 surrendering a Government property will contest 74 properties in a draw. 29 other applicants who are either surrendering a government flat or upgrading will participate in a draw to contest 29 flats. The remaining 105 flats will be contested in a draw by 224 co-ownership applicants.
6. There are 58 two bedroom flats.

22 will be sold to 22 applicants who are surrendering a government flat. The remaining 36 flats will be contested in a draw by 73 qualifying applicants
7. The above process will require a number of separate draws conducted chronologically over a number of weeks. Applicants who are participating in these draws will be written to individually, giving date, venue and other details of the draw. Draws will be conducted in the presence of all participants in that draw who wish to attend and in the presence of a notary public. The first draw is scheduled for Monday 6th March 2006.
8. The following is an analysis of the above information.
 - 54 flats are being directly allocated to applicants surrendering a Government property or upgrading from an existing property.
 - 159 flats are being contested in draws in which the participants (some of whom are surrendering a Government property) are guaranteed a flat.
 - 183 flats are being contested in draws in which participants are not guaranteed a flat.
 - Out of 396 properties:

At least 108 are being purchased on 100% terms;

At least 252 are being purchased on co-ownership terms.

36 will depend on the outcome of draws as to whether they are 100% or co-ownership.

9. Purchasers who are not successful at Waterport Terraces will be given priority at Nelsons View, Cumberland View and North Gorge projects, the allocation process of which will commence next month. Purchasers who are allocated a property at Waterport Terraces will not be eligible to apply at these other developments.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 369 TO 373 OF 2006

HON C A BRUZON:

About 502 applicants have been left out on account of the system enforced to determine who will be either considered as a serious applicant and who will enter into negotiations to purchase or form part of the draw. I know that the Chief Minister or the Minister for Housing, I am not sure, are on record as saying that those 500 or whoever is left out this time round will be given priority in the next Government Scheme. Now, I am not happy and I would like the Chief Minister to explain in more detail why is it that not more people were included in the draw, which in a sense is not a good enough system because it is a clear indication of the Government's failure in addressing the housing problem?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, much more likely than being an indication of that it may be an indication of the fact that the Government published priority criteria, which I do not recall Opposition Members criticising, and then have applied them. There is no point saying we are going to give priority to people who are badly housed, or who are under-housed or who are waiting to get married, or who have got young children and are still living with their parents, and then not giving them in a process a degree of priority over people who are still in their second year at university and would rather like the idea of having a flat ready for when they come back. Well look, they can have flats too because the Government are having built over 1,000 of them and therefore there will be more for everybody, but in this first round the Government made it clear that there were certain preference criteria. For example, one of the preference criteria was that people should not have been co-owners before. Well look, there were applicants who had clearly owned before, had sold and were now coming round for a second bite at the cherry. Well I do not suppose the Opposition Member seriously believes that they should have been given the same chance of getting one of these than somebody who is still waiting patiently for their first home. So there were many, many applications, going into the hundreds, of young people, unmarried, with no intention of getting married, living at home with their parents who simply said, 'well I live at home with my parents, I have got my own bedroom but I would like to live in my own pad'. Well fine, eventually we will get round to accommodating them too but they are not the first priority. There were applications from youngsters who were still studying at university in the United Kingdom and who just thought that this was a good opportunity. Now, I would have thought the hon Member is not so keen to sort of tarnish everything that the Government do, even in accordance with published criteria that he did not criticise, that he honestly believes that the Government should have given all applicants to Waterport Terrace the same degree of chance regardless of the social need for housing that they are presently suffering. That cannot be the hon Member's position but I have no hesitation in saying to him that if it is the hon Member's position, the Government reject it as inappropriate and irresponsible, but I say I do not think it is the hon Member's position implicit as it might sound from the question that he has asked me. For example, we gave priority, I suppose he would approve of this too when he thinks about it, we gave priority to people who were otherwise qualified but who were surrendering and offering to give up their Government flat because we solve their problem and also give the Housing Minister another flat to allocate to another family who maybe cannot afford to buy. So by the time one applies all the published criteria the people that went into the draws to compete against each other were the people who all had the same degree of

compliance, or who all complied with the published criteria. That must be the right way to do it because to have put everybody into the pot would have been a lottery and not a response to peoples' housing needs. Now have they been left out? Left out means that they have got two or three more weeks to wait before they can be given priority in applying for houses in the other part of the Government's affordable housing schemes, the Nelson's View, the Cumberland View and the North Gorge development. Between them they will dispose almost of all of these applications, even of the least socially meritorious.

HON C A BRUZON:

Has the draw actually taken place?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is not one draw, as it says in the statement that I know obviously now he has not seen before I was just speculating, because all of that is carefully explained in the Government statement. It was a pretty long and comprehensive statement, very fully covered in the press, I am surprised that the hon Member has not seen it but yes, it explains that the draws had to be staggered because some people applied for flats of different sizes. So there had to be the draw of one size of flat so that if there were losers they could then go into the draw for another size of flat. I think the last of the draws takes place today but draws have been taking place over the last fortnight or so, I believe, but I think today's is actually the last draw. People draw for which flat because those people already know, their names have already been drawn, the 140 or 130 odd all the way down, so rather than the Hall now filling up with everybody and the losers waiting 8 hours to know that they are losers, all those names have now been drawn out in the presence of a Notary Public and in the presence of the people themselves but then they go back with appointment times in the order in which they have been drawn out to go and choose the particular flat that they want. I think the draws have gone very well and I would like to take this opportunity publicly to commend the officials and the employees of GRP Investments that have so fairly and ably conducted these draws, and indeed of the Housing Department.

NO. 374 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

HOUSING – 50/50 SALES

Can Government state what resale restrictions currently apply in co-ownership estates in respect of homes which are:

- (a) 100 per cent owned; and
- (b) Part owned by the occupant?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The restrictions that apply are in most cases the ones that have always been in place. However, an accurate answer to the question requires a detailed exposition of the position under the legal documentation relating to each Estate. This cannot reasonably be done in the period of time since notice of the question was received. I will however, write as soon as possible to the hon Member setting out the position and any policy changes that may have resulted in any deviations in practice from those positions.

NO. 375 OF 2006

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – TEACHERS PENSIONS

Can Government state whether they have implemented the policy of recognising all the period of service in the computation of the teachers pension therefore disregarding any break in service and whether it will be given retrospectively to those who have missed out?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The position remains as provided in my answer to Question No. 1333 of 2005.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 375 OF 2006

HON S E LINARES:

There are two parts to this question this time, and it is whether it will be given retrospectively, can the Chief Minister state either way?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

That is precisely one of the issues, amongst many others, that are under consideration and which the Government will announce when they make their announcement. Of course even his question about retrospection, he should understand, has many different sub-sets because what does he mean by retrospection? People that are still in employment, people that are no longer in employment, people that retired as of when, widows of ex-Civil Servants that may have themselves died, so the issue of retrospection itself breaks down into many sub-questions, all of which are being given due consideration.

ORAL

NO. 376 OF 2006

THE HON F R PICARDO

POST OF COLLECTOR OF CUSTOMS

How many applications have been received for the post of Collector of Customs and when do Government expect to announce who is to become the holder of that post?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Three applications have been received.

The Government will be in a position to announce the outcome of the selection process when the Public Service Commission has made a recommendation and this accepted or not, as the case might be, by HE the Governor. I understand that the Board will meet after Easter.

ORAL

NO. 377 OF 2006

THE HON F R PICARDO

GHA – AVIAN FLU

Who delivered the avian flu leaflets for Government and how much did it cost?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Thirty-seven Government employees, at a total cost of £3,700, were involved in the delivery of the Avian Flu Leaflets, and I think that is huge value for money.

ORAL

NO. 378 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CIVIL SERVANTS

Can Government state whether any of the posts vacant in Government departments following Question No. 1409 of 2005 have since been filled and if so identify which and indicate whether the post has been filled from within the service or by external recruitment?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Eight posts have been filled. The other information requested is set out in the schedule that I hand the hon Member.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 378

<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>GRADE</u>	<u>NO OF VACANT POSTS</u>	<u>DATE FILLED</u>	<u>RECRUITMENT</u>
EDUCATION	TECHNICAL – DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY	1	24-Jan-06	INTERNAL
HOUSING	HPTO	1	3-Jan-06	INTERNAL
SOCIAL AFFAIRS	MESSENGER	1	24-Jan 06	INTERNAL
	ASST MANAGERESS ST BERNADETTE'S CLEANER	1 2	6-Mar-06 20-Feb-06 20-Feb-06	INTERNAL INTERNAL INTERNAL
TRADE & INDUSTRY	EO	1	12-Dec-05	INTERNAL
SECRETARIAT	AO	1	3-Jan-06	INTERNAL

ORAL

NO. 379 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CIVIL SERVANTS

Can Government state whether any additional posts in Government departments have become vacant since the answer to Question No. 1410 of 2005, and if so, show the grade and department?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

A number of posts have become so vacant and the information which he requests is set out in the schedule that I now hand to him.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 379

<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>GRADE</u>	<u>NO. OF VACANT POSTS</u>
EDUCATION	TEACHER	1
	AA	1
	CLASSROOM AIDE	3
	CLEANER	3
BUILDINGS AND WORKS	WORKS SUPERVISOR	1
	CARPENTER	1
	MASON	1
	CRAFTSMAN MATE SPECIAL	1
	LABOURER	1
TECHNICAL SERVICES	MT DRIVER	1
	CRAFTSMAN MATE SPECIAL	1
SOCIAL AFFAIRS	AO	1
POSTAL SERVICES	SOS (EX-SORTER)	1
	SOG	1
POLICE	POLICE CONSTABLES	4
PROCUREMENT	EO	1
HUMAN RESOURCES	HEO	1
TREASURY	HEO	2
CUSTOMS	COLLECTOR OF CUSTOMS	1
GIBRALTAR HEALTH AUTHORITY	HEO	1
	MESSENGER	1

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 279 OF 2006

HON J J BOSSANO:

In the vacancies in the Postal Services, are these grades that following the changes that were introduced were personal-to-holder or would they be grades that will continue to exist and will be filled by promotion?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not retain the details of that agreement which was some years ago but I understand that these are the new permanent grades, this is the new nomenclature. There is a tradition whereby the sorters cover the postmen, whether that has been preserved I do not know but I think de facto it happens that way, whether by agreement or just by force of habit I do not know.

NO. 380 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

POST OF CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

Can Government state to what grade in UK is the salary of the Chief Fire Officer analogued?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The salary of the Chief Fire Officer is pegged at 20 per cent above the salary of the Senior Divisional Officer grade in the UK Fire Service.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 380 OF 2006

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is there a grade in the UK called Chief Fire Officer or not?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not know whether it is called Chief Fire Officer, I think it is, but even if it is not called Chief Fire Officer there is certainly a grade of a name which corresponds to the man in charge of a Fire Service. This post in Gibraltar was affected by something which also affected the Commissioner of Police. Historically they were analogued to a particular small force, I think in the case of the Police it was the Galloway & Dumfries or something to that effect. The UK then changed its system whereby the pay was graded by reference to the amount of the population serviced by the area for which one was responsible, by the force for which one was responsible. The smallest unit was 400,000 of population or something like that, Gibraltar's population being much smaller and so for that reason at that time I think there was, I am not sure of the Fire Service but certainly it was true of the Commissioner of Police, there was an inspection done and the percentage discount that in accordance with the UK pay system should be suffered by the local incumbent by virtue of the fact that the UK's system had gone population related, our population was much, much lower than the smallest UK size unit. I think there was an outside inspection of some sort that decided what percentage of the Commissioner of Police's salary and in this case this agreement was entered into with the incumbent Commissioner of Police. It is not the extent of his package but the question asks for what his basic salary is pegged at.

NO. 381 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

FIRE SERVICE

Can Government confirm that the dispute with the Fire Fighters on the Agreement to provide manning for the third ambulance was settled on the basis of the final offer by the Government as published in Press Release 108/2005?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Well the question is too widely drawn, the basis of the statement, the essential element of the Government's statement which refers is that there could not be any further enhancement on the percentage of pension and it was settled within that parameter. In other words, there was a redistribution which resulted in enhanced pay but no enhancement in pension percentage. So there is a variation of the cash allowance but not of the pension, the pension has not been increased beyond what was then on offer.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 381 OF 2006

HON J J BOSSANO:

Was the cost of the settlement higher than what was spelt out in that press release?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The press release does not spell out a cost. Obviously there is a difference between a present cost and a future cost, when one is talking between pensions and cash to the extent that one enhances cash one is increasing one's present costs. If that enhancement of cash element is instead of or in reduction of a pension enhancement then one is increasing one's present costs but reducing one's future costs and that is the nature of the exercise that took place.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The point I am trying to establish was whether in fact what we were talking about was a situation where there were possible variables in the components of the package but the total value of the package is unchanged, or whether in fact the final package was better than the original package?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

My understanding is that a number of variable packages were available, all within the same. My understanding of the position was that it was settled within the cost of that package except, I seem to recall that in the negotiations the offer was extended to a number of individuals who might not have been intended to benefit at the original time, so the cost might have increased in that sense in that I think it was eventually extended to people dealing with safety and mechanics, people who do not physically man the ambulance. But that might not have been the position at the time that the offer was made so there would almost certainly be an increase in cost to the Government as a result of more people benefiting from the deal rather than from the deal itself having crossed the lines of that statement. That is my recollection, I am almost certain it is correct but I would have to have that specific issue checked. If he is interested in knowing that to the penny, in other words, is there any cost, then I can get that checked but I believe that that is so. The Government's statement on 10th January 2006 said that the TGWU have accepted a new variation of the standing offer for combined payment of a pension enhancement of salary and an annual pensionable allowance. So that suggests that it was. I will have it confirmed to the hon Member but I am almost certain that is true.

NO. 382 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EDUCATION – CLASSROOM AIDES

What is Government's policy in offering permanent employment to workers on the Supply List for Classroom Aides when a permanent vacancy occurs?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

When a permanent vacancy for a post of Classroom Aide arises, applications to fill the post in question are invited via the Bulletin of Circulars. Supply Classroom Aides are eligible to apply.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 382 OF 2006

HON J J BOSSANO:

So it is not the case then that the length of time on the list leads to people being offered a vacancy when it happens?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I would expect and assume that that is a factor to which the Selection Board gives due consideration, given to suggest that the person knows the job, is experienced and is already shown to be suitable for it and does the job satisfactorily. I do not think it follows automatically and I can think of one good reason why it should not follow automatically. That is that it is not difficult to get onto a supply list. If getting onto a supply list, which does not involve an open contest, a transparent contest, then gives one an advantage into getting into the permanent and pensionable service and that were a standard system, then one could see how the people who exercise the power, whoever they might be to put people onto the supply list, are in effect making themselves personally choosing the future permanent and pensionable employees because once they choose one for a supply list, if that is going to give one an advantage for when a permanent vacancy arises they are in effect choosing the category of people that will benefit. So I think for that reason it is not formally done in that way, I would have thought that certainly if I was sitting on a selection board and a long-serving supply worker applies, I mean there would have to be a jolly good reason in my mind as a member of the Board why such a person should not be in a way thanked for having done the job, presumably satisfactorily. Now if they have not been satisfactory that is another matter, but if they have done the work

satisfactorily I would have thought it is a pretty compelling advantage in the Board, but I do not think it is enough to dislocate, to dislodge the Board's system. I think that is the essence of the question, whether it gives an automatic right of progression.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am surprised because the Chief Minister is talking about the Board as if here we were talking about a position in the Civil Service, which requires..... I think that to my knowledge that grade of employee is normally selected by the management whether the vacancy is a permanent one or a supply one.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well the management in the sense that it is a Departmental Board that makes the recommendations, not the full PSC Board a Departmental Selection Board, but not management of the Department necessarily.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I mean, the PSC never used to select industrial workers, is it that they now do?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No they do not select, it is a Departmental Board.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I know but the Chief Minister is saying it is not the full PSC as if it was, there are many areas in the Civil Service where the full PSC is not involved and a Departmental management as it were sub-group of the PSC is involved in non-industrial, permanent and pensionable appointments.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is a question of seniority not of nature of the person.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is it the practice that on the industrial side it is the management that selects the people, whether they are going to be supplying or whether they become permanent or not?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well it depends what is meant by management.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Those running the show.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well it depends whether he means Departmental management or Civil Service management. Departmental Selection Boards are not boards comprised by the management of the Department where the vacancy arises, they are boards composed of management drawn from the Civil Service. So management in the sense that everybody at a management level in the Civil Service is management may find themselves on one of these boards, but if by management he means management of the Department, my understanding is that that is how it does not work. The PSC's involvement is not by virtue of the nature of the job but rather by the grade. I think the PSC gets engaged from HEO and HPTO upwards and below that it is done by Departmental Board. That is the way it is done but of course all appointments under the Crown are ultimately signed off by the Governor, so everyone is just offering advice.

HON S E LINARES:

The answer to this question actually surprises me a great deal. For the simple reason that, as I understand it and as the Minister for Education has stated in this House, Supply Classroom Aides go through induction, go through courses, courses are being run to qualify them to make them eligible to become Classroom Aides whether on a supply list or on a permanent and pensionable basis. So now the Chief Minister comes here and says that the supply people have to satisfy the management. Well if they have not satisfied the management once they are in a supply list, what are they doing in the supply list in the first place?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I am surprised that the hon Member should be surprised by my answer because nothing of what I have said contradicts anything of what he has said which addresses a completely different question.

HON C A BRUZON:

Would the Chief Minister kindly shed further light on some comments he made way back in 2004 concerning a new formula which would help people like Classroom Aides on a supply basis to at least get sickness benefit and holiday entitlement, if not made permanent and pensionable?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes indeed, that is something that we are presently working on and indeed it is something that EU directives are in the pipeline about. There are two issues here, there is the issue of making those long-serving supply workers who are in effect doing permanent jobs, making them permanent and pensionable and quite a lot of those have been done, and then in respect of the remainder, the ones who are

genuinely classified and correctly classified as supply workers, those should have appropriate terms and conditions of employment. Both those things are being worked on and I agree with the sentiment of the question that a supply worker, particularly a supply worker for an extended period of time, should not be engaged on terms which are some people would argue abusive. All right, one gets a bit more pay but one gets no holidays and no sick cover and things of that sort. Historically, the slightly higher rate of pay was thought to compensate for those missing conditions but most people would now tend to the view that that is no longer a proper way of doing it. Indeed I believe that there are directives in the pipeline about it in the EU about not being allowed to offer workers higher pay instead of certain other conditions.

NO. 383 OF 2006

THE HON S E LINARES

GHA – AVIAN FLU

Will Government issue guidelines to schools to take preventive measures in respect of Avian Flu?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

At present neither the issue of guidelines to schools, nor the taking by schools of preventative measures in respect of Avian Flu is required or appropriate. The general guidance to the public which was publicised by the Government through a leaflet, delivered as they now know by Civil Servants at the cost of £3,700, to all households in Gibraltar remains valid and contains useful information for everyone, including school children, teachers and others employed in our education system.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 383 OF 2006

HON L A RANDALL:

The Chief Minister has just said 'to all households in Gibraltar'. I would like to point out that there are many residents of the area where I live who have not received a leaflet and I should be obliged if I could be informed where it is that I can obtain such a leaflet?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, I hope the hon Member is not feeling so paranoid that the Government have carefully arranged for him not to receive an Avian Flu leaflet in the hope that he might contract avian flu. That said, I understand that the leaflets are available at No. 6 Convent Place but it will give me huge personal satisfaction to send him a copy personally.

HON L A RANDALL:

Thank you very much.

HON F R PICARDO:

The Chief Minister will be aware that in the United Kingdom schools are being given specific guidance and that the Government are in particular looking at what matters of hygiene, in relation to children and the washing of hands et cetera, are to be emphasised if not put in place and a reference to this has been carried by the serious English press. Will he not reconsider having such guidance provided by the Department of Education also to schools in Gibraltar?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I will be happy to consider it when those experts and technical people whose job it is to advise Ministers on such matters, offer that advice to the Ministers. At the moment no such advice has been forthcoming. In the United Kingdom there is a different set of factors at play. Namely, that the United Kingdom has poultry farming and therefore there are circumstances, well the United Kingdom is much more exposed to avian flu affecting its chicken farms and poultry farms than we are in Gibraltar. We are managing very different levels of risk and those very different levels of risk call for a different approach to the publication and taking of preventative measures, and indicate different steps at different times. That is the approach that we are taking in Gibraltar. Most people, I see from the press, people who step off aeroplanes and tell us that we are taking unnecessary steps and we are doing everything far too quickly unnecessarily and that we are panicking. I suppose this would be an exception then.

ORAL

NO. 384 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

GIBTELECOM – NUMBERING AND ROAMING COMPLAINTS

Can Government provide an update on the Numbering and Roaming complaints, which were initially raised with the European Commission in 1996?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

As previously stated on a number of occasions, the EU Commission declined to take action on the Numbering and Roaming Complaints and Gibtelecom accordingly filed legal actions before the Court of First Instance challenging the Commission's refusal to act. The cases are currently pending before the Court of First Instance.

ORAL

NO. 385 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

GIBTELECOM

Can Government provide an update on the status of the sale of Gibtelecom shares?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Government had the opportunity to meet five prospective purchasers of Verizon's shareholding in Gibraltar at the end of January and in early February. We understand that Verizon are in discussions with the bidders to identify a preferred purchaser, and in doing so they are now able to take account of the Government's view.

ORAL

NO. 386 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

SENIOR FIRE OFFICERS

Can Government state whether they have now looked at and/or come to a policy decision in respect of the claim from retired Senior Fire Officers regarding backdated pay and conditions?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The answer to the question remains as I gave the hon Member in answer to Question No. 1376 of 2005, and that is that the Government have not yet taken a policy decision.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 386 OF 2006

HON L A RANDALL:

Are the Government likely to take very much longer in taking this decision?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I cannot say, it raises quite difficult issues.

ORAL

NO. 387 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

BUILDING CONTRACTORS

Can Government state how much was paid to building contractors in the financial year ended March 2005, 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, I am told, is not readily available to the Government in the form that it has been requested. I will write to the hon Member with details of the expenditure requested when the information has been compiled.

ORAL

NO. 388 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

HOUSING – SIR WILLIAM JACKSON GROVE

Can Government state when they propose to proceed with the sale to the tenants of the available parking spaces at Sir William Jackson Grove (Gib V)?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Government have not yet made that decision but I would expect it to be some time during the course of this year. There are not very many there.

ORAL

NO. 389 OF 2006

THE HON F R PICARDO

COURT PLEADINGS

Has a date for an oral hearing been fixed or what, if any, further progress has been made in the legal proceedings (Court of First Instance register number 240836 and allocated case number T-211/04) against the EU Commission?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

No, we are still awaiting the fixing of a date by the Court.

ORAL

NO. 390 OF 2006

THE HON F R PICARDO

LEGAL ADVICE - FEES

Can Government give a breakdown of the amounts paid so far in this financial year to each law firm (or Barrister) in respect of civil legal assistance and criminal legal aid, giving a breakdown by firm and showing what are legal fees and what are disbursements?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

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

Answer to Question 390

	Legal Assistance		Legal Aid	
	Disbursements	Fees	Disbursements	Fees
A Haynes	£ 717.00	£ 6,254.40		£ 150.00
A MacDonald	£ 1,449.00	£ 1,213.60	£ 37.50	£ 7,459.50
Attias & Levy	£ 82,603.25	£ 14,401.19		£ 5,399.00
C A Gomez & Co	£ 1,567.00	£ 5,866.67		£ 2,670.00
Central Clinic			£ 210.00	
G Wilson	£ 300.00			
Gold Law Firm	£ 3,222.80	£ 9,775.80	£ 5.00	£ 815.00
Hassans	£ 12,611.60	£ 61,837.80	£ 4.00	£ 10,311.20
Howard Cohen	£ 200.00			
Ian Watts				£ 4,472.00
Isola & Isola	£ 3,981.00	£ 32,505.88		£ 6,767.63
J Leighton Williams	£ 43,000.00			
J Lucas	£ 650.00			
Janis Evans	£ 8,356.75	£ 78,643.81		
M Bishop	£ 4,441.60			
M Henderson	£ 3,300.00			
Marrache & Co	£ 1,781.34	£ 5,285.20	£ 10.10	£ 4,709.00
Mary Callaghan (Phillips)	£ 1,600.00			
MM Consultancy	£ 360.00			
Mr C W Lees	£ 250.00			
Phillips & Co	£ 23,534.70	£ 230,600.67	£ 20.00	£ 1,132.00
Quest Services	£ 250.00			
Radcliffes LeBrasseur	£ 2,766.65			
Ray Pilley	£ 1,879.50	£ 17,704.00		£ 400.00
S J Bullock & Co	£ 2,624.00	£ 21,122.67		£ 3,080.00
S R Bossino	£ 2,412.00	£ 17,373.60		£ 18,488.00
Safety Services	£ 210.00			
Simon Levene	£ 500.00			
Triay & Triay	£ 3,290.15	£ 43,949.36	£ 3.30	£ 1,148.00
Triay Stagnetto Neish	£ 2,030.37			£ 1,735.00
Verrall Solicitors				£ 2,472.00
	£ 209,888.71	£ 546,534.65	£ 289.90	£ 71,208.33

NO. 391 OF 2006

THE HON F R PICARDO

COMPANIES ORDINANCE

Will the Government confirm whether they intend to effect an amendment to the Companies Ordinance to enable the shareholders of a company to sanction that a company should be able to provide financial assistance in the purchase of its own shares, commonly known as “Whitewash” provisions?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

This possibility remains under consideration at the request of the law firm of which the hon Member is a partner.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 391 OF 2006

HON F R PICARDO:

I was unaware, entirely unaware, that there was a request to this effect from the law firm of which I am a partner, of which I am again a partner but will the Chief Minister take it from me that we sometimes find that other financial centres where shareholders are able to sanction the purchase of a company's own shares, or the financial assistance of the purchase of a company's own shares, had an advantage over Gibraltar in some transactional work for that reason.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, there is nothing particularly wrong with him being a partner of the law firm that has requested this, nor can I accept, I think his memory has failed him, about not being aware because the last time he asked such a question I told him so and he got very upset with me, so this is not the first time he asks me a question about the whitewash procedure and it is not the first time I tell him. I think last time I jested with him whether he was going to declare an interest or something and things developed from there. We are all fallible as to memory. In any case, the Government constantly get requests from the Finance Centre, I think we have demonstrated over the last few months that where we get proposals from the Finance Centre that adds strings to the bow of the Finance Centre, particularly with the demise of the exempt company, we will look into this and that falls into that category, there is a large raft of financial services legislation to be passed hopefully in this House before the summer recess, and this may be amongst them.

HON F R PICARDO:

The Chief Minister will forgive me, I get so upset with him so often that I cannot put my finger on which particular occasion this might have been. Can he direct me to when he gave the previous answer so I can review it?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I cannot from memory but the hon Member's point about getting upset with so many people so often is precisely the reason why anger always clouds good judgement.

HON F R PICARDO:

Can I now just take the opportunity of taking the Chief Minister back to the question on the whitewash provisions, simply because since his answer I have had an opportunity of reviewing all the Hansards since the question was first asked in 2004, can I just reassure him and will he accept that in none of the answers, there was only in fact one question where the whitewash procedure was ever raised, in none of them did he tell me that he had any request in any respect from the law firm of which I am again a partner. The only time that he referred me to that was in relation to a statement I made, I recall now, in the Budget about stock exchanges so will he undertake to take back that remark he made earlier?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I will undertake to take back the remark if when I do my search I come to the same conclusion as him but certainly not on the basis of his research, no.

HON F R PICARDO:

Very well, then seeing as the allegation stands and it cannot be substantiated I would ask that the Chief Minister do in fact do that research and come back to the House and clarify the position.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The allegation what, that he is a partner at Hassans?

HON F R PICARDO:

The allegation being that he told me before in answer to a question.....

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is not for the hon Member to set me homework but as I am always happy to humour his requirements I will certainly have it looked into.

HON F R PICARDO:

Grateful, I am not trying to set him homework it is that an allegation has been made and I am asking that the Chair rule that it either be looked into and stand if he is correct and I have not found the reference, or that it does not stand as the reference was never there.

MR SPEAKER:

I really do not think it calls for a ruling, I think the position is very clear.

ORAL

NO. 392 OF 2006

THE HON F R PICARDO

CATEGORY 2 STATUS

Can Government state how many individuals joined the register of people with Category 2 status in Gibraltar as at the end of each of the months of December 2005 to the end of February 2006?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 393 to 398 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 393 OF 2006

THE HON F R PICARDO

CATEGORY 2 STATUS

How many individuals have surrendered Category 2 status since January 2005?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 392 and 394 to 398 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 394 OF 2006

THE HON F R PICARDO

CATEGORY 3 STATUS

Can Government state how many individuals joined the register of people with Category 3 status in Gibraltar in each month from December 2005 to the end of February 2006?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 392, 393 and 395 to 398 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 395 OF 2006

THE HON F R PICARDO

CATEGORY 3 STATUS

How many individuals have surrendered Category 3 status since January 2005?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 392 to 394 and 396 to 398 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 396 OF 2006

THE HON F R PICARDO

CATEGORY 4 STATUS

Can Government state how many individuals joined the register of people with Category 4 status in each month of December 2005 to the end of February 2006?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 392 to 395, 397 and 398 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 397 OF 2006

THE HON F R PICARDO

CATEGORY 4 STATUS

How many individuals have surrendered Category 4 status since January 2005?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 393 to 396 and 398 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 398 OF 2006

THE HON F R PICARDO

CATEGORY 3 STATUS

Have Government been able to identify any particular reason for the grant of Category 3 status to 17 individuals in June 2005?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The information the hon Member has requested is on the attached schedule.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 398

Answer to Question 392

In the months of December 2005 to February 2006 the following numbers of individuals joined the register of people with Category 2 status:

December '05	4
January '06	0
February '06	6

Answer to Question 393

A total of 11 individuals have surrendered their Category 2 status since January 2005.

Answer to Question 394

In the months of December 2005 to February 2006 the following number of individuals joined the register of people with Category 3 status:

December '05	8
January '06	1
February '06	2

Answer to Question 395

A total of 16 individuals have surrendered their Category 3 status since January 2005.

Cont...

CONTD. ANSWER TO QUESTION 398

Answer to Question 396

In the months of December 2005 to February 2006 the following number of individuals joined the register of people with Category 4 status:

December '05	1
January '06	0
February '06	0

Answer to Question 397

A total of 5 individuals have surrendered their Category 4 status since January 2005.

Answer to Question 398

The reason for granting Category 3 status to 17 individuals in June 2005 has been driven by a specific exceptional increase in employment in Derivatives traders and Gaming companies.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 392 TO 398 OF 2006

HON F R PICARDO:

I do not think that the answer to Question No. 398 of 2006 is really an answer to be passed by schedule, seeing as it is a reason rather than a statistic.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, in respect of Question No. 398 of 2006, the reason for granting Category 3 status to 17 individuals in June 2005 has been driven by a specific exceptional increase in employment in Derivatives traders and Gaming companies.

ORAL

NO. 399 OF 2006

THE HON F R PICARDO

PROTECTED CELL COMPANIES

Have any applications to form a Protected Cell Company been submitted in the months of December 2005 to the end of February 2006 which remain pending consideration or which have been rejected?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 400 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 400 OF 2006

THE HON F R PICARDO

PROTECTED CELL COMPANIES

Can Government state how many Protected Cell Companies were registered in Gibraltar in each of the months of December 2005 to the end of February 2006?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

One application was submitted in February 2006 and this is under consideration. No others have been received which remain pending consideration or which have been rejected.

None were registered during the period to which the question relates.

ORAL

NO. 401 OF 2006

THE HON F R PICARDO

TAX EXEMPT COMPANIES

Can Government state how many tax exempt company certificates have been issued in each month from September 2005 to February 2006?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 402 and 403 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 402 OF 2006

THE HON F R PICARDO

TAX EXEMPT COMPANIES

How many tax exempt companies have terminated their tax exemption certificates in each month from September 2005 to February 2006?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 401 and 403 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 403 OF 2006

THE HON F R PICARDO

TAX EXEMPT COMPANIES

Can Government state how many companies have in each month from September 2005 to February 2006 applied to the office of the Finance Centre Director for the grant of exempt status and of these how many are presently awaiting the grant of said exempt status?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The information the hon Member has requested is on the attached schedule.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 403

Answer to Question 401

The number of tax exempt certificates issued in each month from September 2005 to February 2006 are as follows:-

September '05	1
October '05	0
November '05	168
December '05	259
January '06	7
February '06	17
Total:	<hr/> 452

Answer to Question 402

The number of tax exempt companies which terminated their tax exempt certificates in each of the months of September 2005 to February 2006 is as follows:

September '05	48
October '05	50
November '05	58
December '05	42
January '06	46
February '06	84
Total:	<hr/> 328

"Terminated" their tax exempt certificates is interpreted by the Finance Centre as companies which have returned their certificates and no longer require exempt status.

Cont...

CONTD. ANSWER TO QUESTION 403

Answer to Question 403

In the months of September 2005 to February 2006 the number of tax exempt applications received by the Finance Centre Licensing Unit is as follows:

September '05	14
October '05	7
November '05	6
December '05	48
January '06	16
February '06	14
	<hr/>
Total:	105

At present the Licensing Unit have 4 of these applications pending the granting of exempt status.

ORAL

NO. 404 OF 2006

THE HON F R PICARDO

COMPANIES REGISTER

Can Government list the companies formed in Gibraltar in each of the months of December 2005 to February 2006?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 405 and 406 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 405 OF 2006

THE HON F R PICARDO

COMPANIES REGISTER

How many companies have been removed from the companies register in each of the months of December 2005 to February 2006?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 404 and 406 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 406 OF 2006

THE HON F R PICARDO

COMPANIES REGISTER

Can Government state how many companies have been re-domiciled out of Gibraltar in each of the months of December 2005 to February 2006 and how many of these asked for their registrations to be cancelled?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The information the hon Member has requested is on the attached schedule.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 406

Answer to Question 404

The following companies were formed in Gibraltar in the months of December 2005 to February 2006:

December '05	122
January '06	129
February '06	159

Answer to Question 405

The following companies were removed from the companies register in the months of December 2005 to February 2006:

December '05	189
January '06	209
February '06	138

Answer to Question 406

The following companies have lodged applications for consent to re-domicile out of Gibraltar in the months of December 2005 to February 2006:

The registrar gives consent 30 days after the notice is issued and consent is given almost without exception.

December '05	67
January '06	50
February '06	17

It is impossible within the time frame given to give an accurate figure on how many companies have asked for their registration to be cancelled within the months of December 2005 to February 2006.

ORAL

NO. 407 OF 2006

THE HON F R PICARDO

BANKING SECTOR

Can Government state how many persons were employed in the banking sector in Gibraltar, giving a breakdown by bank and by nationality (showing how many are Gibraltarian) in the months of December 2005 to the end of February 2006?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 408 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 408 OF 2006

THE HON F R PICARDO

INSURANCE INDUSTRY

What is the total number of persons employed in the insurance industry in Gibraltar giving a breakdown by company and by nationality (showing how many are Gibraltarian) in the months of December 2005 to the end of February 2006?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The information the hon Member has requested is on the attached schedule.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 408

Answer to Question 407

Banking

Month	No. of Employers	No. of Employees	Gib	Other British	Spanish	Moroccan	Other EEC	Other Non-ECC
December-05	15	703	486	120	33	2	57	5
January-06	15	709	486	124	33	2	59	5
February-06	15	717	490	127	34	2	59	5

Answer to Question 408

Insurance

Month	No. of Employers	No. of Employees	Gib	Other British	Spanish	Moroccan	Other EEC	Other Non-ECC
December-05	31	225	139	77	2	0	3	4
January-06	31	225	138	77	2	0	4	4
February-06	31	220	134	76	2	0	4	4

***FOOTNOTE:**

These figures have been provided by the ETB and are based on employers compliance with registration and deregistration obligations. However, we have been informed by the ETB that the insurance industry and banking sector are generally compliant.

ORAL

NO. 409 OF 2006

THE HON F R PICARDO

BANKING LICENCES

Can Government state whether any new banking licences have been issued in the months of December 2005 to the end of February 2006?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

None have been issued.

ORAL

NO. 410 OF 2006

THE HON F R PICARDO

FINANCIAL SERVICES - CONFERENCES

What is the breakdown between travel and accommodation expenses of the £5,496 spent in respect of the attendance by Mr James Tipping at the OECD Global Forum Conference in Melbourne, Australia between the 15th and the 16th November 2005?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 411 and 412 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 411 OF 2006

THE HON F R PICARDO

FINANCIAL SERVICES - CONFERENCES

What is the breakdown between travel and accommodation expenses (giving a breakdown of the cost per person) of the £7,375 spent in respect of the attendance by Mr James Tipping, Mr Joseph Macano and Mr Chris Collins at the Risk & Insurance Management Society in Philadelphia, USA between the 18th and the 20th April 2005?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 410 and 412 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 412 OF 2006

THE HON F R PICARDO

FINANCIAL SERVICES - CONFERENCES

Can Government give the cost, with a breakdown, of attendance at all and any conferences which related or were considered to relate to financial services in the months of December 2005 to the end of February 2006, giving the name of the conference and the offices of those who might have attended as part of the Government delegation?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The information the hon Member has requested is on the attached schedule.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 412

Answer to Question 410

The breakdown between travel and accommodation expenses of the £5,496 spent in respect of the attendance by Mr James Tipping at the OECD Global Forum Conference in Melbourne, Australia between the 15th and 16th November 2005 is as follows:

Flights (Business Class)	£5,052
Accommodation	<u>£ 444</u>
Total:	£5,496

Answer to Question 411

The breakdown between travel and accommodation expenses of the £7,375 spent in respect of the attendance by Mr James Tipping, Mr Joseph Macano and Mr Chris Collins at the Risk & Insurance Management Society in Philadelphia, USA between 18th and 20th April 2005, is as follows:

	<u>Flights</u>	<u>Accommodation</u>
James Tipping	£1,987	£644
Joseph Macano	£1,987	£770
Chris Collins	<u>£1,987</u>	<u>-</u>
Total:	£5,961	£1,414

Answer to Question 412

The Finance Centre held 3 half-day seminars for Private Clients, Funds and Insurance at the London Underwriting Centre during 6th – 8th February 2006.

Attended: Mr James Tipping – Finance Centre Director
Mr Joseph Macano – Director Licensing unit
Mrs Sabrina Ramagge – Executive Officer
Miss Mireille Alsina – Administrative Officer

There was no cost to the Government with attendees from Gibraltar paying £200 per seminar. Their contribution allowed them to invite as many guests as they wished at no extra cost. The total amount collected covered expenses incurred to hold these seminars in London.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 410 TO 412 OF 2006

HON F R PICARDO:

Can the Chief Minister tell me why there is no accommodation cost in respect of Mr Collins in answer to Question No. 411 of 2006?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, I understand that it was paid for by one of the insurance companies attending the conference.

ORAL

NO. 413 OF 2006

THE HON F R PICARDO

CM'S VISITS OVERSEAS

Can Government give a breakdown of the cost of all travel by the Chief Minister on Government business since the last answer in this House to date stating:

- (a) what the purpose of travel was;
- (b) who travelled with the Chief Minister;
- (c) who the Chief Minister intended to meet on each of the journeys undertaken; and
- (d) a breakdown of the travel expenses incurred?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 414 of 2006.

NO. 414 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

LORD MAYOR'S SHOW IN LONDON

Further to the answer to Question No. 1397 of 2005 regarding the cost of Gibraltar's participation in the Lord Mayor's Show in London, can Government provide a breakdown of the £3399.57 Miscellaneous expenses?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

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

The breakdown requested of miscellaneous expenses given in answer to Question No. 1397 of 2005 is as follows:

V.I.P. tickets	£ 235.06
Amounts paid to Gibraltar Students participating	£ 1,250.00
Hotel and travel expenses - students	£ 1,279.00
Refreshments in London Office (after procession)	£ 635.21
	<u>£ 3,399.27</u>

Answer to Question 414

Answer to Question 413

CM's travel since December 2005 to date

Date	Purpose	Persons Travelling	Met with	Air Fares & Other Travel Costs £	Expenses Accommodation £	Other £
11.01.06	Constitutional Reform, Trilateral Forum issues & MOD issues	CM / CS	Foreign Secretary Jack Straw, Foreign Office Officials, & Defence Minister Adam Ingram	818.40	566.40	-
27.01.06	Pre-Trilateral meeting	CM/CS	Mr Jose Pons, Spanish Foreign Office Director for Europe	18.43	-	-
18.02.06	Trilateral Forum, Foreign Office Meeting & Press Interview	CM/ CS / MD / ACS	UK and Spanish Delegation and Foreign Office officials & Adam Boulton (Sky),	1,278.20	1,215.29	215.30

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 413 AND 414 OF 2006

HON F R PICARDO:

Can the Chief Minister tell me what the initials 'MD' and 'ACS' stand for in persons travelling on 18th February 2006?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

CS is the Chief Secretary; MD is the Media Director and ACS is the Assistant Chief Secretary.

ORAL

NO. 415 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

COMPANIES REGISTER

Can Government state the number of companies for which company managerial services were provided as at the end of December 2005?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

We do not have a figure for that as at the end of December 2005. However, there were 35,136 companies for which company managerial services were provided as at the 31st March 2005.

NO. 416 OF 2006

THE HON F R PICARDO

ARREARS PAYMENT AGREEMENTS

Assuming that all parties were to keep to their obligation to make payments on due dates by when will the last payment be due under the 114 Arrears Payments Agreements referred to in Question No. 1369 of 2005 totalling £3.5 million?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Two of the agreements have termination dates in 2020.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 416 OF 2006

HON F R PICARDO:

Does the Chief Minister know, does he have any information when those particular agreements were entered into?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, of the 114 arrears payments agreements in the question to which he had referred, 19 have already been fully repaid; 26 should have terminated in 2005 but are in default of the agreement and are therefore being passed for legal action; 4 have review clauses with no specific termination dates; and the date of the last payments of the remaining 65 are as follows. I think it follows that they are in the latest batch to have been entered into. Of course it is a condition of all of these agreements that the person keeps up to date with their current payments, in a sense.

NO. 417 OF 2006

THE HON L A RANDALL

LAND PROPERTY SERVICES

Can Government state whether the new contract with Land Property Services has now been finalised?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Although Head of Terms have been agreed, the formal contract with Land Property Services Ltd I am told has not yet been signed.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 417 OF 2006

HON L A RANDALL:

Is there any particular reason why it is taking so long to sign?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not think there is, it really is just now a question of putting into place.

NO. 418 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

BETTING INDUSTRY

Can Government provide the latest available figures for the number of persons employed in the betting industry in Gibraltar, giving a breakdown by company and by nationality, showing how many are Gibraltarian and the date when the figures apply?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

A total of 1,502 persons were employed by 15 companies as at 28th February 2006, based on information supplied by the gaming operators themselves. This compares to 1,349 employed by the 15 companies on 30th September 2005. The breakdown requested by the hon Member is set out in the attached schedule.

OFFSHORE GAMING COMPANIES - EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS AS AT 28 FEBRUARY 2006

ANSWER TO QUESTION 418

	<u>Gibraltarian</u>	<u>Other British</u>	<u>Spanish</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Total</u>
Ladbrokes (Gibraltar) Limited	23	46	7	2	78
Victor Chandler (International) Limited	64	167	14	56	301
Stan James (Gibraltar) Limited	8	108	4	28	148
BAW International Limited	18	26	11	50	105
Eurobet (Gibraltar) Limited	5	0	0	4	9
Carmen Media Group Limited	17	12	3	15	47
32 Red Plc <i>(Formerly Trafalgar Betting and Gaming Limited)</i>	11	18	0	1	30
St Minver Limited	23	15	6	15	59
Digibet Limited	0	1	2	1	4
888 Holdings Plc <i>(Formerly Cassava Enterprises (Gibraltar) Limited)</i>	80	180	12	112	384
Globet.com Group Limited	0	2	0	5	7
International Betting Association Limited	0	0	0	4	4
PartyGaming Plc	34	100	6	62	202
Mansion (Gibraltar) Limited	5	75	1	29	110
Futuresbetting.com Limited	1	13	0	0	14
Overall Total	289	763	66	384	1502

Source : Office of the Financial & Development Secretary

ORAL

NO. 419 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

IMPORT DUTY – BUILDING MATERIALS

What was the amount of import duty paid on building materials on a monthly basis since December 2005 inclusive?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 420 of 2006.

NO. 420 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

IMPORT DUTY

How much import duty has been collected from persons entering Gibraltar through the non-commercial gate at the land frontier on a monthly basis since December 2005 inclusive?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The amount of import duty paid on building materials on a monthly basis since December 2005 inclusive is as follows:-

December 2005	£58,898.21
January 2006	£33,202.49
February 2006	£50,904.27

The amount of import duty collected from persons entering Gibraltar through the non-commercial gate at the Land Frontier on a monthly basis since December 2005 inclusive is as follows:-

December 2005	£24,279.56
January 2006	£13,360.82
February 2006	£13,558.56

ORAL

NO. 421 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GAMING TAX

Can Government state in respect of the estimated receipts of £4.8 million in respect of Gaming Tax in the current financial year, how many companies were expected to contribute to this amount and of these how many were expected to pay the capped amount before the increase recently legislated?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 422 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 422 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GAMING TAX

Can Government state in calculating the estimated receipts of Gaming Tax at £4.8 million in the current financial year what was the total number of companies expected to pay Gaming Tax and in the case of how many was the amount of tax assumed to be at the level capped at the time of the estimates?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The estimated receipts of Gaming Tax of £4.8 million for the current financial year caters not only for the 15 remote gambling operators, but also the gaming tax payable by the land based casino and betting shops, together with a small amount of duty on bingo tickets purchased by clubs, associations and the like. Of the remote gambling companies 10 were expected to pay the capped amount before the increase.

ORAL

NO. 423 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DATA PROTECTION ORDINANCE

Can Government say as from what date the brochures on data protection have been available for collection from Convent Place?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 424 and 425 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 424 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DATA PROTECTION ORDINANCE

How many persons were invited to attend the data protection seminars held on the 24 and 25 January and how many attended?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 423 and 425 of 2006.

NO. 425 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DATA PROTECTION ORDINANCE

What was the cost, with a breakdown of the data protection seminars held on the 24 January and the 25 January?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Data Protection brochures have been available from the week commencing 9th January 2006 from No. 6 Convent Place, John Mackintosh Hall, Post Office, Primary Care Centre, Gibraltar Federation of Small Businesses and the Gibraltar Chamber of Commerce. In addition, it has also been available on-line on the Government of Gibraltar website.

A total of 88 civil servants were invited to attend and did attend the seminars held on 24th and 25th January in the morning. In addition, 25 organisations/associations were also invited and although records of attendees were not kept, they all sent representatives to attend the afternoon sessions.

The cost with a breakdown of the seminars were as follows:

Mr S Sweeney (Deputy Irish Data Protection Commissioner)	
Travel/Hotel	£699.10
Tea and coffee (attendees of the Seminars)	<u>£286.50</u>
	<u>£985.60</u>

NO. 426 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

2002 ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS PACKAGE

Can Government say whether the United Kingdom has now replied to the European Commission's reasoned opinion in respect of Gibraltar's failure to transpose five directives on electronic communications known collectively as the 2002 electronic communications package?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Yes Sir.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 426 OF 2006

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Chief Minister give the House details of the United Kingdom's reply?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I think the reply was to the effect that the legislation was in an advanced stage of drafting, that its bringing to this House is imminent, which indeed it is, and I think they will be before this House at this meeting if not the next and I think that that is the nature of the answer that was given.

NO. 427 OF 2006

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

COMPUTER HACKING

Can Government confirm whether legislation to outlaw misuse of computers including hacking in or from Gibraltar is now being drafted?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

No, not yet.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 427 OF 2006

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is it the policy of the Government to introduce this legislation?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, there is certainly no policy not to. It is just that there is a huge amount of drafting going on and I think it just competes with others for access to drafting resources but I think it will emerge and I would hope that it will emerge during the course of this year.

NO. 428 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

RESIDENCE PERMITS

Can Government state, as at the end of January 2006, how many Moroccan Nationals were living in Gibraltar with a Residence Permit of over one year and how many were residing with a permit of one year or less and give a breakdown of each group by sex and age?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

According to immigration records, on 31st January 2006 there were 959 Moroccan nationals who on that date held valid residence permits which had been issued for a period in excess of one year. There were a total of 384 Moroccan nationals with permits issued for a period of one year or less.

The breakdown of each group by sex and age is as follows:-

1. Permits of over one year's validity:-

695 Males over 18
175 Females over 18
48 Males under 18
40 Females under 18

2. Permits issued for one year or less:-

224 Males over 18
125 Females over 18
15 Males under 18
20 Females under 18

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 428 OF 2006

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is it still not the case that the permits of residence are based on the expiry date of the employment contracts and contracts are annually renewable?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Speaking from memory I think that the permits are issued co-extensively with the employment contract which can be for more than a year. I think that they are, I am just trying to recall what the linkage was, we did agree to extend permits of residence to five years for Moroccans who were.....

HON J J BOSSANO:

I understood the Chief Minister to be saying that the extension to five years was going to be for those who had retired, because there cannot be 685 in that category surely?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I will have to check this but I do not think that policy is limited to retirees. The reason for it as I recall was that they had problems getting Schengen entry visas with a residence permit in the EU, Gibraltar, of only a year and that was the reason for it. I do not think it was limited to retirees but I can check that and confirm that to him but I am almost certain it was not. Well, it is evident that it was not.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am not saying it was, I am saying that in fact I got the impression from the answer he gave me previously that it was for retirees because it was in response to the answer of the people who were being permitted to register as looking for employment in order to be able to continue to live in Gibraltar. It was in the context of that question that he told me about the five years so I took it for granted that it was referring to that group.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, I do not think that is correct but if what I am now saying to him is not correct I will tell him but I am 99 per cent certain that it was not limited to retired persons.

NO. 429 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

RESIDENCE PERMITS

Can Government state of the Moroccan Nationals living in Gibraltar, as at the end of February 2006, how many had arrived or been issued with their first Residence Permit in February 2006 or later, giving a breakdown by year of arrival or issue of first permit by age and sex?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Immigration records show that as on 28th February 2006 a total of five Moroccan nationals had been issued with their first residence permits during the month of February. A further three new permits were issued to Moroccan nationals during the period 1st March 2006 to 15th March 2006.

Of the five new permits issued in February one was issued to a male over the age of 18, two to males under the age of 18 and the other two to females under 18.

The three permits issued in March were in respect of two males over 18 and one female under 18.

ORAL

NO. 430 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

HEAD 103, SUBHEAD 3

Can Government state why there was a curtailment of expenditure instruction issued to the relevant Department in respect of works due to be undertaken under the provisions of Sub-Head 3, Head 103 of the I&D Fund in the financial year 2003/2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I am told that there was no curtailment of expenditure instruction issued to the relevant Department in respect of Sub-head 3, Head 103, I&DF in that year. I am told that the savings under the subhead "Storm Water Drains and Sewers Replacement" were generated for a number of reasons, amongst them:-

(a) Final account for repairs to Main Sewer contract lower than estimated.	£122k
(b) Delays in commencement of Flow and Load Study as part of the Feasibility Study for new Wastewater Treatment works.	£98k
(c) Savings in planned desilting work contracts, due to Sewer Section personnel concentrating on Flow and Load Study	£70k
(d) Savings in storm water drains on Main Street Beautification Project	£50k
(e) Desilting of Trunk Sewer – Final Account lower than estimated.	£20k
Total Savings	<u>£360k</u>

ORAL

NO. 431 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX – CORPORATION TAX

As at the end of February 2006 how many companies had been assessed by the Commissioner of Income Tax without having made a return of taxable profit:

- (a) above £35,000; and
- (b) below £35,000.

for each of the tax years 1998/1999 to 2003/2004, and 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. 432 to 436 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 432 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX – CORPORATION TAX

As at the end of February 2006 how many companies had declared taxable profits:

- (a) above £35,000; and
- (b) below £35,000

for each of the tax years 1998/1999 to 2003/2004, and 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. 431 and 433 to 436 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 433 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX – CORPORATION TAX

As at the end of February 2006 how many companies had been assessed by the Commissioner of Income Tax without having made a return of taxable profit:

- (a) above £35,000; and
- (b) below £35,000

for the tax year 2004/2005, and what was the tax assessed and paid in each case and for each category and each year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 431, 432 and 434 to 436 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 434 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX – CORPORATION TAX

As at the end of February 2006 how many companies had declared taxable profits:

- (a) above £35,000; and
- (b) below £35,000

for the tax year 2004/2005, and what was the tax assessed and paid in each case and for each category and each year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 431 to 433, 435 and 436 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 435 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX – CORPORATION TAX

As at the end of February 2006 how many companies, in each tax year 1995/1996 to 2004/2005 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. 431 to 434 and 436 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 436 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX - ARREARS

Can Government state what the total of arrears of revenue was as at 31 March 2005 and how much of this total was in respect of:

- (a) Income Tax: and
- (b) Corporation Tax?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The total of arrears of revenue as at 31st March 2005 stood at £44,398,835.35. This figure includes Income Tax arrears amounting to £22,129,086.60 and Corporation Tax arrears amounting to £9,177,490.75.

I hand the hon Member a schedule containing the information requested.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 436**Answer to Questions 431 and 433****COMPANIES ASSESSED WITHOUT HAVING MADE A RETURN OF TAXABLE PROFITS**

Year of Assessment	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Under £35,000							
No. of Companies assessed	759	574	294	319	369	461	542
Total assessed (i.e. total tax payable)	1.5M	0.9M	0.5M	0.7M	0.9M	1.1M	1.6M
Total Paid	1.3M	0.7M	0.2M	0.3M	0.2M	0.2M	0.3M
Over £35,000							
No. of Companies assessed	42	34	10	13	29	38	53
Total assessed (i.e. total tax payable)	2.7M	2.5M	0.1M	0.3M	0.8M	1.4M	2.1M
Total Paid	2.7M	2.5M	0.1M	0.2M	0.4M	1.1M	1.3M

Answer To Questions 432 and 434**COMPANIES ASSESSED HAVING MADE A RETURN OF TAXABLE PROFITS**

Year of Assessment	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Under £35,000							
No. of Companies assessed	220	305	364	415	399	361	295
Total assessed (i.e. total tax payable)	0.5M	0.6M	0.8M	1.0M	1.0M	0.8M	0.7M
Total Paid	0.5M	0.6M	0.8M	1.0M	0.9M	0.8M	0.7M
Over £35,000							
No. of Companies assessed	76	100	132	145	146	145	127
Total assessed (i.e. total tax payable)	6.3M	9.7M	12.0M	13.3M	14.9M	20.2M	18.6M
Total Paid	6.2M	9.7M	11.9M	13.0M	14.7M	19.8M	18.3M

Note:

Following the revocation of the Qualifying Companies Legislation in February 2005 all such companies have now been reclassified. As a consequence it is no longer possible to provide statistical data on the now discontinued Qualifying Companies classification.

Cont ...

CONTD ANSWER TO QUESTION 436

Answer to Question 435

	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Assessed	15.8	15.6	19.8	25.9	89.1	28.6	30.8	35.9	36.4	29.9
Discharged	<u>5.8</u>	<u>5.1</u>	<u>9.2</u>	<u>11.2</u>	<u>75.3</u>	<u>15.3</u>	<u>16.0</u>	<u>19.3</u>	<u>13.4</u>	<u>8.4</u>
	10.0	10.5	10.6	14.7	13.8	13.3	14.8	16.6	23.0	21.5
Paid	<u>9.5</u>	<u>10.3</u>	<u>10.4</u>	<u>14.4</u>	<u>13.6</u>	<u>13.2</u>	<u>14.1</u>	<u>15.4</u>	<u>21.2</u>	<u>18.7</u>
Outstanding	<u>0.5</u>	<u>0.2</u>	<u>0.2</u>	<u>0.3</u>	<u>0.2</u>	<u>0.1</u>	<u>0.7</u>	<u>1.2</u>	<u>1.8</u>	<u>2.8</u>
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
No of Companies	1446	1419	1468	1460	1545	1578	1531	1500	1469	1321

Note:

The 'Paid' figures are net of refunds.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 431 TO 436 OF 2006

HON J J BOSSANO:

In Question No. 436 of 2006 what did the Chief Minister say was the breakdown between Company Tax and Income Tax?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

£22,129,086.60 was Income Tax and £9,177,490.75 was Corporation Tax.

HON J J BOSSANO:

But did he not say that the total was £44 million?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, but the answer actually gives more information than is sought because £44 million is the total arrears of revenue for all Government Heads of Revenue whereas the Question specifically asks for it only in respect of Income Tax and Corporation Tax, so he should ignore the £44 million in the context of his question and just focus on the two breakdowns.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I note that there is a note in the answer which says that the qualifying companies which have now been discontinued have now been reclassified, that is the reason why in fact I put a separate question for 2004/2005 because I assumed that they would be reclassified from the date that the legislation has been revoked. Surely for the years when they were still classified, if there are arrears as there was the last time the question was put and the answer provided, that still needs to be paid, no?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, arrears of Income Tax whilst they were qualifying companies is arrears of normal Corporation Tax, albeit payable at a different rate.

HON J J BOSSANO:

No, the point that I am making is that in Question No. 432 and No. 431 of 2006, I am asking for a breakdown which includes the tax assessed and paid by qualifying companies up to 2004, because they existed up to 2004 and that is why there is a separate question for 2004/2005 where there is no mention of the qualifying company because it no longer exists. But in the answer that I have been given, because the answer has put together the tax year where they do not exist with all the previous tax years where they did exist, where presumably there would be a movement if they were catching up with their previous assessments which had not yet been settled, it is not possible for me to work it out from the answer. That is why

the questions were separate, so the Government would be able to show to what extent the qualifying companies are paying the tax that they were assessed on but had not yet paid before they disappeared as qualifying companies.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Oh I see. Well, I can try and get that information for him separately. I am not sure that having answered his question separately would have made it any easier for him to work it out because the information would still have been aggregated. He just asks for a separate year and the information is given for that year but he appears to want it disaggregated as far as qualifying companies are concerned.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In every previous House until this one it has been disaggregated in respect of qualifying companies, and I assumed I would get the disaggregated answer until 2004 and an aggregated answer for 2005 when it is no longer possible to do it. But he has done it on every previous occasion.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I will get that breakdown.

NO. 437 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX – SELF-EMPLOYED

What was the estimated amount collected in Income Tax from self-employed persons, the number of self-employed persons paying this amount in the last tax year and the amount of estimated arrears as at 31 March 2005?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

In the period 1st July 2004 to 30th June 2005 the sum of £8.2 million was collected in Income Tax from individuals grouped for statistical purposes in the category styled 'Self Employed'. This grouping includes all individuals assessed except for those under the PAYE regime.

Arrears of the 'Self Employed' as at 31st March 2005 stood at £7.7 million.

ORAL

NO. 438 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX - PAYE

Can Government provide the breakdown by Paying Officers of the number of Government Employee Deduction Cards in the Tax Year 2004/2005?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I hand the hon Member a schedule containing the information he has requested.

Answer to Question 438

EMPLOYERS REF	PAYING OFFICES	NO OF DEDUCTION CARDS 2004/2005
G004	Education Department	127
G010	Gibraltar Health Authority	747
G011	Industrial Employees	740
G012	Pensioners (Treasury)	1478
G013	Royal Gibraltar Police	238
G015	Post Office	74
G018	Treasury	1806
G024	Employment & Training Board	464
G026	Overseas Pensioners (Treasury)	348
G317	Gibraltar Development Corporation	167
E149	Elderly Care Agency	214
S416	Social Services Agency	<u>79</u>
	TOTAL	6482 =====

NO. 439 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX – WRITE-OFFS

Of the £942,924 abandoned claim in respect of tax assessments how much was in respect of individuals and how much was in respect of companies?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Tax write-offs in the financial year 2003/2004 can be summarised as follows:

Assessments issued on:	£	
Companies		35,128.34
PAYE individuals	42,008.94	
Other than PAYE individuals	<u>864,247.70</u>	906,256.64
Employers' unpaid PAYE		<u>1,539.72</u>
		<u>942,924.70</u>

ORAL

NO. 440 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX – CORPORATION TAX

What was the amount of Company Tax collected in each month since October 2005?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 441 of 2006.

NO. 441 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX - PAYE

How much was collected in PAYE each month since October 2005?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Corporation Tax collected (net of refunds) in the months of November 2005 to February 2006 is:

	£M
November 2005	0.36
December 2005	0.58
January 2006	0.04
February 2006	0.57

The PAYE tax (net of refunds) collected in the months of November 2005 to February 2006 is:

	£M
November 2005	5.33
December 2005	5.62
January 2006	8.22
February 2006	6.00

NO. 442 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX - PAYE

Based on the 2004/2005 employers annual statement, declaration and certificate submitted to date what was the PAYE payable by area of employment and number of employees as follows:

- (a) MOD;
- (b) Gibraltar Government;
- (c) Government owned/JV companies; and
- (d) Private sector employment?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I hand the hon Member a schedule containing the information he has requested.

Answer to Question 442

Based on the 2004/2005 Employers' Annual Statement, Declaration and Certificate submitted up to 14 March 2006 the information sought is as follows:

	£M	Approximate No of Employee/Deduction Cards
(a) MOD	5.0	2,650
(b) Gibraltar Government	23.2	6,500
(c) Government owned and Joint Venture Companies	3.2	650
(d) Private Sector	<u>37.3</u>	<u>18,500</u>
	68.7	28,300
	====	=====

ORAL

NO. 443 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GDP FIGURE

Can Government state in respect of the 2003/2004 GDP calculation how much of the amount attributed to Gross Trading Profit was obtained by grossing up Corporation Tax received and how much was in respect of an estimated amount in respect of profits not yet assessed to tax?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 444 to 450 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 444 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GDP FIGURE

Can Government state what was the imputed rent element in the rent component of the Income Method of calculation for the GDP for 2003/2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 443 and 445 to 450 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 445 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GDP FIGURE

Can Government explain the reason for the delay in calculating the GDP for 2003/2004 by the Expenditure Method?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 443, 444 and 446 to 450 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 446 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GDP FIGURE

Can Government state when the calculation of the GDP for 2003/2004 by the Expenditure Method was completed?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 443 to 445 and 447 to 450 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 447 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GDP FIGURE

Can Government now provide the breakdown of the Expenditure Method calculation of the GDP for 2003/2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 443 to 446 and 448 to 450 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 448 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GDP FIGURE

Can Government explain what produced the increase of £1.94 million in the component Gross Trading Surplus of Government Enterprises in respect of the Income Method calculation of the GDP for 2003/2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 443 to 447, 449 and 450 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 449 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GDP FIGURE

Can Government state what is the data source for the calculation of Earnings from Employment in the Income Method calculation of the GDP for 2003/2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 443 to 448 and 450 of 2006.

NO. 450 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GDP FIGURE

Can Government say what was Government expenditure as a share of GDP in the financial years 2002/2003 and 2003/2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answer to Question No. 443

The £90.91 million shown as Gross Trading Profits of Companies in the 2003/2004 Income Method estimate of GDP was derived by the grossing up £20 million of corporation tax in respect of that year. Actual Corporation Tax receipts in 2003/2004 were £16.74 million and these were increased to £20 million to even out the effects of faster assessment collection procedures which are reflected in higher Corporation Tax receipts for 2004/2005. The Corporation Tax figure for 2004/2005, for the purposes of the National Income Accounts for that year, will thus be netted out by £3.26 million to reflect this adjustment. The estimated amount in respect of profits not yet assessed to tax has thus been removed altogether from the 2003/2004 estimates.

Answer to Question No. 444

The value of imputed rent forming part of the Rent estimate of GDP for 2003/2004 was £51.62 million.

Answer to Question No. 445

The delay in the publication of the Expenditure Method of calculating GDP was due to general data validation and the fine-tuning of information related to capital projects.

Answer to Question No. 446

The Expenditure Method estimate of GDP was completed by the end of December 2005.

Answer to Question No. 447

The breakdown of the Expenditure method calculation of GDP for 2003/2004 is as set out in the schedule I now hand to the hon Member.

Answer to Question No. 448

The increase of £1.94 million in the Gross Trading Surplus of Government Enterprises is mainly attributable to an increase in the surplus of receipts over expenditure under the Savings Bank and Electricity undertakings.

Answer to Question No. 449

The main data source for the calculation of Earnings from Employment in the Income Method calculation of GDP for 2003/2004 is the October 2003 Employment Survey. In addition, figures in respect of the Royal Gibraltar Regiment are provided by the MoD and the Government's Annual Accounts are used to derive data in respect of insurance contributions and the like.

Answer to Question No. 450

Government expenditure as a share of GDP stood at 31.5 per cent and 30.3 per cent in the financial years 2002/2003 and 2003/2004 respectively.

Contd Answer to Question 450

Answer to Question 446

The Expenditure Method estimate of GDP was completed by the end of December 2005.

Answer to Question 447

The breakdown of the Expenditure method calculation of GDP for 2003/2004 is as set out in the Schedule I now hand to the Hon Member.

Answer to Question 448

The increase of £1.94 million in the Gross Trading Surplus of Government Enterprises is mainly attributable to an increase in the surplus of receipts over expenditure under the Savings Bank and Electricity undertakings.

Answer to Question 449

The main data source for the calculation of Earnings from Employment in the Income Method calculation of GDP for 2003/2004 is the October 2003 Employment Survey. In addition, figures in respect of the Royal Gibraltar Regiment are provided by the MoD and the Government's Annual Accounts are used to derive data in respect of insurance contributions etc.

Answer to Question 450

Government expenditure as a share of GDP stood at 31.5% and 30.3% in the financial years 2002/2003 and 2003/2004 respectively.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 443 TO 450 OF 2006

HON J J BOSSANO:

In respect of the last reply the £30 million is for 2003/2004?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No those are not millions those were percentages. For 2002/2003 31.5 per cent and 30.3 per cent in respect of 2003/2004.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In respect of the £1.94 million, is the fact that there is now a reference to the Electricity Undertaking something that has happened as a consequence of the setting up of the Electricity Authority or was it being treated in the same way when it was a Government Department?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I cannot tell him with any degree of certainty but if the item appears for the first time in the 2003/2004 calculation I can only assume that that was the transitional year into the Authority and as this is Government Enterprises I suppose the Authority is classified as that, before it might have been Departments. Does the item appear before?

HON J J BOSSANO:

The item appears as Government Enterprises without any definition of what it is made up of. I just assumed that in the light of information the Chief Minister has provided, I do not know if it was in that calculation previously it is just that it would be strange if it was because previously it had been treated as Revenue and Expenditure from the Consolidated Fund without any.....

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, I think it must be due to the fact that the Authority is now not the Government.

ORAL

NO. 451 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GDP FIGURE

What was the figure of GDP per capita in the financial year 2003/2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 452 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 452 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GDP FIGURE

Can Government state what the ranking of the 2003/2004 Gibraltar GDP per capita was in the World Ranking Table?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

GDP per capita stood at £19,552 in the financial year 2003/2004. This would rank eighth and fourteenth on the IMF and World Bank ranking tables respectively.

ORAL

NO. 453 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

ABSTRACT OF STATISTICS

Can Government now provide the figures for 2004 in respect of Table 9 of the Abstract of Statistics?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

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

Answer to Question 453

Births and Age of Mother, 2004

(a) Births to Teenage Mothers

<u>AGE</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
14	1	-	1
15	-	1	1
16	-	6	6
17	3	4	7
18	1	4	5
19	2	1	3
TOTAL	7	16	23

(b) Births to Mothers Over the Age of 35

<u>AGE</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
35	9	7	16
36	5	6	11
37	9	7	16
38	3	6	9
39	2	2	4
40	4	4	8
41	3	1	4
42	-	1	1
44	2	-	2
51	-	1	1
TOTAL	37	35	72

Source: Gibraltar Health Authority

NO. 454 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INPUT/OUTPUT REPORT

Can Government say when they will provide the Opposition on a confidential basis with the part of the Input/Output Report, which has not been published, as originally promised?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I am not sure whether the 'as originally promised' bit of the Question relates to the request to provide them to him confidentially or to the publication reference in the question. In answer to Question No. 507 of 2004, I asked the hon Member to write to me formally requesting a copy of the report in question. My office cannot find a record of having received any such letter from him. If he has indeed written, I would invite him to send me a copy. If he has not written, I would invite him to do so. I have to say this matter had gone completely from my mind, I am not saying that we were waiting to receive the letter, our exchange on this question had sort of disappeared, I suspect, from both our radar screens. Refreshing my memory on the previous exchanges in the House I found the references to the letters and when I asked my staff 'where is the letter and why has it not been done?' no one could find the letter. Perhaps he could indicate now whether he sent it or not.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 454 OF 2006

HON J J BOSSANO:

I did better than send it, perhaps the Chief Minister may remember, maybe it never got to him but I sent it through the House to avoid possible delay in delivery but it was a long time ago, 2004. I think when I referred subsequently to the situation I may have even mentioned it before.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

In case that was the case I was careful not to assume that he had not sent it. That is why the question says if he has not would he do so and if he has would he be good enough to send a copy so that we can then get the ball rolling.

ORAL

NO. 455 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

IMPORT DUTY

Can Government state what has been the revenue yield to date in the financial year 2005/2006, of the increases in import duty introduced on 30 June 2004 in Legal Notice No. 50 of 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

We calculate around £4.4 million.

ORAL

NO. 456 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GOVERNMENT LOANS

Can Government state in respect of what loans the claim for loan and interest of £41,483 was abandoned in 2003/04?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

This refers to a loan issued under the Gibraltar Enterprise Scheme to a company called J & B Enterprises Ltd for the purchase of gymnasium equipment and on default of the agreement the equipment was repossessed.

ORAL

NO. 457 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR PROVIDENT TRUST (NO. 3) PENSION SCHEME

Can Government state whether any employers have now applied to join the Provident Fund No. 3 Pension Scheme since its launch in November 2005, and if so, provide details of the companies and the number of employees covered in each case?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 458 of 2006.

NO. 458 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR PROVIDENT TRUST (NO. 3) PENSION SCHEME

Can Government state whether any employers have now applied to join the Provident Fund No. 3 Pension Scheme since its launch in November 2005, and if so, list the employers and the number of employees covered in each case?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Two participating employers have been admitted to the Gibraltar Provident Trust (No. 3) Pension Scheme since its launch in November 2005.

Members per employer as at 15th March 2006 are as follows:-

Ladbrokes International Ltd	6
Marine & Industrial Services (Dragon Electronics Ltd)	<u>1</u>
	<u>7</u>

I am told that a further 41 employers are at different stages of expression of interest in participating in the Scheme but have not yet firmed up.

ORAL

NO. 459 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY

Can Government state what were the payroll costs in 2002/2003, previously included under Consolidated Fund Expenditure, as compared to the figure of £3.5 million in Note 3 to the Audited Accounts for 2003/2004, for the Electricity Authority?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 460 and 461 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 460 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY

Can Government state what were the payroll costs in 2002/2003, previously included under Consolidated Fund Expenditure, as compared to the figure of £2.9 million in Note 3 to the Audited Accounts for 2003/2004, for the Social Services Agency?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 459 and 461 of 2006.

NO. 461 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

ELDERLY CARE AGENCY

Can Government state what were the payroll costs in 2002/2003, previously included under Consolidated Fund Expenditure, as compared to the figure of £2.8 million in Note 3 to the Audited Accounts for 2003/2004, for the Elderly Care Agency?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answer to Question No. 459

Payroll costs for the electricity service during 2002/2003 amounted to £3.1 million. The comparative figure for 2003/2004 was £5.2 million of which £3.5 million was charged to the Gibraltar Electricity Authority and £1.7 million was charged to Departmental Head 4C (Electricity).

Answer to Question No. 460

Payroll costs for social services during 2002/2003 amounted to £2 million of which £1.1 million was charged to Departmental Head 5B (Social Services) and £0.9 million was charged directly to the Social Services Agency. The comparative figure for 2003/2004 was £2.9 million. However, payroll costs which are charged directly to the Social Services Agency are met by way of contribution from the Consolidated Fund.

Answer to Question No. 461

Payroll costs for the Elderly Care Agency in 2002/2003 amounted to £2.6 million. The comparative figure for 2003/2004 was £2.8 million. Both these figures have been met by way of contribution from the Consolidated Fund.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 459 TO 461 OF 2006

HON J J BOSSANO:

I do not quite follow the explanation in respect of Question No. 459 of 2006. The £5.2 million comparable payroll cost was for which financial year?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The comparative figure for 2003/2004 was £5.2 million. In other words, the overall was £5.2 million, the £3.5 million which is the figure he mentioned in his question was charged to the Electricity Authority and £1.7 million was charged to the Departmental Head 4C. This is during the transition year obviously.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So he does not have the figure for 2002/2003 then?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

For the overall.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In the audited accounts for this year.....

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

In 2002/2003 it is £3.1 million overall. Payroll costs for the electricity service during 2002/2003 was £3.1 million.

HON J J BOSSANO:

As opposed to £5.2 million?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

As opposed to £5.2 million.

ORAL

NO. 462 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GOVERNMENT DEBENTURES

As at the end of February 2006 what was the value of Monthly Income Debentures and Pensioners Monthly Income Debentures issued by the Government?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 463 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 463 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GOVERNMENT DEBENTURES

As at the end of February 2006 what was the value of Monthly Income Debentures and Pensioners Monthly Income Debentures issued by the Gibraltar Savings Bank?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The value of Monthly Income Debentures and Pensioners' Monthly Income Debentures issued by the Government as at the end of February 2006 is as follows:

Monthly Income Debentures	£10,611,500
Pensioners' Monthly Income Debentures	£18,327,800
Special Issue of 6% Monthly Income Debentures issued to Gibraltar Community Care Ltd	£25,000,000
Special Issue of Pensioners' Monthly Income Debentures 1/5/2010	£27,236,300

The value of Monthly Income Debentures and Pensioners' Monthly Income Debentures issued by the Gibraltar Savings Bank as at the end of February 2006 is as follows:

Monthly Income Debentures	£28,758,800
Pensioners' Monthly Income Debentures	£65,551,200

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 462 AND 463 OF 2006

HON J J BOSSANO:

Are the Government continuing to issue the two types of Debentures by the Savings Bank or now that there are Government Debentures as well have the others been discontinued?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not know, it is some time since I have had a meeting with the Treasury on these issues. As I recall this was in effect a refinancing exercise and they have been refinanced as things expired. I do not know where they are in that process. I just do not have the up to date position.

ORAL

NO. 464 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR SAVINGS BANK

Can Government provide the level of Government deposits in the Gibraltar Savings Bank as at the end of February 2006?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 465 of 2006.

NO. 465 OF 2006**THE HON J J BOSSANO****GIBRALTAR SAVINGS BANK**

Can Government provide the level of non-Government deposits in the Gibraltar Savings Bank giving a breakdown of on-call accounts, debentures, bonds and ordinary accounts as at the end of February 2006?

ANSWER**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

The level of Government deposits held in the Gibraltar Savings Bank as at the end of February 2006 was £71.9 million as follows:

	£'m
Government Liquid Reserves	47.98
GDC – Insolvency Fund	3.49
Special Funds	<u>20.40</u>
	<u><u>71.87</u></u>

The amount of non-Government deposits in the Gibraltar Savings Bank as at the end of February 2006 was £138.5 million as follows:

	£'m
On-Call Investment Accounts	16.49
Debentures	94.31
Bonds	7.20
Ordinary Accounts	<u>20.45</u>
	<u><u>138.45</u></u>

NO. 466 OF 2006**THE HON J J BOSSANO****REVOLVING LOAN FACILITIES**

Can Government state what has been the amount of outstanding Government debt in respect of the revolving loan from local banks in December 2005 and January and February 2006?

ANSWER**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

The amount of outstanding Government debt in respect of the revolving loan from local banks in December 2005, January 2006 and February 2006 is as follows:

Date	Barclays (£)	NatWest (£)	Total (£)
December 2005	5,000,000	10,000,000	15,000,000
January 2006	5,000,000	10,000,000	15,000,000
February 2006	5,000,000	7,000,000	12,000,000

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 466 OF 2006**HON J J BOSSANO:**

Am I correct in thinking that this is as a result of the existing amount of debt being compensated by issue of Government Debentures and the revolving loan being reduced?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Correct.

ORAL

NO. 467 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

HOUSING – 50/50 SALES

Can Government state whether the Treasury has charged a commission on property sales of the Government's share of co-ownership homes in the months of December 2005 and January and February 2006 and if so provide the dates, the amounts received and the estates where each of the relevant properties is located?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

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

Answer to Question 467

	SWJG	Montagu Gardens	Westview Park	Harbour Views	Montagu Crescent	TOTALS
Dec 05	Monies Received	£3,056.00		£64,135.29		£67,191.29
	5% charge paid	£152.80		£3,206.76		£3,359.56
Jan 06	Monies Received	£22,933.14			£33,095.20	£56,028.34
	5% charge paid	£1,146.66			£1,654.76	£2,801.42
Feb 06	Monies Received	£40,900.74	£31,480.11		£65,548.35	£245,574.72
	5% charge paid	£2,045.04	£1,574.00		£3,277.42	£12,278.74

	SWJG	Montagu Gardens	Westview Park	Harbour Views	Montagu Crescent	TOTALS
2005/06	Total Monies Received	£66,889.88	£31,480.11	£64,135.29	£98,643.55	£368,794.35
2005/06	Total 5% charges paid	£3,344.50	£1,574.00	£3,206.76	£4,932.18	£18,439.72

NO. 468 OF 2006

THE HON F R PICARDO

STAMP DUTY – PROPERTY SALES

Why have Government decided that the Stamp Duties legislation to give effect to their budget provisions will not provide for a refund to purchasers of property in Gibraltar for less than £160,000 who bought and paid the stamp duty after the budget statements in this House last year but before the entry into effect of the Stamp Duties Ordinance?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Government have not now decided and if that was the decision we all made it. It is implicit and indeed explicit, in the text of the Ordinance in both section 1 and section 49.

There were transitional provisions, as the hon Member will recall, for transactions in the pipeline, the effect of which resulted in that subject to certain conditions, stamp duty for transactions in the pipeline was limited to the old rate for those transactions. In other words, if a property sale was already agreed but not yet completed one would not be charged at the higher rate. In other words, it was limited to the old 1.26 per cent and the new rate was not applied in respect of a transaction in the pipeline and then there were carefully drafted rules about what in the pipeline meant. It had to be registered by a certain date, et cetera. Now, the reform of the Stamp Duty was based on eliminating duty on lower value transactions and balancing that, and hopefully improving upon that, by increasing it on higher value transactions. If the reform had been commenced with a retrospective date in respect of transactions that had already closed as opposed to transactions that were already in the pipeline, it would have required higher value transactions that had been closed to have been re-opened and charged higher duty retrospectively. In other words, if one moves outside the realm of closed transactions and go retrospectively to the date of the announcement, well one cannot go retrospectively in respect of the beneficiaries without also going retrospectively in the case of the people who would have been worse off retrospectively applied, and that would have meant re-opening transactions retrospectively and charging people more. That would not have been appropriate.

ORAL

NO. 469 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

STAMP DUTY

Can Government state the amounts refunded or refundable as a result of the amount of Stamp Duty paid from the 1 July 2005 being higher than the backdated capping of Stamp Duty payable on share issues, which was recently legislated?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 470 and 471 of 2006.

ORAL

NO. 470 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

STAMP DUTY

Can Government state the amounts refunded or refundable as a result of the amount of Stamp Duty paid from the 1 July 2005 being higher than the backdated capping of Stamp Duty payable on share issues, which was recently legislated?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 469 and 471 of 2006.

NO. 471 OF 2006**THE HON J J BOSSANO****STAMP DUTY**

Can Government state what has been the amount collected each month from the £10 Stamp Duty on share issues since the legislation capping the duty was introduced?

ANSWER**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER****Answer to Question Nos. 469 and 470**

No refunds have been effected in respect of share capital.

Answer to Question 471

I hand the hon Member a schedule with the information requested.

LPS were instructed to implement Government's budget announcement in relation to the capping of Stamp Duty on share capital on 3rd August 2005.

Answer to Question 471

Amounts collected since the capping was introduced on 3rd August 2005 are as follows:

Period	Amount £
3 to 31 August 2005	£1,280.00
September 2005	£1,470.00
October 2005	£1,290.00
November 2005	£1,965.27
December 2005	£1,170.00
January 2006	£1,470.00
February 2006	£1,570.00

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 469 TO 471 OF 2006

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is 3rd August then the date that the legislation came in or what? I was under the impression that the legislation had been in fact back dated to the beginning of the tax year.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, the legislation was not back dated as such, there was a provision in section 1(2) which said that any duty paid or payable on any instrument on the Stamp Duty Ordinance between 1st July 2005 and the repeal of that Ordinance, in other words, which would not have been paid or payable on that instrument had this Ordinance been effective and the Stamp Duty Ordinance not effective, shall be repaid or remitted as the case may be save duty in respect of property transactions. So it was not that the legislation was back dated it is that people were given the opportunity to claw back by claim any that they might have paid back dated to 1st July and in fact there have not been any such requests.

ORAL

NO. 472 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

STAMP DUTY

Can Government state what has been the revenue yield per month of the 1.65 per cent Stamp Duty on property sales since its introduction?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 473 of 2006.

NO. 473 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

STAMP DUTY

How many properties have been approved as qualifying for Zero Stamp Duty on its sale in each month since the relevant provision was introduced in the Stamp Duties Ordinance?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I am afraid that the rather unhelpful answer that I have been sent here to give him is that a record of this kind of statistical information is not kept. I do not know whether that means by the monthly breakdown, I would not have thought it was beyond the wit of man to total up by month and so on.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 472 AND 473 OF 2006

HON J J BOSSANO:

It is difficult to understand how whoever approves the zero stamp duty does not know how many times he has done it, which is Question No. 473 of 2006. Who takes the decision on the Stamp Duty given that there are lots of cheques that are there to make sure that somebody is not somehow getting a higher value property zero rated?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I suppose they know it but do not keep a record of the ones that they said were okay. My interpretation of the answer is that, that they just do not keep records of cheques, they just assess each document and if there is a charge to duty they collect the duty, if there is not, that is my interpretation but I do not even understand the first answer, why the revenue yield per month cannot be totted up.....

HON J J BOSSANO:

Does the revenue in the case of Question No. 472 get passed when collected to the Treasury or is it kept by LPS and handed over at the end of the financial year?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, my understanding is that it is passed on at very regular intervals during the financial year. I cannot say at what intervals but certainly not kept until the end of the financial year. I do not know what there arrangements are, whether it is daily, weekly or monthly but I suspect it is daily or weekly. Interesting question, I had never thought of that.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The Treasury would presumably know what the money was in respect of.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well they would know that it is in respect of Stamp Duty but they would not necessarily know. I mean LPS must know or they must have means of establishing from their records, even if they do not record it in that form, how many transactions were subjected to duty at 1.65 per cent as opposed to how many transactions..... it is just administrative donkey work to find it out. There cannot be that many transactions. If he is particularly keen to have the information I can ask them to do it.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I just feel that if we legislate something in the House I think it is legitimate to want to see what its effect is.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I will ask them to have another go at producing it.

ORAL

NO. 474 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

STAMP DUTY

Can Government state how much has been collected as stamp duty in the months of December 2005 and January and February 2006?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Stamp Duty collected in December 2005, January 2006 and February 2006 is as follows:

Period	Amount (£)
December 2005	112,477.32
January 2006	274,325.21
February 2006	155,070.36

NO. 475 OF 2006

THE HON F R PICARDO

PACE 1984

Have Government now considered the report on the financial implications of adopting parts of PACE 1984 and what decisions, if any, have been made as the result in respect of implementation of parts of that statute?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Government are not yet aware of the full financial implications and this is still the subject of consideration. When the report was actually examined it was found to be deficient as to setting out the cost of one of the main items of recurrent expenditure which is actually the proposal for the establishment of a duty solicitor scheme.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 475 OF 2006

HON F R PICARDO:

What are the Government doing in order to ensure that they do have a full report on the financial implications?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, it is being worked on and is being considered and in the meantime enabling legislation is being drafted so time is not being lost.

ORAL

NO. 476 OF 2006

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR CHRONICLE

Can Government state whether they have now reached an agreement to provide support to the Gibraltar Chronicle?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Government are not providing support, as such, to the Gibraltar Chronicle. The Government are purchasing the leases of the Chronicle buildings in Town Range for use as offices for the Government. The consideration is £350,000 and part of the agreement is that the Chronicle must use the proceeds to modernise its facilities and resources and sanitise its finances.

ORAL

NO. 477 OF 2006

THE HON F R PICARDO

SAVINGS DIRECTIVE

Have Government now finalised a bi-lateral agreement with the United Kingdom in relation to the savings directive in particular and exchange of information generally?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Question withdrawn.