

ORAL

NO. 1 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – BEST

Will the Minister for Education state how many pupils are currently being supported by BEST (Behavioural and Educational Support Team) from September 2007 to date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION & TRAINING

Answered together with Question No. 3 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 2 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – BEST

Will the Minister for Education state how many pupils have been supported by BEST (Behavioural and Educational Support Team) from the beginning of the current academic year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION & TRAINING

QUESTION WITHDRAWN

ORAL

NO. 3 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – PUPIL REFERRAL UNIT

Can Government state how many pupils attended the Pupil Referral Unit at Bayside in 2006/2007 and 2007 to date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION & TRAINING

The answer to Question No. 1 of 2008 is 229 pupils who have been supported by BEST and Question No. 3 of 2008, during 2006/2007, five pupils attended the Alternative Learning Centre and six during 2007/2008 to date.

NO. 4 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – GOVERNMENT PRE-SCHOOL NURSERIES

Can the Minister for Education explain why there has been a drop in children attending Government pre-school nurseries this academic year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION & TRAINING

I would have great difficulty in explaining why there has been a drop in children attending Government pre-school nurseries because, in fact, there has been an increase of 12 as far as the figures that I have been given show. So there is no decrease it is an increase.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 4 OF 2008

HON S E LINARES:

I state this because, although there might be 12 extra ones, it might be that that year has more pupils than the previous year. Has the Minister got any figures as in percentages from one year to the other?

HON C G BELTRAN:

A percentage of what? The question is whether there has been a drop in children and the answer is no. There has not been a drop and, therefore, there is no need for any explanation. The figures show an increase of 12. I happen to have the figures here in general. In 2006/2007 a total of 264 children attended Government nurseries and this year it is 276, so there is a difference of 12 plus.

NO. 5 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – SECURITY IN SCHOOLS

Can Government state what security measures have been put in place in schools when the schools are actually closed?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION & TRAINING

There is an on-going programme of installation of security measures to cover all schools when they are closed. This includes intruder alarms and the illumination of certain areas, as well as a motion detection system. This is an on-going programme, a number of schools already have this in place.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 5 OF 2008

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Minister state when this on-going security programme has been put in place, when it started?

HON C G BELTRAN:

I do not have the exact date when it started. I can tell him that the Gibraltar College, St Mary's First, Sacred Heart Middle, St Joseph's First, St Joseph's Middle, Governor's Meadow, all have had their works completed in this respect. Bishop Fitzgerald School is in the process of being completed and they are about to start the installation of intruder alarms in Westside any time now. The next stage will include a number of other schools.

NO. 6 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – HEALTH AND SAFETY

Can Government state whether they have considered the health and safety audit report which was conducted by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents and whether they have made any approach to the NASUWT and headteachers with a view to arriving at a working model for the Department of Education?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION & TRAINING

The health and safety report is actually being compiled by the Department of Education management itself, with the help and support of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents. The purpose to which this management report is put and then actually putting it for that purpose, is also a matter for the Department of Education itself and not ROSPA. The matter remains work in progress, it is still being developed.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 6 OF 2008

HON S E LINARES:

Is the Minister going to consider giving that report, the initial report apparently done in four schools, I remember him saying, is that going to be in the public domain first? Secondly, is a copy going to be given to the NASUWT and will a copy be given to the headteachers as well?

HON C G BELTRAN:

The original ROSPA report, we shall call it a report, was actually an audit of what was going on in schools. I do not want anybody listening to run away with the idea that there are no health and safety measures in schools. As the hon Member knows, as a former teacher himself, there are a number of health and safety measures in school. I mean I can enumerate them for him and explain them if he wants, but from programmes of study for children using laboratories and workshops, to hand guards near machinery, to exit signs, to fire exercises, all sorts of things. The current exercise really is an in-depth re-assessment of what is available with the help of ROSPA and updating as necessary. Needless to say, very closely interested parties like teachers, will be consulted at some stage. Yes.

HON S E LINARES:

The question was not consultation, the question was whether the report that he commissioned, or his Ministry commissioned, the audit report of which he has just spoken about, whether a copy of that report is going to be given to the NASUWT and the headteachers?

HON C G BELTRAN:

The responsibility for health and safety in Government schools is the Government's and this is what is happening at the moment. A re-assessment, with the support of ROSPA who carried out an audit, I do not see that there is anything absolutely essential in that audit that has to be made public at this moment in time. The actual health and safety report will be made by the Government, by the Department of Education & Training, and at the right time when the Government see that it is necessary, and I dare say it will be necessary at some point to bring in other players like teachers, yes.

HON S E LINARES:

The answer I presume is then no, he will not give it to the NASUWT and the headteachers.

HON C G BELTRAN:

I have not said that, I think I have answered the question at length.

HON G H LICUDI:

The Minister has described the work on this report as work in progress, we assume that work has been continuing for some time, can the Minister say how long this has been work in progress for, when it is likely to be finalised and what steps are required in order to finalise the reports?

HON C G BELTRAN:

I said that this part of the review of health and safety measures available in schools, with the support of ROSPA, is indeed work in progress. The work is still progressing and Government will come up with its report when it is satisfied that it is something that will be useful over and above what exists now. I would not put a date to it right now.

HON G H LICUDI:

Is the Minister saying that this is on-going work in progress on health and safety matters which is going to go on forever, or is it that a specific report is being prepared on this issue? If that is the case, can any indication be given as to when this report will be ready? Or what is preventing the finalisation of the reports?

HON C G BELTRAN:

Well, I do not know if the hon Member has been listening to what I have said, I have repeated it a number of times now. We are working on a report that will eventually be a report completed with the necessary information that updates what is available now in health and safety measures in schools. I cannot give him a date now.

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Minister tell us whether anybody from the NASUWT was involved in that audit report together with the society?

HON C G BELTRAN:

I cannot tell him whether there was or not, would he know?

HON S E LINARES:

I am not here to answer questions, I am here to ask them.

HON C G BELTRAN:

As a past President of the GTA he might have known, that is why I asked.

HON S E LINARES:

If he is actually saying whether when I was in the NASUWT the answer is no, at all. Quite frankly, I left the GTA in 1995 which is now 13 years on.

NO. 7 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – 14-19 WORKING GROUP

Can Government state whether the Post 14 to 19 working group has met from when the last question was posed and whether any recommendations have been made to Government on issues such as co-education in secondary schools and vocational training?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION & TRAINING

The name of the working group is 14-19, I believe I explained that last time. In fact, the hon Member was grateful for my explanation. The 14-19 group has evolved from what used to be called the Post 16, he might remember. But not Post 14-19, just as a matter of form, it is 14-19 working group. I am just bringing it up because I did explain last time. The 14-19 working group has met three times since the last time the question was asked and no recommendations have been made.

ORAL

NO. 8 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – PUPILS SUSPENDED

Can Government state how many children have been suspended from school from December 2007 to March 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION & TRAINING

The number is 17 children.

NO. 9 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – SCHOOL ATTENDANCES

Can Government state what is the percentage attendance of school children compared to total possible sessions offered in the years 2003/2004, 2004/2005, 2005/2006 and 2006/2007 giving a breakdown by school and years respectively?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION & TRAINING

The statistical information requested is set out in a schedule which is being handed to the hon Member.

Answer to Question 9 of 2008

SCHOOL	TERM	% ATTENDANCE FIGURES			
		2003/4	2004/5	2005/6	2006/7
Bayside	Autumn	91	88	89	90
	Spring	92	90	88	90
	Summer	90	90	86	86
	Average	91.5	89.3	87.6	88.6
Westside	Autumn	84	83	87	90
	Spring	85	82	86	88
	Summer	82	79	86	82
	Average	83.6	81.3	86.3	86.6
Sacred Heart	Autumn	92	87	91	91
	Spring	91	86	88	88
	Summer	89	88	93	87
	Average	90.6	86.3	90.6	88.6
St Joseph's Middle	Autumn	94	95	94	95
	Spring	94	93	93	93
	Summer	92	93	93	91
	Average	93.3	93.6	93.3	93
St Anne's Middle	Autumn	91	92	91	91
	Spring	93	89	90	91
	Summer	86	71	88	89
	Average	90	84	89.6	90.3
Bishop Fitzgerald Middle	Autumn	94	92	95	93
	Spring	92	91	91	92
	Summer	90	91	92	90
	Average	92	91.3	92.6	91.6
St Mary's First	Autumn	91	88	89	90
	Spring	92	90	88	90
	Summer	90	90	86	86
	Average	91.5	89.3	87.6	88.6
St Bernard's First	Autumn	92	92	87	91
	Spring	91	88	87	89
	Summer	87	88	86	87
	Average	90	89.3	86.6	89
St Joseph's First	Autumn	94	86	92	93
	Spring	93	90	92	92
	Summer	91	92	93	81
	Average	92.6	89.3	92.3	92
Governor's Meadow First	Autumn	92	94	91	94
	Spring	92	91	92	93
	Summer	90	93	92	84
	Average	91.3	92.5	91.6	90.3
St Paul's First	Autumn	96	94	92	95
	Spring	94	91	92	94
	Summer	91	93	93	93
	Average	93.6	92.6	92.3	94
Notre Dame First	Autumn	91	91	91	93
	Spring	92	88	91	90
	Summer	87	87	88	90
	Average	90	88.6	90	91
Hebrew Primary	Autumn	91	93	90	93
	Spring	94	93	89	90
	Summer	90	90	92	93
	Average	91.6	92	90.3	92

ORAL

NO. 10 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – PUPILS LEAVING SCHOOL AT AGE 15

Can Government state how many pupils left school once they had reached the age of 15 in the years 2004/2005, 2005/2006, 2006/2007 and 2007/2008 to date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION & TRAINING

Answered together with Question No. 11 of 2008.

NO. 11 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – PUPILS NOT SITTING EXAMS

Can Government state what specific programme is in place in Bayside and Westside for pupils who have to stay in school until the statutory leaving age and will not be sitting examinations at the end of year 10?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION & TRAINING

The statistical information requested in Question No. 10 of 2008 is now being handed over to the hon Member in a schedule.

In respect of Question No. 11 of 2008 the pupils referred to in the question constitute a very small minority who are catered for within the schools' special needs programme.

Schedule to Question 11 of 2008

Answer to Question 10

Number of pupils who left school at age 15

	BAYSIDE	WESTSIDE	TOTALS
2004/5	29	23	52
2005/6	24	20	44
2006/7	28	10	38
2007/8	22	3	25

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 10 AND 11 OF 2008

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Minister state, as the question says, what specific programme are they actually currently doing?

HON C G BELTRAN:

Yes, this is a very small group of pupils in Year 10, who will not be continuing in Year 11 to take exams. They follow a special needs programme. The programme consists of numeracy, literacy and IT skills as well as other subjects at an appropriate level for these children within the general curriculum.

HON S E LINARES:

The Minister states it is a small group, can he say what he means by a small group, how many?

HON C G BELTRAN:

By a small group I did not mean to invoke a request for a number, I do not have the number. By a small group I mean, comparing with the totality of the year. Most of these Year 10 students will go on, the vast majority, I do not know in terms of percentage, go on to Year 11 to continue their two year programme of GCSE studies and then there is a small minority who will not take exams. Some of them might be entered for at ELC level, entry level certificate level, and others, who will not be taking exams, follow this programme that I just explained in some detail.

NO. 12 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – TEACHERS ON LONG-TERM OR PERMANENT SUPPLY

Will Government state whether teachers on long-term or permanent supply have now been given contracts?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION & TRAINING

No Sir, they have not.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 12 OF 2008

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Minister state when they are going to be given contracts?

HON C G BELTRAN:

No.

HON S E LINARES:

Is the Minister aware of the hardship some of these teachers who are on permanent supply are going through?

HON C G BELTRAN:

No hardships of the kind that he is inferring have come to my notice.

HON S E LINARES:

I have not inferred on any hardship. Hardship as in financial and rights.

HON C G BELTRAN:

Well, financial is hardship.

HON S E LINARES:

Absolutely, but I have not inferred as if they had been shot by somebody.

HON C G BELTRAN:

That would be beyond hardship.

HON S E LINARES:

I have not stated that at all. Just in case he thinks they are going to be shot at dawn. What I meant by hardship is that some of these teachers have been there, not only on a supply basis for, if I can recall, some of them five years, yes. Can the Minister then say which is the one that is longest on the list?

HON C G BELTRAN:

No, I do not have the details in front of me.

HON S E LINARES:

Then if he has not got the details in front of him I can tell him that there are examples of persons who have come to us in the Opposition, to say that they have been on a supply list for five years. I can tell him that some of them have also been even up to 11 years on the supply list but that is another matter. What I am stating is that these teachers go through hardship because when they go, for example, to obtain a mortgage from a bank to buy affordable houses they are not allowed to have a mortgage because they have not got a full-time job to pay for their mortgage. Therefore, can the Minister urgently look at this matter, as the Chief Minister said last time to us, when we had this massive debate with the previous Minister, that we were right and he knows the hardship they are going through. Yet they are dragging their feet and they are not doing anything about it and still there is no contract. Does he not agree with that?

HON C G BELTRAN:

No, I do not agree with him. It is not a valid argument to say that without a one year contract supply teachers will not get a mortgage. I think mortgage providers would look beyond one year's work to provide a mortgage. I am not a financial expert but that is common sense.

HON S E LINARES:

Then it reinforces my argument even more. If they are going to get one year contracts then it is even short and supply will be here one day gone tomorrow. Does he not agree with that?

HON C G BELTRAN:

I just wanted to finish off, really, by saying that I did say.....

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The hon Member will recall that when we last had what he calls the big debate, it was mainly about Classroom Aides and that the Government took steps in relation to Classroom Aides and there is a policy in place in relation to Classroom Aides dealing with this sort of issue. However, when considering the difference between supply terms and contractual terms, the hon Member should not assume that there is not a huge legal implication for the Government in that respect. Historically, the difference in Government service was between supply terms and permanent and pensionable terms. It was thought that one could have people on contract, and indeed one could have people on contract for as long as one liked and then get rid of them. That was the difference between contract employees and permanent and pensionable employees. There is an EU Directive now in place which has had a complicating effect here. The new Directive in place is that when an employee has been on contract terms renewed continuously for a period of time, they in effect become indefinite employees. Therefore, the questions that now arise about whether people should be transferred from supply terms to contract terms, whilst not being as severe as those that arise between considering putting them on permanent and pensionable terms, because there is a difference between indefinite contract terms and permanent and pensionable. They are different things but they are still issues to be considered. In other words, one is no longer free to say at the end of a certain number of years if they are on contract, "your services are no longer required, good bye", because they have rights of unfair dismissal, because they have become indefinite employees regardless of the contract under the terms of this Directive. I am not saying that that means that there are not, on supply terms, some people who on an individual consideration of their case, because they may in fact be doing a job that is permanently required, deserve to be put on that. I am not saying that this excludes all cases, what I am saying is that there are factors which make it more difficult for the Government now to take this sort of blank view, because it is actually not an arrangement that can be discontinued once it is done. That said, I am sure the Department, as it did in the case of Classroom Aides, will look at the situation, I think it should, I think I remember saying this to him when we discussed the Classroom Aides, and form a view of those teachers who are on supply terms who are in effect doing a job for which there is a permanent post requirement, and they should be dealt with either by permanent and pensionable terms or by contract terms. Those who are genuinely doing a supply sort of job, albeit an extended supply job because there is a child going through the system with a particular requirement, for whom the supply system is actually intended. That is what I think the Department should do and I am sure the Minister will do that. But I think the hon Member should be aware of some of the legal nuances that now apply in this area.

HON S E LINARES:

Just to state that I am aware of the new legal things that are being put in place, albeit that this has been dragging on for years and this Directive is not a new one, it is not a recent, new one as in this year. It has been there for a while, I remember arguing this with the previous Government about the rights of contract workers, the rights that they acquire after two or three years, and as indicated by the Minister four years, so it has been there for years. If the Government have been aware, why are they still dragging their feet on this issue? This is why I am questioning it.

NO. 13 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – TLRs

Can Government state at what stage they are towards implementing the TLR's (Teaching and Learning Responsibilities) in the teaching profession?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION & TRAINING

I am very glad to say that a slotting-in exercise from the former management allowance structure to the new teaching and learning responsibilities, the TLR's, has now been carried out, completed and finalised yesterday with the Teachers Union, direct between the Teachers Union and the Department of Education. Responsibility post holders slotted in will be paid the new TLR allowances as from 1st April, as soon as the arrangement can be put in, starting from 1st April 2008. Also, new vacant posts and other vacant posts that may result out of the exercise, within the new structures will be advertised shortly so the Human Resources Department selection process can start over the next few weeks.

ORAL

NO. 14 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – MAINTENANCE EXPENDITURE

Can Government state how much money has been spent on maintenance in schools from September 2007 to March 2008 giving a breakdown by schools and amounts spent respectively?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION & TRAINING

Answered together with Question No. 15 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 15 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – MINOR WORKS EXPENDITURE

Can Government state how much money has been spent on minor works in schools from September 2007 to March 2008 giving a breakdown by schools and amounts spent respectively?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION & TRAINING

The statistical information requested is being handed to the hon Member in a schedule.

Answer to Question 15 of 2008

Answer to Question 14

The expenditure in respect of maintenance from September '07 to March '08, per school, is as follows:-

Gibraltar College	£15,120
Bayside	£17,261
Westside	£88,066
St Martin's	£10,559
Hebrew	£8,619
St Anne's Middle	£25,115
Bishop Fitzgerald	£18,324
St Joseph's Middle	£15,317
Sacred Heart Middle	£8,045
St Mary's First	£4,571
Governor's Meadow First	£12,675
St Bernard's First	£2,912
St Joseph's First	£8,240
St Paul's First	£13,846
Notre Dame First	£25,917
TOTAL	£274,587

Answer to Question 15

The expenditure in respect of Minor Works from September '07 to March '08, per school, is as follows:

Gibraltar College	£35,234
Bayside	£264,002
Westside	£7,015
St Martin's	£819
St Anne's Middle	£49,738
St Joseph's Middle	£10,604
St Joseph's First	£18,018
St Paul's First	£63,939
Notre Dame First	£43,890
TOTAL	£493,259

ORAL

NO. 16 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – DRIVERS

Can Government state whether the Department of Education currently employs a driver specifically to drive the coach to commute children to different venues?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION & TRAINING

Answered together with Question No. 17 of 2008.

NO. 17 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – USE OF SCHOOL BUS

Can Government confirm whether children from St Joseph's Middle School had to walk from the stadium to the school on Wednesday 26th March 2008 and why wasn't the department's coach used to shuttle children from venue to venue?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION & TRAINING

In respect of Question No. 16 of 2008, the answer is that there are currently three Department of Education employees whose duties, amongst other things, include driving and, obviously, they drive children around in buses to different venues, different outings and so on.

In respect of Question No. 17 of 2008, children accompanied by teachers did indeed walk from the Sports Centre to the school on the date referred to by the hon Member. The Department's school bus was not used because this was a whole school sporting outing and the headteacher felt that shuttling 357 children in one bus, at approximately 15 minutes a trip, would have taken the best part of the morning. A walk, on the other hand, on a lovely crisp morning, took some 40 minutes.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 16 AND 17 OF 2008

HON S E LINARES:

As to Question No. 16 of 2008, he says he has three employees whose duties within their job description is driving. The question is has he got any specific driver, as in anybody who is specifically employed to drive the coach as a driver? The Minister must be aware that there is a difference between an employee who does different things and has a driving licence to be able to do part of that job, and a driver who is specifically there to drive the coach.

HON C G BELTRAN:

No, it is very clear that the job description of three members in the Department, three members of staff, includes driving duties. Therefore, the school bus, which is not a coach by the way, is driven by persons who not only have a licence but whose job description actually includes driving duties. It is perfectly normal and above board.

HON S E LINARES:

I disagree with the Minister that it is normal and above board to have somebody who has a driving licence, one could have somebody who is a cleaner who needs to have a driving licence in order to go and collect the cleaning materials, that is a different issue. What the Department should have is a driver who is specifically employed to drive the school bus.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

This does not raise questions just about the Department of Education, it raises questions about the Government wide. The only department of Government, no I think the Buildings & Works has some too, there are some departments of Government which have sufficient work exclusively for drivers to justify employing people who are only drivers. Buildings & Works used to have some, I do not know if they still do, certainly the Garage, the Technical Services Department have a few. Then there are a number of departments, and this includes probably all the messengers, there are a number of departments who have some need for driving services but not sufficient to justify one or more employees exclusively for driving. Why somebody who is here to protect the taxpayer's funds, such as the hon Member and I, should think that it is unusual or improper to employ somebody to drive and when their employer does not need them to drive to do other things as well, frankly is beyond my comprehension. This is a question of the employer's needs, not a question whether the hon Member thinks people should be employed as drivers twiddling their fingers until driving jobs are needed from them. I do not see why he describes that as being untoward or unusual. Both models exist and have always existed in the public sector. Some people, with exclusive and only driving duties, and other people who have driving duties mixed with other duties. That has always been the case in the public service of Gibraltar, there is nothing unusual about it.

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Minister state how much the bus is being used? It is a supplementary because he has just stated as a matter of fact, that the school bus is used now and then. I can tell him from experience that that driver is using that school bus constantly, all the time. There are 15 schools in Gibraltar, 5,000 children who move from A to B. Is the Minister or the Chief Minister not aware that this is a person who is constantly driving that school bus? So, therefore, the question is, does he know how much the bus is being used?

HON C G BELTRAN:

I know how much the bus is used and the 5,000 pupils are not constantly on the move as he is suggesting. Otherwise the schools would be empty all the time. The bus is there for children to go on educational outings, trips and so on. The driver works in the same floor as I work and I see that person who drives the bus also carrying out other duties. This is the reality and I think the Chief Minister has explained how this works generally within the general Government service.

NO. 18 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – ST BERNARD’S SCHOOL

Can Government say when the new St Bernard’s School will be opened for children to be able to attend?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION & TRAINING

No, I cannot.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 18 OF 2008

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Minister state when construction will start or whether thought has been given to construction of a new school?

HON C G BELTRAN:

There is, indeed, a Government commitment to build a school at the old St Bernard’s Hospital. In fact, a First and a Middle school there and another in the Mid-Town Project. Government, however, will choose the time when these projects are carried out.

NO. 19 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

INCE'S HALL

Can Government state whether any other refurbishment has taken place in the Ince's Hall since the last question to this Parliament on this subject?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR CULTURE, HERITAGE, SPORT & LEISURE

The loop system for the hard of hearing has been installed and new lights, sound and projection equipment are currently being installed.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 19 OF 2008

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Minister state when there might be a lift installation in the Ince's Hall for people who are disabled?

HON E J REYES:

No I cannot state that at this particular moment in time, although there will be. I have answered before that it will be considered along with other things that are to be considered. I have not made any further progress since we last spoke about it.

HON S E LINARES:

Not only should it be a requirement that he does do it, we have had it promised by the previous Minister in Phase 2, albeit now that they have cancelled these phasing ins, because it was the answer given the last time I put this question. I think it is quite legitimate to ask. Therefore, I am asking can the Minister look into this as a matter of urgency because I think it is a thing that has to be done before any other thing?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The difference between being in Government and being in Opposition is that on the Opposition side they do not decide when it is necessary to do things. For that, one

has got to be on the Government side of the House. It is quite legitimate for the hon Member to ask, it is even legitimate for the hon Member to say that in his view this should be a priority for the Government, but what the hon Member cannot do is demand of the Government that they adopt his views as the Government's policy.

HON S E LINARES:

Statutory.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Government do not presently have a proposal or a plan to install a lift in the Ince's Hall. Whether he asks the question once or every 15 minutes for the next six months, that will continue to be the answer until the Government decide in their own policy whether they want to build a lift in the Ince's Hall. Now, every time he asks it and we say it is not our policy, he can deliver the same expression of view that he thinks it should be a Government priority. He may be right but there are many priorities on the Government's radar screen. It is not at present a proposal that the Government have on the table. Therefore, I would not want the hon Member to feel that this is imminent and therefore just a matter of time of when it comes up on the pile. This is not a project that is being currently actively considered, which is not to say that it may not happen between now and the next Polling Day. But it is not presently on the agenda. I just try to be as frank as possible with the hon Member.

HON G H LICUDI:

The difference between this Government and this Opposition is that if this Opposition were in Government things would be done in a timely manner and properly.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, I do not know whether that is true or not, we only have the hon Member's hypothetical word for it. What we do know for a fact is that they were in Government for eight years and they did not.

HON G H LICUDI:

If the Chief Minister were to test the waters by going to an election rather soon, then perhaps we would find out. The question alludes to previous suggestions that have been made by the Government that this is something that is going to be considered, which is exactly what the hon Member has done today. Quite frankly, this is the same answer that we get again and again, without commitment and without any categorical conviction on the part of the Government that things are going to be done in relation to this particular aspect. If that is the position, then the honourable thing and the honest thing, would be for this Government to say, "we will not do it, we are not considering". Not to have the Minister get up and say, "this is something we are considering", which is the impression that has been given again and again and again.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The hon Member might have been able to say that five minutes ago, but I do not see how he can say it now because what he is urging the Government to say in all honesty is precisely what I have just said. Before sitting down I have said it that I am saying it in order to be as frank as possible with the Opposition Member. No sooner have I sat down than the hon Member stands up to say that if the Government were honest it would say exactly what I had just said before he stood up.

HON G H LICUDI:

Let me then say that we are grateful for the Chief Minister correcting the misapprehension and the misleading statement which apparently was made only five minutes before his intervention. Do the Government consider that access to public facilities by the disabled is something that should be on their radar screens, is something that should be on their agenda and is something that ought to be looked at as a matter of priority, on any public facility?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, yes, of course the Government do. The hon Member will see that unlike the previous administration, this administration spend a considerable amount of money on road refurbishment programmes, and whenever they build new amenities it makes very full provision. There are lifts for the disabled in the King's Bastion Leisure Centre that I believe have not yet been used, because there are several of them. Now, that is very different to whether in respect of existing old facilities the Government can commit in each and every case of them, particularly in the case of a facility which the Government may be thinking of replacing with a new theatre, it makes sense for the Government to rush around installing disabled lifts in every single publicly owned building in Gibraltar. See, the Government think a little bit more than the Opposition do.

NO. 20 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

BAYSIDE SPORTS COMPLEX

Can Government state over what days the facilities at the Bayside Sports Complex were closed during the Christmas period of 2007?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR CULTURE, HERITAGE, SPORT & LEISURE

The facilities at Bayside Sports Centre were closed during the Christmas period on the days of 24th December, closed in the afternoon only, 25th and 26th December, they were closed all day, as well as closed all day on 29th, 30th and 31st December.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 20 OF 2008

HON G H LICUDI:

Certainly, the 25th and 26th were public holidays and for the afternoon of the 24th I understand is the usual practice. With regards to the closure on 29th, 30th and 31st, can the Government or the Minister explain the reasons for that closure? As I understand it, the staff at the Centre there work on shifts and work on weekends, other Government servants, even though Civil Servants had some time off, other Civil Servants who work on shifts were required to work on those days and were given other days off, especially at a time when children were off school and public sporting facilities were needed in Gibraltar. We are wondering why there was a need to close those facilities over those three days?

HON E J REYES:

What happened was that in order to accommodate commitments that the Sport and Leisure Authority had already given out for use of these facilities on 27th and 28th December, in speaking with the Government employees they still wanted to have the extra days off as awarded to their colleagues, chose instead to swap those days for the 29th and 30th December, when there were no concrete commitments already made with other sporting bodies.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Let me add to that. I agree with the sentiment underlying the hon Member's question. I was not aware, actually, of the facts as set out in this matter. The hon Member will have seen, in relation to the Leisure Centre, that the Government's public announcement was to the effect that the Leisure Centre would operate every day of the year, including Christmas Day, except Good Friday. Now, that response to the Government's policy that leisure facilities should be available when they are most needed, and they are most needed when children are not at school during holiday times. Certainly the Government would not wish to draw a distinction between that approach towards pure leisure and that approach towards sporting facilities, which are just leisure facilities of another sort. Therefore, certainly, the Government will be keen to ensure that if the factual circumstances reproduce themselves, that arrangements are made to ensure that sporting facilities are not denied to the community unnecessarily. But I am grateful to the hon Member for the views that he has expressed about it.

HON G H LICUDI:

I too am grateful for the explanation, clarification given and the sentiments expressed by the Chief Minister. We certainly agree on the Opposition side that leisure and sporting facilities ought to be available, particularly when they are most needed. I was certainly surprised over the Christmas period because I tried to make a booking myself to use those facilities and I was not able to. That is how it came to my attention. I can express a wish that this incident will be taken into account, if and when it is to be repeated over the Christmas period of 2008, in respect of which there is another question.

ORAL

NO. 21 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

BAYSIDE SPORTS COMPLEX

Can Government state what measures it proposes to take to remedy the defects in the playing surface of the paddle tennis courts at the Bayside Sports Complex?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR CULTURE, HERITAGE, SPORT & LEISURE

Answered together with Question No. 22 of 2008.

NO. 22 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

BAYSIDE SPORTS COMPLEX

Can Government state when and where it will build the additional paddle tennis courts which the Minister announced during a speech at the end of a paddle tennis tournament held at the Bayside Sports Complex in January 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR CULTURE, HERITAGE, SPORT & LEISURE

Government is considering the question of the provision of additional paddle tennis courts.

As regards the three existing courts at the Bayside Sports Centre, arrangements have been made for the specialist contractor to inspect these courts and to identify any defects which may require to be rectified. If any defects require to be rectified, then we will carry out any necessary remedial works. All this is being done as part of the contract's 12 month works liability period.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 21 AND 22 OF 2008

HON G H LICUDI:

I am grateful for that.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Perhaps he should declare an interest.

HON G H LICUDI:

Yes, I do declare an interest. I do, in fact.....

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

When he asks about the sports facilities that he uses.

HON G H LICUDI:

These are facilities which were much needed, much appreciated by the sporting community in Gibraltar and the Minister knows this because I have expressed these sentiments to him privately. But I do declare an interest because I do hold a coaching certificate in paddle tennis myself, I have a particular interest in this. I note that the Minister has said that the question of additional courts is being considered. As I heard the Minister speak at the end of when he gives these traditional indoor tournament speeches, it was taken generally as a commitment that these matters will be done and these additional facilities will be provided. Rather than the toning down which we are now hearing in Parliament, which is "we will consider". As I said in response to an earlier question, one could consider ad infinitum and it never comes to fruition. What we are trying to ascertain and the question is, Mr Speaker, is the Government really serious, having regard in particular to the popularity of the sport, to the difficulty that is created or that everybody has in obtaining the use of that court, because they are certainly over-subscribed on a daily basis, as I understand. Notwithstanding that there are other courts elsewhere available, is the Government able to give us a clear and categorical commitment that this is something that is being given serious thought and we might see in the very near future those additional courts which are very much needed by the community?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Certainly as Minister responsible for public finances I would not approve of Ministers who in cocktail parties commit the Government to the building of expensive new sports amenities. Seriously, but having not been there myself I do not know whether what the Minister said could fairly be interpreted as a commitment, and if so, what degree. In any event, I do not think anyone can doubt this Government's commitment to investment in sporting facilities. The £10 million that we have invested in the Bayside Sports facilities generally, I think speak for itself in general for sport. In relation to facilities for which there may be further demand, well of course, the Government keep these things under review but bear in mind that either he or one of his other colleagues has got a question on the Order Paper in a moment, asking more or less the same question about a new football pitch. Then there are hockey players and cricket players and everybody wants more facilities. So this is not just a question of in respect of each sport saying "is there more demand, if so therefore you must build more facilities", because there are issues of availability of resources. I think, just in closing, the hon Member might wish to acknowledge that one of the last sports facilities that the Government has funded the creation of, is indeed an additional paddle tennis court. The building of the new car park underneath the Sandpits tennis courts included the provision of an additional paddle tennis court for that Club, which I think is generally available on a relatively available basis, even to people who may not be members of the Club. I do not know how easy it is to actually get into it but that was a publicly funded additional paddle tennis court. Now, I am not going to make any commitments and if the Minister for Sport has inadvertently given some degree of commitment, then it is hereby withdrawn. The only commitment that I can make to the hon Member is that the Government will continue to keep the need for sports facilities of all sorts in mind, including paddle tennis, which we do acknowledge is a sport of increasing popularity and, therefore, for which there is increasing demand. We will do what we can to allocate space and financial resources available to ensure that the maximum possible provision in that respect is provided. Now, that is a conceptual commitment but it is not a commitment to actually deliver one or any other specific numbers of additional courts.

HON G H LICUDI:

We certainly appreciate that the Government do bear in mind the needs of the sporting community and facilities are being made available and improved. In terms of the withdrawal of any suggestion, if it was not a categorical commitment which may have been made by the Minister, is the Chief Minister now seriously telling us that whenever his Ministers come out and make public commitments on the part of the Government, we have to take those commitments with a pinch of salt?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, if he is going to interpret the words “the Minister” as constituting a commitment that is a different matter. If a Minister makes a commitment without unilateral..... absolutely, there are some decisions that Ministers cannot unilaterally take. Absolutely right. But does the hon Member know any Government in any democracy that works differently? Does the hon Member imagine that there is any Government in any democracy where Ministers go about their business every day, committing the Government to capital or expenditure and then the poor old chancellor has to dig up the money from the local coal mine, presumably? That is not how Governments work, that is not how Governments work anywhere. Ministers do have to be careful, without suggesting for one moment that this Minister was not. I am not conceding, not having been present, what he did or did not say. But certainly, we all have an obligation in Government to be careful not to commit the Government to expenditure until the Government have made a policy decision, through the usual policy making mechanism, to incur in that expenditure. If in any particular case a Minister were to inadvertently, and despite that, “speak out of turn” so to speak, then the Government would have perhaps the difficult decision of deciding whether to honour the commitment or to expose the Minister to the potential for embarrassment if the Government were to say, “no, you spoke out of turn and we are not doing that this year or at all”. The Government might well find itself from time to time in that position.

HON G H LICUDI:

The latter proposition is what the Chief Minister precisely has chosen to do today.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Only if the Minister did indeed commit himself, which is still an issue.

HON G H LICUDI:

The Minister is here, he is silent.

NO. 23 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

FOOTBALL PITCH – PROVISION OF SECOND FULL-SIZE PITCH

Can Government state whether and if so where it proposes to build a second full-size football pitch?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR CULTURE, HERITAGE, SPORT & LEISURE

The Government presently has no plans to provide another football pitch.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 23 OF 2008

HON G H LICUDI:

Well, that is categorical enough, there can be no confusion about any inadvertent or otherwise commitment to the sporting.....

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Not as categorical as important.

HON G H LICUDI:

It is categorical. It is certainly categorical from the point of view of people who hear this today and who are able to reasonably interpret that answer as saying that the Government have no intention whatsoever, at present, they may change in ten years time but this Government will not be there in ten years time. Is the Government aware, and I note in asking this supplementary what the Chief Minister has just mentioned, that it is not just a question of need and demand, it is also a question of finances, there are wide considerations. With respect to football in particular, are the Government aware that there are close to 1,500 registered players in Gibraltar, both at senior, junior and ladies level and that one full-size football pitch simply is not enough for the needs of a community, of a football community of this size? Do the Government know that that is actually creating difficulties which affect Gibraltar from wider points of view? The Government are aware that Gibraltar has been invited to participate next month in an important sporting event as part of a four nation tournament, with England, Wales and Scotland. In fact, Gibraltar, importantly, is being treated as a nation, that is important, because the only other nations that have

ever been invited to that tournament are Italy and Holland. It is a tournament of prestige. Are the Government aware that there are serious difficulties being created for the Gibraltar squad, in being able to get allocations to train properly for that tournament, which are absolutely necessary in order for a decent participation by Gibraltar to take place overseas? Is the Minister aware that the only other full-size pitch available in Gibraltar is at Devil's Tower Camp, which is a Services or MOD pitch? The GFA has written three weeks ago to the MOD requesting the use of that facility because they simply cannot cancel football league matches which are going on, and no response has been received from the MOD to that request for those facilities to be used in this particular situation. Are the Government able to assist by intervening and making appropriate requests, so that that is considered favourably very soon, because it is a matter of urgency? This tournament is taking place next month these facilities are needed now not in two years time, and it is creating a big problem for Gibraltar.

HON E J REYES:

Many little issues have been raised. This Government is aware of the GFA's invitation to participate in the tournament. I have personally, together with the Chief Executive of the Sport & Leisure Authority, met with the senior top officials of the GFA, we discussed and offered different ways in which allocation of the present facilities could be improved upon for the GFA. If I may add that we even made very generous offers of using times when traditionally not many activities take place, like Easter weekend activities and so on. We have looked into alternatives, despite commitments we have of schools sports days and so on, alternatives of even replacing football goals on a Friday afternoon so the GFA can make full use of it exclusively over the weekend and taking them off on Monday, available again for the school facilities as need be. So I believe we have had a very good, sincere, honest exchange of views with the GFA. We have offered them to meet further with the Chief Executive, show them all the requests, the firm commitments. Our Authority would even be willing to intercede and ask certain associations with fixed bookings if they could move and transfer some dates and so on. I believe a very good working relationship has been established, so yes, we are supportive of the GFA. However, I must mention that despite the hon Member's valid statement that there is only one full-size football pitch and a big demand for it, there are also many occasions during the course of the weekend, like this Sunday when I was there, when it was a real pity to see that football pitch not being used at all, if there are indeed so many members wishing to participate in such a noble sport.

HON G H LICUDI:

The Minister has not answered the supplementary. I have no doubt that there is this good working relationship and there has been this sincere exchange of views. The reality is that it has achieved no practical result for the issue at hand. What I have asked is whether the Minister will personally, or the Government, will intervene and make appropriate requests of an urgent nature to the MOD, to release the use of the other facility that is available so that it can be used by the football fraternity in Gibraltar until May.

HON E J REYES:

Well, sharing the sentiment that the more facilities that are available the better, we can ask and see if we can help in that respect as well.

HON G H LICUDI:

It does not sound very encouraging from the Minister. Unfortunately.

NO. 24 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

SWIMMING POOL – USE BY ELDERLY AND DISABLED

Can Government provide the proposed schedule for opening times during 2008 for the swimming pool for the elderly and disabled?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR CULTURE, HERITAGE, SPORT & LEISURE

The swimming pool for the elderly and disabled is scheduled to open for their exclusive use during 2008, from 1st June up to and including 30th September, and this will be during the hours of 10.00 a.m. to 8.00 p.m.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 24 OF 2008

HON G H LICUDI:

The question relates to opening times during 2008. In his answer, the Minister has given opening times between 1st June and 30th September, what happens the rest of the year?

HON E J REYES:

In my answer I use the word “exclusive”, I perhaps thought that what the general public wanted to know is what happens during those very popular summer months when the pool is allocated exclusively for them. During the rest of the year, that is, the months after September and up to June, what we have is we have got the swimming pool that caters for the elderly, the disabled and is also used for teaching of swimming by schools and so on. During the course of the year there are fixed allocations for the elderly, fixed allocations for the disabled and a shared allocation for both the elderly and the disabled. So, that is how the situation stands outside those peak summer months.

HON G H LICUDI:

I am not sure that I follow the answer and I do not know whether the Minister is referring to what was traditionally known as the GASA pool or the new pool that was built. The Minister suggests that during this time, June to September, there is

exclusive use on the part of elderly and disabled and in other times there is joint use with other groups. Can the Minister say.....

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Xxxxxx the rest of the year it is not going to be closed.

HON G H LICUDI:

That is what I am trying to establish. When is it open during the rest of the year so that elderly and disabled can go at their leisure?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, that is not the nature of the facility nor the nature of the agreement that was entered into with the Senior Citizens Association. There is no demand for that sort of facility and, of course, whilst the facility is open it is a very expensive facility to run. What the Senior Citizens Association asked for was that they wanted exclusive use during the summer months, because as can be seen, they use it, they use it as a recreational facility as well, which is great, and during the rest of the year they do not feel that there is this need and, therefore, there is no need for the expensive manning of the operation. It is then used during the rest of the year on a more targeted niche basis and, I think, the Minister can give the information, it includes some slots during the day for the elderly but not all day. In other words, any elderly person that wants to swim during the winter has to do it between certain hours and cannot choose from the whole day to do it.

HON G H LICUDI:

I am trying to find out exactly when it is available to the elderly and the disabled.

HON E J REYES:

In order to facilitate matters and to make certain that I am understood, I will give the hon Member a schedule of what the programme looks like and he will see what I was trying to say. There are school use, exclusive elderly, exclusive disabled and even a shared elderly and disabled period, extensive use of the pool facilities of what is the new part, not the old GASA swimming pool.

HON G H LICUDI:

I will have a look at that. My understanding is that there is use of the facility for elderly and disabled or just for the disabled, only at some hours on Thursdays and Saturdays. The reports I have had was that Thursdays during the day, so any disabled person that works only has the use during the winter period of the facility on Saturday for a number of hours. Does the Government agree that in terms of disabled facility this is an important facility, which should be as widely available as possible and that it has an important therapeutic effect for people who are able to use

this facility and perhaps not others, and that the use during the winter months of the facility by those people, only for a couple of hours on Saturday, seems to be insufficient?

HON E J REYES:

The use is available on days other than Saturdays. When the hon Member receives the schedule, he will be able to see that the elderly have exclusive use on a Tuesday afternoon; the disabled have exclusive use on a Thursday afternoon, and there is a longer period of four hours when it can be used by both elderly and disabled. The booking schedule will also show that that swimming pool is being used to its maximum capacity and it is a question of what do we do? Do we ask the Department of Education to scrap from their curriculum the teaching of swimming, it is a question of priorities and we are quite satisfied with how we have prioritised the allocation of that pool.

**NEW SWIMMING POOL FOR THE ELDERLY,
DISABLED AND TEACHING**

WINTER SEASON – 1ST OCTOBER TO 31ST MAY

TIME	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
9 – 10am	School Use	Sports Development Elderly exclusively	School Use	School Use	School use		
10am – 12							
12 – 1pm							CLOSED
1 – 2pm	St Martins School Use		Sports Development	St Anne's Special Needs	Sports Development Jackie Linares 2.30 – 3.30pm St Anne's Special Needs	Disabled & Elderly	
2 – 3pm	1.30 – 2.30pm			Disabled Exclusively 2.30 – 4.30pm			
3 – 4pm	2.30 – 3.30pm Bishop Fitz Special Needs	Mother & Toddler			Sp. Olympics		
4 – 5pm	Mother & Toddler		Sp. Olympics				
5 – 9pm	GASA	GASA	GASA	GASA	GASA	CLOSED	

NO. 25 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

RETREAT CENTRE – BOOKINGS

Can Government state how many bookings there have been for the use of the Retreat Centre at Lathbury Barracks in the years 2006, 2007 to date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR CULTURE, HERITAGE, SPORT & LEISURE

The Retreat Centre at Lathbury Barracks is not operated by the Government. The hon Member should address his enquiries to the Trustees or the Management of the Retreat Centre.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 25 OF 2008

HON S E LINARES:

May I then inform the Minister that the Government should not be using this statistic for their Budget speeches, as other Ministers have done year in year out, saying how often and how well and how good this Retreat Centre is, when it is not in the remit of the Government. Does the Minister not agree that he should scrap it from his Budget speech the next time then?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, the Minister nor his leader could possibly agree with that for the very simple reason that one thing is the operational use of it and another thing is the funding of it. This entity receives public funding and, therefore, it is not only appropriate but indeed necessary to deal with it at Budget time, because part of the budget that we are voting includes a vote of a grant to the people in question. Therefore, it is indeed necessary and appropriate to deal with it at Budget time. What we do not do is micro-manage the use of it. The Government do not even feel that they have priority access to it, if they wanted it for a particular event or organisation, there is a Trust it has its own Board of Directors, Trustees, there is a full-time manager there employed by the Trustees, people make bookings and to obtain the information required for his question, we would have to do exactly what we are asking him to do, which is to ring up the manager and say "oye, mira". It is not a Government department and it is not a Government organisation, therefore, the fact that we do not think it is appropriate to account for this does not mean that it is wrong to raise it at Budget time when we are discussing money, as opposed to xxxxx

HON S E LINARES:

But I am specifically talking about bookings and not money. I totally agree with the Chief Minister that at Budget time one has to account for every single penny that is given to the Trustees. That is another issue, but the Minister cannot go on to say in his Budget speech, "and this is widely used and there are many people booking it". That is the issue. That is why I have posed the question, because I would like to find out that if the statement by the Minister is that it is widely used going by the bookings that are made, I want to know in this Parliament what the Minister means by the bookings. I have asked the question how many bookings. That is why I have asked the question, so the Chief Minister must understand that I do understand about accounting and about money and a little bit about law and teaching, which you do not. So what I am saying here is very simply that I understand that he can speak about every single penny that is spent on everything that the Government spend the money on, but when it comes to bookings he should not come and say, "because it is extensively used and booked and all that". Well, how many bookings are there, that is why I have posed the question.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Why not? The hon Member is completely wrong. Look, in Question Time the hon Member can only ask the Government to account to him for things for which the Government are responsible as a matter of Government policy. Different rules apply in Budget time, when we are all free to say whatever we like. So he knows about laws and teaching and all of that but he does not know about the rules of the House in which he sits. At Budget time, subject to the Speaker's ruling, he can speak about whatever he likes and I can speak about whatever I like and that is the tradition in this House. At Question Time he cannot ask us things for which we are not responsible or accountable in this House. That is the difference and I hope that I have now helped him understand it.

NO. 26 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

CENTRAL HALL – USE FOR PRIVATE AND ASSOCIATION FUNCTIONS

Can Government state how many bookings there have been for the use of the Central Hall giving a breakdown of private and association functions in the years 2006, 2007 to date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR CULTURE, HERITAGE, SPORT & LEISURE

In 2006, Central Hall was used for 45 private functions and 210 uses by other groups. In 2007, private 50, others 235 and in 2008 I can provide statistics only up to and including 31st March. Private 7 and others 40.

ORAL

NO. 27 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

MUSIC CENTRE (OLD BFBS BUILDING)

Can Government state whether the monies for the shutters to the old BFBS building have now been accounted for?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR CULTURE, HERITAGE, SPORT & LEISURE

Answered together with Question No. 28 of 2008.

NO. 28 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

MUSIC CENTRE (OLD BFBS BUILDING)

Can Government state whether the old BFBS building which was entrusted to trustees is being used often by groups, bands and musicians generally and where any group, band or musicians wanting to use the facilities have to go to be able to use the facilities?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR CULTURE, HERITAGE, SPORT & LEISURE

A request for financial assistance was made to Government by the Music Centre Trust in 2003. This was to enable them to undertake renovations and refurbishments to the Centre. They submitted itemised estimates for a large number of works, amongst which was included the shutters. Government agreed to grant £50,000, which I will add is not the full amount of all the estimated works as submitted, to assist the Trust with renovations and refurbishment. Henceforth, it was left to the Trust to decide on their priorities to carry out these works. As has already been mentioned in this Parliament, Government are satisfied that the grant has been used for the purpose that it was given. That is, the Trust used the monies for renovations and refurbishments.

As for Question No. 28 of 2008, I am informed the Trustees feel that because of the condition of the building it is not opportune for them to issue it out for any further use. Government, however, are committed as stated in this Party's 2007 Election Manifesto, to establish a complex to house Gibraltar's various music teaching facilities in one modern and appropriate site.

ORAL

NO. 29 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

HERITAGE ACTION COMMITTEE

How often and on what dates has the Heritage Action Committee met since 2 October 2007?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR CULTURE, HERITAGE, SPORT & LEISURE

The Heritage Action Committee has met on three occasions. The dates being, 2nd October 2007; 18th December 2007, and 20th February 2008.

ORAL

NO. 30 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

TRANSBORDER INSTITUTE

Can Government state how much money has been allocated to the Trans-Border Institute for the years 2007/2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR CULTURE, HERITAGE, SPORT & LEISURE

Mr Speaker, none.

ORAL

NO. 31 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

KING'S BASTION LEISURE CENTRE

Can Government state how many accidents resulting in injuries there have been at the ice-skating rink since the opening of the King's Bastion Leisure Centre?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR CULTURE, HERITAGE, SPORT & LEISURE

Answered together with Question Nos. 32 and 33 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 32 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

KING'S BASTION LEISURE CENTRE

Can Government state when it will redress the problem of access for disabled persons to the bowling area at the King's Bastion Leisure Centre?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR CULTURE, HERITAGE, SPORT & LEISURE

Answered together with Question Nos. 31 and 33 of 2008.

NO. 33 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

KING'S BASTION LEISURE CENTRE

Can Government state when it will redress the problem of access for disabled persons to the King's Bastion Leisure Centre from Line Wall Road?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR CULTURE, HERITAGE, SPORT & LEISURE

Since the magnificent King's Bastion Leisure Centre opened there have been six recorded accidents resulting in injury in the ice rink.

Access to the Leisure Centre via Line Wall Road entrance is at hand as an item of Phase II of the project, which is the complete refurbishment of the Line Wall Road building.

I am also glad to say there is no problem whatsoever with access for disabled persons to the bowling alley.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 31 TO 33 OF 2008

HON G H LICUDI:

Let me deal with each question separately in supplementaries if I may. When the Minister speaks of six recorded accidents, let me start by taking this opportunity to welcome formally the opening of the Leisure Centre. It is, as we all know, a long overdue facility. We have been critical in the past of delays and of the cost involved...

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

You have never had it in your manifesto. If you had been in office it would not have been built at all. xxxxxx

HON G H LICUDI:

The Chief Minister knows that is not correct. Once it was committed, Governments coming in would have to..... In any event, this question is not intended to create political controversy and I am surprised that the Chief Minister, in the light of what I

am opening my supplementaries on, should try to pick a fight, as it were. Be that as it may, it is obvious that the Leisure Centre is very popular with the public and the people are very pleased. I also note, if I may take this opportunity, that a lot of people have come to realise the historical importance of King's Bastion, which even I, certainly I was not aware until very recently. Had King's Bastion not been constructed just before the Great Siege, Gibraltar may very well have passed on to Spanish hands, would have passed, certainly would have passed, that is the historical view, less than 80 years after it was taken by the British and Dutch fleet and that is important from a Gibraltar heritage and cultural point of view as well. As regards the ice-skating rink, I am sure the Government will agree that when facilities such as this are provided, it is imperative that as safe an environment as possible ought to be provided. I am sure the Government will be striving to do that. The Minister has given us details of six recorded accidents, can the Minister tell us what does "recorded" mean? Are they recorded there and then, is there a log, is there a safety officer, are there first aid qualified people there on the spot who record this on the spot or only when people report having gone to hospital subsequently?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

First of all I acknowledge the hon Member's magnanimous and, I think, politically astute recognition of the magnificence of the Leisure Centre. I suppose that it is a compliment in a sense to know that when the only thing that an Opposition ever seems to say about the Government is that it has taken a bit too long, when the only thing that can be criticised is the delay, I interpret that as meaning that on the whole the agenda is correct, albeit that they think it should be going just a little bit more quickly. Nevertheless, I think it is right to say that for many decades, let me use the word "decades" so that it is not thought to be this Government or the previous one, I think that there was an absence of this sort of facility in Gibraltar, with Gibraltarian young families going across the border to engage in these facilities. The Government is delighted with the way it has panned out and it may be that there will be teething problems of an operation or of another sort, but on the whole, I am grateful to the hon Member for the fulsomeness of his acknowledgement of the worthwhileness of the project. We did toy with the idea and we did think about whether the ice-skating rink should be somehow limited to people who had demonstrated proficiency in ice-skating. But the reality is that that is not how it happens anywhere else and why should we be more protective of young people here, when they can go across the border to the place there next to the cinemas in Los Barrios to do it. We came to the conclusion that it just was not appropriate. There is a very considerable amount of staff and supervisory staff that have been trained. As the hon Member may by now know, the ice-skating rink is operated by the Gibraltar Sport & Leisure Authority, staff of which have undergone special training in ice-skating. The management of the Centre and the Sport & Leisure Authority do also keep a record of injuries. So the record that we are talking about is not just hospital records, the management of the Centre keeps a record of these things. I understand, although I ask the hon Member not to hold me to this answer until I have had an opportunity to check it, that the staff have also had some degree of first aid training, but I could not tell him to what degree. So, I think the intention is that they may be first responder qualified, maybe, but certainly they are not equipped or trained to deliver any medical treatment to any seriously injured person. We are fortunate to have the ambulance and the hospital very close by and very often it is best to wait three minutes for the experts to arrive before well-meaning non-experts start fiddling about. That I think is the position, but look, should experience suggest that there is a need to have on site some better first aid response capability, that will

be kept under review and if it is thought to be appropriate it will be provided. If that is not yet the case, at least the Government have not had advice to that effect.

HON G H LICUDI:

Can the Government tell us whether they have public liability insurance in place in respect of injuries which occur at the ice rink?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

There is public liability insurance in place.

HON G H LICUDI:

By which I take it includes the liability for injuries, liability where liability is proper.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Exactly, he is an active lawyer and I am not. I am not going to give him any answer which suggests that the Government would be liable or indeed the insurance company would be liable. In fact, as he knows, it is an area of law which has in the past proved fraught. The current understanding appears to be that so long as the facility provided is itself safe, people engage in sports that have a danger, they engage in that danger voluntarily and therefore the provider of the facility is not liable. Provided, of course, the facility is safe and not deficient. That could tip. So the answer is that there is public liability insurance in place where liability would fall on the owner and occupier and operator of the building.

HON G H LICUDI:

With regard to the recording of the injuries, can Government confirm to us that they will monitor actually on a pro-active basis this question of accidents and injuries, so that the idea would be to monitor over a period of time whether the controls which are necessarily in place, controls I am talking about numbers of monitors actually on the ice or people on the ice supervising the activities, controls of numbers actually going on to the ice, which I am sure is important, and I would hope that the Government have taken advice on before actually opening the Leisure Centre. Will the Government agree that it is important to monitor this on an on-going basis, so that measures as may be appropriate should or will be taken in the future, if it is felt that there are too many accidents or too many injuries, having regard to the size of the facility when compared to facilities elsewhere?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Actually the reverse is true. The hon Member may be interested to know that all of those issues have been already taken into account, but of course, they will continue to be kept under monitoring review, which I think almost by definition has to be proactive. The advice that the Government received from the experts that we called in to seek advice, advised us that we could allow many more people onto this ice than

we had chosen to allow. In other words, precisely because the Government have chosen to put safety first, the curtailment of numbers that is presently in operation, maximum number of people on the ice, is less than we have from some European body, some regulatory body of ice skating, I do not remember the exact name, would be within the capacity of this particular facility. There is a very hands-on approach to safety related supervision, there is an employee on ice skates on the ice all the time, they do not allow horse play, they immediately intervene when children are incurring, children or not children skaters, incurring behaviour likely to subject themselves or other skaters to the risk of danger. So the Government are satisfied at the moment, the whole thing has been thought out and implemented with a very high safety threshold in mind, which is not to say that experience cannot teach one that it needs tweaking or modifying and that would certainly be the case, yes.

HON G H LICUDI:

The Chief Minister answered three of my questions so I will move on to the other issue which is the question of access to the Leisure Centre and the bowling area. The answer given with regard to the bowling area was that there is no problem of access to the bowling area for disabled. Can the Minister tell me how access is obtained to the bowling area? My understanding is that on each entrance to the bowling area there are two steps and there are no ramps.

HON E J REYES:

Well, I am very pleased to inform the hon Member that there is actually a dismountable ramp which is laid upon at the request of the user, to allow precisely access from the top level to those two steps, and because seeing is believing, I could even pass on to the hon Member a digital photograph showing the actual ramp, and even the contraption that allows disabled users who are wheelchair bound to even undertake bowling facilities using this contraption without having to leave their wheelchair.

HON G H LICUDI:

I am grateful for that clarification, I had not seen that dismountable ramp. Can the Minister confirm whether that dismountable ramp also allows access to the children's bowling area and the internet lounge, where there are two or three steps? I do not know whether this is a contraption that can be taken outside the bowling area to the children's bowling area as well. Otherwise the same problem exists with regard to the internet lounge and the children's bowling area.

HON E J REYES:

Well, when one looks at the picture my interpretation of that is that I think it should also be suitable. However, if the hon Member wishes I can have it confirmed by the management staff, but it certainly at first impression seems suitable because it goes down two steps, which I believe is about the same height that the children's one would be required.

HON G H LICUDI:

I would be grateful if the Minister would check that and confirm to us that access is available throughout. The third question had to do with access to the King's Bastion Leisure Centre from Line Wall Road. The answer the Minister gave was that this would be included in Phase II of the refurbishment of this area. Now we know that there is a Phase II to the Leisure Centre.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is not so much Phase II although I accept that that is what the answer says. It is not so much Phase II of the Leisure Centre as the Line Wall Road building, the one that he can most immediately see from outside his office, which is actually not part of the Leisure Centre at all except one vault that provides an entrance to it. That has been partially refurbished and now needs to be internally refurbished, and there are some ideas of what is going to go in there, a proposal for a fitness centre or something. But it is as part of the project to refurbish that building, the Line Wall Road what used to be the houses, that is the second phase referred to in the answer to the question.

HON G H LICUDI:

I am glad that the Chief Minister has again seen fit to correct or undermine what the Minister said. We have become accustomed to the Chief Minister correcting issues that Ministers may have said publicly or in this House. What we have not become accustomed to and what is welcome, is the reverse, the Minister for Justice undermining the Chief Minister, particularly with regard to the age of smoking and drinking under age.

MR SPEAKER:

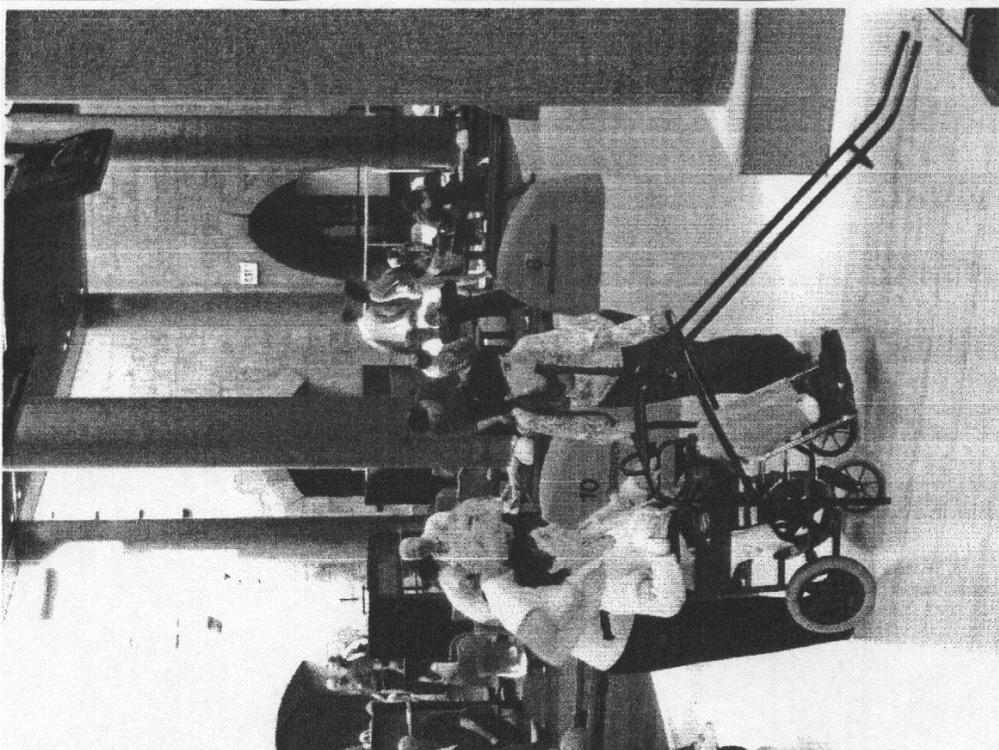
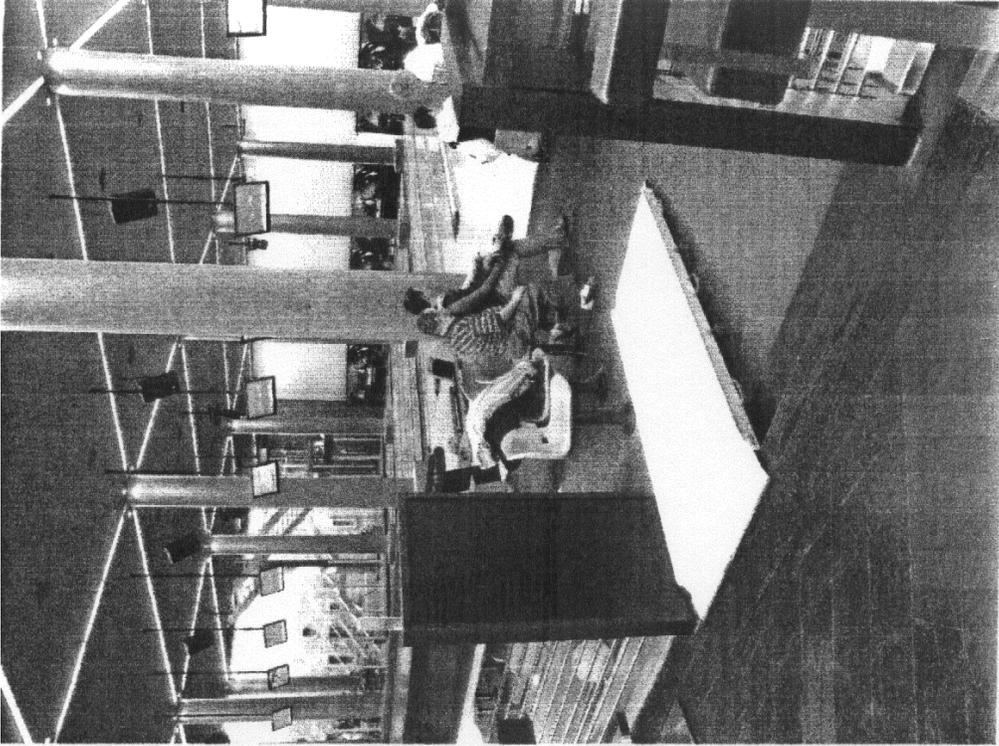
I must advise the hon Member he has strayed far from the question, I may have to stop the supplementary. I am sure we will get there.

HON G H LICUDI:

Just a final point on this question of access from the Line Wall Road. As I understand it, the problem is that if one has a disabled person who wants access to the Leisure Centre and that person is on Line Wall Road, they have to go throughout the length of Line Wall Road to one end of Queensway and then double back in order to get to the Leisure Centre independently, which is what is important, in particular for disabled users. There are, as I understand it, two steps on Line Wall Road into the area from which access into the Leisure Centre can be gained and it does not take very much simply to build a ramp to go down two steps, or even to put a portable or semi-permanent ramp in place. Can the Government confirm that that is something that is going to be looked at as a matter of urgency, so that access can be gained straight away without having to wait for this new phase or new facilities?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

That is what is being done.





NO. 34 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

KING'S BASTION LEISURE CENTRE

Can Government state what steps it has taken or proposes to take to restrict access to inappropriate internet sites at the internet facility in the King's Bastion Leisure Centre?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR CULTURE, HERITAGE, SPORT & LEISURE

The King's Bastion Leisure Centre internet lounge kiosks utilise an internet content filtering system supplied by the kiosk vendors. This is the standard content filtering software used in public areas such as hotels and airports. Through the use of keywords and URL filtering, the system exclusively targets explicit contents such as pornography.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 34 OF 2008

HON G H LICUDI:

Can the Minister tell us since when that system has been in place? The reason I ask is that this question is prompted by a report from a constituent that there appeared to be no restriction on access to inappropriate sites. That is why I have asked the question and perhaps the Minister can confirm whether he has satisfied himself that the system works adequately. Given the high level of young people and children in particular that use the Leisure Centre and the free access there is in the internet lounge, it is, I am sure the Government will agree, of utmost importance that there are proper controls and restrictions in place. Can the Minister confirm that he will satisfy himself that whatever system is in place is working properly and that the restrictions are working?

HON E J REYES:

As we speak, I am satisfied that the system is working properly. I have been there myself and seen it. I think the hon Member was trying to ask me since when has it been operational. My first reaction is to say since day one, but in order to make certain that we have an accurate record I will obtain that information for him.

ORAL

NO. 35 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

EMPLOYMENT – WORK PERMITS

According to the answer to question 9 in the employment statistical report for the fourth quarter of 2007, the number of work permits issued for October, November and December 2007 was 51, 35 and 27 respectively. Can Government state what was the total number of work permits in place as at end December 2007?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR & INDUSTRIAL
RELATIONS**

The total number of work permits in place at the end of December 2007 was 2,225. The proviso that I make is that these figures may be inflated and I will give an explanation as to why with Question No. 36 of 2008.

NO. 36 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

EMPLOYMENT – CONTRACTS

Can Government state what was the total number of employment contracts registered with the Employment Agency as at 29 February 2008 giving a breakdown by nationality and sex?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR & INDUSTRIAL
RELATIONS**

The statistical information requested by the hon Member is set out in the schedule which is being handed to him.

As the hon Member may be aware, when employment statistics as recorded by the Employment Service are considered, it must be noted that these figures tend to be inflated as a result of terminations of employment that employers fail to notify, or even companies that disappear leaving all employment records as registered with the Employment Service.

As the hon Member will be able to verify from the employment statistics made available to the Opposition on a quarterly basis, such statistical information in respect of Notices of Terms of Engagement is kept by the Employment Service as broken down by nationality only, not by sex.

However, the necessary programming of the database is being undertaken in order to have this information also broken down by sex, and will be made available to the hon Member soonest.

Answer to Question 36/2008

Total number of 'Notice of Terms of Engagement' with the Employment Service as at 29th February 2008 by nationality.

Gibraltarian	Other British	Spanish	Moroccan	Other EEC	Other Non-EEC	Total
11346	5114	3884	1339	1445	918	24046

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 36 OF 2008

HON G H LICUDI:

I may have missed something from the question about this information, the recording of information in relation to employment contracts not being broken down by sex. It was my understanding from previous questions that, for example, in answer to question 5 in the Employment statistical report for the fourth quarter of 2007, which was, "can Government state how many of the Gibraltarians employed in the months since the last answer were registered with the Employment Agency giving a breakdown by age and sex", and says males so many, females so many, total. So if the number of Gibraltarians are recorded as male and female, why are not everybody else recorded as male and female? Why cannot he give us a breakdown by sex for all employees?

HON L MONTIEL:

I am advised that our computer programme does not provide us with the information that is required. However, this is being altered to provide the hon Member with the sets of figures.

HON G H LICUDI:

It is extraordinary we have a computer programme that knows how to differentiate between Gibraltarians and non-Gibraltarians, it must be a first and I am sure Bill Gates of Microsoft would want to know how that works. I note that the Minister says the figures are inflated and the reason given is that the terminations are often not recorded. The Minister is obviously aware that there is a legal obligation to notify and to file notices of termination within seven days of the termination. If the Department is aware that there is a problem with people complying with that legal obligation, can the Minister confirm what the Department is doing about it?

HON L MONTIEL:

When the Department can verify that an employer fails to offer terminations and we can actually make him account to it, we actually do. However, there are circumstances, as I have explained, when it is impossible for the reasons that I have explained.

HON G H LICUDI:

Impossible to do what? To verify because people close down or do not comply with the law? Do we not have a law enforcement arm that could take care of that?

HON L MONTIEL:

Well, they do when they can, when they cannot they cannot.

HON G H LICUDI:

What steps have the Government taken to rectify this obvious problem? If what the Government are telling us is that when they provide statistical information of this sort they are assuming that these figures are inflated because this problem exists, do the Government accept that that renders the figures meaningless from our point of view? That we have statistical information provided which may or may not be correct, and does the Minister have any information as to how much this could be inflated by? Is it 5 per cent, is it 10 per cent, what is the nature of the problem? Is it double the amount? Should it be less? What is the nature of the problem?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, two points to make in response to that somewhat, if he does not mind my saying, illogical supplementary. First of all, that the comment made by my hon friend, the health warning attached to the answer by my hon friend, is the one that has been attached to this question when it has been asked by all the previous spokesmen in this House before he became a Member of it. Why the Opposition suddenly considers that this gives rise to the sort of concerns that underlie his supplementary now but not during the whole of the last Parliament, when the same health warning was attached to the same answer when the same question was asked by his predecessor, is a matter that only he can cast light on. The second point that I would make to the hon Member is very simple. The hon Member rightly, because he is entitled to do so, asks the Government to provide information to him. The Government can do no better than provide to him the information that the Government have. The Government have no obligation to have this information. The Government have the information that they have, when he asks for it they give the best information that they have got. When we know that the best information that we have got should be treated with a degree of caution for known reasons, we go to the trouble of attaching the health warning, which I would have thought was not something for which the hon Member should seek to criticise the Government. Any more than he would have in the days when he was in the Executive of the Party but not in the Government, between 1988, because the system that we have got is the system that was put in place by the Opposition Members when they were in Government. So, the same deficiency in the same information exists today as existed. Now, of course, I do not have access to the Minutes of the GSLP Executive, of which he was a member but not part of the Government, so I do not know whether during 1988 to 1996 he was constantly pressing the Party in Government to make sure that this information could be given in a purer statistical form. But certainly, the Government strives to have the most accurate possible information, especially when it is information that is particularly useful for economic management purposes. The less useful that information is for economic management purposes, the less effort and resource goes into it, goes into the attempts to perfect its quality. But this is endemic, any information that relies on citizens' registering information with the Government can be no more accurate than the degree of compliance by citizens. The hon Member could say or could ask legitimately, well what steps do the Government take to enforce peoples' compliance with this law and is that enforcement effort sufficient. Look, the hon Members know from their experience, those that have experience on this side of the House, just how difficult it is.....

HON G H LICUDI:

Some of us will soon.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, he missed it the first time of asking and he should not assume that he will not miss it the second time of asking as well. Even though, of course, by then I expect him to be the Leader of the Party. Well, that is what the rumours in the streets say but I am not privy to internal GSLP machinations. So, the position is as it has always been. The fact that it has always been like that does not mean that it cannot be improved if it should be improved. This is not an area, in other words, the number of people in employment can be established by another means other than this. This is more relevant to the question of churn. In other words, the number of registrations and de-registrations is really just forensic, empirically forensic about the extent to which people change jobs, rather than the number of jobs. The number of jobs is available from more accurate statistics, as he gets when he asks for the statistics of how many jobs there are in the economy. So, look, I am certainly not committing the Government, however much he thinks the Government should be committed to it. I am not committing the Government to what the Government cannot deliver really whatever the degree of commitment. Even if we quadrupled or quintupled expenditure on enforcement of this particular legal requirement, we could still not guarantee the accuracy of the statistics because that would not deliver 100 per cent compliance by people. I have to tell the hon Member that last time we attempted to attach stringent penalties to failure to comply with labour registration requirements, we were accused almost in unison by everybody of draconian measures. So the answer is that we will give the information that we have, we will continue to attach the health warning, I do not know if somebody from experience in the Department, which was part of his last supplemental, I doubt whether the new Minister would have that information available to him, but it may be that the officials from experience have some idea of what might be the percentage of inaccuracy. In other words, what might be the error factor built in, we could ask that, but there is no way of perfecting these statistics.

HON G H LICUDI:

We seem to be learning today that there is a large element of information that is provided by the Government which we have to take with a pinch of salt.....

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

On a Point of Order, I think that statement is completely out of order. There is no such evidence. He has asked for one particular statistic, the alternative is for the Government to say to the hon Member, "I will not provide you with the information that you request because we cannot guarantee its complete accuracy". If he prefers us to give him that answer the next time he asks that question, we will. Then we would not be open to the criticism. But when we provide the best information that we have got, attaching the health warning in this case, for him then to sit after hearing all the explanations that he has heard that this is evidence that Government statistics generally have to be taken with a pinch of salt, is less than an entirely honest argument.

HON G H LICUDI:

The Chief Minister knows that is not what I have said in my comments earlier but it is important. I am sure the Chief Minister and all Members of this House will agree that

it is most important that when we get information from the Government, particularly in this House but generally, information from the Government should be as relevant and as accurate as possible. I am sure the Chief Minister will agree.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is, we cannot give the hon Member more accuracy than we have.

HON G H LICUDI:

With regard to the question on the work permits, Question No. 35 of 2008, the Minister said there are 2,225 but it may be more. That is as a result of notices of termination not being filed, can the Minister explain how the system works in practice with regard to work permits? Do they not have a definite duration? Are they issued now for six months in practice or for a particular job? Therefore, is it not easier to know how long work permits are?

HON L MONTIEL:

Well, I am required.....

HON G H LICUDI:

I have not finished the question, I know the hon member does not speak very often or is not allowed to speak very often. He is anxious to get up but he should wait for the question. One thing is for notices of termination to be filed, which would bring to an end, presumably, the work permit. Another thing is the work permit lapsing naturally, either because the job has finished or the particular duration of the work permit has come to an end. Does that not mean that in respect of work permits the Government have the ability to provide more accurate information, or to be more certain as to the accuracy of the information? In respect of this particular number, 2,225, are these work permits that are renewed on a regular basis, or will come to an end and then be reconsidered? Do we just add on the numbers that we get every month, 51, 37, 27, do we just keep adding on without taking off unless there is a termination of employment?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Again it is the same issue just articulated in a different way. Until we get informed that a job no longer exists, we do not know that the work permit has become spent. In other words, that the person has left Gibraltar.

HON G H LICUDI:

If the Chief Minister would give way. The Chief Minister may have missed the first part of what I said in the supplementary, that there may be a difference with regard to work permits because these have a life of their own, and it is not an indefinite duration like notices of employment.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

If one requires a work permit because of one's particular immigration status, the onus is on one to renew the work permit. If one does not, the work permit lapses and it is not there. It is not an extant work permit.

HON G H LICUDI:

It does not depend on termination for.....?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, it does not depend on termination. Correct, it should not depend on termination because the renewal of the work permit is done by the same organisation as is keeping the tally of terminations. So even if the employer does not notify if the same chap is keeping the tally of terminations and is also administering the question of expiry of work permits, and he sees that he has not renewed it, then logically speaking he has the wherewithal to say this one is to be removed.

HON G H LICUDI:

Will the Government agree that in the Employment Survey, as recently provided, we have provision for 17,000 notices of terms of engagement, whereas the information that has been given is of 24,000. Now, I take on board everything that the Chief Minister has said. Does that not suggest and would the Government not agree that the problem is a serious one? We are talking of 7,000, potentially, an extra 7,000 non-existent jobs being reflected in this figure.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I will urge the hon Member not to use these statistics to deduce the number of jobs that there exists in the economy. The Government do not. No, we do not choose these jobs of terminations and registrations as the measure of employment, no.

HON G H LICUDI:

Can the Chief Minister tell us how?

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am glad the Chief Minister says the Government do not use it, but perhaps he should say they no longer use it. Or maybe he has forgotten that there was a stage when every quarter they used to tell us that their labour market had expanded by the number of contracts of employment that had been registered with the Employment Service, as opposed to the number of contracts terminated. If he does not remember I will bring the press releases to him tomorrow.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, if that was the practice of the Government, a practice which I have to say to him honestly I do not remember, which does not mean it did not happen. I do not know why the hon Member next to him is saying, he cannot possibly know whether it happened or not. I suppose he is just mimicking in support of his leader.

HON J BOSSANO:

I can suggest to him somebody who might remember, who is the person who issued the press releases, who was the Minister for Labour and who sits at the far end of his bench. He may remember issuing them.

NO. 37 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

UNEMPLOYMENT REGISTER

Can Government state the number of Gibraltarians removed from the unemployment register in the period from October 2007 to December 2007 for reasons other than that those persons obtained employment?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR & INDUSTRIAL
RELATIONS**

The number of Gibraltarians removed from the unemployment register in the period October 2007 to December 2007, for reasons other than those persons having obtained employment, is as follows. At the end of October – 63; at the end of November – 56, at the end of December – 86. I must hasten to add that the only reason for removing a person from the unemployment register, other than evidently obtaining employment, is because the person lapses. That is to say, does not attend the Job Centre during a calendar month. The person is then not actively seeking employment and is duly removed from the unemployment register.

This same procedure has been in place ever since the Employment Service, or the then Employment and Training Board, has been responsible for the keeping of an unemployment register.

NO. 38 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

EMPLOYMENT – CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

Can Government state what the total number of workers in the construction industry was as at 29 February 2008 giving the totals of Gibraltarians and other nationals with a breakdown by nationality?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR & INDUSTRIAL
RELATIONS**

The statistical information requested by the hon Member is set out in the schedule which is being handed to him.

Again, the proviso that I made in respect of Question No. 36 of 2008, regarding inflated figures, will also proportionally apply in this instance.

Answer to Question 38/2008

Total number of workers in the construction industry as at 29th February 2008 by nationality.

Gibraltarian	Other British	Spanish	Moroccan	Other EEC	Other Non-EEC	Total
623	686	1179	174	580	280	3522

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 38 OF 2008

HON G H LICUDI:

The figures that have been provided by the Government suggest that as at 29th February 2008, the total number of workers in the construction industry was 3,522 of which 623 were Gibraltarians. I note also the proviso that has been made which suggests that these figures may be inflated and, in fact, it may be less, it may be less number of Gibraltarians who have not registered their termination. Given the relatively small proportion of Gibraltarians employed in the construction industry, does the Government have any concerns at these low numbers, and does it suggest to the Government that certain skills are being lost because a large number of the construction workers are actually from abroad, who will leave at the end of the project and will leave with their skills? Those skills will not remain in Gibraltar.

HON L MONTIEL:

These figures are a reflection of the labour market in Gibraltar as it stands today and the skills in the construction industry are very widely required. The numbers of Gibraltarians that have skills and that want to work in the construction industry normally get employed. Indeed, we use the construction industry for many people who we help from the Employment Service to get employment. I do not consider that there is an unemployment situation for Gibraltarians that want to be employed in the construction industry.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The Minister is aware that the number of Gibraltarians in the construction industry is declining, he is aware of that?

HON L MONTIEL:

Yes, indeed I am. For that reason we are reviewing the skills requirement in our training centres and we are doubling our efforts to produce the skills that are required.

HON J J BOSSANO:

But in fact, it is now a number of years that we have seen the numbers employed in the construction industry coming down. Not reflected perhaps in this figure which may be less reliable, but apparently in the more reliable figures of the Employment Surveys. Does the Minister think that the problem is that there are Gibraltarians available that could be trained to take those jobs, or that the industry in fact seems more interested in bringing in workers from the outside?

HON L MONTIEL:

There is a combination of the two things. There are numbers of Gibraltarian workers who do not want to be employed in the private construction industry. Of course,

given the market, the market is expanding, therefore it is attractive to bring labour from abroad. However, when Gibraltarians want to enter this area, I can assure the hon Member that there is no reason why they cannot enter into the market.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

That is the point, that those Gibraltarians who are insufficient to satisfy the needs of our demand for construction labour, but those Gibraltarians that are willing and want to work in the construction industry, tend to seek employment where it is most stable and secure and that is in the public sector. Either in the Government Buildings & Works Department or in GJBS or in one of the public sector related companies. That tends to absorb most of the home-grown inclined candidates.

ORAL

NO. 39 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Can Government say what was the total number of questionnaires issued to employers in respect of the October 2007 Employment Survey?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR & INDUSTRIAL
RELATIONS**

Answered together with Question No. 40 of 2008.

NO. 40 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT

Can Government say whether the period for replying in respect of the October 2007 Employment Survey is now closed and how many questionnaires have been returned to date?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR & INDUSTRIAL
RELATIONS**

A total of 1,892 questionnaires were sent out to employers as explained in answer to Question No. 452 of 2007, in respect of the October 2007 Employment Survey that was closed on 31st January 2008. A total of 1,858 questionnaires were returned.

NO. 41 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

LABOUR INSPECTORS/HEALTH AND SAFETY OFFICERS

Can Government state whether it proposes to increase the number of Labour Inspectors and Health and Safety officers which it employs?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR & INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

The Government has no plans at present to increase the number of Labour Inspectors. Insofar as concerns health and safety, while the Government has no present plans to increase the number of officers, it is reviewing the whole area of health and safety generally, with a view to introducing reforms in due course.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 41 OF 2008

HON G H LICUDI:

Does the Minister not share the views expressed publicly by the Union, of which he was previously the leader, that there seems to be a shortage of Labour Inspectors in Gibraltar in order to monitor and control properly things like we have been discussing before – termination provisions, enforcement of the legal obligations by employers and employees alike - does he not share that view?

HON L MONTIEL:

No, I do not share the view as expressed by the hon Member. The reality is that the Labour Inspectorate does a very good job, and of course, it is up to the people who complain that there is too much illegal labour to help out by letting us know exactly where those illegal labourers are working. When we challenge those people, that make those claims, to come forward and tell us where they are, they do not seem to have the right facts or cannot say where these illegal labourers are. I have given the Unions my personal undertaking that should they find out where these so-called illegal labourers are, we will pursue the matter with the greatest severity.

HON G H LICUDI:

I am not suggesting for the moment, nor should it be implied and I hope it has not been implied, that the existing Labour Inspectors do not do their job properly. On the contrary, the information I have is that they do an excellent job. The question was simply whether it was the workload they have, whether it was sufficient for the numbers that there are, but I know that the Government consider that it is sufficient and it is under control. We will continue to monitor and ask the Government appropriately. With regard to Health and Safety Officers, the answer was that the Government have no present plans to increase the complement. Is the Minister aware that in August 2007 a vacancy for Health and Safety Officer Grade 4 in the Ministry of Employment was circulated by the Human Resources Department of the Government? Can the Minister tell us what happened with that vacancy?

HON L MONTIEL:

Well, the Government are not taking a very narrow view of the necessities and the requirements of the Labour Inspectorate. The Government are looking at the whole Labour Inspectorate and will be making very clear decisions and reforms in due course.

HON G H LICUDI:

The Minister, with respect, has missed the point entirely. I had moved on from Labour Inspectors having made the point and was asking specifically about vacancies for Health and Safety Officers, which the Minister has told us the Government have no present plans to employ any additional Health and Safety Officers. The question, which I will repeat, is on 23rd August 2007 a circular was issued by the Human Resources Department for a vacancy for Health and Safety Officer Grade 4 at the Ministry of Employment. My question is was that vacancy filled?

HON L MONTIEL:

I am very conscious of the fact and am very clear as to what was the question that the hon Member was trying to make and I am very conscious of the argument that was put forward. That particular post and advertisement will be taken in conjunction with the general review which is going to be undertaken very quickly.

HON G H LICUDI:

My question was whether a vacancy which had been advertised was filled. The answer to that seems to be no, and we seem to be getting an additional information which is that the vacancy has been withdrawn. If that is the correct position and the inference, from the answer the Minister has given, seems to be that that is the position, there is no current vacancy in place, there was a vacancy and that has not been filled. Therefore, the vacancy has been withdrawn. Can the Government tell us why they felt on 23rd August 2007 that there was a need for a Health and Safety Officer and now they tell us they have no present plans of employing additional Safety Officers?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, the answer to that is relatively simple and I rise to give it because the Minister was not in the Government at the time that the decision was made. Shortly after this vacancy arose, the Government decided that they wished to conduct a thorough review, which is indicated in the answer that he received to the original question, to the whole way that health and safety in Gibraltar is administered. Is it time to consider an external agency, like the Health and Safety Executive? That is the review that is currently being undertaken jointly by my hon Colleagues the Minister for Employment and the Minister for Civil Protection. They both have responsibility for different elements of health and safety. The Government do not wish to build up a system that may be subject to radical change. So the hon Member is right, there is one person short, there was a particular gentleman who retired who was the boss of the two that are left, there were three. The vacancy that resulted from that retirement was not filled so there is one vacancy at the bottom and it has not been filled for that reason. In effect there is a freeze whilst the decision to review the whole question of health and safety is reviewed from the point of view of starting with a clean sheet of paper. Of course, health and safety is not just the Factory Inspectorate side of it. In other words, health and safety at work. There are also large increasingly European Union driven public health and safety, in terms of the safety of citizens on the highway, which are also relevant, the sort of functions that the Health and Safety Executive in the UK carry out, and that is what is looked at and whether Gibraltar has simply outgrown, now, this very limited resource and this very narrow statute that regulates it.

HON G H LICUDI:

What the Chief Minister has clearly accepted that there is, in the Health and Safety Officers Department, one man short. They are effectively one man short from what they used to be. Can the Government confirm that this decision to review was taken after the Elections, after 11th October and, if not, why a vacancy that advertised applications which were due by the 6th September was not taken up? Were applications actually handed in to fill the vacancy and if they were turned down, if nobody was employed, why not? Was there nobody that was suitable or did they start the review on 6th September, or after the Elections, or was it that they just did not have the man applying that they wanted to employ?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It had nothing to do with the Election, the process just did not proceed. I do not remember up to what stage it got but it was certainly nothing to do with the Election date, why should it have?

HON G H LICUDI:

Only because the Minister referred to the other Minister not being a Government Minister until the Election. Therefore, one pre-supposed that this was something that happened after the Election.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

If it happened after the Election then I would not have been able to say what I said because he would know the reason for the decision. The fact that I said that he does not know because he was not then in Government, proves the contrary, that it was taken before the Election.

HON G H LICUDI:

Can the Government tell us how long this review will go on for, particularly bearing in mind that they have accepted that there is one man short from the previous complement? Also, bearing in mind that we seem to have, from the Employment Statistics we get, however inflated they may be and with the proviso that has been provided earlier, we do have increasing numbers of employees in Gibraltar and, therefore, there seems to be a requirement for increasing numbers of Health and Safety Officers, yet there is one man short and we do not have a commitment that that will be filled in the very near future. We simply have a statement, no present intention to employ somebody. Can we know when that lack of present intention will lead to actually an intention to employ someone who is clearly not filling up a post that is available now?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, the length, the depth and breadth and the structural nature of the review that the Government want to undertake is much more important than any short-term considerations driven by one vacancy in the position. The answer to the hon Member's question is no, that this review will not be driven by the vacancy that exists. Nor should the hon Member assume that the function will continue to be served by simply growing the sort of organisation that presently exists. That is why the Government do not want to fill the vacancy, because the review may throw up a different way of dealing with health and safety, other than just people employed in a Government Department. So we want to keep our options open and we think that the most sensible way of doing that is not to recruit. Of course, if it became clear that the process was taking too long and that in the meantime there were important gaps in the health and safety coverage/administration as a result, then of course the Government would have to consider some short-term provision. But that would be driven by the needs of health and safety rather than just by the needs of some numerical adherence to three as opposed to two. The interim need indeed could be more than three. The Government could be persuaded that whilst this review was taking place three was not enough that it might be five. Then we would have to consider how we would provide the interim resource whilst we continue the review. The conduct of this review means that we do not want to employ anybody permanent and pensionable, in case we employ people of the wrong sort, with the wrong skills, in the wrong place, at the wrong grade. But of course, that does not mean that we can ignore the needs of health and safety in the meantime. If the shortage were shown to lead to a deficiency in cover, then we would have to find some other way, other than filling the vacancy, of recruiting as much temporary resources as were necessary.

ORAL

NO. 42 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT – MOD EMPLOYMENT

Can Government state whether the effect of the reduction in the level of direct employment in the MOD will be reflected in the Employment Survey report for October 2007?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR & INDUSTRIAL
RELATIONS**

Answered together with Question No. 43 of 2008.

NO. 43 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT – MOD EMPLOYMENT

Can Government state what is the expected final figure for direct employment in the MOD as a result of the contractorisation exercise involving Serco and has this figure now been reached?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR & INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

The October 2007 Employment Survey Report will not reflect the reduction in the level of direct MOD employment as this reduction took effect after 31st October 2007.

The agreement with the Ministry of Defence provides for direct employment levels of 591, subject to how staff working in DCSA and some catering staff are dealt with in the future.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 42 AND 43 OF 2008

HON J J BOSSANO:

In Question No. 43 of 2008, I take it that the 591 is the answer to the first part of the question but he has not answered the second part. Is the MOD currently above the 591 and it is still coming down?

HON L MONTIEL:

Well, at the moment they are above because many services have not yet been transferred to the Gibraltar Government.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So the 591.....

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

At full implementation.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So the 591 will only be if the services were transferred. Does he know then what the present figure is of the MOD?

HON L MONTIEL:

The present figures of the MOD?

HON J J BOSSANO:

Yes, is it very close to that?

HON L MONTIEL:

I would imagine it would be above that, and more.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I can provide that information if the hon Member is interested in the breakdown.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I would be grateful if the information is available.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Readily available, we can easily desegregate.

ORAL

NO. 44 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

HM PRISON

Can Government state how many inmates were in prison during the months of December 2007 to March 2008 giving a breakdown by gender and age?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR JUSTICE

I now hand the hon Member a schedule with the information requested.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 44 OF 2008

Prisoner Statistics from 1 December 2007 to 27 March 2008

Age Group	No of Prisoners	Males	Females
Under 17	1	1	0
17 - 20	14	13	1
21 - 25	11	11	0
26 - 50	64	63	1
51 and over	4	3	1
Total	94	91	3

NO. 45 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

UNFAIR DISMISSAL CLAIMS

Can Government state whether it proposes to increase limits in compensation for unfair dismissal claims in order to bring these limits closer to those which currently apply in the United Kingdom?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR JUSTICE

The Government have no such proposals at this time.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 45 OF 2008

HON G H LICUDI:

If I may preface my supplementary by bringing a matter in relation to the levels of compensation to the Government's attention. As the Minister knows, compensation in the Industrial Tribunal is governed by the Industrial Tribunal Calculation of Compensation Regulations 1992. Regulation 3(b) provides that the amounts in respect of the compensatory award is to be 104 times twice the amount specified as weekly remuneration in the Schedule to the Conditions of Employment (Standard Minimum Wage) Order 1989. Are the Government aware that the 1989 Order was revoked in 2001 and therefore there may be a problem with the statutory powers of the Industrial Tribunal? There may be a suggestion by some people, if that is correct, and I have checked whether there have been any amendments to the Regulations to change the 1989 Order to refer to the 2001 Order. What the 2001 Order did was to essentially replace the previous Order, not just change the number of weekly remunerations as is customary, and paragraph 8 of the 2001 Order said the Conditions of Employment (Standard Minimum Wage) Order 1989 is hereby revoked. Therefore, as I see it, we have in place Regulations giving powers to the Industrial Tribunal which refer to revoked provisions. We want to avoid a position whereby anybody, because the Industrial Tribunal is a creature of statute and only has the powers that are given to it by statute or by regulations, we want to avoid anybody being able to argue that the Industrial Tribunal does not in fact have the power, nor has it had the power since 2001 to make a compensatory award. In order to avoid that, can I ask the Government to confirm that they will redress this problem and make such amendments as a matter of urgency as are necessary, in order to give the Industrial Tribunal the powers that it should have? Can I also ask the Government to confirm that when doing so, they will do so as from 2nd July 2001 which is when the 2001 Regulations came in, so that there is no one that can allege

or suggest that all Orders for compensatory awards made by the Industrial Tribunal since 2001 have been ultra vires? Can the Government confirm that?

HON D A FEETHAM:

The supplementary question bears absolutely no relevance at all, indeed, to the question that the hon Member asked of me and, indeed, my response. Now, if there is a concern that the hon Member has in relation to some ultra vires argument in relation to the Rules, the hon Member can write to me and, of course, I can respond accordingly. Alternatively, he can give due notice of the question, but I do not think that it arises in relation to this particular question nor the answer that I have given.

HON G H LICUDI:

It is quite extraordinary, in one of the first interventions that the Minister should have, that he should simply avoid the issue altogether and wash his hands of what could be a major problem and simply says, if there is a problem with the law let him write to me. Well, it is his responsibility because he is the Minister for Justice and he should be looking at the law and he should have spotted this when he came in if he had not spotted it earlier. So it is his responsibility not mine, I simply bring it to his attention and now I ask him to do something about it and not wash his hands.

MR SPEAKER:

Order. Mr Licudi, I would be grateful if a question were forthcoming before whole speeches.

HON G H LICUDI:

I was simply responding to what I considered to be a highly irresponsible answer given by the Minister for Justice. The Government have stated that there is no intention to change the limits of compensation to bring them closer to the levels which appear in the United Kingdom. I assume that in looking at that, particularly in response to the question that has been asked, the Minister has in fact looked at what the compensation limits are in Gibraltar and what they are in the UK. Is the Minister aware, and I assume that he is, that the basic award in Gibraltar is prescribed as at least £2,200 even though the practice seems to be since 1992 to award £2,000, that in the UK the minimum basic award is £4,400 – double the amount in Gibraltar – as a minimum and the maximum basic award in the UK is £9,900, four and a half times the level which is set in Gibraltar? Is the Minister aware that the maximum award that can be given today in Gibraltar is £38,704 whereas in the UK it is £72,900? Therefore, the Gibraltar award is 53 per cent of the UK award. Having regard, in particular, to the struggle that has taken place for workers' rights, and I know that the Government professes to be the party of workers, and the principle of parity which has applied in Gibraltar for many, many years, do the Government not agree that there cannot be a justification for differentials of that nature with 53 per cent in Gibraltar of what the UK award is?

HON D A FEETHAM:

May I take the hon Member's speech in, because it really is a speech, in two parts. As to the first part, I am not shirking my responsibility in any way, shape or form. All I am saying to the hon Member is that the supplementary question bore no resemblance to the question, nor was it related to the answer that I gave. Now, if there is a concern in relation to this particular point, and it has never been brought to my attention, well the hon Member can raise it with me and I will do my best to respond. The hon Member raises issues in relation to the ultra vires of rules that have existed for a considerable period of time and have been applied in the Industrial Tribunal for a considerable period of time. Now that requires serious consideration, what the hon Member cannot do is just simply surprise us all in the context of a supplementary that bears no resemblance to the original question that he chose to ask me, and then give a speech and make a song and dance about me not being willing to answer the question. That is not the case, I think I have dealt with it very fairly and if the hon Member wants to write to me, and indeed he has raised it, I will now look at the issue. If he wants I will answer him in correspondence in due course. As to the second part of his question, the Government are conducting a review of all the Industrial Tribunal Rules and that review includes a comparison of our Rules with the Rules in the United Kingdom, as indeed with other jurisdictions. What I do not want to do is to pre-empt the results of that review. In due course we will make an announcement, we have already made an announcement in relation to reviews that we conducted in other areas of the law, in criminal law and in family law, and no doubt in due course we will be making an announcement. But that date has not arrived.

HON G H LICUDI:

I have no intention of writing to the Minister, I have raised an issue of importance in this Parliament and I consider that it is incumbent on the Minister, as Minister for Justice, to take that on board and look at it. That is all I asked.

HON D A FEETHAM:

If that is what he asked that is what I have said I would do.

MR SPEAKER:

Order, Order. The hon Member must know, the answer has been heard, I would be grateful if the hon Member asked the question. It is not for the hon Member to make statements of his intention, please ask a question.

HON G H LICUDI:

I have asked the question and I have got the answer, they have no present intention of doing this. Simply another review, another thing in the air.

ORAL

NO. 46 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – RAIN WATER PENETRATION AT ST BERNARD’S HOSPITAL

Can Government confirm that there has been rainwater penetration at St Bernard’s Hospital and if so on what dates and what areas were affected?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH & CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 47 and 48 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 47 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – PLUMBING WORKS AT ST BERNARD’S HOSPITAL

Can Government list the parts of St Bernard’s Hospital where re-plumbing has taken place, showing the date the work commenced, the date it was completed and the cost?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH & CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 46 and 48 of 2008.

NO. 48 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – PLUMBING WORKS AT ST BERNARD’S HOSPITAL

Can Government set out the total costs incurred from December 2007 to date and the estimated total expenditure, showing a breakdown, in respect of the plumbing works in St Bernard’s Hospital?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH & CIVIL PROTECTION

I can confirm that there has been water penetration at St Bernard’s Hospital in the following areas: In two of the administrative offices and the boardroom in Floor 7, Block 1; and in the ground floor link corridor.

In answer to Question Nos. 47 and 48 of 2008, I hand the hon Member a schedule giving the information requested.

Answer to Question 48 of 2008

Answer to Question 47 of 2008

Department	Start date	Finish date	Note
Strainers & Non return valves	30/04/2007	18/05/2007	
Surgical Ward in B3 L3	19/06/2007	02/08/2007	
Theatres B1 L4	06/07/2007	29/09/2007	Working only during weekends
Calpe Ward B4 L3	21/08/2007	08/09/2007	
Plantroom 2	11/09/2007	13/09/2007	
Plantroom 1	14/09/2007	18/09/2007	
Plantroom 3	18/09/2007	20/09/2007	
School of Health Studies (2 floors)	21/09/2007	26/09/2007	
Basement area	01/10/2007	15/10/2007	
	05/11/2007	10/11/2007	
	03/12/2007	08/12/2007	
	18/12/2007	21/12/2007	
Victoria Ward B3 L2	17/10/2007	02/11/2007	
John Ward B3 L1	12/11/2007	01/12/2007	
Captain Murchison Ward B1 L2	19/12/2007	16/01/2008	
Dudley Toomey Ward B1 L3	22/01/2008	08/02/2008	
Plantroom 7 & 8	13/02/2008	16/02/2008	
Maternity Ward B3 L4	18/02/2008	14/03/2008	
Rainbow B4 L4	28/03/2008		
Total Costs to Date			£355,874.42

Cont.....

Cont'd Answer to Question 48 of 2008

Answer to Question 48 of 2008

Cost incurred by the contractors for the period 1 October 2007 to date is £179,609.42. The works are being carried out by the contractor as part of the defects period. The total forecast expenditure has not yet been identified by the contractor.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 46, 47 AND 48 OF 2008

HON N F COSTA:

First of all in respect of Question No. 46 of 2008, can the Minister say whether the ceilings of the parts of St Bernard's Hospital that were affected, whether there were any works done to that prior to the water ingress?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I am not aware that any works were done prior to the water ingress.

HON N F COSTA:

Has there been any water penetration in prior years?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I did not quite catch the question.

HON N F COSTA:

The question was whether there has been any water penetration in the same areas in prior years?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Yes, I have just answered his previous question, which said whether there had been in the past water penetration and I said that there had been.

HON N F COSTA:

We assume that the dates in which the water penetration took place were this year. The question I am asking now is whether the Minister is aware if there was water penetration in prior years, not just this year.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I was assuming that the question related to the period since the hospital has opened, not referring only to this last year. I have answered accordingly.

HON N F COSTA:

Is the Minister aware of the cost to date?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I have provided him with the cost in the schedule that I handed over to him.

HON N F COSTA:

When I last asked the question, Question No. 479 of 2007, I also asked at that point the total forecast expenditure. At that time the Minister said that the total forecast expenditure had not yet been identified. I note from the schedule provided by the Minister the total forecast expenditure has not yet been identified as at today. Is the Minister aware of when we can expect the total forecast expenditure?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

No.

ORAL

NO. 49 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – NUMBER OF OPERATIONS AT ST BERNARD’S HOSPITAL

Can Government state how many operations were performed in St Bernard’s Hospital on a monthly basis, from November 2007 to March 2008, by speciality, specifying which were elective and which were emergencies?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH & CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 50 and 62 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 50 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – ELECTIVE SURGERY

Can Government state how many persons were waiting for elective surgery in each speciality from November 2007 to March 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH & CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 49 and 62 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 51 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – OUT-PATIENT ATTENDANCES AT ST BERNARD’S HOSPITAL

Can Government state the total number of out-patient attendances at St Bernard’s Hospital on a monthly basis, between December 2007 to March 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH & CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 52 and 53 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 52 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – IN-PATIENT ADMISSIONS AT ST BERNARD’S HOSPITAL

Can Government state the total number of in-patient admissions and the average number of patients per day at St Bernard’s Hospital on a monthly basis, between December 2007 to March 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH & CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 51 and 53 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 53 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – NON-ENTITLED PATIENT ADMISSIONS TO ST BERNARD’S HOSPITAL

Can Government state how many non-entitled patients have been admitted to St Bernard’s Hospital on a monthly basis, from December 2007 to March 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH & CIVIL PROTECTION

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

Answer to Question 53 of 2008

Answer to Question 51 of 2008

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

2007/2008	Clinics	A&E			Physiotherapy
		Clinics	Dressings	Plasters	
DECEMBER	2179	1534	540	20	398
JANUARY	3125	1599	556	19	681
FEBRUARY	3047	1444	542	16	646
Totals	8351	4577	1638	55	1725

Answer to Questions 52 and 53 of 2008

	DECEMBER 07	JANUARY 08	FEBRUARY 08
Total Admissions	371	419	345
Average Inpatients	138	138	132
Non-entitled Admissions	4	1	0

ORAL

NO. 54 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – CAUSES OF DEATH

Can Government provide the percentage distribution for causes of death on a monthly basis, from January to March 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH & CIVIL PROTECTION

The data is collected on an annual basis. The data for 2007 will be available later this month.

ORAL

NO. 55 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – MRSA INFECTIONS AT ST BERNARD’S HOSPITAL

Can Government state whether any cases of MRSA infection were detected at St Bernard’s Hospital on a monthly basis, between November 2007 to March 2008, and whether any were fatal, providing a breakdown by patients and members of staff?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH & CIVIL PROTECTION

I hand the hon Member a schedule giving the information requested for the period November 2007 to February 2008. The details for March will be available later this month.

There was no fatality due to MRSA in this period.

Answer to Question 55 of 2008

MRSA infections detected

	Nov 07	Dec 07	Jan 08	Feb 08
Patients	1	1	2	3
Staff	0	0	0	0

ORAL

NO. 56 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

Can Government provide the breakdown of laboratory confirmed notifiable diseases for the months of November 2007 to March 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH & CIVIL PROTECTION

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

Answer to Question 56 of 2008-05-06

Laboratory Confirmed Notifiable Diseases (Nov 2007 – February 2008)

Organisms Isolated	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Total
Adenovirus		1	1		2
Bordetella pertussis					
Campylobacter Species	6	5	3		14
Chlamydia trachomatis	1	2	2		5
Clostridium difficile	2			1	3
Cryptococcus neoformans					
Giardia lamblia					
Hepatitis A					
Hepatitis B					
Hepatitis C					
Influenza A			2		2
Influenza B					
Nycobacterium tuberculosis	2				2
Mycoplasma pneumoniae	4	9	12	9	34
Neisseria meningitides					
Neisseria gonorrhoea					
Pathogenic E. coli					
Rotavirus	2	6	2	1	11
Salmonella species	2	1	3		6
Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)		10	10	6	26
Shigella species					
Streptococcus Group A Scarlet Fever					
Trichomonas vaginalis		1			1
Total	19	35	35	17	106

The date for the month of March will be available in April.

NO. 57 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – VACCINE (CANCER OF CERVIX)

In December of last year, the Minister for Health replied in answer to Question No. 499 of 2007 that the Government is in the process of considering the various options put to it by the GHA for population immunisation in respect of the vaccine for girls that reduces the risk of cancer of the cervix. What steps has the Government taken from December to date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH & CIVIL PROTECTION

The position remains as stated in answer to Question No. 499 of 2007.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 57 OF 2008

HON N F COSTA:

Would the Minister be able to give an indication of when a scheme will be introduced into the Gibraltar Health Authority?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

As soon as the Government are in a position to consider the options put to them by the GHA.

HON N F COSTA:

Could the Minister tell us at what stage of the process they are?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

The options have already been presented to Government, as I said the last time I answered a similar question. It is a just a question of us convening and considering it and taking a policy decision.

HON N F COSTA:

May I ask the Minister when that will be?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I cannot give him an answer.

ORAL

NO. 58 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – COMPLEMENT OF MEDICAL AND NURSING STAFF

Can the Government state how many members of the GHA's medical and nursing professions were in post between December 2007 to March 2008, giving a breakdown by nationality and residence?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH & CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 59 to 61 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 59 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – DISTRIBUTION OF NURSES BY WARDS AND DEPARTMENTS AT ST BERNARD’S HOSPITAL

Can the Government state what was the distribution of nurses by wards and departments at St Bernard’s Hospital, specifying their grades from December 2007 to March 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH & CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 58, 60 and 61 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 60 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – NUMBER OF CONTRACT NURSES EMPLOYED

Can Government state the number of contract nurses employed by the GHA as at the end of March 2008, listing the speciality in which they are employed?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH & CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 58, 59 and 61 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 61 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – NUMBER OF NURSES EMPLOYED

Can Government state how many nurses were employed between November 2007 and March 2008 giving a breakdown by grade?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH & CIVIL PROTECTION

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

Answer to Question 61 of 2008**Answer to Question 58 of 2008**

Medical and nursing staff in post as at the end of February 2008.

<u>GRADE & NO OF OFFICERS</u>		<u>NATIONALITY</u>	<u>RESIDENCE</u>
Director of Public Health – 1	1	British	Gibraltar
Consultants – 26	5	British	Gibraltar
	3	Bri-Gibraltarian	Gibraltar
	5	Spanish	3 Gib 2 Spain
	3	Swedish	Gibraltar
	2	Slovak	Gibraltar
	2	German	Gibraltar
	1	Polish	Gibraltar
	1	Italian	Gibraltar
	1	Irish	Gibraltar
	1	Indian	Gibraltar
	1	South African	Gibraltar
1	French	Gibraltar	
Clinical Psychologist – 1	1	Bri-Gibraltarian	Gibraltar
Non-Consultant Hospital Doctors - 17	2	British	Gibraltar
	4	Spanish	2 Gib 2 Spain
	1	Irish	Spain
	6	Pakistani	Gibraltar
	1	Indian	Gibraltar
	1	German	Gibraltar
	1	Canadian	Gibraltar
	1	American	Gibraltar
General Practitioners – 17	7	British	Gibraltar
	3	Bri-Gibraltarian	Gibraltar
	4	Spanish	2 Gib 2Spain
	1	Irish	Gibraltar
	1	Indian	Gibraltar
	1	Maltese	Gibraltar
Associate Specialist – 1	1	Bri-Gibraltarian	Gibraltar
Director of Nursing & Patient Services - 1	1	British	Gibraltar
Deputy Director of Nursing Services - 1	1	Bri-Gibraltarian	Gibraltar
Deputy Director of Mental Health Services - 1	1	New Zealand	Gibraltar
Clinical Nurse Managers – 7	7	Bri-Gibraltarian	Gibraltar
Senior Nurse Tutor – 1	1	Bri-Gibraltarian	Gibraltar
Nurse Lecturer – 2	2	British	Gibraltar
Nurse Practitioner – 3	3	British	Gibraltar
Charge Nurses – 33	24	Bri-Gibraltarian	Gibraltar
	7	British	Gibraltar
	1	Irish	Gibraltar
	1	Malayan	Gibraltar
Staff Nurses – 135	66	Bri-Gibraltarian	Gibraltar
	45	British	41 Gib 4 Spain
	22	Spanish	6 Gib 16 Spain
	1	German	Gibraltar
	1	Polish	Gibraltar
Midwives – 16	7	Bri-Gibraltarian	Gibraltar
	7	British	6 Gib 1 Spain
	2	Spanish	Spain

GRADE & NO OF OFFICERS		NATIONALITY	RESIDENCE
Operating Department Practitioners - 5	3	British	2 Gib 1 Spain
	2	Spanish	1 Gib 1 Spain
Senior Enrolled Nurses – 5	5	Bri-Gibraltarian	Gibraltar
Enrolled Nurses – 82	80	Bri-Gibraltarian	Gibraltar
	2	British	Gibraltar
Nursing Auxiliaries – 8	8	Bri-Gibraltarian	Gibraltar
Nursing Assistants – 85	82	Bri-Gibraltarian	Gibraltar
	3	British	Gibraltar

Answer to Question 59 of 2008

Distribution of nurses by wards and departments as at the end of February 2008

Operating Theatre

2 Sister/Charge Nurses
10 Staff Nurses
5 ODP
1 Enrolled Nurse
1 Nursing Assistant

Pre-Assessment

2 Staff Nurses

Dudley Toomey Ward

2 Sister/Charge Nurse
11 Staff Nurses
3 Enrolled Nurses
12.5 Nursing Assistant

Captain Murchison

2 Sister/Charge Nurse
10 Staff Nurses
5 Enrolled Nurses
10.5 Nursing Assistants

John Ward

2 Sister/Charge Nurses
10 Staff Nurses
8 Enrolled Nurses
11 Nursing Assistants

Rainbow Ward

2 Sister/Charge Nurses
6 Staff Nurses
6.5 Enrolled Nurses
1 Nursing Auxiliary
1 Senior Enrolled Nurse

A&E

3 Sister/Charge Nurses
10.5 Staff Nurses
9.5 Enrolled Nurses

Contd.....

Contd Answer to Question 61 of 2008

Contd Answer to Question 59 of 2008

Victoria Ward

2 Sister/Charge Nurses
10 Staff Nurses
5.5 Enrolled Nurses
8 Nursing Assistants
1 Nursing Auxiliary

Maternity

2 Sister/Charge Nurses
13.5 Staff Midwives
4 Nursing Assistants

ITU

2 Sister/Charge Nurses
19.5 Staff Nurse
8.5 Enrolled Nurses

Night Sisters

5 Sister/Charge Nurses

Eye Department

3 Staff Nurses
1 Nursing Assistant

Nurse Management

1 Director of Nursing
1 Deputy Director of Nursing
1 Assistant Director of Nursing in Mental Health
7 Clinical Nurse Managers

Infection Control

2 Sister/Charge Nurses

Blood Department

1.5 Staff Nurses
1 Nursing Assistant

Palliative Care

1 Sister

Outpatients

2 Staff Nurses
1 Senior Enrolled Nurse
10 Enrolled Nurses
1 Nursing Assistant

Dialysis Unit

0.5 Staff Nurses

Cardiac Rehab

1 Staff Nurse

Contd.....

Contd Answer to Question 61 of 2008

Contd Answer to Question 59 of 2008

Child Health PCC

2 Sister/Charge Nurses
3 Staff Nurses
1 Enrolled Nurse

District Team PCC

1 Sister/Charge Nurse
7 Staff Nurses
1 Senior Enrolled Nurse
2 Enrolled Nurses
1 Nursing Assistant

Clinics PCC

1 Sister/Charge Nurse
4 Staff Nurses
1 Enrolled Nurse
9 Nursing Assistants

Dental PCC

2 Nursing Auxiliary
2 Nursing Assistants

Nurse Practitioners – 3

KGV Acute Ward

3 Sister/Charge Nurses
8 Staff Nurses
1 Senior Enrolled Nurse
4 Enrolled Nurses
8 Nursing Assistants

KGV Long Stay Ward

2 Sister/Charge Nurses
8 Staff Nurses
1 Senior Enrolled Nurse
6 Enrolled Nurses
15 Nursing Assistants

Community Mental Health Team

1 Sister/Charge Nurse
1 Staff Nurse
4 Enrolled Nurse

Contd.....

Contd Answer to Question 61 of 2008

Answer to Question 60 of 2008

Director of Nursing & Patient Services	1
Deputy Director of Mental Health Services	1
Nurse Lecturer	2
Nurse Practitioners	3
Charge Nurses	3
Staff Nurses	29
Staff Nurses (Part-time)	1
Registered Sick Children's Nurses	3
Registered Mental Nurses	11
Registered Mental Nurses (Part-time)	1
Theatre/Day Surgery Nurses	7
Midwives	9
Midwives (Part-time)	1
Operating Department Practitioners	5
Enrolled Nurses	1
Enrolled Nurses	1

Answer to Question 61 of 2008

The following is a breakdown of the number of nurses employed between November 2007 and February 2008.

Staff Nurses	3
Registered Sick Children's Nurse	1
Registered mental Nurses	3

ORAL

NO. 62 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – CANCELLED OPERATIONS AT ST BERNARD’S HOSPITAL

Can Government list the dates between December 2007 to March 2008 on a monthly basis, in respect of which operations at St Bernard’s Hospital needed to be cancelled, and state the reason why in each case?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH & CIVIL PROTECTION

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

Answer to Question 62 of 2008

Answer to Question 49

Elective operations performed:

Speciality	November 2007	December 2007	January 2008	February 2008
General Surgery	73	48	52	48
Gynaecology/Obstetrics	16	13	24	18
Ophthalmology	34	22	33	28
Oral Surgery	20	10	11	24
Orthopaedics	45	27	38	43
Otorhinolaryngology	22	12	13	19
Pain Relief	21	11	10	18
Plastic Surgery	-	-	-	10
Spinal	-	4	-	-

Cont...

Contd. Answer to Question 62 of 2008

Contd. Answer to Question 49

Medical Cardiac	-	-	4	-
Total	231	147	185	208

Emergency operations performed:

Speciality	November 2007	December 2007	January 2008	February 2008
General Surgery	8	4	10	7
Gynaecology/Obstetrics	11	13	7	5
Ophthalmology	-	-	-	-
Oral Surgery	1	-	3	1
Orthopaedics	7	7	14	6
Otorhinolaryngology	-	1	-	-
Anaesthetist	1	1	1	-
Pain Relief	-	-	-	1
Plastic Surgery	-	-	-	1
Total	28	26	35	21

Cont...

Contd. Answer to Question 62 of 2008

Answer to Question 50

	Nov-07		Dec-07		Jan-08		Feb-08	
	Waiting List	Scheduled						
General Surgery	139	42	127	34	150	24	180	31
General Surgery Minor	60	16	58	37	62	29	60	32
Obs Gynae	107	7	81	12	84	11	74	5
Ophthalmic	49	40	36	36	63	57	66	54
Orthopaedics	68	45	53	44	72	49	69	53
Otorhinology	38	30	44	22	45	21	49	12
Plastic Surgery	174	0	174	0	168		174	0

Answer to Question 62

Cancellations December 2007

Reason for Cancellation	Otorhinology	Gynaecology	Ophthalmology	Orthopaedics	General Surgery/Minor ops	Oral Surgery	Pain Relief	Spinal
Medical	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Per patient	-	-	1	-	1-1	1	3	2
No show	-	-	1	-	0-1	-	2	-
No longer required	1	-	1	-	1-0	-	-	-
No equipment	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-
No Records	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Total	2	-	6	5	2-2	1	5	2

Cont...

Contd Answer to Question 62 of 2008

Contd Answer to Question 62

Cancellations January 2008

Reason for Cancellation	ENT	Gynaecology	Ophthalmology	Orthopaedics	General Surgery/ Minor Ops	Oral Surgery	Pain Relief
Medical Bed availability	3	-	-	3	3-1	-	-
Per patient	3	2	-	11	21	-	-
No show	-	-	2	1	-	-	6
No longer required	-	-	1	-	1	3	-
Wrongly scheduled	1	-	3	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
	7	2	6	16	25-1	3	6

Cont..

Contd Answer to Question 62 of 2008

Contd Answer to Question 62

Cancellations February 2008

Reason for Cancellation	ENT	Gynae	Ophthalmology	Orthopaedics	General Surgery/Minor Ops	Oral Surgery	Pain Relief	Psych	Plastics
Medical	-	-	2	1	3	2	-	-	-
Per patient	1	1	-	1	0-1	-	2	-	-
No show	-	-	-	-	0-2	2	3	-	-
No longer required	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Doctor sick	-	-	-	-	0-6	-	-	-	-
Total	1	2	2	2	3-9	4	6	-	-

Data for the month of March is yet to be compiled and validated.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTON NOS. 49, 50 AND 62 OF 2008

HON N F COSTA:

In respect of Question No. 62 of 2008, as the Minister is aware we have raised in the past the issue that there have been operation cancellations due to bed shortages and due to the lack of equipment. First of all in respect of bed shortages, given that this seems to be a recurrent, consistent cause for the cancellation of operations, can the Minister tell us what steps are being taken to reduce the number of operations that have been cancelled due to bed availability?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I do not accept that it is a recurrent thing that occurs continuously. He will see from the figures that I have provided to him, for example, that in December none of the operations that were cancelled were due to bed availability. These things tend to happen over the winter months when there is a surge of illnesses and where beds are occupied by acute patients on a more regular basis, precisely because of that surge of illnesses.

HON N F COSTA:

In respect of the lack of equipment, which does arise in December 2007, may I ask the Minister given that I assume that operations are planned in advance and therefore the equipment would have to be available for the operation to take place, why is it then that operations are cancelled due to the lack of equipment? At what point does the GHA, the persons who will carry out the operation, become aware that the equipment is not available?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I have personal experience of this and this is why I can explain to him why this happens sometimes, on not many occasions may I say. When the surgery is scheduled and there is a specific need for a special equipment, the equipment is ordered. Some times what happens is that the operation comes around sooner than the time it has taken for the manufacturer or whoever it is that needs to send the equipment, normally from the UK. So, basically, what happens is that the patient is informed that the equipment is not in Gibraltar and the operation is rescheduled for a later date.

HON N F COSTA:

When the operation is rescheduled for a later date, how long would the patient ordinarily have to wait?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I would not be able to answer that question.

HON N F COSTA:

If the issue is that the equipment is ordered and that the operation is cancelled because the equipment has not arrived and so on, is the case then that the equipment has now arrived, would the operation be able to take place the very next day?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Well, I would not say the very next day, as soon as possible. I would assume that that person is put back first on the waiting list.

ORAL

NO. 63 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – OUT-PATIENT ATTENDANCES AT THE PRIMARY CARE CENTRE

Can Government state the number of out-patient attendances at the Primary Care Centre, including the number of out-patients being attended to by District Nurses, Occupational Therapists and Physiotherapists on a monthly basis, from November 2007 to March 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH & CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 64 to 66 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 64 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – OUT-PATIENT ATTENDANCES AT THE PRIMARY CARE CENTRE

Can Government state the total number of out-patient attendances at the Primary Care Centre on a monthly basis, from November 2007 to March 2008, keeping to the format given in answer to Question Nos. 513 to 516 of 2007 and additionally giving details of other departments if they are not shown there?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH & CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 63, 65 and 66 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 65 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – NUMBER OF HOUSE CALLS

Can Government state how many house calls were attended to by Primary Care Centre doctors on a monthly basis, from November 2007 to March 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH & CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 63, 64 and 66 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 66 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – NUMBER OF GP ATTENDANCES

Can Government state what was the total number of GP attendances at the Primary Care Centre on a monthly basis, from November 2007 to March 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH & CIVIL PROTECTION

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

Answer to Question 66 of 2008

Answer to Questions 63 to 66 of 2008

DEPARTMENT	Nov-07	Dec-07	Jan-08	Feb-08
AUDIOLOGY	91	58	32	126
DIETICIAN	96	37	64	0
CLINIC SISTER	2803	2191	2082	2019
SCHOOL HEALTH	416	247	368	372
SPEECH & LANGUAGE	137	48	135	146
MENTAL WELFARE	178	156	186	FNA
GP CLINIC	7967	5894	9599	9057
HOUSE CALLS	253	280	377	319
DENTAL	1141	990	1476	1190
CHILD WELFARE	757	604	913	1297
NURSE PRACTITIONERS	989	874	639	203
DERMATOLOGIST	NCH	114	NCH	NCH
CRYOTHERAPY	189	86	187	226
TOTAL	15,017	11,579	16,058	14,955

***COMMUNITY**

PHYSIO	170	152	183	127
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY	208	109	29	132
DISTRICT	2168	1749	2239	1960
TOTAL	2,546	2,010	2,451	2,219
GRAND TOTAL	17,563	13,589	18,509	17,174

- N.C.H. = No Clinic was held that month
- Figures for March 2008 are not available as they are collated at the end of the month.
- Calls received during working hours are record until 4pm. Night calls do not form part of these statistics.

ORAL

NO. 67 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – SPONSORED PATIENTS (SPAIN)

Can Government state how many patients have been treated in Spain as opposed to the UK, as sponsored patients, on a monthly basis, from December 2007 to March 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH & CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 68 and 69 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 68 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – PATIENT REFERRALS TO THE UK

Can Government state the number of patient referrals to the UK on a monthly basis, from December 2007 to March 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH & CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 67 and 69 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 69 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – SPONSORED PATIENTS (UK)

Can Government state what has been the number of sponsored patients treated in the UK on a monthly basis, from December 2007 to March 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH & CIVIL PROTECTION

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

Answer to Question 69 of 2008

Answer to Questions 67 to 69 of 2008

MONTH	NUMBER OF REFERRALS TO THE UK	NUMBER OF PATIENTS SPONSORED TO THE UK	NUMBER OF PATIENTS SPONSORED TO SPAIN
December 2007	96	74	38
January 2008	138	99	48
February 2008	109	75	32
TOTAL	343	248	118

ORAL

NO. 70 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – DIALYSIS TREATMENT

Can Government state the number of dialysis patients that were treated at St Bernard's Hospital and those that were treated at hospitals in Spain on a monthly basis, from December 2007 to March 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH & CIVIL PROTECTION

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

Answer to Question 70 of 2008

The number of patients dialysed in Gibraltar and Spain from December 2007 to February 2008 is as follows:-

Month	Gibraltar	Spain
December 2007	12	0
January 2008	12	0
February 2008	13	0

ORAL

NO. 71 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – MAMMOGRAMS

How many women, diagnosed in the following categories, are currently waiting for a mammogram:

- (a) low risk:
- (b) medium risk;
- (c) high risk?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH & CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 72 to 75 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 72 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – MAMMOGRAMS (ROUTINE)

What is the average waiting time for a routine mammogram at St Bernard's Hospital on a monthly basis, from November 2007 to March 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH & CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 71 and 73 to 75 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 73 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – MAMMOGRAMS (LOW-RISK)

What is the waiting time for women who are waiting for a mammogram and have been diagnosed as 'low-risk' by a doctor?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH & CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 71, 72, 74 and 75 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 74 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – MAMMOGRAMS (MEDIUM-RISK)

What is the waiting time for women who are waiting for a mammogram and have been diagnosed as 'medium-risk' by a doctor?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH & CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 71 to 73 and 75 of 2008.

NO. 75 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – MAMMOGRAMS (HIGH-RISK)

What is the waiting time for women who are waiting for a mammogram and have been diagnosed as 'high-risk' by a doctor?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH & CIVIL PROTECTION

Diagnostic mammography, that is to say, mammograms performed because of symptomatic referrals are not classified according to the categories in the hon Member's question. Symptomatic referrals are dealt with as a matter of priority through the one-stop breast clinic within five working days. The one-stop clinic includes an appointment with the Consultant Surgeon, radiology and pathology diagnostic services.

The GHA does not yet offer a structured routine mammography screening service. This service will be introduced as a manifesto commitment during the current legislature. The GHA does, however, offer a reduced screening service workload permitting. The average waiting times for routine screening remains as stated in answer to Question No. 521 of 2007.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 71 TO 75 OF 2008

HON N F COSTA:

Is the Minister aware of cases where patients have gone to the Gibraltar Health Authority to complain because of detection by themselves of a lump in the breast and I have been told that their case is, hence the use of the word "medium-risk", that is the terminology that was used to describe their case and that the waiting time is around 12 months?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

No, I am not aware of any such case.

HON N F COSTA:

Is the average waiting time then for the routine cases 18 months, as set in Question No. 521 of 2007?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Yes, I have already explained that there is no such thing yet as a routine screening programme. It will be available within this term of office. What we have now, workload permitting, and I did stress that, is some form of routine screening and the waiting time for that is from three months to 18 months as he has rightly stated.

ORAL

NO. 76 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – CT SCANS

Can Government state how many CT Scans were undertaken at St Bernard's Hospital and how many were undertaken in Spain on a monthly basis, from November 2007 to March 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH & CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question No. 77 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 77 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – SCANS

Can Government state how much was spent by the GHA with regard to patients being sent to Spain for scans on a monthly basis, from December 2007 to March 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH & CIVIL PROTECTION

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

Answer to Question 77 of 2008

Answer to Question 76 of 2008

The total number of CT Scans undertaken at St Bernard's Hospital and Spain during the period November 2007 to February 2008 were as follows:

MONTH	CT SCANS LOCAL	CT SCANS SPAIN
November 2007	137	0
December 2007	109	3
January 2008	135	2
February 2008	166	2

Answer to Question 77 of 2008

The total months expenditure for the period November 2007 to February 2008 in respect of patients sent to Spain for scans is as follows:-

December 2007	£7,760.87
January 2008	£18,248.89
February 2008	£7,442.62
TOTAL	£33,452.38

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 76 AND 77 OF 2008

HON N F COSTA:

In respect of the answer to Question No. 77 of 2008, it says the total monthly expenditure for the period November 2007 to February 2008 in respect of patients sent to Spain for scans is as follows. In respect of January 2008 it says the total expenditure is £18,248. Yet there were two referrals to Spain in January 2008. Yet for December, where there were three referrals to Spain, the total monthly expenditure of December is significantly less, it is almost half less, it is £7,760. Could the Minister explain the difference?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

In answer to Question No. 77 of 2008 we are not talking just about CT Scans. The expenditure that is shown there, the £33,000 odd, relates to all scans carried out in Spain. For example, MRI, CT on occasions when ours is not working or for maintenance reasons, bone thallium scans. It relates to all kinds of scans that are undertaken in Spain.

HON G H LICUDI:

Do these figures include the cost of transport or is it the cost of the actual scan at the Spanish establishment?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I believe it does not include the cost of transport.

HON G H LICUDI:

So the total monthly expenditure in respect of sending patients to Spain for scans presumably is higher, taking into account the transport?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I presume it is, in those cases where transport is needed.

HON G H LICUDI:

Is there any issue that the Minister is aware, in respect of sending patients to Spain, where Spanish ambulances have to be used at a very high cost?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

There is a question in the Order Paper later on which I will be answering in full.

NO. 78 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – IVF TREATMENT

What is the existing procedure for couples who are having difficulty in having children and who have been recommended IVF treatment by the GHA?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH & CIVIL PROTECTION

IVF Treatment is not a service which is provided by the GHA.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 78 OF 2008

HON N F COSTA:

In cases where the Gibraltar Health Authority has recommended IVF, is this treatment paid for?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I have just said that it is not a treatment that is provided for by the GHA.

HON N F COSTA:

Assuming that it was recommended to a patient and that patient would have to seek IVF treatment in the UK or Spain, is it something that the GHA would subsidise?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

No, it is not subsidised by the GHA.

HON N F COSTA:

Is this treatment that the GHA is considering introducing?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Not at this moment in time.

NO. 79 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – ELDERLY PATIENTS FORMALLY DISCHARGED FROM ST BERNARD'S HOSPITAL

Can Government state during the months of December 2007 to March 2008 the number of beds occupied by elderly persons who have been formally discharged from St Bernard's Hospital how many fell into each of the 3 categories identified by the Government specifying sex and age:-

- (a) Elderly persons living alone;
- (b) Elderly persons needing support; and
- (c) Others able to be looked after?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH & CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question No. 80 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 80 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – LONG STAY ELDERLY PATIENTS IN ST BERNARD'S HOSPITAL

Can Government state how many long stay elderly care patients there were at St Bernard's Hospital, on a monthly basis, between December 2007 to March 2008, giving a breakdown by sex and age?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH & CIVIL PROTECTION

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

Answer to Question 80 of 2008

Answer to Question 79 of 2008

Age	Living Alone	
	Male	Female
50-60	0	0
61-70	1	2
71-80	2	3
81-90	1	6
91+	0	0
TOTAL	4	11

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

Answer to Question 80 of 2008

Number of long-stay elderly/complex discharges in St. Bernard's Hospital between December 2007 to March 2008.

Age	Dec 2007	Jan 2008	Feb 2008	March 2008
50-60	0	0	0	1
61-70	10	9	7	8
71-80	21	25	22	26
81-90	28	24	25	19
91+	9	4	10	5
Total long-stay	68	62	64	59
Male	24	21	23	23
Female	44	41	41	36

ORAL

NO. 81 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – KGV HOSPITAL LONG STAY WARD

Can Government state the number of beds provided in the KGV Hospital Long Stay Ward between December 2007 to March 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH & CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question No. 82 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 82 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – KGV HOSPITAL LONG STAY WARD

Can Government state the number of beds in the KGV Hospital Long Stay Ward that were occupied between December 2007 and March 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH & CIVIL PROTECTION

Beds occupied in KGV Long Stay Ward between December 2007 and March 2008 were 27.

Beds provided in KGV Long Stay Ward between December 2007 and March 2008 were 29.

ORAL

NO. 83 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – DR DEARDEN

Can Government say why the contract of Dr Dearden is not being renewed?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH & CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question No. 84 of 2008.

NO. 84 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – MR MALIK

Can Government say what is the present employment status of Consultant Mr Malik?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH & CIVIL PROTECTION

Government do not consider it appropriate to discuss the employment status or situation relating to individual members of staff.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 83 AND 84 OF 2008

HON N F COSTA:

Is Mr Malik currently providing the services to the Gibraltar Health Authority?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I can say that Mr Malik is currently in full-time employment within the Gibraltar Health Authority.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So now we know that he is still employed and he is still getting paid. Is he doing any work for what he is getting paid?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

He is currently using his time for his continued professional development.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So that suggests that if he is being continually professionally improved, the intention is to take advantage of that improvement by continuing to employ him. That would be the logical thing if one is spending money on improving him.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Not necessarily.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

If I could just add to that. I appreciate that these are things which become controversial through either Government employees seeking the help of the Opposition or because they become the subject matter of correspondence in the letters pages of the Chronicle. Almost always involving technical professional employees there are complicated factors at work here which make the matter not easily lending itself to glib, superficial treatment about questioning of Government at a political level. The Government do not renew or not the contract of technically or professional men depending upon whether the Government likes them or not as individuals. These are not political decisions. The issues at stake may eventually come up to Ministers for approval of a particular course of action, which may have ramifications. But these are not issues which are simple. There are many technical issues at stake, including, without suggesting necessarily that any particular individual's case involves any such situation, the interests of people who are in receipt of medical treatment from the Gibraltar Health Authority. Now, the Government reserve the right for it to be known, this is not something I am saying so much for the benefit of the Opposition but for the record, the Government fully reserve the right to end the relationship between a Consultant and the Gibraltar Health Authority when the Government is satisfied by Senior Management and/or supported by others, in terms of professional bodies, that the interests of patients requires it. Now, in the past the Government have been in a situation where they have not even been able to explain the reasons why they have taken that view in the past in relation to such people. Of course, what the Government cannot do is avoid making these difficult decisions to avoid political or public flack. Of course, what is at stake is a very serious matter and that is people who rely on medical treatment. So I do not know how this or another case that is mentioned in another question, I do not know if it has been asked already, I do not know how those cases are going to pan out, it is all very technical and very difficult. Then of course, whenever the GHA considers reviewing the situation of a particular doctor, the usual thing that happens and it has happened in these cases already, suddenly we get a flurry of letters in the Chronicle from allegedly grateful patients. Well, that is not forensic. If the Government were free and if it were proper, which it is not, for the Government to engage in that sort of public process, it would not be difficult for the Government to counteract such letters of support with letters to a contrary effect. These things do not lend themselves to that sort of xxx, it puts the Government in a very serious situation, it puts GHA Management in a very serious situation. Government, let me assure this House, does not readily part company with a consultant. Not least because the process of recruiting replacements is lengthy and expensive and very often consultants are not available. We have had many cases where we have been without consultants for well in excess of a year, because these guys are no longer kicking their heels. There is a great shortage of doctors at that level, particularly in the UK and elsewhere. So, if the Government make a decision to part company, and to my knowledge it has not yet done so, I do not know whether it has done so, it has not been brought to my attention that it has done so, I know that there are a couple of cases in the pipeline, it would be with extreme reluctance. The implications for the Government, in public terms, in terms of some disappointed patients, in terms of expense and delay of recruiting a replacement, are difficult. I say that because I can see that we are quickly getting into I see in the Chronicle a few letters relating to Mr Deardon, who is one of the gynaecologists. I do not know anything about that

particular case and I can see that we are getting into a Doctor Rassa type situation again with these two and I can just see history repeating itself almost verbatim. I just say that, perhaps at too much length, but it has provided me with an opportunity to urge on the part of Opposition Members as much restraint as they feel that their political duties to hold the Government to account enables them, because these are very difficult areas for the Government.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Presumably in all these cases the information that he volunteered earlier in answer to my Colleague about the new Directives protecting peoples' rights if one has got consecutive contracts, applies in this area as well, does it?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes it does, but because the implications raise questions about whether they continue to deliver health services, the Government would incur in those liabilities. I mean, if, which is not the case as far as I am aware, the Government wanted to part company with a doctor because they were not satisfied that that doctor was delivering safe medical treatment, we would not impose such a doctor on unsuspecting patients simply to avoid paying damages under some unlawful..... The answer to the question is yes, it does indeed apply.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Let me say the question was not intended to suggest that the Chief Minister or the Government should do that. I am sure that nobody would want, there is enough concern on other accounts for wanting to use the health service without adding to it having to use doctors that are there simply because the contract cannot be terminated for matters of employment law. So we expect that the Government should satisfy itself that the people it is employing are, as far as they can tell, people that can deliver the service that is expected of them. The Chief Minister is right, if these things are raised outside Parliament then I think it is right that we should bring it here and give the Government an opportunity to explain.

HON N F COSTA:

The Chief Minister has said that, of course, if it were not xxxxxx he would do so reluctantly because of the scarcity of professional consultants in the United Kingdom and Gibraltar and so on. Given that that is the case and the Chief Minister has explained that Mr Malik is continuing his professional development, who is now attending to the shortfall in service that would be the case if Mr Malik is not attending to patients?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

There is no shortfall, we have another two orthopaedic surgeons who are covering the waiting list quite adequately. In fact, there is no waiting list for orthopaedic surgery.

ORAL

NO. 85 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Can Government say on what date they renewed the contract of the Chief Executive of the GHA and on what terms?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH & CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question No. 86 of 2008.

NO. 86 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Can Government say when the contracts of each of the management positions in the GHA, other than the Chief Executive, were renewed and on what terms?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH & CIVIL PROTECTION

The Chief Executive's contract was renewed with effect from 19th October 2007 for a further period of three years.

The other two senior managers who are on contract had their contracts renewed with effect from 1st December 2007 for a further period of three years.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 85 AND 86 OF 2008

HON N F COSTA:

Could the Minister provide the terms on which the contract of the Chief Executive was renewed?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

No, contract arrangements with staff are confidential and not matters for the public record.

HON N F COSTA:

Could I ask the salary increase, if there has been any, of the Chief Executive?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Yes, there has been a salary increase I am told in proportion to the cost of living.

HON N F COSTA:

What was the salary on the last occasion so that we can calculate the sums?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I honestly would not be able to tell the hon Member because I do not know.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I take it that when the Minister said that they could not divulge the terms she is not referring to the fact that it was tax free, because that bit has been revealed before. So I take it, is the increase in the cost of living also based on the special conditions that the Chief Executive has as regards taxation?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

He no longer enjoys that privilege.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So has the salary then been grossed up because he no longer enjoys it, or have actually reduced the salary?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

No it has not.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Which of the two?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

It has not been grossed up because of the fact that he lost his tax status.

HON G H LICUDI:

We note that the tax free status has been lost, does that mean that he is an ordinary taxpayer or has he got a different tax status?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Ordinary in the context of the dual tax system choice.

ORAL

NO. 87 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – OXYGEN TREATMENT CENTRE

What is the existing procedure for persons who are sent by the GHA for treatment at the oxygen treatment centre?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH & CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question No. 88 of 2008.

NO. 88 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – OXYGEN TREATMENT CENTRE

How many patients have been referred for treatment to the oxygen treatment centre in Devil's Tower Road on a monthly basis since the centre opened and how many have actually received that treatment?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH & CIVIL PROTECTION

The GHA has not sent any patients to the unit at Devil's Tower Road for treatment. A review of policy funding and an assessment of the capability of the unit to provide evidence-based treatment according to the appropriate guidelines will take place very shortly.

NO. 89 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GHA – SPANISH AMBULANCES

Can Government state how much has been spent by the GHA in contracting Spanish ambulances to transport patients to Spain in the last financial year, and how many such trips have been undertaken?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH & CIVIL PROTECTION

The total number of patients transported to Spain using Spanish ambulances in the last financial year was 71 and the total cost was £11,840.84.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 89 OF 2008

HON G H LICUDI:

When Spanish ambulances are used to transport patients, can the Minister or the Government tell us why that occurs? Why is it not possible for GHA or St John's ambulances to be used for the trip?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

In general the answer to his question is because there is a much higher volume of transfers due to patients choosing referrals and treatment into Spain. The bottom line is that the four transfer ambulances that we have cannot cope with that volume of transfers.

HON G H LICUDI:

Can the Government confirm whether in any cases in respect of any particular hospital or unit in Spain, they actually insist they will only accept patients if they provide the ambulance services and are paid for. Is that correct?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Absolutely not.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In my original question I asked how many trips had been undertaken and the answer was that they had taken 71 patients. Does that mean 71 trips or could it be that one trip may mean several patients?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

One trip could mean several patients.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So the answer to how many trips has not been provided.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Yes, he asked for trips and I said 71 trips.

HON J J BOSSANO:

No, 71 patients the Minister said.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Oh yes, he is correct. I am afraid the answer has been drafted using the patients as opposed to the trips, but I can inform him that more than one patient normally goes in the ambulance for one trip. I can find out the number of trips for him.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I would be grateful.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Mr Speaker, with your leave, for the purposes of Hansard I would like to amend the answer that I gave to Question No. 89 of 2008 yesterday. I have already informed the Leader of the Opposition verbally. The answer should read, the total number of trips undertaken to Spain using Spanish ambulances in the last financial year was 71 and the total cost was £11,840.84.

HON G H LICUDI:

Are we permitted to ask a supplementary given that the information is new?

MR SPEAKER:

Yes.

HON G H LICUDI:

As I understood the Minister's answer yesterday, there were 71 patients, that was yesterday, each trip may take more than one patient and therefore it presupposed there were less trips. Given that we now know that there are 71 trips, is it still the case that each trip may take more than one patient and does the Minister have the number of the total patients that were transported?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Yes, 101 patients were transported in the 71 trips.

NO. 90 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

FIRE SERVICE

Can Government state how many call outs have been made by the Fire Brigade from December 2007 to March 2008, giving a breakdown showing the reason for the call out?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH & CIVIL PROTECTION

Fire Calls	–	125
Special Services	–	293
Ambulance Attendances	–	63
TOTAL ATTENDANCES		481

NO. 91 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

FIRE SERVICE

Can Government confirm that new rules have recently been introduced regarding visits to the City Fire Brigade station?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH & CIVIL PROTECTION

I can confirm that new procedures have been introduced regarding public entry into the station premises.

The City Fire Brigade has been closely monitoring the situation with external Fire Services on this issue. With the current security threats, most if not all external brigades, especially in the UK, have introduced high security measures to restrict entry into the working premises of stations. The aim of these restrictions is based primarily on security, health and safety and interference with the operational readiness of the service.

However, many fire stations especially in the UK, have a community area alongside the station where members of the public or retired officers can attend. In our case this facility is available by use of the City Fire Brigade Social Club premises, which are annexed to the main station building.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 91 OF 2008

HON J J BOSSANO:

Yes, but independent of what might be happening in the United Kingdom, why do the Government think there could be a security threat from former employees of the Fire Service? I mean, the guy retires last week, why has he become a threat if he goes this week to the place where he used to work before?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Primarily, maybe not a security threat when talking about a retired fire officer, right, but there are others who visit the station on a constant basis without any monitoring going on. In the case of the retired fire officer he might not be a security threat but there are health and safety issues that come into play. When he was working in the fire brigade he was covered by an indemnity insurance and as a visitor he is not.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So is this going to be extended then to all Government areas of employment where presumably this thing applies? The health and safety risk, unless the Fire Station is a particularly dangerous place to work in.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I am not aware whether it will be extended to other Government places, but I am aware that a similar working facility, something with which one can compare the City Fire Brigade with because of operational reasons, is the Royal Gibraltar Police and one does not see people coming in and out of the Police Station as they have done until now in the City Fire Brigade.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I do not know how many people went in or out but it seems to me that if the reason is that this is how they do things in the UK, I do not think we can compare everything that we do in Gibraltar to the UK on the basis that here we know each other very well and there is a more relaxed attitude because we know and we recognise everybody that comes in and out of the place. Is there a particular reason, has anything happened that has raised the concern of the Government to bring about this policy decision?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

No, nothing has happened, it is a policy decision taken by the Chief Fire Officer and supported by the Government.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So the Government have then accepted the recommendation of the Chief Fire Officer to do this?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

That is correct.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Did the Chief Fire Officer consult anybody else in the Brigade or he took it on his own? Does the Minister not know?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Why should the Chief Fire Officer consult anybody else in the Brigade?

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well, if the Minister wants industrial relations advice from me, which of course I am happy to give, because it is a good idea to consult the people under you before one decides to do something, usually.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

It is a good idea in relation to industrial relations to consult on things that affect the working practices and their terms and conditions of firemen, not for social reasons.

HON J J BOSSANO:

That is a matter of opinion. Surely the Minister must agree with me, even though she is not responsible for industrial relations. I do not know if the Minister for Employment was rising from his seat to agree with me, or whether he was just making himself more comfortable. The social dimension of the relationship is a very good one.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Even when he was the leader of the Union.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I know that he did not agree with me even when I was in the Union, but some people say that what they could not understand before as to why he did not agree with me they understand now that he is sitting where he is seated. I am not saying I necessarily share that view but it is a view I have heard.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The same is true of all the other Trade Unionists on this side.

HON F R PICARDO:

Exactly the same amount, yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Depending on the distance. Would the Minister not agree that, in fact, where there is a good social comradeship relationship, it is good for the Department and for industrial relations and that she should not think that this is something that is divorced? I mean, the fact that in that Department people were so relaxed about coming back to their workplace is an indication of what a good atmosphere there was when they were working there. Why should she want to disrupt that?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

They have every cause to socialise, as they have done in the past, in the City Fire Brigade Social Club but not during working hours, it is not good practice and it is not a professional standard that we all aspire to, including the Fire Brigade members.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Oh I see, so then she is telling me that the Fire Brigade members have been consulted and they agree with her and with the Chief Fire Officer? She has just said including the Fire Brigade members, who previously she told me had not been consulted.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I have not been consulted but I am aware that the majority of the fire officers are in agreement with this upping of standards and professionalism within the Brigade.

HON J J BOSSANO:

That is fine, then that is the answer to my original question.

HON G H LICUDI:

The Minister says that she has not been consulted. Can she confirm whether the letter setting out the new terms and new arrangements in this policy decision actually came from her?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Does he refer to the one that was leaked to them?

HON G H LICUDI:

No, I am not referring to any letter in particular, I have not seen any letter. I am asking whether a letter communicating this policy decision came from her, giving that she says she was not consulted.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

He actually said whether I would confirm *[Interruption – Loss of Sound xxxxxxxxxxxx]*

HON G H LICUDI:

I have not received any letter nor have I seen any letter, and I have already said that.

[Interruption – Loss of Sound xxxxxxxxxxxx]

HON G H LICUDI:

The Minister has said that this was a decision taken by the Chief Fire Officer and she was not consulted. Can the Minister confirm.....

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I have not said I was not consulted.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

She said that she had not been consulted about whether staff had been consulted, not about whether the policy should be implemented.

HON G H LICUDI:

Can the Minister confirm that she approved the policy and she, in fact, communicated that policy to the officers concerned?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I can confirm that I approved wholeheartedly the policy and that the policy was confirmed to the men by the Chief Fire Officer.

HON G H LICUDI:

Is the Minister saying that she has not written a letter setting out that particular policy or directive by the Government?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

That is correct, I have not written such a letter.

HON G H LICUDI:

So the one I was supposed to have seen does not exist. How can she accuse me of seeing a letter that does not exist?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Because he said that such a letter existed.

HON G H LICUDI:

It is extraordinary that the Minister accuses me of having seen a leaked letter which she now claims does not exist. Can the Minister clarify whether the letter exists or not?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

What is extraordinary is that a man with a professional background in advocacy should trap himself and then try to blame it, that is the only thing that is extraordinary here. The hon Member, in his supplementary, alluded as a matter of fact to the existence of a letter. Therefore, the existence of a letter is asserted by him and by nobody else. The Minister then says she has not written a letter but as she takes the hon Member at his word, perhaps naively, she assumes that there is a letter, albeit a letter written by somebody else and not by her. I do not see what is extraordinary about that, except perhaps the fact that the Minister takes the hon Member when he says there is a letter to mean that there is a letter and not to mean that there is not a letter.

HON G H LICUDI:

The Chief Minister is aware that the Minister actually referred to a letter which was leaked to me when no such letter has been leaked and that is what I want to make absolutely clear. Given that there was a reference to the letter I simply wanted to clarify whether she had written such a letter. If it is all a question that she simply believed that there was a letter, that is fine and the Minister should be grateful for the Chief Minister for taking her out.....

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

It is not a question of me believing that the letter has been leaked. I responded in reply to his.....

MR SPEAKER:

Order, Order. Would both hon Members please give way to me. I think really we are wasting time over a letter that does not exist, it seems, can we move on to the next question please. Nobody has told me it exists so let us move on to the next question.

ORAL

NO. 92 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DEVELOPMENT APPEALS TRIBUNAL

Can Government say how often and on what dates the Development Appeals Tribunal met this year and how many cases are pending its consideration or in the administrative process?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH& CIVIL PROTECTION

There has been no change to the position as stated in answer to Question Nos. 531 and 532 of 2007.

ORAL

NO. 93 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

OFFICE OF FAIR TRADING

Have Government now taken a policy decision on whether or not they will follow the UK model and set up an Office of Fair Trading in Gibraltar?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

The Government's position remains as answered in Question No. 535 of 2007.

NO. 94 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY – EMPLOYEES

How many persons did the Social Services Agency employ as at December 2007 to March 2008, giving a breakdown as between industrials, non-industrials and location where employed?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

As at 28th March 2008 the Social Services Agency employed a total of 174 persons in permanent posts, with another two persons working in temporary positions.

I now hand the hon Member the information requested.

Answer to Question 94 of 2008

Number of Persons Employed by the Social Services Agency as at 28th March 2008

Grade	Number of Persons Employed	Temporary Staff	Total
NON-INDUSTRIAL STAFF			
MAIN OFFICE – 16 Governor's Parade	31	2	33
OFFICE AT 3 CASEMATES HOUSE	4		4
ST. BERNADETTE'S O.T. CENTRE – Smith Dorrien Ave	22		22
DR. GIRALDI HOME – Smith Dorrien Ave	67		67
CHILDREN RESIDENTIAL	45		45
Shop Mobility Centre – Unit G4B ECC	1		1
INDUSTRIAL STAFF			
ST. BERNADETTE'S O.T. CENTRE	4		4
Total	174	2	176

The SSA also uses supply workers for relief cover as necessary.

NO. 95 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY – WEBSITE

Can Government explain the reasons why the section in its website on the Social Services Agency has still not been revised since 1 February 2002, despite bringing this matter to the Government's attention in Question No. 544 of 2007?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

The hon Member is correct when he states that this issue was raised in the previous Parliament's Question and Answer session held on 5th December 2007, and I am pleased to inform him that since then much has transpired.

The objective is not to solely update the Social Services Agency website but that of all the Departments and Agencies which fall within the remit of the Ministry. A number of meetings have taken place with Heads of Departments and Agencies, in conjunction with the Information Technology & Logistics Department, and the preparatory work to bring to fruition this project is well underway.

The final product is aimed at allowing the general public to have access to as much information on line as possible. Information such as: opening hours, address, contact details, that is, telephone numbers during opening hours and, where applicable, after hours, e-mail addresses, information of services, links to download application forms, where applicable, and all pertinent legislation which govern issues relevant to the Department or Agency. A system will also be introduced whereby information will be updated on a regular basis, or when deemed necessary.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 95 OF 2008

HON N F COSTA:

I am grateful to the Minister for the answer given and the fact that progress has been made in respect of updating, not just the section on the Social Services Agency, but also in respect of other Agencies and Departments under his remit. Can the Minister given an indication of when the fruits of his labours will be seen?

HON J J NETTO:

I wish I could but as a politician I do not want to be pinned down to a particular date. I think it would be reasonable, subject to technical problems or some particular organisation within the Ministry, to assume that it will be within three months. Hon Members will have to take note of the fact that there are some Departments or Agencies which are very developed when it comes to information technology and some are not. So it is basically trying to catch up those ones which are not. But in any case, I should imagine that even for those organisations which are not as readily available, we can always start perhaps in, say, around three months' time and those which are not ready, leave them under construction and then subsequently bring them into line.

ORAL

NO. 96 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

MOUNT ALVERNIA – WAITING LIST

Can Government state how many elderly citizens are waiting for a place at Mount Alvernia, and how many of these are occupying a bed at St Bernard's Hospital as at the end of March 2008, giving a breakdown by sex and age?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

I hand the hon Member the requested information.

ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 96 OF 2008

Number of elderly persons waiting for a place at Mount Alvernia – 213

SEX	60 - 70	71 - 80	81 - 90	91 +
Male	8	18	22	6
Female	9	43	87	20
Total	17	61	109	26

Number of elderly persons who are also occupying a bed at St Bernard's Hospital as at end of March 2008 – 43

SEX	60 - 70	71 - 80	81 - 90	91 +
Male	1	4	5	2
Female	1	6	20	4
Total	2	10	25	6

ORAL

NO. 97 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

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 March 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 98 to 100 of 2008.

NO. 98 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

SOCIAL INSURANCE – OPEN LONG-TERM BENEFITS FUND

Can Government state what was the number of pensioners being paid or with entitlement to payment for each month to date as from November 2007 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 FAMILY, YOUTH & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 97, 99 and 100 of 2008.

NO. 99 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

SOCIAL INSURANCE – CLOSED LONG-TERM BENEFITS FUND

Can Government state, in connection with the pensioners being paid or with entitlement to payment from the 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 as from November 2007 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 FAMILY, YOUTH & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 97, 98 and 100 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 100 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

SOCIAL INSURANCE – CLOSED LONG-TERM BENEFITS FUND

Can Government state what was the number of pensioners being paid or with entitlement to payment, for each month to date, as from November 2007, 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 nationals for the months in question?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

I now hand the hon Member the requested information.

ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 100 OF 2008**Answer to Question No. 97**

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 28 MARCH 2008.

				SINGLES		COUPLES		TOTAL
				No		No		No
FROM	£141.00	TO	£145.00	0		3		3
FROM	£136.00	TO	£140.00	0		0		0
FROM	£131.00	TO	£135.00	0		0		0
FROM	£126.00	TO	£130.00	0		0		0
FROM	£121.00	TO	£125.00	0		0		0
FROM	£116.00	TO	£120.00	0		0		0
FROM	£111.00	TO	£115.00	0		0		0
FROM	£106.00	TO	£110.00	27		0		27
FROM	£101.00	TO	£105.00	2		0		2
FROM	£96.00	TO	£100.00	0		0		0
FROM	£91.00	TO	£95.00	0		0		0
FROM	£86.00	TO	£90.00	0		0		0
FROM	£81.00	TO	£85.00	1		1		2
FROM	£76.00	TO	£80.00	0		0		0
FROM	£71.00	TO	£75.00	20		0		20
FROM	£66.00	TO	£70.00	2		0		2
FROM	£61.00	TO	£65.00	1		0		1
FROM	£56.00	TO	£60.00	0		1		1
FROM	£51.00	TO	£55.00	6		1		7
FROM	£46.00	TO	£50.00	18		0		18
FROM	£41.00	TO	£45.00	10		1		11
FROM	£36.00	TO	£40.00	17		0		17
FROM	£31.00	TO	£35.00	18		2		20
FROM	£26.00	TO	£30.00	23		0		23
FROM	£21.00	TO	£25.00	23		3		26
FROM	£16.00	TO	£20.00	237		4		241
FROM	£11.00	TO	£15.00	17		5		22
FROM	£6.00	TO	£10.00	23		8		31
FROM	£0.00	TO	£5.00	13		0		13
TOTAL				458		29		487

Cont...

Cont'd ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 100 OF 2008

Answer to Question No. 98

The following pensioners were in receipt of payments from the Open Long-Term Benefits Fund from November 2007 to February 2008.

	Nov-07	Dec-07	Jan-08	Feb-08
BRITISH PENSIONERS	2623	2634	2662	2674
SPANISH PENSIONERS	137	138	141	143
MOROCCAN PENSIONERS	705	707	724	726
OTHER NATIONALITIES	41	41	43	43
TOTAL	3506	3520	3570	3586

Cont'd ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 100 OF 2008

Answer to Question No. 99

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 from November 2007 to February 2008.

	Nov-07	Dec-07	Jan-08	Feb-08
BRITISH PENSIONERS	2606	2617	2645	2655
SPANISH PENSIONERS	123	124	127	129
MOROCCAN PENSIONERS	704	707	724	726
OTHER NATIONALITIES	41	41	43	43
TOTAL	3474	3489	3539	3553

Cont'...

Cont'd ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 100 OF 2008

Answer to Question No. 100

The following pensioners were being paid or with entitlement to payment from the Closed Long-term Benefits Fund for the months of November 2007 to February 2008.

	Nov-07	Dec-07	Jan-08	Feb-08
<i>Pre-1969 Spanish Pensioners</i>	275	277	277	277
<i>British Pensioners (Gib/UK Nat.)</i>	5217	5221	5238	5250
<i>Moroccan Pensioners</i>	1827	1828	1850	1851
<i>Other Nationalities</i>	518	522	531	530
Total	7837	7848	7896	7908

ORAL

NO. 101 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

SOCIAL INSURANCE – OPEN LONG-TERM BENEFITS FUND

Can Government state what was the monthly income, expenditure and balance of the Open Long-Term Benefits Fund, to date, as from November 2007?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 102 to 104 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 102 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

SOCIAL INSURANCE – SHORT-TERM BENEFITS FUND

Can Government state what was the monthly income, expenditure and balance of the Short-term-Benefits Fund as from November 2007?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 101, 103 and 104 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 103 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

SOCIAL INSURANCE – CLOSED LONG-TERM BENEFITS FUND

Can Government state what was the monthly income, expenditure and balance of the Closed Long-Term Benefits Fund as from November 2007, 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 FAMILY, YOUTH & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 101, 102 and 104 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 104 OF 2008

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 monthly amounts, to date, as from November 2007?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

I now hand the hon Member the requested information.

ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 104 OF 2008

Answer to Question NO. 101

The Monthly Income, Expenditure and Balance of the Open Long-term Benefits Fund, to date, as from November 2007 is as per the following tentative statement:

OPEN LONG-TERM BENEFITS FUND

	<u>30-Nov-07</u>	<u>31-Dec-07</u>	<u>31-Jan-08</u>	<u>29-Feb-08</u>
<u>Fund Account –</u>				
<u>Opening Balance</u>	£7,218,872.91	£6,640,850.10	£5,521,501.51	£4,738,762.51
<u>Add</u>				
Receipts	£1,005,345.60	£686,486.94	£947,074.45	£1,461,593.51
	<u>£8,224,218.51</u>	<u>£7,327,337.04</u>	<u>£6,468,575.96</u>	<u>£6,200,356.02</u>
<u>Less</u>				
Payments	<u>(£1,583,368.41)</u>	<u>(£1,805,835.53)</u>	<u>(£1,729,813.45)</u>	<u>(£1,650,673.93)</u>
<u>Closing Balance</u>	<u>£6,640,850.10</u>	<u>£5,521,501.51</u>	<u>£4,738,762.51</u>	<u>£4,549,682.09</u>

Contd.....

Cont'd ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 104 OF 2008

Answer to Question No. 102

The Monthly Income, Expenditure and Balance of the Short-Term Benefits Fund as from November 2007 is as per the following tentative statement;

OPEN LONG-TERM BENEFITS FUND

	<u>30-Nov-07</u>	<u>31-Dec-07</u>	<u>31-Jan-08</u>	<u>29-Feb-08</u>
<u>Fund Account – Opening Balance</u>	£1,343,132.82	£1,343,712.20	£1,326,986.52	£1,307,003.04
<u>Add</u>				
Receipts	£85,820.17	£61,072.68	£81,611.94	£120,959.62
	<u>£1,428,952.99</u>	<u>£1,404,784.88</u>	<u>£1,408,598.46</u>	<u>£1,427,962.66</u>
<u>Less</u>				
Payments	(£85,240.79)	(£77,798.36)	(£101,595.42)	(£112,178.63)
	<u>£1,343,712.20</u>	<u>£1,326,986.52</u>	<u>£1,307,003.04</u>	<u>£1,315,784.03</u>

Cont'd.....

Cont ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 104 OF 2008

Answer to Question No. 103

The Monthly Income, Expenditure and Balance of the Closed Long-term Benefits Fund as from November 2007, showing the amount from UK and Local funds and the Expenditure to former Spanish workers and to pensioners from Local Funds is as follows:

CLOSED LONG-TERM BENEFITS FUND

	<u>30-Nov-07</u>	<u>31-Dec-07</u>	<u>31-Jan-08</u>	<u>29-Feb-08</u>
<u>Fund Account – Opening Balance</u>	<u>£440,743.17</u>	<u>£295,650.93</u>	<u>£207,175.64</u>	<u>£259,188.72</u>
<u>“Local Account”</u>				
Opening Balance	£269,646.48	£126,833.99	£60,042.06	£120,041.45
<u>Add</u> Transfers from the Open Long-Term Benefits Fund	£1,400,000.00	£1,600,000.00	£1,550,000.00	£1,450,000.00
Other Receipts	£1,050.66	£1,300.84	£1,100.17	£850.36
	<u>£1,670,697.14</u>	<u>£1,728,134.83</u>	<u>£1,611,142.23</u>	<u>£1,570,891.81</u>
<u>Less</u> Payments	<u>(£1,543,863.15)</u>	<u>(£1,668,092.77)</u>	<u>(£1,491,100.78)</u>	<u>(£1,460,448.00)</u>
Closing Balance	<u>£126,833.99</u>	<u>£60,042.06</u>	<u>£120,041.45</u>	<u>£110,443.81</u>
<u>“Spanish Account”</u>				
Opening Balance	£171,096.69	£168,816.94	£147,133.58	£139,147.27
<u>Add</u> Receipts from DFID	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	<u>£171,096.69</u>	<u>£168,816.94</u>	<u>£147,133.58</u>	<u>£139,147.27</u>
<u>Less</u> Payments	<u>(£2,279.75)</u>	<u>(£21,683.36)</u>	<u>(£7,986.31)</u>	<u>(£1,156.88)</u>
Closing Balance	<u>£168,816.94</u>	<u>£147,133.58</u>	<u>£139,147.27</u>	<u>£137,990.39</u>
<u>Fund Account Closing Balance</u>	<u>£295,650.93</u>	<u>£207,175.64</u>	<u>£259,188.72</u>	<u>£248,434.20</u>

Contd.....

Cont'd ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 104 OF 2008

Answer to Question No. 104

The transfers made from the Open Long-Term Benefits Fund to the Closed Long-Term Benefits Fund, giving the monthly amounts, to date, as from November 2007, are as follows:

November 2007	£1,400,000
December 2007	£1,600,000
January 2008	£1,550,000
February 2008	<u>£1,450,000</u>
	£6,000,000
	=====

ORAL

NO. 105 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

DISABLEMENT BENEFIT

Can Government say how many persons applied for Disablement Benefit and to how many it was paid between December 2007 to March 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 106 to 109 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 106 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

INJURY BENEFIT

Can Government say how many persons applied for Injury Benefit and to how many it was paid between December 2007 to March 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 105 and 107 to 109 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 107 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

MATERNITY GRANT

Can Government say how many persons applied for a Maternity Grant and how many persons received the grant between December 2007 to March 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 105, 106, 108 and 109 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 108 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT

Can Government say how many persons applied for Unemployment Benefit and how many persons received this benefit between December 2007 to March 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 105 to 107 and 109 of 2008.

NO. 109 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

INDUSTRIAL DEATH BENEFIT

Can Government say how many persons applied for Industrial Death Benefit and how many it was paid to between December 2007 to date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

I now hand the hon Member the information requested.

I would like to explain to him, whilst the tables show a column for applications received and another for approved, these approved correspond to the claims of the month although the payment may have been paid in subsequent months.

In answer to Question No. 109 of 2008, no applications, thankfully, have been made for Industrial Death Benefit from December 2007 to date.

ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 109 OF 2008

Answer to Question No. 105

Applications for Disablement Benefit for the months of December 2007 to March 2008.

2007/2008	APPLICATIONS RECEIVED	APPROVED
December	1	1
January	4	2
February	0	0
28 March	4	0

Cont'd.....

Cont'd ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 109 OF 2008

Answer to Question No. 106

Applications for Injury Benefit for the months of December 2007 to March 2008 and numbers approved for payment.

2007/2008	APPLICATIONS RECEIVED	APPROVED
December	12	12
January	26	26
February	35	34
28 March	21	21

Cont'd.....

Cont'd ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 109 OF 2008

Answer to Question No. 107

Applications for Maternity Grant for the months of December 2007 to March 2008 and numbers approved for payment.

2007/2008	APPLICATIONS RECEIVED	APPROVED
December	32	30
January	35	32
February	32	26
28 March	24	17

Cont'd.....

Cont'd ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 109 OF 2008

Answer to Question No. 108

Applications for Unemployment Benefit for the months of December 2007 to March 2008 and numbers approved for payment.

2007/2008	APPLICATIONS RECEIVED	APPROVED
December	41	39
January	73	68
February	45	38
28 March	26	24

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 105 TO 109 OF 2008

HON N F COSTA:

Could the Minister say how long it takes between approval of a payment and the actual receipt of a payment by the recipient?

HON J J NETTO:

That would depend on the specific circumstances of the person, whether they have brought in sufficient information or whether further information is requested. There is no scientific yardstick to be able to say there is a period which corresponds between getting the application and getting the payment, it would depend on the circumstances.

HON N F COSTA:

I am assuming that when something is approved it is finally approved, it would not be a question.....

HON J J NETTO:

When it is finally approved I should imagine quite soon because the person will be notified of that and the payments made, it should not take too long.

ORAL

NO. 110 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

Can Government state what was the number of persons receiving social assistance, to date, as from November 2007 giving a monthly breakdown by age and sex?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 111 and 112 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 111 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

Can Government state how many persons receiving social assistance, to date, as from November 2007, have been employed since, and how many are still receiving social assistance, giving a monthly breakdown by age and sex?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 110 and 112 of 2008.

NO. 112 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

DISABILITY ALLOWANCE

Can Government state how many persons were in receipt of a disability allowance under the social assistance arrangements as from November 2007, to date, giving a monthly breakdown of their age and sex?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

I now hand the hon Member the information requested.

I would like to inform the hon Member that statistical information up to 28th March 2008 has only been provided in relation to the number of persons receiving social assistance from November 2007 and have since then been employed.

This is simply because these statistical figures are readily available and the calculation of the other information would entail an exercise.

ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 112 OF 2008

Answer to Question No. 110

**PERSONS RECEIVING SOCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE MONTHS OF
NOVEMBER 2007 TO FEBRUARY 2008 BY MONTH, SEX AND AGE.**

2007/2008	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL	18/25	26/35	36/45	46/60
November	155	299	454	60	135	116	143
December	158	302	460	65	135	115	145
January	158	309	467	59	137	118	153
February	169	311	480	62	143	123	152

Cont'd.....

Cont'd ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 112 OF 2008

Answer to Question No. 111

PERSONS IN RECEIPT OF SOCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE MONTHS OF NOVEMBER 2007 TO FEBRUARY 2008

2007/2008	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL	18/25	26/35	36/45	46/60
November	155	299	454	60	135	116	143
December	158	302	460	65	135	115	145
January	158	309	467	59	137	118	153
February	169	311	480	62	143	123	152

PERSONS EMPLOYED DURING THE MONTHS OF NOVEMBER 2007 TO FEBRUARY 2008

2007/2008	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL	18/25	26/35	36/45	46/60
November	4	0	4	1	1	1	1
December	1	1	2	0	1	0	1
January	0	1	1	1	0	0	0
February	4	6	10	2	5	2	1

AS AT	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL	18/25	26/35	36/45	46/60
28-Mar-08	163	299	462	64	141	115	142

Cont'd.....

Cont'd ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 112 OF 2008

Answer to Question No. 112

PERSONS RECEIVING DISABILITY ALLOWANCE UNDER THE SOCIAL ASSISTANCE ARRANGEMENTS AS FROM NOVEMBER 2007 TO FEBRUARY 2008 GIVING A MONTHLY BREAKDOWN OF THEIR AGE AND SEX

2007/8	0-10	11-20	21-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	61-70	TOTAL	MALES	FEMALES
Nov	26	24	27	16	16	12	4	125	84	41
Dec	25	25	26	16	17	12	4	125	85	40
Jan	24	25	26	16	17	12	4	124	85	39
Feb	22	27	25	17	17	12	3	123	84	39

ORAL

NO. 113 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – REFURBISHMENT OF DWELLINGS

Can Government state how many Government dwellings are presently refurbished and ready for allocation?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

The number of refurbished dwellings ready for allocation is none, simply because these are allocated as soon as the refurbishment work is completed.

NO. 114 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – REFURBISHMENT OF DWELLINGS

Can Government state how many Government dwellings are currently in the hands of Buildings and Works for refurbishment?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

There are currently 25 dwellings with the Buildings and Works for refurbishment.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 114 OF 2008

HON C A BRUZON:

Is it just a coincidence or is it that the answer is exactly the same as in December?

HON F J VINET:

There is a coincidence. They are not the same properties, there may be an overlap in a small number of them but it is just a coincidence. The number tends to be within the 25 to 35 figure mark.

NO. 115 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – REFURBISHMENT OF DWELLINGS

Can Government state how many Government dwellings are currently empty with no work being done in them at present?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

There are currently 47 empty flats due for allocation which are currently empty and on which no work is being done.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 115 OF 2008

HON C A BRUZON:

Do the Government not appreciate that it is absolutely essential that work be done in these homes to alleviate the housing problem? Or is it true, as the Chief Minister said in December last year, that the Department has to grapple with the resources made available to them?

HON F J VINET:

If the hon Member understood the state in which some of these properties find themselves in, he would also understand why it is not economically feasible to actually undertake the works needed. All of these properties mentioned are pre-war flats that require very, very extensive work such as dampness treatment, new roofs and so on. The Government have come to a balanced view and are of the view that that money would be better spent, and would offer the taxpayer far more value for money use in carrying out other projects. Such as, for example, building brand new flats for rent.

ORAL

NO. 116 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – TENANTS REQUIRING WORK TO HOMES

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, giving the dates when the defects were notified by these tenants?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

The number of Government tenants currently listed as requiring works to be done in their homes is 2,079 and I have just handed over to the hon Member the information requested.

Answer to Q.116

Tenant Code	Job No	Date of Report	Tenant Code	Job No	Date of Report	Tenant Code	Job No	Date of Report
10002	90773	16/10/07	10064	90823	16/10/07	10130	94821	19/03/08
10003	78463	21/06/06	10064	90825	16/10/07	10130	94820	19/03/08
10003	92248	11/12/07	10064	81716	30/10/06	10130	94819	19/03/08
10003	85247	26/02/07	10064	93126	18/01/08	10134	86094	03/04/07
10004	84452	01/02/07	10067	86670	30/04/07	10134	88040	29/06/07
10004	91175	30/10/07	10070	88935	06/08/07	10134	94089	20/02/08
10004	81213	18/10/06	10073	93332	25/01/08	10135	93148	21/01/08
10004	90977	23/10/07	10076	87490	05/06/07	10138	84445	01/02/07
10010	84144	23/01/07	10077	94254	27/02/08	10140	90184	24/09/07
10010	91943	29/11/07	10078	91646	19/11/07	10142	85485	06/03/07
10011	94047	20/02/08	10083	88067	02/07/07	10143	93833	12/02/08
10011	94048	20/02/08	10083	83332	15/12/06	10143	93621	05/02/08
10011	84440	01/02/07	10084	76373	08/03/06	10143	88436	17/07/07
10013	89485	29/08/07	10085	94131	22/02/08	10145	92990	15/01/08
10014	92992	15/01/08	10085	82053	08/11/06	10150	87178	22/05/07
10014	87924	25/06/07	10086	93874	13/02/08	10159	94749	17/03/08
10017	89838	12/09/07	10091	93294	24/01/08	10159	93914	15/02/08
10018	92739	08/01/08	10091	90404	02/10/07	10160	85077	20/02/07
10023	89186	15/08/07	10091	93296	24/01/08	10165	91137	29/10/07
10023	94656	12/03/08	10095	93492	31/01/08	10165	80890	09/10/06
10025	93756	11/02/08	10100	89151	14/08/07	10167	88206	10/07/07
10025	84989	16/02/07	10100	94216	25/02/08	10169	94342	29/02/08
10027	91720	21/11/07	10101	87881	22/06/07	10169	93494	31/01/08
10027	82731	24/11/06	10109	91670	20/11/07	10170	88013	28/06/07
10027	91396	08/11/07	10109	94770	17/03/08	10170	87566	08/06/07
10027	91719	21/11/07	10109	93807	12/02/08	10170	82051	08/11/06
10035	92849	10/01/08	10109	91565	14/11/07	10170	88015	28/06/07
10036	87334	30/05/07	10109	93738	11/02/08	10170	88014	28/06/07
10038	94271	27/02/08	10109	94844	20/03/08	10173	92644	07/01/08
10038	94100	21/02/08	10109	93697	07/02/08	10179	88925	06/08/07
10038	91266	02/11/07	10109	93533	01/02/08	10180	92333	14/12/07
10038	86677	30/04/07	10113	81073	13/10/06	10181	90830	16/10/07
10038	84031	18/01/07	10113	82727	24/11/06	10183	93661	07/02/08
10041	93250	23/01/08	10113	79692	21/08/06	10183	80221	13/09/06
10043	87874	22/06/07	10113	89488	29/08/07	10184	90878	18/10/07
10043	81604	26/10/06	10113	80977	10/10/06	10193	80152	12/09/06
10043	86802	04/05/07	10116	89381	23/08/07	10197	94873	25/03/08
10044	91335	06/11/07	10116	89408	24/08/07	10199	93358	28/01/08
10044	81695	30/10/06	10116	89699	05/09/07	10201	93331	25/01/08
10044	92886	11/01/08	10120	91916	28/11/07	10210	91219	01/11/07
10047	88216	06/07/07	10120	91917	28/11/07	10210	91220	01/11/07
10047	88637	25/07/07	10120	84444	01/02/07	10213	94747	17/03/08
10047	91034	24/10/07	10120	91797	23/11/07	10215	87414	01/06/07
10047	76212	02/03/06	10120	91796	23/11/07	10218	93172	21/01/08
10047	87251	24/05/07	10120	91795	23/11/07	10218	93173	21/01/08
10056	94701	13/03/08	10120	92323	14/12/07	10218	77619	11/05/06
10058	89394	23/08/07	10123	94438	04/03/08	10225	94630	12/03/08
10062	91498	12/11/07	10124	91064	25/10/07	10225	91160	29/10/07
10062	94341	29/02/08	10124	90274	26/09/07	10229	92881	11/01/08
10062	91170	30/10/07	10124	77486	05/05/06	10232	90550	05/10/07
10062	93633	06/02/08	10125	93491	31/01/08	10233	66800	25/02/05
10064	81715	30/10/06	10127	93479	31/01/08	10234	90538	05/10/07

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Tenant Code	Job No	Date of Report	Tenant Code	Job No	Date of Report	Tenant Code	Job No	Date of Report
10251	92398	19/12/07	10353	92875	11/01/08	10455	94125	22/02/08
10256	88721	26/07/07	10360	94785	18/03/08	10458	77986	30/05/06
10258	90486	04/10/07	10367	75971	17/02/06	10462	90586	08/10/07
10258	83376	18/12/06	10369	94274	27/02/08	10462	90585	08/10/07
10258	78996	12/07/06	10369	92316	13/12/07	10463	79463	08/08/06
10259	94235	26/02/08	10369	92315	13/12/07	10464	86881	09/05/07
10261	78327	14/06/06	10369	92318	13/12/07	10464	86882	09/05/07
10261	84145	23/01/07	10369	92317	13/12/07	10465	91399	08/11/07
10261	78326	14/06/06	10372	90379	01/10/07	10467	94915	26/03/08
10261	94659	12/03/08	10380	91159	29/10/07	10468	91598	15/11/07
10261	84147	23/01/07	10385	83906	15/01/07	10469	84294	30/01/07
10269	85105	21/02/07	10388	91806	26/11/07	10470	63394	15/10/04
10269	85108	21/02/07	10392	84247	26/01/07	10473	78587	26/06/06
10269	82515	20/11/06	10398	80553	27/09/06	10477	76106	24/02/06
10269	86849	08/05/07	10408	93490	31/01/08	10477	94255	27/02/08
10277	91011	23/10/07	10408	94234	26/02/08	10477	90399	01/10/07
10277	91007	23/10/07	10408	90917	19/10/07	10483	94773	17/03/08
10277	91008	23/10/07	10408	92693	07/01/08	10483	91263	02/11/07
10277	91009	23/10/07	10408	86234	11/04/07	10484	93503	31/01/08
10277	91010	23/10/07	10408	87048	16/05/07	10484	75555	02/02/06
10278	91127	26/10/07	10411	94621	12/03/08	10487	86657	30/04/07
10278	91014	23/10/07	10414	74817	10/01/06	10494	94032	19/02/08
10278	91015	23/10/07	10418	90473	04/10/07	10494	93908	15/02/08
10287	87640	12/06/07	10418	79649	17/08/06	10495	86060	30/03/07
10287	83175	11/12/06	10418	90714	12/10/07	10497	90477	04/10/07
10288	91166	30/10/07	10419	76772	24/03/06	10502	77911	24/05/06
10289	82243	13/11/06	10424	91613	16/11/07	10503	90331	27/09/07
10289	82242	13/11/06	10424	75749	09/02/06	10503	90333	27/09/07
10289	84971	15/02/07	10429	94734	14/03/08	10503	78150	06/06/06
10289	91165	30/10/07	10430	85217	23/02/07	10503	90332	27/09/07
10290	79720	22/08/06	10430	92869	11/01/08	10504	90328	27/09/07
10302	87203	23/05/07	10431	78048	01/06/06	10507	88033	29/06/07
10304	83154	08/12/06	10435	94794	18/03/08	10514	90817	16/10/07
10304	85459	06/03/07	10435	94777	18/03/08	10522	92344	17/12/07
10314	90569	08/10/07	10435	94807	19/03/08	10522	78199	08/06/06
10316	94081	20/02/08	10438	79676	18/08/06	10525	85980	28/03/07
10316	94076	20/02/08	10439	85759	19/03/07	10530	89141	14/08/07
10322	81396	23/10/06	10439	93769	11/02/08	10530	89542	30/08/07
10323	83274	13/12/06	10439	80662	02/10/06	10530	89543	30/08/07
10323	89860	12/09/07	10441	94158	25/02/08	10537	87036	16/05/07
10328	78045	31/05/06	10444	90210	25/09/07	10544	92635	07/01/08
10329	93530	01/02/08	10446	79171	24/07/06	10546	90380	01/10/07
10329	84050	18/01/07	10447	92455	24/12/07	10551	82541	21/11/06
10330	88621	24/07/07	10448	80213	13/09/06	10554	88975	07/08/07
10332	94730	14/03/08	10448	80214	13/09/06	10555	80984	10/10/06
10337	94088	20/02/08	10449	91271	02/11/07	10564	94441	04/03/08
10339	93218	22/01/08	10449	92366	18/12/07	10571	83166	11/12/06
10340	77363	26/04/06	10449	79758	23/08/06	10573	92494	02/01/08
10340	93034	16/01/08	10451	93901	15/02/08	10573	93867	13/02/08
10347	80975	10/10/06	10452	88881	03/08/07	10574	85102	21/02/07
10348	94790	18/03/08	10454	94180	25/02/08	10574	86187	10/04/07
10350	94299	28/02/08	10454	92852	10/01/08	10574	93997	19/02/08

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Tenant Code	Job No	Date of Report	Tenant Code	Job No	Date of Report	Tenant Code	Job No	Date of Report
10574	94598	12/03/08	10625	84943	15/02/07	10709	94832	19/03/08
10574	94202	25/02/08	10628	93755	11/02/08	10713	92298	13/12/07
10574	94027	19/02/08	10630	91980	30/11/07	10713	90482	04/10/07
10574	94654	12/03/08	10638	88026	28/06/07	10713	91392	08/11/07
10575	93884	14/02/08	10653	94011	19/02/08	10714	91330	06/11/07
10577	91989	03/12/07	10653	92940	14/01/08	10714	80548	27/09/06
10577	94933	27/03/08	10653	92669	07/01/08	10717	94705	13/03/08
10581	60477	29/06/04	10660	92731	08/01/08	10718	91149	29/10/07
10583	92089	05/12/07	10665	89976	17/09/07	10720	93117	18/01/08
10583	92088	05/12/07	10666	82712	23/11/06	10722	94620	12/03/08
10584	89037	09/08/07	10667	83371	18/12/06	10722	94751	17/03/08
10584	68579	25/04/05	10670	90971	23/10/07	10722	86688	30/04/07
10584	93023	16/01/08	10675	90671	11/10/07	10722	92597	04/01/08
10585	93910	15/02/08	10675	93348	28/01/08	10728	89387	23/08/07
10586	91602	15/11/07	10675	94660	12/03/08	10728	93467	31/01/08
10586	91505	13/11/07	10675	93346	28/01/08	10731	92676	07/01/08
10588	72780	13/10/05	10676	85692	15/03/07	10731	87777	19/06/07
10588	88731	26/07/07	10677	94538	07/03/08	10733	89497	29/08/07
10590	94675	13/03/08	10677	94430	04/03/08	10733	89958	17/09/07
10594	82412	17/11/06	10678	94927	26/03/08	10733	89957	17/09/07
10595	90748	15/10/07	10679	93200	22/01/08	10734	99185	22/01/08
10595	75901	14/02/06	10679	90806	16/10/07	10735	77165	12/04/06
10595	94104	21/02/08	10679	89318	21/08/07	10735	86000	28/03/07
10596	94317	28/02/08	10679	89315	21/08/07	10736	89843	12/09/07
10596	94051	20/02/08	10680	85761	19/03/07	10739	91597	15/11/07
10597	83650	05/01/07	10680	85762	19/03/07	10741	94388	03/03/08
10597	93333	25/01/08	10680	90891	18/10/07	10749	78253	13/06/06
10597	90465	03/10/07	10680	85256	26/02/07	10754	89380	23/08/07
10597	84201	24/01/07	10682	79898	31/08/06	10756	94263	27/02/08
10597	88759	30/07/07	10682	79897	31/08/06	10756	86840	08/05/07
10597	88958	07/08/07	10685	91790	23/11/07	10764	94664	12/03/08
10603	91754	22/11/07	10685	94178	25/02/08	10764	88339	12/07/07
10607	94083	20/02/08	10685	94929	26/03/08	10765	92046	04/12/07
10607	94334	29/02/08	10686	86422	17/04/07	10765	92045	04/12/07
10609	93899	14/02/08	10687	94434	04/03/08	10765	93766	11/02/08
10610	76825	28/03/06	10687	76843	28/03/06	10765	60060	09/06/04
10610	94775	17/03/08	10688	93672	07/02/08	10765	89707	05/09/07
10611	82637	22/11/06	10691	87733	15/06/07	10767	88538	20/07/07
10616	92170	07/12/07	10691	85500	07/03/07	10777	76859	29/03/06
10616	92169	07/12/07	10697	94869	25/03/08	10777	94708	14/03/08
10617	92396	19/12/07	10697	76803	27/03/06	10777	94685	13/03/08
10618	92171	07/12/07	10697	85800	20/03/07	10777	93718	08/02/08
10618	89386	23/08/07	10697	85799	20/03/07	10777	94524	07/03/08
10622	82746	24/11/06	10698	91163	30/10/07	10779	93338	28/01/08
10622	74333	12/12/05	10701	85299	28/02/07	10779	91268	02/11/07
10622	85595	13/03/07	10701	80867	06/10/06	10779	93163	21/01/08
10622	83911	15/01/07	10705	87430	04/06/07	10781	85493	07/03/07
10624	68250	11/04/05	10705	87428	04/06/07	10782	91386	07/11/07
10624	92914	14/01/08	10707	90215	25/09/07	10783	87848	21/06/07
10624	94838	19/03/08	10707	94878	25/03/08	10784	81489	25/10/06
10624	94066	20/02/08	10707	94087	20/02/08	10787	91370	07/11/07
10624	94839	19/03/08	10709	90466	03/10/07	10787	86913	10/05/07

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Tenant Code	Job No	Date of Report	Tenant Code	Job No	Date of Report	Tenant Code	Job No	Date of Report
10789	87224	23/05/07	10843	93929	15/02/08	10900	90931	22/10/07
10789	87155	22/05/07	10843	90590	08/10/07	10900	94857	25/03/08
10789	80600	29/09/06	10846	87830	21/06/07	10900	94658	12/03/08
10789	87154	22/05/07	10850	92001	03/12/07	10900	92868	11/01/08
10789	94657	12/03/08	10850	91202	31/10/07	10900	91927	28/11/07
10790	84883	13/02/07	10850	85236	26/02/07	10900	94375	03/03/08
10790	84882	13/02/07	10850	87952	26/06/07	10902	92010	03/12/07
10790	84881	13/02/07	10850	85523	08/03/07	10906	80409	20/09/06
10790	84880	13/02/07	10850	90531	05/10/07	10911	85239	26/02/07
10798	94383	03/03/08	10850	80166	12/09/06	10915	92813	10/01/08
10799	89855	12/09/07	10850	90493	04/10/07	10918	92711	08/01/08
10799	89237	16/08/07	10851	91314	05/11/07	10919	82858	28/11/06
10801	94706	13/03/08	10852	84896	14/02/07	10920	83904	15/01/07
10802	77858	23/05/06	10852	93287	24/01/08	10920	91813	26/11/07
10809	94240	26/02/08	10852	93288	24/01/08	10920	83045	05/12/06
10809	84957	15/02/07	10854	82686	23/11/06	10921	86483	20/04/07
10809	79305	31/07/06	10855	87922	25/06/07	10921	92699	08/01/08
10809	84250	26/01/07	10856	81292	19/10/06	10923	87431	04/06/07
10809	80138	08/09/06	10856	86543	23/04/07	10923	79796	25/08/06
10813	94270	27/02/08	10857	87904	25/06/07	10928	88020	28/06/07
10816	94818	19/03/08	10862	94249	26/02/08	10928	82909	30/11/06
10817	84816	13/02/07	10863	87899	25/06/07	10932	94352	29/02/08
10817	94381	03/03/08	10865	88199	06/07/07	10935	94115	21/02/08
10817	91239	01/11/07	10866	90204	24/09/07	10937	94403	03/03/08
10817	94380	03/03/08	10866	77646	12/05/06	10937	94402	03/03/08
10817	94379	03/03/08	10869	93251	23/01/08	10937	94401	03/03/08
10820	94548	11/03/08	10871	85794	20/03/07	10938	89080	10/08/07
10821	94735	14/03/08	10872	83926	15/01/07	10938	94280	27/02/08
10821	92233	10/12/07	10873	87480	05/06/07	10939	90226	25/09/07
10821	94508	06/03/08	10873	87481	05/06/07	10945	78820	04/07/06
10824	76103	24/02/06	10873	93572	04/02/08	10949	85318	28/02/07
10825	93423	29/01/08	10874	90790	16/10/07	10949	93305	24/01/08
10825	94679	13/03/08	10879	74752	09/01/06	10949	93304	24/01/08
10826	84879	13/02/07	10880	86953	11/05/07	10958	70364	13/07/05
10827	85620	13/03/07	10880	74639	03/01/06	10958	91380	07/11/07
10829	80869	06/10/06	10882	76800	27/03/06	10958	92518	03/01/08
10830	80848	05/10/06	10882	84999	16/02/07	10958	84457	02/02/07
10830	80083	06/09/06	10883	92961	14/01/08	10958	84458	02/02/07
10831	88176	05/07/07	10884	83312	14/12/06	10958	87405	01/06/07
10831	82339	15/11/06	10886	79164	21/07/06	10958	91705	21/11/07
10831	88177	05/07/07	10886	92218	10/12/07	10960	93245	23/01/08
10831	81885	03/11/06	10889	75060	17/01/06	10963	80932	09/10/06
10833	89081	10/08/07	10891	85166	22/02/07	10963	80933	09/10/06
10836	92389	19/12/07	10891	88972	07/08/07	10963	80934	09/10/06
10837	85016	19/02/07	10892	79594	14/08/06	10963	80931	09/10/06
10837	77572	09/05/06	10894	85867	23/03/07	10963	80930	09/10/06
10837	79637	16/08/06	10895	79402	04/08/06	10964	67157	03/03/05
10837	75974	17/02/06	10895	90662	11/10/07	10964	78948	11/07/06
10837	90564	08/10/07	10896	82387	16/11/06	10965	93208	22/01/08
10839	77329	25/04/06	10899	93124	18/01/08	10965	90540	05/10/07
10842	93360	28/01/08	10900	86573	24/04/07	10967	93965	18/02/08
10842	93606	05/02/08	10900	86574	24/04/07	10970	94825	19/03/08

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Tenant Code	Job No	Date of Report	Tenant Code	Job No	Date of Report	Tenant Code	Job No	Date of Report
10970	89012	08/08/07	11027	81597	26/10/06	11105	94454	04/03/08
10973	92124	06/12/07	11028	89071	10/08/07	11108	87816	20/06/07
10973	94002	19/02/08	11028	89072	10/08/07	11115	91375	07/11/07
10975	91142	29/10/07	11030	63324	13/10/04	11126	82829	28/11/06
10975	91144	29/10/07	11033	90726	15/10/07	11130	90889	18/10/07
10975	91145	29/10/07	11033	93386	29/01/08	11132	86148	04/04/07
10975	91143	29/10/07	11033	90301	27/09/07	11137	90045	19/09/07
10975	87837	21/06/07	11033	93388	29/01/08	11139	94578	11/03/08
10979	75125	19/01/06	11033	82037	08/11/06	11139	94737	14/03/08
10986	81161	17/10/06	11034	88133	04/07/07	11139	94736	14/03/08
10989	81601	26/10/06	11035	84117	22/01/07	11143	89652	04/09/07
10989	92910	14/01/08	11037	91217	01/11/07	11143	81760	31/10/06
10991	82027	08/11/06	11040	87717	15/06/07	11143	91922	28/11/07
10991	88461	18/07/07	11040	87716	15/06/07	11143	91921	28/11/07
10991	84876	13/02/07	11042	82134	10/11/06	11143	80564	28/09/06
10991	84874	13/02/07	11044	93585	04/02/08	11143	92593	04/01/08
10991	82028	08/11/06	11044	89355	22/08/07	11146	89200	15/08/07
10991	84875	13/02/07	11044	88790	31/07/07	11147	81425	23/10/06
10992	93671	07/02/08	11044	88492	19/07/07	11150	82144	10/11/06
10992	82632	22/11/06	11044	79254	27/07/06	11161	79835	29/08/06
10992	93836	12/02/08	11044	93584	04/02/08	11161	80947	09/10/06
10993	83922	15/01/07	11045	92781	09/01/08	11166	94743	14/03/08
10993	81998	07/11/06	11053	92617	07/01/08	11166	94742	14/03/08
10994	90857	17/10/07	11055	90266	26/09/07	11171	86710	01/05/07
10997	91914	28/11/07	11058	84641	07/02/07	11172	90641	10/10/07
10997	91915	28/11/07	11059	84868	13/02/07	11174	88019	28/06/07
10998	83844	11/01/07	11059	84869	13/02/07	11175	87258	24/05/07
10999	89039	09/08/07	11059	84871	13/02/07	11175	86207	10/04/07
11002	84830	13/02/07	11060	81806	01/11/06	11177	88716	26/07/07
11011	77775	18/05/06	11063	94478	05/03/08	11177	85825	21/03/07
11012	82496	20/11/06	11063	84461	02/02/07	11177	85826	21/03/07
11014	80972	10/10/06	11064	86620	26/04/07	11177	68090	05/04/05
11014	80971	10/10/06	11066	87013	15/05/07	11177	80583	28/09/06
11014	80970	10/10/06	11066	86427	17/04/07	11177	87602	11/06/07
11014	80973	10/10/06	11066	91179	30/10/07	11177	80584	28/09/06
11015	84829	13/02/07	11066	84586	06/02/07	11177	83378	18/12/06
11015	81688	30/10/06	11067	94136	22/02/08	11179	82055	08/11/06
11015	81689	30/10/06	11068	85414	05/03/07	11180	93637	06/02/08
11017	90559	08/10/07	11068	92423	20/12/07	11181	91993	03/12/07
11017	92654	07/01/08	11073	81700	30/10/06	11182	92209	10/12/07
11017	88481	19/07/07	11077	94200	25/02/08	11184	86654	27/04/07
11017	92653	07/01/08	11081	92205	10/12/07	11186	88305	11/07/07
11017	92652	07/01/08	11081	89354	22/08/07	11186	68117	06/04/05
11017	91467	12/11/07	11084	87970	26/06/07	11190	93226	23/01/08
11017	94557	11/03/08	11084	92928	14/01/08	11196	89833	12/09/07
11019	92841	10/01/08	11087	86091	03/04/07	11196	72408	03/10/05
11019	92840	10/01/08	11089	89040	09/08/07	11196	89832	12/09/07
11020	92779	09/01/08	11090	92450	21/12/07	11196	90609	09/10/07
11020	92780	09/01/08	11090	86873	09/05/07	11198	91069	25/10/07
11020	81982	07/11/06	11097	91839	26/11/07	11199	92922	14/01/08
11026	91611	16/11/07	11098	90785	16/10/07	11200	87662	13/06/07
11027	92529	03/01/08	11102	94373	03/03/08	11200	91881	27/11/07

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Tenant Code	Job No	Date of Report	Tenant Code	Job No	Date of Report	Tenant Code	Job No	Date of Report
11200	90884	18/10/07	11302	90547	05/10/07	11354	87711	14/06/07
11201	78001	30/05/06	11305	90755	15/10/07	11356	88266	10/07/07
11212	79963	04/09/06	11306	84947	15/02/07	11357	79221	26/07/06
11214	90969	23/10/07	11312	88597	23/07/07	11357	89338	21/08/07
11220	89460	28/08/07	11312	85193	23/02/07	11357	87574	11/06/07
11221	93241	23/01/08	11314	78380	16/06/06	11357	79492	09/08/06
11223	92177	07/12/07	11316	78863	06/07/06	11359	63276	12/10/04
11224	85642	14/03/07	11317	85535	08/03/07	11360	80400	20/09/06
11226	80938	09/10/06	11317	85534	08/03/07	11360	80401	20/09/06
11227	80499	26/09/06	11318	91642	19/11/07	11361	80829	05/10/06
11227	83760	09/01/07	11318	86085	02/04/07	11361	91735	21/11/07
11227	88541	20/07/07	11322	90082	20/09/07	11361	94183	25/02/08
11228	84438	01/02/07	11323	86103	03/04/07	11361	74915	12/01/06
11233	91789	23/11/07	11323	90795	16/10/07	11364	78292	14/06/06
11240	84400	31/01/07	11325	94308	28/02/08	11367	91741	22/11/07
11240	85910	26/03/07	11325	92896	11/01/08	11370	93224	22/01/08
11240	84401	31/01/07	11328	85186	23/02/07	11370	79966	04/09/06
11245	88845	02/08/07	11329	89112	13/08/07	11370	79600	15/08/06
11247	87648	13/06/07	11329	89188	15/08/07	11370	93233	23/01/08
11247	78814	04/07/06	11329	87499	06/06/07	11373	85456	06/03/07
11248	79752	23/08/06	11329	87365	31/05/07	11374	78148	06/06/06
11249	78843	05/07/06	11331	85900	28/03/07	11374	63285	12/10/04
11250	91752	22/11/07	11333	90372	01/10/07	11385	83584	03/01/07
11253	90307	27/09/07	11335	94647	12/03/08	11387	93742	11/02/08
11256	78816	04/07/06	11335	81153	17/10/06	11390	91379	07/11/07
11259	84606	06/02/07	11336	87214	23/05/07	11391	89271	17/08/07
11264	94390	03/03/08	11336	87049	16/05/07	11391	81391	23/10/06
11267	94332	29/02/08	11338	82812	27/11/06	11391	89233	16/08/07
11271	89035	09/08/07	11338	82810	27/11/06	11393	87282	29/05/07
11271	89968	17/09/07	11338	82811	27/11/06	11393	87283	29/05/07
11273	94649	12/03/08	11338	80139	08/09/06	11393	87381	31/05/07
11274	94539	07/03/08	11338	80140	08/09/06	11395	88781	30/07/07
11274	93145	21/01/08	11338	76362	08/03/06	11395	92491	02/01/08
11274	87655	13/06/07	11339	86714	01/05/07	11395	89603	03/09/07
11274	93344	28/01/08	11340	84650	07/02/07	11397	84264	30/01/07
11274	85417	05/03/07	11342	91906	28/11/07	11397	72147	22/09/05
11274	94451	04/03/08	11342	84713	08/02/07	11397	84522	05/02/07
11277	90953	22/10/07	11342	67844	29/03/05	11398	78371	15/06/06
11277	81467	24/10/06	11343	92784	09/01/08	11399	84077	19/01/07
11277	88606	24/07/07	11343	88989	07/08/07	11401	81808	01/11/06
11279	83571	03/01/07	11345	85071	20/02/07	11401	89385	23/08/07
11280	88766	30/07/07	11349	91587	15/11/07	11401	81809	01/11/06
11281	93422	29/01/08	11349	82072	08/11/06	11402	85495	07/03/07
11281	67002	01/03/05	11349	94492	05/03/08	11403	92966	14/01/08
11284	90579	08/10/07	11349	91586	15/11/07	11403	88870	02/08/07
11284	94062	20/02/08	11349	82800	27/11/06	11404	84402	31/01/07
11285	82564	21/11/06	11349	78994	12/07/06	11406	88403	16/07/07
11288	90377	01/10/07	11349	82349	15/11/06	11412	92424	20/12/07
11291	81187	18/10/06	11350	94093	21/02/08	11413	81242	19/10/06
11300	93477	31/01/08	11350	86268	12/04/07	11414	88911	06/08/07
11300	67163	03/03/05	11351	88204	06/07/07	11414	90153	21/09/07
11302	91801	23/11/07	11352	94608	12/03/08	11414	87813	20/06/07

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Tenant Code	Job No	Date of Report	Tenant Code	Job No	Date of Report	Tenant Code	Job No	Date of Report
11414	79721	22/08/06	11463	84639	07/02/07	11540	83089	06/12/06
11414	84069	19/01/07	11464	67972	01/04/05	11541	67254	07/03/05
11421	94164	25/02/08	11464	85653	14/03/07	11542	77946	25/05/06
11421	67864	29/03/05	11465	81199	18/10/06	11542	93591	04/02/08
11422	92907	11/01/08	11467	81254	19/10/06	11543	80040	05/09/06
11423	79751	23/08/06	11467	90479	04/10/07	11543	83088	06/12/06
11423	92387	19/12/07	11469	85128	21/02/07	11549	90979	23/10/07
11426	94511	06/03/08	11470	83881	12/01/07	11551	91068	25/10/07
11426	86283	12/04/07	11476	90619	09/10/07	11557	87190	22/05/07
11427	87972	26/06/07	11479	94426	03/03/08	11560	88512	19/07/07
11427	82384	16/11/06	11480	87938	25/06/07	11560	78435	20/06/06
11428	76249	03/03/06	11480	90291	26/09/07	11562	89887	13/09/07
11431	84511	05/02/07	11480	87937	25/06/07	11562	89419	24/08/07
11432	82848	28/11/06	11480	88118	03/07/07	11562	89418	24/08/07
11432	85504	07/03/07	11480	94913	26/03/08	11564	89990	18/09/07
11432	80944	09/10/06	11480	85836	21/03/07	11566	81256	19/10/06
11432	81178	17/10/06	11480	88119	03/07/07	11567	92595	04/01/08
11434	93272	24/01/08	11480	88120	03/07/07	11567	92596	04/01/08
11436	84903	14/02/07	11481	85765	19/03/07	11568	88917	06/08/07
11436	88547	20/07/07	11481	85647	14/03/07	11568	91205	31/10/07
11440	82112	09/11/06	11481	85648	14/03/07	11568	90643	10/10/07
11440	87780	19/06/07	11485	73591	11/11/05	11570	86756	02/05/07
11441	86594	25/04/07	11489	84530	05/02/07	11571	80018	05/09/06
11441	62835	28/09/04	11492	85561	09/03/07	11571	91764	22/11/07
11441	85823	21/03/07	11492	66893	28/02/05	11573	90224	25/09/07
11442	88963	07/08/07	11492	82424	17/11/06	11573	92986	15/01/08
11442	88964	07/08/07	11493	86527	23/04/07	11576	85382	02/03/07
11442	84637	07/02/07	11497	66919	28/02/05	11581	88320	11/07/07
11442	88965	07/08/07	11505	79233	26/07/06	11584	85045	19/02/07
11443	74164	05/12/05	11505	60193	16/06/04	11590	91101	26/10/07
11445	87027	15/05/07	11509	94673	12/03/08	11590	82117	09/11/06
11445	93888	14/02/08	11511	92585	04/01/08	11592	88007	28/06/07
11447	93699	07/02/08	11514	70575	21/07/05	11592	88037	29/06/07
11448	94588	11/03/08	11515	90674	11/10/07	11592	81001	10/10/06
11448	75324	26/01/06	11518	86355	16/04/07	11595	77842	22/05/06
11449	85496	07/03/07	11519	84803	12/02/07	11595	78064	01/06/06
11449	66022	25/01/05	11519	92915	14/01/08	11595	79665	18/08/06
11450	92587	04/01/08	11519	91313	05/11/07	11596	91574	15/11/07
11451	77150	11/04/06	11519	92913	14/01/08	11597	80653	02/10/06
11454	87177	22/05/07	11519	94710	14/03/08	11599	90181	24/09/07
11455	88908	06/08/07	11524	91318	05/11/07	11601	93029	16/01/08
11457	94787	18/03/08	11524	82781	27/11/06	11601	93030	16/01/08
11457	94788	18/03/08	11524	79619	15/08/06	11603	94408	03/03/08
11457	84123	22/01/07	11525	90602	09/10/07	11608	94322	28/02/08
11457	83754	09/01/07	11527	90639	10/10/07	11608	90058	19/09/07
11457	94817	19/03/08	11529	82390	16/11/06	11610	93325	25/01/08
11459	92264	11/12/07	11529	94374	03/03/08	11614	93189	22/01/08
11459	84846	13/02/07	11531	63147	07/10/04	11614	93186	22/01/08
11461	94191	25/02/08	11531	85350	01/03/07	11614	93187	22/01/08
11462	92865	11/01/08	11531	64094	09/11/04	11615	88519	19/07/07
11462	86921	10/05/07	11535	83032	05/12/06	11615	91496	12/11/07
11462	86920	10/05/07	11540	80041	05/09/06	11621	92627	07/01/08

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11623	81891	03/11/06	11723	89535	30/08/07	11793	91511	13/11/07
11625	93158	21/01/08	11724	94960	27/03/08	11797	78066	01/06/06
11626	94831	19/03/08	11726	90300	27/09/07	11801	91838	26/11/07
11626	89224	16/08/07	11726	93429	29/01/08	11803	93967	18/02/08
11626	87156	22/05/07	11727	93085	17/01/08	11806	92566	03/01/08
11626	94830	19/03/08	11730	91935	29/11/07	11806	92919	14/01/08
11637	91398	08/11/07	11731	85195	23/02/07	11808	80301	18/09/06
11640	93317	25/01/08	11731	90788	16/10/07	11808	80383	20/09/06
11642	91193	30/10/07	11737	92302	13/12/07	11809	66982	01/03/05
11642	91194	30/10/07	11738	94745	14/03/08	11810	82070	08/11/06
11644	90654	10/10/07	11746	78015	30/05/06	11810	85772	19/03/07
11644	84228	25/01/07	11749	85008	19/02/07	11810	92578	04/01/08
11646	78929	10/07/06	11749	82956	01/12/06	11810	84328	30/01/07
11649	90906	19/10/07	11749	90290	26/09/07	11811	81657	27/10/06
11650	89494	29/08/07	11754	90260	26/09/07	11811	79745	23/08/06
11651	90750	15/10/07	11754	84529	05/02/07	11811	79746	23/08/06
11652	94360	03/03/08	11754	90011	18/09/07	11811	81211	18/10/06
11655	88856	02/08/07	11756	82846	28/11/06	11811	75577	03/02/06
11662	81901	06/11/06	11756	81374	23/10/06	11811	81734	30/10/06
11662	85112	21/02/07	11762	93610	05/02/08	11811	81401	23/10/06
11662	79027	13/07/06	11769	92674	07/01/08	11815	81693	30/10/06
11663	86738	02/05/07	11763	94622	12/03/08	11819	92543	03/01/08
11668	83084	06/12/06	11763	78699	29/06/06	11819	94592	11/03/08
11668	89698	05/09/07	11765	92223	10/12/07	11820	89700	05/09/07
11668	91257	02/11/07	11765	92191	10/12/07	11824	77892	24/05/06
11678	91513	13/11/07	11766	79793	24/08/06	11824	85334	28/02/07
11682	90687	11/10/07	11766	87196	23/05/07	11827	87268	25/05/07
11687	94641	12/03/08	11766	88793	31/07/07	11830	79467	08/08/06
11690	83537	02/01/07	11766	91880	27/11/07	11831	91689	20/11/07
11694	90778	16/10/07	11768	83327	15/12/06	11831	83613	04/01/07
11694	83198	11/12/06	11768	86739	02/05/07	11836	67505	15/03/05
11694	89506	29/08/07	11768	83326	15/12/06	11837	90689	11/10/07
11694	86512	23/04/07	11769	80807	04/10/06	11837	66952	01/03/05
11694	92967	15/01/08	11770	80666	02/10/06	11837	94661	12/03/08
11694	87629	12/06/07	11770	87917	25/06/07	11837	92370	18/12/07
11694	92968	15/01/08	11770	93592	04/02/08	11837	94556	11/03/08
11696	86513	23/04/07	11771	74064	30/11/05	11839	82448	17/11/06
11696	89505	29/08/07	11771	94624	12/03/08	11839	88892	03/08/07
11697	85694	15/03/07	11772	91443	09/11/07	11839	93116	18/01/08
11697	87723	15/06/07	11773	91477	12/11/07	11839	93115	18/01/08
11697	62617	21/09/04	11773	91474	12/11/07	11839	89734	06/09/07
11697	85693	15/03/07	11773	91657	19/11/07	11840	90858	17/10/07
11697	85940	27/03/07	11773	94530	07/03/08	11840	91959	29/11/07
11700	86314	12/04/07	11773	91661	19/11/07	11840	90859	17/10/07
11700	91295	05/11/07	11773	91659	19/11/07	11840	94671	12/03/08
11706	85573	09/03/07	11773	91658	19/11/07	11843	86511	23/04/07
11712	89447	28/08/07	11773	93930	15/02/08	11848	88377	13/07/07
11712	77628	11/05/06	11773	91660	19/11/07	11852	93101	18/01/08
11713	90295	26/09/07	11788	72142	21/09/05	11852	85746	19/03/07
11714	90572	08/10/07	11791	93419	29/01/08	11852	87732	15/06/07
11714	92608	04/01/08	11792	85592	13/03/07	11854	87301	29/05/07
11721	93240	23/01/08	11793	91512	13/11/07	11858	84786	12/02/07

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11858	83912	15/01/07	11936	88660	25/07/07	11997	84525	05/02/07
11860	88396	16/07/07	11938	87537	07/06/07	11997	89894	13/09/07
11860	75770	10/02/06	11938	94144	25/02/08	12000	93730	08/02/08
11862	84578	06/02/07	11940	79873	30/08/06	12000	94356	29/02/08
11862	87983	27/06/07	11941	86329	13/04/07	12004	86942	11/05/07
11862	77651	12/05/06	11941	93354	28/01/08	12006	76059	22/02/06
11864	81172	17/10/06	11941	85559	09/03/07	12006	81339	23/10/06
11864	89132	14/08/07	11941	93355	28/01/08	12009	90740	15/10/07
11866	80259	14/09/06	11942	87855	22/06/07	12012	92691	07/01/08
11868	83704	08/01/07	11942	87757	19/06/07	12012	93498	31/01/08
11868	93928	15/02/08	11942	89416	24/08/07	12012	92690	07/01/08
11873	90840	17/10/07	11944	84486	05/02/07	12012	92754	09/01/08
11874	81490	25/10/06	11946	88393	16/07/07	12016	82268	14/11/06
11875	83139	07/12/06	11946	86465	19/04/07	12016	80175	12/09/06
11875	83138	07/12/06	11946	78824	04/07/06	12023	91053	25/10/07
11876	93256	23/01/08	11946	92429	20/12/07	12023	87150	21/05/07
11878	81140	16/10/06	11946	86367	16/04/07	12023	92657	07/01/08
11880	84417	01/02/07	11946	79381	03/08/06	12023	91639	19/11/07
11881	88080	02/07/07	11946	88566	23/07/07	12026	84535	05/02/07
11885	93765	11/02/08	11950	87322	29/05/07	12026	86681	30/04/07
11885	92501	02/01/08	11953	85121	21/02/07	12027	89339	21/08/07
11885	85053	19/02/07	11954	92530	03/01/08	12029	89255	17/08/07
11886	88423	17/07/07	11955	80502	26/09/06	12029	89256	17/08/07
11887	90101	20/09/07	11955	92854	10/01/08	12029	89254	17/08/07
11888	78578	26/06/06	11955	86542	23/04/07	12031	89258	17/08/07
11892	81681	30/10/06	11958	85884	23/03/07	12031	89257	17/08/07
11893	94461	04/03/08	11961	94938	27/03/08	12045	75949	16/02/06
11893	94459	04/03/08	11962	81472	24/10/06	12047	93480	31/01/08
11895	89914	14/09/07	11963	93450	30/01/08	12047	92426	20/12/07
11895	89825	12/09/07	11965	88219	09/07/07	12049	92799	09/01/08
11897	94175	25/02/08	11967	87474	05/06/07	12049	89580	31/08/07
11903	93361	28/01/08	11970	90918	19/10/07	12049	86464	19/04/07
11903	82345	15/11/06	11977	88700	26/07/07	12049	79763	23/08/06
11903	94922	26/03/08	11978	87068	16/05/07	12049	90998	23/10/07
11903	82341	15/11/06	11980	94867	25/03/08	12053	76930	31/03/06
11906	71456	26/08/05	11982	94615	12/03/08	12056	90659	10/10/07
11909	86203	10/04/07	11982	94614	12/03/08	12056	92091	05/12/07
11911	90364	01/10/07	11982	82934	30/11/06	12057	85599	13/03/07
11917	89038	09/08/07	11982	79899	31/08/06	12059	85598	13/03/07
11919	88475	18/07/07	11982	85237	26/02/07	12061	94099	21/02/08
11919	90928	22/10/07	11984	88462	18/07/07	12061	82833	28/11/06
11922	60904	16/07/04	11985	94394	03/03/08	12061	94357	29/02/08
11924	85770	19/03/07	11985	90187	24/09/07	12061	91610	16/11/07
11925	73930	23/11/05	11986	93403	29/01/08	12070	84759	09/02/07
11927	93887	14/02/08	11986	92029	03/12/07	12070	67405	10/03/05
11927	89578	31/08/07	11986	94474	05/03/08	12070	81706	30/10/06
11928	79742	23/08/06	11988	92613	04/01/08	12071	84798	12/02/07
11928	84242	26/01/07	11988	81972	07/11/06	12076	84330	30/01/07
11933	86106	03/04/07	11988	92033	03/12/07	12090	64060	08/11/04
11934	92598	04/01/08	11988	92614	04/01/08	12095	82621	22/11/06
11934	82959	01/12/06	11997	80788	04/10/06	12096	84191	24/01/07
11936	87886	22/06/07	11997	86725	01/05/07	12097	92413	19/12/07

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Tenant Code	Job No	Date of Report	Tenant Code	Job No	Date of Report	Tenant Code	Job No	Date of Report
12098	88056	02/07/07	12175	79485	09/08/06	12228	85110	21/02/07
12101	92149	06/12/07	12175	92943	14/01/08	12231	83494	28/12/06
12106	94877	25/03/08	12175	92942	14/01/08	12231	90375	01/10/07
12109	87434	04/06/07	12176	81373	23/10/06	12231	84324	30/01/07
12109	88072	02/07/07	12177	80378	19/09/06	12234	85623	13/03/07
12112	91907	28/11/07	12177	80217	13/09/06	12234	92957	14/01/08
12113	91716	21/11/07	12177	80216	13/09/06	12234	84209	25/01/07
12116	90495	04/10/07	12178	90868	18/10/07	12242	73740	17/11/05
12120	92306	13/12/07	12178	93408	29/01/08	12252	92200	10/12/07
12121	93866	13/02/08	12182	67224	04/03/05	12256	87329	30/05/07
12123	92052	04/12/07	12182	79806	25/08/06	12256	68774	05/05/05
12125	94349	29/02/08	12182	81628	26/10/06	12256	92297	13/12/07
12125	91495	12/11/07	12182	85843	22/03/07	12259	88897	03/08/07
12125	94715	14/03/08	12182	81630	26/10/06	12259	88303	11/07/07
12129	76811	27/03/06	12182	79805	25/08/06	12259	92963	14/01/08
12132	90276	26/09/07	12182	77692	15/05/06	12259	88896	03/08/07
12132	90277	26/09/07	12182	93896	14/02/08	12259	88302	11/07/07
12133	92189	07/12/07	12182	81626	26/10/06	12259	88460	18/07/07
12135	94581	11/03/08	12182	81627	26/10/06	12260	84393	31/01/07
12136	92765	09/01/08	12189	78533	23/06/06	12260	78737	30/06/06
12137	81201	18/10/06	12203	93357	28/01/08	12261	88016	28/06/07
12137	88859	02/08/07	12210	88921	06/08/07	12261	87909	25/06/07
12140	93909	15/02/08	12211	86786	03/05/07	12261	85822	21/03/07
12142	86764	03/05/07	12211	94926	26/03/08	12261	85821	21/03/07
12144	84221	25/01/07	12212	94579	11/03/08	12262	85713	15/03/07
12144	93934	18/02/08	12212	90537	05/10/07	12263	89325	21/08/07
12144	93969	18/02/08	12212	89960	17/09/07	12263	78610	27/06/06
12144	94835	19/03/08	12212	89649	04/09/07	12265	76852	28/03/06
12144	93992	18/02/08	12212	92562	03/01/08	12268	94155	25/02/08
12149	85023	19/02/07	12213	91133	29/10/07	12268	88417	16/07/07
12151	88045	29/06/07	12214	92382	18/12/07	12268	79925	01/09/06
12151	88046	29/06/07	12214	91391	08/11/07	12268	84967	15/02/07
12151	81613	26/10/06	12214	90905	19/10/07	12268	84614	06/02/07
12154	81399	23/10/06	12214	93149	21/01/08	12268	94372	03/03/08
12154	81398	23/10/06	12214	93274	24/01/08	12268	84968	15/02/07
12155	76991	04/04/06	12216	92329	14/12/07	12269	81014	11/10/06
12155	88278	10/07/07	12216	93802	12/02/08	12270	94320	28/02/08
12155	92887	11/01/08	12216	64890	07/12/04	12276	87393	01/06/07
12164	93207	22/01/08	12218	80331	18/09/06	12280	84899	14/02/07
12164	82574	21/11/06	12218	67265	07/03/05	12290	70446	15/07/05
12164	93340	28/01/08	12218	85395	02/03/07	12291	93050	17/01/08
12164	86241	11/04/07	12220	87658	13/06/07	12291	88729	26/07/07
12164	93206	22/01/08	12220	60966	19/07/04	12296	93995	19/02/08
12164	93205	22/01/08	12221	93476	31/01/08	12305	90635	10/10/07
12164	93204	22/01/08	12221	85410	05/03/07	12305	93432	29/01/08
12165	90242	25/09/07	12221	88902	06/08/07	12313	88358	13/07/07
12166	91725	21/11/07	12222	84592	06/02/07	12320	85541	08/03/07
12168	85497	07/03/07	12228	93196	22/01/08	12324	89111	13/08/07
12174	73736	16/11/05	12228	93466	31/01/08	12324	89110	13/08/07
12175	92944	14/01/08	12228	92085	05/12/07	12324	88206	06/07/07
12175	92945	14/01/08	12228	89686	05/09/07	12329	84305	30/01/07
12175	77093	07/04/06	12228	89687	05/09/07	12329	83969	16/01/07

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Tenant Code	Job No	Date of Report	Tenant Code	Job No	Date of Report	Tenant Code	Job No	Date of Report
12329	94213	25/02/08	12436	77660	15/05/06	12523	93944	18/02/08
12329	84306	30/01/07	12436	83973	16/01/07	12523	93940	18/02/08
12332	83603	04/01/07	12450	89050	09/08/07	12524	93876	13/02/08
12332	85081	20/02/07	12450	93655	06/02/08	12526	79179	24/07/06
12332	87500	06/06/07	12451	79412	07/08/06	12530	93958	18/02/08
12335	82326	15/11/06	12452	94719	14/03/08	12531	93128	21/01/08
12336	94939	27/03/08	12454	86429	18/04/07	12532	93180	22/01/08
12340	94870	25/03/08	12458	90734	15/10/07	12532	93181	22/01/08
12342	88687	26/07/07	12458	84902	14/02/07	12533	92253	11/12/07
12346	94261	27/02/08	12460	94325	29/02/08	12533	93242	23/01/08
12347	87926	25/06/07	12461	84004	17/01/07	12535	93396	29/01/08
12347	86519	23/04/07	12462	91891	27/11/07	12536	93397	29/01/08
12349	94278	27/02/08	12462	82043	08/11/06	12536	92325	14/12/07
12352	93596	04/02/08	12462	85908	26/03/07	12537	77833	22/05/06
12352	92932	14/01/08	12462	81573	26/10/06	12538	82921	30/11/06
12355	85433	05/03/07	12462	94157	25/02/08	12538	83008	04/12/06
12355	94911	26/03/08	12462	82344	15/11/06	12541	88494	19/07/07
12355	89294	20/08/07	12471	73715	16/11/05	12542	78997	12/07/06
12355	90368	01/10/07	12474	90138	21/09/07	12542	77403	28/04/06
12356	89319	21/08/07	12476	94227	26/02/08	12542	85281	27/02/07
12356	90836	17/10/07	12476	94476	05/03/08	12542	78998	12/07/06
12357	90163	24/09/07	12476	90920	19/10/07	12542	80614	29/09/06
12357	86114	03/04/07	12478	89596	31/08/07	12542	80615	29/09/06
12358	80339	18/09/06	12483	91663	19/11/07	12542	80616	29/09/06
12358	90769	16/10/07	12483	91085	25/10/07	12542	80617	29/09/06
12358	80340	18/09/06	12496	84740	08/02/07	12546	79759	23/08/06
12361	94851	25/03/08	12499	94471	05/03/08	12550	94637	12/03/08
12361	94801	18/03/08	12500	90611	09/10/07	12550	93045	16/01/08
12365	87536	07/06/07	12500	89102	13/08/07	12551	94192	25/02/08
12371	69914	24/06/05	12505	92844	10/01/08	12551	92305	13/12/07
12371	92624	07/01/08	12505	93157	21/01/08	12551	93160	21/01/08
12371	92626	07/01/08	12514	90603	09/10/07	12551	71535	31/08/05
12376	94130	22/02/08	12516	91588	15/11/07	12554	89179	15/08/07
12379	86475	19/04/07	12516	81823	01/11/06	12554	89177	15/08/07
12385	92845	10/01/08	12517	67588	16/03/05	12554	92557	03/01/08
12385	78264	13/06/06	12517	94935	27/03/08	12554	84521	05/02/07
12385	78262	13/06/06	12517	90552	05/10/07	12554	92556	03/01/08
12386	89829	12/09/07	12517	93093	18/01/08	12555	93082	17/01/08
12386	77333	25/04/06	12517	94858	25/03/08	12560	79976	04/09/06
12386	89828	12/09/07	12518	87161	22/05/07	12560	93529	01/02/08
12389	90834	17/10/07	12518	84555	05/02/07	12565	81051	12/10/06
12401	89693	05/09/07	12518	93878	13/02/08	12567	86943	11/05/07
12401	88394	16/07/07	12518	93877	13/02/08	12571	92255	11/12/07
12403	93728	08/02/08	12519	92021	03/12/07	12571	93851	13/02/08
12403	82206	13/11/06	12519	94784	18/03/08	12571	77379	27/04/06
12418	91678	20/11/07	12519	93677	07/02/08	12571	93853	13/02/08
12418	87314	29/05/07	12519	93679	07/02/08	12571	93852	13/02/08
12418	89913	14/09/07	12523	93501	31/01/08	12572	85610	13/03/07
12422	90115	21/09/07	12523	93943	18/02/08	12577	93343	28/01/08
12422	89554	31/08/07	12523	93942	18/02/08	12577	93168	21/01/08
12427	91833	26/11/07	12523	93941	18/02/08	12585	93855	13/02/08
12432	80514	26/09/06	12523	82128	10/11/06	12585	93792	12/02/08

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Tenant Code	Job No	Date of Report	Tenant Code	Job No	Date of Report	Tenant Code	Job No	Date of Report
12590	93694	07/02/08	12637	94725	14/03/08	12719	94208	25/02/08
12591	89849	12/09/07	12637	94724	14/03/08	12719	92533	03/01/08
12591	84405	31/01/07	12638	92988	15/01/08	12720	85734	16/03/07
12593	82338	15/11/06	12638	92921	14/01/08	12721	78046	01/06/06
12593	90288	26/09/07	12644	91325	06/11/07	12724	84443	01/02/07
12593	84413	01/02/07	12644	94481	05/03/08	12724	84441	01/02/07
12594	94400	03/03/08	12644	92830	10/01/08	12725	86685	30/04/07
12595	94160	25/02/08	12652	93048	17/01/08	12725	80072	06/09/06
12595	81388	23/10/06	12653	72283	27/09/05	12736	92195	10/12/07
12595	81392	23/10/06	12656	94537	07/03/08	12736	92194	10/12/07
12595	94427	04/03/08	12657	92817	10/01/08	12736	92193	10/12/07
12596	90870	18/10/07	12658	94186	25/02/08	12741	93536	01/02/08
12596	90869	18/10/07	12658	91141	29/10/07	12741	90989	23/10/07
12598	85601	13/03/07	12662	94892	25/03/08	12741	88977	07/08/07
12598	85618	13/03/07	12664	91939	29/11/07	12741	90988	23/10/07
12599	85617	13/03/07	12664	91940	29/11/07	12752	90458	03/10/07
12599	94008	19/02/08	12668	93561	04/02/08	12753	94276	27/02/08
12599	89046	09/08/07	12668	64634	26/11/04	12753	84898	14/02/07
12602	93559	04/02/08	12672	90387	01/10/07	12753	94527	07/03/08
12602	93945	18/02/08	12672	90385	01/10/07	12753	83752	09/01/07
12605	87174	22/05/07	12672	90386	01/10/07	12753	83751	09/01/07
12605	87979	27/06/07	12673	84573	06/02/07	12753	94676	13/03/08
12605	86266	12/04/07	12673	83700	08/01/07	12757	76464	10/03/06
12605	74077	30/11/05	12676	91979	30/11/07	12760	92600	04/01/08
12605	90686	11/10/07	12676	93427	29/01/08	12761	84877	13/02/07
12607	94957	27/03/08	12686	88087	02/07/07	12761	93191	22/01/08
12607	82584	21/11/06	12686	86288	12/04/07	12767	89116	13/08/07
12607	94953	27/03/08	12688	94752	17/03/08	12780	81499	25/10/06
12609	85969	27/03/07	12688	92761	09/01/08	12780	94665	12/03/08
12611	93424	29/01/08	12688	91977	30/11/07	12785	84551	05/02/07
12612	94206	25/02/08	12688	78057	01/06/06	12785	84554	05/02/07
12612	94207	25/02/08	12688	88629	24/07/07	12785	84553	05/02/07
12615	60508	30/06/04	12688	65570	10/01/05	12785	84552	05/02/07
12617	87551	07/06/07	12689	94143	25/02/08	12785	94098	21/02/08
12618	90367	01/10/07	12690	91950	29/11/07	12785	92989	15/01/08
12618	93905	15/02/08	12690	89661	04/09/07	12785	92386	18/12/07
12618	93906	15/02/08	12690	89662	04/09/07	12785	77600	10/05/06
12618	87209	23/05/07	12690	79004	12/07/06	12788	90692	12/10/07
12618	93907	15/02/08	12691	88102	03/07/07	12790	79623	15/08/06
12620	91411	08/11/07	12693	92906	11/01/08	12790	80069	06/09/06
12620	94944	27/03/08	12693	79089	17/07/06	12793	80267	15/09/06
12623	94392	03/03/08	12701	91805	23/11/07	12796	82777	27/11/06
12623	92857	10/01/08	12701	83726	09/01/07	12803	91176	30/10/07
12626	93362	28/01/08	12701	92871	11/01/08	12803	90127	21/09/07
12626	82728	24/11/06	12702	65415	04/01/05	12803	90124	21/09/07
12627	83424	20/12/06	12703	81324	20/10/06	12803	90126	21/09/07
12627	85667	15/03/07	12703	88142	05/07/07	12806	91918	28/11/07
12627	83702	08/01/07	12703	85925	26/03/07	12806	83669	08/01/07
12628	64341	18/11/04	12705	88342	12/07/07	12806	82638	22/11/06
12634	85948	27/03/07	12705	85634	14/03/07	12818	80015	05/09/06
12635	91057	25/10/07	12706	92655	07/01/08	12824	94428	04/03/08
12636	80862	05/10/06	12716	92838	10/01/08	12831	93654	06/02/08

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Tenant Code	Job No	Date of Report	Tenant Code	Job No	Date of Report	Tenant Code	Job No	Date of Report
12831	94077	20/02/08	12899	94631	12/03/08	12990	81233	19/10/06
12834	88313	11/07/07	12900	90899	18/10/07	12990	92009	03/12/07
12834	82542	21/11/06	12900	94298	28/02/08	12990	92008	03/12/07
12836	93818	12/02/08	12915	88675	26/07/07	12995	78116	05/06/06
12841	77761	17/05/06	12916	85720	16/03/07	12995	90171	24/09/07
12842	72313	28/09/05	12917	93219	22/01/08	13006	89045	09/08/07
12842	90867	18/10/07	12917	84546	05/02/07	13006	92769	09/01/08
12842	92221	10/12/07	12920	84061	19/01/07	13008	91096	25/10/07
12842	92220	10/12/07	12920	89518	30/08/07	13009	81312	20/10/06
12842	86316	12/04/07	12921	69009	14/05/05	13011	82626	22/11/06
12842	87651	13/06/07	12922	91641	19/11/07	13012	93614	05/02/08
12842	92472	02/01/08	12922	92701	08/01/08	13013	88035	29/06/07
12843	91362	06/11/07	12922	94377	03/03/08	13013	81250	19/10/06
12843	89595	31/08/07	12923	89229	16/08/07	13016	86784	03/05/07
12843	94072	20/02/08	12923	85593	13/03/07	13016	94860	25/03/08
12843	88585	23/07/07	12923	91005	23/10/07	13016	93315	25/01/08
12845	79762	23/08/06	12930	94616	12/03/08	13018	92824	10/01/08
12846	91245	02/11/07	12931	93686	07/02/08	13025	77282	24/04/06
12847	76298	08/03/06	12933	80276	15/09/06	13026	94574	11/03/08
12848	81200	18/10/06	12941	90233	25/09/07	13028	87538	07/06/07
12848	82566	21/11/06	12946	92478	02/01/08	13030	84009	17/01/07
12849	91553	14/11/07	12951	78121	06/06/06	13030	94923	26/03/08
12854	94101	21/02/08	12952	88567	23/07/07	13031	91849	26/11/07
12854	87508	06/06/07	12955	78806	04/07/06	13032	91389	07/11/07
12855	93848	13/02/08	12955	78750	03/07/06	13038	84460	02/02/07
12857	93601	05/02/08	12959	91226	01/11/07	13038	93566	04/02/08
12861	94780	18/03/08	12961	90196	24/09/07	13039	86130	04/04/07
12862	91837	26/11/07	12961	90195	24/09/07	13039	92394	19/12/07
12862	85870	23/03/07	12962	94753	17/03/08	13046	94739	14/03/08
12862	88643	25/07/07	12965	94796	18/03/08	13047	91981	30/11/07
12863	93893	14/02/08	12969	90438	02/10/07	13047	88814	01/08/07
12865	91409	08/11/07	12969	86443	18/04/07	13048	93842	12/02/08
12865	94211	25/02/08	12971	92734	08/01/08	13048	71238	18/08/05
12867	94209	25/02/08	12972	91417	08/11/07	13048	88846	02/08/07
12869	94354	29/02/08	12972	94020	19/02/08	13048	86888	09/05/07
12870	92708	08/01/08	12974	88665	25/07/07	13048	90296	27/09/07
12870	92742	08/01/08	12974	89440	28/08/07	13052	86039	30/03/07
12872	80079	06/09/06	12976	90394	01/10/07	13053	93293	24/01/08
12873	92948	14/01/08	12977	89265	17/08/07	13055	83489	27/12/06
12875	91297	05/11/07	12978	93110	18/01/08	13055	79529	10/08/06
12876	85467	06/03/07	12981	93446	30/01/08	13055	79530	10/08/06
12876	88432	17/07/07	12981	93448	30/01/08	13055	81788	31/10/06
12877	92874	11/01/08	12981	92260	11/12/07	13055	79528	10/08/06
12877	94746	17/03/08	12982	94092	21/02/08	13059	76314	08/03/06
12878	87876	22/06/07	12984	82476	20/11/06	13060	76806	27/03/06
12878	88663	25/07/07	12984	92279	12/12/07	13061	94611	12/03/08
12879	79549	11/08/06	12984	85073	20/02/07	13061	89145	14/08/07
12887	90634	09/10/07	12987	90850	17/10/07	13061	93731	08/02/08
12888	87208	23/05/07	12987	81055	12/10/06	13061	88257	09/07/07
12889	93977	18/02/08	12987	88435	17/07/07	13061	93417	29/01/08
12891	92806	09/01/08	12987	78524	23/06/06	13061	88256	09/07/07
12891	92818	10/01/08	12988	89078	10/08/07	13062	88883	03/08/07

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Tenant Code	Job No	Date of Report	Tenant Code	Job No	Date of Report	Tenant Code	Job No	Date of Report
13064	91997	03/12/07	13135	84962	15/02/07	13238	76111	24/02/06
13064	93839	12/02/08	13138	94295	28/02/08	13241	88711	26/07/07
13064	82201	13/11/06	13138	92822	10/01/08	13241	87131	21/05/07
13064	91677	20/11/07	13138	90781	16/10/07	13242	77732	17/05/06
13064	82200	13/11/06	13138	90782	16/10/07	13242	84032	18/01/07
13064	78424	20/06/06	13139	77583	10/05/06	13242	77734	17/05/06
13068	92102	05/12/07	13140	94069	20/02/08	13242	84033	18/01/07
13072	94460	04/03/08	13143	94065	20/02/08	13242	92787	09/01/08
13072	94462	04/03/08	13147	91747	22/11/07	13242	92786	09/01/08
13072	87823	20/06/07	13148	80661	02/10/06	13245	88722	26/07/07
13073	83878	12/01/07	13150	87892	22/06/07	13246	88685	26/07/07
13075	93524	01/02/08	13151	90604	09/10/07	13249	90245	25/09/07
13075	93639	06/02/08	13154	91043	24/10/07	13249	94465	05/03/08
13075	93525	01/02/08	13155	89042	09/08/07	13250	87858	22/06/07
13075	93234	23/01/08	13160	76322	08/03/06	13250	92119	06/12/07
13076	94214	25/02/08	13160	79985	04/09/06	13250	81438	24/10/06
13076	88141	05/07/07	13160	79984	04/09/06	13250	92959	14/01/08
13077	90436	02/10/07	13164	81989	07/11/06	13251	92909	14/01/08
13078	93568	04/02/08	13164	87215	23/05/07	13253	84587	06/02/07
13078	86477	19/04/07	13164	83348	18/12/06	13253	90946	22/10/07
13080	94156	25/02/08	13167	94862	25/03/08	13256	94053	20/02/08
13086	91924	28/11/07	13171	94886	25/03/08	13257	94475	05/03/08
13091	93763	11/02/08	13171	90548	05/10/07	13257	88340	12/07/07
13091	93790	12/02/08	13174	79466	08/08/06	13262	89572	31/08/07
13092	94450	04/03/08	13174	82629	22/11/06	13264	94361	03/03/08
13093	88953	07/08/07	13176	92143	06/12/07	13264	93262	24/01/08
13094	93918	15/02/08	13176	94845	20/03/08	13269	93751	11/02/08
13095	90909	19/10/07	13186	87217	23/05/07	13273	91437	09/11/07
13098	81679	30/10/06	13188	91497	12/11/07	13273	91436	09/11/07
13099	86997	14/05/07	13195	93285	24/01/08	13279	89541	30/08/07
13100	92136	06/12/07	13200	94396	03/03/08	13290	67022	01/03/05
13100	90501	04/10/07	13201	94662	12/03/08	13292	84286	30/01/07
13102	94498	06/03/08	13202	94222	26/02/08	13296	87201	23/05/07
13117	78286	14/06/06	13202	94571	11/03/08	13296	87714	15/06/07
13117	94667	12/03/08	13205	91926	28/11/07	13296	86013	29/03/07
13119	85973	28/03/07	13205	91177	30/10/07	13296	91132	29/10/07
13119	81807	01/11/06	13205	81786	31/10/06	13300	86904	09/05/07
13120	84270	30/01/07	13206	83859	12/01/07	13300	91669	19/11/07
13121	91967	30/11/07	13206	83853	11/01/07	13300	75269	24/01/06
13121	81255	19/10/06	13207	83629	04/01/07	13305	80837	05/10/06
13122	92126	06/12/07	13207	83885	12/01/07	13305	80918	09/10/06
13123	91904	28/11/07	13208	83974	16/01/07	13305	79617	15/08/06
13124	94781	18/03/08	13212	91288	05/11/07	13312	87091	18/05/07
13128	81015	11/10/06	13213	89320	21/08/07	13312	84937	15/02/07
13128	93560	04/02/08	13216	89507	30/08/07	13315	86730	02/05/07
13129	94040	20/02/08	13222	87411	01/06/07	13315	87245	24/05/07
13132	93777	11/02/08	13223	93440	30/01/08	13316	91732	21/11/07
13132	92414	19/12/07	13223	79717	22/08/06	13328	94566	11/03/08
13133	93409	29/01/08	13227	93459	30/01/08	13328	94565	11/03/08
13133	89059	09/08/07	13227	93810	12/02/08	13333	85844	22/03/07
13133	89060	09/08/07	13233	81112	16/10/06	13333	90484	04/10/07
13133	84051	18/01/07	13235	92014	03/12/07	13334	92307	13/12/07

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Tenant Code	Job No	Date of Report	Tenant Code	Job No	Date of Report	Tenant Code	Job No	Date of Report
13335	79914	31/08/06	13441	93175	22/01/08	13504	93504	31/01/08
13338	93099	18/01/08	13444	93192	22/01/08	13512	81526	25/10/06
13342	93542	04/02/08	13444	91210	31/10/07	13514	92555	03/01/08
13344	76726	23/03/06	13445	79802	25/08/06	13516	75979	17/02/06
13345	89144	14/08/07	13446	94906	26/03/08	13523	90040	19/09/07
13345	76125	27/02/06	13446	94806	18/03/08	13523	92958	14/01/08
13347	93011	15/01/08	13446	88421	17/07/07	13539	83825	11/01/07
13347	75380	27/01/06	13453	91371	07/11/07	13539	90339	28/09/07
13349	92732	08/01/08	13453	90967	23/10/07	13545	94602	12/03/08
13350	88664	25/07/07	13456	92180	07/12/07	13545	92173	07/12/07
13350	86534	23/04/07	13458	94212	25/02/08	13546	83029	05/12/06
13350	90565	08/10/07	13463	89406	24/08/07	13547	79866	30/08/06
13350	86535	23/04/07	13467	89770	07/09/07	13548	86591	25/04/07
13352	92794	09/01/08	13467	86634	26/04/07	13551	88622	24/07/07
13353	82377	16/11/06	13467	92121	06/12/07	13551	88468	18/07/07
13355	94376	03/03/08	13471	81510	25/10/06	13551	88467	18/07/07
13356	93665	07/02/08	13471	81162	17/10/06	13554	87902	25/06/07
13356	93666	07/02/08	13471	81511	25/10/06	13555	85498	07/03/07
13357	76854	28/03/06	13472	89396	24/08/07	13556	90105	20/09/07
13359	90060	19/09/07	13474	94128	22/02/08	13556	93570	04/02/08
13363	94855	12/03/08	13474	60494	30/06/04	13557	87089	17/05/07
13364	75272	24/01/06	13474	90253	25/09/07	13557	80109	07/09/06
13364	84753	09/02/07	13475	79531	10/08/06	13558	84910	14/02/07
13364	91902	27/11/07	13476	88815	01/08/07	13558	84909	14/02/07
13364	90987	23/10/07	13476	88868	02/08/07	13558	77899	24/05/06
13364	75273	24/01/06	13477	84333	30/01/07	13558	94643	12/03/08
13364	88596	23/07/07	13478	82227	13/11/06	13558	93710	08/02/08
13369	78531	23/06/06	13478	84158	23/01/07	13558	83994	17/01/07
13370	89217	16/08/07	13478	82228	13/11/06	13558	83382	18/12/06
13371	90600	09/10/07	13484	82569	21/11/06	13559	82395	16/11/06
13373	88771	30/07/07	13485	68777	05/05/05	13559	82761	24/11/06
13374	87997	27/06/07	13485	68776	05/05/05	13559	79871	30/08/06
13375	92274	12/12/07	13487	78053	01/06/06	13559	83687	08/01/07
13377	92393	19/12/07	13487	80362	19/09/06	13560	87930	25/06/07
13383	87513	06/06/07	13488	82042	08/11/06	13560	81422	23/10/06
13384	91315	05/11/07	13488	94251	27/02/08	13564	89954	17/09/07
13389	85513	07/03/07	13488	94252	27/02/08	13564	88803	31/07/07
13389	85532	08/03/07	13488	89120	13/08/07	13564	80305	18/09/06
13390	93837	12/02/08	13498	94111	21/02/08	13564	67398	10/03/05
13392	94114	21/02/08	13498	91899	27/11/07	13564	80552	27/09/06
13393	93443	30/01/08	13498	94110	21/02/08	13572	94805	18/03/08
13393	93284	24/01/08	13498	94109	21/02/08	13577	81731	30/10/06
13401	94513	06/03/08	13498	94444	04/03/08	13578	90265	26/09/07
13401	94512	06/03/08	13499	94663	12/03/08	13578	73805	18/11/05
13407	80698	03/10/06	13499	86348	13/04/07	13581	94247	26/02/08
13413	79155	20/07/06	13500	87143	21/05/07	13581	84309	30/01/07
13415	89321	21/08/07	13500	79457	08/08/06	13584	81949	07/11/06
13423	86933	11/05/07	13500	79809	25/08/06	13590	82302	15/11/06
13423	77901	24/05/06	13503	81110	16/10/06	13593	82513	20/11/06
13431	78436	20/06/06	13503	88024	28/06/07	13593	82817	27/11/06
13435	89118	13/08/07	13503	91054	25/10/07	13593	94303	28/02/08
13437	92999	15/01/08	13503	92025	03/12/07	13593	91564	14/11/07

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Tenant Code	Job No	Date of Report	Tenant Code	Job No	Date of Report	Tenant Code	Job No	Date of Report
13594	84858	13/02/07	13683	76664	21/03/06	13784	92466	02/01/08
13594	90236	25/09/07	13683	80239	13/09/06	13788	87472	05/06/07
13594	90235	25/09/07	13683	89189	15/08/07	13790	92320	13/12/07
13594	90994	23/10/07	13683	84497	05/02/07	13791	85567	09/03/07
13595	94762	17/03/08	13690	94273	27/02/08	13796	71672	06/09/05
13596	86759	02/05/07	13690	94272	27/02/08	13799	80023	05/09/06
13600	86619	26/04/07	13691	89465	28/08/07	13799	92000	03/12/07
13600	94237	26/02/08	13694	86088	02/04/07	13802	91181	30/10/07
13600	86593	25/04/07	13694	80077	06/09/06	13806	84954	15/02/07
13600	93482	31/01/08	13694	92995	15/01/08	13808	61444	09/08/04
13600	94239	26/02/08	13694	86105	03/04/07	13808	82667	23/11/06
13602	92245	11/12/07	13701	88108	03/07/07	13809	87180	22/05/07
13602	94711	14/03/08	13701	87404	01/06/07	13809	84663	07/02/07
13603	77410	02/05/06	13701	88107	03/07/07	13815	88065	02/07/07
13607	85392	02/03/07	13701	88109	03/07/07	13817	87872	22/06/07
13622	93583	04/02/08	13701	93243	23/01/08	13817	78628	27/06/06
13622	90753	15/10/07	13702	91676	20/11/07	13820	94767	17/03/08
13629	70327	12/07/05	13702	85259	26/02/07	13823	79188	24/07/06
13630	82691	23/11/06	13703	77118	10/04/06	13825	89413	24/08/07
13630	94639	12/03/08	13703	91835	26/11/07	13825	88528	20/07/07
13630	90407	02/10/07	13705	88002	27/06/07	13825	88652	25/07/07
13630	89044	09/08/07	13709	94262	27/02/08	13825	89414	24/08/07
13630	90016	18/09/07	13713	90318	27/09/07	13827	88742	27/07/07
13632	90991	23/10/07	13728	81964	07/11/06	13827	87032	15/05/07
13632	92432	20/12/07	13728	93068	17/01/08	13828	86859	08/05/07
13632	91499	12/11/07	13732	78780	03/07/06	13828	92741	08/01/08
13633	93178	22/01/08	13733	91976	30/11/07	13829	93094	18/01/08
13637	85944	27/03/07	13733	91681	20/11/07	13835	81487	25/10/06
13638	92105	05/12/07	13735	81924	06/11/06	13835	81206	18/10/06
13638	94945	27/03/08	13735	82233	13/11/06	13835	90093	20/09/07
13638	94763	17/03/08	13740	86674	30/04/07	13835	90132	21/09/07
13646	83876	12/01/07	13740	93957	18/02/08	13835	90213	25/09/07
13647	86140	04/04/07	13740	94898	25/03/08	13835	81486	25/10/06
13647	83934	15/01/07	13740	91195	30/10/07	13835	73968	25/11/05
13649	80967	10/10/06	13742	89674	04/09/07	13835	92540	03/01/08
13655	87328	30/05/07	13744	93552	04/02/08	13835	79825	29/08/06
13657	93795	12/02/08	13744	81121	16/10/06	13843	80802	04/10/06
13657	93793	12/02/08	13750	93159	21/01/08	13844	82167	13/11/06
13657	89446	28/08/07	13750	88912	06/08/07	13847	90647	10/10/07
13658	90505	04/10/07	13751	68031	04/04/05	13847	85203	23/02/07
13662	88534	20/07/07	13754	71164	16/08/05	13847	85391	02/03/07
13666	78192	07/06/06	13755	94398	03/03/08	13848	84409	01/02/07
13666	84950	15/02/07	13755	94399	03/03/08	13848	94126	22/02/08
13675	94488	05/03/08	13755	94843	20/03/08	13848	82016	08/11/06
13676	66183	02/02/05	13768	81106	16/10/06	13849	77532	08/05/06
13677	89677	04/09/07	13768	91930	28/11/07	13849	93902	15/02/08
13677	89675	04/09/07	13773	92947	14/01/08	13855	93188	22/01/08
13682	79470	08/08/06	13776	77659	15/05/06	13855	92683	07/01/08
13682	76783	27/03/06	13776	81632	27/10/06	13861	81087	13/10/06
13682	87964	26/06/07	13776	87458	05/06/07	13861	91302	05/11/07
13682	85955	27/03/07	13776	94420	03/03/08	13865	77470	04/05/06
13683	80238	13/09/06	13781	89915	14/09/07	13865	93349	28/01/08

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Tenant Code	Job No	Date of Report	Tenant Code	Job No	Date of Report	Tenant Code	Job No	Date of Report
13866	88723	26/07/07	13949	91242	01/11/07	14061	94495	06/03/08
13866	65317	23/12/04	13949	90508	04/10/07	14061	90303	27/09/07
13866	87038	16/05/07	13949	94895	25/03/08	14062	94345	29/02/08
13870	86696	01/05/07	13949	90509	04/10/07	14062	94346	29/02/08
13870	86623	26/04/07	13949	90511	04/10/07	14062	89501	29/08/07
13870	82692	23/11/06	13949	91241	01/11/07	14062	89451	28/08/07
13870	86621	26/04/07	13949	92678	07/01/08	14063	78363	15/06/06
13870	91182	30/10/07	13949	90512	04/10/07	14067	84332	30/01/07
13870	86622	26/04/07	13952	83280	13/12/06	14069	77652	12/05/06
13873	94389	03/03/08	13954	83302	14/12/06	14076	77055	06/04/06
13874	79800	25/08/06	13954	90882	18/10/07	14076	75747	09/02/06
13874	79799	25/08/06	13975	83436	20/12/06	14089	81226	19/10/06
13874	78829	05/07/06	13975	89813	11/09/07	14090	65685	12/01/05
13875	71974	16/09/05	13976	93598	04/02/08	14090	94429	04/03/08
13875	94421	03/03/08	13976	84454	02/02/07	14102	67241	04/03/05
13877	61500	11/08/04	13978	85336	01/03/07	14102	94120	22/02/08
13878	94722	14/03/08	14007	91898	27/11/07	14103	66810	25/02/05
13878	94721	14/03/08	14007	82773	24/11/06	14103	64863	06/12/04
13878	94720	14/03/08	14013	88294	10/07/07	14103	89410	24/08/07
13878	94723	14/03/08	14013	82893	29/11/06	14116	65992	17/11/06
13879	74269	08/12/05	14016	94082	20/02/08	14117	80030	05/09/06
13879	85813	21/03/07	14016	92168	06/12/07	14118	91500	12/11/07
13880	82851	28/11/06	14016	94406	03/03/08	14129	86557	24/04/07
13880	82892	29/11/06	14016	69741	16/06/05	14129	93404	29/01/08
13892	92239	11/12/07	14024	66999	01/03/05	14129	93402	29/01/08
13892	92268	11/12/07	14036	85238	26/02/07	14130	89309	21/08/07
13892	92361	18/12/07	14036	91668	19/11/07	14130	89308	21/08/07
13897	74733	06/01/06	14042	92122	06/12/07	14137	66988	01/03/05
13897	91364	07/11/07	14042	67483	11/03/05	14139	89088	10/08/07
13904	61622	16/08/04	14042	94457	04/03/08	14139	86678	30/04/07
13907	80633	02/10/06	14043	67434	10/03/05	14139	63001	04/10/04
13907	81383	23/10/06	14046	94633	12/03/08	14140	84079	19/01/07
13908	90216	25/09/07	14046	94632	12/03/08	14151	91546	14/11/07
13917	88624	24/07/07	14046	84337	30/01/07	14165	83501	28/12/06
13917	86373	16/04/07	14046	82583	21/11/06	14165	94688	13/03/08
13922	76144	28/02/06	14046	76969	03/04/06	14175	74982	16/01/06
13925	94887	25/03/08	14046	84969	15/02/07	14181	93787	11/02/08
13927	78882	06/07/06	14046	84600	06/02/07	14182	72968	19/10/05
13927	78883	06/07/06	14049	91129	26/10/07	14182	86491	20/04/07
13929	83335	15/12/06	14049	91128	26/10/07	14183	85758	19/03/07
13932	79718	22/08/06	14049	91077	25/10/07	14183	84133	22/01/07
13943	93454	30/01/08	14050	85310	28/02/07	14191	94359	29/02/08
13943	93453	30/01/08	14050	91078	25/10/07	14191	94458	04/03/08
13945	75042	17/01/06	14050	89167	15/08/07	14192	87482	05/06/07
13947	89703	05/09/07	14052	81570	26/10/06	14192	94907	26/03/08
13947	86034	30/03/07	14056	93594	04/02/08	14192	94905	26/03/08
13947	91742	22/11/07	14056	78035	31/05/06	14192	90007	18/09/07
13947	92475	02/01/08	14060	86413	17/04/07	14196	89392	23/08/07
13947	93903	15/02/08	14060	94440	04/03/08	14196	83660	05/01/07
13949	93544	04/02/08	14060	92219	10/12/07	14196	85471	06/03/07
13949	90506	04/10/07	14060	90944	22/10/07	14196	94894	25/03/08
13949	90507	04/10/07	14061	93620	05/02/08	14196	94893	25/03/08

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Tenant Code	Job No	Date of Report	Tenant Code	Job No	Date of Report	Tenant Code	Job No	Date of Report
14196	91324	06/11/07	14361	90625	09/10/07	14503	88725	26/07/07
14199	67913	30/03/05	14369	86228	11/04/07	14504	92851	10/01/08
14219	81980	07/11/06	14369	85919	26/03/07	14504	91309	05/11/07
14219	91191	30/10/07	14371	94612	12/03/08	14504	92552	03/01/08
14219	93177	22/01/08	14371	94709	14/03/08	14504	91850	26/11/07
14223	78658	28/06/06	14380	83927	15/01/07	14507	94246	26/02/08
14232	80909	09/10/06	14389	91032	24/10/07	14508	93879	14/02/08
14238	90695	12/10/07	14389	91033	24/10/07	14508	93829	12/02/08
14238	90693	12/10/07	14389	93420	29/01/08	14509	84282	30/01/07
14238	90696	12/10/07	14389	92049	04/12/07	14510	91076	25/10/07
14253	94816	19/03/08	14389	94879	25/03/08	14510	76092	23/02/06
14259	94699	13/03/08	14390	89602	03/09/07	14516	87657	13/06/07
14272	83814	11/01/07	14390	91287	05/11/07	14525	79669	18/08/06
14272	93801	12/02/08	14390	90155	21/09/07	14525	84421	01/02/07
14272	84237	26/01/07	14404	94264	27/02/08	14530	90167	24/09/07
14272	79489	09/08/06	14408	91372	07/11/07	14530	91585	15/11/07
14272	83815	11/01/07	14408	94016	19/02/08	14537	82775	27/11/06
14272	83735	09/01/07	14412	79842	29/08/06	14539	78904	07/07/06
14273	86891	09/05/07	14419	81497	25/10/06	14540	89730	06/09/07
14274	92877	11/01/08	14419	88609	24/07/07	14543	93194	22/01/08
14274	92918	14/01/08	14430	87989	27/06/07	14543	93195	22/01/08
14274	92771	09/01/08	14430	80593	28/09/06	14543	90908	19/10/07
14274	90262	26/09/07	14435	87066	16/05/07	14543	90839	17/10/07
14274	91713	21/11/07	14435	87065	16/05/07	14545	80208	13/09/06
14278	90419	02/10/07	14436	83913	15/01/07	14546	86890	09/05/07
14278	94713	14/03/08	14453	78484	21/06/06	14550	79386	03/08/06
14279	72674	11/10/05	14465	69305	25/05/05	14555	79421	07/08/06
14284	89534	30/08/07	14465	69306	25/05/05	14556	70295	11/07/05
14284	86461	19/04/07	14466	94694	13/03/08	14557	82705	23/11/06
14289	93770	11/02/08	14466	93351	28/01/08	14557	84234	26/01/07
14289	94507	06/03/08	14466	93353	28/01/08	14567	91852	26/11/07
14293	93269	24/01/08	14466	93352	28/01/08	14568	85015	19/02/07
14305	90069	19/09/07	14472	84071	19/01/07	14570	77382	27/04/06
14310	94147	25/02/08	14472	90363	28/09/07	14571	90576	08/10/07
14313	87763	19/06/07	14476	90617	09/10/07	14571	91841	26/11/07
14324	79716	22/08/06	14478	89767	07/09/07	14572	81491	25/10/06
14324	79715	22/08/06	14479	92892	11/01/08	14572	93414	29/01/08
14333	90425	02/10/07	14481	92770	09/01/08	14573	93994	19/02/08
14333	90424	02/10/07	14487	92330	14/12/07	14573	87588	11/06/07
14333	89523	30/08/07	14491	85325	28/02/07	14574	94456	04/03/08
14334	86520	23/04/07	14491	89706	05/09/07	14576	94321	28/02/08
14335	89704	05/09/07	14492	92987	15/01/08	14586	89996	18/09/07
14338	93845	13/02/08	14492	91895	27/11/07	14586	78030	31/05/06
14338	94146	25/02/08	14494	92512	02/01/08	14591	81188	18/10/06
14343	83205	11/12/06	14495	87212	23/05/07	14591	81568	26/10/06
14346	92257	11/12/07	14495	94447	04/03/08	14592	91402	08/11/07
14348	79636	16/08/06	14495	94448	04/03/08	14592	91403	08/11/07
14350	83174	11/12/06	14495	84238	26/01/07	14592	91401	08/11/07
14350	81655	27/10/06	14498	93278	24/01/08	14593	88662	25/07/07
14354	81244	19/10/06	14498	92797	09/01/08	14598	91889	27/11/07
14358	63830	29/10/04	14498	92680	07/01/08	14598	91886	27/11/07
14359	93832	12/02/08	14499	86506	23/04/07	14598	91887	27/11/07

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14601	93898	14/02/08	14684	85013	19/02/07	14740	87296	29/05/07
14603	86215	10/04/07	14685	90561	08/10/07	14741	89735	06/09/07
14608	85088	20/02/07	14685	91329	06/11/07	14741	92790	09/01/08
14608	85089	20/02/07	14685	81322	20/10/06	14742	93796	12/02/08
14608	85087	20/02/07	14686	93954	18/02/08	14743	79288	31/07/06
14619	81377	23/10/06	14689	94554	11/03/08	14743	80019	05/09/06
14620	78772	03/07/06	14691	94583	11/03/08	14743	79542	11/08/06
14633	89199	15/08/07	14692	93759	11/02/08	14743	94591	11/03/08
14636	77286	24/04/06	14694	90390	01/10/07	14743	79941	01/09/06
14647	89232	16/08/07	14694	88454	18/07/07	14746	92486	02/01/08
14647	88239	09/07/07	14694	88455	18/07/07	14746	93948	18/02/08
14651	93713	08/02/08	14694	79001	12/07/06	14746	78761	03/07/06
14651	77965	26/05/06	14694	93532	01/02/08	14746	92487	02/01/08
14651	93859	13/02/08	14700	94482	05/03/08	14751	86077	02/04/07
14651	86853	08/05/07	14702	94951	27/03/08	14751	85385	02/03/07
14652	84230	25/01/07	14702	79551	11/08/06	14751	81086	13/10/06
14652	63400	15/10/04	14702	77216	19/04/06	14751	94889	25/03/08
14653	91258	02/11/07	14704	94846	20/03/08	14751	85384	02/03/07
14654	94603	12/03/08	14704	77811	19/05/06	14754	80579	28/09/06
14654	94601	12/03/08	14706	90723	15/10/07	14755	89623	03/09/07
14657	81545	25/10/06	14706	75529	02/02/06	14755	92412	19/12/07
14657	87530	07/06/07	14706	94822	19/03/08	14756	94778	18/03/08
14657	88719	26/07/07	14706	89964	17/09/07	14757	88894	03/08/07
14657	87121	21/05/07	14706	94823	19/03/08	14764	92166	06/12/07
14658	87503	06/06/07	14706	90888	18/10/07	14768	87441	04/06/07
14660	88083	02/07/07	14707	93622	05/02/08	14769	92256	11/12/07
14660	93138	21/01/08	14707	91870	27/11/07	14777	78384	16/06/06
14662	91070	25/10/07	14707	91871	27/11/07	14778	90627	09/10/07
14665	93537	01/02/08	14707	93623	05/02/08	14778	90628	09/10/07
14666	92339	17/12/07	14708	90539	05/10/07	14779	94472	05/03/08
14667	90227	25/09/07	14709	76133	27/02/06	14779	84582	06/02/07
14668	91018	24/10/07	14709	77966	26/05/06	14782	88737	27/07/07
14668	90935	22/10/07	14713	92480	02/01/08	14782	90416	02/10/07
14668	87047	16/05/07	14713	94789	18/03/08	14782	91285	05/11/07
14668	90366	01/10/07	14717	93641	06/02/08	14782	83027	05/12/06
14668	91019	24/10/07	14717	93858	13/02/08	14785	91591	15/11/07
14672	93281	24/01/08	14717	89462	28/08/07	14785	81849	02/11/06
14672	88371	13/07/07	14718	94733	14/03/08	14785	82753	24/11/06
14672	84568	06/02/07	14718	91800	23/11/07	14786	78099	05/06/06
14672	94684	13/03/08	14719	91338	06/11/07	14787	79329	01/08/06
14673	93056	17/01/08	14719	94880	25/03/08	14788	85476	06/03/07
14673	85214	23/02/07	14721	94738	14/03/08	14788	89709	05/09/07
14674	93701	07/02/08	14722	87073	17/05/07	14788	88706	26/07/07
14675	94799	18/03/08	14723	81414	23/10/06	14790	85706	15/03/07
14676	81933	06/11/06	14725	81983	07/11/06	14790	92364	18/12/07
14676	78991	12/07/06	14729	83294	14/12/06	14790	94590	11/03/08
14677	91130	26/10/07	14734	66967	01/03/05	14797	86189	10/04/07
14681	92599	04/01/08	14735	87029	15/05/07	14805	89909	14/09/07
14681	89880	13/09/07	14736	92334	14/12/07	14806	94859	25/03/08
14682	90033	18/09/07	14736	86238	11/04/07	14806	91028	24/10/07
14682	90034	18/09/07	14740	94344	29/02/08	14806	88427	17/07/07
14682	79653	17/08/06	14740	92950	14/01/08	14806	94156	25/02/08

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14810	90612	09/10/07	14869	89411	24/08/07	14990	91255	02/11/07
14810	91775	22/11/07	14869	90792	16/10/07	14990	92039	04/12/07
14810	90613	09/10/07	14869	80105	07/09/06	14990	90861	17/10/07
14810	86243	11/04/07	14894	90353	28/09/07	14992	83755	09/01/07
14811	86624	26/04/07	14894	70121	04/07/05	14994	85607	13/03/07
14811	86626	26/04/07	14894	92174	07/12/07	14997	81583	26/10/06
14811	86854	08/05/07	14895	93726	08/02/08	14997	87072	17/05/07
14812	93511	31/01/08	14895	93526	01/02/08	14999	92926	14/01/08
14812	93510	31/01/08	14895	77113	10/04/06	14999	92925	14/01/08
14812	92210	10/12/07	14895	93740	11/02/08	15003	88822	01/08/07
14812	93509	31/01/08	14898	78540	26/06/06	15004	80354	19/09/06
14818	80431	21/09/06	14901	90949	22/10/07	15004	80352	19/09/06
14821	81902	06/11/06	14904	85191	23/02/07	15007	77985	30/05/06
14821	79890	30/08/06	14918	93314	25/01/08	15007	90185	24/09/07
14822	90169	24/09/07	14922	84563	06/02/07	15008	94385	03/03/08
14822	80001	04/09/06	14922	84679	08/02/07	15008	94386	03/03/08
14826	78178	07/06/06	14922	82891	29/11/06	15010	89512	30/08/07
14826	78175	07/06/06	14923	65582	10/01/05	15021	94419	03/03/08
14830	94119	22/02/08	14926	89011	08/08/07	15022	92506	02/01/08
14830	94881	25/03/08	14927	73424	04/11/05	15023	89466	28/08/07
14830	83192	07/12/06	14927	79040	14/07/06	15024	74839	11/01/06
14830	94326	29/02/08	14929	84298	30/01/07	15024	79828	29/08/06
14835	82158	10/11/06	14929	84299	30/01/07	15024	78376	16/06/06
14835	94864	25/03/08	14929	71354	23/08/05	15027	93133	21/01/08
14835	94865	25/03/08	14930	85979	28/03/07	15027	71722	07/09/05
14835	80233	13/09/06	14940	80806	04/10/06	15027	81853	02/11/06
14835	92270	12/12/07	14942	86278	12/04/07	15030	91332	06/11/07
14836	94627	12/03/08	14944	84202	24/01/07	15033	89324	21/08/07
14836	92885	11/01/08	14946	86095	03/04/07	15035	93289	24/01/08
14839	93097	18/01/08	14947	93464	31/01/08	15036	88503	19/07/07
14841	92095	05/12/07	14952	79172	24/07/06	15039	79694	21/08/06
14845	75404	30/01/06	14952	80163	12/09/06	15039	75436	31/01/06
14845	62502	17/09/04	14954	93309	25/01/08	15039	79994	04/09/06
14846	85068	20/02/07	14958	82311	15/11/06	15039	89263	17/08/07
14847	87838	21/06/07	14958	74236	06/12/05	15040	92622	07/01/08
14847	87839	21/06/07	14961	94333	29/02/08	15040	77527	08/05/06
14849	88495	19/07/07	14963	81802	01/11/06	15040	93567	04/02/08
14849	84267	30/01/07	14964	91897	27/11/07	15040	79165	21/07/06
14849	89299	20/08/07	14965	88967	07/08/07	15040	85558	09/03/07
14849	80795	04/10/06	14966	91818	26/11/07	15040	92923	14/01/08
14851	85413	05/03/07	14968	91832	26/11/07	15040	94442	04/03/08
14854	70306	11/07/05	14971	92738	08/01/08	15041	91821	26/11/07
14855	84377	31/01/07	14971	92737	08/01/08	15045	93863	13/02/08
14857	89901	13/09/07	14978	87316	29/05/07	15045	93864	13/02/08
14857	67248	04/03/05	14981	93336	28/01/08	15045	93865	13/02/08
14857	68943	12/05/05	14981	65408	04/01/05	15045	89216	16/08/07
14859	92640	07/01/08	14984	80800	04/10/06	15047	67745	22/03/05
14859	87149	21/05/07	14984	74436	16/12/05	15047	77369	26/04/06
14865	94439	04/03/08	14984	81428	23/10/06	15052	64549	24/11/04
14865	93781	11/02/08	14984	60969	19/07/04	15052	91998	03/12/07
14867	82875	29/11/06	14989	94559	11/03/08	15052	80543	27/09/06
14869	91892	27/11/07	14989	63707	26/10/04	15056	80602	29/09/06

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15056	74430	16/12/05	15146	85206	23/02/07	15233	85572	09/03/07
15060	74667	04/01/06	15146	94060	20/02/08	15233	85571	09/03/07
15063	83155	08/12/06	15152	77453	03/05/06	15233	85570	09/03/07
15063	88299	11/07/07	15153	77852	23/05/06	15233	92615	07/01/08
15063	82822	27/11/06	15155	93996	19/02/08	15234	93334	25/01/08
15065	84152	23/01/07	15156	93499	31/01/08	15234	93921	15/02/08
15066	91688	20/11/07	15159	85117	21/02/07	15234	93920	15/02/08
15069	93508	31/01/08	15159	85260	26/02/07	15234	92777	09/01/08
15074	92804	09/01/08	15162	92890	11/01/08	15237	84507	05/02/07
15074	85624	13/03/07	15163	92395	19/12/07	15237	84508	05/02/07
15074	86049	30/03/07	15163	94043	20/02/08	15240	86587	25/04/07
15074	90459	03/10/07	15163	94600	12/03/08	15240	91625	16/11/07
15077	88584	23/07/07	15165	93702	07/02/08	15240	91685	20/11/07
15082	93725	08/02/08	15165	76659	21/03/06	15240	79163	21/07/06
15090	82149	10/11/06	15169	80310	18/09/06	15240	83813	11/01/07
15090	82143	10/11/06	15172	93931	15/02/08	15240	83023	05/12/06
15090	82679	23/11/06	15175	86579	24/04/07	15240	91623	16/11/07
15099	90207	25/09/07	15180	89619	03/09/07	15240	83812	11/01/07
15099	90543	05/10/07	15181	91207	31/10/07	15240	83024	05/12/06
15099	67096	02/03/05	15181	86720	01/05/07	15240	84186	24/01/07
15106	91549	14/11/07	15181	90146	21/09/07	15240	91624	16/11/07
15100	91548	14/11/07	15188	87477	05/06/07	15240	84478	02/02/07
15100	88997	08/08/07	15188	84990	16/02/07	15240	91622	16/11/07
15100	74952	16/01/06	15192	88287	10/07/07	15240	81343	23/10/06
15106	87312	29/05/07	15192	93668	07/02/08	15246	88425	17/07/07
15106	86087	02/04/07	15193	72842	14/10/05	15246	83728	09/01/07
15107	81912	06/11/06	15193	94563	11/03/08	15246	65924	20/01/05
15109	82065	08/11/06	15195	91697	21/11/07	15247	86424	17/04/07
15109	72760	12/10/05	15195	90071	19/09/07	15247	86294	12/04/07
15110	76181	01/03/06	15195	92740	08/01/08	15247	88075	02/07/07
15110	83998	17/01/07	15198	94509	06/03/08	15251	90651	10/10/07
15110	93739	11/02/08	15199	92774	09/01/08	15251	94809	19/03/08
15115	93144	21/01/08	15199	81460	24/10/06	15251	94744	14/03/08
15116	94533	07/03/08	15200	90596	08/10/07	15251	94253	27/02/08
15123	91374	07/11/07	15200	94761	17/03/08	15257	94917	26/03/08
15129	94855	25/03/08	15200	89121	13/08/07	15257	82532	21/11/06
15129	78230	12/06/06	15207	81335	23/10/06	15258	94561	11/03/08
15129	90618	09/10/07	15207	83697	08/01/07	15259	89106	13/08/07
15130	93098	18/01/08	15210	79972	04/09/06	15262	79468	08/08/06
15130	90247	25/09/07	15210	91331	06/11/07	15266	76067	22/02/06
15131	91355	06/11/07	15217	84547	05/02/07	15268	94152	25/02/08
15131	91342	06/11/07	15219	94726	14/03/08	15268	93426	29/01/08
15137	84428	01/02/07	15219	94727	14/03/08	15276	93493	31/01/08
15137	83929	15/01/07	15222	88254	09/07/07	15279	84873	13/02/07
15139	83046	05/12/06	15223	93193	22/01/08	15279	92473	02/01/08
15139	83587	03/01/07	15223	88780	30/07/07	15279	66927	28/02/05
15139	83473	22/12/06	15223	93363	28/01/08	15279	82026	08/11/06
15146	81208	18/10/06	15223	79834	29/08/06	15281	93998	19/02/08
15146	85207	23/02/07	15223	90779	16/10/07	15281	93999	19/02/08
15146	93392	29/01/08	15230	90230	25/09/07	15282	81892	06/11/06
15146	77461	04/05/06	15230	90229	25/09/07	15286	91454	12/11/07
15146	93393	29/01/08	15232	87200	23/05/07	15287	85408	05/03/07

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Tenant Code	Job No	Date of Report	Tenant Code	Job No	Date of Report	Tenant Code	Job No	Date of Report
15288	93496	31/01/08	15359	92679	07/01/08	15524	93870	13/02/08
15288	90800	16/10/07	15360	73345	01/11/05	15525	86718	01/05/07
15288	93497	31/01/08	15360	83553	02/01/07	15528	90937	22/10/07
15291	90631	09/10/07	15367	91382	07/11/07	15528	93118	18/01/08
15293	81864	03/11/06	15370	81749	31/10/06	15528	90938	22/10/07
15295	79424	07/08/06	15372	87232	24/05/07	15530	81093	13/10/06
15295	77961	26/05/06	15372	87234	24/05/07	15530	81094	13/10/06
15297	81813	01/11/06	15372	88717	26/07/07	15530	77414	02/05/06
15297	77992	30/05/06	15372	87233	24/05/07	15531	81263	19/10/06
15297	77697	15/05/06	15372	85911	26/03/07	15534	82035	08/11/06
15298	92148	06/12/07	15373	93136	21/01/08	15537	91523	13/11/07
15303	86287	12/04/07	15389	93341	28/01/08	15543	93264	24/01/08
15303	83902	12/01/07	15389	82573	21/11/06	15543	92410	19/12/07
15303	83746	09/01/07	15409	91819	26/11/07	15543	93265	24/01/08
15304	85021	19/02/07	15409	88055	02/07/07	15543	93266	24/01/08
15304	91228	01/11/07	15409	93758	11/02/08	15544	94717	14/03/08
15304	80462	25/09/06	15409	74243	07/12/05	15545	82779	27/11/06
15311	94258	27/02/08	15416	86423	17/04/07	15546	92345	17/12/07
15311	93238	23/01/08	15428	90801	16/10/07	15546	84789	12/02/07
15311	91743	22/11/07	15428	90799	16/10/07	15552	92559	03/01/08
15311	94257	27/02/08	15428	78489	22/06/06	15552	93972	18/02/08
15311	94686	13/03/08	15428	90798	16/10/07	15552	90440	02/10/07
15312	88236	09/07/07	15428	87218	23/05/07	15552	94210	25/02/08
15314	83625	04/01/07	15434	93481	31/01/08	15552	90439	02/10/07
15321	86801	04/05/07	15439	93722	08/02/08	15554	88829	01/08/07
15321	87742	15/06/07	15448	90261	26/09/07	15566	93925	15/02/08
15322	92516	03/01/08	15448	90789	16/10/07	15566	76840	28/03/06
15322	86332	13/04/07	15452	88324	11/07/07	15570	93475	31/01/08
15322	88095	02/07/07	15455	84292	30/01/07	15570	91216	01/11/07
15323	89786	11/09/07	15455	84878	13/02/07	15571	92500	02/01/08
15326	86351	16/04/07	15455	83550	02/01/07	15575	89340	21/08/07
15327	79978	04/09/06	15456	93216	22/01/08	15577	79126	19/07/06
15328	83607	04/01/07	15458	88695	26/07/07	15580	93564	04/02/08
15328	88890	03/08/07	15460	90796	16/10/07	15583	86941	11/05/07
15331	93904	15/02/08	15464	85390	02/03/07	15585	92775	09/01/08
15334	84852	13/02/07	15464	94024	19/02/08	15585	93576	04/02/08
15335	72587	07/10/05	15464	72237	26/09/05	15585	93575	04/02/08
15338	93002	15/01/08	15465	93692	07/02/08	15585	92728	08/01/08
15338	90343	28/09/07	15466	78300	14/06/06	15587	76769	24/03/06
15341	83022	05/12/06	15467	85482	06/03/07	15590	94836	19/03/08
15342	92197	10/12/07	15467	82002	07/11/06	15591	84809	12/02/07
15342	92198	10/12/07	15473	79141	20/07/06	15593	82835	28/11/06
15342	92199	10/12/07	15477	87009	15/05/07	15593	82836	28/11/06
15348	83526	02/01/07	15477	85654	14/03/07	15594	93080	17/01/08
15348	82418	17/11/06	15484	93328	25/01/08	15594	93078	17/01/08
15348	86763	03/05/07	15501	76765	24/03/06	15594	93077	17/01/08
15348	86976	14/05/07	15502	90117	21/09/07	15596	90102	20/09/07
15349	68273	12/04/05	15506	94307	28/02/08	15596	87199	23/05/07
15354	89614	03/09/07	15506	94306	28/02/08	15598	70994	09/08/05
15357	75841	13/02/06	15517	86018	29/03/07	15599	88996	08/08/07
15357	82379	16/11/06	15518	84241	26/01/07	15599	89014	08/08/07
15358	94937	27/03/08	15521	94597	12/03/08	15602	92766	09/01/08

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Tenant Code	Job No	Date of Report	Tenant Code	Job No	Date of Report	Tenant Code	Job No	Date of Report
15603	80349	19/09/06	15670	90980	23/10/07	15743	91733	21/11/07
15604	93746	11/02/08	15670	91098	26/10/07	15745	87210	23/05/07
15604	93745	11/02/08	15673	91567	14/11/07	15747	88625	24/07/07
15606	76979	03/04/06	15673	91568	14/11/07	15747	92055	04/12/07
15606	82497	20/11/06	15673	75200	23/01/06	15748	88726	26/07/07
15606	91533	13/11/07	15678	93698	07/02/08	15748	88718	26/07/07
15606	81441	24/10/06	15678	93301	24/01/08	15750	90703	12/10/07
15608	85430	05/03/07	15679	87017	15/05/07	15754	85245	26/02/07
15609	90681	11/10/07	15679	85308	28/02/07	15754	78308	14/06/06
15609	90680	11/10/07	15679	84677	08/02/07	15754	78309	14/06/06
15609	79788	24/08/06	15679	81785	31/10/06	15754	94599	12/03/08
15610	83695	08/01/07	15681	88334	12/07/07	15754	85243	26/02/07
15611	87255	24/05/07	15681	91267	02/11/07	15755	93741	11/02/08
15616	93946	18/02/08	15684	91962	29/11/07	15755	89085	10/08/07
15616	93947	18/02/08	15684	90090	20/09/07	15758	93625	05/02/08
15622	89401	24/08/07	15684	80047	05/09/06	15761	82759	24/11/06
15622	87647	13/06/07	15686	90545	05/10/07	15762	81770	31/10/06
15622	87764	19/06/07	15686	91485	12/11/07	15762	94045	20/02/08
15627	93813	12/02/08	15686	82673	23/11/06	15762	81768	31/10/06
15628	89142	14/08/07	15686	90546	05/10/07	15762	93975	18/02/08
15628	85159	22/02/07	15686	82672	23/11/06	15762	90872	18/10/07
15633	82843	28/11/06	15688	94653	12/03/08	15762	81769	31/10/06
15637	82331	15/11/06	15689	93043	16/01/08	15763	89470	28/08/07
15637	74818	10/01/06	15690	87352	30/05/07	15763	85401	02/03/07
15637	82842	28/11/06	15694	88476	18/07/07	15763	85154	22/02/07
15637	81041	12/10/06	15694	88155	05/07/07	15763	93820	12/02/08
15637	82330	15/11/06	15694	93883	14/02/08	15763	94044	20/02/08
15637	82329	15/11/06	15700	78010	30/05/06	15763	90244	25/09/07
15642	81564	25/10/06	15700	91972	30/11/07	15763	84245	26/01/07
15643	90970	23/10/07	15702	94315	28/02/08	15763	93822	12/02/08
15644	94163	25/02/08	15702	89125	13/08/07	15764	92458	24/12/07
15644	84143	23/01/07	15702	89126	13/08/07	15764	86578	24/04/07
15648	89184	15/08/07	15702	93834	12/02/08	15765	94108	21/02/08
15655	94221	26/02/08	15702	93652	06/02/08	15768	90401	01/10/07
15658	85097	21/02/07	15703	83006	04/12/06	15770	93087	17/01/08
15658	93438	30/01/08	15703	82372	16/11/06	15771	89455	28/08/07
15658	89932	17/09/07	15703	82371	16/11/06	15776	88727	26/07/07
15658	93856	13/02/08	15703	82370	16/11/06	15777	92798	09/01/08
15660	94154	25/02/08	15703	82369	16/11/06	15777	92891	11/01/08
15660	92544	03/01/08	15706	89834	12/09/07	15779	92834	10/01/08
15660	94319	28/02/08	15706	93001	15/01/08	15780	94520	07/03/08
15660	94198	25/02/08	15708	64360	18/11/04	15780	86592	25/04/07
15661	93182	22/01/08	15718	90320	27/09/07	15781	93747	11/02/08
15661	93183	22/01/08	15719	90582	08/10/07	15783	94874	25/03/08
15662	94814	19/03/08	15722	78187	07/06/06	15783	89697	05/09/07
15667	94433	04/03/08	15725	94852	25/03/08	15783	88862	02/08/07
15667	87736	15/06/07	15728	83709	08/01/07	15784	91671	20/11/07
15667	78503	22/06/06	15730	94607	12/03/08	15784	91672	20/11/07
15668	90562	08/10/07	15737	81990	07/11/06	15785	82145	10/11/06
15670	92421	19/12/07	15738	93257	23/01/08	15787	88882	03/08/07
15670	91100	26/10/07	15739	83712	08/01/07	15788	89643	04/09/07
15670	91099	26/10/07	15739	85904	26/03/07	15791	81559	25/10/06

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Tenant Code	Job No	Date of Report	Tenant Code	Job No	Date of Report	Tenant Code	Job No	Date of Report
15791	91535	13/11/07	15833	91807	26/11/07	15887	94834	19/03/08
15791	83871	12/01/07	15833	80897	09/10/06	15887	84435	01/02/07
15792	85484	06/03/07	15837	89664	04/09/07	15887	84434	01/02/07
15792	93562	04/02/08	15838	70227	07/07/05	15888	81381	23/10/06
15796	76105	24/02/06	15838	94173	25/02/08	15888	84271	30/01/07
15796	82687	23/11/06	15843	93316	25/01/08	15888	80204	12/09/06
15796	90984	23/10/07	15843	82499	20/11/06	15889	91363	07/11/07
15796	82195	13/11/06	15844	81362	23/10/06	15890	81566	26/10/06
15797	93108	18/01/08	15844	81364	23/10/06	15902	68518	21/04/05
15798	70936	08/08/05	15848	86926	10/05/07	15903	84758	09/02/07
15798	68286	12/04/05	15848	79518	10/08/06	15903	88988	07/08/07
15799	81246	19/10/06	15851	89407	24/08/07	15905	94197	25/02/08
15802	88631	25/07/07	15852	78407	20/06/06	15906	91654	19/11/07
15802	84609	06/02/07	15852	94003	19/02/08	15907	82457	17/11/06
15802	86404	17/04/07	15853	93675	07/02/08	15907	81865	03/11/06
15803	87637	12/06/07	15853	93674	07/02/08	15907	82177	13/11/06
15803	93244	23/01/08	15855	91041	24/10/07	15908	93987	18/02/08
15804	77121	10/04/06	15855	86380	16/04/07	15908	83837	11/01/07
15804	79693	21/08/06	15857	93400	29/01/08	15909	66860	28/02/05
15807	88724	26/07/07	15858	88499	19/07/07	15909	91558	14/11/07
15807	92428	20/12/07	15858	88497	19/07/07	15909	93379	28/01/08
15807	87748	15/06/07	15858	93027	16/01/08	15919	93455	30/01/08
15808	92204	10/12/07	15858	88496	19/07/07	15921	91767	22/11/07
15808	94856	25/03/08	15858	93024	16/01/08	15921	91990	03/12/07
15808	88910	06/08/07	15858	93026	16/01/08	15921	93653	06/02/08
15808	94854	25/03/08	15858	93025	16/01/08	15924	81587	26/10/06
15808	94853	25/03/08	15858	93028	16/01/08	15924	81586	26/10/06
15809	89731	06/09/07	15859	94928	26/03/08	15924	81588	26/10/06
15809	87751	19/06/07	15861	68756	04/05/05	15925	80518	26/09/06
15809	90668	11/10/07	15866	86737	02/05/07	15925	82995	04/12/06
15809	85189	23/02/07	15866	90570	08/10/07	15925	82994	04/12/06
15809	88769	30/07/07	15866	90571	08/10/07	15925	93862	13/02/08
15810	93693	07/02/08	15868	65666	12/01/05	15928	93065	17/01/08
15811	90936	22/10/07	15870	85704	15/03/07	15930	92709	08/01/08
15811	87584	11/06/07	15870	80777	04/10/06	15930	94039	20/02/08
15812	94543	07/03/08	15876	84616	06/02/07	15930	84043	18/01/07
15813	74794	10/01/06	15876	91784	23/11/07	15931	70232	07/07/05
15813	92715	08/01/08	15876	84984	16/02/07	15931	82508	20/11/06
15813	87666	13/06/07	15880	91988	03/12/07	15931	85959	27/03/07
15819	76488	10/03/06	15881	81710	30/10/06	15931	78278	14/06/06
15823	84756	09/02/07	15882	93147	21/01/08	15933	73493	08/11/05
15826	91243	02/11/07	15883	84189	24/01/07	15937	68658	27/04/05
15828	79525	10/08/06	15883	84190	24/01/07	15938	93913	15/02/08
15828	80665	02/10/06	15884	94729	14/03/08	15941	87152	22/05/07
15828	81502	25/10/06	15884	94435	04/03/08	15945	94159	25/02/08
15828	81503	25/10/06	15884	89128	13/08/07	15946	68388	15/04/05
15828	81316	20/10/06	15884	79332	01/08/06	15948	88922	06/08/07
15829	92746	08/01/08	15885	89390	23/08/07	15948	91419	08/11/07
15829	94215	25/02/08	15885	89048	09/08/07	15950	68677	28/04/05
15831	67442	11/03/05	15886	87030	15/05/07	15950	90415	02/10/07
15831	67313	08/03/05	15886	79515	10/08/06	15951	85160	22/02/07
15831	94479	05/03/08	15887	91869	27/11/07	15951	94948	27/03/08

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Tenant Code	Job No	Date of Report	Tenant Code	Job No	Date of Report	Tenant Code	Job No	Date of Report
15951	92550	03/01/08	15992	74242	07/12/05	16054	78224	09/06/06
15951	85161	22/02/07	15994	93291	24/01/08	16055	94422	03/03/08
15951	92549	03/01/08	15994	88116	03/07/07	16056	88243	09/07/07
15952	94666	12/03/08	15995	80587	28/09/06	16058	74655	03/01/06
15953	82998	04/12/06	15996	94568	11/03/08	16059	84748	09/02/07
15956	94521	07/03/08	15996	92601	04/01/08	16059	83992	17/01/07
15957	91606	16/11/07	15996	80315	18/09/06	16059	84120	22/01/07
15957	91607	16/11/07	15997	75089	18/01/06	16060	77421	02/05/06
15958	80323	18/09/06	16000	68302	12/04/05	16060	87238	24/05/07
15959	82699	23/11/06	16000	81642	27/10/06	16060	82492	20/11/06
15959	92075	04/12/07	16000	89459	28/08/07	16060	82490	20/11/06
15959	80671	02/10/06	16000	68303	12/04/05	16060	84257	26/01/07
15959	80670	02/10/06	16001	91211	31/10/07	16060	82489	20/11/06
15959	94284	27/02/08	16008	92123	06/12/07	16062	84570	06/02/07
15959	80663	02/10/06	16011	93800	12/02/08	16063	90133	21/09/07
15961	94635	12/03/08	16012	92952	14/01/08	16068	77981	26/05/06
15961	94634	12/03/08	16015	78172	07/06/06	16069	94786	18/03/08
15964	88713	26/07/07	16015	78173	07/06/06	16071	78166	07/06/06
15965	85225	26/02/07	16015	81124	16/10/06	16072	82936	30/11/06
15965	91971	30/11/07	16019	88824	01/08/07	16072	89444	28/08/07
15967	63094	06/10/04	16019	81843	02/11/06	16072	83370	18/12/06
15967	83708	08/01/07	16020	92880	11/01/08	16074	75737	09/02/06
15968	82058	08/11/06	16020	74746	06/01/06	16077	78457	21/06/06
15968	77269	21/04/06	16025	86046	30/03/07	16079	81577	26/10/06
15968	68528	21/04/05	16031	90356	28/09/07	16079	81576	26/10/06
15968	83118	07/12/06	16031	90354	28/09/07	16079	81579	26/10/06
15968	67269	07/03/05	16031	90357	28/09/07	16080	94628	12/03/08
15968	93347	28/01/08	16031	84845	13/02/07	16080	92850	10/01/08
15969	74548	21/12/05	16031	84019	17/01/07	16080	84694	08/02/07
15969	87317	29/05/07	16031	90355	28/09/07	16083	85939	27/03/07
15971	94078	20/02/08	16031	93368	28/01/08	16083	90621	09/10/07
15973	94849	25/03/08	16031	93367	28/01/08	16084	89791	11/09/07
15976	82190	13/11/06	16031	93369	28/01/08	16084	88710	26/07/07
15976	87932	25/06/07	16032	94328	29/02/08	16087	81979	07/11/06
15976	85731	16/03/07	16032	94329	29/02/08	16087	86264	12/04/07
15978	89743	06/09/07	16032	90267	26/09/07	16089	92594	04/01/08
15981	94151	25/02/08	16032	90268	26/09/07	16089	90783	16/10/07
15983	74891	12/01/06	16037	93890	14/02/08	16089	93831	12/02/08
15983	94779	18/03/08	16037	94828	19/03/08	16091	94589	11/03/08
15983	93364	28/01/08	16039	78006	30/05/06	16092	83677	08/01/07
15984	81403	23/10/06	16039	94670	12/03/08	16093	91184	30/10/07
15984	78003	30/05/06	16040	76494	14/03/06	16095	81439	24/10/06
15985	92351	17/12/07	16043	79437	07/08/06	16095	81440	24/10/06
15985	81862	02/11/06	16043	85360	01/03/07	16095	85702	15/03/07
15985	94759	17/03/08	16044	75390	30/01/06	16099	93716	08/02/08
15985	94453	04/03/08	16044	92037	04/12/07	16101	93141	21/01/08
15985	76701	22/03/06	16045	84812	12/02/07	16102	81742	31/10/06
15986	92359	18/12/07	16046	89134	14/08/07	16102	78248	13/06/06
15986	85313	28/02/07	16046	78296	14/06/06	16102	85072	20/02/07
15987	88493	19/07/07	16051	93120	18/01/08	16102	94682	13/03/08
15988	78895	07/07/06	16051	80797	04/10/06	16102	94681	13/03/08
15992	82213	13/11/06	16053	75334	26/01/06	16102	94683	13/03/08

Answer to Q. 116 contd.

Tenant Code	Job No	Date of Report	Tenant Code	Job No	Date of Report	Tenant Code	Job No	Date of Report
16104	92671	07/01/08	16159	94437	04/03/08	16243	93487	31/01/08
16104	80172	12/09/06	16160	94127	22/02/08	16245	94525	07/03/08
16104	94596	11/03/08	16160	94480	05/03/08	16245	94452	04/03/08
16104	88183	05/07/07	16160	90292	26/09/07			
16104	90221	25/09/07	16160	87502	06/06/07			
16104	90684	11/10/07	16164	94409	03/03/08			
16104	90683	11/10/07	16164	86116	03/04/07			
16104	92819	10/01/08	16168	91860	26/11/07			
16104	90682	11/10/07	16168	88178	05/07/07			
16110	93235	23/01/08	16170	94025	19/02/08			
16112	94137	22/02/08	16174	92331	14/12/07			
16112	94204	25/02/08	16178	87276	25/05/07			
16112	93788	11/02/08	16180	93092	18/01/08			
16113	90874	18/10/07	16187	93895	14/02/08			
16113	86164	10/04/07	16187	93894	14/02/08			
16113	86165	10/04/07	16187	88577	23/07/07			
16117	91968	30/11/07	16189	92362	18/12/07			
16117	91246	02/11/07	16189	87618	12/06/07			
16117	91247	02/11/07	16189	89615	03/09/07			
16118	82099	09/11/06	16190	86803	04/05/07			
16119	82760	24/11/06	16190	91883	27/11/07			
16121	82581	21/11/06	16192	90123	21/09/07			
16121	82579	21/11/06	16193	87568	08/06/07			
16123	81164	17/10/06	16195	88594	23/07/07			
16123	93737	11/02/08	16195	89502	29/08/07			
16123	94324	29/02/08	16197	87747	15/06/07			
16123	94338	29/02/08	16197	87727	15/06/07			
16123	94323	29/02/08	16200	93123	18/01/08			
16125	90018	18/09/07	16201	92433	20/12/07			
16127	92621	07/01/08	16201	92442	21/12/07			
16131	93613	05/02/08	16204	89553	31/08/07			
16131	93696	07/02/08	16206	91953	29/11/07			
16134	85449	05/03/07	16206	91769	22/11/07			
16135	94526	07/03/08	16206	89211	16/08/07			
16135	85472	06/03/07	16207	93389	29/01/08			
16140	92751	08/01/08	16210	89989	18/09/07			
16140	83162	08/12/06	16210	92120	06/12/07			
16141	94112	21/02/08	16210	90337	27/09/07			
16141	92949	14/01/08	16218	91231	01/11/07			
16142	84726	08/02/07	16218	91233	01/11/07			
16143	94153	25/02/08	16218	89082	10/08/07			
16143	92520	03/01/08	16224	93732	08/02/08			
16144	88345	12/07/07	16224	93729	08/02/08			
16144	88346	12/07/07	16224	90704	12/10/07			
16144	85265	26/02/07	16224	94863	25/03/08			
16147	94941	27/03/08	16224	92581	04/01/08			
16147	87138	21/05/07	16226	93771	11/02/08			
16147	83534	02/01/07	16227	92586	04/01/08			
16149	92862	11/01/08	16236	93569	04/02/08			
16153	87266	25/05/07	16239	91626	16/11/07			
16153	85019	19/02/07	16243	93489	31/01/08			
16155	91874	27/11/07	16243	93488	31/01/08			

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 116 OF 2008

HON C A BRUZON:

Did the Minister say 2,079?

HON F J VINET:

Yes, 2,079.

HON C A BRUZON:

Last time the Minister, maybe with some justification, boasted that the numbers had dropped substantially to 877 or thereabouts. So, I am concerned that the kind of productivity that he stressed was taking place last year does not seem to be happening now. Or is it again that the Department has to grapple with the resources made available to them?

HON F J VINET:

Yes, I suppose I did boast last time with some justification and I am very happy to boast once again, but with an equal degree of justification. There is a difference, I think, in the number of tenants that are having work done as opposed to the number of jobs that are being carried out. Although it is true that the number of tenants has gone up from the time when the question was answered, the number of jobs has in fact gone down. In fact, at the time when the question was last asked in 2007, there were 5,764 jobs pending and at the moment that number has gone down quite significantly to 4,007.

HON C A BRUZON:

The Minister has certainly clarified that point, I should rephrase my questions in future so that the Government can give me statistics, vis a vis tenants and vis a vis jobs.

HON F J VINET:

Perhaps I could help, the number does fluctuate from time to time and the figure has gone down and up and so on in the past. But I am told specifically with regard to the number of tenants presently requiring works to be done that the increase in those numbers is down to the recent bad weather, which has led to various problems of dampness, water ingress and so on.

ORAL

NO. 117 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – RENT RELIEF

Can Government state how many households were on full rent relief, to date, as from December 2007, giving a monthly breakdown?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 118 to 121 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 118 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – RENT RELIEF

Can Government state how many households have applied for rent relief, to date, since December 2007, giving a monthly breakdown?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 117 and 119 to 121 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 119 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – RENT RELIEF

Can Government state how many households have received rent relief, to date, as from December 2007, giving a monthly breakdown?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 117, 118, 120 and 121 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 120 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – RENT RELIEF

Can Government state how many households have had the level of rent relief reduced, to date, as from December 2007, giving a monthly breakdown?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 117 to 119 and 121 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 121 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – RENT RELIEF

Can Government state how many households on rent relief have had this benefit terminated, to date, as from December 2007, giving a monthly breakdown?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

I hand the hon Member the information requested in written format.

Answer to Question 121 of 2008

Answer to Question 117

The number of households that were on full Rent Relief, to date, as from December 2007, is as follows;

DECEMBER 2007	-	40
JANUARY 2008	-	40
FEBRUARY 2008	-	41
MARCH 2008 (until 28/3/08)	-	38

Answer to Question 118

The number of households that have applied for Rent Relief, to date, since December 2007, is as follows:

DECEMBER 2007	-	0
JANUARY 2008	-	6 (4 ACTIVE)
FEBRUARY 2008	-	3 (3 ACTIVE)
MARCH 2008 (until 28/3/08)	-	0

Answer to Question 119

The number of households that have received Rent Relief, to date, as from December 2007, is as follows:

DECEMBER 2007	-	638
JANUARY 2008	-	639
FEBRUARY 2008	-	626
MARCH 2008 (until 28/3/08)	-	613

Answer to Question 120

The number of households that have had the level of Rent Relief reduced, to date, as from December 2007, is as follows:

DECEMBER 2007	-	18
JANUARY 2008	-	16
FEBRUARY 2008	-	20
MARCH 2008 (until 28/3/08)	-	11

Answer to Question 121

The number of households, on Rent Relief, that have had this benefit terminated, to date, as from December 2007, is as follows:

DECEMBER 2007	-	11
JANUARY 2008	-	05
FEBRUARY 2008	-	08
MARCH 2008 (until 28/3/08)	-	16

ORAL

NO. 122 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – ARREARS OF RENT AGREEMENTS

Can Government state how many tenants have entered into agreements to pay arrears of rent, to date, as from November 2007, giving a monthly breakdown, and what is the total of arrears covered by such agreements?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

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

Answer to Question 122 of 2008

The number of tenants that have entered into agreements to pay arrears of rent, to date, as from November 2007 is as follows:

<u>Month</u>	<u>No. of tenants entering agreements</u>	<u>Amount</u>
November 2007	16	£37,040.31
December 2007	6	£6,601.85
January 2008	1	£479.30
February 2008	2	£6,243.87
March 2008 (to date)	<u>5</u>	<u>£40,292.57</u>
TOTAL	<u>30</u>	<u>£90,657.90</u>

ORAL

NO. 123 OF 2008

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. 574 of 2007?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

A total of three pre-War housing units have been allocated to date since the answer given to Question No. 574 of 2007.

ORAL

NO. 124 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – REPOSSESSED FLATS

Can Government state how many Government flats have been repossessed, to date, since the answer given to Question No. 575 of 2007?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

One flat has been repossessed to date.

ORAL

NO. 125 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – SOCIAL CATEGORY ‘A’ LIST

Can Government state how many persons are currently on the Housing Social Category ‘A’ List?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 126 to 128 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 126 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – SOCIAL CATEGORY ‘A’ LIST

Since the answer given to Question No. 577 of 2007, can Government state how many applicants have been placed on the Housing Social Category ‘A’ List and give the dates?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 125, 127 and 128 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 127 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – SOCIAL CATEGORY ‘A’ LIST

With reference to the answer given to Question No. 577 of 2007, can Government state how many applicants, since that date, have been removed from the Housing Social Category ‘A’ List because a suitable dwelling has been found for them and give the dates?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 125, 126 and 128 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 128 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – POST-WAR FLATS (SOCIAL CASES)

Can Government state how many post-war housing units have been allocated to social cases as from November 2007, providing a monthly breakdown?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

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

Answer to Question 128 of 2008

Answer to Question 125

There are currently 87 persons on the Social 'A' List.

Answer to Question 126

A total of 15 applicants have been placed on the Social Category 'A' List since Question 577 of 2007, as follows:

November 2007 (since 29.11.07)	-	Nil
December 2007	-	4
January 2008	-	2
February 2008	-	3
March 2008	-	6

Answer to Question 127

Since the answer given to Question 577 of 2007, a total of seven applicants have been removed from the Housing Social Category 'A' List because a suitable dwelling has been found for them, as follows:

November 2007 (since 29.11.07)	-	Nil
December 2007	-	1
January 2008	-	2
February 2008	-	1
March 2008	-	3

Answer to Question 128

A total of five post-war housing units have been allocated to social cases as from November 2007, as follows:

November 2007 (since 29.11.07)	-	Nil
December 2007	-	1
January 2008	-	1
February 2008	-	1
March 2008	-	2

ORAL

NO. 129 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – MEDICALLY RECOMMENDED PERSONS

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. 130 to 132 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 130 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – MEDICALLY RECOMMENDED PERSONS

Can Government state how many applicants, 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. 129, 131 and 132 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 131 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – MEDICAL LISTS

Since the answer given to Question No. 581 of 2007, can Government state how many applicants have been placed on the various Medical Housing Lists 'A+', 'A', 'B' and 'C', and give the dates?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 129, 130 and 132 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 132 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – MEDICAL LISTS

With reference to the answer given to Question No. 581 of 2007, can Government state how many applicants, since that date, have been removed from the various Medical Housing Lists 'A+', 'A', 'B' and 'C', because a suitable dwelling has been found for them, and give the dates?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

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

Answer to Question 132 of 2008

Answer to Question 129

There are 45 applicants on the Housing Waiting List, to date, who are medically recommended as follows:

A+	-	Nil
A	-	14
B	-	15
C	-	16

Answer to Question 130

There are 191 persons, to date, who are medically recommended, apart from those who are described as applicants on the Housing Waiting List, as follows:

A+	-	23
A	-	60
B	-	47
C	-	61

Answer to Question 131

A total number of 28 applicants have been placed on the various Medical Housing Lists since the answer given to Question 581, as follows:

Date	A+	A	B	C
November 2007 (since 29.11.07)	-	-	-	-
December 2007	2	7	2	4
January 2008	-	-	-	-
February 2008	2	6	3	2
March 2008	-	-	-	-

Answer to Question 132

A total of four applicants have been removed from the various Medical Housing Lists since the answer given to Question 581 of 2007 because a suitable dwelling has been found for them, as follows:

Date	A+	A	B	C
November 2007 (since 29.11.07)	-	-	1	-
December 2007	-	1	-	1
January 2008	-	-	-	-
February 2008	-	-	-	-
March 2008	-	-	1	-

ORAL

NO. 133 OF 2008

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. 582 of 2007, how many applicants had overcrowding points disallowed because other people who had sold their homes moved in with them?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question No. 134 of 2008.

NO. 134 OF 2008

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. 583 of 2007, how many applicants were allowed points for overcrowding when other people who had sold their homes moved in with them?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

No housing applicant has had overcrowding points disallowed because other people who had sold their homes moved in with them. Equally, no housing applicant has had overcrowding points allowed when other people have sold their homes and moved in with them.

ORAL

NO. 135 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – WAITING LIST

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

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question No. 136 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 136 OF 2008

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

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

Answer to Question 136 of 2008

Answer to Question 135

There are currently 681 applicants on the Housing Waiting List as follows:

1RKB	-	335
2RKB	-	46
3RKB	-	184
4RKB	-	104
5RKB	-	11
6RKB	-	1

Answer to Question 136

There are currently 412 applicants on the Pre-List for Housing as follows:

1RKB	-	281
2RKB	-	19
3RKB	-	81
4RKB	-	31
5RKB	-	-
6RKB	-	-

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 135 AND 136 OF 2008

HON C A BRUZON:

I thank the Minister for the statistics. I have noticed there has been a slight increase in the people waiting for housing on these lists. The applicants on the Housing Waiting List proper is now 681 as given to me in the written form, and in answer to Question No. 136 of 2008 applicants on the Pre-list now stand at 412. Thank you.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Does the hon Member think it is too many? I just ask because I recall they are all surprised when the Government announced the projects for the building of the new houses, that the hon Member responded publicly saying that he thought we were building too many new houses.

HON C A BRUZON:

I do not remember saying any such thing. Maybe it was somebody else. What I did express surprise on was the question of the 700 flats for rental that before the Election it was 700 and after the Election it was 490.

ORAL

NO. 137 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – APPLICATIONS REJECTED

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 the answer to Question No. 586 of 2007?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question No. 138 of 2008.

NO. 138 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED

Can Government state how many applicants for housing were accepted because in the judgement of the Housing Allocation Committee the sale was necessary, giving a breakdown by month, since the answer given to Question No. 587 of 2007?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

No housing applicant has been rejected on the grounds that they were homeowners who had chosen to sell their homes since Question No. 586 of 2007.

A total of seven applicants for housing were accepted because in the judgement of the Housing Allocation Committee the sale was necessary. That figure is broken down:

December 2007	-	2
January 2008	-	3
February 2008	-	2
March to date	-	None

ORAL

NO. 139 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – HOMELESS PERSONS

Can Government state how many cases of applications for housing from homeless persons there have been since the answer given to Question No. 581 of 2004, giving a breakdown by month?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 140 and 141 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 140 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – HOMELESS PERSONS

Can Government confirm that all the cases of application for housing from homeless persons have been subject to the procedure explained in answer to Question No. 581 of 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 139 and 141 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 141 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – HOMELESS PERSONS

Can Government say, in respect of applications for housing by homeless persons, since the answer given to Question No. 581 of 2004, how many were accepted and how many were rejected as a result of the application of the new procedures?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

The information requested is contained in a schedule that I have now handed over to the hon Member.

Answer to Question 141 of 2008

Answer to Question 139

A total of 72 applications from homeless persons have been received since Question 581 of 2004, as follows:

Date	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
January				1	2
February		3	1		5
March		2		2	2
April		1	2	2	
May	3	2		2	
June	1	1	4	1	
July				2	
August			2	3	
September	1	1	2	3	
October	1		1	2	
November	3		2	2	
December	2	1	2	5	

Answer to Question 140

Yes, all cases of application for housing from homeless persons have been subject to the procedure explained in answer to Question 581 of 2004.

Answer to Question 141

A total of 65 applications for housing by homeless persons have been accepted and none rejected since Question 581 of 2004.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 139 TO 141 OF 2008

HON C A BRUZON:

If I can remind the House of what these procedures were in 2004 and then maybe ask a supplementary question. In answer to Question No. 581 of 2004, I was told the following: “the new procedure put in place concerning applications for Government housing by homeless persons is, once it is established that the homelessness has not been self-inflicted, a homeless report for a period of one month must be provided. After the first two weeks, the Housing Inspector will monitor the situation at random and report on the matter for the consideration of the Housing Advisory Committee”. So what I am being told here then is that yes, all cases of application for housing from homeless persons have been subject to the procedure explained in answer to Question No. 581 of 2004. If the Minister could kindly give me more details as to how this procedure is possible and how it has actually worked. First, one has to establish that the homelessness is not self-inflicted. Then a homeless report for a period of one month must be provided. Thirdly, after the first two weeks the Housing Inspector will monitor the situation at random and report on the matter for the consideration of the Housing Allocation Committee. How have they gone about it to establish these various points?

HON F J VINET:

Precisely in the manner just described.

HON C A BRUZON:

The question of the self-infliction, who decides whether or not a case of homelessness is self-inflicted? What are the yardsticks used to measure this?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Usually it is a matter of fact which can be established. If somebody sort of sells their home, banks the cash and then says “I am homeless”, that is self-inflicted, does he agree? There are special provisions in place for people who are obliged to sell their house because they cannot keep up the mortgage payments and then there is a separate investigative process to ensure that that is genuine or not. People could choose to leave a house where they are adequately housed. For example, a young person could be living with her parents in their own bedroom, perfectly well housed, and decide one day that they want to leave home and walk out onto the streets, I half imagine how that might happen being the parent of growing up children, and then say that they are homeless. Well, that is self-inflicted but there may be circumstances in which even that is worthy of consideration, depending on the circumstances. So, whether or not it is self-inflicted is usually the least difficult part of the process. The most difficult part of the process is to decide whether notwithstanding that it is self-inflicted, it nevertheless is meritorious of consideration.

HON C A BRUZON:

Also the question, of course, of the homeless report for a period of one month must be provided. By whom?

HON F J VINET:

Could the hon Member repeat the question?

HON C A BRUZON:

The next step here is that a homeless report for a period of one month must be provided. By whom?

HON F J VINET:

By the person who is applying to be categorised as homeless.

HON C G BELTRAN:

Just for the sake of clarification, I am very clear on that, that the person who is declaring himself or herself homeless, has to report to the counter at Housing saying "I am still in that situation", and actually confirms his or her.....

HON F R PICARDO:

Thirty days of homelessness.

HON C G BELTRAN:

That is correct, that is the procedure as it stands now. I hope it is clear.

HON F R PICARDO:

It is very clear. That the Minister is telling us that this report on homelessness means that the Government's way of promptly dealing with a problem of homelessness, which may not be self-inflicted, in other words, real homelessness, is to require the individual to attend every day for thirty days and say "I remain homeless". Do the Government really expect the people of Gibraltar to believe that that is reasonable?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, the Government do because neither this Government nor any previous Government have ever produced homes on tap for people who become homeless instantly. It is entirely reasonable that before one skips the queue in front of people that have been patiently waiting for a home, and before one gets favourable treatment at the expense of people who have been patiently waiting, there should be

a system in place to establish that one is genuinely and permanently homeless and not self-inflicted or temporary. I expect the people of Gibraltar to believe that that is an eminently reasonable system, yes.

HON F R PICARDO:

Well, frankly, I think he will find it very difficult to make them believe that, because would he not agree with me that it is totally unreasonable if it is possible to determine on the first day that the homelessness is not self-inflicted, to require somebody for example in the winter months of December and January, to turn up at the Housing Department on 25th December when it is closed, on 26th December when it is closed, on the 27th, 28th and 29th when it might also be closed if the Chief Minister has decided that the Civil Service will not be working on those days, and for 30 days in order simply to prove that which might easily have been demonstrable on the first day that the homelessness occurred. Is that what he is telling people is the fair and proper way of dealing with somebody whose homelessness could have been seen to have been not self-inflicted on day one?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes and the unreasonableness of my view is not a product of the volume and decibels of which he shouts at me. That is exactly what I believe. The contrary is to me eminently unreasonable. In other words, that the Government should have somewhere, a drawer full of keys of empty flats waiting to see so that the moment somebody becomes allegedly homeless, immediately a key is given and within 24 hours they are installed in their comfortable new home. That is what seems to me to be eminently unreasonable and to the extent that the policy that I am describing now is unreasonable, I want to alert him that if we are unreasonable, all previous Gibraltar Governments before us have also been unreasonable, because as far as I am aware, there is no difference in the way that we deal with homelessness and the way previous administrations have dealt with homelessness. So, if the hon Member is right, and I do not believe that he is, but if he is right then Gibraltar has always dealt unreasonably with homeless people. Perhaps because Governments of Gibraltar, this one and the previous one, have never accepted the challenge of converting themselves into statutory housing authorities, such as local councils in the United Kingdom, have a statutory duty to provide housing for homeless people. The Government of Gibraltar has never accepted to become a statutory housing authority, presumably precisely to avoid the obligation to provide housing for people on a mandatory, statutory basis. So I believe that the position of the Government is not only a continuation of what the policy and the practice has always been, but I believe it to be wholly reasonable in the context of the resources available to the Government.

HON F R PICARDO:

If the Chief Minister thinks I am shouting at him it is because he has never heard me shout. I echo the words of many of the Government Members, "I am on my feet". What I am saying and he does not appear to be able or want to grasp, is that there are instances where on day one an individual's homelessness may be demonstrably not self-inflicted. Now, whether it is on day one or day 31, what the Government are asking people to believe is that they have no way of determining, without that intervening period, whether the homelessness is or is not voluntary or involuntary,

self-inflicted or not self-inflicted. In those circumstances, when it is determined that the homelessness is not self-inflicted the Chief Minister seems to suggest that he is able to resolve the problem of homelessness. Why should somebody wait 30 days when the involuntariness of his situation is provable?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, the hon Member of course is entirely entitled to his views and to express them at whatever decibel he chooses. The hon Member needs to understand the difference between homelessness of the sort that results from a person's simply not having a home, and emergency homelessness, in the sense of somebody having a home and losing it, for example, in the context of a fire. The Government do not have houses instantly available because there is a fire as opposed to there not being a fire, but when there is a fire then the usual practice, I understand, is that people get put up in a hotel. If the Government were to stop putting up in hotels everybody that came and declared themselves homeless, and presumably in his more reasonable version of the policy, presumably he is not racist about these things. So anybody that turned up on the Government's doorstep, even if they had just arrived the day before yesterday on the aeroplane or just walked across the border, presumably on the basis of the Government immediately providing a house for everybody that we know to be, we would have to do it on the grounds that it is a moral requirement for the Government to provide an immediate house to everybody who is homeless. Or is he suggesting that this would just be for Gibraltarians?

HON F R PICARDO:

No, I am suggesting that this issue should be dealt with by the Government in relation to entitled persons, persons who are entitled to Government housing, not Tom, Dick or Harry who might come across our frontier from the wider European Union with the right to travel into Gibraltar and declare themselves homeless in Gibraltar. Or as homeless in Gibraltar as they are anywhere else in the European Union. My question, and mine are questions they are not views or anything else, is about entitled people who are involuntarily homeless. I would ask the Chief Minister to deal with that question and not ascribe to me any views simply because of the questions that I am putting. We have had quite enough of that this session already.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, the hon Member needs to keep a little bit more control. I realise he is terribly upset about many things and I fear that by this time tomorrow he will be even more upset. But listen, the hon Member needs to accept and understand that the Government's ability to provide housing is dictated by the amount of housing stock available. He has already heard from the Minister the number of people on the waiting list. Many of those people are also homeless in the sense that they are only not homeless because somebody is accommodating them badly. Almost everybody can do that and the difference between somebody who asserts that they are homeless but really mean that they want to avoid resolving that homelessness in the way that so many hundreds of others do it, that is by being accommodated at huge inconvenience by family members, that is not something that is possible for the Government to distinguish. Of course, if the word got out that if one is homeless, meaning an adult without their own home and that the parents do not have enough spare bedrooms in their house to accommodate them, they are therefore homeless,

of that definition of homelessness which anybody can bring about, there would be hundreds of people. Most people on the Housing Waiting List indeed fall into that category. They are all living somewhere, under-housed, over crowded, they could easily walk out of the door and say "well I have left because that house is over crowded". Correct. "And therefore I am technically homeless". It would just be a way where people who are waiting on the Waiting List would just get priority over and above people who are in the same position as them, except that they have not walked out into the streets from wherever they are sleeping at the moment and declared themselves homeless. I do not think that that is a sensible way. Of course, we would all like to have enough houses available to be able to do it differently, but this Government has not had them, the previous one has not had them either and the one before that. I suspect that the next one, which hopefully will not be him, will not have them either.

HON F R PICARDO:

He might be very wrong.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The original question dealt with allegedly new procedures which were being applied. The Chief Minister says that the procedure that has just been described and that we have been debating for a considerable time, apparently has always been there and is not a new procedure. Can he tell the House what is the new procedure? Is this 30 day rule a new procedure or not a new procedure?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Minister next to me explained the procedure. I said that there had been no change.....

HON J J BOSSANO:

I have not finished. The question was in relation to the 30 days when somebody goes to the Housing Department and says "I am homeless". The Chief Minister says that that person is dealt with in the way it has always been dealt with by every previous Government.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Perhaps he can tell me the difference then.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

What I said was dealt with in the same way now as has always been dealt with, is the Government's non giving immediately of a house to somebody who becomes immediately homeless, even though Governments have known that the homelessness is genuine. No Government of Gibraltar has ever been able, as a matter of policy or resource availability, to say to everybody that becomes homeless, however genuine they might accept their homelessness to be, yes here is a key go move into it straight away within 24 hours. What I was saying there had been no change of practice in relation to was his Colleague's suggestion that it was unreasonable that the Government should not make immediately available a house to somebody that they immediately accepted was genuinely immediately homeless. That was what I said.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The Chief Minister thinks that there are only two alternatives. Either one gives the guy the key in five minutes or make him a xxxxxx. There is no in between. Either he waits 30 days, and if we think waiting 30 days is unreasonable, he deduces from that that the alternative we are suggesting is instant re-housing. To criticise the 30 days does not mean that one said because 30 days is wrong, it means it should be instant.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I agree but he said that.

HON F R PICARDO:

I have not said that.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The Chief Minister said that dealing with homeless people after 30 days was one policy and that the contrary policy, which was eminently unreasonable, was immediate re-housing. Those were his words. Now, I have to tell him if he has only introduced the 30 days in the last six months, how long has the 30 days been in place? Perhaps he can answer that question, that is a simple question.

HON C G BELTRAN:

Well, certainly it was there in my time as Minister for Housing which started in 2003 or 2004 and it was there already.

HON J J BOSSANO:

If we get told in the House in answer to Question No. 581 of 2004 that the cases are being dealt as a result of the application of the new procedures, and we question the wisdom and the success of new procedures, which we are entitled to do, what they cannot tell us now is that the new procedures have always been there. Well then

they are not new procedures. Now, are they new procedures or not? If they are new procedures and it is eminently reasonable to do this and eminently unreasonable not to do it, why has it taken him nine years of being eminently unreasonable before he decides to be eminently reasonable? Twelve years, even worse.

HON F J VINET:

These procedures have not been described as new procedures by anyone on the Government side today, rather by his Colleague the Hon Mr Bruzon. They were described as a new procedure in answer to Question No. 581 of 2004.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Yes this is a follow up to the answer. If we are told in Question No. 581 of 2004, these are the procedures that are now being applied, just like we were told before that there is a procedure now which has never existed before that is applied to somebody that moves into his parent's house. That is a new procedure because before if one moved into one's parents house, it did not mean that the Department would not measure the house and give one points. Before they did now they do not. That is a new procedure. So now we ask, well how many people have moved into people's houses and have not received extra points of overcrowding. That is a new procedure. So everything that the hon Members have told us are new procedures, we then put questions to monitor how these new procedures are functioning in practice. Now, if the 30 day rule on homelessness is a new rule that says if one goes to the Housing Department and one claims to be homeless.....

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The new rule is 2004.

HON F R PICARDO:

New from 2004, not from 1996.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So the hon Member was being eminently unreasonable for eight years before he started being reasonable in 2004 then. It says the absence of the rule. I agree, there was probably no procedure at all. People just dealt with the cases on what they judged to be the merits of the case and now there is a rule of 30 days which may be more than justified in some cases and totally unjustified in others. Is there no flexibility in this rule?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

That is a different issue. The last five minutes is because he stood up to say the fact that 30 days we say is not reasonable does not mean that the alternative is immediate. Fine, but he cannot say that to me because I was responding to the Hon Mr Picardo's statement, which of course he now denies saying, except does he not

remember shouting "if the Chief Minister really thinks that the people of Gibraltar will accept that it is reasonable that somebody whom they know to be homeless does not get it", well he is wrong. Of course, now he denies saying anything about instant immediacy when the Government know that the housing homelessness is genuine. Of course everybody listening in this room, and everybody listening on the radio know precisely that that is what the Hon Mr Picardo said. We live with the fact that immediately after he says it, it no longer suits him, he then denies it. That is a matter of systematic style in this House. But I agree with the Leader of the Opposition that there is nothing scientific about the 30 days. It is a system to which a timetable has been attached designed principally, to establish the genuineness of the homelessness as has been heard, and I suppose also, although it has not been said, to try and find a place, to try and find a home for people that are found at the end of that process to be genuinely homeless. It has got to be rooted out, there might be some emergency repairs that need to be done there and then, it might be one of the houses waiting in this list that we have heard about to be fixed, there are any number of things that means that the house cannot be provided immediately. But there is nothing magical about the 30 days, it could be three weeks, or five weeks, it could be delayed. Absolutely right, I agree with the proposition in the last supplementary but, of course, every system, the purposes of timetable is not so that it cannot take less, it is a matter of discipline, so that it does not take more usually. In other words, the system is geared up to at least providing an outside cap. The alternative is that there is no scheme and the bureaucracy takes as long as it chooses to take to establish genuineness, to establish availability of a home. Now, wherever one has a system with a timetable there is a timetable attached to it. The timetable is never compulsory in the sense that it cannot be done in less time. It may be that genuineness can be established in less than four weeks. Fine, if genuineness can be established in less than four weeks and, also, a house can be found in less than four weeks, the system does not then say, "well alright, I have established that you are genuine in two weeks. I have identified a home, here is the key but I am not giving it to you for another fortnight because I have got to wait for the four weeks to elapse". No one has suggested that that is the system.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can I also ask the Government, is it not the case, in fact, that even then after the 30 days or if they manage to do it before 30 days, what is actually given to people in that situation are pre-war dwellings that are given to social cases. So, to give the impression that they can jump over the heads of all the people on the waiting list is not correct, is it? They do not get given post-war houses that are allocated to people on the waiting list.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes to the last and no to the first bit of what he said. Yes, it is not the case that the Government now only use pre-war houses for social cases. This was part of our attempt to end the, people started using ugly words like "ghettos" in respect of some parts of the Upper Town, which is where most of the Government's pre-war properties happen to be located, and there was a sense developing that the Upper Town was just getting full up of what are called, again a pretty unpleasant sort of phrase, "social cases" and it was true. So it is not true, indeed, most of the old pre-War houses are now sold where possible rather than repaired. So it is true, contrary to what he has suggested, it is true that post-war houses are also available to social cases.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is it not the case, in fact, that the last time we asked that in the House we were told, I think it was when Mr Netto was responsible, that it was only in exceptional cases that post-war houses were given to people who were homeless or on the social waiting list. So when has the new policy come in, then?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

There was a date, obviously, when it happened for the first time, I do not remember, but it was some time ago. It is not recent as in post the last Elections.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well, I think we have been operating on the basis that the policy had not changed because we had had no knowledge of that change coming in. I think it would be useful to know when it happened.

HON F J VINET:

In answer to a previous question, in fact Question No. 128 of 2008, it was revealed that there were seven flats that had been handed over to so-called social cases since November of last year. In fact, five of those seven are post-war properties.

HON J J BOSSANO:

We have been given to understand that the post-war allocation to such cases was the exception to the rule where there were special circumstances. We could have somebody, for example, that has got disability or something, or a particular illness, and therefore one cannot put them in a pre-war house. That is how we understood the system was still operating because that is how it used to operate in the past.

HON F J VINET:

There has been a shift away from that approach but it has been a gradual one.

HON C A BRUZON:

I am the hon Member who asked the question and I would like to ask one more supplementary. The whole point of the question was that I wanted to understand the new procedure that was introduced by the Hon James Netto in 2004. My third supplementary on this new procedure consists of asking a question on step No. 3. After the first two weeks the Housing Inspector will monitor the situation at random. Now, I do not know if the present Minister for Housing can answer me how does the Housing Inspector at random monitor the situation of a homeless person?

HON C G BELTRAN:

In my experience, that means that Housing Inspectors in these cases go out at random to make sure that these people are homeless, genuinely homeless, and not actually living in a flat. The point is that we have to make sure that he or she is not living in a house, in a flat. If we phone somebody we do not know where they are, obviously, which is what the hon Member is suggesting.

HON S E LINARES:

It is logical, the person is homeless.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The person says that they are homeless.

HON S E LINARES:

It is not know where they are living, how does one go randomly to where they are living if it is not known where they are?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Does the hon Member really believe what he has just said?

HON S E LINARES:

Yes.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Just as well he is not likely to find himself with the responsibility.

HON C A BRUZON:

With respect to all my colleagues here and the Ministers, what I would like to do is to make it possible for the people of Gibraltar to understand Government procedures, that they really have practical meaning and that they work. It seems to me that some of these requirements are a little bit difficult to implement or to monitor, the methods that they are suggesting. How do we monitor somebody who is homeless? Do we go to the Alameda Gardens at 3.00 a.m. to see if they are sleeping on a bench? Or do we ask the Police to report on the matter?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

We ask them. "Where are you sleeping? Where are you living?". "Well. I am sleeping in a car", and then we go and we find out. Absolutely. The alternative, does the hon Member not understand, that if there were not systems of this sort, however

irrational he may believe them to be, everybody would simply allege that they are homeless when they are not, or make themselves homeless when they are not, and then there would be no waiting list. There would be a new list, all the other lists would end and there would be one new list called the social homeless list on which everybody would be. Does he not understand that what he calls as xxxxxx, this crusade that he is on to make sure that people understand the system, people believe me understand the system. The only one who has got lack of clarity about it is him. He has to be very careful.....

HON C A BRUZON:

On a Point of Order. The Chief Minister is again kind of making a political speech. My question was genuine, I wanted to understand how the thing worked in practice and that is it. By way of concluding, if I may just make a small statement, if there had been adequate provision for homes for our people, many of these homeless cases would not exist.

ORAL

NO. 142 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – ANONYMOUS PHONE CALLS

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

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

and provide a breakdown as from November 2007?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

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

Answer to Question 142

Since the policy of inviting anonymous phone calls on the possible non-use of Government rented dwellings was introduced:

- (a) 118 phone calls have been received
- (b) 65 were found to be correct.

A breakdown as from November 2007 is as follows:

Month	Calls	Correct	Incorrect
November 2007 (since 29.11.07)	2	-	2
December 2007	1	1	-
January 2008	3	2	1
February 2008	6	3	3
March 2008	4	3	1
TOTAL	16	9	7

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 142 OF 2008

HON C A BRUZON:

Who is, in fact, responsible for checking the correctness of these calls and how does it happen? There are seven incorrect reports, nine correct and in total 16 calls.

HON F J VINET:

The Housing Inspectors are the ones who are informed of the information received and will go out to these properties and check for themselves that the information provided is indeed true or otherwise.

HON N F COSTA:

Of the incorrect number of cases, there are seven, out of those seven how many of these people have been subjected to court proceedings?

HON F J VINET:

If it is found that the information provided is incorrect, then the Housing Department does not take any steps to evict the person concerned.

HON N F COSTA:

I do not think that the question is at all funny because I have personally had cases where people have been subjected to court proceedings, court proceedings have been started, they have been at fear of losing their houses and halfway through the case it has been discovered that the information was incorrect. So I do not think that is anything to laugh about, people are afraid of losing their houses.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

One is not laughing at that, if one is laughing at all it is about the fact that that is not the question that the hon Member has asked. Look, the hon Member has asked the perfectly sensible question, we have a hotline system where people report things that they think are the case. There have been 16 of those, they are investigated, the Housing Department gets 16 calls of allegedly empty houses or this and that in their view and they are investigated. If upon investigation seven of those 16 are found to be incorrect. In other words, "el chivatazo no era verdad", well obviously then it does not go to litigation. Now, amongst the ones that are correct there might be legal action which the court then disallows, and the cases to which he is referring, by definition, can only be amongst the nine not the seven.

HON J J BOSSANO:

It is because the Cordoba Agreement Institute did not arrive. When we get the Institute here we will all understand his lapses into Castillian.

NO. 143 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

HOUSING – EXPENDITURE ON MATERIALS

Can Government state whether the sum of £1m for materials approved in the Housing Estimates of Expenditure for the last financial year has been used up, and if so, by what date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

The original sum of £1 million for materials was spent, used up to use the hon Member's phraseology, by the 1st March 2008. However, I should add that a request to the Financial Secretary for supplementary funding was initiated beforehand in mid-February this year, in order to maintain productivity.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 143 OF 2008

HON J J BOSSANO:

I take it that the implication is that the request that was submitted was actually approved and the funds were increased for materials in March, is that correct?

HON F J VINET:

Correct.

NO. 144 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – WAITING LISTS (RE-INSTATEMENTS)

With reference to the answer given to Question No. 774 of 2007, can Government state how many persons, if any, have in fact been re-instated in the Housing Waiting Lists because of a genuine inability to complete the purchase within any of the Government's home ownership schemes?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

A total of 34 applicants have been re-instated in the Housing Waiting Lists because of a genuine inability to complete the purchase within the Government's home ownership schemes.

ORAL

NO. 145 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – LETTERS OF ALLOCATION NEW RENTAL ESTATE

With reference to the answer given to Question No. 785 of 2007, how many of the 490 applicants who received letters of allocation in the proposed new Government rental estate have since been offered an existing Government flat and how many have accepted?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question No. 146 of 2008.

NO. 146 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – PRE-LIST APPLICANTS NEW RENTAL ESTATE

With reference to their proposed new rental estate, can Government state how many letters were sent to applicants on the pre-list for housing out of the 490 that were actually issued?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Since the answer given to Question No. 785 of 2007, a total of 24 applicants have since been offered an existing Government flat and have accepted.

Out of the 490 letters that were actually issued, 71 of them were sent to applicants on the pre-list for housing.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 145 AND 146 OF 2008

HON C A BRUZON:

With reference to the answer given to Question No. 146 of 2008 concerning letters sent to applicants on the pre-list, when I asked the question in December about who had allocated these homes and the Government told me that it was in fact the Government and not the Housing Allocation Committee, but they did this with reference to the Housing Waiting Lists. Of course, I assumed that they meant Waiting Lists proper and not the pre-list. Now those 71, can the Minister for Housing confirm that they wrote these letters to these people who really are not entitled to anything until the period for the pre-list, which I think is two years still, has passed, or whether these 71 letters were written to people who were in fact special cases, like social or medical cases?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not know the answer to that question and I doubt if my hon Friend knows that either. In any case, by the time the houses are ready the pre-list qualification period will have elapsed.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I take it that what the Chief Minister really means is that the concept of having a pre-list would have been terminated because if there is still a pre-list, somebody that joins that pre-list a day before the houses are ready would still have two years ahead? It will elapse for the people who are there today he means.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, the hon Member asked whether in respect of the people, the recipients on the pre-list, at the time that they got the letter, I assumed him to mean at the time that they were written to, whether they were on the pre-list without entitlement to housing, otherwise they would have passed from the pre-list, and he asked implicit in his question does it mean that they would get a house to which they were not entitled? Since being on the pre-list means that one is not yet entitled. To which I answered that I did not know how many of them, they are all on the pre-list and therefore none are entitled theoretically at the time that they get the letter, but by the time the houses are built.....

HON J J BOSSANO:

They will have moved.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, yes, they will have two years. I suppose that it is possible that somebody came on to the pre-list and if the project does not take a full two years to build, they could theoretically get a house before they had been built, highly unlikely. We can find out where these 71 came from. The other thing that he asked was whether it was just the top slice of the pre-list or whether they were selected by special circumstance. The answer is I do not know but I doubt it, I suspect it is just the top slice of the pre-list because people are ranked in the pre-list by the date in which they entered into the list. So I suspect all that's happened, but I am not aware that any selection process has taken place. So it is just the top, however many flats are available of the pre-list.

ORAL

NO. 147 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

NEW AIRLINES

Can Government say whether any of the six new airlines which they were in contact with in December 2007 are interested in flying to countries that are not presently served by flights to and from Gibraltar airport?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, TRAFFIC AND
TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 148 and 149 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 148 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

NEW AIRLINES

Can Government say whether they continue in contact with the six airlines that were interested in flying to Gibraltar in December 2007?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, TRAFFIC AND
TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question Nos. 147 and 149 of 2008.

NO. 149 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

AIR LINKS BETWEEN GIBRALTAR AND MOROCCO

Can Government say whether they are in discussions with any airline that is interested in establishing air links between Gibraltar and Morocco?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, TRAFFIC AND
TRANSPORT**

Yes, Sir, three of the six airlines with which the Government were in contact with in December 2007 are interested in flying to countries that are not presently served by flights to and from Gibraltar airport.

All six airlines continue in contact with the Government.

Government is not in discussion with any airline that is interested in establishing air links between Gibraltar and Morocco. That is not in discussion.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 147 TO 149 OF 2008

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In relation to the six airlines that are interested in flying to three new countries, are they three new countries or are they three different ones?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

To clarify, three of the six airlines are interested in flying to other countries not necessarily three countries.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Other destinations in the same country or are they different countries? If the Minister could say which countries they are it would be more helpful but I am assuming he may not want to do that.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The information that I have in front of me, which is not very explicit, is two of them are interested in one country and the third one in a different country.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Minister say which countries they are?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I would not like to go into detail for the same reasons that I gave the last time, because these are commercial negotiations which are in progress and it is not advisable to give away too much at this stage.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

When the Minister says that the Government is in contact with these airlines, what contact is that? An e-mail, a letter or have there actually been formal meetings where the Government have sat down with these airlines and actually met with them face to face, what kind of contact is this?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Various stages of discussion, probably including all of those. Remember some of these go back before I took over, on-going but all still formal and serious on-going negotiations.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

On the question of air links with Morocco, is this something the Government would like to advance or to see as a matter of policy or is the Government leaving it up to individual airlines who might be interested to come and make the first approach?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Government is interested in principle in establishing air links with Morocco. It is doing both things, looking for opportunities to establish this but also waiting for others to come forward. At the moment there is nothing on the horizon.

ORAL

NO. 150 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR AIRPORT – OCCURRENCE REPORTS

Can Government say whether any of the fifteen mandatory occurrence reports into incidents at Gibraltar Airport whose status was shown as “open” in answer to Question No. 592 of 2007 have now been closed and if so with what conclusion?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, TRAFFIC AND
TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question No. 151 of 2008.

NO. 151 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR AIRPORT – OCCURRENCE REPORTS

Can Government say how many mandatory occurrence reports have been raised in relation to incidents at Gibraltar Airport in 2008 to date, with a breakdown giving the date of the incident, the name of the airline and aircraft involved, and a short description of each case?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, TRAFFIC AND
TRANSPORT**

The statistical information requested by the hon Member is in the schedule which is being handed over to him. I would like to add on a cautionary note the same caveat that I made when I answered this question previously, that the Government do not have any responsibility for preparing these mandatory reports. The information provided has been provided to us by the MOD. I say this purely as a caution because if in future the information is not available, it is not because the Government do not want to provide it but because it may not have been made available to the Government.

Answer to Question 151/2008

Date	Aircraft Type	Airline	Occurrence
01/01/08	Airbus 320	Monarch	Aircraft taxied past the holding point to which he had been cleared by ATC resulting in a runway incursion.
15/02/08	Airbus 319	Iberia	Radio communications between ATC and the Airport Fire Service/mobile Bird Control Vehicle failed for 2 minutes. This lack of communications resulted in runway being not secured and aircraft having to abort landing
17/02/08	Airbus 320	GB Airways	Aircraft taxied past the holding point to which he had been cleared by ATC resulting in a runway incursion
22/02/08	Airbus 320	Monarch	Notification by Met Office to ATC of change in weather did not conform to agreed procedure due communication equipment failure
22/02/08	Airbus 320	GB Airways	Large cruiser entered runway undershoot during aircraft approach causing aircraft to abort landing
26/02/08	Airbus 320	GB Airways	Tall masted yacht entered runway undershoot during aircraft approach causing aircraft to abort landing.

27/03/08

2008 total Occurrence reports to date: 6

Cont....

Contd. Answer to Question 151/2008

Date	Airline/Aircraft	Details of Incident	Action Taken	Status
04/01/07	Monarch/B757	Vehicle entered runway without clearance whilst aircraft was landing.	Driver re-briefed on airfield driving procedures	Closed
27/01/07	Iberia/A319	Aircraft experienced bird strike after take-off. Aircraft diverted to Malaga for inspection.	Review of bird control procedures initiated	Closed Sufficient data available from previous bird strike reports, review of bird control procedures ongoing.
18/04/07	GB Airways/A320	Gibraltar's primary radar failed as aircraft was being vectored for approach. Aircraft continued his approach visually.	Review of power supplies initiated. Reconfiguration of power supplies completed and no failures recorded since	Closed
15/06/07	Private/Cessna 172	Aircraft became lost and landed at Gibraltar without radio contact.	Explanation requested from the pilot who explained that weather and passenger sickness had affected his navigation.	Closed
13/08/07	N/A	Passenger found walking on the apron without permission.	Passenger was detained by terminal security who confirmed that no illegal intent was present and security procedures were reviewed.	Closed
24/06/07	GB Airways/A320	Bird strike on departure, aircraft continued flight to Madrid where slight damage to nose cone was discovered.	As above	Closed X
12/07/07	GB Airways/A320	Bird strike on departure. No damage reported.	As above	Closed X

Cont....

Contd Answer to Question 15/1/2008

Date	Airline/Aircraft	Details of Incident	Action Taken	Status
18/07/07	GB Airways/A320	Bird strike on departure, aircraft continued flight and no damage reported.	As above	Closed X
19/07/07	GB Airways/A320	Bird strike on landing, some damage to engines discovered.	As above	Closed X
27/07/07	N/A	Airfield weeding party did not conform to agreed procedures.	Weeding party re-briefed and now conforming to airfield procedures	Closed
03/08/07	GB Airways/A320	Oil tanker anchored within restricted approach area of runway. Aircraft Captain advised and elected to continue approach.	Harbour master advised	Closed
10/08/07	GB Airways/A319	Evidence of bird strike found after landing. No damage reported.	As above	Closed X
21/09/07	GB Airways/A320	Bomb threat received by City Fire Brigade.	Aircraft searched by sniffer dogs and nothing found	Closed
30/09/07	N/A	Failure to carry out correct controller handover procedure.	Controller suspended from duty. Disciplinary investigation in progress.	Closed X
13/10/07	GB Airways/A329	Evidence of bird strike on parked aircraft. No damage.	As above	Closed X
19/10/07	GB Airways/A329	Bird strike on take-off, flight continued. No damage.	As above	Closed X
30/10/07	Monarch/A320	Aircraft entered runway without clearance.	Fault admitted by aircraft crew. Review of taxiway marking initiated.	Closed X

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 150 AND 151 OF 2008

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In any of these reports and any of the corrective measures that might need to be taken as a result of them, will any of them apply to the Government? In other words, does the Government itself have to take any action as a consequence of any of these reports, or is it entirely the MOD, given that the Government are now taking a bigger role in the airport?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

It is always possible that there may be an occurrence in which there is action required by the Government. On these reports there is close liaison with the Government through Air Terminal Management. On the lists that have been provided there have been no occurrences that have required direct action by the Government. They are occurrences in relation to the operation of the airport for which the MOD is responsible and therefore the actions are taken by the MOD.

ORAL

NO. 152 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR AIRPORT – PASSENGERS GIBRALTAR/MADRID ROUTE

What was the total number of passengers carried by airlines on the Gibraltar-Madrid route, showing inward and outward bound, on a monthly basis since November 2007 inclusive?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, TRAFFIC AND
TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 153 to 155 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 153 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR AIRPORT – TRANSIT PASSENGERS FROM MADRID

Can Government say, of the passengers who arrived in Gibraltar by air from Madrid since November 2007 to date, on a monthly basis, how many were deemed to be in transit through Gibraltar and how many stayed in Gibraltar?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, TRAFFIC AND
TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 152, 154 and 155 of 2008.

NO. 154 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR AIRPORT – FLIGHTS DELAYED

Can Government say how many flights from Gibraltar to the following airports were delayed by more than half an hour on a monthly basis:

- (a) London Gatwick;
- (b) London Luton;
- (c) Madrid,

from November 2007 inclusive?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, TRAFFIC AND
TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 152, 153 and 155 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 155 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR AIRPORT – FLIGHTS TIMETABLED AND CANCELLED

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 Luton;
- (c) Madrid,

from November 2007 inclusive?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, TRAFFIC AND
TRANSPORT**

The information requested by the hon Member is contained in the schedule which is being handed over to him.

Answer to Question 155

Answer to Question 152

Passengers carried by airlines on the Gibraltar-Madrid route

<u>Month</u>	<u>Inward</u>	<u>Outward</u>
November 2007	510	680
December 2007	772	716
January 2008	343	408
February 2008	460	448
March 2008 (up to 23 rd)	481	512

Answer to Question 153

<u>Month</u>	<u>In Transit</u>	<u>Stayed</u>
November 2007	359	151
December 2007	666	106
January 2008	235	108
February 2008	338	122
March 2008 (up to 23 rd)	406	75

Answer to Question 154

<u>Delayed Flights</u>	<u>To Gatwick</u>	<u>To Luton</u>	<u>To Madrid</u>
November 2007	1	1	-
December 2007	10	5	-
January 2008	12	-	-
February 2008	6	3	-
March 2008 (up to 26 th)	3	3	-

Answer to Question 155

	<u>Time Tabled</u>		
<u>Cancelled Flights</u>	<u>To Gatwick</u>	<u>To Luton</u>	<u>To Madrid</u>
November 2007	-	-	-
December 2007	-	-	-
January 2008	-	4	-
February 2008	7	2	-
March 2008 (up to 26 th)	11	-	-

NO. 156 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

OESCO

What progress has been made in respect of the noise insulation of the building at Europa Business Park which is occupied by OESCO?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, TRAFFIC AND
TRANSPORT**

The contract to provide sound attenuation of the building housing the OESCO power station was awarded earlier this year. The contractor is currently mobilising and works will commence on site shortly.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 156 OF 2008

HON F R PICARDO:

Who is the contractor that has been appointed?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO::

The contract has been awarded to Profield Limited in the sum of £1,216,933.14.

HON F R PICARDO:

How many other tenderers were there?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I have no idea, I would need notice of that question.

HON F R PICARDO:

Does the work envisage the full noise insulation of the facility or not?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I am not familiar with the minor detail of the specifications of the contract. The hon Member may have noticed that he uses the words “noise insulation” and I have used the words “sound attenuation” in my reply. I suspect that in a building of this kind and of age and characteristics, it may be impossible to completely insulate sound 100 per cent, but that is an opinion I am giving on my feet without technical back up to support it. So, the Government have taken the role of doing as much as they think is necessary, with a view to a building that has a limited life in its present use but will be expected to be used subsequently for other functions. So the attempt will be to make it as sound insulated as possible but if the hon Member wants more information I would have to go back and find out the minor details.

HON F R PICARDO:

I think two questions arise. The first is, is this confirmation from the Government that they are changing their policy as set out, I believe, in their manifesto and repeatedly stated by them that they would insulate the noise emanation from the OESCO facility into a policy simply attenuate that noise; and secondly, can the Minister tell us what it is that the Government believe their contractor is going to do in that building? I know he is not going to tell me the detail but what is it that the Government believe they have contracted?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The building or sound needs to be insulated or attenuated to meet the statutory levels. Insulation, in my understanding of the word, means a complete removal of any sound leaving the building. Attenuation means lowering the level of sound. So the Government’s policy is to lower the level of sound to levels acceptable environmentally and statutorily. That is what the Government expect the contractor to do.

HON F R PICARDO:

Is this now a commitment from the Government in the House that once the works are completed in respect of that building the noise emanation, whether it is insulated or attenuated, will comply with the statutory criteria, which is what the Minister has suggested in his answer?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes, that is the objective.

ORAL

NO. 157 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

SANDY BAY – ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

What is the Government doing about the environmental impact of the loss of the beach at Sandy Bay?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, TRAFFIC AND
TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question Nos. 196 and 202 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 158 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

BUNKERING

What official notification if any has been received by the Government in respect of an investigation by the Commission of the European Union into bunkering in the Straits of Gibraltar?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, TRAFFIC AND
TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question Nos. 159 and 160 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 159 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

SHIP CALLS

How many ships have called at Gibraltar since November 2007 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 THE ENVIRONMENT, TRAFFIC AND
TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 158 and 160 of 2008.

NO. 160 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

BUNKERING LICENCES

Can Government say whether any new bunkering licences have been issued, or whether any application for such a licence has been made since the last Question Time in this House?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, TRAFFIC AND
TRANSPORT**

No official notification has been received by the Government in respect of an investigation by the Commission of the European Union into bunkering in the Straits of Gibraltar.

In respect of applications for or the issue of new bunkering licences, the situation remains as given in answer to Question Nos. 606 and 607 of 2007.

The statistical information requested by the hon Member is contained in the schedule which is being handed to him.

Answer to Question 160

Answer to Question 159

MONTH	BUNKERING	CARGO	REPAIRS	TOTAL
NOV 2007	538	21	14	573
DEC 2007	481	18	9	508
JAN 2008	493	11	11	515
FEB 2008	334	14	10	358
GRAND TOTAL	1846	64	44	1954

MONTH	BUNKER FUEL SOLD (TONNES)
NOVEMBER 2007	365,496.41
DECEMBER 2007	399,208.17
JANUARY 2008	949,585.08
FEBRUARY 2008	56,376.30

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 158 TO 160 OF 2008

HON F R PICARDO:

Dealing first with Question No. 158 of 2008, the Minister will be aware of press reports suggesting that an investigation of the one described in the question put has been commenced in respect of the environmental impact of bunkering in the Bay. Is the Minister aware of those reports?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes.

HON F R PICARDO:

Has he done anything to follow up in respect of those reports to determine whether such an investigation is taking place?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No, communications with the European Union are done through the Chief Secretary and No. 6 Convent Place, not by me.

HON F R PICARDO:

I do not necessarily ask him questions to see what he himself has done. Has he or his Department sought to have determined whether in fact such an investigation is in place?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No, other than asking No. 6 whether any such investigation is taking place and being told that no notification has been given to us, I find it unnecessary to follow it up until we are told that an investigation is taking place.

HON F R PICARDO:

Is the Minister saying that he finds it unnecessary to ask whoever it is in the scheme of Government is responsible for communications with the European Union, to ask them to determine for him whether or not such an investigation has been commenced?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I am sure that that contact takes place on an established basis. What the hon Member, I thought, was asking me is whether I was going to react to press reports in the Spanish media? Of course, I have no intention of doing that.

HON F R PICARDO:

Certainly, I have absolutely no intention of asking him to react to press reports in the Spanish media. But if it is suggested that an official of the European Union has confirmed that an investigation into something in respect of which Gibraltar has an interest is taking place, does he not agree with me that it would be reasonable for him to seek to determine the veracity of that with the Commission, through whatever branch or wing of Government it may be, that he has to direct his enquiry.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes, and that is exactly the thrust of the answer, I have done that and I have been told there has been no confirmation or notification by the Commission.

HON F R PICARDO:

What he said in the House, unless I am misinterpreting him, is that it has been confirmed to him, from dare I say central Government, that no notification has been received. But has he asked central Government to seek from the European Union confirmation pro-actively of whether such an investigation is going to take place. To ensure, as I am sure we would all want to ensure, that our voice is heard in any such investigation.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

To avoid confusion about innuendo or sarcasm, the enquiry that I made I made through the Chief Secretary's office from the Chief Secretary. The answer to the second half of the question where I have then gone back and told the Chief Secretary how to do his job, then the answer is no.

HON F R PICARDO:

It is not a question of telling the Chief Secretary how to do his job. Has the Minister asked whoever it is that is responsible for that to enquire of the European Union whether such an investigation is in place, or has he simply asked the Chief Secretary whether he has received any notification? Which of the two is it? It appears to be that the Minister did so himself, as he said "I have asked".

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes, I would have thought that the answer was already obvious from what I said. I have asked whether there has been any notification, for the avoidance of doubt, I have been told there is no notification, I have not followed it up by telling the Chief Secretary, or anybody else at No. 6, "go and ring up Brussels or the Commission and ask them". I would have thought that this is part of the normal course of action.

HON F R PICARDO:

Could the Minister, therefore, reconsider the issue and go back and ask whoever it may be necessary to ask to determine from Brussels, whether they do so in the normal course of events or not, whether such an investigation actually exists? So that we can make sure that the Gibraltar view, expressed by its Government, is in at the Commission as soon as possible on this area which they describe as important to the economy, and I am sure it is.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No, if I have not felt it necessary to do it up to now I certainly do not find it necessary to do it because the hon Member is suggesting it. It would be to do what I said before, to react to what has appeared in the Spanish media and to go running to the Chief Secretary and say, "go and ring up the Commission and ask them whether it is right". We have not been notified and, therefore, as far as I am concerned, it does not exist. When it exists then we will take action. We are talking about my Department.

HON F R PICARDO:

The Minister does not expect us to believe that things only exist when they are notified to him, does he?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I think I have exhausted the limits of my patience on this.

HON F R PICARDO:

I am sorry, he may have exhausted the limits of his patience but I put my question, I would be grateful if Mr Speaker could ask the Minister to answer it or not answer it if he wishes. But I have another supplementary to come.

MR SPEAKER:

Well, the question has been asked, I think the answer is quite apparent. I cannot order a Minister to answer a question.

HON F R PICARDO:

With respect, Ministers answer or do not answer if they wish or do not wish. They do not decide not to answer because one has exhausted the limits of their patience. With the greatest respect to the Minister, he is usually quite good at answering questions.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The limit of my patience is exhausted because I have already answered the question and this is about the third time he has asked the same question in different words. So my patience has been exhausted in answering the same question. If he asks a different one then I will try to answer it. But he has asked me several times in different words whether I have asked or what I have not asked. I have told him quite explicitly so I do not see the need to answer.

MR SPEAKER:

The Minister's answer is abundantly clear to me. Perhaps if the hon Member asks another question.

HON F R PICARDO:

Does the Minister not think it is prudent, given the importance that they attach to this sector of the economy, to determine objectively whether there is such an investigation or not?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I have already said what I have done and why I have done it and, obviously, what I have done is what I think is prudent to do and I do not find it necessary to do anything else at this stage.

ORAL

NO. 161 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PORT DEPARTMENT – VTS SYSTEM

Can Government say on what date they purchased a VTS system for the Port Department, at what cost, and on what date it became fully operational?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, TRAFFIC AND
TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question Nos. 162, 163 and 165 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 162 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PORT DEPARTMENT – VTS SYSTEM

Can Government say whether there is now an effective VTS vehicle traffic service system in place at the Port Department to monitor ship movements in Gibraltar waters?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, TRAFFIC AND
TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 161, 163 and 165 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 163 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PORT DEPARTMENT – RADAR COVERAGE

Can Government say whether the Port Department now has live radar coverage of the East Side in order to be able to monitor ship movements in Gibraltar waters?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, TRAFFIC AND
TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question Nos. 161, 162 and 165 of 2008.

NO. 164 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

REGULATION OF ANGLERS

Can Government say whether they have any plans to regulate the activities of anglers from the North Mole or from any other part of Gibraltar?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, TRAFFIC AND
TRANSPORT**

Government is considering the implementation of Port Rules to regulate fishing activities from the North Mole.

Independently, the introduction of legislation to regulate the activities of anglers in all of Gibraltar's shoreline is also being considered by Government.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 164 OF 2008

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is it still the position that anyone with a maximum of two fishing rods and an ID Card can access the North Mole in order to fish?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The position is as it has been for the last few years, there have been no changes subject to what is being looked at now.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

This happens irrespective of nationality or residency in terms of the people who want to go and fish from the North Mole.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes, that is my understanding.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Are the Government satisfied with the way in which the system is working, the present arrangements for the North Mole?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No, hence that is why we are considering implementing Port Rules which will regulate the system and make it clear for everybody what the system is. At the moment there is an element of free interpretation, if I may call it that, by the people on the spot who may change from time to time, at the physical barrier. That is why we are looking at Rules in order to give as much facility to the anglers as possible without putting at risk the security of the Port. The two have to be balanced very finely.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In answer to Question No. 300 of 2005, the Chief Minister told me that the plan then was to extend to the whole of Gibraltar, or something that could be considered if the situation merited it, extended to the whole of Gibraltar by some law, what we have done in the Port through the enforcement of Port Regulations. He suggests that is the system that existed in 2005 and as still exists today. Is that still the same system, these Port Regulations?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes, the hon Member has to understand that there are two issues which overlap. Firstly, there is the control of fishing on Gibraltar's shoreline, which includes the Port. Now, my hon Colleague, the Minister for Sport is leading in that aspect of it, on looking at angling in general, with a view to being as community minded as possible but at the same time stopping visiting anglers from abroad, as they say in a certain television programme, from arriving with half a dozen rods and taking up miles of shoreline. That is the overall issue which will look at regulating. He is better qualified to answer questions on that, that will regulate number of rods, size of fish, locations et cetera. I have no involvement in that at all. Within that overall policy which applies and which will apply to the Port when it is changed, or should I say when it is implemented, there will have to be superimposed on it additional rules which apply to fishing from within the Port area. They are going to be mainly rules of access rather than anything else. It is not going to mean that if one can fish with three rods at Catalan Bay one can only fish with one rod at the Port, that will not happen. The number of rods will be uniformly the same. What will be imposed in the Port will be extra rules, if extra rules are necessary to what is there now, in terms of Port security and in terms of meeting international requirements for a port visited by cruise ships.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

I appreciate the answer but what I was trying to get at was, the Minister said that the system in place now which depends on the discretion of the person standing in the portacabin whether they are let through or not.....

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Not depending on the discretion, depending on the interpretation.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Are those the Port Regulations the Chief Minister referred to in 2005 and are those the same ones that we still have today in 2008?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The hon Member will have to ask the Chief Minister that question, I do not know what he was referring to. What I am referring to is the Port Rules that we are intending to produce now. So, if he was referring to the situation in 2005 they are not the same situation. If he was referring to possible changes in the future then they are the same situation. I do not know what he was referring to.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In 2005 the Government was not minded to do anything about this problem. It has been allowed to escalate. The complaints that have been reaching us about areas like, for example, Europa Point, some of the beaches, the problem is that there are too many people wanting to fish and a limited number of fishing spots in different parts of Gibraltar. It is compounded by, for example, in areas like Europa Point the residents who come to complain to us, the fact that the anglers who come from Spain primarily, tend to park their cars all over the place, camp over the weekend and have a large number of fishing rods et cetera, and that they feel that their complaints have not been listened to by the authorities, which is why they have come to us and why we have raised the issue in this House. What I am saying is, this problem still existed in 2005 and it has carried on until the present day, why has it taken the Government so long to actually consider doing something about it, given that they were also being pressed by the fishing clubs themselves to introduce a licensing system as far back as 2005?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes, I well remember the problem at the time that I was Minister for Sport and that goes back now earlier than 2005. It is not an easy problem to solve because as Community nationals, the visiting Spanish anglers have the same rights as the Gibraltar angler. So any restrictions that are imposed on a visiting Spanish angler, de facto is imposed on the local angler. What has been tried and has not yet been successfully achieved, is my understanding although I have no direct involvement in it, is producing a set of regulations that meets local aspirations, controls the influx and dare I say abuse, although they would not call it abuse because they are quite used to doing it. What the hon Member has to do is go along the road past Chullera Beach and he will see dozens of rods along there. It is common practice where there is plenty of space. So, what is being tried is to find a balance. But that is the overall coastlines, where that is I am not certain, it is not my area of responsibility. But in terms of the Port itself, the situation or the issue becomes compounded because of Port security. If one goes to similar ports elsewhere, then the situation is that there is no fishing. There are those who advise

that in order to meet some of the requirements, that is what the Gibraltar Port should be doing, excluding all anglers. The Government have not wanted to do that, have not wanted to exclude the Gibraltar angler from fishing from where is traditionally a popular and good fishing area. So they have tried to find a compromise and that compromise is the 2005 situation the hon Member refers to of the two rods and the identity card. Not a satisfactory situation from my point of view. That is why, and I have already met with my colleague, or he has met with me, we have had meetings together with senior officials in both departments to discuss how we can take this forward. That process is on-going. My objective is to allow anglers to fish within the Port, the North Mole really is what we are talking about, to fish from the North Mole because there are less difficulties about the Detached Mole or the South Mole, to give them maximum flexibility but at the same time not compromise Gibraltar's position in the international cruising world. There is a fine balance to be struck.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The EU point made by the Minister is really not relevant in the sense that the angling clubs have been asking for a licensing system, so really one would give a licence to whoever applies for one, there would not be discrimination but if it gives a greater measure of control of where people fish and how many people can fish. But per se there would not be any discrimination on an EU basis, I think that point is not really relevant. Coming back to the Port, in relation to one of the specific complaints made to us has been that the time between when a ship leaves port, the cruise ship or whatever, and the anglers are allowed in to fish, is actually too long and maybe that is something which the Government should consider reducing. Is that on the Minister's agenda?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes, that is one of the issues not just the time they are allowed to come in after the ship has left but up to what time they are allowed to come in before the ship arrives.

NO. 165 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

SAMOTHRAKI

Can Government say whether they have acted on any of the findings of the Gibraltar Maritime Administration into the reasons why the Greek tanker Samothraki run aground one mile off Europa Point in March 2007, and if so, list the findings they have acted upon?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, TRAFFIC AND
TRANSPORT**

The Port's VTS System was purchased in May 2001 from SML Technologies Limited at a cost of £32,066.40 and became operational in that same month, May 2001. This system continues in operation but the decision has been made by the Government to upgrade it.

The radar coverage the Port Department has on the east side is dependant on that provided via a link from the MOD Windmill Hill Signal Station.

The Gibraltar Port Authority has acted on the recommendations made by the Gibraltar Maritime Administration following the incident involving the Greek tanker Samothraki in March 2007. Details are as follows:

1. The recommendation requiring all vessels anchoring within three miles off Gibraltar in the Eastern side to report to Gibraltar Port Authority with anchor position and basic ship information has been accepted by the Gibraltar Port Authority and is currently in practice.
2. The recommendation that Port Control Policy aimed at providing a navigational assistance service has been accepted by the Gibraltar Port Authority and will be provided when the upgraded VTS system is fully operational.
3. The recommendation to establish a southerly limit to the eastern anchorage has been accepted by the Gibraltar Port Authority but such a limit cannot be effectively monitored until the upgraded VTS system has been installed.
4. The recommendation to establish an exclusion zone in the vicinity of Europa Point and to require off-port limits transfers to be completed further offshore, to the South East of Europa Point, are both still under

consideration by the Gibraltar Port Authority and are the subject of on-going consultation processes with stakeholders.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 161, 162, 163 AND 165 OF 2008

HON DR J J GARCIA:

A consultation process with who?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Stakeholders.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The Minister says that the Government purchased the system in 2001, then they decided to upgrade the system, that is what I have understood. Now, is that upgrade not what they purchased in 2005 or are they upgrading it in a different way? In 2005 they purchased an upgrade for the system and I want to know whether this is the same upgrade that we are talking about or whether it is a different one.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I am not sure I understand the question, let me give him the facts and then he can ask it again if I have not answered it. The system was bought and installed and implemented in 2001. As a result of the Samothraki incident, one of the recommendations was to upgrade the system and the system is currently in the process of moving towards that upgrade. I am not aware of an upgrade in 2005 but if there was one then it has got nothing to do with the upgrade that is happening now.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The upgrade in 2005 was given in answer to Question No. 314 of 2006. What happened after that is that the Government, this is my understanding of the situation, needed the operatives to man the upgrade or be trained in using the upgrade. That took them from 2005 until August 2008. Now, that is why I am not sure whether this is that same upgrade which is now being put in place or whether it is a different one.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No, the 2005 upgrade to which the hon Member is referring, included the employment and training of the new operators and that is past and history. What is happening now is a further upgrade on the upgraded system.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In relation to the two issues under consideration, basically, recommendations 4 and 5 made in the report, can the Minister say how long this period of consultation with stakeholders is expected to take?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No, I have not asked for a forecast of that but I know it is on-going.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

One of the conclusions of the report into that incident was that there was a lack of an effective VTS system in use by the Port at the time, capable of providing accurate monitoring and control of shipping movements and effective navigational assistance. That is only one of many conclusions. Now, given that system was purchased in 2001, upgraded in 2005, that in August 2006 the Government trained employees were put in place to monitor the system, what made it ineffective?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No, I do not agree that it is ineffective, it is as effective as it has always been. What the report says is that it needs to be.....

HON DR J J GARCIA:

A lack of an effective system.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Well, lack of effective enough is my understanding of the lack of an effective system.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

But the lack of an effective system, if the system is not capable of providing accurate monitoring and control of shipping or navigational assistance, then what on earth does the system do?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

My understanding is that it needs to provide more navigational assistance than it is providing already. But these are technical subjects, the bottom line is that the system has been there since 2001, it was improved in 2005, after the recent incident a new report highlights that it needs to be improved and it is being improved. What the technicalities are, what extra buttons it needs, or the updating to the software, that I would need notice of the question.

HON DR J J GARCIA;

It is not the case that the system was not being used when this incident happened, is that the case? This system is called a, let us go to the technical language used in the report itself. In the list of definitions it is defined as a Vehicle Traffic Management and Information System. It was purchased in 2001, upgraded in 2005, in March 2007 this incident happens with the Samothraki, a list of recommendations are made to the owners and a list of recommendations are made to the Government. The Government accept three of the recommendations, five recommendations are made to the Government, they accept three and are considering two. But the criticism made under the heading of Safety Issues in the Report by the Government's own Maritime Administration, is that the system that they have is not effective, the lack of an effective system capable of providing accurate monitoring and control of shipping movements and effective navigational assistance. What I am asking is, if the Government spend £30,000 odd on this system in 2001, then train people in 2005, put them in place in August 2007 and it still was not providing accurate monitoring and control of shipping movements and effective navigational assistance to this vessel, which the author of the Report feels may have prevented the accident among other factors, then what exactly is the system doing? That is what I cannot understand.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No, I am not qualified to describe to the hon Member what the system does or does not do. I understand the Report to be saying that it is ineffective in providing a navigational assistance service. Not ineffective, full stop, which is what the hon Member is implying, and because it recommends that the Port consider a port control policy which provides a navigational assistance service. This is what the upgrade will do, to take a system which is effective for other purposes and to make it more effective by providing an additional service which is a navigational assistance service. That is my understanding but I am not qualified to give a technical description of what the system does.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The system is called a Vessel Traffic Management and Information System, it is for traffic management and for information, that is all it does. That is what it is called.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

That is what the hon Member thinks it does.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

That is the name of the system. It would be called something else if it did something else. I would logically assume. The safety issue raised in the Report, and I am quoting from it, says, "the lack of an effective VTS System for Gibraltar waters capable of providing accurate monitoring and control of shipping movements and effective navigational assistance". So the system as it was in March 2007 was not capable of providing accurate monitoring and control of shipping movements, apart from the navigational assistance which the name of the system says it should be able

to do. Then in addition to that, the same Report, when the author in his summary lists the factors that contributed to the accident, he says one of those factors is the limited availability of effective monitoring of shipping movements within the territorial waters of Gibraltar. The next one is a limited shore based facility able to provide navigational assistance or advice to vessels approaching Gibraltar. So in both those points, in the factors that contributed to the accidents, two of the factors refer to a system purchased by the Government in 2001, upgraded in 2005, which was not working properly or not doing its job properly. Can the Minister say whether whatever upgrade it is they are talking about now, and I am not sure it may not be the 2005 upgrade, we need to make sure.....

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

On a Point of Order, I have said specifically that it is not the 2005 upgrade. To say that he is not sure implies that I am misleading the House.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

No, I have not said he was misleading the House. I tell him why I am not sure, because the time it took from 2005 until August 2006 to bring the 2005 upgrade into effect, to start using that upgrade. But if the Minister tells me this is a new and different upgrade, then I will take his word for it. What I am saying is, does the Minister not accept that the fact that the system was not effectively monitoring shipping movements within the territorial waters of Gibraltar contributed to the accident?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No, the Minister will say nothing of the kind. What the Minister is saying is that the Report made certain recommendations and the recommendations have been accepted and are in the process of being implemented.

NO. 166 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS

Can Government state the number of new registrations of:

- (a) private; and
- (b) commercial

road vehicles for each month from November 2007 to February 2008?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, TRAFFIC AND
TRANSPORT**

The statistical information requested by the hon Member is contained in the schedule which is being handed to him.

For the avoidance of doubt, I notice that in the supplementary information I have been provided it tells me that the figures that I am giving the hon Member do not include motor cycles. For some reason the officials who prepared this decided that they were not interested in motor cycles, they were only interested in four wheeled vehicles. If the hon Member is interested in the figure for motor cycles I can provide it for him as well.

Answer to Question 166/2008

	Private	Commercial
November 07	118	23
December 07	109	15
January 08	128	14
February 08	86	8
Total	441	60

Supplementary to Question 166/2008

The figure stated above does not include motorcycles of which 228 new motorcycles were registered from November 2007 to February 2008.

Below is a table of the monthly breakdowns:-

	Motorcycles
November 07	58
December 07	49
January 08	56
February 08	65
Total	228

There were also 347 new private motor vehicles, 48 goods vehicles and 179 motorcycles registered in the same period last year.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 166 OF 2008

HON G H LICUDI:

What we are interested in is establishing a trend or monitoring a trend and this is a question that has been asked on previous occasions. Am I to assume, therefore, that the answers given to previous similar questions include or do not include motor cycles? If they do and these do not then I am not comparing like with like. Is the Minister telling us that consistently the answers to these questions have been the same as regards the information that is given, and is missing from this particular question?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I do not know the answer to that, I have volunteered the information purely to be helpful, but I can certainly find out for the hon Member and let him know. I do not know whether it is an exception in this case, what I can certainly do is if I can ask the Gentleman Clerk to photocopy this and give me back the original and give the hon Member the copy of it, at least for this session it will give him the information including motor cycles and I will find out for the hon Member what the information has been in the past. Can I ask him whether he wants the motor cycle information or whether he does not want it?

HON G H LICUDI:

Now that it has been brought to our attention, perhaps the way we will ask the question in the future will be to give the numbers but to differentiate between motor cars and motor cycles.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

In all fairness to the hon Member, the question is perfectly well worded. When one speaks about motor vehicles it does include motor cycles. That is why I have given him the information, I do not understand why it has been separated. A motor vehicle includes a motor cycle so it should have been provided, let me put it that way. Can I suggest that I investigate this and find out and then I will get in touch with the hon Member because I am not sure how difficult it would be to obtain information going back, but I think if he wants it I will try and find out whether it can be provided. I will make contact with the hon Member.

HON G H LICUDI:

Yes, from the information which is now being provided it appears that it would not be very difficult because the last comment at the bottom says, there were also 347 new private motor vehicles, 48 goods vehicles and 179 motor cycles registered in the same period last year, which suggests that that differentiation has been applied going back as well. Although there was a reference to 347 new private motor vehicles, that seems to have been taken as reference only to motor cars because then motor cycles is given separately. But I would be grateful if the Minister could find out.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes, I will do that and before doing anything further I will make contact with him so that we can decide, because even if it is it does mean people going back. I know the information is available at the Department, they need to go back to central IT and it does take a little time. So if he wants backdated information I would be grateful if he keeps the backdate as recent as possible rather than go back but we can speak of that off line.

HON C A BRUZON:

Just as a matter of interest, could I ask the Minister if he has details of registration numbers that have actually been removed? It is a little bit like the births and deaths statistics, we are talking about new registrations, what was the total number of new registrations and what is the total number of cars registered in Gibraltar as a whole? Does he get my drift?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I think I do but I think the hon Member is linking registration numbers to registrations. The question talks about how many new vehicles are registered and these are the number of new vehicles that are put on the roads. But if the hon Member is asking me how many registration numbers there are, I do not know what word he used, written off or deleted or whatever, then I have no idea. I would assume that the Department does not keep a separate tally because if the hon Member buys a car, registers it and then takes it across the border and as far as the Department goes if the vehicle never comes back there is no knowledge of what has happened to the vehicle. I am speculating not trying to be accurate, I am trying to be helpful. If the hon Member is interested, if he would like to write to me I will try and follow it up and give him the information.

ORAL

NO. 167 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

GIBRALTAR BUS COMPANY LTD – ACCOUNTS

Can Government state when the accounts for the last three years for Gibraltar Bus Company Limited will be published?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, TRAFFIC AND
TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question Nos. 168 and 169 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 168 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

GIBRALTAR BUS COMPANY LTD – SUBSIDY

Can Government state the level of subsidy given or due to be given to the Gibraltar Bus Company Limited for the yearly periods from March 2005 to February 2006, March 2006 to February 2007 and March 2007 to February 2008 in respect of passengers paying either part or nil fares giving a breakdown by categories of passengers and routes?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, TRAFFIC AND
TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 167 and 169 of 2008.

NO. 169 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

GIBRALTAR BUS COMPANY LTD – FARES COLLECTED

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 November 2007 to February 2008?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, TRAFFIC AND
TRANSPORT**

The audited accounts of the Bus Company for the year ending 31st March 2005 and 31st March 2006 are already filed at Companies House and were Tabled in this House on 26th February 2007 and 31st May 2007 respectively. The question is therefore asked on the false premise that publication has not already taken place. The accounts to 31st March 2007 will hopefully be filed and Tabled in this House hopefully during this meeting.

The reduction and exemption in fares offered by the Gibraltar Bus Company to certain classes of passengers are currently borne by the company itself. No policy decision has yet been taken by the Government as to whether there will be any compensation payments by the Government to the company, although the company's accounts describe them, in a note, as recoverable from the Government.

The statistical information requested by the hon Member is contained in the schedule which is being handed to him.

Answer to Question 169

Paying Passengers

November 2007	151,019
December 2007	137,588
January 2008	143,136
February 2008	145,804
TOTAL	577,547

Revenue Collected

November 2007	£ 62,063
December 2007	£ 57,252
January 2008	£ 57,468
February 2008	£ 59,054
TOTAL	£235,837

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 167 TO 169 OF 2008

HON G H LICUDI:

As regards the notes in the accounts that the Minister is saying, Government is filing, Tabling accounts in respect of a company that it owns in this House and it appears that some of the information in the accounts is not accurate, because there is a note saying it is recoverable from Government when Government has made no such decision. Can the Government state whether this is a matter that has been discussed with the company and the accountants and whether changes will be made?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

It is a matter that was brought to my notice as a result of the question. In the opinion of the directors and of the company, I am told that they believe that this amount was going to be, it is a paper exercise at the end of the day, but that this amount was going to be recoverable. Therefore, that is what the company accounts show. On further scrutiny, the Government have to make a decision on how to deal in accountancy terms with the situation. On whether to deal with it as a payment, even if it is a paper payment to the company, or whether to deal with it as a loss incurred by the company. As a result of my consultations arising out of this question, he will find that the treatment in the accounts for the current period will be different to what they have been in the past. That slight technical difference will be ironed out.

HON G H LICUDI:

Does the Minister not agree that we are not just talking of a paper exercise. Whether the Government actually give a subsidy to a company when they happen to own it is irrelevant, but to a company to a private company is or cannot simply be dismissed as a paper exercise, the money has to be voted out of Government coffers and has to be paid over to the private company. So we do not agree that that is a paper exercise. Does he not further agree that it goes beyond this question of a paper exercise, in that if a subsidy is given to an operator of a bus service and not another, then a level playing field is not provided by the Government for all operators. Does he not agree with that statement?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

When I called it a paper exercise I was talking about the accountancy treatment of it in the sense that a cheque will not be written out and handed over. My understanding of it, anyway, is that. But that is the actual treatment of the payment which has nothing to do with the principle which he poses in the second half of his supplementary question. All I will say is that it is an interesting point and one which Government is conscious of and that is why they have not made the decision as yet.

HON G H LICUDI:

So the Government are conscious of the possibility that it could give rise to problems in the lack of a level playing field and for that reason they have not decided whether

or not they will provide a subsidy. Can the Government say whether in the past they have ever provided a subsidy in respect of these particular aspects, the nil fares or the part payment of fares?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Not as far as I am aware, but I have only had responsibility for the Gibraltar Bus Company recently. But as far as I am aware, as a result of my investigations, there has been no subsidy.

HON G H LICUDI:

Do the Government not accept the principle that when subsidies are given to companies it does not matter whether a company is Government-owned or not, it is a private company which ought to be treated the same as any other private company?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

It is an interesting point that the hon Member raises that maybe through his own legal background and profession he would like to investigate the matter further. But if he does so, he will come across some interesting information which in EU terms and in terms of subsidies, bus companies are specifically isolated and dealt with separately from other private companies.

HON G H LICUDI:

I am not seeking to enter into a discussion or debate on legal principles and the purpose of this question is not to look at the legal issues which arise. The purpose of this discussion is simply to look at Government policy and how the Government propose to deal with this particular situation where there are two operators. Can the Government tell us when they expect to be in a position to give us this information?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I am tempted to say shortly. No, I would not attempt to put a target date on it. Suffice it to say, as I have already said, that the Government are conscious of the issues and will need to make a decision but I am not sure how long it will take to make that decision.

HON G H LICUDI:

If I could just have a moment, there was another question which was answered, statistical information has been provided.

ORAL

NO. 170 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

BUS STOPS – MARKET PLACE

Can Government state why the bus stops in Market Place have been designed in such a way that it is impossible for buses operated by the Gibraltar Bus Company Limited to use the northernmost bay?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, TRAFFIC AND
TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 171 to 175 and 179 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 171 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

BUS SHELTER – MARKET PLACE

Can Government explain why the bus shelter on the southern side of the bus stops at Market Place is on the wrong side of the road?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, TRAFFIC AND
TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question Nos. 170, 172 to 175 and 179 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 172 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

BUS STOPS – MARKET PLACE (DISABLED ACCESS)

Can Government state why it has failed to provide proper access for disabled users to the islands at the bus stops at Market Place from where access to the buses is generally gained?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, TRAFFIC AND
TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question Nos. 170, 171, 173 to 175 and 179 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 173 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

BUS SHELTERS

Can Government state whether it proposes to install bus shelters at all the bus stops in Gibraltar?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, TRAFFIC AND
TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question Nos. 170 to 172, 174, 175 and 179 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 174 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

BUS SHELTERS – STATE OF DISREPAIR

Can Government state how it proposes to redress the state of disrepair and neglect of most bus shelters?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, TRAFFIC AND
TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 170 to 173, 175 and 179 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 175 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

BUS STOP – NEAR FRONTIER

Can Government state whether the existing bus stop near the frontier with Spain will remain where it currently is once the new air terminal and roads are built?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, TRAFFIC AND
TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 170 to 174 and 179 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 176 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

BUS SERVICE – BEACHES TO UPPER TOWN

Can Government state whether it proposes to restore a bus service from the beaches to the Upper Town?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, TRAFFIC AND
TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question Nos. 177 and 178 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 177 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

BUS SERVICE – NEW BUSES FOR ROUTE 2

Can Government state whether the two new Mercedes Benz buses for route number 2 previously announced have now been ordered?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, TRAFFIC AND
TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question Nos. 176 and 178 of 2008.

NO. 178 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

BUS SERVICE – ROAD TEST UPPER TOWN

Can Government state the result of the road test carried out in the Upper Town on or about 4 February 2008 using a Spanish registered Iveco bus?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, TRAFFIC AND
TRANSPORT**

The Government does not have any plans to introduce a bus service from the beaches to the Upper Town.

There is an on-going tender process for the purchase of new buses by the Gibraltar Bus Company. The road test carried out using a Spanish registered vehicle, made available by a local vehicle supplier, was an evaluation carried out as part of that tender process. At this moment the Government is not in a position to supply any further information until the tender process has been finalised.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 176 TO 178 OF 2008

HON G H LICUDI:

Could I ask the Minister to repeat the answer to Question No. 177 of 2008 if I may?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The hon Member has pre-empted me because as I was reading it I was conscious of the fact that there was no reference in the answer to the two Mercedes Benz buses. He will have to forgive me, I am not sure how this has happened. The answer here, the way it is phrased, the on-going tender process is intended to refer to both Question Nos. 177 and 178 of 2008. Somehow I do not think that can be correct. I will need to revert to the hon Member with a clarification on whether that is correct or not. It would appear that the two Mercedes Benz buses are part of the tender process of the other bus as well. If so, they may not have been ordered but I am afraid my answer is insufficient if it does not answer his question. I apologise.

HON G H LICUDI:

I am grateful for that. As regards this tender process the Minister talks of the other bus and not being sure whether these two Mercedes Benz are part of that. What is the reference to the other bus?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The reference is in answer to his question about road tests carried out in the Upper Town in February using a Spanish registered Iveco bus. That is the answer I have given him on that road test.

HON G H LICUDI:

Was the road test in respect of the Upper Town, that was as I understand, in relation to route No. 2. The Mercedes Benz are in relation to route No. 2, so are we not talking of the same buses for the same routes?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

To be perfectly honest, I am not sure, that is why when I read the answer, which I have to admit I read before and I had assumed we were talking about the same buses. But somehow reading it now it did not seem clear to me whether it was. If it is the same bus then the answer applies and it is part of the tender process, and that is why I do not want to give any further information. If it is not, then I will need to provide the additional information.

HON G H LICUDI:

I note that the Minister does not have the information, I will not press him further on that. The first question related to the bus service to the beaches and the answer was that there are no plans to provide that at present. Do the Government recognise that it creates inconvenience, particularly for families in the Upper Town who want to use the beaches and want to use the public service, not to be able to do so directly, as they used to for many, many years in the past, when route No. 2 went all the way down to Eastern Beach and into Eastern Beach, as I understand it. So does the Minister not accept that the loss of that service, which was previously provided, is causing inconvenience to many families, and again, does not foster the use of public service as the Government should be encouraging, particularly for environmental reasons?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

That service has not been available for many years. I have not been made aware of any demand for this service, or in fact, is the Bus Company aware or anybody connected with this issue that there is a demand. If a demand were to be identified then the situation might be reversed. I would also add that I have asked for a complete survey of all bus routes and of all the service provided, not just by the Gibraltar Bus Company but by the Calypso Bus Company as well. Then that review, which I intend to be in-depth in terms of not just where bus stops are but also the

actual routes, where the routes go, that may throw up a need and then we will address it. My feeling is that that is not the only route where a link might be necessary. What is to say a link from another part of Gibraltar to the beaches is not also necessary? That is why I say that I will certainly look at it, if I am in a position to look at it, at a later date as per the results of that review.

HON G H LICUDI:

With regard to Question No. 178 of 2008, which talked about a road test on or about February 2008, the answer was that this apparently was carried out with a bus which was loaned or made available locally, and the Government are not in any position to give any information. The question asked what the result of the road test was. What was the result of the road test? Was that vehicle found to be suitable? If not, why not?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

That is precisely what I do not want to go into because that could affect the tender process. In any case, I do not know what the results are because I am not part of the tender process. But to help the hon Member, what I can tell him is the purpose rather than the result. The purpose of the test was to enlarge the vehicle on the particular route. Or to test whether the vehicle can be enlarged rather than to enlarge it. At the moment the vehicles using the particular route have a capacity, I think it is, of nine passengers and experience shows that these vehicles by the time they are halfway along the route are already full. So there is a demand either for more vehicles or for a larger vehicle. What this road test was designed to do, with a vehicle that carries a larger number of passengers, I think in the order of 18 if I remember rightly, was to test whether this larger vehicle was feasible for use in the Upper Town area going all the way up to Moorish Castle Estate. That was the purpose of the exercise, to carry out this test. Now, I do not want to, apart from the fact that it would be improper for me to do it if it is part of the tender process, I do not want to dwell on the results because the results themselves might lead on to a different tender or to a different process. But the purpose was that, evaluating whether we need more smaller vehicles or larger vehicles.

HON G H LICUDI:

I do not want to accuse the Minister of being less than candid with the information he is providing in this House, but is it not in fact the case and can the Minister confirm that the result of that test was a complete and utter disaster? Is it not the case that that bus could not make it up the hill and the Minister who was present on that bus had to get off the bus and unceremoniously walk, because the test was a disaster?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No, the test was not a disaster. It is true that the bus that was tested had difficulty negotiating the hill. The reasons for that were that the bus that was loaned was not of the same characteristics as the bus that was the subject of the tender. Therefore, the engine was under-sized. It was the only vehicle that was available to carry out the test and the test was more in terms of width and length rather than engine power. The second cause was that, unfortunately, the vehicle had a moribund clutch and the

reason why it could not get up that particular corner was because the clutch could not take it, not because it could not get up the hill. We all walked, but I was glad to have been there because it gave me a hands on approach to what was going on. Other lessons were learnt and as a result the line of the road or the line of the curb has also been modified, because of that road.

HON G H LICUDI:

We now seem to be getting somewhere and getting some information. Is it not the case and can the Minister not confirm that the Government was in fact aware before the test took place that that vehicle could not make it up the road because they were told by the driver?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I saw the driver at the front of the bus when driving and I saw him when I got off the bus to walk up, but she certainly did not come to my office to inform me of anything and I doubt whether he visited any of my Colleagues in Government. So, the short answer is no, there was no communication from the driver and secondly, no, it was not known that the vehicle was not going to be able to go up that hill, other than because the clutch was suspect. But although I am happy to talk about the technicalities of this, I do not want to talk about the tender process.

NO. 179 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

BUS STOPS – FREQUENCY INFORMATION

Can Government explain the lack of proper information about bus frequency given at many bus stops?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, TRAFFIC AND
TRANSPORT**

The hon Member needs to understand that the facility provided at Market Place was not designed as or is intended to be for individual bus stops, but rather that it is a terminal suitable for the combined use of a variety of public service vehicles. I would suggest that we keep that principle very much in mind because this is where the misconception about not just the question here but also with the comments in certain parts of the press, also the Opposition Members' own leaflet which they hand out, is based on the misconception about the fact that it is not for bus stops but that it is a terminal for different types of public service vehicles. Consequently, the configuration of this terminal has been arrived at by taking into consideration all the factors involved, including the needs of the operators and the users, the physical area constraints, traffic flows, public service vehicles routes and is dictated by the turning circles of the vehicles accessing it. The southernmost bays were therefore designed for use by the Gibraltar Bus Company, that should read by large buses but at the moment only the Gibraltar Bus Company uses that route but that does not mean it cannot change in the future, the mention of a company means large buses, whilst the northernmost ones were designed for use by the smaller coaches operated by the tourist trade. I stress that at no time were the northern bays intended to be used by the large buses.

The bus shelter on the southern side of the terminal is not on the wrong side of the road, because Market Place operates as a terminal, the two bus shelters, the one on the north and the one on the south, are therefore not assigned to a specific bus stop but are designed and intended to serve the area as a whole.

Access is available to disabled persons to cross the vehicular traffic lanes via the raised pedestrian crossings onto the islands. Ramps then provide access onto the demarcated pedestrian lane which links all the bays.

Government is currently carrying out a feasibility study on bus shelters in general. It should be noted that it might not be possible to install bus shelters at all stops. Given the physical characteristics and actual location of a bus stop, decisions will be made on a case by case basis.

The Government has implemented a scheduled programme of repairs to maintain bus shelters. The repair of bus shelters has been included as part of the highways term maintenance contract and has been awarded to AMCO as from January this year.

The whole of the traffic arrangement in the area of British Lines will change as a result of the planned works in that area. The detailed design is currently being finalised but I am able to confirm that the location of the current bus stops will change from their current locations.

Bus schedules and timings are displayed inside bus shelters. Unfortunately, they are vandalised regularly and, although replaced with new ones, they continue to be vandalised.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 170 TO 175 AND 179 OF 2008

HON F R PICARDO:

Can I just simply, really on a Point of Order in relation to the Minister's answer but I thought I would let him finish his answer before I took it. I am not intending to make a supplementary but to bring to his attention that this Party has no leaflet that we distribute door to door, that there is a registered newspaper that is sympathetic to the views of this Party. In fact, there are two registered newspapers that are particularly sympathetic and most of the registered newspapers in Gibraltar are starting to become even more sympathetic. If he wishes to describe any one of those particular ones as a leaflet, simply because it is free and delivered door to door, then perhaps the 7-Days might also be described in that way as their leaflet, but I do not ascribe that description to it, if the Minister will agree. Although I will not ask him to agree with anything I am just making a Point of Order.

MR SPEAKER:

It requires no ruling from me, I imagine.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Let me clarify what I said and ask the hon Member whether he thinks the Point of Order is still valid. When I was referring to leaflets I was not referring to newspaper style sized periodicals that are published in Gibraltar, which may or may not be sympathetic to the Opposition, depending on which way the wind is blowing. I was referring specifically to the small sized A3 issued leaflet called "The Key", I understand, which I do not normally see because I see it being put into letterboxes around my residence but whoever takes it studiously avoids my letterbox, which does me a favour because as Minister for the Environment it keeps the level of my refuse down if I do not have to put extra paper inside my rubbish bin. Having said that, in relation to the bus stops, this particular issue of "The Key" was made available to me because it made the same allegations about bus stops being on the wrong side of the road et cetera, and that is what I was referring to specifically and I say again what I said. That leaflet is associated with the GSLP and if it is not so maybe the hon Member would like to try and convince all those people listening out there and

listening here in the Gallery, that that particular leaflet has nothing to do with the GSLP.

HON F R PICARDO:

On a Point of Order.....

MR SPEAKER:

Now let us put a proper Point of Order because the hon Member told me that was not a Point of Order previously.

HON F R PICARDO:

I told Mr Speaker that it was not a Point of Order? It was a Point of Order not a question Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER:

A Point of Order requires a ruling by the Speaker and I am told by the hon Member it does not require a ruling.

HON F R PICARDO:

It does not require a ruling in the sense that if the Minister had simply accepted what I had said, then there was no need for a ruling. But as he has replied to the Point of Order I would like to say to the Minister.....

MR SPEAKER:

But does a Point of Order not require a ruling?

HON F R PICARDO:

Yes.

MR SPEAKER:

Then I am told it is a Point of Order, the hon Member makes a statement, then he says it does not require a ruling, so what is my purpose in this proceeding?

HON F R PICARDO:

It is obviously not our week.

MR SPEAKER:

It is my week certainly, every day I wake up is my day.

HON F R PICARDO:

In terms of agreement it is obviously not our week. I was making a Point of Order....

MR SPEAKER:

Which required no ruling.

HON F R PICARDO:

To which, as I was simply providing the information for order in the House by way of information.....

MR SPEAKER:

Is that xxxxxx practice according to Erskine May?

HON F R PICARDO:

I think it is, according to Erskine May and our own Rules, because on a Point of Order an hon Member can provide to the House information. I provided information and in doing so I required no ruling. The Minister has taken up the issue that I raised by way of information in the Point of Order, and attempted to reply to it. I would simply retort, in asking Mr Speaker for his ruling, that the Minister check that public document which is the Register of Newspapers in Gibraltar and he will see on the register of newspapers in Gibraltar, not a leaflet, but a publication called "The Key". Whether or not it is deemed to be associated with this Party or not is not the issue I was taking by way of Point of Order, I was simply saying it is not a leaflet but whatever paper it is printed on it is a registered newspaper. I would ask Mr Speaker to rule.

MR SPEAKER:

Yes, I have no difficulty ruling. If an hon Member, regardless of whichever side of the House he sits on, chooses to call a document a leaflet, it is certainly not unparliamentary. Let us get on with supplementaries please.

HON F R PICARDO:

It is a newspaper.

MR SPEAKER:

Alright, he can call it what he likes.

HON F R PICARDO:

Of course he can call it what he likes.

MR SPEAKER:

So what are we arguing about?

HON F R PICARDO:

With respect, there are as he knows and as he has heard in this House, great arguments and even legal actions dependant on whether something is a newspaper or not a newspaper, or a leaflet.

MR SPEAKER:

I have not come across a single case of legal action on leaflets.

HON F R PICARDO:

Mr Speaker may or may not have come across it but I am telling him that they exist because it is part of the argument it is the ploy of the Government in relation to other proceedings. Therefore, when something is a registered newspaper, it is entitled to be called a registered newspaper. Or at the very least, this House is entitled to know that that which might be described as a leaflet is actually a registered newspaper. I stand on that.

MR SPEAKER:

Thank you very much.

HON G H LICUDI:

There were a number of questions taken together and I will try to take it issue by issue. With regard to the designing of, what the Minister describes as a terminal, he says it is not designed for individual bus stops but as a terminal for different public service vehicles. Does he not accept that where whatever was in place before, which was the clock tower is demolished and a blank piece of paper is before the designers and we have buses operating in Gibraltar of certain dimensions, that where a terminal, and we do not know whether other routes will stop at that bus stop in the future, that is not probably something under consideration, does the Minister not accept that where a terminal is being designed it ought to be designed taking into account the public service operators which exist in Gibraltar with the size of buses that exist in Gibraltar and be designed for that purpose?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

That is exactly what has been done and is exactly what the answer says.

HON G H LICUDI:

The Minister has confirmed that at least two of the bays are unusable by the public service vehicles, by bus operators in Gibraltar. Therefore, that is certainly not what has been done. As regards the question of one of the bus shelters being on the wrong side of the road, I am not sure when the Minister was there on the last occasion but I pass by the terminal four or five times every day, and there is a bus shelter which is most definitely and most certainly on the wrong side of the road. One expects, when one is at a bus shelter waiting for a bus, that the bus stops in front of the bus shelter with the entrance to the bus in front of one. In this particular case, there is a bus shelter facing northwards on the southern side of the terminal, the bus stops and the door to the entrance of the bus is on the other side so the person has to cross the road to get into the bus. Has the Minister ever seen in Oxford Street or anywhere or in any bus terminal, someone sitting in a bus shelter, a bus arriving and having to cross the road to get into the bus?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The answer to the final question is yes Sir. He has asked three different questions all in one, let me try and deal with them. In terms of the design of the terminal, again the hon Member misses the point. He raises it as a criticism that the two northernmost bays are not usable by large buses – they are not intended to be. The bus terminal has been designed taking into account the needs of all the users. The fact that not more than two large buses, at this moment in time or in the foreseeable future, are expected – this is not Oxford Street, to use the hon Member's example – we have not got buses queuing up one after the other to get into the bus stop, they arrive at 15 minute intervals. So the provision of two bus stops for large buses is more than enough for the current operator that uses it, the Gibraltar Bus Company, and for any future operator that may need to use it in the future if it were due to change of routes or otherwise. So, the design has been done that way on purpose.

Now he repeats again the fact that geographically the bus stop is on the wrong side of the road. I say again and I will not repeat myself for a third time, I say again what I have said already. There are four stops and there is a shelter at one end and there is a shelter at the other end. One can sit in the shelter at the northern end or one can sit in the shelter at the southern end and take any of the vehicles that stop anywhere along the line. Or is the hon Member thinking that those bus stops are only for the large buses? They are meant for anybody who uses those stops, be it a coach, be it a taxi or be it any other people who are given the concession in the long run. When he asks me whether I have come across it again, of course one comes across it, anywhere where there is a terminal, of course one does not come across it in a street. Just as one does not come across it in a street anywhere else in Gibraltar. Where the bus stop is alongside the road where the bus stops and one comes out of a shelter into the bus, because that is the way the bus shelters are designed. He might as well tell me that bus shelters elsewhere in Gibraltar are the wrong way round, because one has to come out of the bus shelter and go around them. They are not the wrong way round, they were designed and done that way so that if they are facing south or west, the rain does not come into the bus shelter, the people standing in there are protected. If one moves away from the street and one goes to a

terminal, then the people, the waiting passengers are normally in a waiting room and to access the coach or the bus they have to leave the waiting room, which may be 50 metres away or 10 metres away, and they may have to go down a pavement, or up a ramp, or down a set of stairs in order to get to the bus. The access to the bus may be on the other side. So, fundamentally, the hon Member has to clear his mind on this point. If he thinks, like obviously one of his Colleagues sniggering in the corner thinks, that what I am saying is rubbish, right, if both himself and the Hon Mr Linares who is sniggering in the corner think that what I am saying is rubbish and that the terminal has been wrongly designed, then let it be clear that what they are criticising are the efforts of the technical people who have designed the terminal, and not the Government who do not. Or are they thinking that my predecessor as Minister sat down with a piece of paper to design the terminal?

MR SPEAKER:

Order, Order.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I will not give way, they will have a chance to ask supplementaries in a moment. So, he has only two courses of action. Either he thinks I am talking rubbish and therefore what he is doing is criticising the officials and the technical officials who have done the job. Let us be clear, that is what he is doing. Or, alternatively, he has to accept that it is a terminal and he has to accept that the shelters are designed for the use of all users. Which one is it? I ask a rhetorical question.

HON G H LICUDI:

I am not criticising any technical person, I am criticising Government policy. The Minister, what he cannot do and what he knows he cannot do, is hide behind officials that are faceless and do not appear in this House and are not publicly accountable to the people of Gibraltar, they are accountable to the Minister and it is the Minister that has to face the music in this House. It is out of order, completely, for the Minister to say, "well what you are doing is criticising other people and therefore you should shut up and not snigger". Well, that is not the point that is being made here. In respect of who designed the terminal, well we have been given no information, and it would not be unreasonable for the Opposition to consider that the Government Ministers themselves, or even the Chief Minister, had a hand in designing this. The Chief Minister has prided himself and publicly announced that he was the Clerk of Works, the Project Manager and Assistant Architect to the Leisure Centre. Why can he not take responsibility for this terminal, which has been clearly wrongly designed for the wrong type of bus with the shelters clearly on the wrong side of the road? I have never, ever, seen anybody in a bus shelter having to cross the road to get into a bus.

If I can come back to the supplementary. As regards the question of disabled access, maybe I have missed.....

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Mr Speaker, with your leave, the hon Member, on a Point of Order, can I ask for a clarification? The hon Member.....

HON G H LICUDI:

I am on my feet.

MR SPEAKER:

It is a Point of Order.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I ask for Mr Speaker's ruling. The hon Member has made a statement which requires answers but he has not followed it by a question and he is now going to move on to a different subject. I need to make clarification of fact to what he has said. Is he going to be allowed to make statements and not ask questions?

MR SPEAKER:

Wait, I have to rule on that. Does the hon Member wish to respond?

HON G H LICUDI:

Yes, I do wish to respond. All the Minister has to do, where I prefaced certain questions with some comments, which I understand we are allowed to do.

MR SPEAKER:

Not really.

HON G H LICUDI:

We have to put the question in a certain context, that is all that we are doing. All the Minister has to do if he wants to clarify anything before I move on to the final question, is simply get up and say would I give way. I will be happy to sit down and give way to the Minister, so I give way to the Minister. He does not have to make a Point of Order for that.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The hon Member should know it is not customary to give way in Questions and Answers, it is in debates.

HON G H LICUDI:

I am happy to do that.

MR SPEAKER:

The hon Minister wishes to seek clarification of any point arising?

HON LT-COLE M BRITTO:

All I want to say in answer to erroneous statements that have been made, far be it for me to deny political responsibility, I accept political responsibility for everything that is done by any of my Departments, so let that be absolutely clear, that what I said did not in any way imply denying political responsibility. I do not want to repeat it but it is simply a question that if there is a criticism, one can criticise the Minister as having the political responsibility, but when one talks about a terminal being wrongly designed then that is not political responsibility, that is technical responsibility for the design. Therefore, he is criticising a different person.

HON G H LICUDI:

I assume when the Government say they take political responsibility, that when a design is approved by the Government they accept that it is ultimately their responsibility and they should not blame..... If there is a problem which is highlighted they should not blame others.

MR SPEAKER:

May I interrupt the hon Member? I must apologise, I have allowed far too much latitude in terms of supplementaries. In the last three and a half years I have treated supplementaries as the opportunity for hon Members to probe as much as they can matters of Government policy, information, whatever is arising, because I am conscious of the fact that Question Time only occurs about three times in a year. There are Rules about questions being posed and I have mentioned privately to the hon Member that some of the questions are rather preceded by very lengthy preambles, which he must know from his reading of Erskine May are not permissible. There is a danger that we are seeing answers provided by Ministers leading to a response to the answers as opposed to a further question. I would simply remind the hon Member that answers given by the Ministers are not or do not carry an entitlement by Opposition Members to comment on the answers in terms of political statements or speeches, they have to be followed by a question. The question may be preceded by a very short factual background to establish the point that the question is posing. Subject to that, can we please get on with it?

HON F R PICARDO:

Can I say on behalf of all of us in this House that we look forward to very even-handed sticking to the Rules in respect of this, as I am sure we can look forward to from Mr Speaker, and ensuring therefore that every question that is put from the Opposition is in fact just that, a question, and that every answer that comes from the Government is in fact just that, an answer. I am sure Mr Speaker is fully aware that Erskine May also provides that answers in Question Time must be that, answers. They must not be political speeches, inasmuch as questions must not be political speeches, they must not go off the point insofar as questions must not go off the point. When we see Government Ministers breaching those Rules over and over

again and using this Question Time to make political speeches in respect of answers, as we have seen in many other Question Times and I am sure we will see the minute that we get to some other people who will be answering. We shall look forward to Mr Speaker's even-handed control of that to ensure that both sides of the House comply with the Rules as much as he has asked us to ensure we do in respect of questions.

MR SPEAKER:

Yes, certainly, absolutely. Hon Members on both sides can count on a more rigid adherence by me to Erskine May and, hopefully, we can avoid some of the issues that have arisen in the week that has not happened.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The Government side of the House welcome that ruling.

HON F R PICARDO:

As do the Opposition.

MR SPEAKER:

I am grateful to everyone then, let us get on with the supplementaries.

HON G H LICUDI:

Let me just say that sometimes it is difficult, particularly when answers are bunched together and we have a long statement by the Minister and we have to separate each aspect and then answer the supplementaries on each individual question that has been asked. Going back to the questions, in respect of Question No. 172 of 2008, which had to do with proper access for disabled users. As I understand the Minister's answer, he is saying that there is access for disabled users to all the islands. Is that what he is confirming?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No, I did not say that. What I said was that there is access across the vehicular lane. Let me look back at the answer. I said that access is available for disabled persons to cross the vehicular traffic lanes via the raised pedestrian crossings onto the islands. There is one ramp onto the first island, the southernmost part. From there, there is access onto, I think it is the northernmost, but not to the two central ones. The hon Member is right in that there is not disabled access to the two central islands.

HON G H LICUDI:

I am grateful for that and that was precisely my point. There is access for disabled users to the northernmost island where the shelter is, which is actually not used

because the buses do not stop there, and to the southernmost island where the shelter is on the wrong side of the road and therefore it is unusable, because any disabled user who is waiting on that bus shelter will not be able to get into the bus. Having regard to the answer given by the Minister, can the Minister confirm why there is a problem with access to the central islands from which access is actually gained onto the buses? The buses stop with their doors adjacent to the centre islands, that is how the Gibraltar Bus Company buses actually stop, on the first two lanes near the southernmost shelter. Those two islands do not have access and, therefore, disabled users are not able to gain access to the bus that actually stops there. Can that be looked into and redressed? That is all I am asking.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The hon Member is firstly wrong in the first half of what he said. The question is about disabled access not where the bus stops. There is disabled access to the two islands on which the bus shelters are constructed. So his statement that it is unusable for disabled people, whichever one he said, is not accurate because there is disabled access to the two outer islands where the shelters are. It is true that the two inner islands, if the hon Member bears with me I will give him a full answer.

HON G H LICUDI:

Will the Minister give way for clarification? If I can ask him to refer to the actual question, the question says it is a question of access to the bus stops at Market Place, from where access to the buses is generally gained. So I am clearly not talking about the northernmost island because no bus actually stops there. I am not talking about the southernmost island because no access to the bus stop is gained from the southernmost island, it is on the wrong side as the Minister will remember. Access is generally gained from the centre island, that is what the question refers to and that is the question that needs to be answered.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

To access the bus one does not need to get on the island, one can access the bus by getting off the two extreme islands and coming round the front of the bus and accessing the bus. The question is about disabled access, right. The answer, as I have already said, is that the two central islands do not have disabled access. He has asked me the reason and I am trying to give him the reason. The reason is that due to the physical constraints of the footprint of Market Place, I am getting confused, sorry. This point applies to bus shelters. In order to provide, I might as well deal with it because I am sure he will come up with a supplementary on it, in order to provide bus shelters or shelters for the two central islands, which are physically too small for a shelter. I know he has not asked for it but let me just volunteer the information to avoid him asking it. In order to provide a bus shelter for the two centre islands, the islands would need to be made bigger and the effect would be that the four lanes for stopping would need to be redesigned and made into three. So that is why bus stops were not put onto the centre island. Access to the two centre islands by disabled people is not currently in place. I am told it was decided not to put it in but the use is being monitored and it is still possible to put it in if it is found that it is necessary. So it has not been ruled out, it is not there at the moment, it is believed that disabled people who are using the shelter, because one does not have to use the shelter to get on the bus, can get off the bus and get off the shelter and go round the bus,

which is not necessarily convenient I accept, but the bus is accessible without accessing the centre island by disabled people. However, if use shows that the centre islands need to be provided with disabled access, then that will be done. At the moment I agree it is not there.

HON G H LICUDI:

It is quite alarming to hear the Minister say this will be monitored, this will be done if it is necessary. This was constructed from a blank piece of paper and the Minister acknowledges that a decision has been taken not to allow access to the centre islands by disabled users. The Minister also acknowledges that if a disabled user wants to get access onto the bus, he or she has to sit in an area where the bus does not actually stop and then cross the road, possibly in front of the bus, and let us hope that the bus driver actually sees the disabled user, particularly if going behind the bus. That is certainly not convenient. So when the Government have public responsibilities, does he not accept that part of that public responsibility is ensuring that access is gained to the people that need to use it? Not monitored over a period of time and then we will see, but something is designed, disabled users have rights and that is apparently not something that has been taken into account sufficiently by this Government. Does the Minister not accept that?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

What the Minister accepts is that access to all the vehicles in the area is possible from any point in the area. There is no essential need for a disabled person to use the centre islands, but it is something that the technicians themselves and the Government are conscious of, and if experience shows that it is necessary, it will be provided. Whether it should have been provided from the beginning, look, quite honestly I think the hon Member is right. Maybe it should have been provided from the beginning. It has not been provided and to provide it now would be to unnecessarily upset the workings of it. The technical people decided it was not necessary so let us test it and see. Then if it is necessary it will be provided but at the moment we are in a holding situation.

HON G H LICUDI:

At least we have an acknowledgement that this ought to have been done.

MR SPEAKER:

No comment please, question if the hon Member does not mind.

HON G H LICUDI:

With regard to Question No. 173 of 2008...

HON F R PICARDO:

That type of comment is allowed. It is allowed every week in Question Time in Parliament in London.....

MR SPEAKER:

With respect, we have wasted, spent most of this morning and have not done much progress. I have ruled just five minutes earlier, let us get on with the questions. I do not feel it necessary for a comment to have been made and a question should follow.

HON G H LICUDI:

We do not necessarily agree that time has been wasted.

MR SPEAKER:

Wasted is the wrong word, so much time has been spent.

HON G H LICUDI:

As regards the installation of bus shelters at bus stops in Gibraltar, the answer given by the Minister, as I understood it, was that it was not possible to install bus shelters in all bus stops. That is certainly correct. Is the Minister aware that there are numerous bus stops in Gibraltar where there are no shelters and would he agree that there is no excuse for this? Does he know, for example, that in Europa Road there are six bus stops without bus shelters? In Glacis Road there are two bus stops on either side of the road without bus shelters, where there is plenty of room on both sides of the road, particularly beside Glacis Kiosk for a bus shelter. Does he know that in that area in particular there are elderly ladies and children that often wait for buses in the rain without a bus shelter? Will the Minister commit himself, his Department and his Government, to look into where it is actually possible to put up bus shelters in the bus stops that do not have it, so that that facility can be enjoyed by everybody who uses buses in Gibraltar?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I have already answered that in my main answer to the question. I have said there is a feasibility study on-going, that we will decide on a case by case basis if it is not possible to install a shelter. The objective, of course, is to have shelters on all stops, it is just a caveat in case it is not possible. I have said that there is a programme for repairs and maintenance and there is also a programme for replacement of the current bus stops. It is not a good idea and not good governance and not good management of taxpayers money, to put in bus stops now piecemeal, to plug holes that exist where there are not bus stops, when one is looking at a programme in the forthcoming financial year of removing all the existing bus stops and putting in new ones. That is what the programme is and that is what is being done.

HON G H LICUDI:

Is the Minister aware, having regard to that answer and with regard to the answer given to the other question which the hon Member answered together, which was a question of information, is the Minister aware and the answer was that information is given at bus shelters, that in all the bus stops around Gibraltar, where there is no bus stop, there is no information whatsoever. What is the excuse for that?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

That if there is not a bus stop one cannot provide the information. It is not an excuse it is a reason.

HON G H LICUDI:

There is a bus stop with a pole where one can place a placard with clamps properly insulated against water ingress, should not be beyond the realms of imagination how it can be done. So can the Government state why, where there is no bus shelter, and in some places the Minister has said it cannot be done because there is a lack of room, are we then to expect a perpetual situation of lack of information at those bus stops?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The policy is to provide information on all bus stops and all bus shelters and this will be done, wherever possible and whenever possible.

HON G H LICUDI:

The Minister does a great disservice in failing to commit the Government and his Department to providing the information, simply saying "whenever possible". With regards to the state of disrepair, which was Question No. 174 of 2008, does the Minister accept that there are many bus stops, bus shelters which are shoddy and run down, which are totally filthy and that some of them are in an utterly disgraceful state? Does the Minister accept that disgraceful is an adequate word to describe the bus shelters at the frontier, the two bus shelters at the frontier? Where tourists coming in to Gibraltar for the first time are greeted with an utterly disgraceful bus shelter. Does the Minister not agree that that is not good to give confidence to the public and to tourists to use the public service in Gibraltar?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

What the Minister accepts is that his Department has placed a bid, which I expect to be in the Estimates, for over £250,000 in order to replace all bus shelters by modern and more efficient new ones.

HON G H LICUDI:

We are certainly very glad to hear that and that those answers are prompted. I note also from the answer given to the question, I have lost track of which particular question, it may have been this one, that there was a contract awarded in January of this year. Can the Government give details of what has actually been done in pursuance to that contract? Certainly, from my visit to all the bus shelters in Gibraltar and the bus stops, which I do quite regularly, I have seen no change at all in the last few months.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Well, considering that it is intended to replace the existing shelters, what has been done and what will continue to be done is just routine maintenance of a minor nature. There will be no major replacement of individual bus stops or no major replacements of any angle.

HON G H LICUDI:

Can the Government then state when the replacement of the bus shelters, which is really something Gibraltar is in dire need of, when that will actually happen?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

During the next financial year.

ORAL

NO. 180 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

LORRIES ENTERING GIBRALTAR

Can Government state how many lorries came into Gibraltar during the six-month period ending on 29 February 2008 and, of these, how many had their National Type Approval Certificate and cargo manifests checked by the Royal Gibraltar Police?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, TRAFFIC AND
TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 181 and 182 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 181 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

WEIGHT LIMIT EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES

Can Government state how many weight limit exemption certificates were granted during the period March 2007 to February 2008 giving a breakdown by month and stating who made the relevant decision?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, TRAFFIC AND
TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 180 and 182 of 2008.

NO. 182 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

WEIGHT LIMIT EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES

Can Government state how many applications for weight limit exemption certificates were turned down during the period March 2007 to February 2008 giving a breakdown by month and stating the reason why each application was turned down?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, TRAFFIC AND
TRANSPORT**

The total number of goods vehicles that came into Gibraltar during the six month period ending 29 February 2008 was 28,422. Random checks have been carried out by the Royal Gibraltar Police on those vehicles suspected of contravening the Vehicles (Construction, Equipment and Maintenance) Regulations, and a total of six vehicles were found not to comply with the respective documentation, which includes the National Type Approval Certificate and either the cargo manifest or the weight and dimensions exemption.

A reduction on these types of offences has been achieved. Before actually driving onto our roads, most local and Spanish haulers are now complying and are requesting a weight and dimensions exemption certificate. This permit is issued by the Department of Transport after consultation with the Highways Division and the Royal Gibraltar Police.

The statistical information otherwise requested by the hon Member is contained in the schedule which is being handed to him.

Answer to Question 182

Answer to Question 181

	Cranes	Goods Vehicles (lorries & trucks)	Fork Lifter	Motor Vehicles designed for excavation or shovelling work	Total
March 07	21	43		7	71
April 07	14	56		6	76
May 07	12	47	1	3	63
June 07	19	38		8	65
July 07	19	44		4	67
August 07	17	24		1	42
Sept. 07	7	18		1	26
Oct. 07	11	26		1	38
Nov. 07	7	21		1	29
Dec. 07	9	14		1	24
Jan 08	16	21		1	38
Feb 08	15	28			43

Answer to Question 182

Month	Vehicle	Reason for Rejection
April 2007	Mobile Crane	Exceeding max weight allowed for Line Wall Road (29 tonnes)
May 2007	Articulated vehicle (1) carrying container	Not allowed other than on a heavy traffic road
May 2007	Articulated vehicle (2) carrying container	No allowed other than on a heavy traffic road
August 2007	Excavator	Length of vehicle

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 180 TO 182 OF 2008

HON G H LICUDI:

With regard to the information given about the number of goods vehicles that came in, can the Minister confirm, that is what the question relates to, that of the 28,442 vehicles all of these are of the type that carry a National Type Approval Certificate and cargo manifests?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No, I cannot confirm that. He asked me how many lorries came into Gibraltar and how many had the National Type Approval Certificate and cargo manifest checked. So, presumably, out of the 28,000 there may have been some that did not need to, I do not know, that information is not what he asked for. But those that were checked, if they needed it and did not have it or did not comply, were otherwise processed.

HON G H LICUDI:

It is again surprising that the Minister appears not to be properly briefed and not to have sufficient information and apologised for making that comment. But the question specifically relates to the lorries coming in which had their National Type Approval Certificate and cargo manifest checked by the Royal Gibraltar Police. Now the answer that has been given is that so many goods vehicles have come in, not necessarily lorries, the question specifically relates to lorries and the answer related to goods vehicles not to lorries, that is the first point. The second point, the Minister has said random checks have been carried out by the Royal Gibraltar Police. Well, the question asked how many of all those lorries had those checks carried out.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I suspect the information is unavailable. If a check is carried out and it does not lead to any process, then presumably there is no record of the check having been carried out. But I certainly have not been given a number, I have been told how many have come in and as a result of these checks those that were found to be contravening. The question does apply to lorries, that is the way he phrased it. The question asked how many lorries.

HON G H LICUDI:

Lorries not goods vehicles. Lorries, it is not the same. Goods vehicles could be a small van.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

When I read the answer I said the total number of goods vehicles and in brackets I have got here lorries and trucks. So it does apply to lorries and trucks. It was 28,422. I omitted the words because I thought they were superfluous.

HON G H LICUDI:

I am glad for that clarification. We still do not have the number of random checks being carried out by the Royal Gibraltar Police. But we now learn that these are, in fact, random checks and not routine checks. In answer to Question No. 615 of 2007, which was “can Government state what steps are routinely taken to check the laden weights of lorries coming into Gibraltar?” the answer was “the laden weight of vehicles coming into Gibraltar is determined by roadside checks that are carried out by the Royal Gibraltar Police. In these checks the vehicles’ National Type Approval Certificate is requested and the cargo manifest”. So the question, Question No. 615 of 2007, asked about routine checks of all the lorries that came in and the answer was that that routine check is carried out by the Royal Gibraltar Police. Are we now to understand by this answer that those routine checks are not in fact carried out for the lorries that come in?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I think he is confusing the meaning of the words “routine” and “random”. The tests are routinely carried out, I understand to mean that the Royal Gibraltar Police on a regular basis check vehicles. Now, the random testing comes into the methodology. It does not mean that every vehicle that comes in is checked, it means that those vehicles that are suspected to be in contravention are those that are checked, if I remember what I said. The hon Member will surely accept that if the Royal Gibraltar Police were going to have to check to the level of 28,000 vehicles, they would be very, very involved in checking vehicles and not doing other things.

HON G H LICUDI:

I agree, that is why I was surprised by the answer given to the question which was what steps are routinely taken, which I understood meant that every lorry that comes in is checked and that clearly cannot be the case. What I was trying to ascertain is the level of frequency of that routine nature of the checks but we are no wiser after the question that has been asked today. With regard to the weight limit exemption certificates, I am not sure because three answers were given in one, whether the Minister did answer this part of the question, Question No. 181 of 2008, stating who made the relevant decision.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The Department of Transport after consultation with the Highways Division and the Royal Gibraltar Police.

HON G H LICUDI:

So can the Minister explain what the procedure is? Does a particular person or operator make a formal application to the Department of Transport? Is it done at the time that the lorry is in Gibraltar or is it before? How is this actually carried out?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No, I actually gave it as part of the answer. I said before actually driving on our roads, most local and Spanish haulers are now complying and requesting the permits. So they do it before they arrive. They are supposed to do it before they arrive.

HON G H LICUDI:

Presumably those who do not do it and exceed the weight are prosecuted. The Department of Transport, is this decision taken by officials at the Department of Transport in consultation as the Minister has suggested?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Presumably so. Not in consultation with me certainly, at officials level in consultation with the Royal Gibraltar Police and the Highways Division, in terms of weight.

ORAL

NO. 183 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

TRANSPORT ROAD

Can Government explain why Transport Road has been allowed to deteriorate into the state of disrepair it is currently in?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, TRAFFIC AND
TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 188 to 192 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 184 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

DUDLEY WARD TUNNEL

Can Government state whether the works at Dudley Ward Tunnel have commenced and if not state the date they will start?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, TRAFFIC AND
TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question Nos. 185 to 187 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 185 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

DUDLEY WARD TUNNEL

Can Government state when the estimated completion date of the opening of Dudley Ward Tunnel is?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, TRAFFIC AND
TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question Nos. 184, 186 and 187 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 186 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

DUDLEY WARD TUNNEL

Can Government state what will be the estimated cost of the works to be carried out to Dudley Ward Tunnel for it to be opened to the general public?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, TRAFFIC AND
TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 184, 185 and 187 of 2008.

NO. 187 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

DUDLEY WARD TUNNEL

Can Government state whether it has now drawn up a shortlist of contractors to be invited to tender for the realignment and concreted protection of the approach road to Dudley Ward Tunnel?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, TRAFFIC AND
TRANSPORT**

The tender evaluation process for this project has only just begun given that tenders were received on the 28th March 2008. It is therefore not possible to give a start date until the contract has been awarded.

At this stage of the tender process it is inappropriate for the estimated cost of the project to be made public.

After due assessment of the expressions of interest originally received for the Dudley Ward Tunnel project, all five contractors were invited to tender.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 184 TO 187 OF 2008

HON S E LINARES:

Does the Minister not agree with me that it was this Government, when all these projects around Gibraltar were to be started, that actually said that access to the Dudley Ward Tunnel would be imminent?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The hon Member might like to say so, I could not possibly comment.

HON S E LINARES:

Does the Minister not agree that the Dudley Ward Tunnel should have been opened about four years ago before all these projects were in hand?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The hon Member is asking me to give an opinion, is he not?

HON S E LINARES:

I am not here to answer questions, I am here to ask them.

MR SPEAKER:

Well, the answer I have heard was that the hon Member is asking me for an opinion. That was the answer that I have heard.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes, which is not the question that is in order.

MR SPEAKER:

Was he asking me then? Perhaps the hon Member will rephrase the question which leaves it beyond all doubt. Perhaps the hon Member will rephrase the question so as to remove the question of doubt as to opinion or otherwise.

HON S E LINARES:

Will the Minister confirm with me then that the Dudley Ward Tunnel should have been opened four years ago and that it was promised that it would be done before the big constructions were to start?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No, this Minister cannot confirm that.

ORAL

NO. 188 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

RESURFACED PUBLIC HIGHWAYS

Can Government state the areas of Gibraltar's public highways that were resurfaced during the months of December 2007 to March 2008?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, TRAFFIC AND
TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 183 and 189 to 192 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 189 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

EUROPA ROAD – WORKS

Can Government state when the contract for replacing and repaving the balustrade and footpath along Europa Road was awarded?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, TRAFFIC AND
TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question Nos. 183, 188 and 190 to 192 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 190 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

EUROPA ROAD – WORKS

Can Government state what was the estimated cost quoted by the company awarded the works of replacing and repaving the balustrade and footpath along Europa Road?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, TRAFFIC AND
TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question Nos. 183, 188 to 189 and 191 to 192 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 191 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

EUROPA ROAD – WORKS

Can Government say what was the estimated date of completion given by the company awarded the works of replacing and repaving the balustrade and footpath along Europa Road?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, TRAFFIC AND
TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 183, 188 to 190 and 192 of 2008.

NO. 192 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

EUROPA ROAD – WORKS

Can Government confirm whether the works for replacing and repaving the balustrade and footpath along Europa Road were put out to tender and if so whether the contractor awarded the tender are the same contractors currently completing the said works?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, TRAFFIC AND
TRANSPORT**

In order to avoid unnecessary expenses to the taxpayer, Transport Road is being monitored and kept in a safe condition until full resurfacing of all roads in the area is undertaken. The full resurfacing works are targeted for late 2008 by when it is anticipated that the main bulk of the heavy traffic to the construction sites in the area will have stopped and any works to utility services required will have been completed.

The following roads were resurfaced during the months of December 2007 to March 2008:

- Green Lane
- North Mole Road (in front of the Port Offices)
- Cannon Lane
- Little Bay Car Park
- Lower Scud Hill Car Park
- Camp Bay Road (between the small tunnels)
- North Pavilion Road (lower section)
- Nuffield Pool Car Park (north section)
- Cumberland Terraces
- Tarik Passage

Major patch work repairs and reinstatements were also carried out along Prince Edward's Road, Devil's Tower Road and Cumberland Road. Cracks in the road surface along Line Wall Road have also been sealed.

The contract for the current Phase 3 of the replacement of the balustrade and repaving of the footpath along Europa Road was awarded on the 4th February 2008.

The contract sum for the current Phase 3 of the works is £617,499.50.

The programmed completion date for the current Phase 3 of the works is estimated as mid October 2008. However, this may vary if the contractor encounters problems

of the type associated with works of this nature involving excavations and buried services.

The works to replace the balustrade and repave the footpath along Europa Road have been divided into three phases. Phases 1 and 2 were put out to tender and awarded to AMCO Ltd and Profiel Limited respectively. Phase 3 was awarded to Profiel as an extension to Phase 2, at the same rates with minor increases for material costs and inflation.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 183 AND 188 TO 192 OF 2008

HON G H LICUDI:

I will deal with the very first question that the Minister has given the answer to, Question No. 183 of 2008, concerning Transport Road. The Minister has said that Transport Road is in a safe condition. Can the Minister tell us how that question of safety is determined?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

It is ascertained and certified by the technical people in the field, by the Highways Section of the Department of Technical Services.

HON G H LICUDI:

Is the Minister aware that there are regular potholes on that road, that there is a great deal of unevenness on that particular road, that there is no pavement at all for pedestrians and that every time it rains there is a gush or rush of mud coming out from the adjoining Anchorage development? Is the Minister aware that that is now used as a main thoroughfare since Rosia Road was converted into a one lane system going down past what used to be the RSPCA? Does the Minister consider that that environment, particularly on rainy days, is safe for pedestrians and in particular for motor cycles, or does he not consider that adequate alternative arrangements ought to be made?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The Minister is aware of all the issues he has mentioned with the exception of the mentioned gush of mud from the Anchorage, which I have not seen or been brought to my attention. The Minister acts on the advice and information that he receives, and that is that that road or parts of it needs to be dug up, new surfaces need to be provided, I am told that it is in a safe condition. I am aware that it does not have a pavement, it never has, I am also aware that it is not a particularly busy pedestrian lane or road. The answer to his question is yes, I am aware of all these things and the decision based on the technical advice is that it is in a safe condition and that it is prudent financial management to maintain it. It is not that nothing has been done, it is being monitored and maintained with minor repairs until the major resurfacing works in the area are carried out later this year.

HON S E LINARES:

Just one supplementary. I asked in Question No. 190 of 2008, “can Government state what was the estimated cost quoted by the company awarded the works for replacing and repaving the balustrades and footpaths”, the Minister has given me figures of how much the Phase 3 would cost, but the question really is directed to the whole project.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Well, then he will deduce from my answer that it is not possible to give him a simple answer to his question. He asks in the question what was the estimated cost quoted by the company in the singular, awarded the works of replacing and repaving the balustrade and footpath along Europa Road, I have gone to pains in my answer to explain that it is divided into three phases and I have given him the cost of the third phase. However, if he is interested in the cost of the first two phases I can give them to him without any problem. If he asks the question I answer the question. There is not a cost. The question is what is the cost quoted by the company. There is not such a thing. The question is the estimated cost quoted by the company.

HON G H LICUDI:

On a Point of Order. I am making a Point of Order having regard to the ruling which Mr Speaker gave earlier on, particularly with regard to questions and answers. The supplementary question that was asked specifically referred to the other phases, the Minister had the answer and instead of giving the answer went ahead to make a statement, trying to ridicule the hon Member, and then said “oh by the way I have got this information”. Is it not correct that if the Minister had the answer he ought to have given the answer straight away without rambling?

MR SPEAKER:

Yes, I think it is right and imperative that a straightforward answer should be given where possible.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

This Minister attempts to give straightforward answers whenever he can but he gives straightforward answers to the questions that he is asked. In the supplementary the hon Member repeated his original question. He said what he was interested in was the overall cost of the project. I gave him an explanation why I had not given it to him in the answer and then I went on to say, however it is available. He can have it, does he want it?

HON G H LICUDI:

Of course.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

With all the rambling on the Opposition side I am beginning to think they are more interested in rambling than in getting the answer. Phase 1 AMCO £306,237.32; Phase 2 Profield £715,935.80.

HON S E LINARES:

I am very grateful for the Minister to give me these, thank you. That is all.

NO. 193 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

EMERGENCY VEHICLES ACCESS TO NORTH AND EAST SIDE OF GIBRALTAR

Can Government state what measures it proposes to take to ensure that emergency vehicles have access to the north and east side of Gibraltar when the roads are gridlocked as a result of the traffic attempting to cross into Spain at peak times?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, TRAFFIC AND
TRANSPORT**

In any circumstances, when the situation is such that the traffic is stationary, Police escorts are provided for any emergency vehicles travelling north or east, by going against the flow of traffic at Winston Churchill Avenue and/or using Glacis Estate. This course of action is well tested and has been used when dealing with air crash disaster exercises.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 193 OF 2008

HON G H LICUDI:

Is the Minister confirming, I would be grateful if he could confirm, that this is an established plan that is available for dealing with emergencies? The question does not specifically refer to air crash disasters but emergency vehicles that need access to the northern and eastern side of Gibraltar. For example, the ambulance that needs to go round to Devil's Tower Road or the Fire Brigade that needs to attend an accident in Sir Herbert Miles Road, that is what the question is designed to do.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I understand that and I can confirm it. I can confirm both halves of the supplementary. It is established planning and that is why it is used in exercises, but it is also used in the circumstances described in the second half of the question by the hon Member, for normal emergencies for the ambulance, the Fire Brigade or anything else.

HON G H LICUDI:

Is the Minister aware of any difficulties which might have been created, particularly as a result of the gridlock which we are experiencing on our roads on a daily basis now? Can he confirm whether he knows that as a result of an accident which happened at the black spot in Sir Herbert Miles Road junction with Devil's Tower Road on 20th December, whether reports of difficulties to the emergency vehicles getting to that particular accident as a result of the gridlock took place?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Firstly I am not aware or have not been informed about any particular difficulties about the incident referred to on 20th December, so I cannot answer that part of the question. In terms of general difficulties arising, by the way I do not accept that it is gridlock on a daily basis but that is a different issue. That difficulties arise, obviously, there are parts of our roads system that are narrower than others and, even with a police escort and even with moving cars onto the pavement, there are difficulties of access. I think I dealt with these aspects in a different way in an answer to a previous question in the previous Question Time, when the hon Member was asking what immediate measures we were going to take to relieve the traffic problems, and I said that in the short-term, none, because simply there is no answer in the short-term other than in the provision in the longer term of providing greater parking and changing the buses and a number of other issues. But the short answer is that so far the system seems to have worked, so far I am not aware of any serious delay and, certainly, I asked the Police specifically and they are satisfied that it is working as well as can work under difficult circumstances that can emerge on particular days.

HON G H LICUDI:

Does the Minister not agree that working as well as the circumstances allow is not really good enough, because the circumstances apparently do not allow for the system to work very well? Therefore it is a qualitative measure. Can he guarantee to this House and to the general public that the system will work well, that whatever changes will be made, and can he guarantee access to the northern and eastern side of Gibraltar for all emergency vehicles at all times?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The hon Member well knows that it is not possible for me here in this House to say I guarantee what he is saying. What I can guarantee is ensuring the best efforts by all the people concerned to do what needs to be done. That is happening and will continue to happen.

HON G H LICUDI:

Does the Minister accept that sometimes best efforts are not good enough?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No. Once again we are entering the realms of speculation. I do not accept that best efforts are not good enough from the point of view that that implies that there could be a better effort. If it is the best effort it is the best effort, and if it is the best effort it is as good enough as it can be. If what he is saying is that the best effort is not the best effort, then we need to analyse what could be done better. What I am saying is that in the circumstances, my understanding is that we are doing as well as we can and all the Agencies concerned are doing as well as we can and we cannot ask for more than that.

HON G H LICUDI:

Can I clarify the possible insinuation that I may have suggested that not enough effort is being made? That was not the use of "best effort", what I was saying was that sometimes we have the best effort that is available and sometimes it is simply not good enough and we have to look at alternatives. That was simply the point.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Well, if the hon Member has alternatives I am quite willing and interested to listen to them, in the interests of public health and public safety.

HON G H LICUDI:

We will assist wherever we are able to assist but we are not in Government, the responsibility is theirs.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Absolutely, I agree, but if he is saying is that he thinks that what is being done is not good enough, then he should put his money where his mouth is and say what should be done better.

MR SPEAKER:

Order, order, there was no question in the last statement the hon Member made, I assume there is no more supplementary. Next question please. Order, order, the Hon Neil Costa is on his feet, I do apologise.

HON N F COSTA:

If I understood the Minister correctly he said that he does not accept that there is gridlock on a daily basis, but does the Minister accept that there is gridlock between Mondays and Fridays every week?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I am not sure what the difference between Mondays and Fridays every week and a daily basis is, maybe the hon Member would clarify?

HON N F COSTA:

Of course. Having said that there is no gridlock on a daily basis, that would be from Monday to Sunday, but does the Minister not accept that there is gridlock between Monday to Friday, which is when road users are particularly inconvenienced when going from work to and travelling into Spain?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Maybe I can excuse the hon Member's younger years for being inexperienced in traffic throughout the world.

HON N F COSTA:

Point of Order, surely that is an inference to the fact that my younger years would qualify inexperience, which surely does not.....

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I withdraw the comment, it was meant to be a compliment but I withdraw the comment if it causes offence. The point I was trying to make is, gridlock in my understanding of the word means everything stopped for a long period of time. Now I challenge Opposition Members to tell me when the traffic in Gibraltar is stopped on a daily basis, or on a Monday to Friday, whichever definition they want to put, by implication on a regular basis or the length of time is important. That it takes time for me to drive or to ride on my motorbike from the south end of Gibraltar to my office in Town at 9.00 o'clock in the morning, or if I go home which I do not, or if I were to go home for lunch at 1.00 o'clock, of course it does but that is what I was saying initially about traffic everywhere. Of course there are peak periods but peak periods and lots of traffic on the road is not gridlock. That is rush hour traffic under any other definition. Now, if that rush hour traffic stops and is stopped for half an hour because at the north end of Gibraltar there is an additional problem with the frontier, then that I would accept is critical. What I am saying to hon Members, that I do not accept that traffic stops for half an hour every day at a given time of day, that it moves slowly along the roads in rush hour traffic, accepted.

ORAL

NO. 194 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

LOADING/UNLOADING BAYS AND CAR PARKS – DEVIL’S TOWER ROAD

Can Government say what provision they have made for loading/unloading bays and car parks on the south side of Devil’s Tower Road in their plans for the redevelopment of the area as the main access road to Spain?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, TRAFFIC AND
TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 195 and 197 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 195 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

PARK AND RIDE FACILITIES

Can Government state how the proposed park and ride facilities in the Northern area of Gibraltar will operate?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, TRAFFIC AND
TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 194 and 197 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 196 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

SANDY BAY – PARKING FACILITIES

Can Government state how and when it proposes to increase the parking facilities for residents and users of Sandy Bay?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, TRAFFIC AND
TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question Nos. 157 and 202 of 2008.

NO. 197 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

NEW ROUTE TO AIRPORT – USE BY PUBLIC SERVICE VEHICLES

Can Government state whether all public service vehicles will use the new route to the airport via the tunnel under the runway?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, TRAFFIC AND
TRANSPORT**

Such loading and unloading bays and street parking as will be available immediately to the south of Devil's Tower Road will be off Devil's Tower Road itself.

No Sir, it is not appropriate to provide information about how the car park will operate until closer to the date of commencement of that operation. However, it will be a paying and public car park.

The Government do not consider it appropriate to provide information about operational matters relating to the new tunnel until closer to the date of operation of the Terminal.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 194, 195 AND 197 OF 2008

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The Minister said, if I heard him correctly, "such parking as may be available on the south of Devil's Tower Road will be off Devil's Tower Road", is that correct?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes, to be pedantic I said, "such loading and unloading bays and street parking as will be available".

HON DR J J GARCIA:

How do the Government intend to provide additional street parking off Devil's Tower Road, given that the streets are already there, what additional street parking are they going to provide?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Good question. An attempt is being made to look at the real estate and see how this can be done. But it is more in terms, I know we are laughing but I realise that this is a serious problem for businesses in the area, so do not think I am underestimating the issue. The study that is being done is more in terms of loading and unloading bays. In terms of parking, it is obviously not going to be possible to create additional parking, because there is no additional space on which to create the parking. But I remind the hon Member that there are going to be two large car parks in the area. One next to the Cross of Sacrifice, which will house a thousand odd cars if I remember rightly, and another one in what is the Government Hostel at the moment. The number of cars there escapes me at this moment in time. So, Devil's Tower Road will become no more different than other shopping areas that are pedestrianised. Although, obviously, Devil's Tower Road is not going to be pedestrianised. But if he is intending to visit a particular establishment along Devil's Tower Road, he may need to park in a car park rather than outside the front door. But that is no different to other commercial premises elsewhere. I could not access commercial premises in, say, Irish Town, other than during those times when traffic is open, other than by parking, say, in Queensway then walking. So this is not going to be very much different. I would urge hon Members, and I stress again that I accept that this is a very serious issue for businesses in the area, but I would urge hon Members to look at the overall picture and, to put it bluntly, that one cannot make an omelette without breaking eggs. This is a re-alignment, well not re-alignment, this is a complete change for circumstances in Devil's Tower Road, for all users of Devil's Tower Road. Believe me, there are other concerns other than just commercial, the Church there has concerns, there are concerns about the Cemetery, about funerals, all these are in the melting pot but this is one of the biggest projects that Gibraltar has been involved in, if not the biggest, if one combines the new Air Terminal, the tunnel and the changes to Devil's Tower Road. It is, I dare to say, impossible to make an omelette that size and not have a few broken shells. But we will, obviously, do our best to address each case and ameliorate each case as we go along. But the impossible we do at once.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The businesses there have come to us. They are concerned because they have been told that there will be no loading bays on the south side of the road, and are concerned that all the car parks will be on the north side of Devil's Tower Road. It also needs to be said that street parking on the road itself will be lost as a result of this project. I assume that is also going to happen.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

That is correct.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

So what assurances can the Minister give the businesses in the area that will be able to receive deliveries and make deliveries, especially those that have heavy equipment and if they are involved with heavy equipment, and will be able to continue trading? That is the concern that they have, that they will not be able to continue trading. What guarantees can the Minister offer in this respect?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes, the question of loading and unloading, the hon Member is right, on the south side there is not going to be any loading or unloading xxxxxx, at least so far. The whole thing is still but loading and unloading bays and parking along the road itself are not going to be possible. We are seeking to provide loading and unloading bays off south and off Devil's Tower Road, which will meet the loading and unloading needs of the businesses in the area. Pedestrian access, correctly identified, if there are no extra parking spaces, will be on the north side of the road. Obviously, there will be means of crossing the road and there will be pelican crossings and there will be means of getting across. It is what I say again, it is no different to having to cross a road with traffic anywhere else. Although admittedly, this will be a four lane road. But yes, it is not an easy problem to solve.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

When the original plans were drawn up why did the Government not take account of this at the time? It seems to be obvious that if one puts all the parking on the north and all the loading bays on the north side of the road, that it is going to prejudice those who are on the south side of the road.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The questioner implies that this was not identified until a late stage, this is not so. This is part of the overall feasibility study and all the things that are being done leading towards the project. As I said earlier, that is only one of the issues, there are other issues that the changes to Devil's Tower Road will bring about. I mentioned one that affects all of us in one way or another at some moment in time, a funeral. We all know the way a funeral now works. In the future, if there are no crossing points for traffic, this is being looked at so it does not happen, but the hearse needs to go a long way before it gets to the Cemetery. These are all issues that are being studied and weighed up. They have been identified for some time, we are trying to find a solution. Some solutions are easier than others but we have certainly been conscious of them for a long time, since the first studies were made.

HON G H LICUDI:

In relation to Question No. 197 of 2008, which was concerned about public service vehicles and new routes to the airport via the tunnel under the runway. The answer, as I understood it, was that the Government do not consider it appropriate to give any information on this until closer to the opening of the tunnel. Does the Minister accept that the public can be forgiven for thinking that they do not give information simply because they have not got a clue? They have not decided how this is going to work and they are going to deal with issues on an ad-hoc basis and as crises develop, because crises will develop as the Minister has just described. Does the Minister not accept that and they will just deal with issues as they arise?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The public can be forgiven for being misled by inflammatory and inaccurate statements like the hon Member is asking, especially when they are not correct.

HON G H LICUDI:

Give us the information then.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The information is provided by Government when it is at a stage where it can be provided, but the use of public service vehicles on the new road is subject to a number of issues. Not the least of which includes consultations with the stakeholders, the public service vehicles operators, the coaches, the buses and the taxis. Is the hon Member suggesting that the Government should get up today and say, "yes, this is what is going to happen", without having consulted the stakeholders? That is why it is not appropriate to do it, because we are still, like in the case of the subject we were talking about a moment ago, parking bays and so on, until the decisions have been made and are cast in concrete, it is not appropriate to disclose them. Sorry, not disclose, this implies that the decision that has been made, the decision has not been made. If it had been made I would not be withholding it. What I cannot say is, this is what is going to be done when what is going to be done has not yet been decided. Not only has it not been decided, but I still need to talk to other people to make sure they are happy and can accommodate to the new arrangements. When we are in that state of play we will announce it. Does the hon Member think that we can keep quiet until the last minute and then suddenly say, "tomorrow the road is going to be open". It will be announced when we are ready to make the announcement. I do not think this Government can be accused of being reticent in giving information when the information is available.

HON G H LICUDI:

The reason I asked the question was because the answer originally given was that the Government did not consider it appropriate to give the information, which suggests that decisions have been taken, there is information available but they are withholding it. That is what the answer suggests. That is radically different and would the Minister accept that that is a radically different position to that which he has just explained? Which is that the information is not being given because no decisions have been taken. So which is correct?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The answer is not intended to be misleading and if it is, my apologies for inadequate drafting. The situation is as I have said, that final decisions have not been taken and even if in some phases of it you do have a final decision, when we come to a different decision it might affect the previous decision. So until the overall blueprint is ready it is not appropriate to give the information at this stage because it can serve to mislead, it can serve to give the wrong information and it is much better to wait, as we intend to do, until we are ready to provide all the information so that it can be disseminated to everybody at the same time.

HON G H LICUDI:

We now know that it is not a question of the Government having the information and not considering it appropriate to put it in the public domain, which may have been the

impression given from the original answer. So I am glad that that at least has been clarified. With regard to the issues, I understand that decisions have not been taken, but the issues which are being considered, can the Government confirm that as regards public service vehicles the obvious alternatives are that they either use the tunnel or they cross the runway? Can the Government confirm that either of those possibilities are still alive and it is still possible for the runway crossing, which currently exists, to be used in the future, not just for pedestrians as has been announced but also by vehicles, and in particular public service vehicles? Is that a possibility that the Government are considering?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Of course it is, that is why the final decision has not yet been made. There is no other alternative. Either no vehicles cross the airfield or some vehicles cross the airfield or all vehicles cross the airfield. That is what is being weighed up. It is certainly indicative that pedestrians are likely to cross the airfield. Whether there is a need for public service vehicles to do so or not is the \$64,000 question.

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Minister state when the consultation with the stakeholders started in relation to the Devil's Tower Road project?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Way back the day after the Cordoba Agreements finished. In principle anyway.

HON S E LINARES:

What does the Minister mean by "in principle"? That he was thinking about it but never got to consult them or what?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

In principle, because I am sure the hon Member will accept, that I cannot give him a date by date on which this group of people was consulted or that group of people were consulted. I tend to be a bit flippant in my answer. I accept and apologise for that, no offence was intended. What I have been saying is that the process of consultation will have started soon after the Cordoba Agreements finished, soon after the concepts were drawn up, and soon after the stakeholders that are affected were identified. Then the process of consultation will have started and is on-going. Do not ask me to put dates on it because I am afraid I cannot.

HON S E LINARES:

Is the Minister not aware that most of the businesses are actually on the south side of the road?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes.

ORAL

NO. 198 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

CEMETERY WORKS

Can Government state whether works at the cemetery are now complete?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, TRAFFIC AND
TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question No. 199 of 2008.

NO. 199 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

CEMETERY MAINTENANCE

Can Government state whether maintenance is currently being carried out at the cemetery especially between vaults and tombstones where it is most needed?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, TRAFFIC AND
TRANSPORT**

Yes Sir, the projected works at the cemetery are now complete with the exception of some minor finishing snagging jobs which are on-going.

Maintenance in all cemetery areas, including between vaults and tombstones, is on-going throughout the year.

ORAL

NO. 200 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

NEW INCINERATOR

Can Government confirm whether they have made any further consideration in relation to the new incinerator and whether it will be producing water, electricity or both?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, TRAFFIC AND
TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question No. 201 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 201 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT

Can Government state whether the Consultant's report in relation to the sewage treatment plant is still under consideration?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, TRAFFIC AND
TRANSPORT**

The situation remains as given in answer to Question Nos. 624 and 625 of 2007.

NO. 202 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

APES – AREA OF SANDY BAY AND CATALAN BAY

What is the Government doing about the problem of apes continuing to be attracted to open rubbish dumps in the area of Sandy Bay and Catalan Bay?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, TRAFFIC AND
TRANSPORT**

It is a known fact that beaches everywhere are subject to changes in their profiles arising from seasonal and annual variations. The movement of sand is therefore something that is common and accretion or depletion is dependent on many factors, such as the frequency and intensity of storms, their direction and so forth.

There is no escaping the historical fact that beaches in Gibraltar are no exception and are also subject to such seasonal changes. We have had instances in the past, for example, of Catalan Bay being all but lost after storms but then, followed by period where it becomes larger. It all depends, as I said earlier, on the frequency and direction of the storms.

Government will, therefore, continue the established practices to react as appropriate to any technical advice that it may receive from time to time. These practices have existed prior to 1996 and were also carried out by Opposition Members when in Government to monitor beaches in Gibraltar.

The Government have no plans in respect of increasing parking facilities in the area of Sandy Bay at this time.

There are no open rubbish dumps in the area of Sandy Bay and Catalan Bay.

The refuse holding facility at the approach road to the entrance to William's Way Tunnel was temporarily provided in an open area. This means that the bins were not within a structure whilst the new facility was being built. During this time the apes were attracted to the area and were the cause of many complaints. The new facility has been operational for some months and complaints connected with it have ceased.

The privately owned holding facility at the Caleta Hotel is not on the public highway but is controlled by the hotel itself. It has bins which are kept closed by lids but are also frequently visited by the apes.

The apes were being attracted to Sandy Bay because it had become habitual for some residents of the Both Worlds Complex to dispose of their refuse in the open

litter bins along the public highway. These litter bins have now been replaced by normal closed ones and are expected to deal with much of that problem or arising from earlier problems.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 157, 196 AND 202 OF 2008

HON F R PICARDO:

If I may start with the first question that was answered, and I confess that I do not see any relation other than a geographical one to the three questions, but so be it. The Minister has given the same answer that he gave my hon friend Dr Garcia in relation to Question No. 602 of 2007 in the preface to his answer to Question No. 157 of 2008. Now, he has said that the Government will continue to react as appropriate to the technical advice it may receive in respect of problems at the beaches. What technical advice has the Government received, if any, in relation to the present state of Sandy Bay?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

None.

HON F R PICARDO:

In that case, the Minister is telling us, therefore, that there will be no reaction to the present state that it is, ironically still called Sandy Bay?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Let me qualify that "none" to avoid the wrong impression. "None" meant in the sense that there was no technical advice to do anything, but the technical advice is exactly that. That the situation of our beaches is, as I have said in the main answer, due to seasonal and cyclical changes which go over many years. I have been a user of Sandy Bay in my younger years and I can remember Sandy Bay being in the condition that it is now, in terms of the size of the beach or very similar, in April or May of the year and I used to be a habitual user of it and also I used to go underwater fishing off the rocks nearby. So I used to take an interest in what was happening. More than once at the approach of summer, I used to think we would not be able to use the beach that year and lo and behold the next levanter storm comes up and the sand that the previous levanter storm removed is brought back. I say that from personal experience but that is the technical advice. That changes occur, not just to Sandy Bay but all three beaches, because the same applies to Eastern Beach and the same applies to Catalan Bay. These beaches have increased and decreased in size over the years and the advice is that there is no evidence to show that there are any new factors involved, other than, and I say this to give more information, other than the possibility of climate change having some effect. Other than that possibility, which nothing has yet been proved to be the case, the technical advice is that, at this moment in time, nothing different should be done. That does not mean that that advice may not change in the future.

HON F R PICARDO:

The state of Sandy Bay is really quite calamitous and that is recognised in the Government's own press release, No. 48/2008, where they issued a press release both in relation to Sandy Bay and Catalan Bay and how hard hit they had been this year by the storms. Can the Minister confirm to the House that at the time that this statement was issued, or thereafter, the Government have actually sought technical advice in respect of the present state of Sandy Bay and not simply relied on the advice they already had?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I am not sure I have understood the question, is the hon Member asking me whether subject to the press release the Government have proactively gone and looked for advice from their technical people?

HON F R PICARDO:

I only used the press release to illustrate the fact that the Government obviously share the view that the state of the beaches is seriously deteriorating and not like other years, which is what the Government's press release says, that this year's storms have been particularly bad. But in relation to the Minister's answer, has the Government sought technical advice given the present state of Sandy Bay or is what the Minister is telling us, the established technical advice the Government had already received in previous years? Has the Minister gone out and sought advice this year about the state of Sandy Bay?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I meet with Technical Services Department on a very frequent basis. Some times as frequently as once a week, depending on circumstances. In respect of Sandy Bay there have been several meetings, not only with that Department but with other technical people within the Government, in which I have consulted and passed on advice to central Government on the situation. That advice has been that. Remember that the Government or Agencies of the Government are concentrating on other issues at the moment in the area of Sandy Bay, or at Sandy Bay itself. But the technical advice, and I have had this discussion as recently as two days ago, not only with a view to this particular meeting but also because yesterday I had a scheduled meeting, purely coincidental because it had been postponed at least once, with the representatives of the residential groups in Both Worlds. So, my advice is on-going and in the sense of seeking it, it is proactive in the sense that I ask for it and also it is provided as part of the course of events. So the answer to the hon Member is yes.

HON F R PICARDO:

Just arising from that answer, the Minister says that he receives his advice and considers it and he passes it on to central Government. Perhaps he would be kind enough to tell us in this House what central Government is? Also he said that the Government is presently concentrating on other issues in respect of Sandy Bay, perhaps he could tell us what those other issues are?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes, I think the hon Member is being particularly slow in understanding what I mean. The situation is very simple and is the function of democratic Government. If I, or I dare to say any of my Colleagues, or any Opposition Members, if they had been in Government, the situation is very simple. I deal with matters that are within my competence but if I feel that an issue, and I am sure the same applies to other Ministers, if I feel that an issue needs a more centralised discussion consideration of opinion, I refer back to the Chief Minister for consultation with other Ministers. Then the matter is discussed centrally by Ministers and decisions are made. On this particular issue I have not felt the need to do that because the situation has not changed. As far as I am concerned, the technical advice that I have is that the situation is the same as it was 50 years ago, or that it has been for the last 50 years is a better description. Therefore, at this moment in time and subject to different advice emerging in the future, I have not felt the need to consult outside my Ministry at political level.

HON F R PICARDO:

I hope that the Minister intends to take up rambling when he retires, given that his answers suggest that he would do very well at it. I asked a very simple question, I do not think I am being slow in picking up a serious change in the way that Government, apparently, is administered in this small country of ours, that Ministers now appear to consider that the Chief Minister is responsible for central Government and that they must be responsible for something which appears to be devolved Government. I also ask....

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

On a Point of Order, that is not what I said. I did not say the Chief Minister was responsible, I said that I would refer through the Chief Minister to my colleagues for a central decision, which is different to the implication of what the hon Member is saying.

MR SPEAKER:

I think that is the hon Member's way of seeing it. I think nothing arises from it.

HON F R PICARDO:

I will enjoy reading the wriggling once Hansard is published. So be it. I also had asked what were the other issues that apparently the Government were concentrating on in respect of Sandy Bay. Perhaps the Minister would deal with that.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes, I shall try not to ramble. Arising from the storms there has been damage to the sewage plant within Both Worlds. A responsibility of the owners, there are various owners there so I use the word loosely, of the owners of Both Worlds to put right.

HON F R PICARDO:

Not of the Government?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No, not of the Government. The sewage plant belongs to the Government but the building in which it is enclosed is the responsibility of the owners. A notice was served on the owners to put things right, things did not happen so the Government have stepped in and in the interests of public health and public safety, the Government have stepped in and taken over the work that needs to be done to mitigate the public health and public safety issues, and the legal situation will need to be sorted out in due course.

HON F R PICARDO:

Now, in relation to this issue of the beach, the Minister will know that the residents, he has met them yesterday, the residents of the area have commissioned their own critique of the environmental impact assessment prepared in respect of the whole of the East Side reclamation. I do not know whether what they have prepared is an environmental impact assessment of their own, but certainly it deals with the environmental impact assessment which has been filed in respect of the works to be done on the reclamation for the East Side development. The advice that they have, is that if any sand is extracted from the Mediterranean side for the purposes of the development of the reclamation of the East Side, then we will lose Sandy Bay completely. Regardless of the seasonal problems that we tend to have with it now. Is the Minister committed to ensuring that the East Side reclamation does not involve the taking of sand from the east side because of this issue?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I am not aware of what the residents of Both Worlds are doing, have done or intend to do. I have not been made aware by them of what the hon Member has just said, that they are carrying out an EIA of their own. That I do not intend to go into, that is entirely up to them. But it is ironic, when I was sitting where the hon Member is sitting, I asked the Minister. When I challenged the GSLP in Government, and I said exactly what the hon Member is saying, that the loss of Sandy Bay was due to the reclamation for the West Side reclamation, I was told that absolutely not, it had nothing to do with it, by the Government. So it is ironic that he should be asking me the same question. There is no evidence, I have to say that what I was told at the time appears to have been correct, that dredging of sand has the dramatic impact on the beaches that people think that it has. When people talk of dredging it creates the image of a large hole being dug in the sand and then the hole left there a mile offshore and then the sea filling up the hole. In reality, dredging is done by skimming off something like 0.3 of a metre, 2.5 metre maximum, video controlled and technically controlled, of a large area of the seabed. Having said that, the EIA for the East Side development comments, and that is a public document so that is available to the hon Member to look at, on the effects of dredging. The Government are seeking, for other reasons, to avoid dredging and for the developer to use spoil that is already on land and has been created over the years. But in answer to his direct question, I cannot commit the Government, and will not commit the Government to dredging not taking place in the future if it is considered necessary, but only under

very controlled conditions, because there are now other factors that did not exist back in 1990 or whenever, environmental factors for example. Trans-boundary effects come into play and a number of other issues. So it is not something the Government will go into blindly or wily nilly but it cannot be ruled out.

HON F R PICARDO:

Finally in relation to the beach, or what was the beach, this issue of the technical advice that the Minister has taken which we have debated until now relates to the re-sanding of the beaches, if we can put it that way, but has he taken technical advice on what the potential effects could be of the sand not being there to the structural integrity of the properties known loosely as Both Worlds just above what is or was Sandy Bay?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The structural integrity of what he loosely calls Both Worlds is not the responsibility of the Government, it is the responsibility of the owners of the building. It will be interesting for the hon Member to go and take a look and he will see that the sea wall that was originally constructed along the front of the buildings, has withstood the test of time and is not showing any signs of either being damaged or being affected by the storms. On the contrary, if I say the terrace area is the hon Member familiar with what I mean? Then the terraced area was built subsequently mainly within the leased area and that was not provided by the developers with any sort of sea defences, and that is what has suffered over the years as a result of storms. But the integrity of the building is not the responsibility of the Government.

HON F R PICARDO:

I appreciate that but, certainly, the integrity of the adjoining land is the responsibility of the Government and I think the sea wall also is the responsibility of the Government. Is the Minister satisfied, he and I have seen the area of Both Worlds, I have got photographs of it, that the part of the Government's land that adjoins this development are not becoming so undermined so that they might undermine the adjoining leased property?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Perhaps the hon Member would like to define which particular area he is talking about, because if he is speaking about the area to the south of the buildings he may wish to know, if he does not already know, that that is not Government land, and including part of the beach at that southern end, that is all within the leased area of the property.

HON F R PICARDO:

I appreciate that, I am talking in fact about the northern end which is what is shown in the images that I have with me and that are particularly badly affected. It is where there is now no sand left, and we can see in this particular image that I am looking at here, listeners would be able to see it themselves if they went to the beach, the sea

is now coming all the way up to literally the wall, and all of that land which was not as I understand it demised land, has now disappeared and is now sea.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes, the hon Member is correct. The land to the north of the development below the steps, because there is a triangle between the development, the road and the steps leading up that is demised land, but below the steps and further north, is Government land.

HON F R PICARDO:

So, the question therefore is, is the Minister satisfied that the present state of that Government, let us call it land because it still belongs to the Government even though it may now be under water, is not such that it might undermine parts of the demised land?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The protection of the demised land, whether we are at the north end or the south end, remains as I said earlier on, remains the responsibility of the developer. Therefore, any effect that the sea is having is for the developer to protect.

HON G H LICUDI:

It is unfortunate that the Minister has chosen to put three answers in one when really they are not connected, because it just creates difficulties for us. In relation to Question No. 196 of 2008 on whether it was proposed to have increased parking facilities for residents and users to Sandy Bay, the Minister has indicated that the Government have no plans to do that, can the Minister say whether he is satisfied with the parking facilities which presently exist?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

When Both Worlds was built the developer at the time, who are not the current owners, made no provision for parking at all other than parking available on the public highway, and that is one of the root causes of the problem. Having said that, this Government back in 1998 created a layby when they widened the road, and created 25 parking spaces right next to Sandy Bay where they did not exist before. As he has heard me say to his colleague, the land to the south is not Government property and, therefore, it is not possible for the Government to do anything there but the hon Member may like to know that the present owners of that land have, over recent years, made more than one building application in terms of providing parking facilities, and I think I am right in saying, one such application was given a building permit by DPC but it was never actually constructed. There is, I think I am right in saying, another application currently in the pipeline which includes a large amount of work.

HON G H LICUDI:

Is the Minister now opening up for discussion decisions made by the DPC?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Would the hon Member like to re-phrase that question?

HON G H LICUDI:

We had a long argument at the last Session about the responsibility of the Minister in relation to the DPC and the Chief Minister got up and said it would not be answerable and would not comment on any matter connected with the DPC. Now the Minister comes and says there are matters which are being considered by the DPC. Does that now mean, according to the Minister, that it is open house and we can ask about those decisions and those applications?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I almost hesitate in answering that, the answer is so obvious. What was said at the last meeting and what was said by the Chief Minister of course applies, DPC is at arms length from the Government, a statutory body, and I am not opening up for discussion, it would be beyond my powers to open up for discussion matters within the DPC. What I have said is a statement of fact, not a matter of procedure within DPC. All I have said is that it is my understanding, and I did qualify it because I said I was not sure, that there is another application in the pipeline, I am not sure where it is, I am not sure whether it will actually get to DPC, but I was trying to provide information to the hon Member not about DPC but about the provision of parking spaces. I will certainly not enter into discussions about matters to do with DPC.

HON G H LICUDI:

It is hard to resist the temptation to say that Ministers ought to be careful about the accuracy of information given to this Parliament, and phrases like "I understand", "it may be", are really not helpful because they do not give concrete information which is useful to the Opposition and to the public in general. Having said that, with regard to the parking facilities and the lack of plans, the Minister has said that the land to the south is not owned by the Government. Can the Minister define what area of land he is referring to?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

All the area bounded by the road, the development, the sea and the cliff on the promontory, I think, up and including the cliff on the promontory where the police post used to be.

HON G H LICUDI:

So that does not include, presumably, the area to the south which is currently being used as a rubble tip?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Correct.

HON G H LICUDI:

So there is area to the south which is Government property and which is currently being used as a rubble tip and there is a parking problem, can the Minister say why no facilities are provided in that area?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Where has the hon Member been living for the last five years? That road has been closed because of the dangers of the cliff face, of rock falls, therefore there is no possibility of that being used for parking, either for that reason or for the reason that it is being used for depositing of rubble on a temporary basis. Certainly and more importantly, the re-alignment of the road and the construction works of Dudley Ward Tunnel.....

HON G H LICUDI:

It is not the question.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

It is not a different matter. In relation to that particular area, until that work is done and constructed and finalised, it will not be clear what is left that can be used or cannot be used. But having said all that, if after the tunnel is constructed and the road been opened there are areas that can be used, then Government will use them for whatever they judge to be the best purpose. If that is parking it will be used for parking, if it is for something else it will be used for something else. To quote his own words, I cannot resist the temptation before I sit down to go back to his opening comments and to talk about qualifying "I think" and "in my opinion" and "maybe" and caveats of similar nature, if the hon Member asks me a question my answer contains no caveats. My answer is factual, to the point and provides the details he requests but if he then goes on, as he is perfectly entitled to do, to ask me a range of supplementaries which are wide-ranging, with the greatest of respect, I have two options. I can either be completely unhelpful and say I need notice of the question and sit down and not give him any answers, or alternatively, I can do what I try to do which is to give him as much information as possible, but where I do not have the information readily at my fingertips, I qualify it so as to make sure that I do not mislead him or other Members of the House.

HON G H LICUDI:

It is unfortunate, truly, when notice of a question is given for the Minister not to be prepared to anticipate reasonable supplementaries, not supplementaries that are off the board and not to do with the question, and to be prepared and to be properly briefed. That applies to Ministers generally because we have seen that even yesterday on supplementaries which were pretty obvious and no answer was forthcoming from the Government.

MR SPEAKER:

May I remind the hon Member about our private conversation yesterday.

HON G H LICUDI:

Yes indeed, I am conscious of that, and I will get back to the question. The Minister has suggested that that area to the south is closed because it is dangerous. Is it not dangerous for the workers who actually go with the lorries and tip rubble on it?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Not dangerous where the rubble tip exists.

HON G H LICUDI:

So if it is not dangerous where the rubble tip exists, why cannot that area be used for parking facilities, because the answer given previously was that the whole of the area was dangerous and therefore cannot be used at all?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I suggest the hon Member obtains a photograph of the area and he will find that before it was created into a rubble tip it consisted of a narrow road, which was not possible for parking because it was narrow road, and then next to it there was a gaping big hole where there used to be an oil tank. So how he would expect that to be used as a parking facility escapes me.

HON G H LICUDI:

Well the problem is obviously for the Government but they have no technical expertise, apparently, to resolve technical problems. I will move on, if I may, to the problem of the apes. It is my hon Colleague's question therefore I will allow him to ask supplementaries first then I will follow up on any matter.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I am at their disposal, both of them.

HON F R PICARDO:

I am obliged to the hon Gentleman. In fact, one of the things that has happened as a result of the Minister taking these three questions together is that we are dealing cross-portfolio with his issues, because he has answered in respect of matters which relate to the environment and matters which relate to traffic, as he is perfectly entitled to choose to do. But I think it is unfortunate that now we are so far from the original answer that he gave in respect of this issue of the apes which was complex, and I am grateful for it, as to when in different instances different aspects of the ape management or the rubbish management system in the area have been implemented. Can he tell us on what date it was that the new facility in the area of Sandy Bay came into operation?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Not the exact date, but some time round about February this year.

HON F R PICARDO:

Was that part of what he called the survey, or the result of what he called the survey of refuse collection systems that he told a recent publication for a business entity he had initiated when he became Minister for the Environment?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No, that particular site was initiated by, I think probably, yes he is nodding, my Colleague Mr Netto when he was Minister and, as I said in the answer, it was the effect of numerous complaints, especially from residents of Catalan Bay, about the number of apes in the area and the fact that the pack had almost become, I think the correct word is, habituated in the area. But I will encourage the hon Member to visit the particular site, I admired it when I saw it and one could almost build a bedsitter in it. It is very well designed, easy to keep clean, easy to manage and will work as long as, and there have been occasions where this has not happened, the users do two things, or rather do one thing and not do the other. The one thing that they need to do and most do but some do not, is when they get there open the door go inside and dump the rubbish and on the way out close the door again, which not all of them do. The second issue is what they should not do, is when they get to the closed door not deposit the rubbish bag outside, which some do. With those two caveats, the site, the facility is very well designed and works extremely well.

HON F R PICARDO:

What we have seen in this House is that the problem of the apes first originated in the area, of the apes coming down attracted to rubbish tips, first arose in the area of the Upper Town, principally in the area of Calpe, Moorish Castle et cetera. As I ask questions of the Government and ask them to implement closed rubbish systems, the apes have been moving systemically almost to those areas where there are still not closed rubbish collection systems. Why has it taken the Government so long to appreciate that this is what we need to have in all the areas of Gibraltar to ensure that the apes do not go from where they were at Calpe down to Sandy Bay, down to

Catalan Bay and next to whichever area it is that the apes may find, with their usual ingenuity, they can still scavenge from?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I will give him a little titbit of information that was provided to me recently. Studies show that the monkeys spend two thirds of the daylight time foraging for food, irrespective of the amount of food that is provided to them. I am tempted but I will not go back into history about the cause of why there are so many apes. But the hon Member is right that as a refuse holding facility is improved and sealed, that it is less accessible to the apes, although they are very clever in learning new tricks. Unfortunately, it is not always easy, not in every area can that sort of facility be constructed that was constructed at Catalan Bay, for a number of reasons. Be it the physical footprint of the facility, be it the nearest, Crutchett's Ramp or Turnbull's Lane are very good examples, where wherever it is put there are people who live in the area who feel inconvenienced by it. So, any changes always are difficult to manage and difficult to do. The bin holding area that the hon Member is very familiar with along Castle Road, is at the moment part of the study being made and the recommendations are to move it nearby where a larger purpose-built designed facility can be made. But already there are objections from people living in the area, so, in an ideal world, and I always try for the ideal, by the time I finish with this every single bin-holding area will have lids and wire mesh and the apes will not be able to get in, they will be covered and they will be smell-proof. In the real world, unfortunately, I am too much of a realist to realise that it is almost impossible to achieve, but it is the aim and the objective and I realise as much as anybody else the inconvenience that foraging apes cause to the public and we will go the extra mile to try and cure it. On the other hand, the apes are a tourist attraction, they have their value and this is something we have lived with over many years.

HON F R PICARDO:

I am sure he looks forward to debating the issue of ape management with me in a programme where, I think we are both slated to appear, on where the public will be able to hear our views on that. This is a problem not just for the residents of the area, although it is primarily a problem for the residents of the area. We have dealt with Sandy Bay we now have to deal with the problem at Catalan Bay as it may be. Not just the residents but also all of those people who will be visiting the beaches from the summer months, and even before the summer months. Like the Minister, when I was gutless I used to enjoy going to the beach. Now, although the Chief Minister may not see it, my gut is not attractive enough for me to be persuaded to show it at the beach, but everyone who does turn up at the beach will also this year have to deal with this potential issue. Is the Minister satisfied that there is no longer a problem at Catalan Bay?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I am satisfied that there are no complaints from Catalan Bay directly of the scale that there used to be. So even if I cannot categorically say there is not a problem, because the problem might not have existed two minutes ago but could exist in two minutes time, because it is a fluid situation, I am satisfied that there has been a tremendous improvement. However, if the hon Member goes back to my answer, he will see that I mentioned in particular the bin holding facility at the Caleta Hotel, and

there, there is still need for further action and cooperation to be taken. In terms of longer term solutions, there are already plans to take action so that the pack that is in the area at the moment stops being in the area.

HON F R PICARDO:

I know that my hon Friend who is a resident of the area wants to follow up, but before he does, can the Minister tell us whether the issue of the Caleta Hotel is in his view an issue of more cooperation, as he suggested, or is it an issue of abatement by the Agency?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No, more cooperation, it is a question of making sure bins are closed and all rubbish is inside the bins. This is a matter for the Department and the Caleta Hotel to cooperate. We can make sure that the doors of the Government's facility are closed and we can provide bins outside on the public highway that have lids on them, but we cannot do that except by asking for cooperation. I am not aware of any abatement notice issues.

HON G H LICUDI:

The Minister has said he is satisfied that there is a tremendous improvement, can he tell us what steps he or his Department have taken to monitor the situation with the apes since the enclosure of the rubbish tip at Catalan Bay? Perhaps before the Minister answers, I should say as my hon Colleague has said, that I do have an interest because I am a resident in the area.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Both the Environmental Agency and the Department of the Environment have ongoing responsibilities for monitoring which are within the normal remit of the normal work. Those include the maintenance of the facilities, monitoring complaints, attending to complaints and taking action arising from them. If the hon Member is asking me whether I have a member of my Department walking up and down Catalan Bay Road or Sandy Bay Road on a daily basis twenty-four by seven, the answer to that is no. But if he is asking me whether frequent visits are paid to the area and attention is paid to complaints and action is taken as necessary, then the answer is yes.

HON G H LICUDI:

I do expect that there is a level of monitoring and there is a level of frequent visits to the area to monitor the situation, which the Minister has confirmed does take place. I must therefore express surprise, given that there are frequent visits to the area that the Minister should suggest the problem has just about disappeared. Does the Minister know that despite the enclosure of the rubbish bins, which has been a very good thing to do, there are still apes almost on a daily basis creating a nuisance at Catalan Bay? It is as serious as that.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Of course I know, but when the hon Member asks me about the problems, I am talking about the subject they have raised, about the bin holding area and the problems associated with the bin holding area. Those have been solved by the creation of the new facility. But if he is saying, or if the question which has not come up until now, if the question were to be asked that has not been asked, are there any apes in Catalan Bay or in Sandy Bay, then of course the answer is yes. But both Members have not taken note of an answer in supplementary that I made a few minutes ago, maybe they have not realised what I said and I will repeat it. That in the near future action is being taken to make sure that the pack of apes that is now habituated in the area, stops being habituated in the area.

HON G H LICUDI:

The Minister speaks of "in the near future", can the Minister be a little bit more explicit and tell us what steps are being taken, what review is being undertaken and when we can expect some action?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

As we speak and I am talking about culling.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Genocide.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

I remember when the apes came under the Tourist Board, I remember asking the Hon Mr Holliday, and at the time they culled 25 apes in that particular area. The apes we have now are obviously different ones. Culling is really not a permanent solution to the problem, because obviously, it has not worked in the past. So what is it that the Minister has in mind that that will be a permanent solution?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I will need to ramble again in order to answer the question. The Hon Dr J J Garcia, needs to understand how apes evolve and how packs split to understand why it is a permanent solution. The ideal size for a pack is between 40 and 50. When the size of the pack increases beyond 50 the dominant ape, remember packs work on the Indian tribe system where there is one dominant ape and a number of females and young apes.....

HON F R PICARDO:

We are fully aware how that works.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Okay, so I will not digress except to say that when a pack splits, the smaller split pack needs to move into a different location. That is what has happened in Sandy Bay, Catalan Bay area in the past and that pack was culled as the hon Member says some time ago, and the problem has began to grow again when there has been another split pack and the new pack has moved into the area and has taken up the area as its natural habitat. It is a permanent solution in the sense that once those apes are culled then there is no pack there in the area any more. It is not permanent in the sense that if there were to be another split pack at some time in the future, but it does not necessarily mean Catalan Bay, it is a natural foraging, at one time it used to happen in Moorish Castle. It goes on like that but the numbers are round about 200 at the moment and I have asked for the prognosis, but I expect that after the culling that will take place and following the births that happen in Spring, the number will be more or less static again, subject to any further similar actions that are taken in the future.

HON G H LICUDI:

Static at what level, does the Minister know?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

A total of 206 as at January this year, 196 as at January last year.

HON G H LICUDI:

I understood the Minister to say that the figure was round 200 but once the culling takes place there will be a reduction and it will be static at that new level. Is that not what the Minister said?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No that is not what I said. I said that the current figure is about 200, if one culls 25 obviously one ends up with 175 but then if we have 25 births, the figure for last year was 30 odd apes, so if we cull and then we get births of the same sort of numbers then the figure remains round about 200.

MR SPEAKER:

Can we move on to the next question, we have spent about 25 minutes on three questions?

HON F R PICARDO:

Just to make the point that it was on three questions which, I think, had its own particular controversy attached.

ORAL

NO. 203 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

UPPER ROCK ENTRANCE FEES

Can Government say how much of the money raised in Upper Rock entrance fees in the financial year 2006/2007 has been spent or earmarked for improvements to the Upper Rock, giving a breakdown showing the different sums spent/allocated on the different improvements?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, TRAFFIC AND
TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 208 and 209 of 2008.

NO. 204 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

POST OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE/CAPTAIN OF THE PORT (DESIGNATE)

Can Government say how many persons have applied for the post of Chief Executive/Captain of the Port (Designate) which was advertised in February?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, TRAFFIC AND
TRANSPORT**

A total of 13 applications for the post of Chief Executive/Captain of the Port (Designate) have been received. A short-list has been drawn up and interviews are currently taking place.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 204 OF 2008

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Minister say whether any applications were received from Gibraltar, from a Gibraltarian?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes, of the 13 applications received only nine met with the criteria with regard to qualifications and experience. Of these, two are local applicants.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Are these persons already employed within the Port Department or are they people who are not resident in Gibraltar?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

One of them is employed in Port related activity. The other one, to my knowledge is not and the other seven are British nationals working in Port related activities in the UK.

NO. 205 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

OIL SPILL RESPONSE EQUIPMENT TENDER AWARD

Can Government say whether the tender award to Elastec, American Marine Inc to supply oil spill response equipment for £120,855 was the lowest bid received?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, TRAFFIC AND
TRANSPORT**

The tender awarded to ELASTEC was not the lowest bid received.

ELASTEC was awarded the contract in accordance with standard Government procurement procedures.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 205 OF 2008

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Minister say why the tender was not awarded to the lowest bidder in this case?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No, as the hon Member obviously knows, I do not form part of the Tender Board or process. I can tell him that six offers were received from four companies and each offer was evaluated on the basis of the most economically advantageous tender, as advertised in the Official Journal of the European Union, and using the criteria and weighting stated in the contract document.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The Minister cannot say whether the quality of the equipment supplied is of higher quality, better grade or whatever and that is why they have gone for that particular tender? Is that right?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No, I cannot but in order to be as transparent and as open as possible, let me give him some additional information which serves to confuse me and might confuse him as well. It is that ELASTECH actually had two tenders. One of the tenders was the lowest tender but yet it was decided to award it to the second tender which was not the lowest tender, it was third from the bottom. So obviously, it must have been done on the basis of more efficiency or more value to the Port. I do not have any further information but it is obvious that we were not looking for the lowest price, we were looking for value for money, and the difference is not great.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Were Gibraltar companies or businesses any of the six tenderers for this equipment?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

To be honest, I do not know. I think one of them is a Gibraltar registered company, I am not familiar with the names of the others.

NO. 206 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EIA – NEW ACCES ROAD AND TUNNEL AT EASTERN BEACH

Can Government confirm that the EIA for the new access road and tunnel at Eastern Beach was completed last year and has it recommended any alterations to the proposals?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, TRAFFIC AND
TRANSPORT**

I can confirm that the EIA for the new road and tunnel project was published in November 2007, as the hon Member should be aware since this is a public document. Government has accepted the recommendations and will ensure that an Operational Environmental Management Plan and general good practice guidance is developed for the detailed design so that the plans meet the requirements of the relevant legislation and regulatory authorities. In addition, a Construction Environmental Management Plan will be required from the contractor, which will manage the key environmental risks outlined in the Environmental Statement.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 206 OF 2008

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am not entirely sure whether that is a yes or a no to the second half of my question, where I say does it involve alterations to the original proposals.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No, no alterations.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I wonder if the hon Member would give me this opportunity just to clarify, because there is an element of public misconception about these EIA reports. They could do one of two things. They could, but actually it is quite rare, make recommendations that indicate against the doing at all of the project, or against the doing of the project without modifications to the project itself. That is possible but not very common.

Much more common, to the extent that it is almost always the case, there could be indications about things that one needs to be careful about during the execution phase of the project, they are called mitigating measures, measures to mitigate noise, air particle pollution during the construction phase. Most EIA reports have many of the second kind and this one is no exception, and it is the second kind that this one contains. Mainly mitigation measures relating to the execution phase rather than the doing of the project itself for some permanent damage to the environment.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is there not then a dimension, for example, where there is a question of whether it is compliant with environmental requirements to the extent that a report might say the size or the depth of a route that it is taking is not the best one environmentally and we recommend that it is moved a few yards, does that not come into it?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, remember that there is no environmental dos and don'ts rule book. See, there is not a Directive that says one could do this or could not do that. These assessments are not measured against a set of established criteria, so there is not an adjudication of compliance against anything in particular. There is an assessment about the environmental impact in abstract of the development, leaving it to the decision-makers to decide whether the public interest in the doing of the project is outweighed or outweighs the environmental impact that is being done. Many environmental impacts can be, to use the jargon of the EIA Directive, mitigated and that is where most of the recommendations tend to focus, mitigating identified environmental impact. In some European countries there have been some very spectacular cases of the latter, where an environmental impact assessment has been so strong in identifying severe environmental impacts, that it eventually through one process or another, the political process or the planning process, has the effect of abandonment or severe modification. But there is nothing in this EIA report that speaks of anything of that sort. They are mitigation recommendations rather than saying, for example, one of the things one has to mitigate is the new road which will be near the MOD Medical Centre which has already opened. So it recommends mitigating measures against noise and dust pollution, for example, whilst construction takes place.

NO. 207 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

HOSPITAL PARKING ARRANGEMENTS

Can Government say whether the arrangements for hospital users to park at Europlaza have come into effect?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, TRAFFIC AND
TRANSPORT**

The Government is currently implementing a policy decision to operate all Government owned public car parks, including the Europlaza car park, through a new Government owned company called Gibraltar Car Parks Ltd. This company has already been incorporated and is currently in the process of being housed, staffed and activated.

When this process is completed the various car parks will become operational.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 207 OF 2008

HON N F COSTA:

Could the Minister give an indication of when the car parking will be made available to the public?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No, I do not have that information available because I am not directly concerned in the issue.

HON N F COSTA:

Would the Minister be able to say how long it may take for the company to be appropriately staffed and for everything to be in place for the car parking issues to be resolved?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I am told that the company is already fully incorporated, already has a temporary office and one employee. It is expected that a group, and I do not want to give names here because I am not sure whether the people concerned themselves are aware, but a group of other employees are expected to transfer into the company to provide the staffing to run the car park. Interestingly, my last line says I do not have a specific date for the opening of the facility. I can assure the hon Member that this is not something that is technically under review, which means nothing is happening. Let me explain that, when the words are used "under review" or "pigeon holed" meaning nothing is happening. This is not one of those cases, this is very activated and moving and developing as we speak. So it should happen soon.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Minister say whether this will be a pay car park?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The principle on which all these car parks, I am now talking about the car park at Willis's, the car park at Sandpits, the car park at the New Harbours and this car park and one or two others, the principle is that the parking spaces are not going to be sold and that they are going to be on the basis of pay parking, either short-term or long-term. Again, it is not something I am directly involved in with the process.

HON N F COSTA:

Sorry, perhaps I did not fully grasp or get the Minister's answer. A question therefore to clarify. Will the car park be made available to members of the public and staff? If so, would it be paid by those members, the public and staff, or would it be made available to the general public visiting the hospital for free?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

What I answered to his hon Colleague just now was a generic answer in terms of all car parks. The Europlaza car park falls into a different category. My answer in respect of all Government car parks were that the spaces are not going to be sold, they are going to be made available for short-term and long-term parking, but that the details are not finalised yet. At least, if they are I am not aware of them. But I am not doing the finalising, that is the point. The one at the hospital, I am afraid I do not have any information on that at all. Again, it is not something that I have been involved in, either when I was Minister for Health or now. The car parking company policy is being developed as we speak and it will be controlled centrally by No. 6 and not by me.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can he say how many spaces there will be in the Europlaza car park? Does the Minister have that information?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Speaking from memory, I think we are talking about 100 spaces but I can not guarantee the accuracy of that answer. Speaking from memory. It is of that order, there is a whole floor at Europlaza. I am told there is another question on the Order Paper for next week so there should be more information then.

ORAL

NO. 208 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

REVENUE RAISED – COACH PARK/UPPER ROCK/MUSEUM

Can Government say how much revenue has been raised on a monthly basis from November 2007 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 THE ENVIRONMENT, TRAFFIC AND
TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 203 and 209 of 2008.

NO. 209 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

UPPER ROCK ENTRANCE FEES

Can Government list the different entrance fees that currently apply for the different categories of visitors to the Upper Rock showing the mode of transport or whether they go up on foot?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, TRAFFIC AND
TRANSPORT**

All monies raised in Upper Rock entrance fees are credited to the Government General Account and not allocated to specific projects.

Funding for improvement of the Upper Rock comes from the Improvement & Development Fund. £650,000 was made available in the financial year 2006/2007.

The statistical information requested by the hon Member is contained in the schedule which is being handed to him.

Answer to Question 209

Answer to Question 208

(a)

Month	Coaches	Paid	Total
Nov. 2007	537	£10	£5,370
Dec. 2007	331	£10	£3,310
Jan. 2008	293	£10	£2,930
Feb. 2008	456	£10	£4,560
March 2008	507	£10	£5,070 (up to 26-03-08)

(b)

<u>Month</u>	<u>Upper Rock Admissions Fees</u>
Nov. 2007	£194,221.14
Dec. 2007	£141,626.70
Jan. 2008	£91,868.76
Feb 2008	<u>£132,073.33</u>
Total:	<u>£559,789.93</u>

(c)

<u>Month</u>	<u>Museum Admissions Fees</u>
Nov. 2007	£1,706.72
Dec. 2007	£587.25
Jan. 2008	£1,127.92
Feb 2008	£4,825.98

Cont.....

Contd Answer to Question 209

Answer to Question 209

<u>UK Ticket Type</u>	<u>Fee</u>	<u>Mode of Transport</u>
Private Adult	£8.00	Private Vehicle
Private Child	£4.00	Private Vehicle
Private Vehicle	£1.50	-
Taxi Ticket	£4.00	Taxi
Public Service Vehicle ticket	£4.00	Coach
Walkers Only	£0.50	On foot (no access to tourist sites)
Walkers Site Adult	£8.00	On foot
Walkers Sites Child	£4.00	On foot
Cable Car Adult	£4.50	Cable Car
Cable Car Child	£4.00	Cable Car
Walkers Discount Adult	£7.50	On foot (issued in exchange for a Walkers Only ticket)
Walkers Discount Child	£3.50	On foot (issued in exchange for a Walkers Only ticket)
100 Ton Gun Only ticket	£1.00	Any of the above (no access to UR Nature Reserve)
100 Ton Gun Discount Adult	£7.00	Any of the above (issued in exchange for a 100 Ton Gun Only ticket)
100 Ton Gun Discount Child	£3.00	Any of the above (issued in exchange for a 100 Ton Gun Only ticket)

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 203, 208 AND 209 OF 2008

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is the Minister aware that the entrance fee to the Upper Rock is actually an environmental levy?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes, I have memories of the legal wrangle that occurred recently. Yes, I am aware.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The Minister says £650,000 has been spent on the Upper Rock from the I &DF, but given that the monies raised in entrance fees to the Upper Rock is not being spent on the Upper Rock, can the Minister say whether more money is raised in entrance fees to the Upper Rock than the money that is spent from the I & DF?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Two things, the hon Member may have misunderstood my answer. I said £650,000 was made available, I did not say £650,000 had been spent by the Department. The second half of his question, I do not have that information, I would need notice of that question. I do not have the information of how much money is raised in fees but I am sure that with the number of questions the hon Member asks on this subject, he might have the information himself. But if he has not, if he writes to me or asks me in a future meeting I will provide it.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

What I was pointing out is that more money is raised in entrance fees to the Upper Rock than is being spent on the Upper Rock.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

That may be so.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Does the Minister not think it is appropriate, given that the entrance fee to the Upper Rock is an environmental levy, that all that money should be spent on the Upper Rock?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No, when I said I did not have it available, I said I did not have the figure of how much was received in entrance fees in front of me. It is not Government policy to

allocate entry fees to a particular xxxxxx, like in this case. It goes into the General Fund and the funding comes out separately. That is the policy so it is not up to me to comment whether I agree or not.

ORAL

NO. 210 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

(On behalf of the Hon S E Linares)

WATER – AMOUNTS COLLECTED/BILLED

Can Government state what were the amounts collected and the amounts billed in respect of water in the months of December 2007 to March 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

Answered together with Question Nos. 211 to 216 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 211 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

(On behalf of the Hon S E Linares)

WATER – NUMBER OF DOMESTIC PRIMARY UNITS INVOICED

Can Government state the number of units of Domestic Primary Units of water invoiced in the months of December 2007 to March 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

Answered together with Question Nos.210 and 212 to 216 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 212 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

(On behalf of the Hon S E Linares)

WATER – VALUE OF DOMESTIC PRIMARY UNITS INVOICED

Can Government state the value of Domestic Primary Units of water invoiced in the months of December 2007 to March 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

Answered together with Question Nos.210, 211 and 213 to 216 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 213 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

(On behalf of the Hon S E Linares)

WATER – NUMBER OF CUSTOMERS INVOICED DOMESTIC SECONDARY UNITS

Can Government state the number of customers that were invoiced for Domestic Secondary Units of water in the months of December 2007 to March 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

Answered together with Question Nos.210 to 212 and 214 to 216 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 214 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

(On behalf of the Hon S E Linares)

WATER – VALUE OF STANDING CHARGES INVOICED

Can Government state the values in respect of Water Standing Charges invoiced to domestic customers in the months of December 2007 to March 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

Answered together with Question Nos.210 to 213 and 215 to 216 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 215 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

(On behalf of the Hon S E Linares)

WATER – VALUE OF DOMESTIC SECONDARY UNITS INVOICED

Can Government state the value of Domestic Secondary Units of water invoiced in the months of December 2007 to March 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

Answered together with Question Nos.210 to 214 and 216 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 216 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

(On behalf of the Hon S E Linares)

WATER – NUMBER OF DOMESTIC SECONDARY UNITS INVOICED

Can Government state the number of units of Domestic Secondary Units of water invoiced in the months of December 2007 to March 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

I now hand the hon Member a schedule with the information requested.

SCHEDULE TO QUESTION 216

Answer to Question 210

Amounts collected and the amounts billed in respect of water in the months of December 2007 to March 2008

	Collected (£)	Billed (£)
December 2007	351,842.76	372,614.99
January 2008	517,864.19	422,738.94
February 2008	<u>418,187.06</u>	<u>401,513.89</u>
	<u>£1,287,894.01</u>	<u>£1,196,867.82</u>

Answer to Question 211

Number of units of Domestic Primary Units of water invoiced in the months of December 2007 to March 2008

December 2007	369,357
January 2008	385,522
February 2008	<u>383,387</u>
	<u>1,138,266</u>

Answer to Question 212

Value of Domestic Primary Units of water invoiced in the months of December 2007 to March 2008

December 2007	£77,564.97
January 2008	£80,959.62
February 2008	<u>£80,511.27</u>
	<u>£239,035.86</u>

Answer to Question 213

Number of customers that were invoiced for Domestic Secondary Units of water in the months of December 2007 to March 2008

December 2007	5004
January 2008	5784
February 2008	5296

Answer to Question 214

Values in respect of Water Standing Charges invoiced to domestic customers in the months of December 2007 to March 2008

December 2007	£35,817.00
January 2008	£36,876.00
February 2008	<u>£36,639.00</u>
	<u>£109,332.00</u>

Contd.....

SCHEDULE TO QUESTION 216 CONTD

Answer to Question 215

Value of Domestic Secondary Units of water invoiced in the months of December 2007 to March 2008

December 2007	£83,661.97
January 2008	£121,545.33
February 2008	<u>£97,015.43</u>
	<u>£302,222.73</u>

Answer to Question 216

Number of units of Domestic Secondary Units of water invoiced in the months of December 2007 to March 2008

December 2007	160,888
January 2008	233,741
February 2008	<u>186,568</u>
	<u>581,197</u>

ORAL

NO. 217 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

(On behalf of the Hon S E Linares)

AQUAGIB CUSTOMER SERVICE

Can Government state whether AquaGib's customer service starts its service at 8.30 a.m. as stated by the answering machine?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

Yes, Government can confirm that AquaGib's Customer Service Department starts its services at 8.30 a.m.

ORAL

NO. 218 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

(On behalf of the Hon S E Linares)

ELECTRICITY – AMOUNTS COLLECTED

Can Government state what were the amounts collected in respect of electricity in the months of December 2007 to March 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

Answered together with Question Nos. 219 to 226 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 219 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

(On behalf of the Hon S E Linares)

ELECTRICITY – AMOUNTS BILLED

Can Government state what were the amounts billed in respect of electricity in the months of December 2007 to March 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

Answered together with Question Nos. 218 and 220 to 226 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 220 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

(On behalf of the Hon S E Linares)

ELECTRICITY – VALUE OF FUEL COST ADJUSTMENT INVOICED

Can Government state the total value invoiced to domestic customers in respect of Fuel Cost Adjustment (FCA) in the months of December 2007 to March 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

Answered together with Question Nos. 218, 219 and 221 to 226 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 221 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

(On behalf of the Hon S E Linares)

ELECTRICITY – VALUE OF STANDING CHARGES INVOICED

Can Government state the total value invoiced to domestic customers in respect of Electricity Standing Charges in the months of December 2007 to March 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

Answered together with Question Nos. 218 to 220 and 222 to 226 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 222 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

(On behalf of the Hon S E Linares)

ELECTRICITY – VALUE OF T3 (DOMESTIC) UNITS INVOICED

Can Government state the total value invoiced to customers in respect of T3 (Domestic) units of electricity in the months of December 2007 to March 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

Answered together with Question Nos. 218 to 221 and 223 to 226 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 223 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

(On behalf of the Hon S E Linares)

ELECTRICITY – NUMBER OF T3 (DOMESTIC CONSUMERS) UNITS INVOICED

Can Government state the number of T3 (Domestic Consumers) units of electricity invoiced to customers in the months of December 2007 to March 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

Answered together with Question Nos. 218 to 222 and 224 to 226 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 224 OF 2006

THE HON N F COSTA

(On behalf of the Hon S E Linares)

ELECTRICITY – NUMBER OF CUSTOMERS INVOICED T3 (DOMESTIC) UNITS

Can Government state the number of customers invoiced in respect of T3 (Domestic) units of electricity in the months of December 2007 to March 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

Answered together with Question Nos. 218 to 223, 225 and 226 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 225 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

(On behalf of the Hon S E Linares)

ELECTRICITY PURCHASED FROM MOD

Can Government state the number of units and the value of electricity purchased from MOD in the months of December 2007 to March 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

Answered together with Question Nos. 218 to 224 and 226 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 226 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

(On behalf of the Hon S E Linares)

ELECTRICITY PURCHASED FROM OESCO

Can Government state the number of units and the value of electricity purchased from OESCO in the months of December 2007 to March 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

The information requested by the hon Member is only available up to the end of February 2008 and is set out in the schedule that I now hand to him.

SCHEDULE TO QUESTION 226

Answer to Question 218

Amounts collected in respect of electricity

	December 2007	January 2008	February 2008
Collected	£928,769.09	£1,655,382.74	£1,395,427.43

Answer to Question 219

Amounts billed in respect of electricity

	December 2007	January 2008	February 2008
Billed	£1,211,600.17	£1,562,066.46	£1,443,642.69

Answer to Question 220

Amounts invoiced to domestic customers in respect of FCA

	December 2007	January 2008	February 2008
Invoiced	£132,734	£188,521	£170,980

Answer to Question 221

Amounts invoiced to domestic customers in respect of Electricity Standing Charges

	December 2007	January 2008	February 2008
Invoiced	£50,540	£52,944	£52,528

Answer to Question 222

Amount invoiced to customers in respect of T3 (Domestic) units of electricity

	December 2007	January 2008	February 2008
Invoiced	£480,502	£663,616	£606,380

Answer to Question 223

Number of T3 (Domestic Customers) units invoiced

	December 2007	January 2008	February 2008
Units	4,016,587	5,704,744	5,173,951

Contd.....

SCHEDULE TO QUESTION 226 CONTD

Answer to Question 224

Number of customers invoiced in respect of T3 (Domestic) units

	December 2007	January 2008	February 2008
Consumers	12,968	12,955	12,970

Answer to Question 225

Units purchased from the MOD

	December 2007	January 2008	February 2008
Units (kWh)	246,013	574,118	1,052,589
Value	£25,491.67	£59,280.90	£107,973.29

Answer to Question 226

Units purchased from OESCO Ltd

	December 2007	January 2008	February 2008
Units (kWh)	5,974,780	6,746,460	6,150,950
Value	£860,540.04	£957,478.43	£935,156.56

ORAL

NO. 227 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

(On behalf of the Hon S E Linares)

POWER CUTS

Can Government state the number of power cuts that affected whole districts in the months of December 2007 to March 2008, providing a breakdown of the areas affected and the reason why they occurred?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

Answered together with Question No. 228 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 228 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

(On behalf of the Hon S E Linares)

POWER CUTS

Can Government state how many power cuts there have been during the months of December 2007 to March 2008 stating when these occurred and their duration?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

The information requested by the hon Member is only available until 28th March 2008 and is set out in the schedule which I now hand to him.

SCHEDULE TO QUESTION 288

YEAR 2007

1	Fri 7 Dec 07 01.48 hrs	4 mins to 12 mins	Six districts supplied from WPS, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18. Two districts supplied from OBDC, 1, 9	WPS No. 1 generator emergency shutdown due to burst fuel pipe
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YEAR 2008

2	Sat 12 Jan 08 23.01 hrs	2 mins	Ten substations within the Westside area.	Planned switching schedule caused operation of protection relay having wrong setting (at S64 Eurotowers substation)
3	Tue 22 Jan 08 07.39 hrs	3 mins to 5 mins	Five districts supplied from WPS, 10, 13, 14, 15, 18.	WPS generator set No. 3 Lub oil temperature trip elec. Fault
5	Mon 24 Mar 08 13.40 hrs	3 mins to 6 mins	Five districts supplied from WPS, 10, 13, 14, 15, 18.	OESCO No. 5 generator tripped on load, due to excitation failure.
6	Tue 25 Mar 08 18.50 hrs	3 mins to 4 mins	Five districts supplied from WPS, 10, 13, 14, 15, 18.	OESCO No. 5 generator tripped on load, due to excitation failure.

The districts fed from Waterport Power Station comprise an area covering parts of Queensway, Line Wall Road, Casemates, marina Bay, Glacis Road, Waterport, North Mole and the whole of the Westside reclamation area.

The districts fed from Orange Bastion Distribution Centre (OBDC) comprise an area covering Laguna, Bayside, British Lines, Devil's Tower Road, Catalan Bay, Sandy Bay, Town Area, Moorish Castle area and parts of Queensway.

The districts fed from Jumper's Bastion Distribution Centre (JBDC) comprise an area covering parts of Rosia Road, Witham's Road, Red Sands Road, Vineyards, Naval Hospital Road, Europa Road, New Harbours, Europa Business Centre.

NO. 229 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

CONFERENCES SPONSORED OR CO-SPONSORED

Can Government list the conferences that they have sponsored or co-sponsored, both in Gibraltar or elsewhere, since the last Question Time in this Parliament, showing the dates when the conferences were held, the cost and the department that was most directly involved?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

My Ministry has not sponsored or co-sponsored, in Gibraltar or elsewhere, any conferences since the last Question Time in this Parliament.

NO. 230 OF 2008

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 Parliament, giving the event or function attended, the venue, the city and the country visited?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

I have been away from Gibraltar on Government business on the following occasions since the last Question Time in Parliament.

On 14th and 15th January 2008, to attend the UKGTA meeting in London in the London Office in the UK and to attend the London Boat Show. (Excel Exhibition Centre in London).

On 29th and 30th January 2008, in FITUR in the IFEMA Feria de Madrid in Spain.

Then on 31st January and 1st February 2008, meetings with airlines in the London Office in London.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 230 OF 2008

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The Minister was not in the Parliament last week on Thursday and Friday, I do not know whether that was Government business or not because we have not actually...

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No, I was away on personal holidays.

ORAL

NO. 231 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM/PORT/BUSINESS AND COMMERCE/E-BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCILS

How often and on what dates have the following met:

- (a) the Tourism Advisory Council since 15 June 2007;
- (b) the Port Advisory Council since 2 May 2007;
- (c) the Business and Commerce Advisory Council since 21 March 2007;
- (d) the E-Business Advisory Council since 17 May 2007?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

None of the Councils have met since these dates.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 231 OF 2008

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Were not the meetings of these Councils supposed to be quarterly?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes, that is correct but after the Elections it has taken time to organise the appointments on the various representatives on the Council and, in fact, those for which I hold Ministerial responsibility today have had meetings organised now for the 24th April.

NO. 232 OF 2008

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 2007 inclusive, stating where they were interviewed and the number interviewed at each location, and in the case of those who stayed at hotels what was the average length of stay in each case?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

I now hand the hon Member the statistical information he has requested.

Schedule to Question 232/2008

The figures requested are as follows:

(a) 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 2007	1342	9	9	6.2	-	-	-	-
Oct 2007	1255	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nov 2007	1000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dec 2007	999	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jan 2008	1006	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

(b) Not stayed at hotel:

	Total Interviews Not Stayed At Hotel	Airport	Port	Frontier	Waterport	Marina	Coach Park
Sept 2007	1333	18	1	1273	-	2	39
Oct 2007	1255	-	-	1255	-	-	-
Nov 2007	1000	-	1	999	-	-	-
Dec 2007	999	-	-	999	-	-	-
Jan 2008	1006	-	-	1006	-	-	-

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 232 OF 2008

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The answer given to Question No. 232 (a), in relation to those who had stayed at a hotel, there is information given for September in respect of 1,342 interviews, nine stayed at a hotel, nine were interviewed at the airport and the average length of stay but nobody seems to have been interviewed anywhere else. Can the Minister say why that should be the case?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Well, it is just the fact that those who were interviewed had not stayed in a hotel, so they were not responding to that.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The question was about (a), which was those who had stayed at a hotel. If for September we are told nine, there were 1,342 interviews nine of whom stayed at hotels, nine were interviewed at the airport but it does not say where the rest of them were interviewed in terms of the location. The number of interviews at each location is what the question asks.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

This is the format that has always been presented to the hon Member. On looking, it is slightly confusing because, in fact, the first column, the total number of interviews should not really appear there. What has happened is that of those that have stayed in a hotel in September, nine happened to be staying at the hotel from the 1,342. In the rest of the months everybody that was interviewed had not stayed in a hotel so really one should eliminate the first column. If one looks at the first column and then under (b) it will be realised that they are the same, if one adds up the 1,342 minus nine leaves 1,333 in the table just below. So, in actual fact, it was only in September that interviews were carried out that actually picked up on people that had stayed at a hotel. Is that clear?

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Just to clarify then, the ones that stayed in a hotel from October to January, basically nobody was interviewed who stayed at a hotel, that is why the figure shows zero and the locations are shown in terms of the ones that did not stay at a hotel because those were the majority of respondents in this case.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

That is correct.

NO. 233 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

EU/GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Can Government list the parties who have applied for:

- (a) EU funding;
- (b) Gibraltar Government funding,

since the last Question Time in this Parliament, indicating the amount of funding 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 ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

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

Schedule to Question 233/2008

ERDF PROJECTS

Project No.	Sponsor	Status	ERDF	GOG	Purpose of Grant
128	Charles A Linale BDS	Active	£33,084-07p (30%)	-	Building Works, Equipment & Payment of Import Duty
129	J.J. Holdings Ltd	Active	£8,838-48p (30%)	-	Equipment, Import duty 12% & Transport & Civil Works
130	J.J.B. Amar Ltd	Active	£34,107-90p (30%)	-	Equipment, Import Duty 12% and freight, Renovation works, Project management fees & Advertising
131	Signtalk 2000 Ltd	Active	£5,980-64p (30%)	-	Equipment, Import Duty 12% & Renovation works.
132	M.H. Bland & Co Ltd	Active	£68,408-16p (28%)	-	Building works & Fitting-out costs.
133	Compo Holdings Ltd	Active	£66,381-30p (30%)	-	Building works, Equipment, Restaurant furniture & Advertising

ESF PROJECTS

Project No.	Sponsor	Status	ESF	GOG	Purpose of Grant
ESF 44	Focus 5507	Active	£20,070-00p (45%)	£24,500-30p (55%)	Wage Subsidy Scheme

NO. 234 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

EU FUNDING APPLICATIONS

Can Government say how many cases there have been in 2007 and 2008 to date of applications for EU funding that were considered positively by

- (a) the Appraisal Group; and
- (b) the Joint Local Advisory Group,

were such funding was not approved by the Gibraltar Government as the implementing authority?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

In 2007 there were six applications and in 2008 there have been three applications for EU funding received and considered by both the Appraisal Sub-Group and the Joint Local Advisory Group. All applications received were successful in obtaining the said funding.

NO. 235 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

EU FUNDING – COMPOSITION OF GROUPS

Can Government say what is the current composition of:

- (a) the Appraisal Sub Group;
- (b) the Joint Local Advisory Group,

in relation to EU funding and list the dates when they met in 2007 and 2008 to date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

The current composition of the Appraisal Sub-Group and Joint Local Advisory Group in relation to EU funding and the dates when they met in 2007 and 2008 is as follows:-

The Appraisal Sub-Group is a contributory committee of the Joint Local Advisory Group. It consists of representatives of the Chamber of Commerce, the Federation of Small Businesses, the Environmental Agency and is chaired by the EU Programmes Secretariat. The Appraisal Sub-Group met on the following dates:-

16 th March 2007	25 th January 2008
15 th May 2007	15 th February 2008
30 th May 2007	5 th March 2008
4 th September 2007	
20 th November 2007	
4 th December 2007	

The Joint Local Advisory Group partnership for the implementation of EU funded programmes comprises the Government of Gibraltar represented by Government Departments and Agencies, the private sector and NGO partners as follows:

Government Ministries

The Ministry with responsibility for Enterprise
The Ministry with responsibility for Town Planning
The Ministry with responsibility for Technical Services
The Ministry with responsibility for Education and Training

Government Agencies

The Gibraltar Tourist Board
The Employment Service
The Environmental Agency

Trade Representative Bodies

The Gibraltar Chamber of Commerce
The Gibraltar Federation of Small Businesses
The Gibraltar Trades Council
The Gibraltar Business Network

NGO

The Gibraltar Ornithological and Natural History Society

The Joint Local Advisory Group is chaired by the EUR Programmes Secretariat.

The Joint Local Advisory Group met on the following occasions:

22 nd March 2007	6 th December 2007
17 th May 2007	31 st January 2008
20 th June 2007	19 th February 2008
7 th September 2007	14 th March 2008
21 st November 2007	

NO. 236 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

EU FUNDING – ERDF PROJECT NO. 127

Can Government say in respect of project number 127 ERDF which is a grant of £65,472.05 to Bransford Projects Ltd for “Restoration Works”, what exactly is being restored?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

Bransford Projects Ltd was granted £65,472.05 of EU funding for the restoration of the Charles V Wall.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 236 OF 2008

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is there a particular part of the wall that has been restored or is this a project which includes all of it? Is there a particular part of the wall that is being restored?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

My understanding is that it is part of the project, the first phase of the project which covers part of the wall and not its totality.

NO. 237 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

CATALOGUE 20TH CENTURY ARCHITECTURE OF SPAIN ARCHXX-SUDOE

What was the nature of the contribution of the Government, and the cost if any, to the first catalogue of the 20th century architecture of Spain ArchXX-Sudoe which lists the Government of Gibraltar in its credits?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

Staff at the Town Planning Office and the Gibraltar Chief Architect formed the body representing the Government as partners with the Spanish and French counterparts. A database has been established and compiles details of the most significant buildings of the 20th Century and shall provide information to the public once the Spanish (which are the leading partner) completes the process of the project with the authority in Santander. The cost of the project was 30,869.46 Euros.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 237 OF 2008

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Who is bearing that cost?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Well the Gibraltar Government's contribution to this is 15,434.73 Euros, which is 50 per cent of that total. The total actual project cost is in the region of 644,000 Euros, out of which 50 per cent is being paid for by the EU and then each partner is paying a section of 50 per cent of the cost in relation to their own participation.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

So eventually, is it correct to assume there will be a list of Gibraltar 20th Century architecture included in this database as well?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

That is correct.

ORAL

NO. 238 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DPC MEETINGS

How many meetings of the Development and Planning Commission have taken place since 29th November 2007 inclusive and on what dates?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

Since 29th November 2007 the Development and Planning Commission has met on 12 occasions. The dates are as follows:

29th November 2007
13th December 2007
10th January 2008
24th January 2008
25th January 2008
28th January 2008
6th February 2008
14th February 2008
21st February 2008
6th March 2008
12th March 2008
26th March 2008

NO. 239 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DRAFT DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Can Government list the main issues of concern made in the 171 letters of representation received by the DPC in respect of the Draft Development Plan?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

The main issues of concern raised in the representations received were the lack of specific proposals for the protection of Sandy Bay from storm damage; and (b) the general view that there was an over-emphasis on the plan on accommodating the use of private transport rather than trying to reduce it.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 239 OF 2008

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The letter of objection which is still available on the website in relation to the Plan, actually asks respondents to fill in the number of the reference of the specific policy that they are objecting to. Can the Minister say which of these policies was the most objected to in terms of numbers?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I am thinking on my feet here now but I think that the biggest one by number was definitely the one in respect of the protection of Sandy Bay, where I think all the residents decided that they would object on an individual basis. Obviously, that applies to quite a big number and it actually constituted quite a big chunk of the 171 letters that were received.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Did people tend to reply using the official form or did they just write a letter saying what it was that they were objecting to?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No, they used the official form to reply.

NO. 240 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DRAFT DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Can Government say whether the DPC has now completed its consideration of the 171 letters of representation received in respect of the Draft Development Plan and if so with what result?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

The DPC has now concluded its consideration of representations and is preparing for the next step in the process. This requires the DPC to notify those persons who made representations as a result of which a change to the draft Plan is proposed, of the nature of the proposed change. The person concerned, if satisfied by the proposed change, may confirm to the DPC that the representation is now withdrawn.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 240 OF 2008

HON DR J J GARCIA:

If I am correct in what I have heard the next step is that the DPC will write to those objecting and inform them whether the objections have been upheld or not, is that the case?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

That is correct, every single one has been considered by DPC and a reply is now in the process of being issued to each one individually.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Would the Minister be in a position to say whether as a result of these objections there will be any changes made to the Plan which will require it to be re-exhibited or not?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I do not believe that there are changes of substance that require that, but that is up to the Town Planner under the Act to decide whether that is the case or not. It all depends what the response is of these objectors to what we actually come back with. Some of the proposals that have been put forward to the Commission have been considered and not supported in its totality. We may have accommodated part of their representation and it is then up to the applicant to decide whether they wish to continue objecting or not to it.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is the Minister in a position to say how long the process is expected to take before the draft Plan is finally approved as the Development Plan?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I would not want to commit myself to any dates so that the hon Member continues raising questions and holding me back for what I may have said. The reality is that the process is much longer than I anticipated. It is the first time I have gone through this process and actually going through 171 objections, by the number of DPC meetings that we have had in the last two months, one can see that we have been dealing with a lot of these issues in a very thorough way. I think we are months away but I would like to see this put in place as soon as logically possible.

ORAL

NO. 241 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DPC – APPLICATIONS FOR 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 this Parliament, 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 ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

I now hand the hon Member a schedule with the information requested.

For each application the decision, applicant's name, description and site address is given.

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BETWEEN: 07/12/07 AND 27/03/08

<i>App.No</i>	<i>ApplicantName</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>SiteAddress</i>
10803	Victor Requena	Drive-in to property	Pending	5 Humphrey's Bungalows Engineer Road
10804	Mr & Mrs M.Weigold	Refurbishment and renovation existing residential property	Pending	mount Barbary Mount Road
10805	Sasrock Trading Co Ltd	Minor alterations to shopfront	Pending	246 Main Street
10806	Dino Martinez	Static/mobile pen press structure	Refused	John Mackintosh Square
10807	John S. Langdon	Alterations: 1) Re-build the fire protection wall between the staircase and entrance hall to open up the staircase to the living room. 2) Extend the gallery in the living room on two additional sides and create a 'crows nest'. 3) Re-arrange the master bedroom suite.	Approved	Block 6, Apt 801 Europlaza
10808	Charles Carreras	Proposed removal of the plasterboard stud partition between the kitchen and the living room.	Pending	8.2.1 Waterport Terraces
10809	M.E.Bellio & Partners	Proposed conversion of an existing window opening into a doorway.	Pending	13c North Mole
10810	M E Bellio & Partners	Construction of a timber sun deck and concrete base to support a jacuzzi	Pending	39 Naval Hospital Road
10811	Space Interiors	Fitted out of new ground floor commercial unit as an estate agent.	Approved	20 Ocean Village Promenade
10812	Joseph Karim Lopez	Construction of garden fence, additional new doorway, repair of existing door	Pending	Bella Vista Cottage Mount Road
10813	Toppem Ltd	External upgrade, new doors, windows and painting/internal modifications and new fit out	Pending	34/A/2, 34/A/3, 34/A/4 Devils Tower Road
10814	Linnus Limited	Conversion of 181 Main Street (old C. Canama) clothes shop into new retail outlet for 'oesis' franchise.	Pending	181 Main Street
		Change of use and conversion of 1st floor apartment (3/1 Cornwell's Lane) to office accommodation		

Schedule to Question 241 contd

<u>App No</u>	<u>ApplicantName</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Decision</u>	<u>SiteAddress</u>
10815	Gibraltar Electricity Authority	Construction of under ground at and install new feeder pillar.	Approved	Main Street
10816	Gibraltar Electricity Authority	New substation and infrastructure for all new projects in the area	Pending	Windmill Hill Road Lathbury Barracks
10817	Andrews Kent & Stone	Proposed construction of a traditional styled balcony on the front facade of the building.	Approved	338 Europe Road
10818	Rosia Plaza (MGMT.)Ltd	Proposed balconies	Pending	Rosia Plaza Rosia Parade
10819	GJBS Ltd	Single storey building - scout hut - demolition	Government Project	Scout Hut Line Wall Road
10820	Andrews Kent & Stone	Subdividing if existing store room into a substation / Store room	Pending	Caseta Hotel Sir Herbert Miles Road
10821	Mr A Massias	Proposed building of lift enclosure & installation of lift & removal of one car parking bay.	Pending	1d Europe Road
10822	Shoe Ltd	1. New Canopy - Pale cream with black logo (see plans) and sign in wrought iron of logo. 2. Restoration of current window and door painted black satin finish. 3. Stone work surrounding window and door cleaned and sealed to protect - natural, not painted. 4. Repainted in white of rendered areas. 5. Small standard potted bay trees either side of door (see plan for size)	Pending	178 Main Street
10823	Mr J Dawson	New openings through walls	Pending	251/3 Main Street
10824	R J Benzaken	Proposed extension to building for additional accommodation.	Pending	1 Boeschett's Steps
10825	Louise Marie Sarnio	Proposed Balcony	Pending	2 Collingwood Tower Brympton
10826	B. Schembri	To replace existing metal railings with timber fencing. To requirements by yourself.	Approved	1 Africa View Europas Road
10827	Party Gaming Plc	Change of use shoop to offices and internal partition	Pending	Unit 1.0.06 Eurotowers Europort Road

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Schedule to Question 21 contd

<i>App No</i>	<i>ApplicantName</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>SiteAddress</i>
10828	CADX Ltd	1. The relocation of the outside a/c unit and pipe run. 2. The vertical increase of size to the existing window (structural opening). 3. All finishes are to match the existing building. 4. The removal, change and installation of signage (shop front)	Pending	8 Bell Lane
10829	Mr Eric & Mrs Sue McIntosh	Extension to building within existing footprint below the present residence and new pool.	Pending	1A Humphrey's Bungalows Engineer Road
10830	Ocean Village Developments Lt	Proposed construction of commercial plus residential over 17 storeys in total	Pending	Lucas Imoasi Motors Site Waterport Circle
10831	Mr Daniel Canepa	New window, new doors, plastering, refurbish kitchen & bathrooms and re-wiring of main fuse box	Pending	6/3 Gavino's Passage
10832	Paul Victor	Conversion of current ground floor workshop into vehicle garage space. Current workshop to be moved by demolishing north wall and middle wall and building a wall to west side. Two windows facing glacie road need to be boarded up to improve security. New proposed area to be used exclusively by M.C.M. Ltd.	Pending	37 Glacie Road Marina Court
10833	Mr & Mrs D Cruz	Proposed construction of swimming pool to residence and associated works	Pending	6 Lord Napier Mews Rodger's Road
10834	Space Interiors	Proposed fitting out of new ground floor restaurant/bar unit	Approved	13 The Salls Ocean Village Promenade
10835	Space Interiors	Proposed fitting out of new ground floor commercial unit as an estate agent.	Pending	Unit R1 Bayside Road Trade Winds
10836	I.C. Products Ltd	Proposed structural opening to merge Munchies with rear Shamiyana Restaurant.	Approved	22A Main Street
10837	Mr & Mrs Ellerbout	Conversion of utility/store room into 1 No. bedroom at basement/garage level. Works involved - opening of floor at ground level to make way for a new staircase and increase existing window opening at basement/garage level to the west facade of the building.	Pending	1A Sunset Close Windmill Hill Road
10838	Jyake Bank (Gibraltar) Ltd	Demolition of internal partitions and construction of new internal partitions together with internal refurbishment.	Pending	74/3 Main Street Jyake Bank Old Carteen
10839	Andrews Kent and Stone	Proposed demolition of a single storey masonry	Pending	Guard House Four Corners Road

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Schedule to Question 24, contd

<u>App No</u>	<u>ApplicantName</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Decision</u>	<u>Site/Address</u>
10840	SBI, Swiss Beet Invest Limited	Proposed minor (structural) works to existing office premises	Approved	1/1B Tuckey's Lane
10841	Andrews Kent and Stone	3 Storey extension to existing motel	Pending	Sunrise Motel Devils Tower Road
10842	Mrs Rose & Janine Clark	Conversion of one residential unit into one	Pending	701B Ocean Heights Queensway
10843	Andrews Kent and Stone	Proposed demolition of ex-MOD Quarters, property consisting of 3 floors, masonry walls and timber floor	Pending	12 Flat Beeston Road
10844	Andrews Kent and Stone	Proposed demolition of existing two storey residential block	Pending	12 Castle Steps
10845	John M Collado	Construction of swimming pool in K1 form	Pending	47C Europa Road
10846	Harridge Ltd	Re-building of roof extension providing lounge & terrace area	Pending	37/5 City Mill Lane
10847	Andrews Kent and Stone	Ex-MOD Residential Quarters to be refurbished and accommodation for 10 individual apartments	Pending	12 Flat Beeston Road
10848	Jennifer Thomas	Proposed opening of door and window from garage to patio and window on south end of attic	Pending	11 Cablian Gardens Catalan Bay Road
10849	Alexander Norton	1) Demolition of internal wall. 2) Re-Positioning of internal walls. 3) To make a larger living room and still regain two bedrooms. 4) No alteration to exterior elevations.	Pending	Flat No. 21 Sunset Close Windmill Hill Road
10850	Monaco Ocean Village Ltd	Temporary access pointroom to be erected connecting existing pointroom marina bay, adjacent ex-DaPablo Restaurant with Ocean Village	Pending	Ocean Village
10851	J B Engineering Consultants	Proposed new communal swimming pool on existing waste ground	Pending	Windmill Hill Road
10852	Invitations 365 Ltd	New Restaurant & Lounge Bar	Pending	11 The Sells Ocean Village Promenade
10853	Albert Falzun	Proposed balcony on internal void at 4th floor.	Pending	No. 33 Cumberland Road

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Schedule to Question 241 contd

<i>App No</i>	<i>ApplicantName</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>SiteAddress</i>
10854	A & S Valbro Jensen	To enclose an existing terrace by constructing a new wall and doorway on the north facing aspect, on the west facing aspect two 30 cm wide wall will be constructed on the south and north side to be connected by installing new sliding doors. This would leave a small balcony 55cm wide which would be secured by erecting a stainless steel and glass panel balustrade. All walls will be constructed in 8" x 8" x 16" blockwork and render.	Pending	12 Gardiner's Road
10855	Gillian Guzman	Demolition of parapet wall, new parapet wall and columns and roofing over of west elevation terrace.	Pending	5 Shortton Farm Europe Road
10856	Said Management Limited	Change of use and alterations to existing store units to produce 2 No. studio apartments.	Pending	Units 0101 & 1101 Europlaza
10857	Bentley Property Services Ltd	Proposed extension over existing car park to construct office commercial units	Pending	Block 4, 3rd Floor Eurotowers
10858	All Eithery	Refurbishment	Pending	34 Parliament Lane
10859	All Eithery	1 No Retractable Awning	Pending	34 Parliament Lane
10860	Gibtelecom Ltd	Clearing and fitting out of room as a GSM & TETRA Base Station for the area.	Pending	16 Windmill Hill Flats
10861	Tiberius Holdings Ltd	Proposed new roof level office extension.	Pending	237 Main Street
10862	Gibtelecom Ltd	Proposed internal refurbishment alteration to include demolition of non-structural partitions and installing new computer floor and blocking external windows internally.	Pending	First Floor Mount Pleasant South Barmcks Road
10863	Government of Gibraltar	Conversion of old Ex-MOD & Government Housing Units into 10 new self contained 2 storey units	Pending	Calpe Barmcks Calpe Road
10864	Andre De Barr	New nautical clothing shop.	Pending	30 Ocean Village Promenade
10865	Freestyle Leisure	Proposed construction of new bar.	Pending	27 Leisure Island Ocean Village
10866	Stanley Prescott	Conversion of large flat into an office and a large room. Conversion of bathroom to toilets and kitchen.	Pending	1/9 Governor's Street
10867	Mr G.A.Gonzalez	Proposed minor alterations and improvements to existing fourth floor flat.	Pending	14 Gibraltar Heights Bishop Raspol's Ramp

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Schedule to Question 241 cont'd

<i>App No</i>	<i>Applicant Name</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>Site Address</i>
10868	GRA	Proposed fitting out new office premises.	Pending	803-804 Building 6 Europort
10869	Andrews Kent and Stone	Residential quarters to be refurbished and accommodate for 2 duplex & 2 individual apartments.	Government Project	12 Castle Steps
10870	Queensway Quay Marina Ltd	Change of use of land from a tennis/baseball court to a ground level car park, providing a total of 84 parking spaces (including existing spaces)	Pending	Queensway Queensway Quay
10871	CTS Gibraltar Ltd	Fitting out of existing unit as a shop front and offices.	Pending	48 Royal Ocean Plaza
10872	Gibtelecom Ltd	proposed demolition of Satellite dish	Pending	Mount Pleasant South Barracks Road
10873	J Guilliano	Conversion from 3 bedroom flat into 2 bedroom	Pending	504 Royal Sunseat Ocean Village
10874	D J Mosquera Ribes	Construction of extra bedroom of each house at existing roof level including installation of new spiral fire escape staircases at west flank	Pending	1-3 Clifton Mews Europa Road
10875	Virginia Beltran	Adding to pre-existing walls and covering with roof to landing area outside main door.	Pending	19C Europa Road Elliot's Battery
10878	Stan James Gibraltar Ltd	Proposed single storey extension to building	Pending	No 1 The Square Marina Bay

27 March 2008

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ORAL

NO. 242 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PLANNING PERMISSION ABCO INTERNATIONAL LTD/SHARROCK SHAND DESIGN LTD

Can Government say whether planning permission has now been granted to:

- (a) ABCO International Ltd to build six luxury villas at Sir Herbert Miles Road;
- (b) Sharrock Shand to build an office and storage building at 91 Queensway,

and if so on what date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

In respect of (a), a decision to approve the application has been taken by DPC but the Planning Permit has yet not been issued.

In respect of (b), no outline planning permission has been granted nor a decision taken by DPC in respect of reference BA 10678, 91 Queensway.

ORAL

NO. 243 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PLANNING PERMISSION OCEAN VILLAGE WATERSIDE VILLAS

Can Government say whether planning permission has been granted to Ocean Village Waterside Villas for the proposed construction of 72 waterside villas and apartments with associated berthing (application 10723) at Marina Bay, and if so on what date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

No planning permission has been granted to BA 10723 for the construction of 72 waterside villas. This application is still under consideration.

ORAL

NO. 244 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PLANNING APPLICATION MID-TOWN DEVELOPMENT

Can Government say whether planning application 10674 by Commercial Developments Investments for a mid-town development consisting of offices, residential apartments, parking and a park remains pending and if so for what reason?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

A decision to approve the application has been taken by the DPC but the planning permit has not been issued.

NO. 245 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PLANNING APPLICATION SUNRISE MOTEL

Can Government say whether the application for planning permission to construct an extension to the Sunrise Motel in Devil's Tower Road has been approved and how many representations have been received in respect of this project?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

The application BA 10841 to construct an extension to Sunrise Motel is pending the completion of the public participation exercise period. No representations have been received to date. The DPC will consider the application once the applicant has provided details of the Notices and confirmed the expiry date.

NO. 246 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PLOT OF LAND 7 EUROPA ROAD

What is the area in square metres of the plot of land at 7 Europa Road for which Gardens of Beauty paid £1.6 million for a 150 lease?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

The plot of land at 7 Europa Road for which Gardens of Beauty paid £1.6 million is 5,300 square metres in area. This land was not purchased by Gardens of Beauty from the Government. It was purchased from the owners of the Casino. The £1.6 million payment to the Government was in respect of development rights and lease extension.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 246 OF 2008

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can Government say how much was left on the old lease before they extended it?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes, the existing lease was for a 99 year term and that commenced on 1st November 1965 and, therefore, had still 57 years to run.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is the 150 years on the new lease is that from now or dating back to the original lease, to 1965?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes, I think that if there is an existing lease already in place it would be common practice for that to start the moment the transaction is concluded. If it was a new development there would be a building licence which would then be subject to the lease at the time of completing the development. But in this case, like in a lot of

others, it would be from the date of the transaction having been concluded in respect of the extension.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

My question is, if this lease is concluded in 2008, whether we start counting 150 years from 2008, or do we start in 1965 when the original lease was agreed?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I would have to confirm that but I think that it was an extension to bring it up to 150 years. That is correct, I am sure that is the case but I do not have the information here before me. That would be the normal practice to extend it from the 57 years that were left over from the existing lease and bring that up to 150 years, so there would be a balance only.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In relation to the actual development itself, can the Minister give an indication of the number of storeys.....

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Off the top of my head I think it is about nine or ten storeys and roughly about 9,000 square metres of development.

NO. 247 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

OCEAN VILLAGE ADDITIONAL LEASED AREA

What is the exact location of the additional leased area of land at Marina Bay for which Ocean Village Investments paid a premium of £1.4 million in March 2007 and what is the surface area in square metres of the land in question?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

The additional leased area for which Ocean Village Investments paid a premium of £1.4 million in March 2007 was for an area of water surrounding the leased waters of Marina Bay. It includes a strip of water between Sheppards Marina and Marina Bay, a strip of water between Marina Bay and the Airport Runway, and extends further west by approximately 110 metres. The surface area of the seabed involved is approximately 38,000 square metres.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 247 OF 2008

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Does that include having the right to reclaim land in any of that sea?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Well, obviously, subject to planning, yes that is correct.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Would they not have to pay anything more in relation to development rights or depending on the kind of projects or not?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I think they would and I think that this gives them the surface area. One must understand that originally Ocean Village owned what used to be Sheppards Marina. They then purchased Marina Bay next to it and what they wanted to do was have continuity of area. In respect of the building of, for example, the seaside, sea villas or

seafont villas, that was subject to another negotiation. So if they had to build anything, they would be subjected to additional premium. Let me say that as far as the views of the Planning Commission is concerned, the marinas are there to stay, the idea of reclaiming into that is not something that the Planning Commission would accept.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Regardless of what happens here the marina at Sheppards will reappear somewhere along that front and Marina Bay will also continue as a marina to service yachts, regardless of what happens in relation to these areas of land. Is that the case?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

That is correct.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In granting the additional lease for this area of the sea, have the Government applied any conditions in terms of its use? That is to say, it can only be used as a marina, it can only be used for any specific purpose.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I am not involved in the actual detail of this but I think that that would be the case, absolutely. There was not any change of use or anything agreed by that so the lease would be for the lease of the marina and nothing else.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

And in relation to the type of marina, that is to say, whether it is super yachts or whether it is smaller vessels, I suppose there is no restriction on that, any kind of vessel would be allowed to dock at these marinas?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No, there is no distinction between the size of boats or whatever they apply. It really is a commercial decision for the operator.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The operator will be free to say, this marina will only be for super yachts, for example. Is that the position?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

It would be highly unlikely because of its location and the geography of the place. They may have facilities for maybe a few but the majority of it will be the normal type of size yachts.

ORAL

NO. 248 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DEVELOPMENT AID ADVISORY COMMITTEE

What is the current composition of the Development Aid Advisory Committee?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

The Development Aid Advisory Committee is comprised of the following members:

Mr Dilip Dayaram Tirathdas – Financial Secretary

Mr Martin Figueras – Private Secretary to the Chief Minister

Mr Peter Canessa – Principal Private Secretary Ministry of Enterprise

Mr Ernest Francis is the Secretary of the Development Aid Advisory Committee.

ORAL

NO. 249 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DEVELOPMENT AID ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Can Government list the dates of the meetings of the Development Aid Advisory Committee in 2007 and 2008 to date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

During 2007 the Committee met on the following dates:

20th February 2007
5th September 2007

During 2008 to date the Committee met on 5th February 2008.

ORAL

NO. 250 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DEVELOPMENT AID EXTENSIONS TO APPLICATIONS

Can Government confirm whether the four applications for extensions to Development Aid pending consideration by the Development Aid Committee in December 2007 were all made in time before the existing licences had expired?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

Answered together with Question No. 251 of 2008.

NO. 251 OF 2008**THE HON DR J J GARCIA****DEVELOPMENT AID EXTENSIONS TO APPLICATIONS**

Can Government say which are the four entities that have applied for extensions to applications for Development Aid showing the date on which they applied for the extension, in respect of which project, and whether such extensions have been granted or rejected?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY**

The four applications for the extension of the Development Aid Licence pending consideration by the Development Aid Advisory Committee during December 2007 were all made prior to the expiry of licences. The four entities are as follows:-

Entity	Project	Application Date	Expiry Date	Extension granted until
Longhorn Properties Ltd	Office and commercial building to be constructed at ex-MOT Centre at 2 Europort Avenue North Mole Road	11/10/07	31/03/08	30/06/08
Environmental Waste Management Services Ltd	Construction and running of crematorium at Governor's Cottage	10/10/07	31/12/07	30/04/08
Slop Oil Reception Treatment Ltd	Upgrade of former MOD sullage plant, Western Arm, North Mole	05/12/07	31/12/07	31/12/09
Dolby Investments Ltd	Construction of 2 luxury town houses at 10/12 Rodger's Road	14/12/07	31/01/08	31/03/09

NO. 252 OF 2008**THE HON DR J J GARCIA****GTB – TOURIST TRADE ROAD SHOW, BRIGHTON**

What was the cost, with a breakdown, of the tourist trade road show that took place in Brighton on Wednesday 20 February, how many persons made up the official Gibraltar delegation and what posts do they hold?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY**

The cost with a breakdown of the tourist trade road show that took place in Brighton on Wednesday 20th February is as follows:-

	£
Invitations	602.46
Dinner	5,688.90
Hotel Accommodation	568.75
Sound	1,392.38
Courier	120.50
Flights	186.10
Taxi and Train	94.50
Miscellaneous	27.58
Support Staff	500.00
	<u>9,181.17</u>

Six persons made up the official Gibraltar delegation as follows:

Mr Albert Poggio	Director, Gibraltar Government Office in London
Mr Nicky Guerrero	Chief Executive, Gibraltar Tourist Board
Mr Ian Leyde	Sales Manager, Gibraltar Tourist Board, London
Miss Claire Lerner	Marketing & Events Co-ordinator, Gibraltar Tourist Board, London
Miss Kelly Bensadon	Information Officer, Gibraltar Tourist Board, London
Miss Tracey Poggio	Redleaf Associates, UK

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 252 OF 2008

HON DR J J GARCIA:

How many persons attended the dinner that cost £5,688? How many person attended that event?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I do not have the information here with me but I think it will be somewhere in the region of about 80 to 100 people, considering the usual invitations that are sent out, it would be this sort of turnout. At least eighty companies represented, it may have been a bit more.

NO. 253 OF 2008**THE HON DR J J GARCIA****GTB – SEATRADE, MIAMI**

What was the cost, with a breakdown, of Gibraltar's participation in the Seatrade Cruise Shipping Convention in Miami, how many persons made up the official Gibraltar delegation and what posts do they hold?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY**

The cost with a breakdown of Gibraltar's participation in the Seatrade Cruise Shipping Convention in Miami is as follows:

Gibraltar Delegation

Mr Albert Poggio	Director, Gibraltar Tourist Board, London
Mr Nicky Guerrero	Chief Executive, Gibraltar Tourist Board
Miss Claire Lerner	Marketing & Events Co-ordinator Gibraltar Tourist Board, London

Seatrade

	£
Registration	365.78
Courier	165.00
Subsistence	1,083.55
Stand	13,550.00
Flights	3,759.58
Hotel	3,150.33
GRAND TOTAL	<u>22,074.24</u>

NO. 254 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – LONDON BOAT SHOW

Can Government say how many persons made up the official Gibraltar delegation at the London Boat Show and what offices do they hold?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

The following individuals manned the Gibraltar stand on alternate days.

Mr Ian Leyde – Sales Manager – Gibraltar Tourist Board London
Miss Claire Lerner – Marketing & Events Co-ordinator Gibraltar Tourist Board London
Miss Kelly Bensadon – Information Officer Gibraltar Tourist Board London

The following persons visited the stand on one day whilst in London for a meeting of the UKGTA:

The Hon J J Holliday
Mr Peter Canessa – Principal Private Secretary to the Minister
Mr Nicky Guerrero – Chief Executive Gibraltar Tourist Board

Mr Albert Poggio also visited the stand on the same day.

ORAL

NO. 255 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – LONDON BOAT SHOW

What was the cost, with a breakdown, of Gibraltar's participation in the London Boat Show in January?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

I now hand the hon Member a schedule with the information requested.

SCHEDULE TO QUESTION 255 OF 2008

LONDON BOAT SHOW

STAND		19,577.50
SPACE		5,068.95
STAFF OVERTIME		
Ms Lerner	150.00	
Ms Bensadon	150.00	
TOTAL		300.00
STAFF EXPENSES		
Ms McFayden & Mrs Bensadon	23.75	
Mr Leyde	72.47	
Ms Lerner	24.43	
		120.65
REFRESHMENTS/MEALS		121.40
TRANSPORT		270.50
GRAND TOTAL	£	25,459.00

NO. 256 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – TOURISM MARKETING BUDGET

Can Government say how much of the Tourism Marketing budget of £900,000 estimated for 2007/2008 has been spent to date, showing a breakdown of the amount, who it was paid to, for what purposes and when?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

It is impossible to compile the information requested in the time given to do so.

However, as on previous occasions I hand over a summary of the expenditure incurred.

SCHEDULE TO QUESTION 256

MARKETING, PROMOTIONS & ADVERTISING	Vote	Expenditure	Balance
	2007/2008	To date	Available
Literature	£92,600.00	£61,884.21	£30,715.79
Activity (Trade)	£26,300.00	£6,116.03	£20,183.97
Activity (Media)	£26,300.00	£25,655.51	£644.49
Advertising	£291,410.00	£352,280.92	-£60,870.92
Promotional Material	£15,000.00	£5,959.75	£9,040.25
Trade/Consumer Fairs	£221,190.00	£217,461.21	£3,728.79
Other	£15,000.00	£5,232.43	£9,767.57
Events	£98,600.00	£103,066.96	-£4,466.96
Recurrent Expenditure	£103,600.00	£98,454.01	£5,145.99
Contingencies	£10,000.00	£11,096.72	-£1,096.72
GRAND TOTAL	£900,000.00	£887,207.75	£12,792.25

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 256 OF 2008

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Looking at the figures which say expenditure to date £887,000, might there be anything else coming in which would make this go over budget?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No, I am informed that that was the figure that was finally submitted to Treasury at the end of the financial year. Obviously, there could be some reconciliation to be done that may alter that figure slightly but that should not be the case.

NO. 257 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

RENT ARREARS – NEW HARBOURS/EUROPA BUSINESS CENTRE

Can Government say what was the total amount of rent arrears owed by tenants in:

- (a) New Harbours;
- (b) Europa Business Centre,

as at the end of February 2008, with a breakdown showing how much of the sum due is over one year old and over three years old?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

The total amount of arrears owed as at the end of February 2008 by tenants is as follows:

- (a) New Harbours is £310,941.29 of which £36,284.01 is over one year old and £160,106.39 is over three years old.
- (b) Europa Business Centre is £64,864.75 of which £18,066.09 is over one year old and £30,203.03 is over three years old.

NO. 258 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

IMPORTS – COMPUTER HARDWARE

What was the value and number of computer hardware imported into Gibraltar on a monthly basis since September 2007 inclusive?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

The value of computer hardware imported into Gibraltar on a monthly basis since September 2007 was as follows:

	Value of Computers (£ thousands)
September 2007	626
October 2007	895
November 2007	623
December 2007	168
January 2007	982

The Customs Department does not record import data on the number of computer components imported into Gibraltar.

NO. 259 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

GBC TRANSMISSION PROBLEMS

What resources are being made available to the GBC to enable it to deal with the transmission problems it has recently suffered?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

In the Improvement & Development Fund ending March 2008 £122,500 were spent in the purchase of new transmission links and associated equipment.

The allocation of I&D funding for the 2008/2009 year should allow for the replacement of antennae and ancillary equipment. The amount requested by GBC's I&D estimates submission for this work is £124,000.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 259 OF 2008

HON F R PICARDO:

Is the Minister aware whether this is, in fact, intended to deal conclusively with the problems that have recently affected GBC and which were referred to recently by their Chief Engineer in the local press as requiring provision to be made for transmission difficulties to be dealt with?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

My understanding is that once the relevant replacement of antennae and ancillary equipment is actually done, hopefully during this financial year, that will address the issue. What has been spent so far during the last financial year only partly addressed the issues and may not solve the problem in its totality. However, the second stage, which hopefully will be done this financial year, will address them.

NO. 260 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

NEW FLAME

Can Government say when it is envisaged that the operations for the removal of the wreck of the New Flame will be completed?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

The completion date of the removal of the wreck of the New Flame is not known as these operations are complex and can be easily affected by a number of determining factors, not least weather conditions.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 260 OF 2008

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is there an estimate around which the firm or the Government are working on?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

There is an estimate of how long each phase of the operation should take, assuming that there are no interruptions and lost days. In other words, there is not so much an estimated completion date as so many days should be taken to do this, assuming no interruptions and no contre temps.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is the Minister able to give the House an idea of what that estimate is? I suppose if one adds up each phase we get the total completion.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, the Government will be making public statements in Gibraltar at appropriate times but is not in a position to give that information now. We have had that information in the past in respect of the position as it was before, but we are waiting for confirmation of it. I do not mind telling him privately when we have the information but at the moment it is not a statement that I would like to give either publicly or in

this House. For example, there is this barge Bigfoot that has arrived after some delay, itself suffered a mishap en route, so there is now a little bit more delay and the fitting out of the barge is delayed. So we need to make sure that the durations for the cutting up of the bits of the hull and also for the extraction of the cargo that we had been given about three or four weeks ago, remain good. We are just waiting for confirmation of that. I will share with him the information that we had so long as he understands subject to the qualification, that it is subject to confirmation in the new environment. It was going to take 30 days for the removal of the cargo and 60 days for the removal of the hull. That is working days, that is implicit in the structure of the first answer I gave him. Those are uninterrupted working days.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The recent reports relating to the delay or some kind of delay caused at the border by the frontier authorities to scrap from the hull, some parts of the ship which were crossing the border overland, is that expected to cause any delay to these estimates?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is not delaying, it would not delay the salvage operation. This is not a matter that affects the Government, it is a commercial arrangement between the owners of the scrap, which is probably not even the salvor it is probably the insurance company. It is entirely a commercial arrangement and so long as they comply with the laws, both of Gibraltar and in Spain for cross-frontier trans-shipment of that sort of material, there is no problem. The Government have not been involved in any of the issues that are reportedly highlighted in the press. Frankly, nor do I see why anyone should have a problem in Spain with this. It is just another manifestation of the sort of irrational shark-feeding frenzy with which this issue is dealt with by certain sectors of Spanish society. Mainly, it has to be said, ill-informed so-called environmental lobby groups.

NO. 261 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

NEW FLAME

Can Government provide the cost to the taxpayer, if any, with a breakdown, of the operations in relation to the removal of the wreck of the New Flame?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

The Government of Gibraltar do not expect to have any costs as a result of the removal of the New Flame as certain expenditure incurred to date, such as legal advice and specialist consultants' fees, will be paid by the P & I Club.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 261 OF 2008

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Have they made any disbursements to date which should be returned by the P & I Club?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes, the initial expenditure submissions that we put the claim against have been settled by them.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Would the Minister be able to give the House that amount?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I can give an amount of what has been reimbursed, £16,723.

NO. 262 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

NEW FLAME

Has the Government received any official notification or service of legal action/s or proceedings being commenced against the Government or any of its officers in respect of the environmental impact of operations relating to the vessel New Flame?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

No, Sir.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 262 OF 2008

HON F R PICARDO:

Have the Government made any independent, or have the Government attempted independently to ascertain for themselves whether there are any such proceedings as have been reflected in the press against the Government or any of its officers, in respect of the matters referred to in my question?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No, Sir.

NO. 263 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

GBC REVIEW

What action has the Government taken to ensure that its announced review of the GBC has progressed as much as possible?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

As the Minister with responsibility for broadcasting I have held meetings with managers and staff representatives of GBC for initial discussions.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 263 OF 2008

HON F R PICARDO:

Did the Minister say “initial discussions”?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes I did.

HON F R PICARDO:

Given that the review of GBC has now been pending for some considerable time, in excess of nine months I think, when does the Minister expect that matters will proceed beyond the initial discussion stage? Although I see he is being instructed on what to answer.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I think that the Government will proceed as soon as they are ready to do so. However, the Chief Minister has already made known publicly that the review will take place during the course of this year.

HON F R PICARDO:

I appreciate that, but given that we are already still being told that we are at the stage of initial discussions, do the Government not attach to this matter some considerable importance given that this is a public broadcaster wholly funded by this House, and that people are dependant on that broadcaster for its independent news service et cetera? Are the Government not keen to ensure that this is resolved as soon as possible, and if necessary as early as possible during the course of this year?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The hon Member incorrectly suggests that the things that he has just listed, the important things that he has just listed, such as the fact that people depend on GBC for its news, by the way, other elements of the media may take a different view, that some of that is prejudiced by however long it takes to do the review. GBC has been doing all the things that the hon Member has just described for the last several decades without such a review and the hon Member should not, therefore, link the delay in what is a Government policy review, which they did not have in their manifesto, so it would not have happened at all had they been elected. Now suddenly, if we do not tell them exactly how it is going to be done in a time frame it somehow calls into question the ability of GBC to carry on. The review of GBC is taking place because the Government want to review GBC, not because there is any need to review GBC so that it can carry on broadcasting. We want all stakeholders and the Government, and indeed a public debate, to consider whether there is a case for GBC operating differently in the future to the way that it has operated in the past. I have already indicated publicly that that review will be as deep as it is wide, its technology, its statutory framework, whether it should operate in the context of a broadcasting regulatory framework, it includes staff structures, managerial structures, programming, what sort of programming are people interested in, taxpayers' money being used to build them up, that is the nature of the debate. Whilst it takes place, which we have already said it will be this year, nothing is happening which is prejudicing GBC from doing the things that it does and the way it wants to do them, indeed as it has always done.

HON F R PICARDO:

Can I take it from the Chief Minister's answer and perhaps he can also tell me where else I can get broadcast news in Gibraltar in respect of Gibraltar matters, that he thinks therefore that GBC operating without a General Manager is not an issue of concern to him or to anybody else?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

GBC is not operating without a General Manager.

HON F R PICARDO:

With respect to the Chief Minister, as we all know, GBC is operating with a troika of acting General Managers because the appointment of a General Manager has been delayed until the review is over. Is the Government not concerned that there is no

General Manager at GBC, apart from this troika of acting General Managers? Even in a period as important as during a General Election.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Self-evidently the Government are not concerned.

HON F R PICARDO:

Should the Government not be attaching concern to this matter, given that GBC is the only source of broadcast news available in Gibraltar and the only community broadcaster available in Gibraltar, and, I am sure we all agree, that organisations best run when they have a General Manager?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

If the Government felt that it should be concerned it would be concerned, but it is not because it does not.

ORAL

NO. 264 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

IMPORTS – GOODS VEHICLES

What was the value and number of goods vehicles imported by:

- (a) individuals;
- (b) licensed dealers,

on a monthly basis since September 2007 inclusive?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

Answered together with Question No. 265 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 265 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

IMPORTS – PRIVATE MOTOR VEHICLES

What was the value and number of private motor vehicles imported by:

- (a) individuals;
- (b) licensed dealers,

on a monthly basis since September 2007 inclusive?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

I now hand the hon Member the statistical information requested.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 265

Answer to Question 264

The number and value of goods vehicles imported by individuals and licensed dealers on a monthly basis since September 2007 was as follows:

	<u>Goods Vehicles Imported by Individuals</u>		<u>Goods Vehicles Imported by Licensed Dealers</u>	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Value (£ thousands)</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Value (£ thousands)</u>
September 2007	0	0	17	232
October 2007	1	1	33	407
November 2007	1	4	9	72
December 2007	0	0	1	6
January 2008	1	0	37	494

The statistics for February and March 2008 are still in the process of being prepared.

Answer to Question 265

The number and value of private motor vehicles imported by individuals and licensed dealers on a monthly basis since September 2007 was as follows;

	<u>Private Motor Vehicles Imported by Individuals</u>		<u>Private Motor Vehicles Imported by Licensed Dealers</u>	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Value (£ thousands)</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Value (£ thousands)</u>
September 2007	20	93	554	7.2
October 2007	14	25	784	9.7
November 2007	24	79	550	7.0
December 2007	14	29	361	4.6
January 2008	16	28	687	9.2

The statistics for February and March 2008 are still in the process of being prepared.

NO. 266 OF 2008

NOT ALLOCATED

NO. 267 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

(On behalf of the Hon S E Linares)

THEATRE ROYAL

Can Government state at what stage they are in relation to the consultation process to ascertain the viability of rebuilding the Theatre Royal?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Government is not currently actively involved in any consultation process to ascertain the viability of rebuilding the Theatre Royal, except of course, that from time to time people express their views to the Government on the subject.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 267 OF 2008

HON G H LICUDI:

Is it not correct that the Government recently announced that this was a project that they were actively considering?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, the hon Member may be recollecting an exchange that we had in this House, not necessarily involving him but one of his colleagues, in answer to a question on the same subject almost in the same terms, in which we had a discussion about the nature of the consultation process that was taking place, that would take place and that would not take place. So we had quite recently a pretty full exchange in this House. There will be some sort of consultation process. He may recall that we debated whether it would be formal, in the sense that it would be written or not written. Government have not yet made those decisions but at some point, when the Government want to proceed with the Theatre Royal project, either in that site or another, the Government will somehow provoke the debate so that we make sure that we have the latest public sentiments on the matter. Whether that takes the form of a formal consultation paper or whether it takes the form of informal soundings with stakeholders by the Minister or others, that remains to be decided. The Government will proceed with the Theatre Royal project, either on the site of the Theatre Royal or elsewhere. What remains to be finally decided is whether the Government stick to their hitherto preference of the original site, or whether they decide to abandon the

site, use that site for something else and build the theatre. That issue is still undecided.

HON G H LICUDI:

With regard to the decision by the Government to proceed with this project, can the Government say whether it is their intention or whether they have decided that that project will proceed during the next financial year?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, no such decision has been made.

ORAL

NO. 268 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

(On behalf of the Hon S E Linares)

CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT REVIEW

Can Government state whether the review of the Customs Department is at the stage of implementation and at what stage the negotiations with the Union are currently?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The review is not yet complete and is thus on-going. The Government do not consider it appropriate to comment on on-going negotiations.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 268 OF 2008

HON N F COSTA:

Can the Government give an indication of when the review will be complete?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No Sir but both sides want it completed as soon as a mutually agreeable arrangement can be come to. Again, as I think I have indicated in the past, this is a deep and wide review, it is sort of starting with a blank sheet of paper where all sides can put all issues that they would like to see accommodated in a review. So it is not a review designed to address a particular grievance, it is a general once in every forty years xxxxxx gazing look at an area of life in Gibraltar to see whether it can be modernised and improved, for the benefit of the taxpayer and, indeed, the employees alike.

HON G H LICUDI:

Can Government say whether that review includes consideration of the location of Customs Headquarters which is currently at Waterport?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No it does not because the decisions about the physical accommodation of Customs have already been taken in the context of the new airport and all of that, where part of the works involve the re-provisioning at or near the new air terminal building of a new commercial land frontier Customs commercial gate facility, and the remainder of it will remain on site where it is now, perhaps extending a little bit into the adjoining ex-WSM depot to enable them to expand some of the activities that they currently have scattered around Gibraltar. But the actual geographical location will remain there, albeit that it might grow a little bit on the site.

HON G H LICUDI:

So are we to take it from that that we are not going to have a centralised headquarters for Customs, which is based exclusively within the air terminal or just adjoining the new air terminal?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The reverse would have been more likely. In other words, at one point there was some consideration given to whether all of Customs could not be located on one site in the Waterport area. That turned out to be apparently unworkable without complicated technology because it was important that the commercial gate and entry processing unit for overland commercial traffic should be located near the frontier to prevent people having to come and go with bits of paper and things of that sort. So, the answer is no.

ORAL

NO. 269 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – NELSON’S VIEW

With reference to Nelson’s View can Government give a breakdown of the current sales details as follows:

- (a) How many flats are being sold with 100% financing from the purchaser;
- (b) How many are being sold with the 50/50 ratio;
- (c) How many are being sold at any other ratio and specify what that ratio is?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 270 and 271 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 270 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – CUMBERLAND TERRACES

With reference to Cumberland Terraces can Government give a breakdown of the current sales details as follows:

- (a) How many flats are being sold with 100% financing from the purchaser;
- (b) How many are being sold with the 50/50 ratio;
- (c) How many are being sold at any other ratio and specify what that ratio is?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 269 and 271 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 271 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – BAYVIEW TERRACES

With reference to Bayview Terraces can Government give a breakdown of the current sales details as follows:

- (a) How many flats are being sold with 100% financing from the purchaser;
- (b) How many are being sold with the 50/50 ratio;
- (c) How many are being sold at any other ratio and specify what that ratio is?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I now hand the hon Member a schedule with the information requested.

Answer to Question 271

Development	Purchaser ownership share											Total	
	50%	55%	60%	65%	70%	75%	78%	80%	82%	85%	88%		100%
Bayview Terraces	5	0	6	1	28	4	0	5	0	0	0	25	74
Cumberland Terraces	42	0	21	0	22	3		5	1	1	1	21	117
Nelson's View	16	2	11	1	21	4	1	4	0	1	0	50	111
Total	63	2	38	2	71	11	1	14	1	2	1	96	302

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 269 TO 271 OF 2008

HON C A BRUZON:

Can the Chief Minister tell me if the statistics take into account situations where a purchaser, say from Nelson's View, who has now been allowed to purchase Waterport Terraces, do the statistics take this into account? I know of some situations where this has happened.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I would hope that the statistics, assuming that they are accurate as provided, I have no reason to doubt that they are not, are the position as they are today. So if a buyer has terminated his arrangements in one estate and becomes a buyer to some percentage or other of co-ownership or full ownership in another estate, he will disappear from the original estate and become part of the statistics of the second estate. What I cannot tell him is whether there have been any, he appears to think that there are, and if there have been whether it has been on the same basis or not. In other words, whether the co-ownership proportions have varied as part of the transfer.

HON C A BRUZON:

A specific case is known to me and this constituent is concerned about the £1,000 deposit paid to OEM and when the okay was given to this purchaser to purchase Waterport Terraces, they were asked to pay £500 deposit. Can the Chief Minister, as being ultimately responsible for all these various affordable schemes, guarantee that the £1,000 deposit will be in fact returned to the purchaser?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, I regret that I am not in a position to give the hon Member any such guarantee. If somebody puts down a non-refundable reservation fee from one purchaser and then chooses to abandon that and instead pursue a different purchase from a different purchaser, that is what non-refundable deposits or reservation fees are for. What I can tell generally buyers of ex-OEM developments is, of course, that they will get full credit from GRP for any monies that they have paid to OEM. But where there has been a transfer, no one has suggested to me from within the Government that the Government should contemplate some sort of refund of the reservation fee. I am not aware of the case although others in my office might be. I personally am not aware and a political steer has not been sought about whether to refund but, in principle, reservation fees are described as being non-refundable. So it does not surprise me, if the hon Member is saying that he is aware of a case in which it has not been refunded, it does not really surprise me to learn that.

HON N F COSTA:

Can the Chief Minister say, with reference to purchasers of Nelson's View, Cumberland Terraces and Bayview Terraces, whether these purchasers have

entered or will be entering into bridging loan arrangements, as is the case with Waterport Terraces owners?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, the financing arrangements by each purchaser in respect of that part of the purchase price that they have to provide is a matter for the decision and individual circumstances of each purchaser. Some may pay it from a mortgage, others may pay it from their own financial resources. Obviously, the Government are aware that many, I cannot tell him how many, are relying on mortgages and those that are relying on mortgages need to get bridging finance for the instalments, unless they can afford the instalments in the pre-completion instalments from their own savings or financial resources. Again, that depends on the personal financial circumstances of each individual. The hon Member may be aware that the Government facilitates, or where the Government company is the developer, that company facilitates those bridging arrangements by sending letters of comfort to the bank. Of course, as far as the bank is concerned they are usually unsecured for those bridging arrangements, because their borrower, our purchaser, does not yet have any real estate interest to provide to the bank as security. So there is an arrangement whereby GRP gives a letter of comfort.

HON C A BRUZON:

Can the Chief Minister confirm whether or not the developer has been approached in an attempt to purchase an affordable house but contributing under 50 per cent?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I cannot say for sure whether we have or we have not. It would not surprise me if we had, but if we had I think the answer would almost certainly have been no. The basis of the current scheme is that it is a minimum xxxxxx. The view that we take, I suppose, is that if somebody cannot afford at least 50 per cent of the property, and 50 per cent of a property sold at much less than real market value, which is the second benefit. This is not 50 per cent of a property at market value. This is 50 per cent of a property sold at prices way below market value. If a person cannot afford at least 50 per cent then the view is that they are not really in a socio-economic category such that they are really home owners, because if they cannot afford that, will they then be able to afford the service charges et cetera. So those are more likely to be candidates for Government rental accommodation.

HON C A BRUZON:

Does the Chief Minister not remember that a few years ago when we were discussing the meaning of affordability he did say that they would consider whatever proportion a particular purchaser could afford, even if it was less than 50 per cent?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, I do not remember but if he assures me that I expressed views of that sort then no doubt I must have. But it has not found its way into the scheme.

ORAL

NO. 272 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – WATERPORT TERRACES

Can Government state what are the estimated dates for completion in connection with the various phases of Waterport Terraces?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 273 to 276 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 273 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – ALBERT RISSO HOUSE

Can Government state what is the current estimated date for completion of "Albert Risso" House for Senior Citizens?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 272 and 274 to 276 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 274 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – BAYVIEW TERRACES

With reference to Bayview Terraces, can Government state what is the current estimated date of completion?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 272, 273, 275 and 276 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 275 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – CUMBERLAND TERRACES

With reference to Cumberland Terraces, can Government state what is the current estimated date of completion?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 272 to 274 and 276 of 2008.

NO. 276 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – NELSON'S VIEW

With reference to Nelson's View, can Government state what the current estimated date of completion is?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

According to the latest information provided to us by the contractor, and indeed confirmed and committed at the highest level in the contractor company, the following are the currently estimated completion dates for Waterport Terraces:

Phase I in May of this year. Phase II in July of this year and Phase III in October of this year.

Albert Risso House, which is part of Waterport Terraces, part of the Government's housing rental stock, is scheduled to be completed by the end of this year.

According to the contractor of the three ex-OEM sites, these three developments are, subject to any adverse Court ruling in a pending matter, scheduled for completion also by the end of this year.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 272 TO 276 OF 2008

HON C A BRUZON:

I have got in front of me the Waterport Terraces newsletter where the information that the Chief Minister has just given me is contained. The blocks that are referred to there in the three phases do not mention Albert Risso House. Is Albert Risso House not one of those blocks, obviously it has its own specific name, all the other blocks are named, what number is Albert Risso House?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Albert Risso House is not the subject matter of the Waterport Terraces newsletter because the Waterport Terraces newsletter is for purchasers of affordable purchase homes. Albert Risso House is a Government rental development, and therefore, it is not included or referred to in newsletters which are for purchasers. No, it has not been given for reference purposes a number in the same series.

NO. 277 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – NEW SITE FOR RENTAL FLATS

With reference to the outstanding balance of 210 rental flats that are not now scheduled to be constructed opposite HMS Rooke, has Government identified other sites, and if so, where?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

No site has yet been identified.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 277 OF 2008

HON C A BRUZON:

Can the Chief Minister say whether any action has been taken by the relevant Department in an attempt to identify a relevant site?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The issue is not so much identifying a relevant site as designating a relevant site. Obviously the Government know where are the available sites in Gibraltar, it is a question of making a policy decision to say that site is allocated to that project. So it is not so much identifying, sort of people driving around or staring at a map to see where could we do this. The available development sites are known and it is just a question of making a policy decision to say there or there. But the answer is that that policy decision has not been taken.

ORAL

NO. 278 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – SALE OF 50 PER CENT SHARE OF CO-OWNERSHIP HOMES

Can Government state if there has been any sale of the Government 50% share of co-ownership homes as from November 2007, providing a breakdown by month and estate?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

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

Answer to Question 278

	SWJG	Montagu Gardens	Westview Park	Harbour Views	Montagu Crescent	TOTALS
Nov 07						
Dec 07						
Jan 08		£9,044.60		£36,452.86	£8,150.00	£53,647.46
Feb 08						
Mar 08						
Totals	-	£9,044.60	-	£36,452.86	£8,150.00	£53,647.46

HON C A BRUZON:

Could the Chief Minister clarify this doubt in my mind? When I asked him about the block number of Albert Risso House, because I wanted to establish without a shadow of a doubt that Albert Risso House comes under Phase 3 of Waterport Terraces. Now, in the written answer for Phase 3 of Waterport Terraces, I was told that completion would be October. In the verbal answer to my question concerning a supplementary about Albert Risso House, the answer was the end of the year. So, does that supplementary answer regarding Albert Risso House, the end of the year, also refer to the whole of Phase 3?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, I have given him specific answers about the various phases of the affordable houses for sale. I have told him that information did not relate to Albert Risso House because that was not part of that scheme. So the information I gave him earlier this morning about the completion dates for the phases is what applies for the sales. The end of the year is what applies only to Albert Risso House.

NO. 279 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT – G1

What assessment did the Government carry out of the environmental impact of choosing the vehicle now registered as G1?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

None.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 279 OF 2008

HON F R PICARDO:

Why none?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, obviously because the Government did not consider it appropriate to do so and is under no obligation to.

HON F R PICARDO:

Given provision No. 8 of the Environmental Charter, which is the guiding principle which the Government have adopted and which provides that the Government are committed to encouraging activities and technologies that benefit the living environment, why did the Government think it was not appropriate to choose a vehicle that was more environmentally-friendly than the one that has been chosen, or at least to carry out an environmental assessment of that vehicle's emissions?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

We could have chosen vehicles that were much less environmentally-friendly than this one.

HON F R PICARDO:

Yes, indeed, or he could have chosen much more environmentally-friendly vehicles than this one, even luxury vehicles which are much more environmentally-friendly. The vehicle which has been chosen emits 264 grams of carbon dioxide per kilometre. There are luxury vehicles of a similar class that emit 219 grams of carbon dioxide per kilometre. Why was not one of those that emitted less carbon dioxide chosen or even considered to be chosen?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I was particularly fond of this car.

HON F R PICARDO:

Good, it is that frivolous, so be it.

NO. 280 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

COMPANIES ACT – WHITE WASH PROVISIONS

Given the importance in respect of the provision of financial services from Gibraltar using Gibraltar companies has Government now made a policy decision on whether or not to implement “white wash” provisions into the Companies Act?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

No, Sir.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 280 OF 2008

HON F R PICARDO:

Do the Government ever expect to reach a conclusion in respect of this matter, given that I have been asking the same question for three or four years now and I seem to get the same answer every time?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

As I keep on telling the hon Member, the fact that he asks questions is not what motivates the Government to do things or not do things or how long it takes to do it. Obviously, notwithstanding the premise of his question, the Government do not consider that making a decision on white wash provisions in the Companies Act is as important to the Finance Centre as he, for reasons that he has not disclosed, considers them to be. A proposal has been put, the Government get many legislative proposals in relation to financial services and other matters and this is not one to which the Government are giving priority.

ORAL

NO. 281 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING IN LOCAL NEWSPAPERS

What is the total amount paid by the Government as advertising to the publication "7 Days," giving a breakdown by month, since that publication was first published?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The total amount was £62,885.50 and the breakdown is provided in the schedule I now hand to the hon Member.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 281 of 2008

Month	Months Paid	Total
August-06	Official Notices July 06	£2,096.00
September-06	Official Notices Aug-06	£3,993.00
October-06	Official Notices September-06	£7,414.00
November-06	Official Notices October-06	£4,318.00
December-06	Official Notices November-06	£3,616.00
January-07	Official Notices December-06	£3,118.00
February-07	Official Notices January-07	£2,548.00
March-07	Official Notices February-07	£1,860.00
April-07	No Payments Made	£0.00
May-07	Official Notices March-07 & April-07	£4,809.60
June-07	Official Notices May-07	£2,972.20
July-07	Official Notices June-07	£3,076.50
August-07	Official Notices July-07	£1,990.00
September-07	Official Notices August-07	£4,915.20
October-07	Official Notices September-07	£4,244.00
November-07	Official Notices October-07	£1,512.00
December-07	Official Notices November-07	£3,358.00
January-08	Official Notices December-07	£1,690.00
February-08	Official Notices January-07	£1,481.00
March-08	Official Notices February-07	£3,874.00

Grand Total: £62,885.50

NO. 282 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Has a date for the delivery of the judgement now been fixed 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 Sir.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 282 OF 2008

HON F R PICARDO:

Do the Government have an indication of when a judgement may be delivered?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

That is the same sort of question by a different word. The answer remains, no Sir.

HON F R PICARDO:

No, it is not the same question with respect. The question that I asked and that is on the Order Paper says, has a date now been fixed, which asks for a particular date. I have asked now whether the Government have an indication of when it may be that the judgement may be delivered. An estimate, not the same question. Have the Government had such an indication.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I have answered it.

HON F R PICARDO:

Professionals in the industry will be delighted to have that sort of clarity from the Chief Minister.

NO. 283 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

THIRD MONEY LAUNDERING DIRECTIVE

Has the Government progressed the reconsideration of its implementation of the Third Money Laundering Directive in the Criminal Justice (Amendment) Act 2007 to allow for reliance on the due diligence carried out by Company Managers?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Yes Sir.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 283 OF 2008

HON F R PICARDO:

What is the outcome of that progress?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Progress does not deliver outcomes, conclusions deliver outcomes. The progress is that I have had the matter looked into, as I told him at the last meeting of the House that I would, a paper has been produced for me and I have not yet had the opportunity to consider it.

ORAL

NO. 284 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

OEM – PREMIA PAID FOR VARIOUS SITES

Can Government say what premium was paid by OEM or it's associated companies in respect of each of the following sites, showing the date of payment and the surface area of each site in square metres:

- (a) Rosia Tanks;
- (b) Cumberland Terraces;
- (c) Bayview;
- (d) North Gorge;
- (e) Buena Vista;
- (f) Aerial Farm (for cement factory)?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 285 to 287 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 285 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

OEM – RECOVERY OF PREMIA

Has Government agreed with OEM what proportion of the premium paid, if any, they will receive back in respect of each of the following sites which were repossessed:

- (a) Rosia Tanks;
- (b) Cumberland Terraces;
- (c) Bayview;
- (d) North Gorge;
- (e) Buena Vista?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 284 and 286 to 287 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 286 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

OEM – BUENA VISTA AND NORTH GORGE

Can Government say whether the plots of land at Buena Vista and North Gorge, which were previously allocated to OEM, will be put out to Tender again?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 284, 285 and 287 of 2008.

NO. 287 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

OEM – AERIAL FARM

Can Government say whether the plot of land at the aerial farm in Devil's Tower Road which was allocated to a company linked to OEM for the purposes of a cement factory has also been repossessed and if so on what date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The tender related to North Gorge and Buena Vista. OEM bid £15 million, £1.5 million (being 10 per cent deposit) was paid in October 2005 and a further £3 million was paid in January 2006.

The site areas are as follows:

Rosia Tanks	3,350 m ²
Cumberland Terraces	3,680 m ²
Bayview Terraces	1,390 m ²
North Gorge	9,900 m ²
Buena Vista	14,000 m ²

The OEM bid included the commitment to build 200 affordable homes on the Cumberland Terraces site. During the negotiation Government obtained OEM's commitment to build a further 200 homes on the Rosia Tanks site. At the planning stage it was felt that the sites were not large enough to acceptably accommodate 400 apartments and so some were transferred to the Bayview Terraces site, which as the hon Member knows is just across the street. The negotiated commercial agreement then attributed £3 million out of the £15 million total premium to these three sites, on the basis of £1 million for each.

No site was sold to OEM at the Aerial Farm and thus no premium paid. That arrangement, now also revoked, which is one of the things he asks for in one of the questions, was for a licence to operate a cement plant on a site at the Aerial Farm for a few years. That arrangement, in turn, had been in consideration of OEM's agreement to reduce the selling prices of the flats at the three affordable home sites by a total of £3 million to make them more affordable.

There has not yet been any agreement between the Government and OEM as to what proportion if any, of the premium, and what proportion of the sums spent by them in construction (the benefit of which has now been inherited by the Government) will be reimbursed to it. That process is on-going.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 284 TO 287 OF 2008

HON C A BRUZON:

Can the Government confirm the number of flats still available for sale, concerning those three developments in the South District?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

When I last heard I think there was between 105 and 110. There has been a tender process, an advertisement process for those. The Government are waiting before allocating them for the outcome of this Rights to Light challenge which is pending judgement. The Supreme Court of Gibraltar is due to give judgement on that matter.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can the Chief Minister say, the 105 that remain available are in respect of all three? Can he say how they break up between the three sites?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, I have not got that information but the lion's share is Nelson's View, yes Rosia Tanks.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

I am not sure I may have missed parts of the Chief Minister's answer. The site area of the Aerial Farm does he remember giving me that information?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I did not give that because it was not, contrary to the premise of the question, a site that had been sold or made available. From memory it was a few thousand square metres, two, three, four, something like that.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The other one which I did not catch was the date of revocation of the Aerial Farm site.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I have not got that but they were all revoked together on the dates in which the Government went public on it. It was all one act, one legal act.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In Question No. 286 of 2008, whether the sites at Buena Vista and North Gorge will be put out to tender again?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I would prefer not to answer the hon Member's question because of the on-going nature of the discussion. The answer will almost certainly give a hint about the Government's willingness to settle or not settle with OEM. Let me put it this way, those sites would either form part of a settlement discussion with OEM or if not they would be put out to tender again. It is one or other of those two. The hon Member can rest assured, particularly given the circumstances in which these licences were revoked. If the Government do come to an agreement with OEM then full public particulars will be provided. This is not a deal that can be done because people would need an explanation as to the circumstances and the reasons why Government were doing a deal if we do it. At the moment there are discussions on-going but at the moment the chances are more likely that they will not be than that there will be. But if there is a deal certainly there will be full particulars provided.

NO. 288 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

ROSIA TANKS – LEGAL ADVICE

What was the nature of the advice regarding the Rosia Tanks that the Government paid Triay Stagnetto Neish £2296.80 for on 25 July in the financial year 2006/2007?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Government does not consider it appropriate to divulge the advice it has obtained in the context of litigation or disputes.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 288 OF 2008

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Would it be possible to say what it was in relation to, without going into the detail of the advice itself?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, I believe it related to right to light issues.

ORAL

NO. 289 OF 2008

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 1,796 persons were employed by 19 companies as at 31 March 2008. The breakdown requested by the hon Member is set out in the schedule which I now hand to him.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 289

REMOTE GAMBLING COMPANIES - EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS AS AT 31 MARCH 2008

	Gibraltarian	Other British	Spanish	Other	Total
Ladbrokes (Gibraltar) Limited	19	71	4	9	103
Victor Chandler (International) Limited	59	161	17	34	271
Stan James (Gibraltar) Limited	14	154	13	56	237
bwin International Limited	15	38	16	89	158
Eurobet (Gibraltar) Limited	11	14	1	3	29
Carmen Media Group Limited	8	4	2	7	21
32 Red Plc	22	15	0	5	42
St Minver Limited	26	26	15	45	112
Digibet Limited	0	1	0	9	10
888 Holdings Plc	49	123	18	85	275
Globet.com Group Limited	0	9	0	7	16
International Betting Association Limited	0	0	0	6	6
PartyGaming Plc	72	143	16	104	335
Mansion (Gibraltar) Limited	10	101	4	26	141
Futuresbetting.com Limited	1	8	0	0	9
Partouche Interactive (Gibraltar) Limited	0	1	1	3	5
William Hill (Gibraltar) Limited	0	9	0	1	10
Hillside (Gibraltar) Limited	1	7	0	1	9
Petfre (Gibraltar) Limited	1	5	0	1	7
Overall Total	308	890	107	491	1796

Source : Ministry of Finance, Gambling Division

ORAL

NO. 290 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

INFRACTION PROCEEDINGS – EU DIRECTIVE 2003/108

What was the content of the post-judgement Article 228 Reasoned Opinion that was issued regarding the infraction proceedings against the United Kingdom for the non-implementation in Gibraltar of EU Directive 2003/108 on waste electrical and electronic equipment?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 291 to 293 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 291 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

NON-IMPLEMENTATION – EU DIRECTIVE 2004/38

Can Government say, in general terms, what is the defence entered by the United Kingdom over the non-implementation in Gibraltar of Directive 2004/38 on the right of citizens of the Union and their family to move and reside freely in the EU?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 290, 292 and 293 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 292 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

ECJ CASES

Can Government say whether the two cases before the European Court of Justice for the non-implementation in Gibraltar of two EU Directives have been heard and if so with what result?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 290, 291 and 293 of 2008.

NO. 293 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

INFRACTION PROCEEDINGS

Can Government say, of the 2 EU Directives that were under infraction proceedings before the European Court of Justice for non-implementation in Gibraltar, as on 30 November 2007, whether there is a policy reason as to why they have not been transposed in each case and if so what is it?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

According to Government records there were two cases before the ECJ for non-implementation in Gibraltar of EU Directives as at 30th November 2007.

These related to:

- (1) Directive 2004/38 on the right of citizens of the Union and their family to move and reside freely within the EU; and
- (2) Directive 2003/108 on waste electrical and electronic equipment.

In respect of (1) above, that is to say Directive 2004/38, the case has not yet been heard and no defence has yet been entered by the UK in the court proceedings.

There are no policy reasons for the non-transposition of the Directive in Gibraltar. Draft legislation is almost complete and transposition will take place in the usual way.

In respect of the second known as the WEE Directive, waste electrical and electronic equipment hence the acronym WEE, in respect of that the Directive's non-transposition was passed to the ECJ under Article 226 in March 2007. The Court found in favour of the Commission, that is to say in the initial stages, and the infraction was progressed to Article 228 in October 2007.

The content of the post-judgment Article 228 Reasoned Opinion that was issued regarding the non-implementation in Gibraltar was as follows:

The Article 228 Reasoned Opinion was issued by the Commission on 23rd October 2007. It drew attention to the judgment of the European Court of Justice dated 1st March 2007 (Case C-139/06). It stated that no notification had been received about the measures taken to comply with the judgment, the Commission took the view that HMG had failed to fulfil its obligations under Article 228(1) of the Treaty establishing the Community. The Commission invited HMG to submit its observations on the foregoing (in accordance with Article 228(2)), within two months of receipt of its letter.

The Commission was informed on 21st December 2007 that Gibraltar had transposed Directive 2003/108 on waste electrical and electronic equipment by Legal Notice No. 125 of 2007, which was published in the Gibraltar Gazette on 29th November 2007.

ORAL

NO. 294 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

INFRACTION PROCEEDINGS

Can Government say, of the 5 EU Directives that were under infraction proceedings at the Reasoned Opinion stage for non-implementation in Gibraltar, as on 30 November 2007, whether there is a policy reason as to why they have not been transposed in each case and if so what is it?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 295 and 296 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 295 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

INFRACTION PROCEEDINGS

Can Government say, of the 23 EU Directives that were under infraction proceedings at the Article 226 letter stage for non-implementation in Gibraltar, as on 30 November 2007, whether there is any policy reason as to why they have not been transposed in each case and if so what is it?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 294 and 296 of 2008.

NO. 296 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

INFRACTION PROCEEDINGS

Can Government say whether the European Commission has opened any new infraction proceedings against the United Kingdom for the non-implementation of EU Directives in Gibraltar and if so when, what Directives does it relate to, and at what stage are the proceedings?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

None of the infraction cases as at 30th November 2007 raise any policy issues, except two where we are questioning their applicability to Gibraltar.

In answer to Question No. 296 of 2008, I now hand the hon Member a schedule setting out the information requested.

Answer to Question 296

New infractions issued by the Commission since the last Parliament Q&A session

Date of infraction	Directive No.	Directive name	Status
23 Oct 2007 (communicated late to GoG).	2003/35	Providing for public participation in respect of the drawing up of certain plans and programmes relating to the environment and amending with regard to public participation and access to justice Directive 85/337/EEC and 96/61/EC	Transposed.
31 Jan 2008	2003/20/EC	Relating to the compulsory use of safety belts in vehicles of less than 3.5 tonnes.	Transposed
28 Jan 2008	2005/60/EC	On the prevention of the use of the financial system for the purpose of money laundering and terrorist financing.	Transposed.
28 Jan 2008	2006/70/EC	Laying down implementing measures for Directive 2005/60/EC (see above) as regards the definition of a 'politically exposed person'.	Transposed.
28 Nov 2007	2005/65/EC	Enhancing port security.	Reasoned Opinion
28 Nov 2007	2005/35/EC	On ship source pollution and on the introduction of penalties for infringements.	Reasoned Opinion
31 Jan 2008	2004/35/EC	An environmental liability with regard to the prevention and remedying of environmental damage	Reasoned Opinion
31 Jan 2008	2005/29/EC	Concerning unfair business-to-consumer commercial practices in the internal market.	Reasoned Opinion
27 Nov 2007	2005/36/EC	Recognition of professional qualifications nurse, dental practitioner, veterinary surgeon, midwife, architect, pharmacist and doctor	Article 226 Letter
27 Nov 2007	2005/45/EC	Mutual recognition of seafarers' certificates.	Article 226 Letter
27 Nov 2007	2006/15/EC	Establishing a 2nd list of indicative occupational exposure limit values.	Article 226 Letter
28 Jan 2008	2004/113/EC	Implementing the principle of equal treatment between men and women in the access to, and supply of, goods and services	Article 226 Letter
17 Mar 2008	2006/40/EC	Relating to emissions from air-conditioning systems in motor vehicles.	Article 226 Letter
27 Nov 2007	2006/77/EC	Maximum levels for organochlorine in animal feed.	GoG querying applicability to Gibraltar

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 294 TO 296 OF 2008

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In the list of infraction cases can the Chief Minister say which are the two Directives which the Government are questioning the applicability to Gibraltar?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

One is Directive 2006/77 on maximum levels of organochlorical in animal feed. From the information in front of me I can only identify that one. That is as helpful as I can be. When we say that we are challenging, this is not in any sense at Ministerial or political level, this is part of the to-ing and fro-ing at draftsman level before the matter even gets to us. So that explains why I do not have first hand knowledge about which they are.

NO. 297 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS

Can Government list all the international conventions to which the EU's adherence had been obstructed before 2008 because Spain has raised Gibraltar related objections?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

According to the information available to the Government in so far as it is aware the international conventions in question are as follows:-

1. The Convention on the jurisdiction, applicable law, recognition, enforcement and cooperation in respect of parental responsibility and measures for the protection of children, 1996.
2. The Unidroit Cape Town Convention on international interests in mobile equipment audits aircraft protocol, 2001.
3. The International Maritime Organisation Protocol to the Athens Convention on transport of passengers and goods by sea, 2002.
4. The United Nations Protocol on civil liability for damages caused by industrial accidents on transboundary waters, 2003.
5. The Council of Europe Convention on contact with children, 2003.
6. Convention for the suppression of unlawful acts against the safety of maritime navigation, 1988.
7. Convention on the marking of plastic explosives for the purpose of detection, 1991.
8. International Convention on prevention of terrorist bomb attacks/suppression of terrorist bombings, 1997.
9. International Convention for the suppression of the financing of terrorism, 1999.
10. International Convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism, 2005.
11. Protocol for the suppression of unlawful acts of violence at airports servicing international civilian aviation, 1988.
12. Protocol for the suppression of unlawful acts against the safety of fixed platforms located on the continental shelf.
13. Convention on the prohibition of the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines and on their destruction, 1997.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 297 OF 2008

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is No. 12, the Protocol for the suppression of unlawful acts against the safety of fixed platforms located on the continental shelf an admission that we have a continental shelf?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I suppose the easiest way for me to answer is to allude the hon Member to the Speaker's written ruling of earlier this morning, about asking for opinions and things. I am not sure that there is anything in these particular 13 specifically. It just happens to be the ones that were caught in the time frame since the matter became controversial. We have not looked particularly at any of these, we are familiar with the one on children because that became publicly controversial in the context of the UK Foreign Affairs Committee, a member of it, Mr John Stanley. The Leader of the Opposition will recall Mr Stanley asking him about that when he gave his evidence. But for the others I cannot answer the hon Member's I suspect half tongue in cheek question.

NO. 298 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

POST-BOXING ARRANGEMENTS

Can Government say how often and on what dates the post-boxing arrangements via the United Kingdom were made use of each year since April 2000, in either direction, with a breakdown showing the country originating or receiving the communication?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

In total there have been 767 post-boxing notifications since the arrangements came into operation in April 2000.

I will now hand the hon Member a schedule with the information requested, except the date of each notification, since this would require the examination of each file and is administratively too onerous.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 298

As at 28th March 2008

	2000		2001		2002		2003		2004		2005		2006		2007		2008	
	Out	In	Out	In	Out	In	Out	In	Out	In	Out	In	Out	In	Out	In	Out	In
Austria	0	-	0	0	2	0	3	0	2	0	5	0	4	1	1	3	1	0
Belgium	0	-	0	0	1	0	3	0	3	1	3	1	2	1	4	9	0	4
Bulgaria	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	2	0
Cyprus	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	4	0	4	0	0	0
Czech Republic	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	4	0	2	0	4	0	0	0
Denmark	0	-	0	0	2	0	4	1	2	0	4	0	2	0	4	1	1	0
Estonia	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	2	0	2	0	0	0
France	1	-	0	0	4	0	6	2	5	1	6	3	6	2	5	1	2	0
Finland	0	-	0	0	1	0	3	0	2	0	1	0	2	0	2	0	0	2
Germany	0	-	1	0	4	0	5	0	3	2	8	3	6	6	7	2	2	0
Greece	0	-	0	0	1	0	3	0	3	0	2	0	3	1	4	0	0	0
Hungary	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	5	0	2	0	3	0	0	0
Iceland	0	-	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Ireland	1	-	0	0	3	4	7	1	4	1	7	3	8	1	8	1	1	0
Italy	0	-	0	0	3	0	3	0	3	0	3	2	6	1	5	4	2	1
Latvia	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	0	2	0	0	0
Liechtenstein	0	-	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Lithuania	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	0	2	0	0	0
Luxembourg	0	-	0	0	0	0	3	0	2	0	3	1	4	1	1	3	1	1
Malta	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	2	0	4	0	0	0
Netherlands	0	-	0	1	2	2	3	2	1	2	3	2	3	4	5	7	2	0
Norway	0	-	0	0	1	0	2	0	2	0	2	0	4	0	1	0	0	0
Poland	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	1	5	0	5	0	0	0
Portugal	1	-	0	0	2	0	7	0	4	0	13	1	7	1	11	0	0	0
Romania	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	1
Slovakia	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	2	2	5	1	0	0
Slovenia	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	2	0	2	0	0	0
Spain	7	-	8	4	7	3	18	2	14	2	35	1	15	5	29	27	7	6
Sweden	0	-	0	1	0	0	5	3	2	3	4	1	5	1	4	1	1	0
UK	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
TOTAL	10	-	9	6	43	9	78	11	63	13	134	19	108	28	137	61	22	15

ORAL

NO. 299 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

MINISTERS' AIR TRAVEL

Can Government list the cost of air travel incurred by each individual Minister and the Chief Minister on official business since 11 October 2007, with a breakdown showing the date of travel, the destination, the airline, the category of seat paid for and the travel agent that was used to make the booking?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

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

ANSWER TO QUESTION 299 OF 2008

CHIEF MINISTER'S AIR TRAVEL

Destination	Dates	Amount	Travel Agent
New York	13.10.07 – 18.10.07	£2,445.10	Blands
London	21.10.07 – 23.10.07	£1,073.10	Blands
London	27.11.07 – 28.11.07	£1,083.00	Blands
London	16.12.07 – 20.12.07	£1,082.70	Blands
London	31.01.08 – 02.02.08	-	Blands
London	04.03.08 – 06.03.08	£1,073.10	Blands

Notes:

1. The Chief Minister travels Club Class.

CONTD ANSWER TO QUESTION 299 OF 2008

MINISTER'S AIR TRAVEL

Minister	Destination	Dates	Airline	Seat Category	Amount	Travel Agent
Minister Holliday	London	21-23 October 07	GB Airways	Club	£592.00	GB Airways
	Madrid	23-24 October 07	Iberia	Business	Nil	Iberia
	London	13-15 January 08	GB Airways	Club	£574.50	GB Airways
	Madrid	29-30 January 08	Iberia	Business	£329.00	Tourafrika
Minister Beltran	London	6-10 January 08	GB Airways	Club	£1,113.00	Blands

NO. 300 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

MEETINGS WITH AIRLINES

Can Government confirm that the airlines that the Chief Minister met with during his visit to London in February were Monarch, British Airways and Easyjet or whether meetings were also held with other airlines intending to fly here?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I met with the three airlines that he has mentioned and with one other.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 300 OF 2008

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Chief Minister say, I am not going to ask him for the one other because I am assuming he would not say, whether the position of any of the airlines, without saying which airline, was that they would discontinue their flights to Gibraltar or look at the position again unless the matter of landing charges was resolved?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Could the hon Member repeat the last bit?

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Yes, unless the matter of landing charges was resolved.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, he has done himself out of information. Were he to have asked who the other airline was I would not have minded telling him. BMI is the other one. It is a difficult question to answer because many conversations have been had by different parties in the Government with different parties in the airlines and I could never be absolutely certain that none of them have ever indicated that their willingness to continue to fly depended on this or that. So I cannot underwrite at every level what may or may not have been said in all conversations at various meetings, but that was not the position

that they were adopting, because they all knew that the Government were intending to lower landing charges because we have been flagging this up publicly for some time. So they were all proceeding on the assumption that there would be a fall in landing charges and, therefore, it was not necessary for them to be actually quite so crude as to put the pistol at the Government's head. I think they were just waiting for the Government's decision as to the extent and the new structure, which is what those meetings were basically consultations about. But I think, if I can just be allowed to speculate for a moment, had the Government not reduced landing charges, at some stage my assessment is that one or more of these airlines might well have ceased operating to Gibraltar because of the very untypically high costs at the Gibraltar airport, compared to others in what is becoming a very rapidly changing economic model that airlines work to these days.

NO. 301 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

COST OF NEW ROAD SYSTEM AND PARKING FACILITIES

Can Government state the estimated cost of the new road system and parking facilities in the area of Devil's Tower Road, Eastern Beach and the airport?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

No Sir, it would not be appropriate to do so for commercial and procurement reasons until the construction contracts have been awarded. We are right in the middle of the procurement process now for these projects.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 301 OF 2008

HON G H LICUDI:

Does the Chief Minister appreciate that I am not asking in respect of specific projects, and unless there is one negotiation in respect of the whole of the project, then I can understand the reluctance by the Government to give the information. Can the Chief Minister confirm that the Government themselves have their own estimate and in their own minds they have an idea of the overall cost involved in all of the projects, and whether we are talking of various procurement contracts being negotiated?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well yes, the Government clearly have advice about the ballpark of what these projects should cost. We do not think it is appropriate to give that because even though it may not provide information to him and I, the industry extracts from that information of how much the Government is expecting to pay. We are very close now, this information could be in the public domain quite soon, because these are EU procurement processes, and therefore there is an obligation to publish certain information. But just to answer the part of his question that I think I can, there are two packages. One is for the air terminal and a small bit of road, a small bit of road basically from the commercial gate, a new roundabout that there will be near the commercial gate to a new roundabout that there will be at the present vehicular gate, and the terminal. A second package is from that roundabout, that is to say roughly from the current commercial gate to the end of the runway, north of it, the tunnel underneath and then the new road parallel to Eastern Beach Road turning into Devil's Tower Road through the Aerial Farm and then the doubling up of the Aerial

Farm road itself. Those are the two works packages and then there are separate packages. For example, there is a separate contract, although this question does not relate to it, oh yes, parking facilities in the area, this question does relate to it. The multi-storey car park near the Cross of Sacrifice, that is a separate package, a separate tender.

HON G H LICUDI:

Once again, I understand the reluctance to give even the overall figure. Although there is a figure that has been mentioned to me or that I have in my mind, I will not mention that for the reasons given by the Chief Minister. I certainly would not want to compromise the discussions taking place with the Government. Can the Government confirm that the cost that the Government have received advice on, includes the cost not just of the roads and the two phases that the Chief Minister has described, but also cost of reproviding appropriate MOD facilities, and also cost in dealing with any difficulties which may be caused by, I understand there were some wells near the air terminal and there may be some costs associated with that. Can the Chief Minister confirm whether those costs are involved as well?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, the first part of his supplementary, that is to say the bit linked to MOD relocations, is a separate exercise because those are relocation costs that derive from the land sale, the agreement between the Government and the MOD for the relocation. It is not part of the procurement package for the construction of the new facility. Yes, the Government have detailed advice about how much each reprovision should cost, indeed some of the reprovision is already underway. So, yes, the answer is that that is the fourth, not procurement package but a fourth area of costs for which the Government have advice.

HON G H LICUDI:

The Chief Minister has said that that part the MOD facility, I am not sure whether he answered the part of the dealing with the difficulty of the wells, if indeed there are costs involved, perhaps he could answer that. If the cost of reproviding the MOD facilities is not included in these procurement negotiations, is the Chief Minister in a position to be able to tell us what the cost of that reprovision will be?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The answer to this question right now is that I cannot because I do not have the information with me. But if I had it I would have to consider whether it raises similar considerations. Each package then goes out to procurement unless it is done by JBS, in which case it does not always go out to tender. Certainly we can consider whether that information, at least of a global sum for all the MOD reprovisions, there are quite a lot of bits and pieces scattered around the north of the runway, mainly which are coming south, and there is quite a lot of reprovisioning to facilitate the road, the Eastern Beach Road. I will give that some thought and come back to him on that.

ORAL

NO. 302 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

EXTRA DAYS OFF AT CHRISTMAS

Can Government state which categories of Government employees benefited from the extra days off it provided during the Christmas period of 2007 and which of its employees did not?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 303 of 2008.

NO. 303 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

EXTRA DAYS OFF AT CHRISTMAS

Can Government state whether it proposed to provide Government employees with extra days off during the Christmas period of 2008 as it did during the same period in 2007?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

All Government employees benefited from the extra days off during the Christmas period of 2007. In relation to 2008, no decision has yet been taken.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 302 AND 303 OF 2008

HON G H LICUDI:

Can the Chief Minister say in which way the teachers benefit?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, I suppose it is arguable that the teachers do not specifically benefit, but those employees that work in the Government, perhaps he is right in pointing that out, on standard leave entitlement terms, benefited. Those who could not take those days off in that period were allowed to bank other days. Teachers have wholly different and much more extensive leave arrangements and they have not benefited. The hon Member is right.

HON G H LICUDI:

Given that the Chief Minister has now confirmed that not all Government employees did benefit, and there was a category of employee that received no benefit at all, can Government justify the discrimination treatment?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, the Government feel, if discrimination is indeed the right word, I am therefore using it only because he has not because I am adopting it, I believe it would be

justified. I think those people would argue that the spirit of the measure would not naturally inure to the benefit of teachers, who were not working during that period anyway as a structural, collective position. They were already not working then and also have leave arrangements which are markedly different from the rest. So, whilst welcoming the hon Member's correction of the technical inaccuracy of my first answer, I do not agree with the view that it would be right to extend these arrangements to teachers, thereby giving every teacher an extra three days off, which, in accordance with the sentiment that he points out, although I do not know if he holds it as his own, would inflict severe disruption on the functioning of our schools.

HON G H LICUDI:

I would not make the sort of suggestion that is implicit in the last remark by the Chief Minister. But will the Chief Minister accept that those persons who were working as a normal day had extra days off, those Government employees who were on leave were given extra days off, those who were on shift were also allowed extra days off, the only category that did not benefit at all were teachers. Whilst we can understand that it is simply impracticable and impossible for teachers to be allocated extra days off when the school is actually in session, that would not be possible. Does he not accept that there was a clear difference in treatment and did the Government consider giving this category of employees some sort of other benefit in kind. Such as the payment in lieu of the days off that everybody else was receiving.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, the hon Member presumably for political effect, is simply repeating the position to which I have already answered. No, I do not think any of that but I should remind the hon Member, that it is not the first time Civil Servants get an extra day off. The fact that it was three on this occasion, this is not the first time that Civil Servants get days off during the Christmas/New Year bridge period. So, although it may have been for slightly longer on this occasion than in the past, it is not exactly a re-invention of the wheel and I am not sure that the alleged discrimination that the hon Member identifies has ever been thought necessary to do anything about in the past when this has happened.

NO. 304 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

KING'S BASTION LEISURE CENTRE

Can Government give full details of all tenders received for concessions at the King's Bastion Leisure Centre and provide the terms and parties involved in all concessions awarded?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

A total of 15 tender bids were received variously for one, some or all of the amenities at the Leisure Centre.

The Government has retained the operation of the Ice Rink and the Youth Lounge/Disco (which are operated by the Sports & Leisure Authority) and the Amusement Arcades (which are operated by Kings Bastion Leisure Centre Limited itself).

The agreement for the operation of the cinema has not yet been concluded, although Film Exhibitors Limited is the designated preferred bidder. There was, in fact, no other compliant bid for the cinema.

Accordingly, to date, only two amenities have been awarded out. The bowling alley to a company in the International Franchises Limited Group and the Restaurant on the ground floor and the south bar on the first floor to Rock Bastion Limited.

Details of all the tenders, terms and parties, as requested, are set out in the schedule that I now hand to the hon Member.

The Restaurant was awarded in the premium sum of £20,000 and the sum of £2,000 per month rental subject to annual review. In respect of the first floor south bar a sum equivalent to 10 per cent of turnover is payable to the Government.

In respect of the bowling alley, the annual payments element of the winner's bid was negotiated to make it still more advantageous to the Government, even though it was already the highest bid. Instead of 10 per cent of revenue up to £300,000, 12½ per cent thereafter up to £750,000 and 15 per cent thereafter, the following was agreed namely:-

Firstly, 12½ per cent of revenue up to £750,000 after agreed costs and management provisions are met. Also, 50 per cent of revenue (after deducting the first 12½ per cent) until the Government receive £200,000 per annum under this head. Then, 15 per cent of revenue thereafter.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 304/2008

Bid Number	Bidders	Amenities Bid for							Financial Bid			
		Bowling	Ground Floor Restaurant	Amusement Arcade	Cinemas	Ice Skating Rink	Disco / Terrace Bar	Premium	Fixed Annual Amount	% of Turnover	Other	
1	Fortunato Azopardi & Junajo Cuenca	Y		Y				nil	nil	5	nil	
2	International Franchises Limited The Family Entertainment Centre Limited	Y						£ 100,000	nil	10% up to £300,000 12.5% £301,000 to £750,000 and 15% 750,000+	nil	
3	Joseph Berrito & Solomon Marrache			Y				nil	nil	nil	£1,100 per month	
4	Solomon Marrache					Y		£ 30,000	nil	nil	£2,200 per month	
5	J Logan Young					Y		£ 100,000	nil	nil	£1,000 per month	
6	Film Exhibitors Limited		Y		Y			nil	£1,000	nil	nil	
7	Rock Blaston Limited		Y					£ 20,000	nil	nil	nil	
8	Lewis Stagnetto Limited		Y					£ 30,000	£18,000	5% of turnover over £300,000	nil	
9	Natalie Jane Merrison		Y					not stated	£24,000	not stated	not stated	
10	Lotus House (Gib) Limited		Y					nil	£15,000	or 6% of turnover which ever is the greater	nil	
	CONSORTIUM BID Messrs J Isola, J Requena, M Rammage, D Mathews, R De Haro, R Emerson, C Sanguinetti, J Berrito	Y	Y	Y				nil	£60,000	in addition 5% when turnover exceeds £1,250,000	nil	
	CONSORTIUM BID Messrs J Requena, M Rammage, D Mathews, R De Haro, R Emerson, J Berrito & Peter Caetano	Y		Y				nil	£24,000	or 6% of turnover which ever is the greater	nil	
13	Caetano	Y						£ 15,000	nil	or 5% of turnover which ever is the greater	nil	
14	Jason Olivero							nil	nil	nil	unspecified monthly rent	
15	Stage One Productions	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	GOG PAYS £300,000	GOG PAYS £300,000	50% of Bowling ticket sales, Ice Skating Ticket Sales, Hall Hires, Special Event Tickets and Themed Night Tickets + 30% Turnover of Cinema Tickets		

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 304 OF 2008

HON G H LICUDI:

The Chief Minister has mentioned 15 bids received in total in respect of various matters, can the Government confirm whether any of those bids related to the Ice Rink?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, the hon Member now has the information in front of him but I will talk him through it whilst he identifies it. The table that he has been provided lists each amenity in a column and indicates with a "Y" which of the bidders bid for which. So where there is a "Y" the bidder bid for that amenity, and where there is a blank the bidder did not. There was, in fact, the hon Member should disregard bid No. 15 because that was not really a bid at all, that was the opposite of a bid. The Government was invited to pay out large sums of money for the privilege of allowing the bidder to manage the facility for it. So No. 15 is on the list because it was submitted but it was non-compliant, it was not a response to the tender that the Government had put out. So he is looking really at the first 14 and of those, if he follows his finger down the column marked "Ice Skating Rink", he will see that there was only one bid from something called a consortium bid which wanted to run the whole Centre except the cinema. There is a "Y" across every box adjacent to that bidder. Then what each bidder bid for what they were bidding is set out on the right hand side of the page.

HON G H LICUDI:

The Chief Minister also mentioned in the original answer King's Bastion Leisure Centre Limited, which is retaining some of the amenities. Can we take it that that is a wholly owned Government company that is involved in the actual running of the Centre?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, King's Bastion Leisure Centre Limited is wholly Government owned and will remain so. There was a two-phased approach to the amusement arcades. The Government were never minded to just give away the franchise for the arcades and told bidders this almost as soon as their bids had been received. The hon Member may have seen in the press, I think it was November or December last year, that we put out an advertisement inviting people to rent space for their machines. In other words, rather than just give out the space so that the business was just for the benefit of the machine operators, the Government said, "look there is space available here, if you want to put your machine on our space, and it was takeable per machine, then the Government want 50 per cent of the revenue from the machine". None of the established machine operators took that up and the Government having decided that they would keep an expensive to run part of the Leisure Centre, namely the Ice Skating Rink, which consumes quite a lot of electricity, the Government then decided that they would keep for themselves the amusement arcades as a means of providing revenue to defray the cost of running the Ice Skating Rink and staff that it

involved. That explains how we ended up keeping the amusement arcade for the benefit of the Government.

HON G H LICUDI:

With regard to the disco terrace bar, I just want to make sure I understood the answer. This is not something that has been given as a concession to anyone. Can the Government confirm that is indeed the case? Can the Government say why that is the case in the light in particular of a bid with a premium of £100,000?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The hon Member needs to distinguish between the youth lounge bar, which is the north bar and the other one which is the south bar. The south bar and the north bar with a disco in the middle which can be used, subject to permission from the Sports & Leisure Authority, by either. The north bar and the disco facility and the south bar were going to be run by the Sports & Leisure Authority. They retain responsibility for the north bar because the north bar, being the youth bar, does not dispense alcohol and the Sports & Leisure Authority felt they had no conflict of objective being involved in the operation of a bar that does not dispense alcohol. They were less happy about the prospects of being involved in the running of the south bar, which does dispense alcohol and which they thought was not xxxxxx. So that was then added to the award in favour of Rock Bastion Limited on the terms that I have given him in the answer to the question, the written not in the schedule. But there is not a bid of £100,000 for running the south bar as he has suggested.

HON G H LICUDI:

There is.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Where? But that is not for the running of the bar, that is for the running of the disco as well. The Government decided, in discussion with the Sports and Leisure Authority and the Youth Service, that we would not have an ordinary private sector commercial operated disco, because in a sense it was intended as a leisure facility mainly for the youth. The Government felt they could keep better control of what went on there if it was run by the Sports and Leisure Authority/Youth Service, which is how it is happening, I think it started last week or the week before last. So, the bid for £100,000 was not for the bar it was for the disco. Therefore, the disco was not available, technically the bar by itself might have been available.

ORAL

NO. 305 OF 2008

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 November 2007 inclusive?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 306 of 2008.

NO. 306 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

IMPORT DUTY COLLECTED – NON-COMMERCIAL GATE

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 November 2007 inclusive?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The amount of import duty collected on building materials on a monthly basis since November 2007 is as follows:-

November 2007	£ 72,304.56
December 2007	£ 70,271.17
January 2008	£164,671.69
February 2008	£211,174.78

The amount of import duty collected from persons entering Gibraltar through the non-commercial gate at the land frontier on a monthly basis since November 2007 is as follows:-

November 2007	£18,612.06
December 2007	£25,513.19
January 2008	£16,716.16
February 2008	£14,497.31

ORAL

NO. 307 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR AIRPORT – BUS TO/FROM LA LINEA

Can Government say how many arriving passengers on the flight from Madrid to Gibraltar boarded the bus to La Linea after landing here on a monthly basis from November 2007 inclusive?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 308 to 311 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 308 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR AIRPORT – BUS TO/FROM LA LINEA

Can Government say how many departing passengers on the flight from Gibraltar to Madrid arrived at the Air Terminal on the bus from La Linea on a monthly basis from November 2007 inclusive?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 307 and 309 to 311 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 309 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR AIRPORT – BUS TO/FROM LA LINEA

Can Government say what was the cost of operating the Gibraltar Airport Shuttle bus to and from La Linea and the smaller buses that operate between terminals on a monthly basis since November 2007?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 307, 308, 310 and 311 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 310 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR AIRPORT – TERMINAL 2

Can Government provide the construction costs, with a breakdown, of the building which is presently used by passengers who travel by air to and from Madrid?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 307 to 309 and 311 of 2008.

NO. 311 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR AIRPORT – TERMINAL 2

Can Government provide the operating costs, with a breakdown on a monthly basis since it became operational, of the building which is presently used by passengers who travel by air to and from Madrid?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The number of passengers on the shuttle bus Gibraltar to La Linea:

November – 42
December – 51
January – 24
February – 32
March – 30

In the other direction:

November – 28
December – 117
January – 25
February – 10
March – 46

The operating costs for the Gibraltar Airport Shuttle Bus, route La Linea –Gibraltar Airport – La Linea:

November 2007 -	£2,200.00
December 2007 -	£2,200.00
January 2008 -	£2,200.00
February 2008 -	£2,200.00
March 2008 -	£2,200.00

The total construction costs of the Gibraltar Airport Terminal 2 used by passengers who travel to and from Madrid is £391,580.48

The detailed breakdown is contained in the schedule which I now hand to the hon Member.

The operating costs of the Gibraltar Airport Terminal 2 are not met by Government.

ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 311

Answer to Question 310

<u>Construction Costs of Gibraltar Airport "Terminal 2"</u>	
Site Preliminaries	Cost £
Safety, Health & Welfare Documentation	1,500.00
Scaffolding	1,000.00
Temporary Fencing	2,801.55
Design/Construction drawings	420.00
Project Management and Contract Administration	4,000.00
Site Supervision	9,000.00
Overtime	9,714.00
Temporary Departure Terminal – "Terminal 2"	
Demolition/alteration/renovation of boundary wall	2,787.19
Groundworks	8,487.40
Concrete	35,404.11
Masonry	4,495.47
Carpentry	39,198.86
Roofing	13,763.60
Surface finishes	21,589.14
Plumbing	1,445.45
Electrical Systems	35,231.99
Modular building system	175,513.72
Portable toilet facilities	7,600.00
Miscellaneous	17,628.00
Total	391,580.48

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 307 TO 311 OF 2008

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Who pays for the operating costs of Terminal 2?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Terminal 2 is basically operated by Terminal Management Limited using its existing staff.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is Terminal Management paid for providing this facility by the Government or by the airline?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, I think it has just been added. I suppose if one wanted to be 100 per cent accurate, there must be some electricity costs or something that are paid for by the Government but that is the answer that has been provided to me. I do not think there has been any renegotiation of its contract in order to accommodate this, they have just taken it on board. The answer to the question is that the Government do pay through the contract formula, it pays all the costs. For example, if there were additional staff, that would eventually filter through to the Government as a cost in the cost plus formula of the Terminal Management Agreement.

ORAL

NO. 312 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

RESIDENTIAL TENDERS AWARDED

Can Government list the residential tenders they have awarded since September 2007 to date, showing the name and the amount paid by the successful tenderer, the name of the property in question and the date on which the payment was made?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 313 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 313 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

LAND AND PROPERTY SALES

Can Government give a breakdown of the revenue collected from land and property sales during the period from September 2007 to date, giving the date the revenue was received, the name of the land/property and the cash received in each case and from whom?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I now hand the hon Member statements giving the information requested.

Answer to Question 312/2008

Residential Tenders From 1 October 2007 to 29 February 2008 (Government-Owned Companies)

<u>Tenderer</u>	<u>Property</u>	<u>Reservation</u>	<u>Date Paid</u>	<u>Deposit</u>	<u>Date Paid</u>	<u>Total paid for period</u>
Z Bennenworth	Flat 1 F Block, 14 Naval Hospital Rd			£28,575.00	21/02/2008	£28,575.00
I Miles	Flat 2 F Block, 14 Naval Hospital Rd			£32,015.00	21/02/2008	£32,015.00
H Benitez	Flat 3 F Block, 14 Naval Hospital Rd			£28,750.00	21/02/2008	£28,750.00
M & S Olivero	House 1, 3 Calpe Rd	£500.00	21/02/2008			£500.00
C Figueras & D Thompson	House 4, 3 Calpe Rd	£500.00	21/02/2008			£500.00
J & S Oakes	House 5, 3 Calpe Rd	£500.00	21/02/2008			£500.00
C Wilsol & M I Burgos Segura	House 9, 3 Calpe Rd	£500.00	21/02/2008			£500.00
R Tobelem	Apt 4, 14 Flat Bastion Rd	£500.00	21/02/2008			£500.00
C & G Noon	Apt 6, 14 Flat Bastion Rd	£500.00	21/02/2008			£500.00
A Hendrich & D Mauro	Apt 7, 14 Flat Bastion Rd	£500.00	21/02/2008			£500.00
M & M Azzopardi	Apt 8, 14 Flat Bastion Rd	£500.00	21/02/2008	£3,397.00	21/02/2008	£3,897.00
N Gonzalez & J White	Apt 9, 14 Flat Bastion Rd	£500.00	21/02/2008			£500.00
C Macevily	Apt 10, 14 Flat Bastion Rd	£500.00	21/02/2008	£3,916.00	21/02/2008	£4,416.00
						£101,653.00

contd...

Answer to Question 313/2008

Residential Property Sales From 1 October 2007 To 29 February 2008 (Improvement And Development Fund)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Tenant</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>
Oct-07	M Pitaluga, E Santos & T Cruz	Premium iro tender for 30 Lower Castle Rd	£3,000.00
Oct-07	M Figueras	Premium iro tender for 47 Naval Hospital Hill	£1,000.00
Oct-07	J & M Canepa	Premium iro extension of term of lease for 6 Mount Road	£44,461.54
Oct-07	N & K Ramagge	90% Balance iro sale of Upper Elms, 1 Centre Pavilion Road	£652,500.00
Nov-07	D & J McGrail	Sale of 10 Poca Roca, Upper Rock	£99,700.00
Dec-07	S & N Gulraj	55% Premium iro extension of lease for 13 Trafalgar House	£4,673.68
Dec-07	J & A Revagliatte	55% premium iro extension of lease for 17 Trafalgar House	£3,008.94
Dec-07	R Melvani	55% premium iro extension of lease for 7 Trafalgar House	£3,484.58
Jan-08	Karnani	55% premium iro extension of lease for 11 Trafalgar House	£4,653.00
Jan-08	Khatwani	55% premium iro extension of lease for 306 Trafalgar House	£6,281.55
Jan-08	Karnani	55% premium iro extension of lease for 18 Trafalgar House	£3,634.51
Jan-08	Budhrani	55% premium iro extension of lease for 14 & 15 Trafalgar House	£8,158.26
			£834,556.06

contd...

Contd Answer to Question 313 of 2008

Answer to Question 313/2008

Commerical Property Sales From 1 October 2007 To 29 February 2008 (Improvement And Development Fund)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Tenant</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>
Nov-07	Casino Calpe	Part payment of 51 Line Wall Road	£1,964.00
Jan-08	Casino Calpe	Part payment of 51 Line Wall Road	£1,964.00
			£838,484.06

contd...

Contd Answer to Question 313 of 2008

Contd Answer to Question 313/2008

Residential Property Sales From 1 October 2007 To 29 February 2008 (Government-Owned Companies)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Tenant</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>
Jan-08	Mauro & Galligan	Sale of 10% Government Share of 3 Chelsea Close	£8,150.00
Jan-08	Horne & Lopez	Sale of 10% Government Share of 28 Almond Lodge	£9,044.60
Jan-08	Day & Ballester	Sale of 50% Government Share of 22 Antwerp Court	£36,452.86
Jan-08	Segui	Shortfall on previous sale on June 2007 of 13 Montreal Court	£80.00
Feb-08	Z & J Benneworth	10% Deposit on Tender for Apartment 1 F Block	£28,575.00
Feb-08	I & D Miles	10% Deposit on Tender for Apartment 2 F Block	£32,015.00
Feb-08	H & A Benitez	10% Deposit on Tender for Apartment 3 F Block	£28,750.00
Feb-08	M & M Azopardi	3% Deposit on Tender for Unit 8, 14 Flat Bastion Road	£3,897.00
Feb-08	R Tobelem	Reservation Fee on 3% Deposit on Tender for Unit 4, 14 Flat Bastion Road	£500.00
Feb-08	G & G Noon	Reservation Fee on 3% Deposit on Tender for Unit 6, 14 Flat Bastion Road	£500.00
Feb-08	A Hendrich & D Mauro	Reservation Fee on 3% Deposit on Tender for Unit 7, 14 Flat Bastion Road	£500.00
Feb-08	N Gonzalez & J White	Reservation Fee on 3% Deposit on Tender for Unit 9, 14 Flat Bastion Road	£500.00
Feb-08	C Macevilly	3% Deposit on Tender for Unit 10, 14 Flat Bastion Road	£4,416.00
Feb-08	M & S Olivero	Reservation Fee on 3% Deposit on Tender for Unit 1 Calpe Married Quarters	£500.00
Feb-08	C Figueras & D Thompson	Reservation Fee on 3% Deposit on Tender for Unit 4 Calpe Married Quarters	£500.00
Feb-08	J & S Oakes	Reservation Fee on 3% Deposit on Tender for Unit 5 Calpe Married Quarters	£500.00
Feb-08	C Wilson & M Burgos Segura	Reservation Fee on 3% Deposit on Tender for Unit 9 Calpe Married Quarters	£500.00
			£155,380.46

ORAL

NO. 314 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TENDER – ‘F’ BLOCK, 14 NAVAL HOSPITAL ROAD

Is Government now in a position to say whether ‘F’ Block, 14 Naval Hospital Road has been allocated by tender, giving the name of the successful tenderer, the amounts bid in each case, the date on which the tenders were awarded and the number of tenders received?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 315 to 317 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 315 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TENDER – LOWER ELMS AND ST STEPHEN’S

Can Government say whether Lower Elms and St Stephen’s have now been allocated by tender to someone else, giving the name of the successful tenderers and the amounts in question?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 314, 316 and 317 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 316 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TENDERS – 12 CASTLE STEPS/CALPE MARRIED QUARTERS/14 FLAT BASTION ROAD

Can Government say who was awarded the following residential tenders and in what amount:

- (a) the four units at 12 Castle Steps;
- (b) the ten units at Calpe Married Quarters;
- (c) the ten units at 14 Flat Bastion Road?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 314, 315 and 317 of 2008.

NO. 317 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TENDER – SANDPITS APARTMENTS

Can Government say whether the 12 apartments with garage at Sandpits, which were advertised in February, have now been allocated by fixed-price tender and list the criteria that has been applied in determining the award of this tender?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Details of the successful bidders for the four units at F Block shall shortly be published by way of an Official Notice.

Lower Elms is in the process of being offered to the next highest bidder.

As regards St Stephen's, after the highest bidder did not proceed with the purchase, the current occupier of the property has offered to match the next highest bid and the Government have accepted this offer.

Details of both purchases shall shortly be published by way of an Official Notice.

Twelve of the 24 units that he identifies in Question No. 316 of 2008 have been allocated at the prices published in the tender adverts. Details of the successful bidders shall shortly be published by way of an Official Notice.

The apartments at Sandpits have not yet been allocated.

I could provide the hon Member with the names of the four successful bidders at F Block. I would urge the hon Member to consider whether it is appropriate to bandy people's names across the floor of the House. I am happy to tell him privately.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 314 TO 317 OF 2008

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Are the Government going to publish the names anyway or not, when they publish the Official Notice of Tender Award?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Is he willing to wait for that?

HON DR J J GARCIA:

I have noticed already that I have some of the information in the information he gave me on land and property sales. So I have the names here.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well then, fine.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

What I did not hear was the number of tenders received for these properties. Did the Chief Minister say that?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

For the ones at F Block. I am afraid that information has not been provided but they were substantial. I remember seeing a long list, probably more than a page full. I can provide him with that information if he wants it. For some reason they had given me that information in respect of Question No. 317 of 2008, which is the 12 units that had been allocated 33 at Sandpits received.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In answer to Question No. 316 of 2008, the Government said 12 of the units had been allocated at the published price. What about the other 12, have they been allocated or not?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, sorry, that is not to suggest that they have been allocated at a price other than xxxxxx, just that they have not been allocated. This is only a tender as to the selection process of who buys because these were advertised with a fixed price. There is no sense of tendering for price. The others are back in the pot of things to be re-advertised to be re-sold, for which there were no bidders.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Did the Chief Minister say the other 12 had not been allocated or they are back in the pot to be allocated or to be put out to tender again?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

They have not been allocated because there were not takers.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In relation to the F Block tender, it was the first time I have seen in any tender document for an MOD property, it may have been there before, I have not seen it before, this clause that the tenderer would be required to give their consent to the police to release details of any conviction if the RGP are requested to do so by the Government or any authorised company or agency. Can the Government say why that clause was introduced in the terms and conditions of tender of F Block?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I cannot I am afraid, except to speculate that part of the process may be assessing whether the purchaser is likely to be money laundering, I do not know whether they run a test of some sort. I cannot tell him why it is there or why it is specifically there for F Block, whether it was decided to insert it in future in all cases. I cannot think of any reason specific to F Block why it should be there for F Block and not for the others.

HON DR J J GARICA:

The money laundering, these are quite small apartments, I think they are 80 odd square metres or whatever, one would have thought the money laundering point would have applied to the larger single dwellings that are released and not these apartments, which is why we tabled the question. Can the Chief Minister enlighten us on that or not?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I am afraid I do not know. I can ask and let him know but I do not know the reason.

NO. 318 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

NEW HARBOURS INDUSTRIAL PARK

Can Government say on what date tenants of New Harbours were notified of Government plans to sell the industrial park and by which date has a reply been requested from the tenants?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Government notified tenants of the intention or willingness to sell the industrial park to the tenants through their legal representative in late 2006.

Letters were sent out to tenants in early March 2008 asking them to re-confirm previously stated interests in buying and they were asked to express that interest by the 1st April 2008.

During this period further correspondence has been entered into following the replies received from these parties who had expressed their interest, and the Government is asking tenants, those who are interested in pursuing the purchase, to complete the purchases of their units by 31st December 2008.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 318 OF 2008

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is it the case that some tenants are interested in purchasing the units and others are not interested, is that the position?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, correct, and others may be interested in purchasing but not at the price that the Government want them.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Government say why this developed? I remember in 2006, if I remember correctly, when we were discussing this in the House the Government were interested in selling New Harbours to a private company that may have been

interested in purchasing the whole lot. That seems to have changed now to selling them to individual tenants. Can the Government explain the change in policy?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, I do not recall the Government saying or ever having been in negotiations to sell, it may have been that is not to say it did not happen. But I think this particular initiative was started by the tenants themselves, who formed themselves into a group and wrote to the Government saying that they were interested in buying. That is how I think it originated.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Would the Chief Minister be able to say how many tenants were interested in buying the units and how many there are in the complex?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I am afraid I cannot help him with that. I think it is a pretty fluid sort of thing, until they actually sign on the dotted line and pay they are all potential interested and potential uninterested. This is the way these negotiations tend to go. This is why the Government have put a deadline on it. We do not want to be engaged in a process which is sort of open-ended and forever. Management time spent on it if people are not really interested in pursuing for purchase

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is the position for those who do not wish to buy that they can continue renting as at present?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes and indeed the Government itself is tenant of some of these apartments so the structure will remain. What they will buy is a long lease where they presently have a short tenancy. But the structure remains the same and, indeed, short-term tenancies as well. That is what I meant by the structure, the rental structure.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Do the Government have a minimum number that they would require to buy, or if there is only one tenant they would sell to one tenant and that is it?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, this is something we have given some thought to because at the moment we are avoiding making a hard and fast rule because we are hoping that it will not come to that because there will be a minimum number. If there was just one interested party, we would have to give serious consideration to whether it was worth having a

hybrid regime, so to speak. If there was only a very small take-up, we are not there yet, but if that turned out to be the case then we would have to give serious consideration to whether we agreed to proceed with those lonely sales or not.

ORAL

NO. 319 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR AIRPORT – NEGOTIATIONS WITH MOD

Can Government say on what date they completed their negotiations with the MOD which would allow the Government to take a greater role in the running of the airport?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Agreement was signed on 10th August 2007 but the negotiations had concluded some time before and had been effective from 1st January 2007.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 319 OF 2008

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Does the Chief Minister mean that the subsidy, to call it something, would apply backdated from 1st January, is that the position?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes.

ORAL

NO. 320 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

**TENDERS FOR MARINE SURVEYORS ANNUAL BUSINESS TRAVEL
INSURANCE**

Can Government say how many tenders were received for the Marine Surveyors Annual Business Travel Insurance, who was the successful tenderer and in what amount?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

QUESTION WITHDRAWN

ORAL

NO. 321 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

MOD LAND TRANSFER RELOCATION COSTS

Can Government state what have been the total relocation costs to date arising out of the 2004 MOD land transfer?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

This information is not readily available to the Government. An attempt is being made to collate the principal costs from the various records where they are held, which I will pass to the hon Member when it is ready. In other words, there is not a sort of register of costs that relate specifically, so that people are trying, by identifying the projects from the various annual capital expenditures, to create it for him and I will pass it to him when it is possible.

NO. 322 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

MOD LAND RELOCATION COSTS

Can Government state what costs, other than publicly funded costs, have been borne by private developers who have acquired MOD land for development since 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

We had some trouble being certain that we were understanding this question. On the basis of our understanding of it the answer is that the information requested by the hon Member is not available to the Government. Since by definition it would be private developer costs spent on their land.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 322 OF 2008

HON J J BOSSANO:

What I am trying to establish is, perhaps I should have said relocation costs because it follows from the previous one. Is it that all the relocation costs have all been publicly funded and then the developers have put a price for that without having to bear any of the relocation costs, or are there instances where the price that they paid is less than that they have taken responsibility for relocating MOD facilities? That is the question, it is linked to the previous one.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I am just trying to recall whether there are any cases of the latter. The latter being where the developer provides the relocation. I hesitate to say there have been none but it would be exceptional. The model tends to be the first of the two. That is to say, where the Government collect the premium and then assume responsibility on any consequent MOD relocation costs. I am just trying to recall the 2004 land deal, of course there have been quite a few, there have been one or two since. The principal relocation costs in the 2004 deal related to the work that xxxxxxxx has just finished doing in the refurbishment of the blocks inside the North Front estate, and then relocation works which are presently being done in relation to the relocation of the Marine Squadron and the Watermanship Club, there by No. 4 Dock, which is the site for the new housing estate. In all of those cases it is publicly funded, all the others, I think, were private villas which were just sold. There were no relocation costs. From

memory, all the relocation costs under the 2004 deal were Government borne, because they were to facilitate Government projects.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Presumably in the exercise that the Chief Minister has said will be undertaken to answer Question No. 321 of 2008, it might be possible to see if there is indeed any there.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It would have to be carried to the list of projects in the lands deal.

ORAL

NO. 323 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

ECA – PAYMENTS

Can Government now state what have been the payments made by the Elderly Care Agency for the last financial year to 30 September 2007 giving a breakdown for personal emoluments, industrial wages, other personnel and employer contributions and other recurrent expenditure?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 324 to 338 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 324 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

ECA – RECEIPTS

Can Government now state what have been the receipts of the Elderly Care Agency for the last financial year to 30 September 2007?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 323 and 325 to 338 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 325 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SPORTS & LEISURE AUTHORITY – RECEIPTS

Can Government now state what have been the receipts of the Sports and Leisure Authority for the last financial year to 30 September 2007?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 323, 324 and 326 to 338 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 326 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SPORTS & LEISURE AUTHORITY – EXPENDITURE

Can Government now state what have been the recurrent expenditure of the Sports and Leisure Authority for the last financial year to 30 September 2007 giving a breakdown of personal emoluments and other recurrent expenditure?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 323 to 325 and 327 to 338 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 327 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GEA – EXPENDITURE

Can Government now state what has been the operating expenditure of the Gibraltar Electricity Authority for the last financial year to 30 September 2007, giving a breakdown of personal emoluments, employment costs and other recurrent expenditure?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 323 to 326 and 328 to 338 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 328 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GEA – REVENUE

Can Government now state what has been the operating revenue of the Gibraltar Electricity Authority for the last financial year to 30 September 2007?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 323 to 327 and 329 to 338 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 329 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GHA – RECEIPTS

Can Government now state what have been the receipts of the Gibraltar Health Authority for the last financial year to 30 September 2007 with a breakdown by Social Assistance Fund, GPMS, Consolidated Fund and other receipts?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 323 to 328 and 330 to 338 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 330 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GHA – PAYMENTS

Can Government now state what have been the payments made by the Gibraltar Health Authority for the last financial year to 30 September 2007 with breakdown by personal emoluments, industrial wages, other personnel and other recurrent expenditure?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 323 to 329 and 331 to 338 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 331 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GDC – EXPENDITURE

Can Government now provide the total estimated Gibraltar Development Corporation expenditure for the last financial year to 30 September 2007 giving a breakdown as between employment and training and other divisions?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 323 to 330 and 332 to 338 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 332 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY – PAYMENTS

Can Government now state what have been the payments made by the Social Services Agency for the last financial year to 30 September 2007 with a breakdown for personal emoluments, industrial wages, other personnel and employer contributions and other recurrent expenditure?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 323 to 331 and 333 to 338 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 333 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY – RECEIPTS

Can Government now state what have been the receipts of the Social Services Agency for the last financial year to 30 September 2007?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 323 to 332 and 334 to 338 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 334 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CONSOLIDATED FUND – REVENUE

Can Government now provide the total estimated Consolidated Fund revenue for the last financial year to 30 September 2007, giving a breakdown by Head of Revenue?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 323 to 333 and 335 to 338 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 335 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CONSOLIDATED FUND – EXPENDITURE

Can Government now provide the total estimated Consolidated Fund expenditure for the last financial year to 30 September 2007, giving a breakdown by Head of Expenditure?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 323 to 334 and 336 to 338 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 336 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

I & D FUND – REVENUE

Can Government now provide the total estimated Improvement and Development Fund revenue for the last financial year to 30 September 2007 giving a breakdown by Head of Revenue?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 323 to 335 and 337 to 338 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 337 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

I & D FUND – EXPENDITURE

Can Government now provide the total estimated Improvement and Development Fund expenditure for the last financial year to 30 September 2007 giving a breakdown by Head of Expenditure?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 323 to 336 and 338 of 2008.

NO. 338 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GDC – REVENUE

Can Government now provide the estimated total Gibraltar Development Corporation revenue for the last financial year to 30 September 2007 giving a breakdown as follows:

- (a) Training Levy;
- (b) ESF;
- (c) Consolidated Fund Head 1B;
- (d) Miscellaneous;
- (e) Other Receipts?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I now hand the hon Member statements based on Treasury records as they stand. However, figures do not include Treasury adjustments, for example, contributions from the Consolidated Fund and Social Assistance Fund to the Agencies, Authorities, Corporations and the Social Insurance Fund, which are normally effected by the Treasury at the end of the financial year.

Answer to Question 338 of 2008

Answer to Question 323/2008

ELDERLY CARE AGENCY – PAYMENTS

1 APRIL 2007 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2007 – TENTATIVE FIGURES AS AT 28 MARCH 2008

PAYMENTS

Personal Emoluments	£1,877,915.11
Industrial Wages	£551,103.30
Other Personnel	£8,094.71
Employer's Contributions	£282,463.26
Other Recurrent Expenditure	£557,751.22
	<u>£3,277,327.60</u>

Answer to Question 324/2008

ELDERLY CARE AGENCY – RECEIPTS

1 APRIL 2007 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2007 – TENTATIVE FIGURES AS AT 28 MARCH 2008-05-09

<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>£335,731.69</u>
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Contd.....

Contd Answer to Question 338 of 2008

Answer to Question 325/2008

SPORTS AND LEISURE AUTHORITY – RECEIPTS

1 APRIL 2007 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2007 – TENTATIVE FIGURES AS AT 28 MARCH 2008

<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>£5,355.00</u>
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Answer to Question 325/2008

SPORTS AND LEISURE AUTHORITY – EXPENDITURE

1 APRIL 2007 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2007 – TENTATIVE FIGURES AS AT 28 MARCH 2008

EXPENDITURE

Personal Emoluments	£471,637.89
Other Recurrent Expenditure	<u>£484,144.06</u>
	<u>£955,781.95</u>

Contd.....

Contd Answer to Question 338 of 2008

Answer to Question 327/2008

GIBRALTAR ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY – OPERATING EXPENDITURE

1 APRIL 2007 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2007 – TENTATIVE FIGURES AS AT 28 MARCH 2008

EXPENDITURE

Personal Emoluments	£3,076,062.61
Employer's Contributions	£193,832.34
Other Recurrent Expenditure	£9,174,388.65
	<u>£12,444,283.60</u>

Answer to Question 328/2008

GIBRALTAR ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY – OPERATING REVENUE

1 APRIL 2007 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2007 – TENTATIVE FIGURES AS AT 28 MARCH 2008

<u>REVENUE</u>	<u>£8,811,624.20</u>
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Contd.....

Contd Answer to Question 338 of 2008

Answer to Question 329/2008

GIBRALTAR HEALTH AUTHORITY – RECEIPTS

1 APRIL 2007 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2007 – TENTATIVE FIGURES AS AT 28 MARCH 2008

RECEIPTS

Social Assistance Fund	£0.00
GPMS	£13,237,303.99
Consolidated Fund	£0.00
Other Receipts	£235,669.45
	<u>£13,472,973.44</u>

Answer to Question 330/2008

GIBRALTAR HEALTH AUTHORITY – PAYMENTS

1 APRIL 2007 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2007 – TENATIVE FIGURES AS AT 28 MARCH 2008

PAYMENTS

Personal Emoluments	£12,177,224.56
Industrial Wages	£1,196,362.33
Other Personnel	£2,055,051.09
Other Recurrent Expenditure	£13,031,704.81
	<u>£28,460,342.79</u>

Contd.....

Contd Answer to Question 338 of 2008

Answer to Question 331/2008

GIBRALTAR DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION – EXPENDITURE

1 APRIL 2007 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2007 – TENTATIVE FIGURES AS AT 28 MARCH 2008

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Expenditure

Employment	£261,154.95
Training	£995,747.60
	<u>£1,256,902.55</u>

OTHER DIVISIONS

Expenditure

Other Divisions	<u>£1,783,144.59</u>
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Contd.....

Contd Answer to Question 338 of 2008

Answer to Question 332/2008

SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY – PAYMENTS

1 APRIL 2007 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2007 – TENTATIVE FIGURES AS AT 28 MARCH 2008

EXPENDITURE

Personal Emoluments	£1,507,091.49
Industrial Wages	£197,017.24
Other Personnel	£157,079.65
Employer's Contributions	£173,853.09
Other Recurrent Expenditure	£223,644.24
	<u>£2,258,685.71</u>

Answer to Question 333/2008

SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY – RECEIPTS

1 APRIL 2007 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2007 – TENTATIVE FIGURES AS AT 28 MARCH 2008

RECEIPTS

NIL

Contd.....

Contd Answer to Question 338 of 2008

Answer to Question 334/2008

CONSOLIDATED FUND REVENUE

1 APRIL 2007 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2007 – TENTATIVE FIGURES AS AT 28 MARCH 2008

<u>HEAD</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>
1 Income Taxes	£51,145,436.09
2 Duties, Taxes and Other Receipts	£22,978,813.66
3 Gambling Fees	£2,933,038.39
4 Rates and Rents	£8,585,486.01
5 Departmental Fees and Receipts	£7,211,355.37
6 Government Earnings	£4,258,517.22
	<u>£97,112,646.74</u>

Contd.....

Contd Answer to Question 338 of 2008

Answer to Question 335/2008

CONSOLIDATED FUND EXPENDITURE

1 APRIL 2007 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2007 – TENTATIVE FIGURES AS AT 28 MARCH 2008

<u>HEAD</u>	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>
1A Education	£10,723,644.44
1B Training	£270,852.45
2A Heritage and Culture	£793,030.19
2B Youth	£169,493.07
2C Broadcasting	£857,635.00
2D Sport and Leisure	£36,624.98
3A Housing - Administration	£938,014.45
3B Housing – Buildings and Works	£3,224,242.85
4A Environment	£6,114,815.94
4B Technical Services	£2,371,087.83
4C Utilities	£4,307,038.18
5 Social Affairs	£2,765,450.49
6A Trade and Industry	£652,383.48
6B Tourism	£1,378,508.89
6C Port	£1,112,675.30
6D Maritime Administration	£286,687.24
6E Airport	£1,997,830.75
6F Employment	£251,622.39
6G Transport - Traffic	£618,832.98
6H Postal Services	£1,229,802.34
7 Health	£0.00
8A No. 6 Convent Place	£3,260,599.03
8B Human Resources	£341,837.42
9A Ministry	£153,489.09
9B Treasury	£2,083,786.14
9C Customs	£2,079,540.92
9D Income Tax	£850,168.73
9E Finance Centre	£753,523.85
10A Supreme Court	£293,499.24
10B Magistrates' and Coroner's Court	£177,195.19
10C Attorney General's Chambers	£246,035.90
10D Civil Status and Immigration Service	£975,581.17
10E Civil Contingency	£3,351.47
10F Police	£4,747,810.16
10G Fire Service	£1,705,156.04
10H Prison	£575,758.29
10I Justice and Home Affairs - Miscellaneous	£27,898.14
11 Parliament	£513,504.26
12 Gibraltar Audit Office	£270,950.71
13 Supplementary Provision	£0.00
14 Contribution to Social Insurance Funds	£0.00
15 Non-Recurrent Expenditure - Reserve	£0.00
	<u>£59,159,958.99</u>

Contd.....

Contd Answer to Question 338 of 2008

Contd Answer to Question 335/2008

CONSOLIDATED FUND CHARGES

1 APRIL 2007 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2007 – TENTATIVE FIGURES AS AT 28 MARCH 2008

<u>HEAD</u>	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>
01 Statutory Offices	£218,306.43
02 Judicature	£428,616.71
03 Pensions	£10,216,044.08
04 Employer's Contributions	£1,440,961.15
05 Public Debt Charges	£2,733,197.79
06 Public Services Ombudsman	£79,607.32
07 Revenue Repayment	£162,367.41
08 Public Debt Repayment	£0.00
	£15,279,100.89

Contd.....

Contd Answer to Question 338 of 2008

Answer to Question 336/2008

IMPROVEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT FUND – REVENUE

1 APRIL 2007 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2007 – TENTATIVE FIGURES AS AT 28 MARCH 2008

<u>HEAD</u>	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>
101 Contributions and Loans	£0.00
102 Sale of Government Properties and Other Premia	£1,678,422.99
103 Grants	£211,840.99
104 Reimbursements	£66,104.34
	<u>£1,956,368.32</u>

Answer to Question 337/2008

IMPROVEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT FUND – EXPENDITURE

1 APRIL 2007 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2007 – TENTATIVE FIGURES AS AT 28 MARCH 2008

<u>HEAD</u>	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>
101 Departmental	£4,113,786.77
102 Central Public Administration and Essential Services	£454,817.38
103 Projects	£5,017,423.71
	<u>£9,586,027.86</u>

Contd.....

Contd Answer to Question 338 of 2008

Answer to Question 338/2008

GIBRALTAR DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION – REVENUE

1 APRIL 2007 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2007 – TENTATIVE FIGURES AS AT 28 MARCH 2008

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Revenue

Training Levy	£1,269,554.30
Contribution by European Social Fund ESF	£162,914.00
Contribution from Consolidated Fund – Head 1B	£0.00
Miscellaneous	£80,231.00
	<u>£1,512,699.30</u>

OTHER DIVISIONS

Revenue

Other Receipts	<u>£1,783,279.47</u>
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ORAL

NO. 339 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GOVERNMENT COMPANIES – CASH BALANCES

Can Government now confirm that the cash balances of Government Companies on 31st March was £10M and give a breakdown by company?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The cash balances of the companies on that date is estimated to be around £1 million. This is broken down as follows:

GRP Investments Company Ltd	£609,000
KIJY Parkings Ltd	£362,000
Gibraltar Community Projects Ltd	£ 29,000

NO. 340 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

WATERPORT DEVELOPMENT – AMOUNTS RECEIVED

Can Government state since the 5th December 2007 what amounts have been received to date from purchasers of apartments at Waterport development and how much has been paid to contractors and other parties over the same period?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Amounts received from the purchasers from the date cited in the question is £4,000.

Amounts paid out are £3,674,288 to the contractor; £27,118 to the Quantity Surveyors; £85,227 to the Architects and £32,029 to the Engineers. I have excluded the pennies in all cases.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 340 OF 2008

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is this because the purchasers have been given the option not to have to pay some of their instalments because of delays? Was not the agreement that they were required to pay a certain percentage?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

They finished by the 5th December.

ORAL

NO. 341 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CORPORATION TAX – WRITTEN-OFF

Can Government state whether there has been any irrecoverable Corporation Tax written-off in the financial year 2007/08, and if so, how much and how many companies were involved?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 342 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 342 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INCOME TAX – SELF-EMPLOYED WRITTEN-OFF

Can Government state whether there has been any irrecoverable Income Tax written-off in the financial year 2007/08 in respect of self-employed individuals, and if so, how much and how many individuals were involved?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

There have been no irrecoverable write-offs in the financial year 2007/2008 of either Corporation Tax or Income Tax in respect of self-employed individuals.

ORAL

NO. 343 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CORPORATION TAX – AMOUNTS COLLECTED

What was the amount of Company Tax collected in each month since October 2007?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 344 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 344 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

PAYE – AMOUNTS COLLECTED

How much was collected in PAYE each month since October 2007?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Corporation Tax:

	£M
November 2007	0.23
December 2007	0.75
January 2008	1.12
February 2008	17.42

PAYE (net of refunds):

	£M
November 2007	7.76
December 2007	5.13
January 2008	9.72
February 2008	6.50

ORAL

NO. 345 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CORPORATION TAX

As at the end of March 2008, how many companies, in each tax year 1995/1996 to 2006/2007 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

The information the hon Member requests is in the schedule now being handed to him.

Answer to Question 345/2008

	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01
	£M	£M	£M	£M	£M	£M
Assessed	15.8	15.7	20.1	26.1	90.4	29.1
Discharged	5.8	5.2	9.4	11.5	76.6	15.9
	10.0	10.5	10.7	14.6	13.8	13.2
Paid	9.6	10.4	10.5	14.5	13.6	13.2
Outstanding	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.0
No. of Companies	1446	1419	1468	1463	1550	1591

	2001/2	2002/3	2003/4	2004/5	2005/6	2006/7
	£M	£M	£M	£M	£M	£M
Assessed	31.7	36.7	41.5	35.6	46.6	49.3
Discharged	16.9	20.1	18.6	12.8	21.7	24.4
	14.8	16.6	22.9	22.8	24.9	24.9
Paid	14.3	15.6	22.0	20.2	21.8	22.1
Outstanding	0.5	1.0	0.9	2.6	3.1	2.8
No. of Companies	1553	1544	1606	1608	1503	1348

ORAL

NO. 346 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

PAYE – OUTSTANDING ANNUAL RETURN OF DEDUCTIONS

Can Government state, as at the end of March 2008, how many employers had failed to submit an annual return of PAYE deduction for employees for the tax year 2004/2005?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 347 to 351 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 347 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

PAYE – AMOUNTS OUTSTANDING

Can Government state, as at 31st March 2008, how many of the employers who had submitted an annual return of PAYE deduction for employees for the tax year 2004/2005 had amounts outstanding and what was the total of such amounts?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 346 and 348 to 351 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 348 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

PAYE – OUTSTANDING AMOUNTS

Can Government state, as at 31st March 2008, how many of the employers who had submitted an annual return of PAYE deduction for employees for the tax year 2005/2006 had amounts outstanding and what was the total of such amounts?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 346, 347 and 349 to 351 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 349 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

PAYE – OUTSTANDING ANNUAL RETURN OF DEDUCTIONS

Can Government state, as at the end of March 2008, how many employers had failed to submit an annual return of PAYE deduction for employees for the tax year 2005/2006?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 346 to 348, 350 and 351 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 350 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

PAYE – AMOUNTS OUTSTANDING

Can Government state, as at 31st March 2008, how many of the employers who had submitted an annual return of PAYE deduction for employees for the tax year 2006/2007 had amounts outstanding and what was the total of such amounts?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 346 to 349 and 351 of 2008.

NO. 351 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

PAYE – OUTSTANDING ANNUAL RETURN OF DEDUCTIONS

Can Government state, as at the end of March 2008, how many employers had failed to submit an annual return of PAYE deduction for employees for the tax year 2006/2007?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

A total of 79 employers had not yet returned their 2004/2005 Employers' Declaration and PAYE Certificates as at 28th March 2008.

Based on the 2004/2005 annual PAYE Employers' Returns received at the Income Tax office by 28th March 2008, 99 employers owed PAYE totalling £0.78 million.

Based on the 2005/2006 annual PAYE Employers' Returns received at the Income Tax office by 28th March 2008, 117 employers owed PAYE totalling £0.73 million.

As at 28 March 2008, 127 employers had not yet returned their 2005/2006 Employers' Declaration and PAYE Certificates.

Based on the 2006/2007 annual PAYE Employers' Returns received at the Income Tax office by 28 March 2008, 218 employers owed PAYE tax totalling £1.68 million.

As at 28 March 2008, 230 employers had not yet returned their 2006/2007 Employers' Declaration and PAYE Certificates.

ORAL

NO. 352 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CORPORATION TAX – ASSESSMENTS ON DECLARED TAXABLE PROFITS

As at the end of March 2008 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 2006/07, and what was the tax assessed and paid in each category and year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 353 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 353 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CORPORATION TAX – ASSESSMENTS WITHOUT A RETURN OF TAXABLE PROFITS

As at the end of March 2008 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 2006/07, and what was the tax assessed and paid in each case for each category and each year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

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

ANSWER TO QUESTION 353/2008

Answer to Question 352

COMPANIES ASSESSED HAVING MADE A RETURN OF TAXABLE PROFITS

Year of Assessment	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03
	£M	£M	£M	£M	£M
Under £35,000					
No. of Companies assessed	231	317	382	444	443
Total assessed (i.e. total tax payable)	0.5M	0.6M	0.9M	1.1M	1.1M
Total Paid	0.5M	0.6M	0.9M	1.0M	1.0M

Over £35,000

No. of Companies assessed	78	102	135	151	155
Total assessed (i.e. total tax payable)	6.3M	9.7M	12.0M	13.5M	15.2M
Total Paid	6.3M	9.7M	12.0M	13.3M	15.2M

Year of Assessment	2003/4	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
	£	£	£	£
Under £35,000				
No. of Companies assessed	461	426	440	361
Total assessed (i.e. total tax payable)	1.1M	1.0M	1.0M	0.8M
Total Paid	1.0M	1.0M	1.0M	0.7M

Over £35,000

No. of Companies assessed	167	162	136	116
Total assessed (i.e. total tax payable)	21.9M	21.9M	21.8M	19.4M
Total Paid	21.9M	20.8M	20.6M	19.3M

Contd.....

Contd ANSWER TO QUESTION 353/2008

Answer to Question 353

COMPANIES ASSESSED WITHOUT HAVING MADE A RETURN OF TAXABLE PROFITS

Year of Assessment	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03
	£M	£M	£M	£M	£M

Under £35,000

No. of Companies assessed	728	530	240	252	277
Total assessed (i.e. total tax payable)	1.4M	0.9M	0.4M	0.5M	0.6M
Total Paid	1.3M	0.7M	0.2M	0.2M	0.2M

Over £35,000

No. of Companies assessed	42	34	8	11	27
Total assessed (i.e. total tax payable)	2.7M	2.5M	0.2M	0.3M	0.9M
Total Paid	2.7M	2.5M	0.1M	0.1M	0.4M

Year of Assessment	2003/4	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
	£	£	£	£

Under £35,000

No. of Companies assessed	304	389	458	550
Total assessed (i.e. total tax payable)	0.7M	1.0M	1.1M	1.5M
Total Paid	0.2M	0.3M	0.3M	0.3M

Over £35,000

No. of Companies assessed	21	25	56	93
Total assessed (i.e. total tax payable)	0.7M	0.9M	1.3M	2.9M
Total Paid	0.4M	0.4M	0.6M	1.4M

NO. 354 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

PAYE – FAILURE TO RETURN DEDUCTION CARDS

Can Government state what action is initiated by the Government in respect of companies which fail to return the PAYE deduction cards by 31 July and how many companies were affected by such action in respect of the Returns due for the tax year 2006/2007?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

In the first instance a reminder letter is issued to those employers that have not complied by the due date.

As at 27 March 2008 a total of 468 reminder letters had been sent to employers that had failed to return the PAYE deduction cards for the tax year 2006/2007.

To date, 24 employers have been summonsed to the Magistrates' Court after failing to comply with the reminder letter.

The Commissioner of Income Tax has advised that this is an on-going exercise whereby legal proceedings pursuant to the provisions of the Income Tax Act continues.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 354 OF 2008

HON J J BOSSANO:

Given that there are 230 as at the end of March, can the Chief Minister explain how it is that 24 have been summonsed? Is there a time limit by which the warning letter converts into the summons?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, I have to say that the Government as a matter of policy do not take a particularly keen interest in the detail of the Commissioner of Income Tax's enforcements actions of his Acts. The only one that we do take an interest in is when he wants to wind up companies and then we want to have a look to see how many people are going to be made instantly unemployed. I do not have the information that he asks and I cannot even help him from my own background knowledge, because this is not an area

where I would normally ask to be kept informed or an account given to me. I can only speculate that he either picks at random or he starts and eventually gets through them all. Rather than issuing them initially or that the others may have come back, I do not know.

HON J J BOSSANO:

But there is not any sort of laid down procedure of steps from one move to the other?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, none that has been laid down by the political Government.

NO. 355 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

TAX INFORMATION EXCHANGE AGREEMENTS

Can Government state when the standing entrustment to negotiate tax information exchange agreements was concluded with UK and what agreements have been negotiated since, if any?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The letter of entrustment from the United Kingdom with regard to the negotiation of tax (tiers as they are called) is dated 1st September 2003.

No agreements have been negotiated to date.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 355 OF 2008

HON J J BOSSANO:

Was the request initiated from the Gibraltar end to enter into this agreement with the UK or was it something that the UK was doing with all the territories and therefore suggested it to Gibraltar as well?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, neither. We neither requested it nor did we suggest that they do it. We just received it in the post one day. Actually controversially a little, because we questioned whether it was needed. In other words, we would not concede that in order to enter into an exchange of information agreement with the tax authority of another country, we require the United Kingdom's permission or entrustment. So, we got this because they were issuing it to Jersey, Guernsey, Isle of Man and all the Overseas Territories and it was just automatically issued. But we have never acknowledged that it is necessary and, indeed, we have recorded the view that we do not think it is.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Therefore, from the answer the Chief Minister has given me, it suggests that it happened at the same time.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes. It was at the time of the OECD harmful tax which is what this comes under.

ORAL

NO. 356 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GDP FIGURE

Is Government now in a position to provide the breakdown for the GDP figure 2005/06 which stood at £655.88 million?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The information requested is shown in the table that I am now handing to him.

Answer to Question 356

INCOME METHOD, (£ million)	* 2005/06
INCOME FROM EMPLOYMENT	B 384.80
INCOME FROM SELF-EMPLOYMENT	C 56.77
GROSS TRADING PROFITS OF COMPANIES	C 113.77
GROSS TRADING SURPLUS OF GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES	A 3.72
RENT	C 98.00
TOTAL DOMESTIC INCOME	B 657.06
LESS STOCK APPRECIATION	C -1.18
GDP (FACTOR COST)	B 655.88
NET PROPERTY INCOME FROM ABROAD	C -1.70
NET FACTOR INCOME FROM ABROAD	B -61.10
GNP (FACTOR COST)	B 593.08

EXPENDITURE METHOD, (£ million)	* 2005/06
CONSUMERS' EXPENDITURE	B 251.00
GOVT. FINAL CONSUMPTION	A 191.10
GROSS DOMESTIC FIXED CAP. FMTN	C 84.03
TOTAL DOMESTIC EXPENDITURE	C 526.13
EXPORTS OF GOODS AND SERVICES	C 1,084.76
IMPORTS OF GOODS AND SERVICES	B -905.54
RESIDUAL ERROR	19.00
GDP (MARKET PRICES)	B 724.35
SUBSIDIES	C 6.19
TAXES ON EXPENDITURE	A -74.66
GDP (FACTOR COST)	B 655.88
NET PROPERTY INCOME FROM ABROAD	C -1.70
NET FACTOR INCOME FROM ABROAD	B -61.10
GNP (FACTOR COST)	B 593.08

NO. 357 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

ABSTRACT OF STATISTICS

Can Government state when it expects to publish the Abstract of Statistics for 2007?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Government anticipates that the Abstract of Statistics for 2007 will be published in July or August as occurred last year. I think last year we got it out in July. In fact, I hesitate to mention it because he will be holding me to it, but we have now got a sort of a template in respect of all the Government statistics, by the date that they should each be published. That is something that the Statistics Office is working to. There may be slippage as an exception, but as a rule people should know when they can expect it to be published.

ORAL

NO. 358 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SAVINGS BANK – CAPITAL GAINS/LOSSES

Can Government state whether any capital gains or losses were sustained by the Savings Bank in the last financial year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

It is estimated at the time that the answer was drafted, which was not yet the end of March, that a capital gain of £2.4 million was made during that financial year

ORAL

NO. 359 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SAVINGS BANK – NON-GOVERNMENT DEPOSITS

Can Government say whether the final figure for non-Government deposits in the Investment Accounts with the Savings Bank in 2006/2007 was £28 million as forecast?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 360 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 360 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SAVINGS BANK – GOVERNMENT DEPOSITS

Can Government say whether the final figure for Government deposits in the Investment Accounts with the Savings Bank in 2006/2007 was £99 million as forecast?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Non-Government Deposits stood at £29.3 million at the end of 2006/2007.

Government Deposits stood at £91.7 million at the year end.

ORAL

NO. 361 OF 2008

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 loans from local banks in each month since November 2007?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 362 to 365 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 362 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

LOAN FACILITY

Can Government say how much has been paid to the Bank for the £100 million loan facility recently tabled, in the last financial year and whether any amount has been drawn down from the facility to date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 361 and 363 to 365 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 363 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

DEBT FACILITY

Can Government state what is the total available agreed debt facility from banks which the Government has not yet drawn down?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 361, 362, 364 and 365 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 364 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

PUBLIC DEBT – MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Can Government state what was the total level of Public Debt held by members of the public on 31st March 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 361 to 363 and 365 of 2008.

NO. 365 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

PUBLIC DEBT – GIBRALTAR COMMUNITY CARE

Can Government state whether any Public Debt was held by Gibraltar Community Care on 31 March 2008, and if so how much?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

In respect of the revolving loans with Natwest and Barclays it is as he has previously seen it, it has remained at £5 million each, constantly throughout the whole of the period to which this question relates with a total of £10 million.

The front-end fee paid to the Bank on the signing of the new Loan Agreement on 20 December 2007 was £75,000. Legal fees amounted to £8,000. No drawdowns from this additional revolving facility have been made.

A non-utilisation fee on the undrawn balance of the existing Loan Facility (£50 million) is payable at the end of each interest calculation period at the rate of 0.10 per cent per annum.

The revolving loan facilities from banks total £150 million, of which £10 million has been drawn down. However, the current ceiling on overall public debt under the Borrowing Powers Act is £100 million.

The public debt level will remain at £92.8 million as at the end of March 2008. It is estimated that £78 million will be held by members of the public in Government Debentures, £4.8 million will be held by Gibraltar Community Care Limited, with the remaining £10 million being the revolving debt from banks.

ORAL

NO. 366 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

PFI AGREEMENT

Can Government say whether they have entered into any PFI agreement other than that in respect of St Bernard's Hospital, and if so give a breakdown of dates, amounts and projects involved?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 367 of 2008.

NO. 367 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

PFI FINANCE

Can Government say whether there has been any need to alter the rules on qualifying PFI finance in the light of the recent moves in U.K. concerning the reclassification of PFI as public debt?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

No PFI type agreement has been entered into since the lease and leaseback arrangement for St Bernard's Hospital. The Treasury has not altered the rules it applies for establishing what is considered to be public debt. I am not sure whether that means that our Treasury does not consider it necessary given something that has happened in the UK, or whether we are being told that the UK Treasury has not altered its rules.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 366 AND 367 OF 2008

HON J J BOSSANO:

Are the Government aware that the National Audit Office in the United Kingdom has raised an issue over some of these PFI's and may be requiring that to be done in the UK as part of the public debt? What I am asking is, if our system was based on theirs, is there any read-across from any changes there to the way we do it here?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Government are aware that the issue exists in the UK, it has not been resolved, it has not been converted into definitive criteria. If it is something that reflects good practice, then the Government may follow suit. So far we have followed the UK practice. In other words, the rules in relation to PFI's, the risk transfer one needs, we have been following that. If there is a change of thinking in the UK as to what is sound practice, the hon Member knows that there are sceptics who regard PFI deals as little more than off balance sheet borrowing. I think that is probably a little bit too harsh. On the other hand, clearly it is possible to disguise what would otherwise clearly be public debt as PFI arrangement and I think a proper practice lies somewhere in between. If consensus, proper treatment of where that line should be drawn changes, then obviously we would look at it too.

ORAL

NO. 368 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

STAMP DUTY

Can Government state how much has been collected as Stamp Duty in each month since September 2007?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 369 to 371 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 369 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

STAMP DUTY

Can Government state what has been the amount collected in each month since September 2007 from the £10 Stamp Duty on share issues?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 368, 370 and 371 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 370 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

STAMP DUTY

Can Government now state what has been the revenue yield per month of the 1.6 per cent Stamp Duty on property sales since September 2007?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 368, 369 and 371 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 371 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

STAMP DUTY

Can Government now state how many properties have been approved as qualifying for Zero Stamp Duty on its sale in each month since September 2007?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The information the hon Member requests is now being handed to him in writing.

Stamp Duty collected in each month since September 2007 is as follows:

October 2007	£450,280.93
November 2007	£259,054.69
December 2007	£219,906.69
January 2008	£487,945.84
February 2008	£533,147.36

The amount collected from the £10 Stamp Duty on share issues is as follows:

October 2007	£2,137.20
November 2007	£1,810.00
December 2007	£1,770.00
January 2008	£1,760.00
February 2008	£2,220.00

The revenue yield in respect of the 1.6 per cent duty that was paid is as follows:

October 2007	£20,560.00
November 2007	£42,880.00
December 2007	£14,960.00
January 2008	£50,707.68
February 2008	£88,445.44

The number of properties which have qualified for Zero Stamp Duty on sale is as follows:

October 2007	29
November 2007	33
December 2007	16
January 2008	16
February 2008	32

ORAL

NO. 372 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

VACANT POSTS IN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

Can Government state whether any further vacant posts in Government departments have been filled since the answer to Question No. 916 of 2007?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 373 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 373 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

VACANT POSTS IN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

Can Government state whether any additional posts in Government departments have become vacant since the answer to Question No. 917 of 2007, and if so, show the grade and department?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The information requested by the hon Member is in the schedules that are now being handed to him.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 373

ANSWER TO QUESTION 372

The posts filled are as follows:-

<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>GRADE</u>	<u>NO. OF POSTS FILLED</u>
Civil Status and Registration Office	Administrative Officer	1
Customs	Higher Executive Officer	1
	Executive Officer	1
	Assistant Officer	4
Education	School Nurse (Part-Time)	1
	Technician (Design and Technology)	1
	Cleaner (part-time)	7
Fire Brigade	Divisional Officer	1
	Station Officer	1
	Sub-Officer	2
	Leading Firefighter	2
	Firefighter	3
Gibraltar Health Authority	Personal Secretary	2
Gibraltar Port Authority	Port Officer	1
Human Resources Department	Senior Executive Officer	2
Income Tax	Higher Executive officer	1
	Administrative officer	1
Information Technology and Logistics Department	Director, IT & Logistics Department	1
	IT Officer Level 1	1
Maritime Administration	Senior Marine Surveyor	1
	Higher Executive Officer	1
	Executive Officer	1
	Administrative Officer	1
Ministry of Finance	Senior Executive Officer	2
Contd/.....		

CONTD ANSWER TO QUESTION 373

Answer to Question 372

No. 6 Convent Place	Senior Executive Officer	1
	Higher Executive officer	2
	Administrative Officer	1
	Cleaner (Part-time)	1
Police	Police Constable	12
Post Office	Single Operational Grade (Basic)	1
Prison	Chief Officer (Manager E)	1
	Senior Prison Officer	1
	Prison officer	1
Procurement Office	Executive Officer	1
Social Services Agency	Senior Social Worker	1
Technical Services Department	SPTO (Minor Works)	1
Transport Licensing	Senior Executive Officer	1
Treasury	Senior Executive Officer	1
	Administrative Officer	2

Contd.....

CONTD ANSWER TO QUESTION 373

ANSWER TO QUESTION 373

<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>GRADE</u>	<u>NO. OF VACANT POSTS</u>
Buildings and Works	Stores Supervisor 'D'	1
	Painter	1
	Flusher Sweeper	1
Fire Brigade	Sub Officer	1
Gibraltar Health Authority	Clerk/Word Processor (Ex Typist)	3
Housing	Senior Executive Officer	1
	HPTO	1
No. 6 Convent Place	Executive Officer	1
Police	Administrative officer	1
Social Services Agency	Social Worker	1
Statistics Office	Statistics Officer Level 1	1
Technical Services Department	Mason	1
	Drainsman	1
	Labourer	1
Transport-Licensing	Higher Executive Officer	1

ORAL

NO. 374 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SOCIAL INSURANCE FUND – ACTUARIAL REPORT

Can Government now say when it will be in a position to provide the Actuarial Report on the Social Insurance Fund of 30 March 2007?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 375 of 2008.

NO. 375 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SOCIAL INSURANCE FUND – ACTUARIAL REPORT

Given that the Actuarial Report 2007 on the Social Insurance Fund was compiled when pensions were still frozen, can the Government now say whether a further exercise is going to be required to assess the current position?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Actuarial Review which was completed in March 2007 is still being studied by the Treasury, and I understand that this should be completed shortly.

The impact of the changes to the scheme from April 2007 were not addressed by the Actuarial Review.

The Government is considering a number of changes for the funding arrangements of the Social Security Funds including the amalgamation of all the Statutory Benefits Funds and further sources of funding for the new Statutory Benefits Fund. Once these changes are in place, a further Actuarial assessment may be required in order to assess the revised position.

These Actuarial Reports are of limited relevance to the funding, our scheme is in effect pay as you go and in a sense the bulk of the burden of current benefits, recipients, are being met by current contributors. The exception to that being the interest element, the interest income on the capital itself. I agree that in recent years there has been an element of erosion of capital but at the moment it is pretty much in balance.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 374 AND 375 OF 2008

HON J J BOSSANO:

Surely the Government are aware that in the past when the previous Actuarial Reviews were done, which used to be every five years before the whole thing was frozen, it was on the basis of looking not just at the revenue and expenditure on an on-going pay as you go basis, but taking into account the level of reserves and the cover that that provided. Presumably this last one will also be doing that as part of the exercise, the ones I have seen in past years have always had that.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

That is exactly what the Actuarial Report does and produces. When it tells that, one shrugs ones shoulders and one says "so what?". Gibraltar has never had a capital sum equivalent capable of providing the revenue. In a sense the capital is a buffer against the need for future increases in Social Insurance contributions. In reality, it is a pay as you go scheme, people are paid from current contributions not from some pot. This is a very substantially unfunded scheme, as he knows. If this were a private sector pension scheme it would not be adequately funded, he knows that and it has always been the case. So we will have the information, he will see it as soon as we pass that to him, all I am saying is that the relevance of that is not that the Government then rush off to build up the capital to those sorts of levels.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The Government wanted to rush off and do it even without an Actuarial Review in 1997 when the thing was re-introduced. When he said he wanted to see the reserves going back to £50 million, actually, even without the benefit of an Actuarial Review. But in fact, I think if he looks at the development of the Social Insurance Fund since 1955, he will see that one consistent element has been that, in fact, the revenue from the current workforce plus the increasing level of reserves and the revenue from the investment income, has always created at the end of the year more than was need to pay as you go. Therefore, the ratio between the buffer and the outgoing has always been either improving or static, not declining down to a point of zero where the money came in and it all went out. I think the relevance of the actuary was to judge to what degree that was happening and that has been reflected in past reports.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

What the hon Member has said has not been consistent, there have been a few years of late in which there has been some erosion of capital, because the income did not meet the outgoings. But of course, now it clearly does not because of the extra £10 million the pensions cost, which we are voting on as a Government budgetary expenditure. Whether the Government choose over the coming years to increase Social Insurance contributions by amounts designed to close that gap or not, remains to be seen. At the moment there is a £10 million a year charge on the Consolidated Fund, which he will see re-appears again in this year's Estimates when he sees it, which is paying for the whole of the increase that we announced last April.

NO. 376 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SOCIAL INSURANCE FUND – REVALUATION OF PENSIONS

Can Government confirm that it is intended to revalue Social Insurance Pensions as from 1st April 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Yes.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 376 OF 2008

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can Government say whether, in fact, the people on minimum income guarantee, of which I was given a breakdown in an earlier question, will continue not to be affected by this increase as happened last year, or is that being altered?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, that is something the Government are considering as we speak. The announcements that we made at that time applied only to the effects of the 65.2 per cent increase in pension. We said that that one-off payment would not affect anybody's minimum income guarantee entitlement. But of course, the Government need to be very careful not to inadvertently and permanently distort what the minimum income guarantee scheme is about. Minimum income guarantee is not a benefit of a fixed amount of money, it is a top up to make sure that one's income from all sources reaches a certain minimum level. Hence the name minimum income guarantee. So, it is possible, although it has not yet been decided, that the Government will conclude that increases in pensions should reduce minimum income guarantee entitlement. Unless, of course, the Government also decide to increase the level of the minimum income guarantee as a reviewed threshold in line with inflation and things of that sort. Unless the Government do that, then there is certainly the possibility that the Government will decide not to disregard pensions increases for xxxxxx purposes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well, the purpose of the question is simply to establish what the policy is, whether the decision of last year was a permanent one or not. I take it that the answer is that no final decision has yet been taken, is that correct?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

XXXXXX

NO. 377 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

VISAS

Can Government say whether any of the 134 visas in issue in February 2007 to Moroccan widows to travel monthly to Gibraltar to collect their pensions have since been discontinued?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Two widows have had their visas discontinued.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 377 OF 2008

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is there a particular methodology to decide when or whether to discontinue any of these visas? I know that he said in answer to the previous question that there would be no new ones, so presumably, if people reach the end of their life expectancy they will disappear. But other than for that reason, is there any other criteria for discontinuing the visa?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It has to be either the impossibility to benefit from it or abuse, and the two cases are actually one of each. One case involved an 82 year old lady who was simply too ill and frail to travel to Gibraltar herself and, therefore, there was no purpose in her having the visa, with the risk to boot that she could become terminally ill during one of her visits to Gibraltar and become a burden on public funds. So the visa was withdrawn and arrangements made for her to collect her widow's pension in Morocco. That happened in November. The other case involved a slightly younger lady, a 58 year old, who had been a widow since she was 50 years old. It had been established without doubt that she had abused her visa conditions and had been working illegally in Gibraltar as a domestic employee in private households over a number of years. This was a serious violation of the visa conditions and therefore it was withdrawn from her in January. She has yet to make arrangements to receive her widow's pension in Morocco. So one is a case of abuse, the second, and the first is a case of impossibility to enjoy.

ORAL

NO. 378 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

NATURALISATION

Can Government state for the year 2007 how many applications for the suspension of residential restrictions in order to apply for naturalisation have been received and of these how many have been rejected?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 379 of 2008.

NO. 379 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

NATURALISATION

As regards the applications for the suspension of residential restrictions in order to apply for naturalisation, which have been rejected in the year 2007, if any, can Government provide a breakdown for each year showing the years of residence in Gibraltar, gender and whether the individual was the spouse of a British national, in respect of each applicant?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

A total of 109 applications for exemption and subsequent naturalisation were received in 2007. One application, from a single male, was refused. The applicant had been legally resident in Gibraltar for eight years.

NO. 380 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

NATURALISATION

Can Government state in respect of applications for naturalisation from spouses of British nationals which have been accepted since 1996 whether any have had the language requirement waived, and if so, how many and give a breakdown by year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The language requirement, which some people in Gibraltar appear to be mistaken about, is not a requirement of the law of Gibraltar it is a requirement of the United Kingdom British Nationality Act. It is not something that we have either introduced or are at liberty to ignore. Anyway, the language requirement for spouses of British nationals who apply for naturalisation was introduced in July 2004. No applications from spouses have had the language requirement waived since this requirement was introduced.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 380 OF 2008

HON J J BOSSANO:

I think in answer to a previous question, the Chief Minister said that the Government of Gibraltar uniquely in the Overseas Territories had the ability to waive this and that it was normally people who were pensioners that might have difficulty learning the language.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, what I said to the hon Member was that of all the Overseas Territories Governments, the Government of Gibraltar was the only one that had the conduct of applications. That all the Overseas Territories now have to send these applications into London for consideration. The grant of the exemption is statutory. If one is over 65 years old one is exempted automatically, there is no element of discretion required to be exercised, it is simply an age related exemption. I suppose on the sensible basis that elderly people cannot be expected to learn a new language.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well, that is not the recollection I have of the answer but I will check it out.

ORAL

NO. 381 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

KING'S BASTION LEISURE CENTRE

What is the electricity bill for each month since the Leisure Centre opened giving a breakdown by facility which includes the bowling alley, ice-skating rink, restaurant and any other amenities available within the complex?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 382 to 385 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 382 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

KING'S BASTION LEISURE CENTRE

Can Government state whether it has a record of visitors to the King's Bastion Leisure Centre and, if so, how many visitors there have been in each month from the opening of the Centre to August 2008?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 381 and 383 to 385 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 383 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

KING'S BASTION LEISURE CENTRE

Can Government state why it continues to fail to provide access for disabled persons to the King's Bastion Leisure Centre from Line Wall Road?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 381, 382, 384 and 385 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 384 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

KING'S BASTION LEISURE CENTRE

Can Government state how many people used the ice-skating rink at the King's Bastion Leisure Centre during each month from the opening of the Centre to August 2008?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 381 to 383 and 385 of 2008.

NO. 385 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

KING'S BASTION LEISURE CENTRE

Can Government state how many accidents requiring treatment have been recorded at the ice-skating rink at the King's Bastion Leisure Centre from April to August 2008 giving a breakdown by month?

ANSWER

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

The information requested regarding the monthly electricity bills for the Leisure Centre is contained in a schedule which I hand over to the hon Member.

King's Bastion Leisure Centre Limited, the operators of the Leisure Centre, do not keep a record of all visitors to the facilities.

As regards disabled access from Line Wall Road to the Leisure Centre, I am pleased to say that suitable access is provided for the disabled from both the south and the north end of the Centre. I do not know, some gestures by the Opposition Member, to my knowledge the access has been available for quite some time, so the question is a bit erroneous in saying why does it still not provide the access. I have personally been on site and, to save time and bother to the hon Member I even have some photographs that can prove it. So the access is available from both the north and south ends of the Line Wall entrance to the King's Bastion Leisure Centre.

To carry on with my answer, the Gibraltar Sports and Leisure Authority, as the operators of the ice rink, do keep records of use of its facilities. I will hand over to the hon Member a schedule with the information requested.

Since the opening of the ice rink facility, there have been a small number of accidents recorded. The information requested is also contained in the schedule which I hand over to the hon Member.

ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 385 OF 2008

ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 381 OF 2008

KING'S BASTION LEISURE CENTRE – ELECTRICITY BILLS 2008

	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	TOTAL
CINEMA	£7.19	£8.19	£174.13	£138.07	£286.14	£613.72
ICE-SKATING RINK	£4,119.48	£7,141.34	£8,981.15	£8,789.53	£7,994.86	£37,026.36
BOWLING ALLEY	£1,634.46	£2,818.70	£3,024.88	£3,753.95	£4,007.50	£15,239.49
DISCO/LOUNGES	£322.83	£695.04	£915.35	£857.98	£1,365.15	£4,156.35
RESTAURANT	£553.40	£869.34	£1,182.68	£1,216.14	£1,348.06	£5,169.62
COMMON AREAS	£899.11	£1,567.53	£1,829.48	£1,917.32	£2,659.42	£8,872.86
ENTERTAINMENT AREAS	£303.40	£460.18	£581.69	£592.94	£595.43	£2,533.64
RESTAURANT STORE	£90.06	£164.36	£214.56	£215.46	£235.18	£919.62
MANAGEMENT OFFICE	£103.12	£166.25	£234.78	£227.81	£252.49	£984.45
					TOTAL	£75,516.11

ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 384 OF 2008

USAGE OF ICE-SKATING RINK AT KINGS BASTION LEISURE CENTRE

March 2008	-	10,265
April 2008	-	6,893
May 2008	-	3,684
June 2008	-	1,903
July 2008	-	2,811
August 2008	-	1,971

ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 385

GIBRALTAR SPORTS AND LEISURE AUTHORITY ICE RINK REPORTED ACCIDENTS

Accident Date	Minor Accident requiring minimal First Aid	More serious accident requiring ambulance call out/or attendance at hospital	Total
March	1	7	8
April	1	3	4
May	2	3	5
June	1	0	1
July	0	0	0
August	1	0	1
Total	6	13	19

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 381 TO 385 OF 2008

HON G H LICUDI:

In relation to access for disabled persons, I understand the Minister to have said that access is available from the Line Wall Road entrance. Can the Minister say from when that access has been available?

HON E J REYES:

Yes, the ramped access at the northern end of the Centre was available for use in April 2008, that is, shortly after the Leisure Centre was officially opened. This access leads to a lift from where a disabled person may gain access to all levels of the Centre's facilities. The ramped access at the southern end of the Centre, that is, through the Boulevard, became available in June 2008. Access is available through the top promenade to a lift for the north terrace, and from there obviously, access to all of the Leisure Centre's facilities.

ORAL

NO. 386 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

BAYSIDE SPORTS COMPLEX

Can Government state whether the defects to the playing surface of the paddle tennis courts at the Bayside Sports Complex have now been remedied?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question No. 387 of 2008.

NO. 387 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

BAYSIDE SPORTS COMPLEX

Can Government state whether the monthly cost of maintenance of the hockey pitch at the Bayside Sports Complex has changed since the answer to Question No. 393 of 2007?

ANSWER

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

The paddle tennis playing surfaces have not suffered any defects which require remedial works. The surface material did require stretching and consolidation after its installation and will continue to undergo regular maintenance as part of the contractual arrangements we have with the installer.

As regards the current total monthly cost of maintaining the hockey pitch and hockey training pitch at the Bayside Sports Centre, I am pleased to say this has not changed significantly since 2007.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 386 AND 387 OF 2008

HON G H LICUDI:

I note that the Minister is pleased that the cost has not changed. The last time this matter was addressed the cost of the water alone was £5,000 a month, as well as an additional £1,500 cost in general maintenance. That is, £6,500 a month just in maintenance of one pitch. Does the Minister not consider that to be excessive and not something to be pleased about?

HON E J REYES:

I think I have been asked for a personal opinion and my personal opinion is, no it is not excessive. The costs of water in Gibraltar and the amount of water needed, not just for one pitch it is the main hockey pitch and the training pitch beside, it does have a fair amount, almost 50 per cent of recycled water, so that the bill remains at £5,000 a month. Considering what the water charges are for Gibraltar, it is alright from my point of view.

HON G H LICUDI:

With regard to the paddle tennis court surface, as I understood the Minister he indicated that there were no defects that needed to be remedied. Was my understanding correct?

HON E J REYES:

Perhaps it is a slight variation in interpretation of defects. I took defect to mean that the playing surface had been torn, ripped, or something and, therefore, that is a defect. No, there was a requirement to make some areas of the surface a bit better, truer to the bounce I think is the terminology used by many users of the tennis courts. That has been explained to me because in the last session we had of the House when we talked about this question, I said and I confirm it was true, as the Parliamentary session was on-going the maintenance contractors were actually at Bayside Sports Centre carrying out this maintenance. The surface that we have there was installed and the contractor assured me that we should allow for a period of time to elapse for the playing surface to actually reach its optimum capability. This is because, according to these experts, sand needs to settle and one needs to play on it so that the sand sort of gets almost bonded into the pile of the synthetic turf. So it was not a question of a defect but rather settlement that requires to happen, and we have double-checked and ensured that this inspection will be carried out annually and the surface will be stretched as and when required following its annual inspections.

HON G H LICUDI:

Can the Minister confirm when the latest inspection was to identify whether there were in fact any defects in the playing surface?

HON E J REYES:

The inspection had the purpose of (1) looking out for defects, and also for carrying out general maintenance which helps to avoid defects happening. For the purpose of the record and for those listeners who I know we have many paddle tennis lovers in Gibraltar, I can assure everyone that the testing of these surfaces is actually carried out by a specialist contractor, and also by an independent international sports surfaces testing laboratory, and these entities are actually approved by the International Sports Federation. So we do have a highly reputable maintenance company that carries out these inspections, rather than just the opinion of an amateur paddle tennis player.

HON G H LICUDI:

My question was when did the last inspection take place.

HON E J REYES:

The last inspection took place as we were in Parliament last time, if I am not mistaken I think it was round about May of this year.

ORAL

NO. 388 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

SUMMER NIGHTS PROGRAMME

Can Government state the total cost of organising the Summer Nights programme at Casemates for each year since the event started to 2008?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question No. 389 of 2008.

NO. 389 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

SUMMER NIGHTS PROGRAMME

Can Government state why the Summer Nights programme has become progressively shorter with the programme only covering four weeks this year?

ANSWER

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

The total cost of organising the Summer Nights programme at Casemates since it has come under the responsibility of the Ministry for Culture is as follows:-

Year 2006	-	£39,359.13
Year 2007	-	£61,450.15
Year 2008	-	£44,289.76

I must continue my answer by adding that this year's Summer Nights programme was slightly shorter as it commenced on the week immediately after the termination of our immediate neighbours' town fair. This decision was taken based upon past poor attendance records during the said period, which we believe is because many local residents attend our neighbours' fair week.

Our Summer Nights programme continued up to and including the week immediately prior to the commencement of our own fair which was held once again this year at Commonwealth Parade.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 388 AND 389 OF 2008

HON G H LICUDI:

Is the Minister seriously telling this House that it is now Government policy not to organise entertainment in Gibraltar so long as entertainment is available over the border?

HON E J REYES:

I have not said anything of the sort that we will not offer entertainment. What I said was that we took the decision to start the Summer Nights on a particular week, based upon, and I will expand further if the hon Member allows me to. We take into

consideration the school calendar as provided by my very able Colleague, the Minister with responsibility for Education, we try not to hold these summer nights whilst school is still on, because teachers rightly so say it could have an adverse effect on student attendances or alertness whilst in school the next morning. The week immediately after the termination of the schools' academic year happened to coincide with the week of our neighbours' fair. I was told by very reliable sources that attendance figures during that week tend to be a lot poorer. In order to allow, as well, my staff to prepare things better and so on, it was found convenient and it was found that from the funds I was going to make available, we could provide better quality in the remaining weeks if we used that first week of school summer holidays, coinciding with our neighbours' town fair and therefore poor attendance, we used that as a preparation week so that any local performers as well could have that time during which to rehearse and, therefore, not encroach on our schools' education programme. So, if anything is a bigger influencing factor it is our schools' educational calendar that has the greater say in determining my Summer Nights programme than our neighbours' fair, which in many ways happens to be just an additional supplementary or complementary event.

HON G H LICUDI:

It is surprising, to say the least, that given that now the emphasis is on school calendar, that was not included in the original answer to the question when the emphasis given was in relation to the fair across the border, and it seemed to be a policy decision not to interfere with arrangements on the other side of the border. The Minister in answer to Question No. 388, which was the total cost of organising the Summer Nights programme at Casemates for each year since the event started to 2008, has given certain figures since responsibility for the Summer Nights programme was given to the Ministry of Culture. That was not the question, the question was, can Government state not can the Ministry of Culture, can Government state what the cost was since the event started to 2008? That was the question on the Order Paper and I expect an answer.

MR SPEAKER:

I think he has provided more than the answer. The information asked for information since 2008, it is only one year then.

HON G H LICUDI:

No, the question asked, "since the event started to 2008".

MR SPEAKER:

Sorry, my apologies.

HON G H LICUDI:

So since the event started I assume is not since the Ministry of Culture took it over in 2006. I therefore expect an answer to the question as tabled.

HON E J REYES:

Yes, the question, please correct me if I am wrong, can Government state the cost, well Government cannot state any costs for the Summer Nights held in a period when it does not fall under the responsibility of any Government department. A little bit of homework would have avoided this exchange.

NO. 390 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

SPORTS AND LEISURE AUTHORITY – EMPLOYEES

Can Government state how many persons were employed by the Gibraltar Sports and Leisure Authority as at the end of August 2008 giving a breakdown by grade, sex, nationality and department?

ANSWER

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

Yes, on this occasion I can state how many were employed by the Gibraltar Sports and Leisure Authority as at the end of August 2008, giving a breakdown by grade, by sex, by nationality and by department. Therefore, the information requested by the hon Gentleman has now been handed over to him in the form of a schedule.

ANSWER TO QUESTION NUMBER 390 OF 2008

PERSONS EMPLOYED BY SPORTS AUTHORITY
AS AT AUGUST 2008

NO.	GRADE	SEX	NATIONALITY
1	Chief Executive Officer: Grade 1	Male	British
1	Finance and Administration Manager: Grade 3	Male	British
1	Facilities and Resources Manager: Grade 3	Male	British
1	Sports Development and Training Officer: Grade 4	Female	British
1	Asst Sports Development and Training Officer: Grade 4	Male	British
1	Office Manager: Grade 4	Female	British
2	Administrative Officers: Grade 6	Female	British
1	Secretarial / Typist: Grade 9	Female	British
6	Centre Managers: Grade 5	5 Male 1 Female	British British
2	Supervisory Groundsmen: Grade 7	Male	1 British 1 Moroccan
23	Sports and Leisure Officers: Grade 8	22 Male 1 Female	British British
1	Support Staff: Grade 11	Female	British

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 390 OF 2008

HON G H LICUDI:

Can I just take it for verification purposes that the question does relate to employees of the Gibraltar Sports and Leisure Authority, that the list given does not relate to any Civil Servants, these are all employees of the Authority itself?

HON E J REYES:

That is correct. This table refers only to those classified as employees of the Gibraltar Sports and Leisure Authority. It does not include anyone who enjoys a Civil Servant status.

HON G H LICUDI:

Does the Minister know how many people actually are engaged in working for the Sports Authority even though not directly engaged as an employee of the Authority?

HON E J REYES:

It is my understanding, of which I am 99 per cent certain, that there are three employees currently enjoying Civil Service status who are engaged working on a daily basis at the Stadium. I further believe that their union representatives are undergoing negotiations as to whether these gentlemen wish to maintain their line that they opted out of becoming part of the Sports and Leisure Authority as employees. What the future will hold, I leave it up to the union to negotiate with the appropriate employment departments.

ORAL

NO. 391 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

HERITAGE ACTION COMMITTEE

How often and on what dates has the Heritage Action Committee met since 20 February 2008?

ANSWER

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

Once on the 30th June 2008.

ORAL

NO. 392 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

HERITAGE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Can Government say at what stage of preparation is the heritage management plan, what departments are involved and which one is taking the lead in this issue?

ANSWER

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

A heritage management plan is presently being drafted by the Heritage Division. Pertinent Government departments and NGOs will be consulted as and when deemed necessary.

ORAL

NO. 393 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

MUSIC CENTRE (BFBS BUILDING)

Can Government state what is the present use that is being made of the former BFBS building at South Barrack Road and its access road?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question No. 394 of 2008.

NO. 394 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

MUSIC CENTRE (BFBS BUILDING)

Can Government state whether the former BFBS building at South Barrack Road is currently on a lease or a licence to any organisation and if so to which organisation and for how long?

ANSWER

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

In answer to Question No. 396 of 2007, I informed this House that the Ministry of Culture has no direct involvement in the day to day running of the Music Centre housed in the former BFBS building at South Barrack Road. The situation remains unchanged and, therefore, I am unable to provide the Leader of the Opposition with details of its present use.

The former BFBS building at South Barrack Road was assigned by Government to the Music Centre Trust for use towards the promotion of music and music tuition. There was no date fixed for the termination of this agreement.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 393 AND 394 OF 2008

HON J J BOSSANO:

When the Minister says that it was assigned is he answering the question as to whether it was a lease or a licence on the basis that it is a lease or on the basis that it is a licence?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Minister does not know and neither do I. I am almost certain there is no lease, I think it is a licence at will but I will have that checked.

HON J J BOSSANO:

If it is indeed a licence then it means it is not a question of how long it is because a licence can be terminated at short notice. Is that not the case?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Leader of the Opposition is seeking legal opinions which he should not be seeking from me across the floor, but.....

HON J J BOSSANO:

I will rephrase the question xxxxxx it is not a legal opinion.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The terms of a licence depends on its written terms. In other words, some licences can be terminable at will, other licences if that is what the parties agree, may require a period of notice before termination can be issued, then there are potential legal arguments around all licence agreements as to whether it genuinely is a licence agreement, or whether in law, albeit that the parties did not describe it in that way, it actually creates a tenancy as opposed to a simple licence agreement. So the issues in the Leader of the Opposition's supplementary are almost never as simple as the question suggests.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I see. Well, are the Government then in a position to say whether this particular licence, if it is indeed a licence, is one that is capable of being interpreted, or challenged, or questioned as if there was a lease with a rental agreement? For example, is there a rent payable for the place?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not have details of the documentary terms for this document. I very much doubt whether there was a fee payable. At the time it was a charitable trust that was running, organising music. I do not think it was the policy of the Government at that time to charge fees but that would appear from the terms of the licence and I can let him know the answer to that too. That information was not requested in the original question.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Does the hon Member know how long it is since it was assigned?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Not from memory but several years ago.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Would the hon Member not agree that if it was assigned for a particular use and in fact no use is made of it, or a use different from the one that it was intended for, then

would the Government not consider it as a matter of policy that it is something that they should review? If it is not being used for what it was intended.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, I would agree with him.

ORAL

NO. 395 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMME – E-COMMERCE FIELD

Can Government state whether the apprenticeship programme to equip local people with modern skills within the E-commerce field which commenced in 2002 is still being done and if so, can the Government state how many students have applied giving a breakdown by intake?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

I am not aware of the specific apprenticeship programme that the hon Member is referring to in the field of E-commerce.

NO. 396 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

EMPLOYMENT – WORK PERMITS GRANTED TO MOD

Can Government state whether any work permits have been granted during the course of 2008 to the MoD in respect of the position of motor transport fitter or for any other position at the MoD motor transport department?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

The Opposition Member may know that Government are not in the habit of discussing in Parliament employment matters as relating to any one particular employer, and will therefore refrain from making further comment in relation to this question.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 396 OF 2008

HON G H LICUDI:

Can the Government explain what its policy is in relation to the provision of work permits, where there are both non-entitled workers and entitled workers available and suitable for a particular position?

HON L MONTIEL:

I think the hon Gentleman knows very well what the policy of the Government is with regard to the issuing of work permits. Whenever there is a suitable candidate locally the work permit will not be issued.

HON G H LICUDI:

The Minister has confirmed that when there is a suitable candidate, a work permit will not be issued. Is it not correct that he has been in correspondence with me and has confirmed that there is a policy of the Government that where there are long-term resident non-entitled workers, those will compete at par with the local labour market or entitled workers and will therefore be granted work permits when an employer, whoever that employer might be, might wish to engage that non-entitled worker?

HON L MONTIEL:

Precisely, the reason why I am stating as I have said is because I privately told the hon Member what the position is and the reality is that long-term Moroccan employees have the right to compete with local people on the same basis.

HON G H LICUDI:

The original answer was that if there is a suitable entitled worker, a work permit will not be granted to a non-entitled worker. Now the Minister is saying that a work permit will be granted to a non-entitled worker on the basis that certain non-entitled workers compete in equality of arms with entitled workers. That is quite clearly a contradiction to what he said earlier.

HON L MONTIEL:

There are two issues here, one is the issue of whether long-term Moroccan employees are entitled to compete with local people for a post, therefore the one who is most suitable will probably be selected by the employer. That is one issue. The other issue is the question of whether the Government are in a position to decide who the employer considers is suitable and not suitable. We do not get the information from the employers as to why they have selected one or the other. This is an assumption that is taken by my officers in the Employment Service on the general basis that if there is a particular post that we consider that it can be done by a local employee, we will not issue a work permit.

HON G H LICUDI:

Is the Minister aware of the actual Employment Regulations and the powers and obligations that fall on his officials? Is he aware, in particular, of regulation 3 of the Employment Regulations, which requires that the director shall not mandatorily, not discretionally, shall not issue a work permit for the engagement of a worker unless he is satisfied that all of the following requirements, and there are a number of requirements. The first one is that there is no entitled worker who in the opinion of the director is capable of undertaking and suitable for the particular engagement in respect of which the permit is sought. The Minister should not act so hastily. This is a mandatory provision which requires an opinion of the Director as to the suitability of the particular person. What the Minister has just said is that they do not engage in that assessment as to suitability, that is left entirely for the worker. So how then does the director comply with his statutory duty under the Employment Regulations?

HON L MONTIEL:

I agree with the contents of the law and it is applied by the Director of Employment, and he does make the assessment himself. However, because I am aware of the issues that the gentleman is trying to bring up, this situation is now becoming academic. In other words, the gentleman knows perfectly well that the issue that he is bringing into this House is that a long-term Moroccan is supposedly being given a job in preference to a Gibraltar employee, right. That is the case that the hon Gentleman is trying to bring into the equation.

HON G H LICUDI:

The Minister is totally wrong. What I am questioning now is, in relation to Government policy and its adherence to the law, to the law of Gibraltar, and when there is a mandatory provision in regulations which says shall not unless certain conditions are applied, and the Minister is saying that this as a matter of discretion is not applied in this way. Does the Minister recognise that he is confirming that the Government is acting in breach of the law? I am simply trying to establish the policy decision behind that decision to act in breach of the law.

HON L MONTIEL:

No, the Government is acting within the law in this respect.

HON G H LICUDI:

Can the Minister point to the particular provision which gives the Director that specific discretion in respect of work permits?

HON D A FEETHAM:

This is completely way off piste from the original question. The original question refers specifically to the MOD, refers specifically to motor transport fitters, the hon Gentleman to my right has in fact indulged the Opposition Member enough in relation to supplementaries and he is now really taking it to a complete extreme. He has had the answer and, quite frankly, I think the way the hon Gentleman is simply just pushing it and pushing it, is really going beyond the pail.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Mr Speaker, is he now taking over your role as Speaker of the House? I do not think the hon Member has got any right to tell us what questions we put or what questions we do not put. Mr Speaker has that power.

HON D A FEETHAM:

I am not doing that at all.

HON J J BOSSANO:

It sounded like that.

HON D A FEETHAM:

No, what I am doing in fact, if the Leader of the Opposition or the hon Member had bothered to read Standing Orders, they will see that if they want to ask questions they give notice of a question. If he had given notice of a question he would have, no doubt, received the fullest possible answer. He has given notice of a specific

question, he has then received an answer and now he has asked five or six supplementaries, completely off piste from the original question.

MR SPEAKER:

Order, Order.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Mr Speaker must stop the Minister standing here and lecturing to us as to how we in this House have to comply with Mr Speaker's ruling from the Chair. Mr Speaker has to make the ruling. If Mr Speaker says the supplementary is not permissible, we sit down and we shut up but we are not going to be told by him.

MR SPEAKER:

I am obliged. Can I rule on this matter? What the Hon Daniel Feetham has done is what often is done by Members on both sides, both sides stand up in assistance of colleagues. It happens all the time and a certain amount of latitude is generally allowed then. He has not raised a Point of Order but he has done no more than, I think, both sides are, if I may use the word carefully, "guilty" of standing up in assistance of colleagues. Fine, let us put that to one side. Now the original question did raise a specific question to which the answer was very clear, in that the Government do not answer questions relating to the conduct of specific employers. That resulted in a further line of questioning on the Government's policy generally on the issue of work permits to entitled and non-entitled persons. That is where the argument developed. Up to a point there is absolutely no problem with that, it is part of the normal cut and thrust of the Question Time debate. The last question, I must say, to my mind went beyond what Question Time envisages because it embarked upon a detailed examination of the law, a specific point posed by the hon Member. I do not believe that Question Time is the proper place to embark upon an examination of the law, these are matters that can be debated on motion. However, the question has been put and the Minister may answer the point or he may say he needs to examine the law and take advice or whatever it is.

HON L MONTIEL:

I am dealing with the answer that the hon Gentleman has asked. I am aware, I have investigated the matter, I have written to him privately on the matter and what I said to him is that I am not prepared to discuss a particular issue of an employer in Parliament, and that the Director of Employment is complying with the requirements of the law and that I am not prepared to answer any more questions other than that what he has asked.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The Minister said in the first answer to the first supplementary, that the policy of the Government was that long-term resident Moroccan workers were treated on a par. That is to say, they have got EU rights, notwithstanding the fact that they are non-EU nationals, to be on an equal footing in applying for jobs. Well, he also said he is

aware that the law does not permit that. The law says a non-EU national. Surely what the Minister has to do if he wants that policy to be compliant with the law, is to say a non-EU national other than a long-term resident Moroccan worker, has to have that applied but the Director has got the discretion not to apply it in the case of a long-term Moroccan. Which is what he is telling us. He told us in the first answer that the Director decides that if two people apply and one is there which can do the job and is a local or an EU national, and I sympathise with the view. Why should we have a situation where a Moroccan who has been here 25 years has to queue behind a Romanian that has been here for one day? But that is the law. So my understanding of the answer is that in that situation, notwithstanding the fact that there was an EU national available and qualified to do the job, the work permit will be granted to the non-EU national in spite of that. Now if that is the policy and that policy has been there for a long time, then fine. All we are trying to find out is whether the policy is that or the policy is what the law says. So would the Minister not agree that he needs to make sure that the policy he has explained, if that is the policy that is going to continue, is in fact compatible with those requirements.

HON L MONTIEL:

I have answered the question.

HON G H LICUDI:

Does that mean quite simply that the Minister does not know the answer to the question? The Leader of the Opposition has explained in detail how this question arises and how the policy arises. We are not talking of specific issues other than general policy of the law, and we simply want to know whether the Government recognise that it is compliant or non compliant with the law. The answers that the Minister has given seem to suggest that the Government recognise that it is non compliant with the law. So now we want to know what is the Government going to do to redress that situation? Is it going to change the law?

HON L MONTIEL:

I have answered this question.

MR SPEAKER:

With respect, if the Minister does not accept that the Government is acting contrary to the law, he cannot possibly agree to change the law.

ORAL

NO. 397 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

EMPLOYMENT – CONTRACTS

Can Government state what was the total number of employment contracts registered with the Employment Agency as at 31 August 2008 giving a breakdown by nationality and sex?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL
RELATIONS**

Answered together with Question Nos. 398 and 400 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 398 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

EMPLOYMENT – NUMBER OF WORK PERMITS

Can Government state the total number of work permits in place as at end August 2008?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL
RELATIONS**

Answered together with Question Nos. 397 and 400 of 2008.

NO. 399 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

EMPLOYMENT – GIBRALTARIANS REMOVED FROM UNEMPLOYMENT REGISTER

Can Government state the number of Gibraltarians removed from the unemployment register in each month for the period April 2008 to August 2008 for reasons other than that those persons obtained employment?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Gibraltarians removed from the unemployment register other than for reasons of employment are those that are lapsed. That is to say, those that have not reported to the Employment Service in the course of one calendar month. The numbers so removed are as follows:

April	69
May	68
June	80

These figures have already been made available to the hon Member as part of the employment related statistics for the second quarter of 2008.

As for information requested in respect of July and August 2008, this will be made available to the hon Member as part of the employment related statistics for the third quarter of 2008.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 399 OF 2008

HON G H LICUDI:

I would just remark that I look forward to that because it will mean that the employment statistics and the questions which are set out in the employment statistics which are provided to us, will now have to be amended to take into account of this new information which has never been included in the employment statistics. So can the Minister confirm that the employment statistics which will now be provided will be amended to include this new information and will not just be the normal quarterly statistics which are periodically provided?

HON L MONTIEL:

No doubt as a result of this conversation, we will consider what extra information the hon Member requires and we shall comply accordingly.

NO. 400 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

EMPLOYMENT – NUMBER OF WORKERS IN CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

Can Government state the total number of workers in the construction industry as at 31 August 2008 giving the totals of Gibraltarians and other nationalities giving a breakdown by nationality?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

As the Opposition Member should know by now, employment related statistics are made available at the end of each quarter, not before. As I have already agreed, I will be passing them on to him directly. I will be only too happy to answer any such questions but only in respect of past quarterly periods for which he will have received the corresponding employment related statistics.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 397, 398 AND 400 OF 2008

HON G H LICUDI:

To say that, this is quite extraordinary and, again, another departure from established practices is an understatement. I know that certain employment statistics are provided on a quarterly basis. The answers to these questions are not provided in the quarterly statistics, otherwise they would not be asked, they would not be here. These are questions which we ask as at a particular date, not in respect of a quarter, and we had this debate when the matter first arose in relation to employment statistics and the Employment Survey. The Chief Minister himself recognised that this particular question, the total number of employment contracts registered with the Employment Agency as at a particular date, did not come within the ambit of the employment statistics that the Minister refers to. It refers to a specific number on a specific date and that has always been provided. In answer to the last question, Question No. 36 of 2008, which was, “can Government state what was the total number of employment contracts registered with the Employment Agency as at 29th February 2008 giving a breakdown by nationality and sex?” the answer was, “the statistical information requested by the hon Member is set out in the schedule which is being handed to him”. That has been the practice and this information is generally available to us. It is not part of the employment statistics; it is a specific number on a specific date. It is always provided, why is it not provided now?

HON L MONTIEL:

Having agreed with him that I am going to pass to him all the information that he requests, having agreed to the manner in which it was going to be passed over to the hon Member, I presume that it is logical to assume that the information that pertains to a different quarter should be given when the quarter reaches its period.

HON G H LICUDI:

This is not the same information that we are requesting. It does not pertain to a quarter, it is a specific number on a specific date. It has been asked previously and it has been answered previously. Can the Minister explain why they are refusing to answer it now? If I want to ask questions on statistics in relation to certain quarters, then I accept that forms part of the employment statistics and that is the practice that has been going on since before my time in this House. But these are different questions and we had this precise debate the first time that I asked these questions, when I listed all the questions, and the Chief Minister himself recognised that this question was outside the ambit of the employment statistics.

HON L MONTIEL:

Since he last asked these questions, we have now more or less stabilised the position of giving him the information that he requires. Before this we were not giving him, there was a mistake or a problem in the system and he was not getting the information requested. Once I decided to put it in a position where I am giving him all the information that he requires, including some information that he has never got before and I have given it to him now, the hon Gentleman does not want to wait until the period comes into being when he can get this information. He cannot have it both ways. Either he waits until the questions are put in Parliament or otherwise he will not get the answer at all.

HON G H LICUDI:

Can the Minister, first we must remark that that appears to be an implicit or expressed threat that the public is going to be deprived of information at the whim of this particular Minister, and that is a disgraceful statement for the Minister to make in this particular Parliament. The Minister has said that there is information which was not provided previously and which has now been regularised. Can the Minister explain what information he is referring to that was not provided previously?

HON L MONTIEL:

Information related to the Employment Survey statistics. It came to a point prior to me coming into this Ministry, when these questions were being put in Parliament. Now we have decided to provide it to him on a regular basis as and when he requires them. Indeed, he asked for some questions that were going to be placed in this Parliament and I decided to give it to him before Parliament. So it was a decision that was made to provide him with the information prior to Parliament. Unemployment statistics, for example, that was something that I would have had to put them in Parliament today, instead I gave it to him prior to coming to Parliament.

So contrary to what he is trying to imply, I am trying to give him more information than he has ever had.

HON F R PICARDO:

The Minister is, I think, alluding to an arrangement which I entered into with the Hon Mr Linares when he was the Minister for Employment, where we agreed that he would provide the information requested but that that information should not be considered to be public until after the meeting of the House immediately after the information had been provided. In fact, after the Hon Mr Linares left the post of employment and Mr Holliday took over the role, he provided the information very timelessly and without regard to when Parliament might be sitting. So I think the Minister may be labouring under a misapprehension that he has advanced information more expeditiously than was previously the case, when in fact it was already provided on that basis. I think that is just for the purposes of clarification. The hon Gentleman Mr Licudi might want to take the matter further.

MR SPEAKER:

I think we are talking about a different type of information. Perhaps the hon Member would care to spell out the information which is not being provided and he would seek. I can see it but perhaps the Minister cannot.

HON G H LICUDI:

The information that is not being provided in these quarterly statistics is precisely the information that is sought in these three questions. The total number of employment contracts as at a particular date; the total number of work permits as at a particular date; and the number of Gibraltarians removed from the unemployment register for a particular period, for reasons other than that those persons obtained employment. These are not new questions which arise in this Parliament, these questions have arisen in the past and have been answered in the past, notwithstanding that other statistical information has been provided to the hon Member beside me, my predecessor as Shadow Minister for Employment and subsequently to me. So I do appreciate that that information continues to be available, it is not something new, continues to be made available to us. But this is separate information which is not, and as far as I know, certainly since I have been in this post, has never been included in the employment statistics, or even before, as I understand it.

HON L MONTIEL:

The hon Member will receive the information that he is seeking.

HON F R PICARDO:

I certainly would not have the gall to stand up in this House and tell people who have been here for over 36 years that they should read Standing Orders, so I will not be pursuing Mr Feetham's role earlier. But simply for the purposes of clarification, when I entered into the arrangement with the hon Gentleman's two previous predecessors, it was never a condition that I would not be able to put other questions in this House.

It was never a fetter on my ability to put other significant questions, or even the same questions if I wished, for an oral answer in this House. I think it totally unfair to now fetter my successor on that issue.

MR SPEAKER:

But I think the answer has been provided that information will be provided.

ORAL

NO. 401 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT – BREAKDOWN OF FULL-TIME JOBS

Can Government provide the comparable breakdown for October 2007 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 2007 having also done so for October 2002 and 2003?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

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

Answer to Question 401/2008

Full-Time Employee Jobs by Industry, Sex and Nationality, October 2007

<u>INDUSTRY</u>	<u>ALL</u>		<u>GIBRALTARIAN</u>		<u>UK BRITISH</u>		<u>MOROCCAN</u>		<u>SPANISH</u>		<u>OTHER EU</u>		<u>OTHER</u>	
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Shipbuilding	173	5	73	4	22	1	14	0	50	0	14	0	0	0
Other Manuf.	100	35	37	25	6	5	13	1	43	4	1	0	0	0
Elec/Wtr Supply	23	0	10	0	6	0	2	0	5	0	0	0	0	0
Construction	716	47	172	24	226	16	110	1	183	4	16	2	9	0
Whsle/Retail Tr.	974	599	439	297	120	91	96	5	252	176	27	23	40	7
Hotels/Restmnts.	299	216	48	26	57	60	76	26	74	87	24	11	20	6
Trans/Comm.	337	125	195	92	37	10	21	1	80	17	2	3	2	2
Fin. Intermed.	340	485	202	326	62	106	0	1	14	14	52	33	10	5
Real Est./Bus.Ac.	380	420	220	194	77	91	15	9	44	113	16	7	8	6
Public Admin.	19	20	15	18	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Education	4	29	0	17	2	9	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	1
Health/Social Wk.	15	58	6	15	2	6	0	0	7	36	0	0	0	1
Other Services	550	220	179	71	216	84	30	2	59	32	39	6	27	25
TOTAL	3,930	2,259	1,596	1,109	837	481	377	46	811	485	191	85	118	53

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 401 OF 2008

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is the Minister in a position to tell me whether in fact it is a lesser number than 836, the number of employers that employ these people, is a lesser number than 836 and, if so, what the number is now because I know that it has changed from one year to the next?

HON L MONTIEL:

I would have to look carefully at those numbers. I do not think I have the information with me.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The information is not contained in the table because the table gives the employees. What I want to know is, in my question I said the 836 employers or such lesser number as have returned the questionnaires. So what I want to know is whether the number of questionnaires that have been returned by the employers reflected in this table is the 836, which it used to be before, or whether the number for this particular year is less than 836?

HON L MONTIEL:

From recollection, I think it is a lesser number but I am not too sure because I think there is a question that specifically answers that question.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I would not think so, I think it is probably about a different year. Would the Minister know what the number of employers and, therefore, the number of questionnaires that this represents?

HON L MONTIEL:

I would need to find out.

ORAL

NO. 402 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT – DISTRIBUTION OF AVERAGE ANNUAL EARNINGS - PRIVATE SECTOR

Can Government provide the distribution of average annual earnings as shown in table 16 of the Employment Survey Report 2007 in respect of private sector employment?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

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

Answer to Question 402/2008

Distribution of Average Annual Earnings of Private Sector Employee Jobs, October 2007

PER ANNUM £	ALL EMPLOYEE JOBS		ALL MALE JOBS		ALL FEMALE JOBS		Total	Part-Time	Full-Time	Total	Part-Time	Full-Time	Total
	Full-Time	Part-Time	Full-Time	Part-Time	Full-Time	Part-Time							
0 - 999	3	9	12	1	1	2	2	2	2	10	8	2	8
1,000 - 1,499	4	17	21	3	4	7	7	7	1	13	13	1	14
1,500 - 1,999	11	19	30	10	6	16	16	16	1	13	13	1	14
2,000 - 2,499	7	48	55	6	9	15	15	15	1	39	39	1	40
2,500 - 2,999	33	85	118	30	19	49	49	49	3	66	66	3	69
3,000 - 3,999	117	391	508	74	81	155	155	155	43	310	310	43	353
4,000 - 4,999	91	639	730	50	402	452	452	452	41	237	237	41	278
5,000 - 5,999	190	172	362	89	45	134	134	134	101	127	127	101	228
6,000 - 6,999	92	169	261	42	29	71	71	71	50	140	140	50	190
7,000 - 7,999	185	190	375	74	29	103	103	103	111	161	161	111	272
8,000 - 8,999	226	136	362	85	39	124	124	124	141	197	197	141	338
9,000 - 9,999	755	114	869	351	22	373	373	373	404	496	496	404	896
10,000 - 10,999	462	92	554	247	15	262	262	262	215	292	292	215	507
11,000 - 11,999	566	57	623	400	11	411	411	411	166	212	212	166	378
12,000 - 12,999	686	73	759	449	14	463	463	463	237	296	296	237	533
13,000 - 13,999	652	44	696	481	5	486	486	486	171	210	210	171	381
14,000 - 14,999	632	52	684	423	9	432	432	432	209	252	252	209	461
15,000 - 17,499	1,649	75	1,724	998	13	1,011	1,011	1,011	651	713	713	651	1,364
17,500 - 19,999	1,317	54	1,371	825	5	830	830	830	492	541	541	492	1,033
20,000 - 22,499	1,037	37	1,074	676	12	688	688	688	361	386	386	361	747
22,500 - 24,999	874	31	905	574	7	581	581	581	300	324	324	300	624
25,000 - 29,999	1,018	14	1,032	718	5	723	723	723	300	309	309	300	609
30,000 and over	2,414	22	2,436	1,991	7	1,998	1,998	1,998	423	438	438	423	861
TOTAL	13,021	2,540	15,561	8,597	789	9,386	9,386	9,386	4,424	1,751	1,751	4,424	6,175

ORAL

NO. 403 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT – DISTRIBUTION OF AVERAGE ANNUAL EARNINGS - MOD

Can Government provide the distribution of average annual earnings as shown in table 16 of the October 2007 Employment Survey Report in respect of MOD employment?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Answered together with Question No. 404 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 404 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT – PRIVATE SECTOR

Can Government provide the information in table 16 of the October 2007 Employment Survey Report in respect of those public sector entities and Government owned joint venture companies included as part of the private sector?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL
RELATIONS**

The statistical information requested by the hon Member is set out in the schedule which is being handed to him.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 404/2008

Answer to Question 403/2008:

Distribution of Average Annual Earnings of MOD Employee Jobs, October 2007

£ PER ANNUM	ALL EMPLOYEE JOBS			MALE JOBS			FEMALE JOBS		
	Full-Time	Part-Time	Total	Full-Time	Part-Time	Total	Full-Time	Part-Time	Total
0 - 999	0	6	6	0	2	2	0	4	4
1,000 - 1,499	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	3	3
1,500 - 1,999	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	2
2,000 - 2,499	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0
2,500 - 2,999	0	2	2	0	1	1	0	1	1
3,000 - 3,999	0	9	9	0	3	3	0	6	6
4,000 - 4,999	0	13	13	0	7	7	0	6	6
5,000 - 5,999	2	5	7	0	2	2	2	3	5
6,000 - 6,999	4	9	13	2	1	3	2	8	10
7,000 - 7,999	9	15	24	4	2	6	5	13	18
8,000 - 8,999	13	9	22	0	0	0	13	9	22
9,000 - 9,999	2	10	12	1	0	1	1	10	11
10,000 - 10,999	3	6	9	2	0	2	1	6	7
11,000 - 11,999	2	3	5	1	0	1	1	3	4
12,000 - 12,999	12	3	15	5	0	5	7	3	10
13,000 - 13,999	55	2	57	18	0	18	37	2	39
14,000 - 14,999	57	2	59	34	0	34	23	2	25
15,000 - 17,499	140	4	144	87	0	87	53	4	57
17,500 - 19,999	121	4	125	73	0	73	48	4	52
20,000 - 22,499	79	1	80	48	0	48	31	1	32
22,500 - 24,999	58	0	58	45	0	45	13	0	13
25,000 - 29,999	102	0	102	85	0	85	17	0	17
30,000 and over	275	0	275	263	0	263	12	0	12
TOTAL	934	109	1,043	668	19	687	266	90	356

Cont....

Contd Answer to Question 404/2008

Answer to Question 404/2008

Distribution of Average Annual Earnings of All Employee Jobs in Public Sector Entities and Government Owned JVC's, October 2007

PER ANNUM £	ALL EMPLOYEE JOBS			ALL MALE JOBS			ALL FEMALE JOBS		
	Full-Time	Part-Time	Total	Full-Time	Part-Time	Total	Full-Time	Part-Time	Total
0 - 999	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1
1,000 - 1,499	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1,500 - 1,999	1	2	3	1	1	2	2	0	1
2,000 - 2,499	1	1	2	0	1	1	1	0	1
2,500 - 2,999	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	0
3,000 - 3,999	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	2
4,000 - 4,999	1	317	318	0	316	316	0	1	1
5,000 - 5,999	6	13	19	2	3	5	4	10	14
6,000 - 6,999	5	6	11	2	3	5	3	3	6
7,000 - 7,999	5	12	17	3	3	6	2	9	11
8,000 - 8,999	4	10	14	2	0	2	2	10	12
9,000 - 9,999	3	10	13	3	1	4	0	9	9
10,000 - 10,999	9	5	14	5	1	6	4	4	8
11,000 - 11,999	18	5	23	5	0	5	13	5	18
12,000 - 12,999	43	4	47	24	3	27	19	1	20
13,000 - 13,999	65	2	67	22	0	22	43	2	45
14,000 - 14,999	79	6	85	32	0	32	47	6	53
15,000 - 17,499	167	2	169	77	0	77	90	2	92
17,500 - 19,999	98	3	101	40	0	40	58	3	61
20,000 - 22,499	116	0	116	76	0	76	40	0	40
22,500 - 24,999	82	2	84	62	0	62	20	2	22
25,000 - 29,999	154	0	154	113	0	113	41	0	41
30,000 and over	314	0	314	276	0	276	38	0	38
TOTAL	1,172	403	1,575	746	333	1,079	426	70	496

NO. 405 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT – DETACHED WORKERS

Can Government confirm whether the detached workers in employment at the end of October 2007 are included in the numbers of employee jobs shown in the Employment Survey Report for that month?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Detached workers are not employees of Gibraltar registered employers and no information is requested from employers in this respect for the Employment Survey Report.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 405 OF 2008

HON J J BOSSANO:

I take it from the nature of the answer that that would be true of previous years as well, is that the case?

HON L MONTIEL:

Well, I can tell the hon Member that this is the information that I have with regard to my position now as in Government.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is it, in fact, that the actual questionnaire that is sent out to employers says what the Minister has just said to me, because there seems to be quite a number, from the information provided in answer to other questions, of detached workers? For example, in the shipyard. Those would not be included then in the breakdown in the Employment Survey Report of the number of workers in the shipyard.

HON L MONTIEL:

It should not.

HON J J BOSSANO:

My question is, does the questionnaire actually specify this? Does he know that?

HON L MONTIEL:

I am not too sure, I am giving the Leader of the Opposition my understanding of what the situation is with regards to detached workers. Detached workers are workers that come with a particular company to do a temporary job. Therefore, those are employees of that particular company.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well, I have to tell the Minister that that is not the way that it has been explained before in this House. I mean, we have had the situation before where there have been very large numbers of detached workers on ship repairing, for example, which has not been a question of a temporary job, they have been there for months. My question is, (a) can he confirm, therefore, then that the figures that are in the survey under the ship building segment, which I think is the first one in the breakdown, would not include all those workers that are brought in to do ship repairing; and (b) if he does not know can he find out whether in fact what he has just told me about those not having to be included in the replies is something that is actually specified in the questionnaires that employers get?

HON L MONTIEL:

Well, my position with regard to my responsibilities is that given that detached workers come with their companies on a temporary basis, I would ensure that they would remain on a temporary basis in whatever activity they did. Therefore, I presume that is the reason why it is not included in the survey report.

HON J J BOSSANO:

But I am not asking him to assume anything. I am asking for information. It is nice to know what he assumes and it is nice to know how he feels about it but my question is, if an employer gets a form to fill up which is the return from which these figures are compiled, does the form tell him not to include detached workers that are working in his company? When the detached workers come here they may not be employed, as far as he is concerned, in the economy of Gibraltar but they pay tax in the economy of Gibraltar and they are controlled on a daily basis by the employer to which they are attached, not to the ones from which they have been detached in some other part of Europe. I just want to know, if he says they are not included is it that the employers are told not to include them?

HON L MONTIEL:

That seems to be the logic of it.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I cannot remember the survey form off hand but I am almost certain that the information requested would not apply to detached workers. Of course, there is always the possibility that employers are misreading the form, but the answer to Question No. 408, when he asks it in a few seconds, will show that as at October 2007 the total number of people employed according to employer survey forms was 195 in ship building, full time. Given that this answer relating to detached workers shows 474 detached workers, it is clear that the statistics for full-time employees, as returned by the employers in the survey, are much lower than the number of detached workers suggesting that on the whole, and we are really talking about one employer, that it understands the distinction. Otherwise the figure for full-time private employee jobs by industry, which is the answer to his next but two questions, would show a number much more similar to the 474 presently shown in the table to answer Question No. 406. So the anecdotal, well more than anecdotal, the statistical evidence given that we are talking about one and the same employer in the main, suggests that he understands the difference and that he fills up his questionnaires accordingly. Which is not to say that the Government can guarantee that there is never a mistake made and that information from one creeps into the other.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well, I am grateful to the Chief Minister for his intervention but I do not think that he has got his figures right. I have not yet got the answers so I am not able to follow the figures that he is using because I have not yet asked the question. Let me say, my understanding is that detached workers are not all employed in ship building. Therefore, is he saying that all the 400 were in ship building?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, the group is ship building et cetera.

HON J J BOSSANO:

What does "et cetera" mean? It means the sub contractors on the ships. There are detached workers in the construction industry, I can assure the hon Member.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The construction industry in the second item in the answer to Question No. 406.

HON J J BOSSANO:

What I am asking him is, is the information he has provided of 400 odd workers, is he saying that there are 400 detached workers in ship building and that since the total in

ship building is 197, clearly the 400 cannot have been included in the 197? Well, my question is, is he then saying that all 400 of the detached workers are in the ship building sector?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, we do not know what “et cetera” means. To answer that, which is not what I said by the way, but to answer this last supplementary I would have to get information from the Employment offices as to what the words “et cetera” mean after the word “ship building”. In the schedule attached in answer to Question No. 406 it says, industry group, ship building et cetera 474. I assume that it means ship building and activities relating to ship building, I assume that. What I cannot be sure is that those are all with the same employer, namely, Cammell Laird. There may be contractors, sub contractors to Cammell Laird, I do not know. But I would expect them all to be related to ship building. I would not expect ship building et cetera to mean ship building and hair salon workers. I would expect there to be some correlation between the et cetera, and I was not using the information for the precise purpose that the hon Member’s subsequent supplementary suggests. I was saying that there is anecdotal evidence. I have not got my figures wrong, the answer to Question No. 408, which admittedly he does not have in front of him yet, will show that the full-time is 195 for men and six for women as at October 2007, from the survey he will see that in a moment, which is a much lower number than the 474, however the 474 is precisely compiled. That would suggest, anecdotally, that there is not a wholesale confusion of normal workers and detached workers in the way that they respond to questionnaires, which was the original supplementary.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Therefore the supplementary was, which I think he may have answered, then are the 474 detached workers which he has identified, workers all in that category of ship building and et cetera? Or is it that the total in the whole economy of Gibraltar is 474? That is my supplementary. It seems to me that his latest intervention indicates that the 474 is in the ship building and et cetera group, even if we do not know precisely what the et cetera stands for. I would like to be clear that that is the answer that I have been given.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, high as the number looks to me, that is the purport of the answer. In other words, the schedule is not capable of any other interpretation. The question is how many detached workers were in employment and provide a breakdown by industry and nationality, and there is a table that shows industries, nationalities, with totals at the end of each sub industry group, all then added up to provide an overall total at the bottom.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I have not had that yet.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

He has not had Question No. 406 yet?

HON J J BOSSANO:

No.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The answer is yes, 474 is in the ship building et cetera group.

ORAL

NO. 406 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT – DETACHED WORKERS

Can Government state as at the end of October 2007 how many detached workers were in employment and provide a breakdown by industry and nationality?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL
RELATIONS

The information the hon Member requires is now handed to him in a schedule.

Answer to Question 406/2008

Detached Workers as at October 2007 by nationality and Industry

INDUSTRY GROUP	Other British	Spanish	Other EEC	Other Non-EEC	Total
Shipbuilding, etc	1		473		474
Construction		629	78	17	724
Wholesale Trade		22			22
Retail Trade	3	7	1	1	12
Repair of Consumer Goods		3			3
Post & Communication				2	2
Banking, Finance and Insurance		13	17	12	42
Other Services	67	14	6	75	162
Total	71	688	575	107	1441

ORAL

NO. 407 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT – PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT

Can Government provide the figure for part-time employment in respect of table 12 of the October 2006 Employment Survey Report showing the breakdown by industry, sex and nationality?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL
RELATIONS**

Answered together with Question No. 408 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 408 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT – FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT

Can Government provide the figure for full-time employment in respect of table 12 of the October 2007 Employment Survey Report showing the breakdown by industry, sex and nationality?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL
RELATIONS**

The statistical information that is required by the hon Member is set out in the schedule that is now handed to him.

Answer to Question 408/2008

Answer to Question 407/2008:

Part-Time Private Employee Jobs by Industry, Sex and Nationality, October 2006

INDUSTRY	ALL		GIBALTARIAN		UK BRITISH		MOROCCAN		SPANISH		OTHER EU		OTHER	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Shipbuilding	13	0	5	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	5	0	0	0
Other Manuf.	9	22	4	13	1	0	2	0	2	9	0	0	0	0
Elec/Wtr Supply	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Construction	31	38	10	19	9	10	2	0	9	6	0	3	1	0
Whsle/Retail Tr.	104	423	49	261	11	61	11	6	28	78	1	3	4	14
Hotels/Restmts.	91	222	19	30	33	78	9	13	25	92	5	8	0	1
Trans/Comm.	44	58	17	34	15	12	1	2	10	9	1	1	0	0
Fin. Intermed.	27	210	11	148	12	44	0	3	1	8	2	5	1	2
Real Est./Bus.Ac.	379	338	344	255	17	20	6	5	7	51	3	5	2	2
Public Admin.	2	22	1	21	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Education	6	48	5	33	0	8	0	0	0	5	1	1	0	1
Health/Social Wk.	3	69	3	44	0	16	0	0	0	8	0	1	0	0
Other Services	52	197	27	66	11	46	6	11	4	64	3	10	1	0
TOTAL	761	1647	495	924	111	295	37	40	88	331	21	37	9	20

Cont'd

CONT'D ANSWER TO QUESTION 408/2008

Answer to Question 408/2008:

Full-Time Private Employee Jobs by Industry, Sex and Nationality, October 2007

INDUSTRY	ALL		GIBALTARIAN		UK BRITISH		MOROCCAN		SPANISH		OTHER EU		OTHER	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Shipbuilding	195	6	77	5	29	1	14	0	51	0	15	0	9	0
Other Manuf.	134	46	52	32	9	7	16	1	55	4	1	2	1	0
Elec/Wtr Supply	273	22	235	20	19	2	6	0	10	0	1	0	2	0
Construction	2059	112	424	40	405	34	148	2	652	31	404	5	26	0
Wholesale/Retail Tr.	1442	811	673	380	176	127	135	5	351	250	36	33	71	16
Hotels/Restmnts.	444	348	78	47	73	88	113	38	120	147	34	21	26	7
Trans/Comm.	686	195	428	137	96	25	39	1	107	24	11	6	5	2
Fin. Intermed.	704	925	351	580	198	237	0	1	33	37	91	48	31	22
Real Est./Bus.Ac.	1002	678	442	358	246	139	40	10	131	140	127	18	16	13
Public Admin.	7	57	3	42	2	12	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	1
Education	123	397	75	198	18	58	3	4	24	131	1	4	2	2
Health/Social Wk.	1404	749	376	171	599	316	33	3	92	84	185	115	119	60
Other Services	124	78	107	75	9	3	6	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
TOTAL	8,597	4,424	3,321	2,085	1,879	1,049	553	65	1,627	850	907	252	310	123

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 407 AND 408 OF 2008

HON J J BOSSANO:

If I can draw the attention of the Chief Minister to the line on construction workers, which shows that there were in October of last year 652 male and 31 female Spanish workers employed in the construction industry. I note that from the answer that he has now given me to Question No. 406, at the same time there were 629 detached Spanish workers in the construction industry. In fact, the 474 is just in ship building. Apparently in October, there were 1,400 of these detached workers and the Chief Minister is saying that in the construction industry none of the 629 are in the 652. Is that the position?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, it may be that in this case the employers are not as clear in their minds as in the ship building case. I cannot, on my feet and without notice of the question, tell the hon Member whether there are about, it would have to be just over 1200 employees in all as at that date in the construction industry. It seems a little high.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Of one nationality alone.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Of one nationality alone. I think, in this case, the anecdotal evidence, which we will certainly check and confirm to him, in this instance the anecdotal evidence is that there may be detached workers being reported by employers in their employer survey report as normal workers. Just as the anecdotal evidence in the other case was the opposite, in this case the anecdotal evidence I would agree, would indicate that employers submitting their survey forms are including detached workers in their survey forms as normal workers.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Would the Government not agree then that in order to be confident of interpreting this information correctly, which is the purpose of asking for it, one would need to know whether we are talking about there being over 1,250 Spanish workers in the construction industry in October, or half that figure.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

If the hon Member wants to know how many actual people there were in employment by nationality in a certain industry as at that date, he would need that clarification to know. I will provide that clarification to him.

ORAL

NO. 409 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT – FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT IN THE GIBRALTAR GOVERNMENT

Can Government provide the figure for full-time employment in the Gibraltar Government in respect of table 11 of the October 2007 Employment Survey Report showing the breakdown by industry, sex and nationality?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 410 to 412 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 410 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

**EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT – PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT IN THE
GIBRALTAR GOVERNMENT**

Can Government provide the figure for part-time employment in the Gibraltar Government in respect of table 11 of the October 2007 Employment Survey Report showing the breakdown by industry, sex and nationality?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL
RELATIONS**

Answered together with Question Nos. 409, 411 and 412 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 411 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT – FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT IN THE MOD

Can Government provide the figure for the full-time employment in the MOD in respect of table 11 of the October 2007 Employment Survey Report showing the breakdown by industry, sex and nationality?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Answered together with Question Nos. 409, 410 and 412 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 412 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT – PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT IN THE MOD

Can Government provide the figure for the part-time employment in the MOD in respect of table 11 of the October 2007 Employment Survey Report showing the breakdown by industry, sex and nationality?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

The statistical information that is requested by the hon Member is set out in the schedule which is now handed to him.

Answer to Question 412

Answer to Question 409/2008:

Full-Time Gibraltar Government Employee Jobs by Industry, Sex and Nationality, October 2007

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	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Manuf.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Elec/Wtr Supply	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Construction	247	17	223	17	6	0	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whsle/Retail Tr.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hotels/Restmts.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trans/Comm.	91	23	82	22	8	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Fin. Intermed.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Real Est/Bus.Ac.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Public Admin.	660	295	621	284	28	11	5	0	1	0	4	0	1	0
Education	191	352	183	337	6	12	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
Health/Social Wk.	322	493	230	332	67	131	5	0	20	26	0	4	0	0
Other Services	28	14	26	14	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	1,539	1,194	1,365	1,006	117	155	30	1	21	26	5	5	1	1

Cont....

CONT'D ANSWER TO QUESTION 412/2008

Answer to Question 410/2008:

Part -Time Gibraltar Government Employee Jobs by Industry, Sex and Nationality, October 2007

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	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Manuf.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ElecWtr Supply	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Construction	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whsle/Retail Tr.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hotels/Restmnts.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trans/Comm.	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fin. Intermed.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Real Est./Bus.Ac.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Public Admin.	0	25	0	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Education	2	185	1	181	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Health/Social Wk.	8	132	4	89	3	27	0	1	1	14	0	1	0	0
Other Services	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	10	349	5	302	4	31	0	1	1	14	0	1	0	0

Cont....

CONT'D ANSWER TO QUESTION 412/2008

Answer to Question 411/2008:

Full-Time MOD Employee Jobs by Industry, Sex and Nationality, October 2007

INDUSTRY	ALL		GIBRALTARIAN		UK BRITISH		MOROCCAN		SPANISH		OTHER EU		OTHER	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Public Admin.	670	266	605	248	13	10	44	5	7	2	0	0	1	1
TOTAL	670	266	605	248	13	10	44	5	7	2	0	0	1	1

Cont'd

CONT'D ANSWER TO QUESTION 412/2008

Answer to Question 412/2008:

Part-Time MOD Employee Jobs by Industry, Sex and Nationality, October 2007

INDUSTRY	ALL		GIBRALTARIAN		UK BRITISH		MOROCCAN		SPANISH		OTHER EU		OTHER	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Public Admin.	17	90	17	82	0	6	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	17	90	17	82	0	6	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0

ORAL

NO. 413 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT – INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION

Can Government list the public sector entities and Government owned and joint venture companies that are included in the October 2007 Employment Survey Report showing the industrial classification?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL
RELATIONS**

Answered together with Question No. 414 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 414 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT – COMPLETED RETURNS BY INDUSTRY

Can Government provide the breakdown by industry in respect of the 1317 employers who made completed returns in respect of the October 2007 Employment Survey?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL
RELATIONS**

The statistical information that is requested by the hon Member is set out in the schedule which is being handed to him.

Answer to Question 414/2008

Answer to Question 413/2008:

Public Sector Entities

Elderly Care Agency
Europa Incinerator Company Ltd
Gibtelecom
Gibraltar Broadcasting Corporation
Gibraltar Bus Company Ltd
Gibraltar Community Care Ltd
Gibraltar Community Projects Ltd
Gibraltar Development Corporation
Gibraltar Electricity Authority
Gibraltar Industrial Cleaners Ltd
Gibraltar Regulatory Authority
GJBS Ltd
GRP Investments Company Ltd
KIJY Parking Ltd
Office of the Public Service Ombudsman
Social Services Agency
Sports and Leisure Authority

Industry

Health and Social Work
Other Services
Transport and Communication
Other Services
Transport and Communication
Real Estate and Business Activities
Construction
Public Administration and Defence
Electricity and Water Supply
Other Services
Public Administration and Defence
Construction
Real Estate and Business Activities
Real Estate and Business Activities
Real Estate and Business Activities
Health and Social Work
Other Services

Contd.....

CONT'D ANSWER TO QUESTION 414/2008

Answer to Question 414/2008:

<u>Industry Group</u>	<u>Number</u>
Shipbuilding	7
Other Manufacture	31
Electricity and Water Supply	5
Construction	98
Wholesale and Retail Trade	353
Hotels and Restaurants	115
Transport and Telecommunication	93
Financial Intermediation	185
Real Estate and Business Activities	221
Public Administration and Defence	5
Education	13
Health and Social Work	26
Other Services	165
TOTAL	1,317

ORAL

NO. 415 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

UNEMPLOYED FEMALE GIBRALTARIANS

Can Government provide a breakdown of the female Gibraltarians who registered as unemployed in June 2008, showing those who had previously been employed listed by occupation and those entering the labour market for the first time?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL
RELATIONS**

The statistical information that is requested by the hon Member is set out in the schedule which is being handed to him.

Answer to Question 415/2008

Registered female Gibraltarians as at June 2008

Gibraltarian Females Registered	134
First Registration	9

	TOTAL	Administrative & Secretarial Occupations	Personal Service Occupations	Sales & Customer Service Occupations
Previously Employed	96	5	83	8

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 415 OF 2008

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can the Minister clarify for me, is the 134 figure that he has given me, the people who registered during June or the total including those who were already there in May and were not employed?

HON L MONTIEL:

These, the 134 were registered in June 2008.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Yes, I know that. But I am asking for clarification as to whether registered in June 2008 means that they entered the register in June 2008, or does it include people who were already there from the previous month?

HON L MONTIEL:

Coming from the first time there were nine registrations, coming from previously employed there were 96, the rest, that is, 29, come from having been previously lapsed or returning to work after a long, long break.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am grateful for that information but that is not actually the question that I put to him. My question was, these are the people who registered during June. That is to say, at the end of May none of these 134 were on the register, is that correct? That is the question.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, the information that has been given, the question has been misunderstood, misread rather than misunderstood, by whoever has put together this answer. It is clear, as indeed appears by the heading of the schedule attached, that the information provided to the hon Member is as at June 2008. Whereas on a more careful reading, the question sought more specific information than that, which is whatever the figure was as at the end of June, what was June's contribution to that figure, put another way. That is not the question that has been answered. We will provide it to him.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Presumably the correct schedule can be substituted for this one at some stage in the proceedings.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

If the Leader of the Opposition had a particular supplementary we may still be able to answer it despite not having provided it.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I will not know until I see the figures.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Alright.

NO. 416 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT – BREAKDOWN OF JOBS

Can Government provide a breakdown by gender and nationality of the 842 jobs in the October 2007 and the 575 jobs in the October 2006 Surveys included in table 12 of the respective Employment Survey Reports?

I think there are some words missing there which are reflected in the subsequent questions which is, of course, that these figures, as the Employment Survey Report shows, are the figures of the labour recruitment sub-industry. That is where the figures come from in that report. My question is for a breakdown by gender and nationality of the figures that are there, that for the benefit of the Minister I do not know whether he has realised it, they are the figures in the labour recruitment sub-industry which I thought I had included in my original drafting of the question and that is included in table 12 of the Employment Survey Report for 2006 and 2007.

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

I am advised by the Statistics Office that they have not been able to identify the figure 842 in table 12 of the October survey, nor the figure 575 in table 12 of the October 2006 survey. To answer this question I must seek clarification from the Opposition Member.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 416 OF 2008

HON J J BOSSANO:

The clarification is that they are the figures given in the introduction, the figures given by the Statistics Office in the introduction to the 2007 Survey Report, which identifies an increase in the labour recruitment sub industry from 575 to 842.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

In this case, just as I conceded in answer to the last question that the answer had misunderstood the question, on this occasion I think the answer has literally correctly interpreted the question and I think the question is incorrectly or ambiguously drafted. It suggests that the figures that he quotes in the question are to be found in the tables. It is now clear from what he said across the floor that what he intended to ask

was, of the figures mentioned in the introductory summary that relate to the statistics covered by table 12, and that is the information that he has now identified and which I imagine can be provided to him.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well, obviously it can, otherwise they would not have people to highlight it.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, they are identified in their summary.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The Employment Survey Report 2007 explains in its introduction that in table 12 there are 842 jobs in that industry. I have not told them that that is where they are but, in fact, I know they are because they told me. Still, I accept that they must have forgotten that they put it there. But let me say that I thought I had in my original drafting included that reference there but it may have got lost. It got a bit jumbled up, the questions when I handed them in.

ORAL

NO. 417 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT – LABOUR RECRUITMENT SUB-INDUSTRY

Can Government state whether the labour recruitment sub-industry has been included in the real estate and other business activities industry prior to the October 2006 survey and if so from which year?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL
RELATIONS**

The Government can confirm that the labour recruitment sub-industry has been included in the real estate and other business activities since October 1998.

ORAL

NO. 418 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT – BREAKDOWN OF EMPLOYERS MAKING RETURNS

Can Government give a breakdown of the 1,317 employers making a return with employees in respect of the October 2007 Employment Survey showing (a) how many employers made a return with employees in October 2006; (b) how many made a nil return in October 2006; and (c) how many made no return in October 2006?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Of the 1,317 employers who made a return with employees in October 2007, 1,089 submitted a return with employees in October 2006; 33 made a nil return in October 2006 and five made no return in October 2006.

NO. 419 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT – BREAKDOWN OF EMPLOYERS WITH NIL RETURN

Can Government give a breakdown of the 541 employers who made a nil return in respect of the October 2007 Employment Survey showing how many of these (a) made a nil return in October 2006; (b) made no return in October 2006; (c) made a return with employees in October 2006 showing the total number of employees involved?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Of the 541 employers who made a nil return in October 2007, 340 submitted a nil return in October 2006; two made no return in October 2006 and 88 made a return in October 2006 and employed 272 employees.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 419 OF 2008

HON J J BOSSANO:

So in fact, what the Minister is saying is that in the 12 months between October 2006 and October 2007, 88 employers ceased employing people and 272 jobs in respect of those 88 employers were lost? That is the implication then.

HON L MONTIEL:

Yes, well that is why I always give the proviso of the returns.

HON J J BOSSANO:

But the question is about people who have made returns. So we have 88 people who made returns in 2006 who also made returns in 2007.

HON L MONTIEL:

Yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In 2006 they employed 272 and in 2007 they employed nobody, that is the answer he has given me. He agrees or not?

HON L MONTIEL:

I presume so. I must agree with the figures that have been provided by the Statistics Officer.

MR SPEAKER:

Before the hon Member moves the adjournment, I understand the Hon Fabian Picardo wishes to seek clarification of a response to Question No. 419.

HON F R PICARDO:

Mr Speaker, thank you, yes. In the absence of the Leader of the Opposition, as the Minister for Employment knows, he has asked me to refer the House to the answer already provided by the Minister to Question No. 419 of 2008. That question asked whether the Government could give a breakdown of the 541 employees who made a nil return in respect of the Government's 2007 Employment Survey, showing how many of these made a nil return in October 2006, made no return in October 2006 or made a return with employees in October 2006, showing the total number of employees involved. The answer appears to be inaccurate, given that the breakdown requested refers to 380 employers having provided some answers and two having provided some other answers, but the total adds up only to 430 and there was a discrepancy of 101. The Leader of the Opposition asked me to refer that to the House and to ask the Minister whether he could clarify the answer?

HON L MONTIEL:

Yes, I have had time to look at these answers and the hon Member is quite right in saying that the figures do not add up. That is because there are various things happening in the returns. One is, for example, that the employers, new employers may have put in a return with a nil return, and there could be a case of new employers ceasing to trade in that name, trading in another name but retaining the employment numbers. That is the explanation that I have received from the Employment Service.

HON F R PICARDO:

So it is that there are no records in respect of that 101?

HON L MONTIEL:

No.

HON F R PICARDO:

No identifiable records.

HON L MONTIEL:

No identifiable records but it is explained in the manner that I have answered.

HON F R PICARDO:

Obliged.

MR SPEAKER:

It is 111 actually.

NO. 420 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INDUSTRIAL TRIBUNAL – COMPLAINTS

Can Government state since the provision for complaints to the Industrial Tribunal was introduced in respect of complaints of discriminatory treatment on the grounds of sex, how many such complaints have there been, if any, and specify the dates when each such complaint was lodged?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

I am informed by the secretary to the Industrial Tribunal that nine complaints of discriminatory treatment on grounds of sex are recorded with dates as follows:

7th October 1999;
22nd July 2002;
9th September 2002;
3rd July 2003;
29th October 2003;
30th October 2003;
13th February 2008;
20th March 2008; and
2nd July 2008

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 420 OF 2008

HON J J BOSSANO:

So, some of these xxx the coming into effect of the new legislation requiring equal treatment, so presumably, it was not as a result of the introduction of a provision which extended the function of the industrial tribunal to complaints of discriminatory treatment on grounds of sex.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, I do not recall the exact date when that legislation was introduced but I think it was after 1999, for example.

HON J J BOSSANO:

2004.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Exactly. I suppose it is on the grounds, I am only speculating, that even before the new legislation, discriminatory treatment on the grounds of sex could be alleged to be grounds for unfair dismissal, as a matter of argument, whereas the legislation made it specific and not a matter of legal argument.

ORAL

NO. 421 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

MOORISH CASTLE PRISON – CAPACITY

Can Government state what the current capacity at the Moorish Castle prison is?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR JUSTICE

Answered together with Question Nos. 422 and 423 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 422 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

NEW PRISON

Can Government state what will be the capacity of the new prison?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR JUSTICE

Answered together with Question Nos. 421 and 423 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 423 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

NEW PRISON

Can Government state when the new Prison will be ready for prisoners to be transferred from the old prison at Moorish Castle to the new one being built?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR JUSTICE

The current capacity at Moorish Castle prison is of 69 inmates. The new prison will initially accommodate a total of 76 inmates housed in the ground and first floor of the prison. The capacity can be increased to 98 in the future by the internal development of part of the second floor which has been earmarked for future expansion if justified by demand. The Government expect the new prison to be ready for prisoners to be transferred by 31st July 2009.

NO. 424 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

MOORISH CASTLE PRISON – REHABILITATION PROGRAMMES AND COURSES FOR INMATES

Can Government state whether any rehabilitation programmes or educational courses are offered or given to inmates at the HM prison?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR JUSTICE

Every convicted prisoner has his sentence carefully managed throughout the prison term. This involves regular meetings held with the probation officer, the prison chief officer and representatives from the various prison departments, such as works and education. Prisoners are interviewed and potential behavioural targets are identified and set by the interviewing team. These targets may include recommendations to establish or maintain contact with family members, making use of available programmes such as drugs testing or educational classes and give thought to the root cause of their offending behaviour. The probation officer thereafter holds regular sessions with prisoners to assess their progress throughout their sentence. All this is done with a view to attempt to address the prisoner's offending behaviour and achieve a successful re-integration into society. In respect to education, a tutor is contracted to impart lessons to prisoners three evenings a week, six hours in total. Subjects taught include numeracy, literacy, English, Spanish, French and information technology. The prison works section also offers prisoners the opportunity to get experience in various trades. This usually consists of on-the-job training involving on-going maintenance to the prison infrastructure and typically include painting, plastering, masonry, welding and carpentry. The prison also holds weekly narcotics anonymous meetings every Thursday. Various members of this organisation attend and hold sessions with the prisoners. A general counsellor is also available who attends, as required, to offer inmates one to one counselling. The prison also offers incentive based schemes including voluntary drugs testing. Prisoners are encouraged to take part in such programmes and may earn extra privileges as a reward.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 424 OF 2008

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Minister state when all this started?

HON D A FEETHAM:

I cannot give a precise date as to when all this started but this has been on-going for some time, that is my understanding.

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Minister give us an indication of what he means by some time? Years, months?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Different parts of this will have been going for different periods of time, would have started at different times. This is a holistic regime, it did not all start at the same time.

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Chief Minister then state when the first one started?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Which is the first one?

HON S E LINARES:

The Chief Minister should know, he is the one who implemented it.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Which is the first one?

HON S E LINARES:

If the Chief Minister does not understand what the first one is, he should go back to school and learn what the first one means. The first one means, the Minister for Justice has just given us a whole array of things that they do with inmates, and in that whole array of things that he does with inmates I have asked when did all this start. He has just answered a few years, well some time back. I wanted to know exactly how long. Now the Chief Minister has got up and said that it was holistic, that it was not holistic that it was different times. Well, when did the first one of the list that the Minister has mentioned start?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, the first item on the list, ignoring the hon Member's absurd descent into the discourtesy that can only bring him, anybody who thinks that in an exchange between him and me it is appropriate for him to suggest that I might need to go back to school.....

HON S E LINARES:

Like the Chief Minister has done many times in this House to me.

MR SPEAKER:

Order, Order.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Can only bring him into disrepute. Now, the first thing that the Minister for Justice mentioned in his list is that every prisoner has his sentence carefully managed throughout the prison term. I cannot tell the hon Member when that started, I assume that prisoners were having their sentences carefully managed even when the GSLP was in Government.

HON S E LINARES:

I could go through every one and when the second and third one started, he still has not answered the question as in when did this start. I say this because the last time I asked this question in this House the answer that the Minister then gave me was that there were none, no programmes, no educational courses. That is why I have repeated the question.

HON D A FEETHAM:

That is simply not the case. I have gone through every single question that has been asked on rehabilitation going back to 2000 and he simply has not asked that question. He is wrong.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

There will be a motion censoring him put down.

HON S E LINARES:

Good.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

For misleading this House. So he had better be right and the Hon Minister better be wrong.

HON S E LINARES:

The school teacher is telling me off, yes Sir.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

At least we have established who it is that needs to go back to school. I have not not answered his supplementary. His supplementary, after he had finished being rude to me, was can he tell me when the first item on the list started, to which I said the first item on the list is that prisoners have their sentence carefully managed throughout their prison term and that I do not know when it started. That is an answer to his question so his question has been answered not not answered. The answer is we do not know when the first item on the list started.

HON S E LINARES:

Probably the drawback about the GSLP as well.

MR SPEAKER:

Order, next question.

NO. 425 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

PRISON BOARD'S ANNUAL REPORT

Can Government state whether the prison board's annual report has been made public before the last one of 2007 which was tabled in this House and if so where can the Opposition obtain copies of the said reports?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR JUSTICE

The first annual prison report to be made public by any Government since the Prison Act was introduced in 1986 was the 2007 Report.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 425 OF 2008

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Minister state whether there are other reports, although not tabled in this House, made public previous to the 2007?

HON D A FEETHAM:

Yes, there are other reports that have not been tabled before this House.

HON S E LINARES:

Then in answer to the second part of the question, can the Minister state whether copies of these reports which have not been made public can now be made public or given to the Opposition?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The view has been taken in the past by all Governments, including this Government although not consciously, what we did was simply to continue the established practice, but going back to the enactment in 1986 of the Prison Act, there has been a statutory obligation for the production of an annual prison board report. Those reports have been produced and they exist. In the past and going back many years,

and I think it pre-dates the hon Members when they were in Government because we are talking about 1986, the view was taken, continued by us, but I believe erroneously taken initially, that these reports did not require to be tabled in the House. We have discovered this year that, I think, in fact it was the Minister for Justice who discovered it this year, that in his view the Act clearly on his interpretation requires the report, not only to be produced but indeed to be tabled. In the past, going back all the way to 1986, they were produced but not tabled. So the only change this year is that the report that was produced has been tabled, and although they would be reports in the main or in part for years that we were not in office, we are perfectly content to fish them all out from the archives and table them as a bunch going back to 1986. But certainly, the Minister's view, remember this is an area where this is the first time that all aspects of the prison come under a Ministry, the Minister has formed the view that these reports clearly need tabling. I agree with the view that he has formed on the reading of the Act and that will be the practice from now. If the hon Members would like us to table as many of the historical annual reports as we can trace, we are happy to do so.

HON D A FEETHAM:

May I just add to that, that in fact the obligation to produce a report by the prison board is to produce a report to the Governor, that is under the section. The subsection says all reports should be laid before Parliament. What I suspect has happened prior to this year is that taking into account the constitutional context and the over arching responsibilities of the Governor, taking into account as well that they were ex-officio Members of the House, to which the Governor may well have asked the Attorney General to lay before Parliament, it was not thought to be a ministerial responsibility. Now, bearing in mind the new Constitution and bearing in mind as well that the Government intends to change the Prison Act so that these responsibilities are responsibilities for the Minister responsible for prisons, I felt that it was appropriate in that context for the report to be laid this year and for subsequent years.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Would the hon Members indicate whether they would like us to remedy this historically going back to 1986? It is really their call.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I think we will get back to the Government when we know what is involved with these reports. We thought this was something new that was being introduced for the first time, when we saw the 2007 report.

ORAL

NO. 426 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

GHA – SCHOOL OF HEALTH COURSES

Can Government state how many students attended courses in the School of Health in the years 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007 to date giving a breakdown by year of intake and relevant course?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

The information requested by the hon Member is contained in the schedule that is now handed to him.

Answer to Question 426 of 2008

Details of the courses and the students attending the School of Health Studies in the years 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007 are as follows:-

2004:

DipHE (Nursing) Sept 2002 intake x 12
Enrolled Nurse training June 2003 intake x 8
Enrolled Nurse Conversion Course intake May 2004 x 7
DipHE (Nursing) Sept 2004 intake x 10

2005:

DipHE (Nursing) Sept 2002 intake x 12 – complete Aug 2005
Enrolled Nurse training June 2003 intake x 8 – complete June 2005
Enrolled Nurse Conversion Course intake May 2004 x 7
DipHE(Nursing) Sept 2004 intake x 8 (2 students – AS & KG – left the course)

2006:

Enrolled Nurse Conversion Course intake May 2004 x 7 – complete May 2006
DipHE(Nursing) Sept 2004 intake x 6 (2 students – SC & TW – left the course)
DipHE(Nursing) Sept 2006 intake x 13

2007:

DipHE(Nursing) Sept 2004 intake x 6 – complete Aug 2007
DipHE(Nursing) Sept 2006 intake x 11 (2 students – LC & SR – left the course)

2008:

DipHE(Nursing) Sept 2006 intake x 11
DipHE(Nursing) Sept 2008 intake x 11

ORAL

NO. 427 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – CANCELLED OPERATIONS

Can Government list the dates between January to August 2008, on a monthly basis, in respect of which operations at St Bernard's Hospital needed to be cancelled and state the reason why in each case?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

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

Answer to Question 427 of 2008

Cancellations March 2008

Reasons for Cancellation	ENT	Gynaecology	Ophthalmology	Orthopaedics	General Surgery/Minor Ops	Oral Surgery	Pain Relief	Plastics	Total
Medical	1	2		1					3
Bed availability				2	2		1		1
Per patient	2	1			1				8
Wrongly scheduled				1					1
No longer required		1				3	6		2
No show					1				10
Consultant sick									
Out of theatre time									
No records									
No clinician									
Ref to UK									
No equipment	3	4	-	4	4	3	7		25
Total									

Cancellations April 2008

Reasons for Cancellation	ENT	Gynaecology	Ophthalmology	Orthopaedics	General Surgery/Minor Ops	Oral Surgery	Pain Relief	Plastics	Total
Medical			1	3	4		4		12
Bed availability		1	1	6	2				10
Per patient		5	4	1	2		1		13
Wrongly scheduled									
No longer required		1							1
No show			2		2	2	3		9
Consultant sick									
Out of theatre time									
No records									
No clinician									
Ref to UK									
No equipment		7	8	11	10	2	8		1
Total	-								46

Continued Answer to Question 427 of 2008

Cancellations July 2008

Reasons for Cancellation	ENT	Gynaecology	Ophthalmology	Orthopaedics	General Surgery/Minor Ops	Oral Surgery	Pain Relief	Plastics	Total
Medical	1			4	2	1	3		12
Bed availability		1		1	3				4
Per patient			1				3		4
Wrongly scheduled									
No longer required			1	1			1		3
No show			1		1		3		5
Consultant sick									
Out of theatre time	1				1				2
No records									
No clinician									
Ref to UK									
No equipment						1			
Total	2	1	3	6	7	1	10		30

Cancellations August 2008

Reasons for Cancellation	ENT	Gynaecology	Ophthalmology	Orthopaedics	General Surgery/Minor Ops	Oral Surgery	Pain Relief	Plastics	Total
Medical	1			1	1		1		4
Bed availability									
Per patient			1		1				2
Wrongly scheduled									
No longer required				1					1
No show		1	2		1		6	1	11
Consultant sick									
Out of theatre time					1				1
No records									
No clinician									
Ref to UK									
No equipment									
Total	1	1	3	2	4	-	7	1	19

Continued Answer to Question 427 of 2008

Cancellations May 2008

Reasons for Cancellation	ENT	Gynaecology	Ophthalmology	Orthopaedics	General Surgery/Minor Ops	Oral Surgery	Pain Relief	Plastics	Total
Medical			3	1		2			6
Bed availability									
Per patient		2		1	4		3		10
Wrongly scheduled							1		1
No longer required				1	5	1	1		8
No show									
Consultant sick					1				1
Out of theatre time									
No records			1						1
No clinician							7		7
Ref to UK									
No equipment		2	4	3	10	3	12		34
Total	-	2	4	3	10	3	12		34

Cancellations June 2008

Reasons for Cancellation	ENT	Gynaecology	Ophthalmology	Orthopaedics	General Surgery/Minor Ops	Oral Surgery	Pain Relief	Plastics	Total
Medical	1				2			1	7
Bed availability		1							
Per patient		1	1	1	1		1		5
Wrongly scheduled									
No longer required									
No show									
Consultant sick				1		2			3
Out of theatre time					1	7			7
No records									
No clinician									
Ref to UK								1	1
No equipment	1	2	1	4	4	9	1	2	24
Total	1	2	1	4	4	9	1	2	24

ORAL

NO. 428 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – MRSA INFECTION

Can Government state whether any cases of MRSA infection were detected at St Bernard's Hospital on a monthly basis, between March 2008 to date and whether any were fatal, providing a breakdown by patients and members of staff?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

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

Answer to Question 428 of 2008

	Mar 08	Apr 08	May 08	Jun 08	Jul 08	Aug 08	TOTAL
Patients	1	4	2	4	0	1	12
Staff	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

There was no fatality due to MRSA in this period.

NO. 429 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – CANCER OF THE CERVIX VACCINE

Can Government confirm that population immunisation in respect of the vaccine for girls that reduces the risk of cancer of the cervix has now been introduced?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

As I announced in this year's Budget speech, Government have taken on board the GHA's recommendations in this regard. Government have funded a programme for vaccination for all girls aged 12 to 17 inclusive. The programme is due, coincidentally, to commence today.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 429 OF 2008

HON N F COSTA:

Could the Minister tell us what notifications have been made to the population so that they were aware that this service is now available in the GHA?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I think that publicity has been given in the press by the health promotion team and all the schools, obviously, because this entails children of school age, have been notified. In fact, everything is in process and the first batch of vaccinations commences today.

ORAL

NO. 430 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – PERMANENT AND PENSIONABLE VACANCIES

Can the Minister for Health say how many permanent and pensionable posts in the GHA are currently vacant and which ones they are?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 431 to 433 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 431 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS EMPLOYED

What is the total number of persons employed by the Gibraltar Health Authority as on 1 September 2008, with a breakdown by post and by nationality?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 430, 432 and 433 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 432 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – PERMANENT AND PENSIONABLE POSTS

Can the Minister for Health say how many persons in permanent and pensionable posts are currently employed by the GHA with a breakdown by post and nationality?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question Nos. 430, 431 and 433 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 433 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – FIXED-TERM RENEWABLE CONTRACTS

Can the Minister for Health say how many persons on fixed-term renewable contracts are currently employed by the GHA, with a breakdown by post and by nationality?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

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

Answer to Question 433

Answer to Question 430

The following are the current vacancies within the established complement:

Grade	
Nurse Lecturer	1
Nurse Practitioner	0.5
Charge Nurses	2.5
Nurse Specialist (Adult)	1
Nurse Specialist (Paeds)	1
TSSU/CSSD Technicians	2
Enrolled Nurses	5
Nursing Assistants	1
Physiotherapist Sen II	1
Radiographers Sen I	2
Clinical Pharmacist	1
Optometrist	1
Domestics	2
Stores Assistant	1
Asst Linen Supervisor	1
Craftsman	1
Asst Catering Director	1
Blood Bank Manager	1
Senior Donor Carer	1.5
Quality Manager	1
Pathology Production Assistant	1
Window Cleaner	1
Housekeeper	1

Cont.....

Continued Answer to Question 433

Answer to Question 431

Medical Grades:

GRADE	No. of Officers	NATIONALITY
Director of Public Health 1	1	British
Consultants 27	5 3 3 2 2 1 2 1 5 1 1 1	British British/Gib Swedish Slovakian Polish Italian German French Spanish Irish South African Indian
Clinical Psychologist 2	1 1	British British/Gib
Counsellor 1	1	British
NCHD 17	2 1 1 1 1 1 4 5 1	British Dutch Indian German Canadian Irish Spanish Pakistani American
General Practitioner 17	7 3 4 1 1 1	British British/Gib Spanish Irish Indian Maltese
Associate Specialist 1	1	British/Gib
Senior Dental Officer 3	1 2	British British/Gib
Dental Officer 2	2	British/Gib
Superintendent Physiotherapist 1	1	British/Gib
Senior Physiotherapist II 4	1 3	British British/Gib
Senior Physiotherapist I 4	2 1 1	British British/Gib American
Junior Physiotherapist 1	1	British/Gib
Technical Instructor Grade II 1	1	British/Gib
Physiotherapist Helper 1	1	British/Gib
Superintendent Occupational Therapist 1	1	British/Gib
Occupational Therapist II 6	4 2	British British/Gib
Occupational Therapist I 5	4 1	British British/Gib
Technical Instructor Grade III 1	1	British/Gib
Public Analyst 1	1	British/Gib

Contd.....

Continued Answer to Question 433

Continued Answer to Question 431

Pathology Services Manager 1	1	British/Gib
SMLSO 6	1	British
	5	British/Gib
MLSO 2	2	British/Gib
JMLSO 7	6	British/Gib
	1	Russian
Head Pharmacist 1	1	British/Gib
Pharmacist 2	2	British/Gib
Ward Pharmacist 1	1	British/Gib
Radiographer Services Manager District I 1	1	British/Gib
Senior Radiographer/Mammographer 1	1	Austrian
Senior Radiographer II 2	2	British/Gib
Senior Radiographer I 4	2	British
	2	British/Gib
Radiographer Helper 1	1	British
Head Speech & Language Therapist 1	1	British/Gib
Speech & Language Therapist 3	2	British
	1	British/Gib
Emergency Medical Technician 22	6	British
	15	British/Gib
	1	Norwegian
Advanced Ambulance Care Assistant 1	1	British
Ambulance Care Assistant 8	1	British
	7	British/Gib
Specialist Dietician 1	1	British/Gib
Dietician Senior I 2	1	British
	1	British/Gib
Senior Mental Welfare Officer 1	1	British/Gib
Mental Welfare Officer 1	1	British/Gib
Health Promotion Officer 1	1	British
Orthoptist Senior I 2	2	British/Gib
Head of Optometry 1	1	British/Gib
Optometrist 1	1	British
Medical Librarian 1	1	British

Contd.....

Continued Answer to Question 433

Continued Answer to Question 431

Nursing Grades:

GRADE	No. of Officers	NATIONALITY
Director of Nursing and Patient Services 1	1	British
Deputy Director of Nursing Services 1	1	British/Gib
Deputy Director of Mental Health Services 1	1	New Zealand
Clinical Nurse Managers 7	7	British/Gib
Senior Nurse Tutor 1	1	British/Gib
Nurse Lecturer 1	1	British
Nurse Practitioner 3	3	British
Charge Nurse 34	7	British
	25	British/Gib
	1	Ireland
	1	Malaysian
Staff Nurse 119	27	British
	64	British/Gib
	26	Spanish
	1	German
	1	Polish
Registered Mental Nurse 14	14	British
Registered Sick Children's Nurse 6	6	British
Midwife 13	5	British
	7	British/Gib
	1	Spanish
Operating Department Practitioner 6	5	British
	1	Spanish
TSSU/CSSD Manager 1	1	British/Gib
TSSI/CSSD Technician 5	5	British/Gib
Senior Enrolled Nurse 5	5	British/Gib
Enrolled Nurse 80	2	British
	78	British/Gib
Auxiliary Nurse 8	8	British/Gib
Nursing Assistant 81	2	British
	79	British/Gib

Contd.....

Continued Answer to Question 433

Continued Answer to Question 431

Administrative Grades:

GRADE	No. of Officers	NATIONALITY
Chief Executive 1	1	Irish
Director of Finance/PS to the Minister 1	1	British/Gib
Deputy Chief Executive 1	1	British/Gib
Director of Human Resources 1	1	British
Deputy Director of Operations 1	1	British/Gib
Senior Executive Officer 2	2	British/Gib
Higher Executive Officer 4	4	British/Gib
Executive Officer 10	10	British/Gib
Administrative Officer 52	4	British
	48	British/Gib
GHA Clerk 25	25	British
Junior GHA Clerk 1	1	British
Laboratory Clerk 1	1	British
Deputy Director of IM&T 1	1	British
Information Systems Manager 1	1	British
Senior EHT Officer 3	1	British
	2	British/Gib
Assistant EHT Officer 1	1	British/Gib
Complaints Co-ordinator 1	1	British
Operations Device Officer 1	1	British/Gib
Senior Personal Secretary 1	1	British/Gib
Medical Secretary 4	4	British/Gib
Personal Secretary 9	1	British
	8	British/Gib
Typist 6	2	British
	4	British/Gib
Clerk/Word Processor 2	2	British/Gib
Receptionist 7	2	British
	5	British/Gib
Ward Clerk 8	8	British/Gib
PTO 2	2	British/Gib
Head Porter 1	1	British/Gib
Hospital Attendant 19	1	British
	18	British/Gib
Chief Ambulance Officer 1	1	British/Gib
Station Officer 1	1	British/Gib
Ambulance Call Talker/Dispatcher 1	1	British/Gib
Messenger/Driver 3	3	British/Gib
Catering Director 1	1	British/Gib
Assistant Catering Director 1	1	British/Gib
Stores Supervisor 2	2	British/Gib

Contd.....

Continued Answer to Question 433

Continued Answer to Question 431

Industrial Grades:

GRADE	No. of Officers	NATIONALITY
Domestic 89	11 61 12 3 1 1	British British/Gib Spanish Portuguese Moroccan Brazilian
Domestic (Supply) 20	10 8 1 1	British Spanish Portuguese Moroccan
Labourer 24	10 6 6 2	British British/Gib Spanish Moroccan
Lab Operator Med + Env 1	1	British/Gib
Stores Assistant 1	1	British/Gib
Storeman 1	1	British/Gib
Senior Cook 3	3	British/Gib
Cooks 10	1 7 1 1	British British/Gib Spanish Portuguese
Cooks (Supply) 7	1 3 2 1	British British/Gib Spanish Russian
Linen Supervisor 1	1	British/Gib
Assistant Linen Supervisor 1	1	British/Gib
Seamstress 3	3	British/Gib
Craftsman 8	8	British/Gib

Total Number of Employees – 905

Contd.....

Continued Answer to Question 433

Answer to Question 432

August 2008

GRADE & NO OF OFFICERS ON P & P TERMS		NATIONALITY
Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon - 1	1	Indian
Consultant Physician - 1	1	British
Consultant Orthodontist - 1	1	Bri-Gibraltarian
Consultant General Surgeon - 1	1	Bri-Gibraltarian
General Practitioners - 15	2	Bri-Gibraltarian
	1	Irish
	4	Spanish
	1	Malta
	7	British
Associate Specialist - 1	1	Bri-Gibraltarian
Senior Dental Officer - 2	2	Bri-Gibraltarian
Dental Officer - 1	1	Bri-Gibraltarian
Superintendent Physiotherapist - 1	1	Bri-Gibraltarian
Senior Physiotherapist I - 4	1	Bri-Gibraltarian
	1	American
	2	British
Senior Physiotherapist II - 1	1	Bri-Gibraltarian
Technical Instructor II - 1	1	Bri-Gibraltarian
Physiotherapist Helper - 1	1	Bri-Gibraltarian
Superintendent Occupational Therapist - 1	1	Bri-Gibraltarian
Occupational Therapist Sen II - 3	2	Bri-Gibraltarian
	1	British
Occupational Therapist I - 2	1	Bri-Gibraltarian
	1	British
Technical Instructor III - 1	1	Bri-Gibraltarian
Public Analyst - 1	1	Bri-Gibraltarian
Pathology Services Manager - 1	1	Bri-Gibraltarian
SMLSO - 5	5	Bri-Gibraltarian
JMLSO - 5	5	Bri-Gibraltarian
Head Pharmacist - 1	1	Bri-Gibraltarian
Pharmacist - 2	2	Bri-Gibraltarian
Ward Pharmacist - 1	1	Bri-Gibraltarian
Radiology Services Manager - 1	1	Bri-Gibraltarian
Senior Radiographer I - 3	2	Bri-Gibraltarian
	1	British
Head Speech & Language Therapist - 1	1	Bri-Gibraltarian
Speech & Language Therapist - 2	1	Bri-Gibraltarian
	1	British
Emergency Medical Technician - 22	15	Bri-Gibraltarian
	6	British
	1	Norway
Advanced Ambulance Care Assistant - 1	1	British
Ambulance Care Assistant - 8	7	Bri-Gibraltarian
	1	British
Specialist Dietitian - 1	1	Bri-Gibraltarian
Dietitian Senior I - 1	1	Bri-Gibraltarian
Senior Mental Welfare Officer - 1	1	Bri-Gibraltarian
Mental Welfare Officer - 1	1	Bri-Gibraltarian
Health Promotion Officer - 1	1	British
Orthoptist Senior I - 1	1	Bri-Gibraltarian
		Contd.....

Continued Answer to Question 433

Continued Answer to Question 432

Head of Optometry - 1	1	Bri-Gibraltarian
Medical Librarian - 1	1	British
Deputy Director of Nursing Services - 1	1	Bri-Gibraltarian
Clinical Nurse Manager - 7	7	Bri-Gibraltarian
Senior Nurse Tutor - 1	1	Bri-Gibraltarian
Charge Nurse - 31	25 4 1 1	Bri-Gibraltarian British Spanish German
Staff Nurse - 75	61 10 3 1	Bri-Gibraltarian British Spanish Poland
Registered Mental Nurse - 2	2	British
Registered Sick Childrens Nurse - 1	1	British
Staff Midwife - 4	3 1	Bri-Gibraltarian British
TSSU/CSSD Manager - 1	1	Bri-Gibraltarian
TSSU-CSSD Technician - 5	5	Bri-Gibraltarian
Senior Enrolled Nurse - 5	5	Bri-Gibraltarian
Enrolled Nurse - 78	77 1	Bri-Gibraltarian British
Auxiliary Nurse - 8	8	Bri-Gibraltarian
Nursing Assistant - 81	79 2	Bri-Gibraltarian British
Director of Finance - 1	1	Bri-Gibraltarian
Deputy Chief Executive - 1	1	Bri-Gibraltarian
Deputy Director of Operations - 1	1	Bri-Gibraltarian
SEO - 2	2	Bri-Gibraltarian
HEO - 4	4	Bri-Gibraltarian
EO - 10	10	Bri-Gibraltarian
Administration Officer - 52	48 4	Bri-Gibraltarian British
GHA Clerks - 11	11	Bri-Gibraltarian
Junior GHA Clerks - 1	1	Bri-Gibraltarian
Lab Clerk - 1	1	Bri-Gibraltarian
Deputy Director of IM & T - 1	1	Bri-Gibraltarian
Information Systems Programmer - 1	1	Bri-Gibraltarian
Senior EHT Officer - 1	1	British
Assistant EHT Officer - 1	1	Bri-Gibraltarian
Senior Personal Secretary - 1	1	Bri-Gibraltarian
Medical Secretary - 4	4	Bri-Gibraltarian
Personal Secretary - 9	9	Bri-Gibraltarian
Typist - 2	2	Bri-Gibraltarian
Clerk / Word Processor - 2	2	Bri-Gibraltarian
Receptionists - 4	4	Bri-Gibraltarian
Ward Clerks - 5	5	Bri-Gibraltarian
Professional Technical Officer - 2	2	Bri-Gibraltarian
Head Porter - 1	1	Bri-Gibraltarian
Hospital Attendant - 19	18 1	Bri-Gibraltarian British
Chief Ambulance - 1	1	Bri-Gibraltarian
		Contd.....

Continued Answer to Question 433

Continued Answer to Question 432

Station Officer - 1	1	Bri-Gibraltarian
Ambulance Call Taker - 1	1	Bri-Gibraltarian
Messenger/Driver - 3	3	Bri-Gibraltarian
Stores Supervisor - 2	2	Bri-Gibraltarian
Domestics - 89	61	Bri-Gibraltarian
	11	British
	12	Spanish
	3	Portuguese
	1	Moroccan
	1	Brazilian
Labourers - 24	16	Bri-Gibraltarian
	6	Spanish
	2	Moroccan
Lab Oper Med & Env - 1	1	Bri-Gibraltarian
Storeman - 1	1	Bri-Gibraltarian
Senior Cook - 3	3	Bri-Gibraltarian
Cooks - 10	7	Bri-Gibraltarian
	1	Moroccan
	1	British
	1	Portuguese
Linen Supervisor - 1	1	Bri-Gibraltarian
Assistant Linen Supervisor - 1	1	Bri-Gibraltarian
Seamstress - 3	3	Bri-Gibraltarian
Craftsman - 8	8	Bri-Gibraltarian

TOTAL: 686

Continued Answer to Question 433

Answer to Question 433

August 2008

GRADE & NO OF OFFICERS ON P & P TERMS		NATIONALITY
Director of Public Health - 1	1	British
General Practitioner - 2	1	Bri-Gibraltarian
	1	Indian
Consultant Anaesthetist - 6	2	Swedish
	1	French
	1	Slovakian
	1	German
	1	British
Consultant Radiologist - 2	1	Slovakian
	1	Italian
Consultant Pathologist - 1	1	Polish
Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon - 2	1	German
	1	Spanish
Consultant Paediatrician - 2	1	British – Gibraltarian
	1	South African
Consultant General Surgeon - 1	1	British
Consultant Psychiatrist - 3	3	Spanish
Consultant Physician - 3	1	Irish
	1	Polish
	1	Spanish
Consultant Ophthalmologist - 1	1	British
Consultant Gynaecologist - 2	1	Swedish
	1	British
NCHD – A&E - 5	1	Pakistani
	1	German
	1	Irish
	1	Spanish
	1	Dutch
NCHD – Medicine - 5	1	Indian
	2	Spanish
	2	Pakistani
NCHD – O&T - 2	1	British
	1	Pakistani
NCHD – Surgery - 4	1	Canadian
	1	Spanish
	1	British
	1	Pakistani
NCHD – Paeds - 1	1	American
Clinical Psychologist - 2	1	Bri-Gibraltarian
	1	British
Counsellor - 1	1	British
Senior Dental Officer - 1	1	British
Dental Officer - 1	1	Bri-Gibraltarian
Senior Physiotherapist II - 3	2	Bri-Gibraltarian
	1	British
Junior Physiotherapist - 1	1	Bri-Gibraltarian
Occupational Therapist II - 3	3	British
Occupational Therapist I - 3	3	British
		Contd.....

Continued Answer to Question 433**Continued Answer to Question 433**

SMLSO - 1	1	British
MLSO - 2	2	Bri-Gibraltarian
JMLSO - 2	1	Bri-Gibraltarian
	1	Russian
Senior Radiographer/Mammographer I - 1	1	Austrian
Senior Radiographer I - 1	1	British
Senior Radiographer II - 2	2	Bri-Gibraltarian
Radiographer Helper - 1	1	British
Speech & Language - 1	1	British
Dietitian - 1	1	British
Orthoptist Senior I - 1	1	Bri-Gibraltarian
Optometrist - 1	1	British
Director of Nursing & Patient Services - 1	1	British
Deputy Director of Mental Health Services - 1	1	New Zealand
Nurse Lecturer - 1	1	British
Nurse Practitioner - 3	3	British
Charge Nurse - 3	3	British
Staff Nurse - 44	3	Bri-Gibraltarian
	17	British
	23	Spanish
	1	Poland
Registered Mental Nurse - 12	12	British
Registered Sick Childrens Nurse - 5	5	British
Staff Midwife - 9	4	Bri-Gibraltarian
	4	British
	1	Spanish
Operating Department Practitioner - 6	5	British
	1	Spanish
Enrolled Nurse - 2	1	Bri-Gibraltarian
	1	British
Chief Executive - 1	1	Irish
Director of Human Resources - 1	1	British
GHA Clerk - 14	14	Bri-Gibraltarian
Senior EHT Officer - 2	2	Bri-Gibraltarian
Complaints Co-Ordinator - 1	1	Bri-Gibraltarian
Operations Development Officer - 1	1	British
GHA Secretary - 1	1	British
Typist - 3	1	Bri-Gibraltarian
	2	British
Supply Typist - 1	1	Bri-Gibraltarian
Receptionist - 3	1	Bri-Gibraltarian
	2	British
Ward Clerk - 3	3	Bri-Gibraltarian
Catering Director - 1	1	Bri-Gibraltarian
Supply Cook - 7	3	Bri-Gibraltarian
	1	British
	2	Spanish
	1	Russian
Domestic Supply - 20	10	Bri-Gibraltarian
	1	Portuguese
	1	Moroccan
	8	Spanish
Stores Assistant - 1	1	Bri-Gibraltarian

TOTAL: 219

ORAL

NO. 434 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – RESIDENT OR REGISTERED GIBRALTARIAN STAFF

What percentage of all GHA staff, professional and administrative, employed at St Bernard's Hospital are resident or registered Gibraltarians?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

As at the end of August 2008, 93.3 per cent of the staff employed by the GHA were resident or registered Gibraltarians.

NO. 435 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – CONDITIONS OF CLINICIANS FROM ABROAD

Can Government confirm whether clinicians from abroad are granted more favourable conditions than resident Gibraltarians, namely, a gratuity of 20% of their salary on termination of their contracts and payment of half of their rents?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Clinicians recruited from abroad are offered a gratuity equivalent to 25 per cent of their basic salary in lieu of the pension and gratuity paid to permanent and pensionable officers. They may also be offered subsidised housing accommodation. This system is a legacy from the previous administration.

NO. 436 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – STAFF ON CONTRACT

Can the Minister confirm how long clinicians and other staff who are on contract, who have been promised by management permanent and pensionable posts, have to wait to have their contracts renewed?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

As far as I am aware, management has not promised permanent and pensionable employment to any person on contract. Staff on contract required by the GHA to remain in post have their contracts renewed in a timely manner if so required.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 436 OF 2008

HON N F COSTA:

So, for how long could a person in theory go on with a renewable contract?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Indefinitely, for as long as is necessary.

HON N F COSTA:

The Minister then is not aware of any concerns and complaints that have been voiced by those members who are on renewable contracts who have expressed their wish to become pensionable, and who have been indicated that it would be but that the time it has taken for that to be reviewed is not one that they would like.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is not what they would like. The Government is the employer and the Government decide on what terms they employ people. I have no doubt that everybody on contract would like to be on permanent and pensionable terms. The Government do not just make decisions on the basis of what interested people would like.

Government employ staff with taxpayers' money on contract, because in the Government's judgement that is how the taxpayer best obtains value for money. Some of these people on contract are the sorts of people that the Opposition Members criticise us for employing, because they are not Gibraltarians. If we were to employ them on permanent and pensionable terms, as the hon Member now suggests, we would not be able to gradually replace them with local people, as and when the local people acquire the necessary skills. So, the Government are not driven by whether people would like or not like to be on permanent and pensionable terms. The Government are driven by whether a particular individual who is on contract, and this does happen across the Civil Service on a number of occasions, the Government are driven by a case by case consideration of whether the taxpayers' interests are served by a particular post holder being made permanent and pensionable. Of course, the hon Member as a lawyer presumably has not overlooked the distinction between permanent and pensionable status in the Civil Service, as against rights to indefinite renewal of contract that may accrue under a recently passed EU Directive. They are different things. One can have, by law, a right to indefinite renewal of contract. I cannot remember the law but I think the law says that after four years of contract renewals, something like that, one is entitled to be regarded as being in indefinite employment. Meaning, indefinite employment that if the employer wants to remove one, he can but then he risks an action. But even that is different to the status of a permanent and pensionable employee in the context of the Civil Service. The second part of my answer is, of course, not called for by his question but I hope he appreciates the clarification that it brings to him.

NO. 437 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – RADIOLOGIST

Can Government confirm that the post holder of the radiologist position in the GHA has resigned and if so with effect from what date, what was the reason given for the resignation and what was the remaining period of the contract?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

One of the GHA's radiologists has resigned with effect from January 2009. The reason given is that he has taken up alternative employment. The contract offered in October 2007 would have ended in October 2010.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 437 OF 2008

HON J J BOSSANO:

As I understand it, there is a provision in terms of fixed term contracts that the party that terminates the contract early is liable for 50 per cent of the unexpired period. Are the Government requiring the radiologist to pay 50 per cent of the unexpired period of the contract?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

As far as I am aware, one of the requirements for early termination of a contract by either side is the three months notice period. I actually was not aware that the requirement that the Leader of the Opposition has mentioned still exists. I will certainly find out for my own benefit because it obviously interests me to know. I assume that if it is a requirement it will be met. But I need to satisfy myself that that is the case.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I think, from my recollection, the requirement was for fixed contracts on the basis that normally fixed contracts are not terminable by notice before the expiry date. They are obviously terminable with or without notice by mutual agreement. If both sides want to see the contract ended, then normally it supersedes other clauses. But my recollection is that whereas the law provides for a period of notice which depends on

how long the person has been working with an open ended contract, in the case of a fixed contract the requirement is that termination before the due date entitles the other side to the contract to 50 per cent of the wages of the remaining period to have fulfilled the contract. But of course, that does not mean that in this case the contract did not have different conditions, they may have had. I am just referring to what I know to be the standard fixed contract conditions. I take it, therefore, that the premise in the supplementary is that, in fact, the initiative for going has come from the radiologist, that the Government would have been happy to keep him if he had not attempted to finalise.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

That is correct.

ORAL

NO. 438 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – MANAGEMENT MEETINGS

Can the Minister confirm whether the management of the GHA has regular meetings with the professional and the administrative staff of the GHA so as to allow employees to air any concerns or grievances and if so how frequently do these meetings take place?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Senior management hold meetings with staff representatives on a monthly basis. Line managers hold meetings with staff in their departments on a very regular basis and as required by either side. Staff who are aggrieved over any issue can access senior management directly after having exhausted the established avenues. That is, after having gone through the line managers.

ORAL

NO. 439 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – MAMMOGRAPHY CLINIC WAITING TIME

What steps, if any, is the GHA taking to expedite the waiting time in respect of the mammography clinic?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Answered together with Question No. 440 of 2008.

NO. 440 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – MAMMOGRAPHY SCREENING SERVICE

Can Government say whether the GHA is now in a position to introduce a structured routine mammography screening service, and if not, what steps the GHA has taken, if any, towards establishing this system?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

As explained on numerous occasions in this House, both by myself and by my predecessor, the GHA currently offers a one-stop clinic for patients who are symptomatic. Symptomatic referrals are dealt with as a matter of urgency within five working days. This includes an appointment with the consultant surgeon, radiology and pathology diagnostic services. The GHA, however, does currently offer a reduced screening programme service, workload permitting, and I have mentioned that before in the past.

Plans to introduce a structured routine mammography service are quite advanced. To date one extra mammographer and one extra radiologist have already been recruited. The latter is scheduled to commence in January 2009. Interviews for a breast care nurse have already taken place and an appointment to the post is imminent. The GHA is currently undergoing the selection process for the necessary equipment. Once all the equipment and personnel are in place, a commencement date will be determined.

NO. 441 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – OXYGEN TREATMENT UNIT

Can the Government say whether they have now completed the review of policy funding and an assessment of the capability of the oxygen treatment unit in Devil's Tower Road and if so on what date and with what result?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

The review of the funding policy is on-going with further research into the effectiveness of oxygen therapy being conducted. The outcome of the assessment is still in the process of dialogue with the operator of the unit.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 441 OF 2008

HON J J BOSSANO:

Given the fact that this facility, or similar facilities to this one, have been in use for a very long time in the United Kingdom and in the Isle of Man and other places, what is it that requires such lengthy research to establish the effect they have, when people have been treated in these places for years?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

It is not as simple as that, as has obviously been explained to the Leader of the Opposition by the operator of the facility, which I assume is the only feedback that he has had on the matter, from the operator of the current facility. The GHA already has a policy on funding hyperbaric oxygen treatment. The policy that it has is that it would fund treatment for people referred for therapy using oxygen above 2.5 atmospheres for certain conditions. Now such patients are referred by the GHA to appropriate centres outside Gibraltar, because the centre in Gibraltar operates under, I think, 2 bars if I am not mistaken. So, I take this opportunity to say that the Leader of the Opposition's recent statements in the press, that there are many people in Gibraltar suffering overdue pain and suffering in Gibraltar because of the GHA's policy, is actually nonsense with all due respect. People are referred to appropriate centres elsewhere. If the Leader of the Opposition would like, I would like to explain to him where the process of dialogue with the operator of the centre has reached. In order to understand the process and his original question, which is a simplistic one,

which is why cannot we just refer people to this centre, I need to explain the background, if he so wishes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The question the Minister has quoted to me is a simplistic question but it is not the question that I put to her. The question that I put to her is, if people have for 20 years in the United Kingdom been using a centre with under 2 bars, what is the research that she needs to do which is so lengthy and complex to find out the effectiveness or otherwise of something. This is not a newly invented device which is being pioneered here. It is something that has been in existence for a very long time. My difficulty in understanding her original reply is that there is still on-going research into this treatment. I mean, the fact that the Health Authority has decided to fund treatment with a centre that provides over two and a half atmospheres, in terms of pressure, does not explain why they will not do it if it is less than two. If the answer is because they want to find out what is the effect of people using one less than two, then the answer is look, there are places where it has been done for the last 20 years, they can tell what the effect is, one does not have to do new research. I put it to her because if something is long established, what is the problem in the under two? Why does it have to be two and a half?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

If the Leader of the Opposition will allow me to read the lengthy statement that I have taken the trouble of providing, in order to explain what he has just asked, I will do so.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well then, if she already has got a statement which she somehow foresaw my question then that is fine.

MR SPEAKER:

She was doing that, I think.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I think I was, before I was interrupted. As I was saying, the GHA will not fund treatment for the use of hyperbaric oxygen treatment below 2.5 atmospheres, as there is no evidence to support its use. Mr Pratts, the operator of the centre that the Leader of the Opposition is referring to, has provided evidence of hyperbaric oxygen below 2.5 atmospheres being prescribed for a number of conditions, including multiple sclerosis, cancer, sports injuries and a few others, but there is no evidence, however, and he cannot produce the evidence which suggests that the NHS in the UK funds treatment for these conditions. That is the policy that we have in the GHA. It is not that they are not undertaken in the UK, they are undertaken privately but not sponsored by the GHA.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So really then, it is not because it is two and not two and a half and they prefer two and a half. It is because you are saying that in the UK the NHS does not, in fact, finance the treatment in these centres.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, but for a reason that he is leaving out of that summary.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Which is what?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Because the conditions for which treatment is delivered above two and a half, there is evidence that it is useful and beneficial to the patients. For the sort of conditions for which the treatment is delivered under two or two and a half, there is no evidence that the treatment is of any benefit to the patient and that is the criteria that the UK NHS uses in deciding whether to fund treatment or not. There is an organisation or committee, NICE I think it is called, or whatever, and they have as a criteria that the National Health will fund treatment for which there is evidence that it is value for money, in the sense that it is capable of being beneficial to the patient. That is why they are financed in the UK above two and a half and not below two and a half. It is a combination of usefulness and the conditions for which it is supposedly useful, and Gibraltar follows, and apparently always has, although it is not obligatory for us to follow, in terms of when medical treatment should be available at taxpayers' expense by the GHA, because we have not got our own intellectual resource for deciding whether a treatment is or is not useful to the patient. We follow the UK lead on that and, therefore, we only provide treatment free where the UK has decided it is medically useful to the patient. Of course, then we go further than the UK, because there are instances of which he will have read many in the press of late, whereby the UK even drugs that are useful, they do not provide if it is too expensive.

HON F R PICARDO:

Depending on the Trust.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, and we do not do that. In other words, if it is useful we do not follow the UK practice about whether it is value for money in the sense of being too expensive. If there is a medicine available and it is useful for the patient, it is provided regardless of cost.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Then the answer is that if there is evidence that it is, in some area of the United Kingdom, funded by some area of the NHS, then it will be done here. Even if that is not the case, if there is evidence that it is useful and, presumably, if it was not useful it would not have survived 20 years, so it must be useful to somebody somewhere if they keep on using it, presumably there is no fundamental problem in meeting the support for the treatment if those concerns can be overcome. Is that the case?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, some of the concerns that he has just described. He has masterfully reduced the bar to its lowest possible level and then invited us to jump over it. I do not know whether the UK authorities make these decisions about usefulness, whether they make them on a national basis or whether each individual National Healthcare Trust makes these decisions. If it were the latter, in other words, each National Healthcare Trust makes the decision, and some decided that there was evidence of medical usefulness and others decided that there was not, it would be up to the GHA to decide in which of the two camps it wanted to place itself. If on the other hand the UK, contrary to my understanding I just do not know what the answer is, makes these decisions nationally, then it is the UK national decision that we would follow. Can I just say to the hon Member one more thing? In one of his earlier supplementaries he asked the hon Lady Minister what research is there for her to do. Well, the answer is that these are not research or decisions made by the Minister. The Government are advised, these are decisions for GHA management, these are not political decisions, there is no political impediment to this being done. It is not as if the Government are saying they will not provide funds for it. These are decisions that come up from the medical management of the GHA, whether or not they go to the Board of the GHA for ratification I do not know, but this is not an issue sitting on the Minister's desk for her to research and her to make a decision on. I just wanted to make that clear.

NO. 442 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – PARKING AT EUROPLAZA

Can the Minister for Health say when hospital users will be able to park at Europlaza?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

The position remains as set out in answer to Question No. 207 of 2008. The Government expect the new arrangements to become operational before Christmas.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 442 OF 2008

HON N F COSTA:

May I assume from that answer then that the company now has been appropriately staffed and that everything is in place for the car park to become operational and useful for members of the public?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, as we speak he cannot deduce that from the answer the Minister has given him, because specifically in respect of this car park, we have not yet made a final decision about what regime is going to apply for its use by hospital patients, will it be available to staff, will it not be available to staff, will it be available to visitors, on what terms, how will they demonstrate they are visitors? Will it be free, will it not be free? What system can we have in place that will ensure that the car park will not fill up with people who are not genuine visitors to the hospital, so that when the genuine visitors to the hospital come it is full? These are all issues about which Opposition Members have asked us questions over quite a long period of time, but which actually we have not yet made a decision on. But the decision will be made by the time that the Minister has indicated it is intended for it to become operational.

ORAL

NO. 443 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – COMPLAINTS

Can the Minister for Health give this Parliament the number of informal and formal complaints lodged since April of this year to date on a monthly basis?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

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

Answer to Question 443 of 2008

The number of informal and formal complaints lodged during the period April to August 2008 is as follows:-

	Formal	Informal
April 2008	2	13
May 2008	9	8
June 2008	4	3
July 2008	8	3
August 2008	6	7

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 443 OF 2008

HON N F COSTA:

Could the Minister explain the steps and how patients and other members of the public are made aware of the complaints procedure that they can use?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I think and I am confident that the steps that need to be taken are known to the general public. At one point or another all of us have needed to use the different facilities, the Primary Care Centre, St Bernard's Hospital, there are signs displayed all over the place that there is a person to approach who is a complaints coordinator if anybody has cause for complaint. In fact, it is well used, it is running well and I do not think there is much more need to publicise the fact that there is, I think everybody is aware of it. Just because there are so few complaints does not mean that people are not aware of it.

HON N F COSTA:

But the opposite could also be true.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, presumably.

HON C A BRUZON:

Mr Speaker, could I make a small request? I have done this before, I think it would be helpful to the other Elected Members and also to people listening over the radio, it is not necessary to maybe analyse all the details but could the Minister just tell us, please, the total of complaints, just the totals please?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Can the hon Members not add up the figures, with all due respect?

HON C A BRUZON:

I do not have a copy.

HON F R PICARDO:

With respect to the Minister, it is not a question of descending again into an exchange about which side should go back to school, which I agree with the Chief Minister was not in any way edifying, but the fact that people who are listening in to these proceedings do not have the figures available. Therefore, it is for that reason I

think that my hon Colleague was suggesting that the numbers should be read out. Not because the Opposition is more or less proficient at mathematics than the Government may be.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, a good attempt to rescue his colleague, but the reason why the listeners have not heard the answer of the totals is not because the Minister has not given it, it is because the question did not seek it. The hon Members have asked the question and have asked for the information only on a monthly basis. Therefore, the answer has been given on a monthly basis. The question does not require the total over the whole period. So the hon Members should formulate their questions in that way. Of course, even if they had formulated it in that way, it would still not have been heard over the airwaves because it would have been delivered in a schedule. But at least the information would be available on the paper for somebody to stand up, the Minister or even the hon Member in formulating a supplementary, would have the total there to read. The total is not there because the question did not ask for the total. It asked only for the information on a monthly basis.

HON C A BRUZON:

I am putting in a request by way of a supplementary. Would the Minister please give us the totals?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, the Minister cannot give him the total because it requires the lady to now add up the figures and that is not her job in this House.

HON F R PICARDO:

Would the hon Lady agree that the total number of formal complaints filed between April to August 2008 was 29, and that the total number of informal complaints filed between April to August 2008 is 34 and then listeners will have the benefit of us cross-checking each other's addition?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, the hon Lady nor I for that matter, can confirm that because we have not done the totals. But because I have confidence in the hon Member's ability to add up six or five figures I am, subject to checking, perfectly willing to accept that it is much more likely that the figure that he has quoted is correct than that it is incorrect.

HON F R PICARDO:

Does this not actually raise an issue for all of us in this Parliament wherever we are, that we need to make our proceedings more intelligible to the general public, and although it is in both our interests to get through these questions quickly, and sometimes when there is statistical data it is best passing them in the form of a

schedule, we perhaps jointly need to think together about a way of making this information easily accessible to those members of the public who may need or may wish access to it?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, I do not agree with the specificity of this question although I do agree with the generality. In the United Kingdom it would not occur to a Member of Parliament to ask for oral answer questions that require the volume of statistics that are requested for oral answer in this House. In the United Kingdom such information would be requested for written answer and I am delighted to note that some of the Opposition Members have recently taken the advice that their colleague the Hon Mr Picardo is now proffering to the whole House, and have started requesting some of this information in written form, in written answer. That is the case, there is no system, so for so long as the hon Members continue to ask for voluminous statistical information by oral question for oral answer, there is no way of making this procedure more intelligible. Not just, let me say, for the good citizens of Gibraltar who may be listening on the radio, but indeed for the other Members of the House as well. Even for the questioner, it is impossible for him or her to digest the information given in a schedule. Now, it may be that this is an area that should be reformed but it cannot be reformed to make it more intelligible in its present form. It can only be reformed, if the House agrees, when we sit to discuss general reforms by agreeing that statistical information should be sought for written answer and not for oral answer. So, I agree with the general sentiment in the hon Member's question that many of the procedures of this House need to be reformed and modernised. But I do not agree with the hon Member that this particular process that we are engaged on, in other words, the giving of detailed statistics orally in response to oral questions, is capable of being reformed in a way that would be particularly more useful to people listening on the radio.

HON F R PICARDO:

I think that there are a number of differences between this House and the House in Westminster. Not least of them that in Westminster the Prime Minister would not be around to intervene in supplementaries like health questions. It is a good thing that there are very many differences between this House and the other House, because this House sometimes works, in my view, much more efficiently than the other House does. I think that there are some ways in which we can make even this process, which the hon Gentleman seems to not enjoy of providing the statistical information, much more accessible to listeners, although perhaps not orally, and that may have to do with how we make our Hansards available to the general public. For example, if we were to have a simultaneous Hansard, and I am not suggesting that we should but perhaps something that we might want to look into, then those who might be listening to the proceedings might be able to access that Hansard on line and see what it is exactly that we are arguing over. But the hon Gentleman is right, even individuals sitting in this House let alone people listening, do not have access to the statistics. This is the point that, I think, my hon Colleague was making. Cannot we at least have a process whereby all Members of the Opposition, in the same way as I think all Members of the Government, who are answering the question, have access to the statistics being discussed? That would essentially mean making

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

There is another question on the Order Paper to that effect and, therefore, it is not an appropriate supplementary.

HON F R PICARDO:

I was not aware of that, but in any event, if not dealing with individuals on the Opposition Benches, certainly considering making our proceedings more accessible I do not think is something that needs to go into whether or not the questions are being asked in the same way as Westminster or not. So, could the Chief Minister give consideration to that?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Chief Minister will not give consideration to isolated reforms of our procedure. The Chief Minister agrees with the hon Member opposite that almost the totality of the proceedings in this House need to be reformed and modernised. It is not productive now in isolation to pre-empt that process by dealing with just one dimension of the holistic reform that is required. I hope that the hon Members will bring that constructive attitude to that Select Committee of the House, when we convene it, which I have indicated earlier will be before the end of this year. But can I correct him when he says that I obviously do not enjoy providing statistical information. It is self-evident that I and my Government do enjoy providing information because we are responsible for initiating the practices that have resulted in the amount of information in the public domain, multiplying by several factors-fold since that was the case when we came into office in 1996. The amount of information that this Government spontaneously on the one hand, or agrees to provide on request by the hon Members, which was not the case before 1996, is huge. I am not criticising them for doing it or not doing it, what I am saying is that the evidence of this Government's attitudes and practices towards providing information publicly, does not sustain the hon Member's aside quip that I do not enjoy providing information. I enjoy it thoroughly.

HON F R PICARDO:

In that case, it must be that everybody who heard him in his earlier answer must have misunderstood him, such as I did.

MR SPEAKER:

I think we have rather departed from the original question. If I may venture an opinion, I think the point which the Hon Chief Minister took as to the interpretation of the question is a perfectly valid one, based on what the question was. But I also do take the view that the supplementary put by the Hon Mr Bruzon was a perfectly valid supplementary, based and arising from the question and the answers. The response given by the Minister is, in her own words, capable of answering the question, she could equally have added up the numbers herself. Anyway, next question.

ORAL

NO. 444 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – STAND AID HOIST

Can the Government say when the Government will provide a stand aid hoist for Captain Murchison Ward, which, according to the team objectives set out in the ward itself, has been requested from the annual estimates for the past 2 years?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

The Government provide the GHA with an annual budget for equipment. The Government do not choose the equipment upon which the GHA chooses to spend its budget. Those choices are made by the GHA management.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 444 OF 2008

HON F R PICARDO:

Are the Government then surprised to have been, at least to see alluded to in this question, the fact that there is a ward that has on its public information board, which is seen by everybody who visits the ward, this request for a stand aid hoist, and that members of staff of that ward are repeatedly complaining about the fact that the absence of the stand aid hoist causes a problem for them when lifting particularly heavy patients, something which is recognised as being one of the sources of injuries for nurses throughout the world, not just here.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Government are surprised only to the extent that it seems a pretty inappropriate way for members of staff to behave. Look, neither the Government nor the management of the GHA, I suspect, make spending decisions on the basis of notice boards and notices pinned on the notice boards by their employees. That is not the system that exists anywhere for public procurement. There is a system within the GHA, a bottoms up system I understand, whereby suggestions and/or requests by staff for the procurement of equipment filters up to the decision making level in management. Now, as in all areas of public spending, there is a finite amount of money available each year. Therefore, somebody, the GHA management in this

case, has to prioritise how to spend that money. Of course, in making that prioritisation, equipment that somebody has decided or thinks should be purchased will not have been purchased. That is intrinsic to the system. So the only aspect of the matter that I find surprising is that the GHA management should tolerate that its employees should publish their request for funding on the notice board of the hospital. That is the only thing that I find surprising. I can say that I certainly would not tolerate it in my building, but of course, the GHA management are so much more enlightened than I am and this is a matter for them. The Government are certainly not going to interfere but that is the only aspect of it that I find surprising.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can the Government confirm whether in fact a request for a hoist for Captain Murchison Ward has been made for inclusion in the Annual Estimates in the last two years?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The request would not be made to the Government. The hon Member could ask and the hon Lady may know, whether it has been suggested to management of the GHA that this is an item of equipment that should be purchased. My understanding, from something that the Hon Lady has just whispered to me after I got to my feet, is yes, that there has been a suggestion or a request, or whatever is the internal procedure, has generated a request for this piece of equipment, yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

But is it not a fact that when the budget is approved and we debated one this year, where in fact there was practically a zero increase, which the Chief Minister told me was not realistic in terms of expecting it to be fulfilled, in the budget for the Health Authority for this current year compared to last year, is it not the case that at the time that the budget is being put together, the Minister or the Board of the GHA, if this is not done as it would be done with departmental expenditure, gets lists of things some of which the Government is persuaded should be included in one year, some of which the Government is persuaded should not be included or left for another year? My question is, has this particular request reached that level or is it that it never got as far as being put in the Estimates because the management had discarded the possibility at an earlier stage?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

As the answer to the original question makes clear, the system is not that which the hon Member has just described in his supplementary. No, the Government centrally provide an amount of money, which the Government expect the GHA to live within, so the zero increase was in relation to the whole budget. The conversation that we had about whether zero increase was realistic was really a conversation about the recurrent..... The amount provided for capital expenditure for equipment, they are certainly expected to live within. Of course, there are things that they would like to buy. If the hon Member remembers, in all Government departments there are always things that they would like to buy and they have got to prioritise. I do not know whether they make those decisions by reference to areas of the health service that

they want to develop, or whether by reference to equipment needed by the largest number of patients. That is the system and by the time it reaches the decision maker, which is in terms of the executive the Minister for Finance, the Minister for Finance decides how much money is available to the GHA for capital expenditure. But I certainly do not see, nor does the bid reflect a list of items of equipment that I would not be able to distinguish, still less understand the respective needs and urgencies for.

HON J J BOSSANO:

But in arriving at the figure that is put to the Government for funding, presumably the Board of the GHA has done that exercise, which would be done in a department and used to be done when the Health Authority did not exist and it was the Medical Department. My question is, is it the case that at that stage a bid has been made for a hoist for Captain Murchison Ward and it has been rejected in two successive budgets? That is my question.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Ministers are not involved in that process. Obviously, the management of GHA has not prioritised, hitherto, the purchase of that equipment. It is therefore implicit in that, that they have considered it and decided that there are other items of expenditure to which they attach a higher priority. So if they have prioritised it out, implicit in that is that they have decided in the sum of money which they have available this year, there are other things that they are more interested in acquiring this year than whatever it said on the notice board they should buy or whatever. I cannot remember what the bit of equipment was. A hoist. Which is not to say that it will not be acquired in a future year. Prioritisation is both as to whether one buys it at all or whether one buys it this year or next or in two years time. So it could be prioritised as to timing, it does not necessarily mean that it has been decided whether it should be purchased or not.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I appreciate that, that is why I asked whether in fact it was the case that it had come up to the point of being included in the budget and then perhaps decided that it could wait another year before it happened. From what the Chief Minister is saying, it appears that in the case of the Health Authority the Health Authority Board does not look at the composition of the expenditure before it is submitted to the Government for funding. That is all done by the management, is that the case? Or are they given alternatives?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

What is submitted to the Government for funding is not, well I do not know whether it gets to quite a junior level in the Treasury Department with the list of equipment. But certainly, by the time it gets to me, there is no list of equipment.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I appreciate that but because the Chief Minister chooses to answer every question does not mean that I am directing all of them at him. I keep on saying “does the Minister” and he is saying he does not get it. I accept he does not get it, I am sure that if he got it he would have told me, and if he would have removed it he would have had no inhibitions about owning up.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

None.

HON J J BOSSANO:

None, I know that and he does not need to confirm it. But my question is, is it or is it not the case that when the management get bids from different wards and different sections for things that are needed, and they decide what should be put in and what should be put out, that is the final figure or does the Board of the Health Authority, which the Minister chairs, have any say in this? Do they get given alternative options or choices? One can either put the hoist in and leave this out or can leave the hoist out and put something else in. Is that something that the Board has any say in or not?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

In the limited time that I have been in the post, I am not aware of the Board being involved in prioritising what items of equipment is needed at the GHA. What I can say, because I have enquired after the event, after I saw the question on the Order Paper, although I must stress that I am not involved in the process, is that the hoist, I have been told, has been prioritised for this financial year and will be purchased.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Oh well, that is good news.

HON F R PICARDO:

We will have achieved something.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, you have not achieved anything.

NO. 445 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – PRESCRIPTION OF MEDICINES

Can the Minister describe the mechanism by which the GHA decides which medicines, prescribed by doctors to patients under the Medical Group Practice Scheme, are no longer ordered for prescriptions under the Scheme?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

The medicines that can be prescribed and dispensed to patients under the GPMS are those included in the Gibraltar National Formulary (GNF) and, therefore, Gibraltar Drug Tariff. Basically, the GNF includes all medicines in the current British National Formulary (BNF) that have a monograph and are allowed under the NHS. If a medicine ceases to be manufactured, loses its product licence or is no longer allowed under the NHS, it will be deleted from the GNF and consequently the GDT.

ORAL

NO. 446 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DEVELOPMENT APPEALS TRIBUNAL

Can Government say how often and on what dates the Development Appeals Tribunal has met this year since this question was asked at the last Question Time in this Parliament?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

None.

ORAL

NO. 447 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GHA – PENSIONERS REGISTERED WITH THE GPMS

Can Government state how many pensioners are currently registered with the GPMS and whether there are any non-resident pensioners so registered included in the number?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

There were 5,103 pensioners registered with the Group Practice Medical Scheme as at 12 September 2008. There are no non-resident pensioners included in the figure.

NO. 448 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GHA – SPONSORED PATIENTS

Can Government confirm that there is a policy in place to require sponsored patients to reimburse the GHA for cancelled flights when their appointments with UK medical facilities are cancelled at the UK end or for some other substantial reason and if so how long has this policy been in place and how many patients have been required to meet the cost of the cancelled flights?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

There is no such policy in place.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 448 OF 2008

HON J J BOSSANO:

So if some patient has been told this then it is a hiccup in the system and, therefore, in the light of the person concerned hearing the Minister's answers they would be entitled to go back to the administration and raise the matter again, I take it?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Well, if the person that he is aware of has been affected by the reasons that he has just described in his question, certainly, as I say, there is no such policy to ask people to reimburse cancelled flights and he should certainly go back and enquire if it is the case that it happened to him or to her.

HON G H LICUDI:

Is it the case where somebody is booked for an appointment, say for two days time, and that appointment is cancelled and therefore the flight is cancelled, presumably the flight has been booked by the GHA and from what the Minister is confirming it seems to be the case that GHA will meet the cost of that cancelled flight, if the appointment is then rebooked a couple of days or a week later, is there any restriction on the amount of time that has to elapse between one flight being paid for by the GHA and another flight being paid for by the GHA?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I believe that if it is cancellations by the GHA within a short period of time, because there has been a need for one reason or another to cancel the flights, the flights are certainly paid for by the GHA. I know that there is a policy when sponsored patients go over to the UK, that they have to stay for a certain period of time and if they wish to come back out of wish more than anything else rather than out of necessity, then it has to be paid by the sponsored patient. But I think that is a different situation or scenario.

NO. 449 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GHA – ALZHEIMERS

Can Government state whether there is information available as to the number of persons who currently suffer from Alzheimers and if so how many of them are over pensionable age giving, if possible, the breakdown by gender?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTON

No, while there are no statistics available, a one per cent prevalence in the population would yield an estimate of 300 persons in varying stages of Alzheimers disease. The one per cent prevalence is based on research by the Alzheimers Society in the UK and applies to the world population.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 449 OF 2008

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is it possible to produce a more accurate statement from the people seen by the Health Service that are suffering from this, in order to get some idea of the magnitude of the problem and given that there are many people who believe that this is an area where with an ageing population the incidence increases? Does the Minister think it is possible to find some way of trying to get a more accurate estimate than simply by applying this one per cent from the UK?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I suppose it would be possible to obtain some statistics of the patients that are seen by the GHA. It is obviously not possible to know the incidence of Alzheimers in Gibraltar because there are cases which have not been identified, who have not gone to the doctors or maybe who live with their families and do not even know that they have the disease. But it would certainly be possible and I will enquire to see whether there is a possibility to obtain, at least, the figures of the patients that are seen within the GHA.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am grateful for that.

ORAL

NO. 450 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

YOUTH SERVICE – AUDIT REPORT

Can Government confirm that an audit report has been conducted by youth experts to look at some or all aspects of the Youth Service and that it is now complete?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question No. 451 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 451 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

YOUTH SERVICE – AUDIT REPORT

Can Government state if an audit report to look into the Youth Service has been conducted whether a copy of the report will be made available to the public and/or to the Opposition?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Following my Budget speech of this financial year, the UK review team have commenced with the said review. This is envisaged to end by the end of the financial year. The Government will decide what use to make of the report, including whether or not to publish it, after the report has been considered by the Government.

NO. 452 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Can the Government explain the existing mechanism by which different Government departments, agencies and/or authorities liaise in order to discuss and expedite the business of persons with disabilities?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

The manner upon which Government departments, agencies and authorities will liaise varies depending on the particular circumstances of the disability of the person involved. The process conducted can be flexible to be applied in several ways. Sometimes it can be in the form of a care planning programme involving multi-disciplinary meetings or case conferences. It could also be by regular liaison with other professionals and Government departments, inclusive of the Gibraltar Health Authority, Social Security Department, Housing, Department of Education and Training, et cetera. In addition, both my colleague the Minister for Health, the Hon Yvette Del Agua and myself apply an open door policy, which allows members of the public to make appointments with us. This allows for greater coordination for the benefit of members of the public.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 452 OF 2008

HON N F COSTA:

But at the moment then, if I understood the answer correctly, a person with disability requires to seek information or requires assistance of the Gibraltar Health Authority and the Social Services Agency and any other department, will need to write directly to the different departments or authorities. There is not like a permanent joint committee of those departments that could deal with the enquiry of any one person but which requires the guidance or the input from different Government departments or authorities.

HON J J NETTO:

It would obviously depend on the disability of the person, but xxxxxxxx with professionals themselves in different Government departments, authorities and agencies in which they will sit down to determine the disability and whether there is

connection and liaison that requires to be done, which is not often the case between different Government departments, and that is what they practise.

HON G H LICUDI:

The aim of the question is to see whether there is a centralised policy and an arrangement and a mechanism whereby somebody has access to somebody or some units. If, for example, a person with a disability has a housing problem that person will be directed to the Housing Department. If that person has a problem with access to the beach, that person will be directed to the tourism or leisure or whichever the relevant department is. The point is, is there not merit in the Government considering one centralised unit dealing generally with persons with disability, so that then that person can be accessed and coordinate all the different departments so that the right advice and the right assistance is given to such persons?

HON J J NETTO:

I think what needs to be taken into account is that if there is a person with a disability on one particular issue alone, well obviously as the hon Member has just implied, he will go to that particular department, authority or agency. But whenever there is a person with a disability which encompasses a problem which is shared among different Government departments, authorities and agencies, although we have not got a constituted department that looks into that, automatically once a person with a disability has informed the first department, authority or agency of the various nature which encompasses various Government departments, authorities or agencies, that particular person will then go and actually, depending on the circumstances, prepare a care planning programme involving multi-disciplinary meetings or case conferences, which will encompass all the people that we are talking about.

NO. 453 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – COST OF PLUMBING WORKS AT ST BERNARD’S HOSPITAL

Can Government set out the total costs incurred from January 2008 to date and the estimated total expenditure, showing a breakdown, in respect of the plumbing works in St Bernard’s Hospital?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Costs incurred by the contractor for the period 1st January 2008 to date, is £300,413. The works are being carried out by the contractor as part of the defects period. The contractor has advised that the total expenditure will amount to approximately, it is rather accurate for being an approximation the figures given to me but I will quote it anyway, £625,303.06.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 453 OF 2008

HON N F COSTA:

The total, that is the balance between the figure just quoted and the total forecast, would that also be covered in the defects period?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Yes.

HON N F COSTA:

I am grateful.

ORAL

NO. 454 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY – DR GIRALDI HOME

Can Government confirm that the Social Services Agency investigated a complaint made by a mother of a child in the care of Dr Giraldi Home who had been made to stand facing the wall with quite heavy books in both his arms because it was claimed that the child had misbehaved and that senior member of staff had confirmed that this was a suitable form of punishment?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 455 to 462 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 455 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY – DR GIRALDI HOME

Can Government confirm that there was a “punishment room” at Dr Giraldi Home which was set up and actively used by some of the agency staff and state how long it was in use and when it was closed down?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 454 and 456 to 462 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 456 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY – DR GIRALDI HOME

Can Government confirm that between 2000 and 2002 when the Social Services Agency was run by Milbury Services, the Deputy Manager of the Home, whilst drunk attempted to administer excessive doses of Ritalin (Class A drug) to a child because, “he was so drunk he couldn’t read the drug sheet”, and what action did the Agency take over the incident?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 454, 455 and 457 to 462 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 457 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY – DR GIRALDI HOME

Can Government confirm that between 2000 to 2002 when the Social Services Agency was run by Milbury Services, a carer was high on drugs/alcohol and attacked service users and state what action the Agency took over the incident?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 454 to 456 and 458 to 462 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 458 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY – DR GIRALDI HOME

Can Government confirm that in 2005, the Social Services Agency refused to provide details to the sister of a service user of statements given to the Police in which it had been alleged that this particular service user had been mentally and sexually abused?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 454 to 457 and 459 to 462 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 459 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY – DR GIRALDI HOME

Can Government confirm that in 2005, when a complaint made by a service user of the Dr Giraldi Home led to the Police being called, the Agency in addition conducted its own investigation of the matter?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 454 to 458 and 460 to 462 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 460 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY – DR GIRALDI HOME

Can Government confirm that in 2005, a carer of the Social Services Agency told the CEO of the Agency and the Minister that “the Dr Giraldi Home was a time bomb”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 454 to 459, 461 and 462 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 461 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY – DR GIRALDI HOME

Can Government confirm that the Social Services Agency investigated a complaint by a carer to senior management staff of the Agency that she was being threatened at work because she had reported incidents of missing drugs and other abuses?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 454 to 460 and 462 of 2008.

NO. 462 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY – DR GIRALDI HOME

Can Government confirm that the Social Services Agency has investigated the incident in which a bottle of diazepam is said to have disappeared from a locked medicine cabinet at the Dr Giraldi Home in 2005?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

The Government can confirm that a complaint such as described in Question No.454 was indeed investigated in 2002 and this resulted in a member of staff being warned and reprimanded.

There is no and there has never been any “punishment room” at Dr Giraldi Home.

Government can confirm that an investigation did take place in relation to an incident similar in nature to that described in Question No. 456. This resulted in the dismissal of a member of staff.

The Government is advised that no incident took place between 2000 to 2002 in which service users were attacked, as asked in Question No. 457.

The Government can give the confirmations requested in Question Nos. 458 and 459, which relate to the same case.

The Government can confirm that in 2005, an aggrieved supply worker whose supply contract at Dr Giraldi Home had been terminated due to inappropriate behaviour, said to the then Minister that Dr Giraldi Home was a time bomb. When asked by the Minister to explain that statement of opinion, the person in question was unable to substantiate it, limiting her explanation to an alleged difference in culture between Gibraltar and English carers.

The information provided in Question No. 461 is insufficient to enable it to be answered. I would need to know by whom, to whom and when was the complaint made. However, as a rule, all complaints are investigated.

There was indeed an investigation such as is described in Question No. 462. It transpired that there was, in fact, no missing bottle.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 454 TO 462 OF 2008

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can the Minister say whether the references in the questions of incidents were brought to the attention of the Board or of the senior management at the time that they had them, or is it something that has come to their attention subsequently and been investigated subsequently?

HON J J NETTO:

I am not quite sure that I understood the hon Member correctly. Which case is the Leader of the Opposition referring to?

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well, I am asking a supplementary in relation to all of these incidents, which reflect things that happened at different points in time. I am saying, were the incidents brought to the attention of the senior management or the Board at the time that they happened, and were they investigated at the time that they happened?

HON J J NETTO:

The information available to me is that the incidents in question were brought to the attention of the senior management, at the time.

HON J J BOSSANO:

And that on each occasion.....

HON J J NETTO:

I am sorry and I should have said investigated.

HON J J BOSSANO:

And investigated on this occasion? There are records of this that were submitted to the Board of the Authority or not? Presumably, some of these things would be quite worrying if they proved to be accurate, would they not?

HON J J NETTO:

Well, I am informed that at the time of some of the incidents, the Board was not yet established. So that actually answers part of his question. The other part of his question is that I am not in a position to know whether all of the incidents, even when the Board was established, were referred to the Board. All I am saying is that some of them occurred even before the Board actually was established.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I see, you mean before the Social Services Agency existed, is that it?

HON J J NETTO:

Sorry, xxxxxx the Social Services Agency existed.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Right. In terms of the investigations that took place with different incidents, does he know at what level that investigation was conducted? That is to say, was it that the Chief Executive was the one that carried out the investigations in all the cases, or?

HON J J NETTO:

I do not know the answer.

HON J J BOSSANO:

But the Minister can confirm that it is something that is recorded as having been investigated and that the results have been kept and they are there? Or does he not know either?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, he does not know that either. Clearly the information is available, at least to the person who has prepared these answers, either from memory, which I doubt, or from some record that exists. But these are very specific questions, at first we almost took the view that they were too specific to be expected to be answered by Ministers who are not responsible, on a day to day basis, for these management issues. But then because it was an issue of some public interest, we said, well let us bring to the House the answers that are given to us by management. That is what we have done, but we cannot know what the state of the record is that underpins this information. But the information must exist somewhere in some form because these answers have not been drafted by the Minister. They were drafted by the management and, therefore, they must have the information.

HON J J BOSSANO:

But for example, if the House is told that there has never been a punishment room and, presumably, it is possible to demonstrate that there were people who were prepared to say under oath that a punishment room existed, and be willing, according to the information he has provided, to commit perjury, this is just the department being asked was there ever a punishment room and whoever was there has said no. That is the basis of the answer, am I correct in that?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The answer to the question asked which was, can Government confirm that there was a punishment room at Dr Giraldi Home, which was set up and actively used by some of the Agency staff and state how long it was in use and when it was closed down, which is a question that pre-supposes, at least the latter half, pre-supposes begs its own question. The answer to that question, as far as the Government have been told by management, is that there has never been a punishment room. Now, I have assumed, as I think he should, unless there is evidence to the contrary, that the answer to that does not depend on some nice distinction in the definition of what constitutes a punishment room. These are laymen that we are talking about. A punishment room is a room that exists for the purpose of administering punishment. Now, so before accusing anyone who may have given a witness statement in any now concluded Industrial Tribunal's case, before accusing any of those people or suggesting that any of those people may have committed perjury, of course it would be interesting to know what they understand by a punishment room. In other words, that we should not be at cross purposes as to terminology. But applying the most wide definition, we are told that the Agency has never operated anything capable of being understood or misunderstood to constitute a punishment room.

HON F R PICARDO:

In the understanding of the person who drafted the answer.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, yes, that is why I drew up the distinction. I am telling the hon Member that I would not expect that answer to be based on some nice distinction, either on their part or on ours, about what constitutes a punishment room. In the ordinary meaning of those words in the English language, the Government's answer is that it has never existed.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can the Government say whether they have approached the management to find out whether a punishment room existed, as a result of this question?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, yes. The question is asked, it goes to officials before it goes to Ministers and the first thing the Minister sees is the answer, the draft answer, produced to them by their officials. So, yes, the existence or non existence of a punishment room, as far as I am aware, is not an issue that Ministers had addressed their minds to before or separately from the receipt of this question.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So in fact, when the case that is now over was not over and this information was in possession of the Agency, did they not think there was a need to find out? Notwithstanding the fact that, presumably, that is something the Agency would have

wanted if the Tribunal had taken place and the statement had been made, they would have had an answer then. At that time they did not think there was a need to find out whether this allegation had any basis?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It seems that the answer to the last supplementary question that I gave may not be entirely accurate. I am now told by the previous Minister that at the time that the allegation was made in the case to which the hon Member is referring, she asked whether there was any..... and she was given the same answer as is given here. So the statement that I made earlier that no Minister had addressed their minds to the question before is not true, insofar as it applies to the previous Minister for Social Services.

HON J J BOSSANO:

This would have been how long ago?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I cannot remember specifically.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Cannot remember at all? Well, it is good to be told by somebody when they can remember or not, it is wonderful. I have problems sometimes in remembering things but I do not have anybody on this side who tells me what it is I remember, what I do not remember and when I do not remember it. It must be very useful to have somebody like him around to be able to do that for one. Maybe when we are outside the Chamber he can do that for me as well and tell me when I can remember things and when I cannot. Can the Minister remember whether, in fact, the CEO that is no longer there was the person that was asked? There was a CEO that left some time ago, and when the statements were made that CEO was still in office. Can she remember whether it was that person that was asked by her? Can she remember the person she asked? The CEO of the Agency at the time that is no longer there?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I am not 100 per cent certain, so I do not want to be held to what I answer, but I believe that I asked the Chief Executive at the time, the person who was the Chief Executive at the time.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Who has gone, who is no longer there?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

No, she is no longer the Chief Executive.

HON J J BOSSANO:

No, she is no longer in Gibraltar. The answer to this question is the result of the present Chief Executive producing those answers for the Minister, is that correct?

HON J J NETTO:

The one who provided the information for me was the current manager for Dr Giraldi Home.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The manager of the Dr Giraldi Home, not the Chief Executive?

HON J J NETTO:

No.

HON J J BOSSANO:

They are not the same thing?

NO. 463 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY

Can Government confirm that the Social Services Agency gave an under-aged girl an option to stay in care with Spanish nurses (who do not speak the affected user's language) or be returned to the parent from whom the SSA had sought a care order?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

The Government are concerned that in answering this question adequately it will be necessary to go into a level of detail that could result in the identity of the girl becoming easily identifiable in the public domain. The Government are, therefore, of the view that this would be an inappropriate breach of confidentiality. I am prepared, however, to provide the answer to this question in private to the hon Member.

NO. 464 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

SOCIAL INSURANCE – OPEN LONG-TERM BENEFITS FUND

Can Government state what was the number of pensioners being paid or with entitlement to payment for each month to the end of June 2008 as from March 2008 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 FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 465 to 471 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 465 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

SOCIAL INSURANCE – CLOSED LONG-TERM BENEFITS FUND

Can Government state what was the number of pensioners being paid or with entitlement to payment, for each month as from March 2008 to the end of June 2008, 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 nationals for the months in question?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 464 and 466 to 471 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 466 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

SOCIAL INSURANCE – SHORT-TERM BENEFITS FUND

Can Government state what was the monthly income, expenditure and balance of the Short-Term Benefits Fund as from March 2008 to end of June 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 464, 465 and 467 to 471 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 467 OF 2008

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 monthly amounts, as from March 2008 to end June 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 464 to 466 and 468 to 471 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 468 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

SOCIAL INSURANCE – OPEN LONG-TERM BENEFITS FUND EXPENDITURE

Can Government state what was the monthly income, expenditure and balance of the Open Long-Term Benefits Fund, as from March 2008 to end June 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 464 to 467 and 469 to 471 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 469 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

SOCIAL INSURANCE – CLOSED LONG-TERM BENEFITS FUND

Can Government state what was the monthly income, expenditure and balance of the Closed Long-Term Benefits Fund as from March 2008, 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 FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 464 to 468, 470 and 471 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 470 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

STATUTORY BENEFITS FUND – NUMBER OF PENSIONERS

Can Government state what was the number of pensioners being paid or with entitlement to payment, for each month to date, as from 1st July 2008, from the new Statutory Benefits Fund, giving a breakdown of pre-1969 Spanish pensioners and locally funded pensioners, showing the number of Gibraltarians/UK nationals, Moroccans and other nationals for the months in question?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 464 to 469 and 471 of 2008.

NO. 471 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

SOCIAL INSURANCE – CLOSED LONG-TERM BENEFITS FUND

Can Government state, in connection with the pensioners being paid or with entitlement to payment from the 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 as from March 2008 to the end of June 2008 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 FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

I now hand the hon Member the requested information.

ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 471 OF 2008-10-29

Answer to Question No. 464

The following pensioners were in receipt of payments from the Open Long-Term Benefits Fund from March to June 2008.

	Mar-08	Apr-08	May-08	Jun-08
BRITISH PENSIONERS	2699	2718	2722	2745
SPANISH PENSIONERS	143	145	146	146
MOROCCAN PENSIONERS	725	729	736	747
OTHER NATIONALITIES	44	45	46	48
TOTAL	3611	3637	3650	3686

Cont'd ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 471 OF 2008

Answer to Question No. 465

The following pensioners were being paid or with entitlement to payment from the Closed Long-term Benefits Fund for the months of March to June 2008.

	Mar-08	Apr-08	May-08	Jun-08
Pre-1969 Spanish Pensioners	283	283	283	282
British Pensioners (Gib/UK Nat.)	5275	5280	5276	5307
Moroccan Pensioners	1847	1852	1861	1867
Other Nationalities	530	533	540	542
Total	7935	7948	7960	7998

Cont'd.....

Cont'd ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 471 OF 2008

Answer to Question No. 466

The Monthly Income, Expenditure and Balance of the Short-Term Benefits Fund as from March 2008 to end of June 2008 is as per the following tentative statement:

SHORT TERM BENEFITS FUND

	<u>31-Mar-08</u>	<u>30-Apr-08</u>	<u>31-May-08</u>	<u>30-Jun-08</u>
<u>Fund Account - Opening Balance</u>	£1,317,723.75	£1,321,942.44	£1,303,813.22	£1,319,780.69
<u>Add</u>				
Receipts	£105,919.31	£73,193.93	£105,073.33	£92,902.73
	<u>£1,423,643.06</u>	<u>£1,395,136.37</u>	<u>£1,408,886.55</u>	<u>£1,412,683.42</u>
<u>Less</u>				
Payments	<u>(£101,700.62)</u>	<u>(£91,323.15)</u>	<u>(£89,105.86)</u>	<u>(£79,796.97)</u>
<u>Closing Balance</u>	<u>£1,321,942.44</u>	<u>£1,303,813.22</u>	<u>£1,319,780.69</u>	<u>£1,332,886.45</u>

Cont'd.....

Cont'd ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 471 OF 2008

Answer to Question No. 467

The transfers made from the Open Long-Term Benefits Fund to the Closed Long-Term Benefits Fund, giving the monthly amounts, to date, as from March 2008 to end of June 2008, are as follows:

March 2008	£1,750,000
April 2008	£1,700,000
May 2008	£1,850,000
June 2008	£1,850,000
	<hr/>
	<u>£7,150,000</u>

Cont'd.....

Cont'd ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 471 OF 2008

Answer to Question No. 468

The Monthly Income, Expenditure and Balance of the Open Long Term Benefits Fund, as from March 2008 to the end of June 2008 is as per the following tentative statement:

(Receipts include a proportion of the annual contribution from the Consolidated Fund for the period April to June 2008)

OPEN LONG TERM BENEFITS FUND

	<u>31-Mar-08</u>	<u>30-Apr-08</u>	<u>31-May-08</u>	<u>30-Jun-08</u>
<u>Fund Account - Opening Balance</u>	£4,617,785.95	£13,910,201.83	£13,779,181.15	£13,944,357.35
<u>Add</u>				
Receipts	<u>£11,246,062.76</u>	<u>£1,682,937.02</u>	<u>£2,078,522.23</u>	<u>£1,930,923.78</u>
	£15,863,848.71	£15,593,138.85	£15,857,703.38	£15,875,281.13
<u>Less</u>				
Payments	<u>(£1,953,646.88)</u>	<u>(£1,813,957.70)</u>	<u>(£1,913,346.03)</u>	<u>(£1,897,276.91)</u>
<u>Closing Balance</u>	<u>£13,910,201.83</u>	<u>£13,779,181.15</u>	<u>£13,944,357.35</u>	<u>£13,978,004.22</u>

Cont'd.....

Cont'd ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 471 OF 2008

Answer to Question No. 469

The Monthly Income, Expenditure and Balance of the Closed Long Term Benefits Fund as from March 2008, showing the amount from UK and Local Funds and the Expenditure to former Spanish workers and to pensioners from Local Funds is as follows:

CLOSED LONG-TERM BENEFITS FUND

	<u>31-Mar-08</u>	<u>30-Apr-08</u>	<u>31-May-08</u>	<u>30-Jun-08</u>
<u>Fund Account -</u>				
<u>Opening Balance</u>	<u>£261,181.88</u>	<u>£205,346.37</u>	<u>£173,142.89</u>	<u>£218,767.39</u>
<u>“Local Account”</u>				
Opening Balance	£123,195.99	£100,138.94	£70,333.14	£117,329.04
<u>Add</u>				
Transfers from the Open Long-Term Benefits Fund	£1,750,000.00	£1,700,000.00	£1,850,000.00	£1,850,000.00
Other Receipts	£3,037.67	£766.62	£712.60	£612.24
	<u>£1,876,233.66</u>	<u>£1,800,905.56</u>	<u>£1,921,045.74</u>	<u>£1,967,941.28</u>
<u>Less</u>				
Payments	<u>(£1,776,094.72)</u>	<u>(£1,730,572.42)</u>	<u>(£1,803,716.70)</u>	<u>(£1,876,328.47)</u>
Closing Balance	<u>£100,138.94</u>	<u>£70,333.14</u>	<u>£117,329.04</u>	<u>£91,612.81</u>
<u>“Spanish Account”</u>				
Opening Balance	£137,985.89	£105,207.43	£102,809.75	£101,438.35
<u>Add</u>				
Receipts from DFID Other Receipts	£10,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£10,000.00
	<u>£147,985.89</u>	<u>£105,207.43</u>	<u>£102,809.75</u>	<u>£111,438.35</u>
<u>Less</u>				
Pension Payments	<u>(£42,778.46)</u>	<u>(£2,397.68)</u>	<u>(£1,371.40)</u>	<u>(£27,321.21)</u>
Closing Balance	<u>£105,207.43</u>	<u>£102,809.75</u>	<u>£101,438.35</u>	<u>£84,117.14</u>
<u>Fund Account Closing Balance</u>	<u>£205,346.37</u>	<u>£173,142.89</u>	<u>£218,767.39</u>	<u>£175,729.95</u>

Contd.....

Cont'd ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 471 OF 2008

Answer to Question No. 470

The following pensioners were being paid or with entitlement to payment from the Statutory Benefits Fund for the months of July to August 2008.

	Jul-08	Aug-08
Pre-1969 Spanish Pensioners	283	283
British Pensioners (Gib/UK Nat.)	5323	5337
Moroccan Pensioners	1887	1893
Other Nationalities	546	555
Total	8039	8068

Contd.....

Cont'd ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 471 OF 2008

Answer to Question No. 471

The following pensioners were being paid or with entitlement to payment from the Closed Long-term Benefits Fund for the months of March to June 2008.

	Mar-08	Apr-08	May-08	Jun-08
BRITISH PENSIONERS	2680	2698	2703	2726
SPANISH PENSIONERS	129	131	132	132
MOROCCAN PENSIONERS	725	729	736	747
OTHER NATIONALITIES	44	45	46	48
TOTAL	3578	3603	3617	3653

ORAL

NO. 472 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

DISABILITY ALLOWANCE

Can Government state how many persons were in receipt of a disability allowance under the social assistance arrangements as from March 2008, to date, giving a monthly breakdown of their age and sex?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

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

ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 472 OF 2008

PERSONS RECEIVING DISABILITY ALLOWANCE UNDER THE SOCIAL ASSISTANCE ARRANGEMENTS AS FROM MARCH TO AUGUST 2008 GIVING A MONTHLY BREAKDOWN OF THEIR AGE AND SEX.

2008	0-10	11-20	21-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	61-70	TOTAL	MALES	FEMALES
March	23	29	25	17	17	12	3	126	87	39
April	23	29	23	19	17	12	3	126	87	39
May	24	29	23	19	17	12	3	127	88	39
June	25	30	22	21	17	12	3	130	91	39
July	26	30	22	22	17	12	3	132	93	39
August	26	30	22	21	18	11	4	132	93	39

ORAL

NO. 473 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

STATUTORY BENEFITS FUND

Can Government state what was the monthly income, expenditure and balance of the new Statutory Benefits Fund as from 1st July 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

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

ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 473 OF 2008

The Monthly Income, Expenditure and Balance of the Statutory Benefits Fund, to date, as from 1st July 2008 is as per the following tentative statement:
(Receipts include a proportion of the annual contribution from the Consolidated Fund for July and August 2008)

STATUTORY BENEFITS FUND

	<u>31-Jul-08</u>	<u>31-Aug-08</u>
<u>Fund Account - Opening Balance</u>	£17,647,986.58	£17,805,643.04
<u>Add</u>		
Receipts	£2,279,490.75	£1,810,653.35
	<hr/> £19,927,477.33	<hr/> £19,616,296.39
<u>Less</u>		
Payments	(£2,121,834.29)	(£2,007,686.28)
	<hr/> (£2,121,834.29)	<hr/> (£2,007,686.28)
<u>Closing Balance</u>	<hr/> £17,805,643.04	<hr/> £17,608,610.11

ORAL

NO. 474 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

Can Government state how many persons receiving social assistance, to date, as from March 2008, have been employed since, and how many are still receiving social assistance, giving a monthly breakdown by age and sex?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question No. 475 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 475 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

Can Government state what was the number of persons receiving social assistance, to date, as from March 2008 giving a monthly breakdown by age and sex?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

I now hand the hon Member lists giving the information requested.

ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 475 OF 2008

Answer to Question 474

PERSONS IN RECEIPT OF SOCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE MONTHS OF MARCH TO AUGUST 2008

2008	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL	18/25	26/35	36/45	46/60
March	169	303	472	66	140	117	149
April	162	302	464	66	139	114	145
May	157	295	452	64	137	110	141
June	154	290	444	63	137	105	139
July	161	290	451	63	136	108	144
August	156	289	445	59	131	111	144

PERSONS EMPLOYED DURING THE MONTHS OF MARCH TO AUGUST 2008

2008	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL	18/25	26/35	36/45	46/60
March	4	8	12	3	3	4	2
April	3	2	5	2	0	2	1
May	5	3	8	1	5	1	1
June	7	3	10	3	3	3	1
July	1	2	3	0	1	1	1
August	1	2	3	2	0	1	0

AS AT	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL	18/25	26/35	36/45	46/60
12-Sept-08	158	294	452	60	135	111	146

Cont'd.....

Cont'd ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 475/2008

Answer to Question 475

**PERSONS RECEIVING SOCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE MONTHS OF MARCH 2008 TO
AUGUST 2008 BY MONTH, SEX AND AGE**

2008	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL	18/25	26/35	36/45	46/60
March	169	303	472	66	140	117	149
April	162	302	464	66	139	114	145
May	157	295	452	64	137	110	141
June	154	290	444	63	137	105	139
July	161	290	451	63	136	108	144
August	156	289	445	59	131	111	144

NO. 476 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

MOUNT ALVERNIA – AWNINGS

Can Government state what consideration they have given to the placing of awnings outside residents' rooms in Mount Alvernia, where there are none at present?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Currently there are awnings on all Mount Alvernia communal salons, which have also been fitted with air conditioning units for the comfort of all residents. Additionally, bedrooms on the third floor, in which most of the high nursing dependant residents are accommodated, which are those who are bed bound, all have been fitted with awnings. In general, most of the other residents are able to make use of the communal areas throughout the building and the time spent in their bedrooms is limited. Government are currently in the process of renewing all the balconies in Mount Alvernia, once this is achieved consideration may be given to placing awnings in the other areas, if appropriate.

ORAL

NO. 477 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY – EMPLOYEES

Can Government provide a breakdown by grade, sex, nationality and residence, that is whether Gibraltar or Spain, of all the employees of the Social Services Agency as at the end of August 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

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

Answer to Question 477 of 2008

Social Services Agency Employees as at 31st August 2008

Grade	Number of Employees	Female	Male	Gibraltarian	UK National	Spanish National	Other Nationality	Resident Gibraltar	Resident Spain
EMPLOYEES on GOG Terms									
MAIN OFFICE									
Team Leaders	2	2		2				1	1
Counselling Psychologist	1	1		1					1
Senior Social Workers	3	3		2	1			2	1
Social Workers	11	9	2	7	4			9	2
Administration Manager (HEO)	1		1	1				1	
Personnel Officer (EO)	1	1		1				1	
Administrative Officer	1	1		1				1	
Typist	1	1		1				1	
ST. BERNADETTE'S O.T. CENTRE									
St. Bernadette's Manager	1	1		1				1	
St. Bernadette's Deputy Manager	1	1		1				1	
Enrolled Nurses	2	2		1	1			2	
Administrative Officer - Part-time (GOG)	1	1		1				1	
Classroom Aides (full time) Spec. Needs	7	7		7				7	
Classroom Aides (part time) (20hrs)	7	7		7				7	
Vehicle/Escort	1	1		1				1	
EMPLOYEES on SSA Terms									
Chief Executive	1		1		1				
Occupational Therapist/Strategy Co-ord.	1	1		1				1	
Counsellor	1	1		1				1	
Social Workers (Out of Hrs)	2	2			2				2
Community Services Officer	1		1		1				1
Finance Officer	1	1		1				1	
Administrative Officers	4	3	1	4				4	
Personal Assistant (AO)	1	1		1				1	
Day Centre Co-ordinator	1	1			1			1	
Shop Mobility Attendant	1		1	1				1	
Handyman/driver	1		1	1				1	
Sub-total of	56	48	8	45	11	0	0	48	8

Cont.....

Contid Answer to Question 477 of 2008

Social Services Agency Employees as at 31st August 2008

Grade	Number of Employees	Female	Male	Gibraltarian	UK National	Spanish National	Other Nationality	Resident Gibraltar	Resident Spain
<i>Sub-total b/f</i>	56	48	8	45	11	0	0	48	8
DRUGS AWARENESS CAMPAIGN									
Drug strategy Co-ordinator *	1		1	1				1	
Assistant to Drug Strategy Co-ordinator	1	1		1				1	
* GoG Officer on Secondment									
DR. GIRALDI RESIDENTIAL									
Dr. Giraldi Manager	1		1		1				1
Deputy Manager Dr Giraldi	1	1			1				1
Administrative Officer (Part-time)	1	1		1				1	
Unit Managers (40hrs)	5	2	3	2	3			4	1
Social Care Workers (40hrs)	13	10	3	10	3			10	3
Social Care Workers (39hrs)	1		1	1				1	
Social Care Workers (37.5hrs)	29	22	7	4	17	7	1 Dutch	12	17
Social Care Workers (20hrs)	7	6	1	3	2	2		6	1
Domestic Support Worker (22.5hrs)	1	1		1				1	
Domestic Support Workers (20hrs)	5	4	1	5				5	
Domestic Support Worker (15hrs)	1	1		1				1	
CHILDREN RESIDENTIAL									
Unit Managers (40hrs)	6	6		5	1			5	1
Social Care Workers (37.5hrs)	30	24	6	21	3	6		22	8
Social Care Workers (31hrs)	9	7	2	9				9	
INDUSTRIAL STAFF									
Cleaner - 37 hrs per week	2	2		2				2	
Cleaner - 25 hrs per week	1	1		1				1	
School Attendant/Driver	1		1	1				1	
Total: Permanent Staff	172	137	35	114	42	15	1	131	41
TEMPORARY STAFF									
Social Worker	1		1	1				1	
Receptionist/Administrative Assistant	1	1		1				1	
Total	174	138	36	116	42	15	1	133	41

As at 31st August 2008 a further 7 non-industrial posts were vacant

The SSA also uses supply workers for relief cover who are not included here

NO. 478 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY – EMPLOYEES

Can Government state how many persons were employed at the Social Services Agency on supply, casual, temporary or short-term contracts on the 31 August 2008 giving a breakdown by grade and nationality?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

The Social Services Agency had 55 supply workers employed or contracted as at the 31st August 2008. There were no staff on casual contracts.

The following 53 are supply social care workers:

- 31 Gibraltarians;
- 12 UK nationals;
- 6 Spanish nationals;
- 2 German nationals;
- 1 Belgian national;
- 1 Danish national.

There was also one supply receptionist/administrative assistant and one supply social worker employed at this point. These were appointed on a temporary basis. Both are Gibraltarian.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 478 OF 2008

HON G H LICUDI:

Of these supply workers, can the Minister confirm how long these supply arrangements have been in place?

HON J J NETTO:

Well, the arrangements as such to have supply workers obviously goes back many years, so off the top of my head I could not tell him how long it goes back. Not at least without being given notice.

HON G H LICUDI:

That was not the question. In respect of the specific numbers that have been given, are these long-term supply arrangements for these individuals? In other words, have these people been on supply contracts for a very long time, such as sometimes happens with teachers? They are on supply for a year and maybe it is extended. Is this a regular arrangement with these individuals or are they engaged on an ad-hoc basis as and when needed?

HON J J NETTO:

My understanding, because I actually asked a similar question to the actual person who produced the figures for me, and what he said to me, in fact it is the administrative HEO who did it for me, he said it varies a lot from person to person, depending on the nature of the duties that he is doing. He also said that certainly no one is more than four years, but certainly, it would vary, some perhaps to meet a momentary bleep in order to supply the social care worker for a particular case in hand, and others may be for a longer period. So it varies from person to person in accordance with the extra work they are doing.

HON G H LICUDI:

I am not sure that I am confusing or whether the Minister is confusing or confusing me, I may be confusing myself, in respect of supply and casual workers. I can understand someone being on a casual list for a number of years as and when needed, but a supply worker is, as I understand it, somebody who is engaged on a more regular basis. If someone is on regular long-term supply for up to four years, does that not call for an enquiry as to why that person is not permanently employed?

HON J J NETTO:

No, I think perhaps we might be at cross-purposes in terms of definition or semantics about how do we define casual employment. At the end of the day, the necessity why the Agency requires these now, as the question being asked now, 55 supply workers, is because there will be, perhaps, children in care which was not planned at the beginning of the financial year. So obviously, the children have to be provided with the social care workers, so they will be people who are not in the establishment figure but they will have to come in as supply workers in order to meet that kind of demand and some other work as well. I have given the example of the receptionist and the social worker as opposed to the social care worker. But these are not people in the establishment figures, these are to meet the specific needs of peak times, of extra work which would not, obviously they cannot be predicted, because one does not know at the beginning of the financial year what sort of things are going to happen in three months or six months into the new financial year.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So the Minister is saying then that there have not been 53 supply workers since the beginning of this financial year, that is the figure for August and he does not know it.

HON J J NETTO:

What I said was that probably there would be some who have been less than a year and probably there are people who have been more than a year. The situation varies quite a lot between all of them. This is the answer that was provided to me by the actual administrator, HEO, who is producing the figures for me.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Does he know whether the figure of 53 is the sort of average that one gets normally every month, or is this an unusually high figure?

HON J J NETTO:

No, I do not think it is an unusually high figure, I am talking from memory here. But in the nature of the work that Social Services does provide, one will always find that there will always be a need to have supply workers. It will vary, it will be higher, it will be lower and some people will be for a very short period of time and some people will certainly have been there, perhaps for even more than a year. What I did ask the administrator was if we had a situation where there were people there continuously on the supply basis for more than four years. The answer he gave me was that there was not.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am not asking that. Those are the questions that have already been asked and have already been answered. I am not repeating the question, I am asking a different question. I am saying to him, if he has got 53 bodies on supply on 31st August does he know whether there have been 53 bodies, whether they are the same people or different people or they have been a short time or a long time, I am talking about the number overall. Is that number of 53 the sort of normal average number that there is in any given month? Or is the number for August..... Does he know? He does not know.

HON J J NETTO:

Well, I have not got the figures available to me, how much there were in previous months, three months or six months. So I cannot give him the answer as to whether it is a normal average figure.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well, I would expect the Minister to know how many people there are employed in the department for which he is responsible, if it is 53 or 5. I would expect him to know, he might not know whether it is 53 or 54 but he ought to know whether on average, there are 50 supply carers employed in any given month.

HON J J NETTO:

What I can tell him is that having supply workers is not new, it has happened every month and every year. Whether it is an average of 53 or whether it goes up or goes down, I have not got the information available.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So, if these supply workers are demand-led, that is to say, the number is demand-led, then what the Minister is saying is that they are not, in fact, needed or used for the people who are permanently in the care of the Agency, that it is for people who suddenly come in or may go out and there may be more people needing them and less people needing them.

HON J J NETTO;

That is correct.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So in the answer that he has given in previous answers as to the numbers that would be reflected, if what he is saying is accurate.

HON J J NETTO:

Yes.

NO. 479 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY – EMPLOYEES

Can Government state of the employees of the Social Services Agency as at the 31st August 2008, how many were on permanent and pensionable terms and how many were on contract terms, giving a breakdown by grade?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

I hand the hon Member a list giving the information requested. Could I, I do not know if the hon Member is listening, obviously he is going to get the information in a minute but can I point out to him, as soon as he gets the information, that there is a column at the end of the table which he will see now, at the very end, where it says that there are five social workers on contract terms. Does he see that? That could change in the sense that I am aware that for some time now there have been proceedings to try and get them on a permanent basis. It is probably likely that most or some will pass from that column into the other column, and whenever a decision is taken it will go retrospectively to the date of their employment. So, obviously, what I am saying is that the information as it stands here might change in the very near future.

SSA Employees as at 31st August 2008

Answer to Question 479 of 2008

Grade	Number of Employees	Civil Service/ GoG Pension	Eligible to Gib Provident Fund PS No. 2	On Contract Terms (Non-Pensionable)
EMPLOYEES on GOG Terms				
MAIN OFFICE				
Team Leaders	2	2		
Counselling Psychologist	1	1		
Senior Social Workers	3	3		
Social Workers	11	6		5
Administration Manager (HEO)	1	1		
Personnel Officer (EO)	1	1		
Administrative Officer	1	1		
Typist	1	1		
ST. BERNADETTE'S O.T. CENTRE				
St. Bernadette's Manager	1	1		
St. Bernadette's Deputy Manager	1	1		
Enrolled Nurses	2	2		
Administrative Officer - Part-time (GOG)	1	1		
Classroom Aides (full time) Spec. Needs	7	7		
Classroom Aides (part time) (20hrs)	7	7		
Vehicle/Escort	1	1		
EMPLOYEES on SSA Terms				
Chief Executive	1			1
Occupational Therapist/Strategy Co-ord.	1		1	
Counsellor	1		1	
Social Workers (Out of Hrs)	2		2	
Community Service Officer	1		1	
Finance Officer	1		1	
Administrative Officers	4		4	
Personal Assistant (AO)	1		1	
Day Centre Co-ordinator	1		1	
Shop Mobility Attendant	1		1	
Handyman/driver	1		1	
<i>Sub-total cf</i>	56	36	14	6

Cont.....

Grade	Number of Employees	Civil Service/ GoG Pension	Eligible to Gib Provident Fund PS No. 2	On Contract Terms (Non-Pensionable)
<i>Sub-total b/f</i>	56	36	14	6
DRUGS AWARENESS CAMPAIGN				
Drug strategy Co-ordinator *	1	1		
Assistant to Drug Strategy Co-ordinator	1		1	
* GoG Officer on Secondment				
DR. GIRALDI RESIDENTIAL				
Dr. Giraldi Manager	1		1	
Deputy Manager Dr Giraldi	1		1	
Administrative Officer (Part-time)	1		1	
Unit Managers (40hrs)	5		5	
Social Care Workers (40hrs)	13		13	
Social Care Workers (39hrs)	1		1	
Social Care Workers (37.5hrs)	29		29	
Social Care Workers (20hrs)	7		7	
Domestic Support Worker (22.5hrs)	1		1	
Domestic Support Workers (20hrs)	5		5	
Domestic Support Worker (15hrs)	1		1	
CHILDREN RESIDENTIAL				
Unit Managers (40hrs)	6		6	
Social Care Workers (37.5hrs)	30		30	
Social Care Workers (31hrs)	9		9	
INDUSTRIAL STAFF				
Cleaner - 37 hrs per week	2	2		
Cleaner - 25 hrs per week	1	1		
School Attendant/Driver	1	1		
<i>Total</i>	172	41	125	6

As at 31st August 2008 a further 7 non-industrial posts were vacant
 The SSA also uses supply / temporary workers for relief cover who are not pensionable

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 479 OF 2008

HON G H LICUDI:

Does the Minister know, in respect of those five on contract terms, how long that particular contract has been going on for?

HON J J NETTO:

Off the top of my head, some of them will be recent recruits, recent as defined probably a year or two and some of them have been there, I think, perhaps, I do not know, I would not like to record, two or three or perhaps four years. I am not too sure but, certainly, more than a year. I know also that the reason for that is that there has been some misunderstanding between the Social Services Agency and Human Resources in relation to the conditions of these people. I know that this has not been tackled, I know that all the five are being reviewed now and I feel optimistic that this will change in the not too distant future. This is what I am alerting him to that perhaps if he asks me this question next time he has the opportunity, he will see that this figure will change. So I am pointing him to that fact.

HON G H LICUDI:

Does the Minister know whether those persons are contracted locally or are they brought from abroad specifically on contract?

HON J J NETTO:

Locally.

ORAL

NO. 480 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

EMPLOYMENT INJURIES INSURANCE FUND

Can Government state what were the opening balances, the total value of receipts and payments and the closing balances of the Employment Injuries Insurance Fund for each month from April to June 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

I now hand the hon Member lists giving the requested information.

ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 480 OF 2008

The opening balances, the total value of the receipts and payments and the closing balances of the Employment Injuries Insurance Fund for each month from April to June 2008 is as per the following tentative statement:

EMPLOYMENT INJURIES INSURANCE FUND

	<u>30-Apr-08</u>	<u>31-May-08</u>	<u>30-Jun-08</u>
<u>Fund Account</u>			
- <u>Opening Balance</u>	£2,538,691.97	£2,503,581.84	£2,458,873.52
<u>Add</u>			
Receipts	£19,240.10	£21,412.04	£19,314.15
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£2,557,932.07	£2,524,993.88	£2,478,187.67
<u>Less</u>			
Payments	(£54,350.23)	(£66,120.36)	(£63,819.61)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<u>Closing Balance</u>	£2,503,581.84	£2,458,873.52	£2,414,368.06
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

NO. 481 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

PANIC BUTTONS FOR PENSIONERS

Can Government say what is the total number of pensioner households that have been provided with panic buttons and what criteria is used to determine whether they should be provided to a particular household?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Panic buttons are not provided to pensioners by the Government. This is done by the Gibraltar Senior Citizens Association.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 481 OF 2008

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is the Government involved in any way in providing financial assistance to obtaining these panic buttons or not?

HON J J NETTO:

I can tell him that the answer is no, but I can also tell him that a couple of months ago I had representations made to me, by I do not know if he is called the president or the secretary of the association, because they were looking for some money to partially subsidise for another bundle of panic buttons. But at the end they got other sponsors in the private sector and it was not warranted for the Government to give them some sort of donation towards it, because there was more than sufficient from the private sector.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So then it is the association that decide who should get one and who should not. The Government are not involved. Then from what the Minister is telling me the Government is not involved in any way, either in providing finance or in determining the criteria. They set up their own criteria and decide who gets one and who does not, is that it?

HON J J NETTO:

The answer is yes, but can I also add some information. Can I also add that my hon Friend has just whispered to me that in her time she provided, well when she was the Minister, provided some money originally towards the pensioners association. But the answer is that we are not involved with the criteria.

ORAL

NO. 482 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

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 August 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

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

ANSWER TO QUESTION 482 OF 2008

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 AUGUST 2008.

				SINGLES		COUPLES		TOTAL
				No		No		No
FROM	£151.00	TO	£155.00	0		3		3
FROM	£146.00	TO	£150.00	0		0		0
FROM	£141.00	TO	£145.00	0		0		0
FROM	£136.00	TO	£140.00	0		0		0
FROM	£131.00	TO	£135.00	0		0		0
FROM	£126.00	TO	£130.00	0		0		0
FROM	£121.00	TO	£125.00	0		0		0
FROM	£116.00	TO	£120.00	0		0		0
FROM	£111.00	TO	£115.00	24		0		24
FROM	£106.00	TO	£110.00	2		0		2
FROM	£101.00	TO	£105.00	0		0		0
FROM	£96.00	TO	£100.00	0		0		0
FROM	£91.00	TO	£95.00	0		0		0
FROM	£86.00	TO	£90.00	0		0		0
FROM	£81.00	TO	£85.00	0		1		1
FROM	£76.00	TO	£80.00	1		1		2
FROM	£71.00	TO	£75.00	18		0		18
FROM	£66.00	TO	£70.00	1		0		1
FROM	£61.00	TO	£65.00	2		0		2
FROM	£56.00	TO	£60.00	1		2		3
FROM	£51.00	TO	£55.00	17		1		18
FROM	£46.00	TO	£50.00	8		1		9
FROM	£41.00	TO	£45.00	13		1		14
FROM	£36.00	TO	£40.00	19		0		19
FROM	£31.00	TO	£35.00	13		2		15
FROM	£26.00	TO	£30.00	22		1		23
FROM	£21.00	TO	£25.00	19		1		20
FROM	£16.00	TO	£20.00	244		2		246
FROM	£11.00	TO	£15.00	19		6		25
FROM	£6.00	TO	£10.00	20		8		28
FROM	£0.00	TO	£5.00	8		0		8
TOTAL				451		30		481

ORAL

NO. 483 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

Can Government state since the Citizens Advice Bureau was given responsibility for the promotion of equal treatment under the provisions of the Equal Opportunities Act what action has it undertaken to provide independent assistance to victims of discrimination on grounds of racial or ethnic origin?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 484 and 485 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 484 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

Can Government state since the Citizens Advice Bureau was given responsibility for the promotion of equal treatment under the provisions of the Equal Opportunities Act what action has it taken to bring this about?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 483 and 485 of 2008.

NO. 485 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

Can Government state since the Citizens Advice Bureau was given responsibility for the promotion of equal treatment under the provisions of the Equal Opportunities Act what action has it taken to provide independent assistance to victims of discrimination on grounds of sex?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

All clients who feel they may have been discriminated follow an interview to determine whether the client may have been discriminated against. Clients then fill in a questionnaire found at the Schedule of the Equal Opportunities Act 2004. Following this, CAB then discusses with relevant organisations concerned and then, if necessary, refers to the legal adviser for a free session of legal consultation.

In order to raise awareness and promote equal treatment, CAB organised in June 2007 an "Equal Opportunities Awareness Training Day". Personnel from different front-line departments were invited to attend and participate. In addition, legal training was given by a Government lawyer.

Promoting equality and valuing diversity is the core business of CAB services. For this reasons, CAB has set up procedures so that people who feel they have been discriminated against, can have access to a session of free legal advice if this becomes necessary.

CAB is also in the initial stages of providing more training days in November 2008, for predominantly private sector firms and trade unions.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 483 TO 485 OF 2008

HON J J BOSSANO:

What additional resources did the Government provide the Bureau with in terms of either finance or personnel, to enable them to carry out the extra duties that were imposed on them as a result of the new Act?

HON J J NETTO:

Obviously this happened before my time, but I do not think any additional resources were provided as a result of the introduction of this legislation. I mean, I stand to be corrected, but I think that no additional resources were provided for.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can the Minister say since this responsibility was legislated for, which I think was in 2006, the original Act was in 2004 but I think it was done by regulation in 2006, does he know how many cases they have handled since then?

HON J J NETTO:

Yes and no is the answer. The reason why is that, unfortunately, nothing is simple. CAB produce an annual report which provides statistics on the type of complaint of people who have gone to see them, and we have to bear in mind that this legislation which we are talking about is in the field of employment. So, I mean, the figures that they have provided for 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, is that if the hon Member sort of does a column, first for "race ethnic origin", then does a column for "gender", right, he will see that in 2004 there were seven under race ethnic origin and nine for gender, that is a total of 16. In 2005, there was 15 under race ethnic origin and one in gender, again 16 in total. In 2006, there were 11 under race ethnic origin and 8 in gender, that is 19 in total. In 2007, there were 7 under race ethnic origin and 6 in gender, making a total of 13. In 2008, as far as 2008 goes, one under race ethnic origin and three in gender, that is four. So, basically, we have a total of 41 for race ethnic origin and a total of 27 for gender, which brings a grand total of 68. Now, let me qualify when I said yes or no, at the beginning of my answer. The reason is that these figures which are provided to the hon Members are cross-referenced with other issues that do not necessarily follow in the field of discrimination in employment. I am told by CAB that they follow a system of reports which is applied to the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux, of which Gibraltar is part thereof. But that the statistical figures provided encompass the very xxxxxx of intimidation within a specific environment, benefits, consumers, housing, relationships et cetera. So what I have asked them, in the future just in case the hon Member might be interested in this, whether we can break this down and try and provide the information if that is what the hon Member in future wants to have. Particularly, given that we are not talking about big numbers here.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well, given that the responsibility of the Bureau is to provide assistance to the victims of discrimination, what actually happens? Does the Bureau then approach the party which allegedly is guilty of a discrimination, and if so, what powers does it have? Is it able to undertake legal proceedings in its own name against such parties or not?

HON J J NETTO:

Well, I am told that when someone comes in to make a complaint, obviously that is investigated by the staff in the Citizens Advice Bureau. On occasions, as a result of information and investigation, they then sort of mediate, perhaps, with the entity concerned, the organisation concerned, and then that may bring a satisfactory

conclusion to that particular complaint. In other cases, of course, following investigation and the mediation so to speak, CAB may come to the conclusion that there may be a legal issue there, and advise the person to take one free legal consultation with a particular lawyer, where the lawyer will determine whether there is a case to be answered. The person concerned then may choose to take the advice, the first free advice, and then go to a particular lawyer to pursue it or not to pursue it. If he chooses to pursue it, obviously, the person will pay for the legal fees. But of course, at that moment in time, CAB loses track as to whether the person has taken it forward or not, and if the person has taken it forward whether it has been successful in a court of law. So there is a cut off point there where CAB loses track of what is going on.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So then the independent assistance given to the victims is simply to provide them basically with a limited amount of free legal advice to establish, on the advice of that lawyer, whether they have got a case or not. Then if they have a case, it is up to the individual to pursue the matter and pay for it himself?

HON J J NETTO:

Yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Does the Minister think that that is sufficient to meet what the legislation we passed here in implementing EU requirements? It does not seem to me to be very much in terms of independent assistance. At the end of the day, somebody that claims to be discriminated against, if it is direct discrimination surely it is something against which there is no defence, the law prohibits that. Is there not a responsibility on the entity that has to protect people, to make sure that people are protected and not simply to say to them, yes what they have done to you is wrong, the lawyer that we sent you to says it is wrong and now do something about it, because what is to stop the discrimination continuing in those circumstances?

HON J J NETTO:

In a way I have answered that question because at the end of the day, much of those mediation efforts by CAB produces a perfectly good solution to the person who has made the complaint. That is the end of the matter, but if one has an organisation which seems to be stubborn on the fact that they do not accept that a discrimination has taken place, well then obviously what CAB does is, look, let us determine independent from us, from a solicitor, whether there is a discrimination taking place or not.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Presumably the legal advice is to establish whether there is sufficient evidence to take legal action. That is what the lawyer is being consulted about. There may be allegations and the person hearing in the allegation may be convinced, but as a non-lawyer, presumably, they may not be able to say that they are so convinced that if

they take this case forward they can win it. That is, presumably, why the lawyer is being provided by CAB. My question to the Minister is, well look, the Government are required by law, and indeed by our obligations under EU law, to make sure that we are effectively combating discriminatory practices, in the workplace and in fact, now increasingly extended to consumers and to a whole range of other things. Since April of this year, many of these things have now been extended to other areas. So is the Minister saying that what we are doing is sufficient to ensure that we are effectively combating discrimination? It does not sound to me as if we are.

HON J J NETTO:

That is a speculative question on the part of the hon Member. Is the Minister satisfied? Well, the Minister has described....

HON J J BOSSANO:

The Minister can always say yes and no.

HON J J NETTO:

It comes to me as grey, not black or white. The Minister will have to determine whether it is or it is not based on the information and advice given by CAB. If it is sufficient, it is sufficient as determined by the advice and if it is not sufficient, then the Minister will have to think why not and then presumably make a report and send it to Government for discussion.

HON J J BOSSANO:

We have got responsibilities in this area and I am trying to establish whether the Government are satisfied, the Minister responsible is satisfied that the responsibilities we have are being adequately discharged with the machinery that he has just described. It does not sound to me as if we are. So what does he...

HON J J NETTO:

He seems to say that he is not satisfied, but it does not seem that this which started in 2004 has been dissatisfied by a number of people. This is not an issue, as far as I see it, in the public domain. Obviously, the people who have redress or advice given and the system seems to have worked well. I mean, what evidence does the Leader of the Opposition have to say the system does not work well?

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well, I will tell him. The evidence is the answer he has given me. If somebody is subjected to racist attacks, goes to CAB, CAB listens to his complaint and it sounds to CAB as if in fact the guy is right, he sends him to a lawyer. The lawyer says yes, you have got 100 per cent case here, and then at that point the man is on his own and he has got to put his own money behind fighting the case. That is the way that he thinks satisfactorily combats racism. Well, I can tell him nobody else in Europe believes that that is sufficient. We must be the only ones that do.

HON J J NETTO:

That is a very similar situation as someone who is seeking unfair dismissal.

HON J J BOSSANO:

No it is not, because for a start, a person can go to a tribunal if he is dismissed on the grounds of gender and without going to CAB and without going to a lawyer, put a complaint before the tribunal and pursue the complaint himself. Otherwise no unemployed worker that may not have the support of the union or somebody like myself, who does it for nothing, would be able to fight the case, because if he is unemployed how can he pay the lawyer. So, the point that I am making is, the machinery that he has described, I am not being critical of what CAB is doing, CAB is doing what it is able to do with the resources it has. That is why the first question I put to the Minister is, well look, if CAB are given duties that they did not have before, have they been given more money and more manpower? The answer is he did not think so. So, in fact, CAB is taking on this responsibility for a number of years with the same resources that it had before the responsibility existed. It seems to me that given that limitation they are going as far as they can go. What I am saying to the Minister, does he think that this is enough to meet the obligation that we have? Which is to give people independent assistance to the victim, and independent assistance to the victim is simply to send him to a lawyer. Well, he can do that without, all he has got to do is look in the telephone directory, there are plenty of lawyers there.

HON J J NETTO:

The information I have is that the system has worked well since the beginning, with the people that have been employed there from the beginning.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Yes, but I have not asked him whether the information he has that it works well. I accept that from the perspective of the people that are there, who are being asked to do this by the Government, they are doing a good job with the resources that they have and with the level of response that is being asked of them. But the level of response is his responsibility not theirs. Does he think that what is being provided is enough? Yes or No?

HON J J NETTO:

Yes, in the absence of being told otherwise.

HON J J BOSSANO:

But I want to know whether he in discharge of his ministerial responsibility, because that is why he is answering this question in the House, as a matter of policy, is satisfied that we do not need to do any more than this to ensure that we are being effective in assisting people who may be the victims of racism or discrimination on grounds of ethnic origin, or discrimination on grounds of gender? Is he satisfied that the system is providing what needs to be provided? Is that right or not?

HON J J NETTO:

I am satisfied because I have not been told otherwise by CAB.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I see. So he has got no independent mind of his own on this subject. He has got no independent position.

HON J J NETTO:

I do not think I need to answer.

MR SPEAKER:

I think you have gone beyond the xxxxxx

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am asking a question of the Minister because it is a matter of Government policy. He is satisfied that CAB is doing a good job and I am sure they are doing a good job because the people there are dedicated to what they do, with the money they have got and the manpower they have got and the responsibility the Minister gives them. But does the Minister think that it is enough that all that is required to support people is that they are given free lawyers advice for half an hour and then, notwithstanding the nature of the racist attacks, or the racist complaints, or the complaints of discrimination, that the responsibility, the public responsibility ends at that point and then it becomes a private matter. Does the Minister think that is right?

MR SPEAKER:

I think the Minister has answered, he said yes and has given a reason xxxxxx otherwise. I do not see where the question of independent mind comes into it. He has given the answer and given the reason for his answer, I think that is where the matter must end.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Because I assume that the Government have got policies which they do not need to ask Civil Servants to approve. The policy maker is him not CAB. I mean, he may tell me that CAB has made no representations to him to go further but having explained it here, I do not know whether he knew how the system worked before the question was put, it is possible that he does not. I do not expect him to be looking into every area that he has responsibility for independently, unless somebody raises it as an issue. We bring it here because we think that what we have here does not seem to be as much as other people have in other places who are implementing the same requirements as we are. Now, that is why I want to know whether he thinks anything more needs to be done or not. The answer is he does not think so because the people in CAB have not asked him for more. Is that the position?

HON J J NETTO:

I have already answered the question.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In that case, since I am not going to get any more answers, I will not ask him any more questions.

ORAL

NO. 486 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – HEALTH AND SAFETY

Can the Minister for Education state how many meetings he has held with:

- (a) Headteachers; and
- (b) The NASUWT, in relation to the health and safety audit report conducted by ROSPA?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Meetings were held at the audit phase of ROSPA's intervention under the auspices of my predecessor. Subsequent to that, I have not held any more meetings myself, given that we are now at the stage of producing the health and safety framework for schools to adjust to. When the framework is implemented, contact with the relevant stakeholders will, no doubt, be necessary.

ORAL

NO. 487 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – PUPILS ATTENDING NURSERY SCHOOL

Can the Minister for Education state how many pupils attended nursery school in the year 2004/2005, 2005/2006, 2006/2007, 2007/2008 and the current academic year giving a breakdown by nursery?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The statistical information requested is set out in the schedule which I now hand over to the hon Member.

Answer to Question 487 of 2008

Nursery Placements:	Number of Children taking up a placement				
	2004/5	2005/6	2006/7	2007/8	2008/9
Nursery					
St. Bernard's am	48	39	37	33	42
Notre Dame am	30	31	29	30	34
Notre Dame pm	14	8	11	16	Not open
Varyl Begg am	31	31	31	31	31
Varyl Begg pm	16	17	12	16	23
St. Joseph's am	30	41	53	60	60
St. Joseph's pm	26	16	Not open	Not open	11
St. Paul's am	30	40	40	38	41
St. Paul's pm	26	23	Not open	Not open	Not open
St. Mary's	No nursery	No nursery	20	30	31
Governor's Meadow	No nursery	No nursery	30	21	21
St. Martin's	4	6	6	7	7

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 487 OF 2008

HON S E LINARES:

Just glancing through the statistics that the Minister has given me, I notice that some of the nurseries are not operating in the afternoons, is that correct?

HON C G BELTRAN:

That is correct.

HON S E LINARES:

Can he give a reason why they are not operating in the afternoon sessions?

HON C G BELTRAN:

Yes, there is no demand.

HON S E LINARES:

When he says "demand" does he mean that there has to be a certain number of children. For example, if in St Bernard's somebody who lives in Moorish Castle, there is only one parent that wants it in the afternoon, are they told they cannot have the afternoon session for their child or one or two children. Is there a sort of number limit to come to that conclusion?

HON C G BELTRAN:

Yes, there has to be some sort of number limit to employ a teacher to have a class. Of course, it does not mean that a child would go by without nursery education, an alternative nursery can be offered and will be offered.

ORAL

NO. 488 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – MAINTENANCE EXPENDITURE IN SCHOOLS

Can Government state how much money has been spent on maintenance in schools from April 2008 to August 2008 giving a breakdown by school and amount spent respectively?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question No. 489 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 489 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – MINOR WORKS EXPENDITURE IN SCHOOLS

Can Government state how much money has been spent on minor works in schools from April 2008 to August 2008 giving a breakdown by school and amount spent respectively?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The statistical information requested is set out in the schedule being handed to the hon Member.

Answer to Question 489 of 2008

Answer to Question 488 and 489

The following are the sums spent from April 2008 to August 2008 with regards to minor works and maintenance in schools:

School	Maintenance £	Minor Works £
Gibraltar College	23,050	15,500
Bayside	10,299	90,995
Westside	31,295	-
St Martin's	3,253	9,604
St Anne's	5,750	-
Bishop Fitzgerald	10,903	-
St Joseph's Middle	8,174	-
Sacred Heart	1,463	-
Hebrew	2,707	-
St Mary's First	1,403	-
Governor's Meadow	3,228	-
St Bernard's	2,055	-
St Joseph's	4,669	21,385
St Paul's First	3,695	-
Notre Dame First	13,428	-
TOTAL	£125,372	£137,484

Grand Total - £262,856

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 488 AND 489 OF 2008

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Minister state whether in St Paul's First School, where there is no expenditure on minor works, I am talking about minor works on the list, there seems to be works going on currently. Is it that this is considered to be maintenance rather than minor works, because the works tend to be rather big in terms of maintenance? Can the Minister explain this?

HON C G BELTRAN:

Well, the question refers to the specific period of April to August, so these expenditure figures explain or rather, show a costing for the works that took place in that period. The hon Member may have seen works happening now but this is September, so this would be outside.

ORAL

NO. 490 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION CHANGE OF ADDRESS COSTS

Can Government state how much it has cost the Department of Education in relation to letterheads, stationery, etc, following the change of address?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The cost of stationery following the change of address was £505.

NO. 491 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – NEW SCHOOL IN WESTSIDE AREA

Can Government state when the new school in the Westside area will be ready for children to attend?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

No Sir.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 491 OF 2008

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Minister not give us any indication whatsoever? He has just answered no, Sir as in when the new school will start, but can he give us an indication of when it is that the building or construction is going to start?

HON C G BELTRAN:

That is a different question, of course, he has asked when it will be finished.

HON S E LINARES:

Yes, a supplementary.

HON C G BELTRAN:

I can say that Government have a list of projects and Government decide in their own time when any particular project will commence.

HON G H LICUDI:

Does that mean that the Minister or the Government do not know at all and have no plans in respect of this?

HON C G BELTRAN:

There are two questions there. The first question, which is really the same as the hon Member has asked, was when the school would be finished and I said no. Can he repeat the question because he has asked two, which one does he want answered?

HON G H LICUDI:

Is this part of Government's plans?

HON C G BELTRAN:

What is?

HON G H LICUDI:

The question relates to a new school in the Westside area. The Minister has given the impression that the Government have not got a clue about what they are doing in relation to a new school at the Westside area. Can the Government confirm whether they do in fact have a clue, whether they do in fact know what plans are afoot in respect of this new school and can the Government give any details as to when they expect that to be finished?

MR SPEAKER:

I must rule that question out of order because the answer was not that the Government have not got a clue. Perhaps the hon Member would rephrase the question.

HON C G BELTRAN:

If I may be allowed to comment on that.

MR SPEAKER:

I would rule out of order. I am trying to enforce the rules.

HON G H LICUDI:

I am happy to accept Mr Speaker's ruling.

NO. 492 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – NEW SCHOOL IN WESTSIDE AREA

Can Government state where exactly the new school around the Westside area is going to be built?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Yes, the new school will be on the site of the No. 4 Dock and part of the Yacht Club site. Now he knows.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 492 OF 2008

HON S E LINARES:

Does the Minister have an indication when the present tenants or the people who are there now will be moving in order to get things going for that school?

HON C G BELTRAN:

That is a different question.

HON G H LICUDI:

It is a supplementary, of course it is a different question.

HON C G BELTRAN:

Yes, but not really. It says where exactly is a school being built? He is asking about tenants who live there now, no, I cannot tell him when the tenants will be asked to move.

HON S E LINARES:

Is the Minister then saying that this school could well not open until the year 2015?

HON C G BELTRAN:

Previously the hon Member asked when the school would be finished, if I had given him a date for that, then I would know when it will open. I said I did not know the finishing date, hence I cannot answer the question he has asked.

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Minister state when the construction of the school building will then start in the area in which he has just stated?

HON C G BELTRAN:

No.

ORAL

NO. 493 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – UNAUTHORISED ABSENCES IN SCHOOL

Can Government state how many children have recorded unauthorised absences in the years 2003/2004, 2004/2005, 2005/2006 and 2006/2007 and 2007/2008 giving a breakdown by school, by term and by year in school respectively?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question No. 494 of 2008.

NO. 494 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – AUTHORISED ABSENCES IN SCHOOL

Can Government state how many children have recorded authorised absences in the years 2003/2004, 2004/2005, 2005/2006 and 2006/2007 and 2007/2008 giving a breakdown by school, by term and by year in school respectively?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Statistics appertaining to pupil absences in the format requested by the hon Member are not kept. However, absences are recorded in school and individual cases followed up by form and year tutors. In the case of repeated absenteeism, these are flagged by form tutors through headteachers and followed up by the Department's adviser with responsibility for children's welfare.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 493 AND 494 OF 2008

HON S E LINARES:

What criteria does the Minister use in order to ascertain unauthorised as opposed to authorised absences?

HON C G BELTRAN:

I have just told the hon Member that we do not keep statistics in that format, authorised and unauthorised. If we do not keep statistics in that format it means that we do not have definitions as he is asking.

HON S E LINARES:

So therefore the Government cannot ascertain whether absenteeism is as a consequence of truancy?

HON C G BELTRAN:

The fact that most, if not all, schools do not record absenteeism or absences in the format that he has formulated, does not mean of course that teachers are not vigilant

and absences go unrecorded. He knows from his days as a teacher himself that registers are kept rigorously, with usually a zero indicating an absence, which is followed up by the form tutor with the pupil or directly with their parents by telephone, if necessary. Notes from parents and medical certificates when produced, which could be maybe a week or two or whatever late after the absence is recorded, are kept by the school for at least one year. So, what is important here is not so much the form in which statistics are kept, I think, but that everything possible is done to see that children attend school. So, absences in school whether authorised, which presumably means by parents, or unauthorised are taken very seriously by schools and the Department. Proof of this is that average attendance figures are around the 92 per cent mark generally, so very few of these absences are serious cases of truancy.

HON S E LINARES:

Is the Minister aware that there are definitions in UK as to absences, authorised and unauthorised absences. That there is a criteria, a set criteria in the UK?

HON C G BELTRAN:

The UK, I am aware, have all sorts of definitions, criteria on education that we do not necessarily follow because it is not necessarily best practice in Gibraltar.

HON S E LINARES:

Will the Minister then agree with me that in looking at statistics in the UK, without breaking up the authorised as opposed to the unauthorised but general attendance, that in Gibraltar we have quite a high incidence of non-attendance at school as opposed to UK?

HON C G BELTRAN:

I disagree entirely. An average of 92 per cent attendance is a high figure and very similar to UK, if not better. Certainly in some instances.

HON S E LINARES:

I tend to differ with the Minister but that would be another debate.

NO. 495 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – CHILDREN SUSPENDED FROM SCHOOL

Can Government state how many children have been suspended from school in the academic years 2004/2005, 2005/2006, 2006/2007 and 2007/2008 to date giving a breakdown by school?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The statistical information requested is set out in the schedule which I now hand to the hon Member, and it shows, I am pleased to say and no doubt he will be happy to hear, a marked and continuing decrease in the total number of pupils who have to be suspended from school.

Answer to Question 495 of 2008

SECTOR	SCHOOL	2004/5	2005/6	2006/7	2007/8
Secondary	Bayside	61	56	39	30
	Westside	11	6	9	10
Middle	Bishop Fitzgerald	0	0	0	1
	St Anne's	2	3	0	0
	St Joseph's	0	0	0	0
	Sacred Heart	4	1	3	2
	Hebrew	0	0	0	0
Primary	St Mary's	0	0	0	0
	St Bernard's	0	0	0	0
	Notre Dame	0	0	0	0
	St Joseph's	0	0	0	1
	Governor's Meadow	1	0	0	0
	TOTALS	79	66	51	44

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 495 OF 2008

HON S E LINARES:

I am sure that I am delighted if that is the case.

HON C G BELTRAN:

It is the case, look at the paper in front of you.

HON S E LINARES:

I am not doubting the Minister for one minute. What I am just stating is that has any form of criteria, as in when a child is suspended, changed in order for the statistics to be altered? I am not saying that there is somebody behind the scenes trying to alter the statistics. What I am saying is, is this the same criteria that has always been used past, present and future?

HON C G BELTRAN:

I do not know about the future, but I can tell him that as far as I am concerned and as far as I know in the period that I have been in Education, the criteria are the same as in my predecessor's time.

ORAL

NO. 496 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – COURSES FOR TEACHERS - SPECIAL NEEDS

Can Government state what courses are currently being offered to teachers who teach Special Needs pupils?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 497 and 498 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 497 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – SPECIAL NEEDS BUDGET

Can Government state whether the Department of Education has a specific budget for Special Needs?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 496 and 498 of 2008.

NO. 498 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – SPECIAL NEEDS POLICY

Can Government state whether there is a specific departmental Special Needs policy in relation to inclusion of pupils in mainstream primary education?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

In respect of Question No. 496, Government are currently offering teachers the courses relevant to Special Needs listed in the schedule that is now being handed over.

In respect of Question No. 497, Special Needs provision is funded from various sources:-

- (i) the school's capitation budget which allows for the development of initiatives and resources in the Special Needs element of the curriculum;
- (ii) a top-up to the school's capitation budget for children in Learning Support Facilities; and
- (iii) a specific additional grant controlled centrally from the Department for the purchase of specialised equipment.

In respect of Question No. 498, yes, there is since the year 2001 a Department of Education and Training document entitled "Guidelines for Meeting Special Educational Needs", the aims of which are inclusive.

Answer to Question 498 of 2008

Answer to Question 496

- (i) University of Durham Leadership and Management Course at Diploma level covering Autism and SEN in general.
- (ii) A level 3 course on Dyslexia and Co-Occurring Conditions with an emphasis on Literacy and Numeracy.
- (iii) A visual impairment and echolocation course.
- (iv) A series of courses entitled "Solution Focused Approach to Behaviour".
- (v) School-based INSET courses in the area of "Literacy and Learning Difficulties".
- (vi) A multi-agency course on child protection.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 496 TO 498 OF 2008

HON S E LINARES:

I am aware that there is a guideline for Special Needs but that is Special Needs in general. I was trying to see other than that, those guidelines that are in place from May 2001, are there any other specific policies to do with pupils who are included or are inclusive into schools who are of Special Needs? Any specific?

HON C G BELTRAN:

No, the policy if I may say so is an inclusive policy and it is all inclusive, it is an inclusion policy for the whole of the system, not just as in his question, for pupils in mainstream primary education, he is asking in primary education. I can tell him that this document has existed since 2001 and it is for the whole system.

NO. 499 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – ST BERNARD’S SCHOOL RELOCATION

Can the Minister for Education state when it intends to relocate St Bernard’s School from its current location to the site of the old St Bernard’s Hospital?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

No, Sir.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 499 OF 2008

HON S E LINARES:

I do not intend to get into the same debate as the one before, but is the Minister not aware that that school is in need of relocation now, as in it is in a desperate state and it is in need of either relocation or need of a new school totally?

HON C G BELTRAN:

Were it to be in a desperate state, children would not be allowed into the building. The school is not in a desperate state, it is not a new building, hence the Government’s plans to provide new purpose-built, alternative facilities. But the specific question is when is it moving and I said I do not know.

HON S E LINARES:

Am I right then in my assumption in the question that it will be, when it will be relocated, that it will be relocated in the old site of St Bernard’s Hospital?

HON C G BELTRAN:

Yes, Mr Speaker.

NO. 500 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – LONG-TERM SUPPLY TEACHERS

Can Government state whether long-term supply teachers have been given a contract at the start of this academic year and how many are in the long-term supply situation?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

No contracts have yet been given, although I have said that this is one of my priorities, it still is, and we are now closer to a resolution of this matter. I know it has taken a long time, I have been in Education for a year, I said it was a priority, it still is, and we are closer to doing something about this. But when my predecessor said it was a complex issue, I can assure you it is but it should not remain really as it is. It needs some sort of resolution and that is what I am working at. There are at the moment, this year, 20 teachers who will be supplying for one year, this academic year.

NO. 501 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – TLR POSTS

Can Government state how many TLR posts have been given to date and how many are still to be awarded?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

A total of 116 TLR posts have been filled to date and 86 are pending interviews.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 501 OF 2008

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Minister give an indication as to when all these 86 will be settled as into their posts?

HON C G BELTRAN:

Well, I can give an indication it is not a definite date. But we are working quite hard in the Department, the senior officers who are involved in interviewing with headteachers and so on, it is a complex area as I am sure he understands, requiring the re-advertising of posts that are left by people who obtain new posts in the system. Therefore, maybe December is what we are aiming at. There might be some slippage into January, but certainly I can tell him that senior officers in the Department, he may know have been working, actually doing interviews during the summer holidays when teachers have been on holiday. But some who have been in Gibraltar at the time and the headteachers relevant to the schools whose posts are being given, have actually held interviews during the summer. This is an indication of how seriously and urgently the matter is taken in the Department.

ORAL

NO. 502 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

CEMETERY – MINOR WORKS

Can Government say whether the minor works at the cemetery are now complete and if not when is its completion date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question No. 503 of 2008.

NO. 503 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

EUROPA ROAD – WORKS

Can Government state what will be the total cost of the replacing and repaving the balustrade and footpath along Europa Road giving a breakdown by phase 1, 2 and 3 respectively?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

The position is as given in answer to Question No. 198 of 2008. The hon Member should know that minor maintenance works, by their very nature, have been, are and will always continue to be on-going at the cemetery. So it will never be possible to give a completion date as he is requesting.

The cost of the works to replace the balustrade and repave the footpath along Europa Road and South Barrack Road have been as follows:

Phase one	-	£392,419.06
Phase two	-	£858,789.70
Phase three	-	Currently on-going. The contract sum is £617,899.70.

The estimated total cost for the project, pending completion of phase three, is £1,869,108.46.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 502 AND 503 OF 2008

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Minister state what minor works are currently going on in the cemetery?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Relating back to previous questions, I am not absolutely clear whether we are talking about minor works or maintenance works. There were, yes because the hon Member asks the question in a way that implies that there is a particular set of minor works, there was a refurbishment which he was told in the previous answer had now been completed subject to some minor snagging, that has now been completed. He was told then that maintenance is on-going, and I have taken the question, although

he says minor works, to imply maintenance as opposed to minor works. If what he means is minor maintenance works, or maintenance works, then the answer remains the same. It is on-going and will always be on-going as it has always been on-going. So, it is not possible to give a completion date unless he specifies a particular job in a particular place in the cemetery. But if it is a general question it is impossible to give him a completion date.

HON S E LINARES:

I asked this question because I have asked questions ad nauseum questions in the Department of Education, that is, in schools about maintenance and what happened with his predecessor, the Hon Dr Linares, he then said no it is not quite maintenance, there are two types which is maintenance on the one hand, where on-going things go, something breaks or anything that happens there, then that is part of maintenance. Minor works he defined as something within, say in this case, the cemetery which is identified within a section of the cemetery to have some works done over and above what the maintenance is. That is why I put the question because I understand what the Minister answered in Question No. 198 of 2008 in the previous House. What I am saying is that since he was the one that actually said there are still some minor works left, I have posed this question so that I could get an answer as to exactly what, because if one has done a major refurbishment, I would not think, I am a layman, but I would not think that any minor works are envisaged, because there has been a total refurbishment. When there is not a total refurbishment then there are minor works in different places. When there has been a total refurbishment what now is left is the maintenance of that general refurbishment. So the question would be, that is why I posed the question, what minor works are there to be done? There might not be any and what the Minister is trying to say is that there are constant maintenance works. Thank you.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

My position is very much the same as the answers he received from the Hon Bernard Linares. Actually, in answer to Question No. 99 of 2008, I did not mention minor works what I said was, the actual answer was, "yes Sir, the projected works at the cemetery are now complete, with the exception of some minor finishing snagging jobs", which is not minor works. The position, I think, is clear, there are no minor works, there is on-going maintenance, there is a gang of six men at the cemetery on a daily basis doing maintenance and there is no job of minor works that could be identified separately at this moment in time.

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Minister state whether those minor snagging jobs have been completed?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes, I have already said that in answer to a previous supplementary.

ORAL

NO. 504 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

DUDLEY WARD TUNNEL

Can Government state when it expects works for the realignment and concreted protection of the approach road to Dudley Ward Tunnel to commence?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question No. 505 of 2008.

NO. 505 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

DUDLEY WARD TUNNEL

Can Government state when it expects Dudley Ward Tunnel to open for vehicular traffic?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Tenders for the works were returned on the 28th March 2008. The tender evaluation process has not yet been completed as there has been a need to clarify a number of technical queries and issues before the evaluation process can be finalised.

The construction period for the re-alignment and concreted protection of the approach road to Dudley Ward Tunnel, is anticipated to be 18 months. The tunnel is therefore expected to be opened to vehicular traffic one and a half years after works commence on the site.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 504 AND 505 OF 2008

HON G H LICUDI:

Well, that is the same as saying it could open in the year 2020. If it starts in the year 2018 then it will be ready 18 months thereafter which is the year 2020. Is the Minister aware that this is a problem which Gibraltar has faced for many years now, and after tenders were received on 28th March 2008, for us to be six and half months down the line and the Government still, and I will not use the words "not having a clue" because I do not want to be ruled out of order and have the supplementary ruled out, but are the Government not taking this seriously? Certainly, that is the impression that is being given that a problem that has persisted for many years, persists and persists and the Government still do not know when it is going to start. When are the Government going to get their act in order? When are the Government going to know when these works, urgent works, are going to commence?

HONLT-COL E M BRITTO:

There are a number of assumptions in that series of supplementaries which I will deal with by dealing with the factual parts of the question. The hon Member can be excused because of his inexperience of these matters, not knowing how tender

evaluation processes take place. These processes are not in the hands of politicians as yet. These are technical processes. This is a major, major job running into millions of pounds and the tenders come in, they are evaluated at technical level and they are processed at technical level, and until the technical people are satisfied with the answers that they are getting from the tenderers, then the Tender Board cannot meet to make a decision. That is where we are now.

HON G H LICUDI:

We obviously appreciate, despite our ignorance, that there are technical matters.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Inexperience I said.

HON G H LICUDI:

Inexperience which I suppose equates with ignorance in the particular context. We obviously appreciate that in the case of the re-alignment and concreted protection, that the Minister might not be an expert in the field and some technical expertise might be required. So we obviously expect, that there will be technical people involved and there will be technical issues. Are the Government getting advice from their own technical people as to what the issues are and when those technical issues might be resolved, so that we would be in a position to know when the Government expect this whole project to commence? They must have some idea.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I can only repeat what I have already said. This is a technical process which is not in the hands of politicians, which is in the hands of the technical people. Until the technical side of the Civil Service makes the assessments and makes the recommendation, then it goes into a tender process, into a Treasury Tender Board and once again, politicians are not involved. It is only when the Treasury Tender Board makes the allocation, it is when it comes to Ministers with the recommendations of the Board. That is the first time that Ministers get involved.

HON G H LICUDI:

Is the Minister telling this House that the Government, essentially, wash their hands of this process and put it in the hands of third parties, and simply sit back and wait, and wait, and wait, and wait until someone someday says, here are the finished projects then this can go to the Tender Board? Do the Government have no involvement at all in this policy decision making?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I have explained how the system works, I can appreciate the theatrical manner in which the hon Member is asking his supplementaries for the benefit of the audience.

I have given him the facts, the facts are what they are and repeating the same question in a different theatrical fashion will not change the answer.

HON F R PICARDO:

With an attempt to avoid any theatrics whatsoever, can the Minister help me simply with this? Given that we have been able, it appears, to award a tender for the construction of an airport which is going to cost in excess of £50 million in less than a year, can the Minister perhaps help the House and tell us why it is that the technical aspects of the tender to fix Dudley Ward Tunnel, which has been around and functioning without a problem until the very tragic circumstances which gave rise to its closing in 2003, are obviously so much more complex and the award of the tender is so much more difficult than the award of the tender for the airport?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No, I cannot because the award of the tender for the airport is something that does not come under my Department or my political responsibility. So I cannot draw a parallel.

HON F R PICARDO:

Would it be then, perhaps, possible to reflect on this fact that perhaps other departments are more capable, or other Ministers are more capable when it comes to granting and assessing the technical aspects of contracts and tenders, and are therefore able to move works along much more expeditiously than the hon Gentleman?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I have already said and I will say again that Ministers do not make the technical assessment, so therefore the question of the capability of one Minister or the other just simply does not come into it.

NO. 506 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

SUNDIAL ROUNDABOUT

Can Government state the cost of putting up and then removing the new barriers at the Sundial roundabout?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

The total cost of erecting and removing these barriers is £19,200.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 506 OF 2008

HON G H LICUDI:

Does the Minister recognise that that is £19,200 down the drain?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No, Sir.

HON G H LICUDI:

Again, it might be my technical expertise or inexperience that is responsible for this, but if the Government spend almost £20,000 in putting something up, that only a few weeks later as a result of public concern over safety, decide to dismantle and therefore that money is completely wasted, can the Government confirm on what basis the original decision was taken so that only a few weeks later that decision was reversed?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The Government were advised by the Traffic Commission that a barrier should be put in place, designs for the barrier were put forward and approval was given to those designs. Subsequently, what was erected was not in consonance with the designs that had been approved, either in size or in appearance, the Government did not consider that it was appropriate and in the best overall interests of Gibraltar for that

particular barrier, which is a motorway type of barrier, to feature in such a prominent place in the entrance to Gibraltar. The decision was made to remove it, as I say it is not down the drain because it is reusable again. I said it is not money down the drain because it is reusable, the barrier is reusable and at the moment a design is being prepared for Government approval on a different way of achieving the same means of protecting pedestrians at that particular bend in the road.

HON G H LICUDI:

We certainly applaud efforts which may be made, either at the Sundial roundabout or anywhere in Gibraltar in order to protect pedestrians. That is certainly our interest as well. But this question is not about that type of policy decision for protection. We certainly agree that protection is at the forefront of this type of policy making decision. When the Minister says that the barriers that were erected were not in keeping with the surroundings and possibly not what Government expected, was there nobody in the Government or advising the Minister, who looked at the plans, who knew exactly what was going to be erected and who must have known that this was not going to be satisfactory and was not going to achieve the purpose that it was intended, before the money was spent and before the barriers were erected? Were the Government not advised about this?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No, the assessment that was made was made once the works had not been completed, once the barrier started going back and what had been seen in presentations and on pictures was actually seen on the ground, and that is when the decision was made.

HON G H LICUDI:

Is the Minister saying that what was presented to the Government as what this would look like did not actually form part of the finished product?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No, that is not what I said. What was originally presented via the Traffic Commission was a similar type of barrier. What was actually put up was an enhanced barrier with more protection and it was bigger and longer than the original design.

HON G H LICUDI:

The Minister says that this is not money down the drain because the barriers are reusable, well we will have to see whether they are in fact used. There must have been manpower, there must have been a contract, there must have been an award of some sort which does require some money to be spent in erecting and dismantling, and which is money down the drain. Can the Minister give us an indication of that figure?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I do not have that figure available. I sympathise with what the hon Member is saying, he is correct, I do not have a breakdown of the figure with me.

HON F R PICARDO:

If I might be allowed just before I ask the next question? The Minister's answer puts one in mind of the old saying that the Grand Old Duke of York he did have 10,000 men, he marched them up to the top of the hill and then he marched them down again. I am sure it cost him less than £19,000 to do so.

ORAL

NO. 507 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

WASTE-TO-ENERGY PLANT EMISSIONS

What emissions, if any, does the Government anticipate that its proposed “waste to energy” plant will produce?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question No. 508 of 2008.

NO. 508 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

AIR QUALITY MONITORING STATION – LEVEL OF EMISSIONS

What level of emissions have been detected by the new air quality monitoring station in the area of “Jumpers” which the Minister has described as being “within acceptable levels”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

The proposed waste-to-energy plant will be procured under a PFI contract, on a design and build basis. Consequently, the specific information that the hon Member is seeking is not yet available and will not become available until such time as the design is elaborated by the appointed contractor. However, the Government’s requirement for the project clearly state that the plant will have to fully comply with all the requirements of the EU Directive on waste incineration, that is Directive 2000/76/EC of 4th December 2000, and indeed, any future Directives that may come into force during the life of the plant.

The highest hourly average for nitrogen dioxide detected by the new monitoring station at Witham’s Road, has been 151 ug/m³ on the 10th May 2008. The distribution of the majority of the other hourly averages fall into a wide range of double figures. The hourly averages are therefore well below the 200 ug/m³ hourly limit value which has to be met by 1st January 2010.

As the hon Member is aware, this information is available to him by referring to the website.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 507 AND 508 OF 2008

HON F R PICARDO:

I see that the Government are intending only to comply with the EU criteria and have no more ambitious requirements for the emissions of the waste-to-energy plant. It is called a waste-to-energy plant by the Minister, he and I know it is also called an incinerator by those who do not support that type of technology, although of course, I think across the floor there is support for any technology which does what is required to be done for the community and at the same time produces some energy. But can he tell us, is he intending to contract clairvoyance to build the thing, given that he anticipates that it will comply with EU requirements set out in the year 2000 and all future EU requirements whilst the plant is functioning? I would have thought that the

plant would have a functioning life of 20 to 30 years and it is impossible to anticipate what it is that the EU might in future, given that none of us can tell the future, decide are going to be acceptable levels of emissions?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The hon Member should be aware that the Government do not intend to contract clairvoyants but rather businessmen. He should understand what I said at the beginning of the answer, that the plant will be procured under a PFI contract on a design and build basis, and that the Government will therefore condition the contract, because the plant will obviously remain in the ownership of the builder. The plant the Government will qualify the contract as I have said. The obligation will be on the owners of the plant to update it according to future EU requirements. They can only build it to EU requirements, Directive 2000/76/EC as I mentioned, at this moment in time. But they will have the commitment to update it, to keep it EU compliant going into the future. That is perfectly possible.

HON F R PICARDO:

I appreciate that, I am grateful for clarification. I think if the Minister reads his original answer, it does not talk about updating although I accept that the way that he has now explained it will require less crystal ball gazing by all parties involved.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can the Minister confirm that the PFI is just for the construction of the plant and that it will be operated by the Government? Or does it include the owner of the plant operating it as well?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I do not have that information. I am not running this project.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Does it mean the Government have not taken a policy decision on that issue or just that he personally does not know the answer?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The second.

HON F R PICARDO:

Given that he is the Minister for the Environment, who is running this project?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The Minister responsible for the electricity.

NO. 509 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

EASTSIDE RECLAMATION – SEEPAGE OF DAMAGING CHEMICALS

What is the Government doing or what has the Government done to ensure that the seepage of damaging chemicals and liquids from the Eastside reclamation does not affect bathers on the Eastside, the environment in the area and the present residents of the Eastside?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

The Government have for a very long time maintained very strict controls to ensure that only inert building materials were dumped at the Eastside reclamation. No tipping of any other materials, liquids or chemicals has been permitted. In the circumstances, it was not considered necessary to implement specific monitoring of surrounding waters, other than the routine sampling and testing of water quality at Eastern Beach and Catalan Bay.

The inert building materials have their own chemical composition and migration of this into the sea could be expected to affect seawater quality. However, the levels of these contaminants are at present insignificant within the surrounding seawater. This has been identified in the recent EIA carried out on behalf of the Eastside Developers.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 509 OF 2008

HON F R PICARDO:

Does that EIA not also identify that in the process of development of the Eastside, there is a need to ensure that there is no further seepage of the types of damaging chemicals that I described in my question, which might be released by the development process on the land?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes indeed, and the developer will be conditioned to do the necessary to avoid that.

ORAL

NO. 510 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

OESCO – SOUND ATTENUATION

What progress has been made in respect of the “sound attenuation” of the building at Europa Business Park which is occupied by OESCO?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question No. 511 of 2008.

NO. 511 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

OESCO – TENDERS FOR SOUND ATTENUATION

What was the total number of tenders received in respect of the “sound attenuation” of the building at Europa Business Park which is occupied by OESCO and which was awarded to Profield Limited?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Sound attenuation works of the building at Europa Business Park occupied by OESCO are currently in progress. The projected completion date for these works is March 2009.

Two offers were received for the tender entitled “Proposed Sound Proofing Works at OESCO Power Station”.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 510 AND 511 OF 2008

HON F R PICARDO:

Can the Minister tell us who was the unsuccessful tenderer?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes, the tender was awarded to the lowest tenderer and the unsuccessful tenderer was Sharrock Shand

NO. 512 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

WIND TURBINE BED OFF EUROPA POINT

What progress has been made in the introduction of a wind turbine “bed” off Europa Point, which the Minister for the Environment referred to in chairing the opening plenary of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association on Climate Change and Energy?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

This project, which is still in the assessment stage, has not as yet been considered by Ministers. The question of progress in the introduction therefore does not arise.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 512 OF 2008

HON F R PICARDO:

How is the assessment progressing?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

In 2007 the Government commissioned a report on the options for Gibraltar in relation to renewable energy. In this report three types of renewable energy, wind, waste, energy from waste and tidal current, were identified and recommendations were that these should be pursued. At present the assessment or the negotiations have been done at technical level. The hon Member should realise that this particular form of renewable energy, unlike the other ones, is a process that is still in its infancy and has not yet been tried and tested on a large scale. At that same conference which the hon Member refers to in his question, it became clear that the Channel Islands are going through the same process of evaluation. It is estimated that the process could be as long as two years in measuring the strength of currents in the particular area off Europa Point. So, it is unlikely that we will see energy being derived from this particular process in the immediate future. Well, unlikely, impossible.

HON F R PICARDO:

Should the two year period be deemed to have commenced in 2007, in which case the assessment might be over by next year, or not?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No, the period of assessment by a possible contractor will commence when the equipment is in place and measuring currents. We have not got to that stage yet.

NO. 513 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

GREEN ROOFS

What progress is being made on the introduction of “green roofs”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Government supports and promotes green roofs whenever these are considered appropriate, possible and viable. This same policy has been adopted by the Development and Planning Commission in its consideration of planning applications.

The DPC encourages the adoption of green roofs in developments within certain areas of Gibraltar. No proposals have as yet been received. The Department of the Environment is keen to assist any developer who might consider undertaking projects of this nature.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 513 OF 2008

HON F R PICARDO:

How does the DPC encourage the adoption of green roofs?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I cannot answer, although I am a member of DPC I cannot answer for the actions of DPC outside DPC.

HON F R PICARDO:

I appreciate that that may be a matter of policy for the Government, not to wish to engage us in that respect. But if the Minister has just referred to the House specifically and he is a member of the DPC, to the fact that the DPC encourages the adoption of this green roofs technology, I think it is fair to have followed it up with a supplementary on that issue. It is not as if I am asking about the deliberations, I am asking about something which should be something, I would have thought, fairly public and positive in the sense that if it is being encouraged, the fact that we are debating it at least is putting it out there.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes, fair enough but the key word is “encourages”. The hon Member understands the planning process and the prospective developer proposes a project to DPC. In the discussions between the Town Planners, or should I say to the Town Planning Department and to building control, in the discussions between the Town Planners and the developers, the Town Planners on behalf of DPC, encourage them in appropriate areas to adopt green roofs as well as a number of other things, not just green roofs, and more to come when the Building Energy Directive comes into being. But at the end of the day, it is, dare I say, a commercial decision by the developer and the DPC and the Government can do no more than encourage but cannot oblige a developer. Other than in certain circumstances where DPC can make it conditional to the granting of planning permission. I am just trying to generalise so as not to talk about any particular DPC project.

HON F R PICARDO:

The Minister will agree with me, of course, that the Government do not lead by example on buildings that they develop?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I am trying to think of a building where Government could have led by example. Well we are not talking about green roofs, my understanding of it anyway, in areas like the airport. I think we are talking green roofs in areas where there is vegetation. A building in the airport in the middle of the tarmac with a green roof on it would stick out like a sore thumb.

HON F R PICARDO:

Or beautify the area. The whole idea is that it has a dual purpose.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No.

HON F R PICARDO:

So the Minister would agree with me that the Government do not lead by example in any of the buildings that it has developed?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The Government support and promote and have not yet led by example.

HON F R PICARDO:

Do as I say and not as I say I will do?

NO. 514 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

NEW RECYCLING BINS – ADVERTISING

Why was the Ministry of the Environment's insert in the Gibraltar Chronicle and the Panorama advertising the new recycling bins not printed on recycled paper?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

The insert was printed on “environmentally friendly paper”. Recycled paper of the desired quality was not available, and I am told is not normally available. In such circumstances, any literature of guidance is published on paper from sustainable forests, accredited by ISO or the Forest Stewardship Council.

NO. 515 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

NOXIOUS FUMES AFFECTING GIBRALTAR

What action has Government taken as a result of the ESG having highlighted the problems of noxious fumes affecting different areas of Gibraltar?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

It is assumed that this question is in connection with bunkering fuels. Maybe the hon Member can confirm that before I carry on.

HON F R PICARDO:

The Minister is right and I should have added that to the question to clarify, but we both know xxxxxx.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Okay, I will proceed on that basis. In June 2005, the Environmental Agency on behalf of the Government of Gibraltar were already investigating the complaints concerning obnoxious, not noxious smells I stress, obnoxious, I stress because as the hon Member will appreciate, two completely different words. The word he uses in the question and the word that I am using in the answer. Obnoxious smells in Gibraltar before this was highlighted by the ESG.

The following measures have been taken by the bunkering companies as a result of Government intervention:

- a) temperature reduction of stored fuel in barges to reduce emissions;
- b) addition of scavenging agents to fuel oils to reduce emissions of hydrogen sulphide;
- c) the prohibition of fuel loaded barges from berthing at the Extension Jetty.

The number of complaints associated with this activity has reduced to insignificance since these measures were introduced.

The Government also engaged Environmental Consultants, AEA Energy & Environment, to conduct a study on the pollutant impacts from fuel bunkering in the Bay of Gibraltar. A report on the study was produced in January 2008.

The report identified that modelled emissions occurring under the worst case scenario from bunkering taking place simultaneously at all the Bay anchorages, are still not sufficient to directly cause harm to health. However, the emissions have the potential to cause odour nuisance, or smell nuisance under certain circumstances.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 515 OF 2008

HON F R PICARDO:

The Minister will forgive me for taking a number of issues in supplementary. The first relates to the question of whether these fumes are noxious or obnoxious. He will agree with me, no doubt, that there have been some instances where individuals have had to attend at St Bernard's as a result of the effect of these fumes, which is what would render them noxious and not just obnoxious.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The dictionary definition for noxious is poisonous or harmful. Attending hospital does not necessarily mean not obnoxious, it could mean precautionary.

HON F R PICARDO:

Well, I am grateful for the fact that he has told us what has been done to avoid it happening in the future, but certainly, I think that there would be an issue between us if actually on the day that Dr Johnson was born in 1709, we had reduced the dictionary to something which allowed the Government to get away from the fact that some people have actually had to go to hospital as a result of these fumes. So that, therefore, they were noxious on some occasions and not just obnoxious. But the fact is that the Minister's answer has indicated that things are being done to avoid this happening in the future, and I am grateful to that. So perhaps we can move on. What is in the Minister's lexicon insignificant, is it that there are ten reports a months instead of 100, or is it that there is one report a year instead of 100?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

At the risk of re-opening the debate, I touch on the words again. The point I was making is that I reject the insinuation in the question that the fumes are poisonous or harmful, and as I read in my answer to the question, the report that has been produced identifies that even in the worst case scenario, the level of emissions cannot directly cause harm to health. Therefore, I reject the word "noxious" and accept they are obnoxious, which means they are objectionable and offensive. In terms of insignificance, I apologise to the hon Member because I should have picked up that possible supplementary myself and have had the information here, I do not have the numerical answer. If he is interested in it and he writes to me I shall provide it to him but I do not have it here with me.

HON F R PICARDO:

I am obliged. I do not find his argument persuasive on the issue of noxious or obnoxious and neither would the people who have had to attend hospital who have found themselves, obviously, overwhelmed either by poisonous fumes or fumes so obnoxious that they have found that they had to seek medical attention. A lot of what he tells us about whether the fumes we are told in the report can amount to something which is dangerous to health or not, will be based no doubt on assumptions made on the report about disbursal et cetera. Will the Minister agree to provide a copy of the report?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

This question falls between two Ministries, both of which are under my political responsibility up to about April this year. Bunkering comes under the Port and is now my colleague's Joe Holliday. He is actively following, I was advised this morning, considering developing a code of practice for the Port, to make sure that this situation is better regulated. He is also taking advice and considering whether to release the report or not release the report. One of the problems with the report is, I am told, well I have seen it, that it is presented in a very technical form and it is being considered how and if to release it. But I would ask the hon Member to follow that up with him rather than with me because it is now bunkering and that side of it is under Minister Holliday now and not under me.

HON FR PICARDO:

I appreciate the Minister's answer. Would he agree with me, nonetheless, that this is an issue, obviously, which is of some interest to people in the areas who have been affected, and it would certainly inform the public debate, however technical the report may be, if at least its conclusions were to be made public and the results of any surveys carried out were to be made available generally, not just to the Opposition but to the public at large.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes, I certainly agree and that is why I have summarised the main conclusion, which is, assuming every single bay anchorage had a bunkering, which is not possible because we do not have the capability, but assuming every single anchorage had a tanker on it and bunkering was taking place, simultaneously, even then, that is the summary of what the conclusions of the report. Even then the level of the emissions would not be harmful to health. Having said that, I agree that it is a subject that people are naturally concerned when they smell the obnoxious odour. That is, without doubt, the uncertainty, if nothing else, of whether it is harmful or not harmful. So, yes, I do favour making the report in a readable and understandable form public, and I have already spoken to the ESG about this and discussed it with them on a number of occasions.

NO. 516 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

TRAFFIC MONITORING CABLES

What data has been collected from the cables laid on road ways to monitor traffic?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

The Government's Technical Services Department has been installing road traffic counters at various locations on the highway network for the past two years, to collect data on total vehicle traffic movements.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 516 OF 2008

HON F R PICARDO:

When will that data be available?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I do not have that information at hand, I can tell him that it has been necessary to do it to assess our highway network in relation to compliance with the EU Environmental Noise Directive, 2002/48/EC. But I cannot tell him whether there is a deadline. Presumably there is, almost certainly there is and I suspect that we need to report the levels to the EU as well. But I do not have a date in front of me.

HON F R PICARDO:

Is it the intention to publish this data?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I would not have thought so. The intention is, my understanding of it, to assess our liabilities under the EU Directive. There is nothing sinister about it. Again, my understanding is that if there is a threshold level of traffic under which the Directive kicks in or does not kick in, and one needs to establish the movement of traffic on any particular area to see whether these reporting requirements or any other

requirements come into play. But I do not have, he will appreciate, the full details with me.

HON F R PICARDO:

Having said all that, the Minister will surely agree with me that if this data is available to the Government and is being collected at taxpayers' expense, then it would be a good idea for at least people in Gibraltar to be able to access it, on the basis that although we may or may not be above or below the requirements of the Directive to do or not do certain things, certainly it would inform again the public debate on issues such as traffic on our roads, or traffic on particular roads of Gibraltar and, from my point of view, the emissions created by the traffic on those roads and whether each side might formulate policy relating to that, or individuals might wish to take up particular issues relating to that. Again, because I do not think there is anything sinister about it, this is data that could very simply be published for the purposes of those who may have an interest in it.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I think I would rather react in answering to those that have an interest in the subject asking the questions, rather than publishing matters of data that may or may not be available. I can certainly invite the hon Member to ask questions in this House or to write to me, whichever he prefers.

HON F R PICARDO:

I accept the invitation because in that way, certainly, the Opposition would have the information available and anybody who has an interest could consult the Hansard. Whether or not they would know from listening to the radio what the answers are, but certainly from consulting the Hansard they would have the information available that they require.

HON G H LICUDI:

Is this data that is available to the Government on a periodic basis or are they collecting this to have an assessment on a once and for all basis?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I think we need to collect it not on a once and for all basis but we need to collect it initially to establish what the level of traffic is in different areas of Gibraltar, and I am almost certain that we then need to keep tabs of it periodically. This is not the first time these counters have been used. But they are used for a number of reasons, they are used sometimes if one is going to put traffic lights at a junction, to assess the timings for the lights and so on. On this particular occasion, these have been done for the reasons I have already said. If there are EU requirements, as there are, and if there are EU reporting requirements, then obviously they would need to be updated.

HON G H LICUDI:

Does the Minister know over how long this data is now being collected? Since when did it start? What period are we talking about?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No I do not. But, again, if he writes to me I will make the information available.

HON G H LICUDI:

I do not know whether this is information that is available to the Minister, but is this reviewed internally before taking that final decision and compiling that report? Is the Minister aware whether, in fact, we are compliant or non-compliant with the EU Directives?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No, because the data is still being collected and assessed. I do not know for what period of time, I can certainly find out. To be honest I was not anticipating such a lot of interest on this particular question. Otherwise, when I do have some information provided to me in supplementary, I usually ask for more if I know or I expect supplementaries. But I invite both the hon Members who have been asking questions to write to me and ask me for further information and I will provide it.

ORAL

NO. 517 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

RECYCLING BIN – OUTSIDE ST BERNARD’S HOSPITAL

How often is the recycling bin outside St Bernard’s Hospital emptied, as it is unsightly and overflowing?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 518 and 519 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 518 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

RECYCLING OF GLASS AND CANS

What are the details of the agreement between the Government and the company responsible for the recycling of glass and cans?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 517 and 519 of 2008.

NO. 519 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

RECYCLING OF GLASS AND CANS – VEHICLE DOCUMENTATION

What was the “initial administrative problem” encountered with the documentation of the vehicle designed to carry out the exportation of the glass and cans for recycling?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

The contract between the Government and the company in respect of the recycling of glass and cans requires the company to place recycling bins at locations throughout Gibraltar for depositing of waste, glass and cans by the public, and for the subsequent collection of these wastes for transportation to an authorised recycling facility.

The recycling bins are required to be emptied with such frequency as will ensure that they have sufficient capacity to admit further waste.

In the case of the recycling bins opposite St Bernard’s Hospital, which incidentally has proved to be the most popular location, the company has been experiencing difficulties in accessing the bins to empty them, due to their location behind parking spaces. A new permanent location which will not be obstructed when the bins require emptying, has been sought, identified and is being considered. But this location needs the agreement of a third party and this has been requested.

The initial administrative problems related to organisational misunderstandings within the company, with documents being mislaid and which resulted in delays in the issue of the vehicles log book.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 517 TO 519 OF 2008

HON F R PICARDO:

Which is the company?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Master Services.

HON F R PICARDO:

Was there a consideration payable in respect of this contract?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The requirement was put out to tender, I understand, some time in 2007 before my time. Master Services were awarded the contract but it was then absorbed into the full Master Services contract, so it is not a separate contract and it is on a cost plus basis. But further details than that I would not release publicly today, but he would need to write to me if he wants further details of the commercial aspects of the contract.

HON F R PICARDO:

Would he answer the question publicly in this House or is he asking me to write to him privately?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

If he is seeking more commercially sensitive information, I would ask him to write to me xxxxxx.

HON F R PICARDO:

The site where the recycling bin outside St Bernard's was originally located, and is still located, was identified.....

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Not quite.

HON F R PICARDO:

Was it identified by the Government or by Master Services?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I am hesitating because when I took this over at the end of last year a lot of the work had already been done. I am trying to remember whether this was one of the sites..... It was probably, anyway, it was done in my time so I probably approved it, but the initial survey was done jointly by Master Services and by the Government's Cleansing Section, which now is called something else monitoring something or other. I will come to it in another answer shortly. The survey was done and identified by them jointly, the difficulties were not anticipated, there has been a temporary solution by moving the bins down onto the road, which prevents the problem but loses a parking space. So, we have identified a new location in conjunction with Morrison's inside their car park, and Morrison's are now consulting

with their headquarters about cooperating with the recycling process and allowing the bins to be placed within their own car park.

NO. 520 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

APES

Has any killing of apes taken place in this calendar year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

In view of the controversy that arose, both at a local and international level, after this subject was discussed during the last meeting of this Parliament, the Government consider that it is not in the best interests of Gibraltar to provide this information publicly. However, the Government are prepared to make this information available to the hon Member opposite on a confidential basis.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 520 OF 2008

HON F R PICARDO:

I would hope that the Minister knows that he can count on Opposition Members where we are of one mind about what are in the interests of Gibraltar, what are the general public interests of Gibraltar, that we will agree to take information confidentially and, perhaps not even pursue requests for information, as is obviously not obvious from the Order Paper, given that we do not ask about certain things. But on this issue which is an issue of partisan controversy across the floor of this House, where we have been standing firm on the issue that there should be no killing of apes, that there should be a better ape management in place. Well, the Minister has taken the contrary position and defended that publicly, where international controversy has been caused. It is not fair and it is not proper, in my view, that the Minister should say that there is information which provides an answer to this question, which is obviously not none but that he will not give across the floor of this House. I would urge him to reconsider his position and to put into the public domain the numbers of any apes which he has authorised the killing of.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The Government's position remains as stated in the answer to the question already. One of the reasons for that position is that the controversy has been generated and fuelled by misinformation or lack of information, not in this House but outside this House, and it has obliged the Government to write quite a number of letters to people

who have written in expressing concern, and that concern was obviously on the basis of this lack of full information. Each of these letters has been replied to and, I think with one exception, no one has written back to challenge what had been said. In terms of releasing the information, the Government have made a policy decision and if the hon Member is sincere in what he said at the beginning of his supplementary, that Opposition Members put Gibraltar's interests first, it is a question of what they are putting first. They should reconsider their own position as well.

HON F R PICARDO:

This is not, with the very greatest of respect to him, about the interests of Gibraltar. This is about the interests of the GSD. This is about a policy that is unsustainable whether locally or internationally. This is about an answer that obviously is to the effect that a number of apes have been killed on licences granted by the Minister, and that he is not prepared to stand up in this House and defend the number of licences he has given to end the life of apes or macaques in Gibraltar. Therefore, I will not be bound by confidentiality when provided with that answer, nor will I be tarnished with the brush that I do not have Gibraltar's best interests at heart because I do not accept the Minister's position.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

All I will say is that I equally accuse the Opposition Member of having the interests of the GSLP in mind and taking the position they are taking in order to cause harm to the Government at the expense of the best interests of Gibraltar.

HON F R PICARDO:

Causing harm to the Government, the Minister will agree, is not causing harm to Gibraltar because in the phrase he has used he will no doubt have to agree the words "Government" are interchangeable with the letters "GSD" and not Gibraltar.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

If the hon Member has indicated he is not prepared to accept the information on a confidential basis, I will not make it available to him.

ORAL

NO. 521 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

APES

What is the Government doing about the problem of apes continuing to be attracted to open rubbish dumps in the area of Tankerville / Tank Ramp?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question No. 522 of 2008.

NO. 522 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

COMPLAINTS FROM RESIDENTS OF SANDY BAY – EROSION OF BEACH/APE MANAGEMENT

What is the Government doing in respect of the further complaints which have been made by residents of Sandy Bay to the Ministry of the Environment, in relation to the erosion of that beach and ape management in the area?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

A new enclosed bin holding facility is being designed for the area of Tankerville and Tank Ramp, in order to replace the current arrangements which no longer meet the requirements. A survey of the area has been carried out, has been necessary to carry out following the re-routing of traffic in the area and possible new locations have been identified by the environmental monitoring unit, which now need to be considered by Government in the light of technical difficulties which have been identified in most of these by the monitoring unit, in most of these possible locations.

The Ministry for the Environment has not received any further complaints from the residents of Sandy Bay in relation to the beach or to the ape management programme in that area since the meeting I held on 3rd April this year with representatives of the two residential groups in Both Worlds at which these issues were raised by them.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 521 AND 522 OF 2008

HON F R PICARDO:

Well, at least I am pleased that the answer was not that he was going to sign further licences for the assassination of apes in the areas of Tankerville and Tank Ramp. It is frustrating sometimes to come to this House and to get the same answer repeatedly. I have not been a member of this House for as long as the Minister has been, but in all the time that I have been here we have been pursuing this issue, and every time I ask questions about this particular area and what is being done about ape management, I am told that there is a survey of that area, there is a further review of how rubbish management in that area is going to be carried out et cetera. I am exasperated by the answers but the residents of each of the particular areas are becoming exasperated by the fact that the apes continue to be attracted, not just to people who might feed them in breach of the law, but to the open rubbish dumps in

the area. I have available for the Minister and for the Chair copies of photographs taken in the area of Tankerville and Tarik Road, which show both what the unsightly rubbish dumps are like on a daily basis and what the unsightly rubbish dumps are like, particularly on a Sunday, which is the worst day of the week. There are two sets.

MR SPEAKER:

Am I permitted to look at photographs? Not according to Erskine May.

HON F R PICARDO:

Mr Speaker must be because the Minister for the Leisure Centre was making copies available of photographs in relation to Frazer's Ramp.

MR SPEAKER:

He offered but I did not take up the offer. According to Erskine May I am not allowed to look at photographs, nor is anyone in this House. I will look at it off the record.

HON F R PICARDO:

I am obliged. If Mr Speaker is not allowed to look at photographs I am very sorry he will not be able to look at his own family's photo albums. I assume he means in this House.

MR SPEAKER:

Absolutely.

HON F R PICARDO:

These photographs show, and I think they are a useful aid to understanding what the position is xxxxxx

MR SPEAKER:

Not permitted under Erskine May, as you know.

HON F R PICARDO:

.....that the rubbish dumps in the area are more than just unsightly, they are probably quite unhygienic. Not just for the apes who forage there but for the children who play in the area. Now, I know this area very well and I am sure that the Minister has been made familiar with it, it is the area just below Moorish Castle, where lots of tourists sometimes lose their way on their way down from the upper rock and it is an area where there are lots of residents. As the Minister would see if he were to look at

the photographs, the apes come onto the rubbish dumps, there is absolutely nothing to stop them gaining access to the rubbish. In fact, the bins no longer have any lids left. Therefore, what we are providing for the apes is a rubbish food fest in the area which results in them being attracted massively to the bins and providing awful disruption to the individuals who live in the area. All it takes is to build, and I know from experience because I have seen the Ministry do it elsewhere, a small wall covered with fairly sturdy wire and a door that apes cannot open. It has worked in all the other areas. In fact, it has worked in the areas surrounding Tankerville, that is why the apes are now attracted principally to Tankerville because in all the other areas the rubbish dumps have been closed up. Why is it taking so long?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I share some of the frustrations of the hon Member, he may be surprised to hear. He sums up his exposition and presentation, which was not a question, with ten words in the question at the end when he asks why is it taking so long. I regret to say that as we speak it has become almost necessary for it to take longer. If he looks at answers to previous questions he will have seen that plans were in place, the bin area was being designed, everything was going ahead but we have had to stop those plans because since the road direction has been changed, the refuse depositing pattern of people in the area has also changed. Whereas, for example, the outgoing traffic from Moorish Castle used to go along Castle Road and used to use the bins at the bottom of Castle Steps, now because the direction of traffic has changed in the opposite direction, people are using the upper area. So, whereas there had been an intention of moving the bottom one, we are now re-assessing whether there is a need to do that or a need to build in place. That re-assessment is taking place. Also on the upper side on the Tankerville level the present facilities, as I indicated in my answer, have become unsuitable for requirements because much more refuse is being deposited there. So we are trying to find or are finding an alternative location where a bigger bin holding facility can be installed because the present location is not big enough. Now, I am told, I have not been briefed on the locations and I have not seen the report yet, but I am told that a number of locations that have been identified all have problems of one sort or another. Either they are on the public highway or they are being used for some other purpose, and we are in that position now. Having almost got there, we are now rethinking the whole situation. But believe me, as far as I am concerned, it is a matter of urgency and it is a matter that needs to be tackled quickly, precisely for the reasons that the hon Member is saying, of the unsightly mess and of the attraction to the apes. I cannot resist the opportunity to go back to the hon Member's point about the bins not having lids. Regrettably, those bins are not removed by the Government or by Government officials. They are either removed by people who find it too difficult or too cumbersome to open the bin and it is easier just to dump the rubbish into an open bin, or they are removed by those who should know better and who are employed in the business of refuse. But the hon Member has my assurance of my interest in this matter.

HON F R PICARDO:

I am very grateful to the Minister for that assurance. These are not just issues which can be solved by the Government, there is an obligation here of civic responsibility on behalf of individuals. In the area of Tankerville, the Minister will know that the 12 bins are below a playing area and many people are given to avoiding having to walk down and throwing their rubbish in a way that sometimes does not always hit the target and which causes the rubbish to scatter, and which could cause serious injury

to any child who might fall in the area because it is, as I am sure he will agree, absolutely disgusting in that area. What I would ask the Minister to look at, if he will agree, is that there is a store, quite a large store, that goes into all the area below the playing area just there. If that store were to be the area where the bins were provisioned and a door provided to it, there would not even be a need for a cage and nobody would be able to dump their rubbish from on high because they need to gain access to the storage area. For whatever it is, I am grateful for the Minister's assurance that he is going to act quickly. Can he assure us that he is going to stay on top of this because it is really making life a misery for all the people in the area, and the fact is that it is unhygienic even if we get the apes out of the equation, to have rubbish strewn around where there are children playing on bicycles et cetera, where they frequently fall.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I do not undertake to stay on top of the bins, but certainly to give it the priority that it needs and deserves under all my responsibilities.

NO. 523 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

ACCESSIBILITY OF PAVEMENTS

What steps is the Government taking to ensure that pavements in Gibraltar are accessible by users of wheelchairs and “shopmobility” riders?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

The Government’s Technical Services Department has been working for the past few years in conjunction with a representative from wheelchair users and the GHA Occupational Therapy Department, to identify routes along Gibraltar where wheelchair access is required. These have been prioritised based on those with greater use, and over the past three years the following routes have been completed:

1. From Alameda Estate to Main Street;
2. From Laguna Estate to Main Street;
3. From Main Street to the new St Bernard’s Hospital;
4. From Varyl Begg Estate to the land frontier;
5. From Laguna Estate, on the Devil’s Tower Road side, to the land frontier.

During the current year, works will be completed along Queensway, Ragged Staff Road, Smith Dorrien Avenue, Line Wall Road, Westside Road and Harbour Views Road.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 523 OF 2008

HON F R PICARDO:

I am grateful for that. Is the reference to year financial or calendar?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I am not sure it makes a difference. The answer was that the Government have been working for a number of years.....

HON F R PICARDO:

When the Minister said, "in the current year we expect to complete the following", that is the reference to "year".

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I beg your pardon, in the current financial year.

ORAL

NO. 524 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB - VISITING UK JOURNALISTS

What was the cost, with a breakdown, of hosting visiting journalists from the UK from 2-4 June, how many were there and what publications did they represent?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

The information requested by the hon Member is contained in the schedule which is being handed to him.

Answer to Question 524

Air Fares – British Airways	£1233.00
Overnight Accommodation London Gatwick	£576.54
Travel expenses T Poggio Accompanying group	£88.13
TOTAL	£1897.67

Press Trip – June 2008

Journalists

Ms Jeannine Williamson	Freelance commissioned for Sussex Life (also writes for Bella Magazine)
Ms Anna Maria Epsater	Freelance ABTA Magazine
Mr Frank Gray	Freelance Independent & Times correspondent
Mr John Malathronas	Contributor to Sunday Times
Mr Gavin Haines	Travel editor Bournemouth Echo
Mr David Whitley	AOL online Travel
Mr Robert Melotti	Practical Boat Owner
Mr Cornelis Abraham van den Berg	Travel Editor of Het Parool (leading paper for businessman in Amsterdam)

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 524 OF 2008

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is the Minister in a position to say whether any articles have been published as a result of these visits in the respective publications?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

As the hon Member probably knows, it is usual for articles to be published but I am not aware, I have not actually seen any of them but I am sure they have or will be done.

ORAL

NO. 525 OF 2008

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 Parliament, giving the event or function attended, the venue, the city and the country visited?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

The information requested by the hon Member is contained in the schedule which is being handed to him.

Answer to Question 525/2008

9th April to 10th April 2008

UK GTA meeting
Birmingham Tourism Marketing Road Show

1st May to 2nd May 2008

London – familiarization visit to London
Office & GTB Marketing Budget Meeting

12th to 13th June 2008

Manchester Tourism Marketing Road Show

21st July to 22nd July 2008

London – Presentation of Ed Lacy Award
and meeting in London Office

3rd to 11th August 2008

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia – CPA Conference
Airlines: BA
Japan Airlines
Singapore Airlines

Club Class
Cost £5423.10
Blands Ltd

NO. 526 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – TOP SELLING DESTINATIONS

Can Government list the Costa del Sol tour operators that they use to support their claim that Gibraltar is the top selling destination, with a breakdown in each case showing the top six destinations?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

I am advised that the information that Gibraltar is the top selling destination has always been received verbally or informally from tour operators on the Costa del Sol and/or their representatives in Gibraltar.

The further information being requested in relation to other top selling destinations related to the names of the actual Costa del Sol tour operators, may be commercially sensitive and the Government would need to obtain this information from them, as well as their agreement to make this information public.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 526 OF 2008

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Minister say, even though he has been told, as I understand the answer, the Minister is saying that he is being told verbally by different tour operators.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The Gibraltar Tourist Board has been told.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can he name which tour operators have said that? Is it possible for him to name them?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No, I do not want to name names without asking the parties first whether they are in agreement to their names being used. If the hon Member would like me to do that, if he writes to me asking specifically what he wants I will then, through the GTB, contact the tour operators and invite them, or otherwise, to agree to their names being used and to the information being provided. It seems to me it can be commercially sensitive for a particular tour operator to allow me to say publicly that their top destinations are so and so and so and so, and at the same time name another number of tour operators and another series of destinations. They may not want to share the information with others. But if he wants me to try, please write to me and ask me for what he wants and I will see what I can do.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

What we are trying to do, obviously, is substantiate the claim that the Government make. They make claims in this House, we want to see how the information has been arrived at in order to make the claim. What I asked him now in my last supplementary related only to Gibraltar, not to the other six destinations but only to Gibraltar. In other words, is it possible for him to name the companies that have mentioned that Gibraltar is a top selling destination, without mentioning the other six destinations or the first six destinations? That was my question.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Again, firstly I do not have the information so it is not a question that I cannot do it today. But secondly, I would not want to use publicly the names of the tour operators without their agreement. But I am willing to get the GTB to contact the tour operators and to ask them for whatever information the hon Member asks me to obtain.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can I ask the Minister how many of these tour operators have given them this information verbally? Are we talking about one tour operator, five or twenty, how many?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Presumably the tour operators that come to Gibraltar. I just have not followed up the information because I did not think that it would be appropriate for me to release any of this information publicly until we had contacted the third parties concerned. So, as I said, I am willing to try but I do not have the information here with me.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

We are only asking at this stage for the name, for the number, we do not want the name of the operators we just want to know how many there are.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I do not have it here with me, I cannot. Even if I wanted to I cannot do it because I do not have the information. But, in any case, I do not have the information, I have not followed it up because even if I had the names I do not think it is appropriate to say publicly, such and such tour operator in Portugal or in Spain or wherever, considers Gibraltar to be its top selling destination. To use the names, I think I need to have their agreement.

HON J J BOSSANO:

We have heard that answer three or four times and we understand the point, but surely he does not need their permission to say "one tour operator" or "two operators". Or is it that he does not know how many there are?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I have said that I do not know.

HON J J BOSSANO:

He does not know then how many people have said that its their top selling destination, it could be one then? For all he knows.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

For all I know it could be one, I think it is more likely to be the tour operators who come to Gibraltar who have been asked. But as I said, because I did not think it was appropriate for me to release information, I just have not obtained it, I have just given the answer. If the hon Member wants me to follow it up, then I invite him to write to me and say, "this is what I would like to know", so that there is no possibility of confusion. Then we will follow it up.

ORAL

NO. 527 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – BIRMINGHAM ROAD SHOW COSTS

What was the cost with a breakdown, of the Tourist Board road show in Birmingham in April?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 528 to 532 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 528 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – DELEGATION TO BIRMINGHAM ROAD SHOW

Can Government say how many persons made up the official Gibraltar delegation to the Tourist Board road show in Birmingham and list what offices they hold?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 527 and 529 to 532 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 529 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – ATTENDANCE AT BIRMINGHAM ROAD SHOW

Can Government say how many persons involved in the tourism industry in Birmingham attended the Birmingham road show organised by the Tourist Board in April showing who they represented?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 527, 528 and 530 to 532 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 530 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – MANCHESTER ROAD SHOW COSTS

What was the cost with a breakdown of the Tourist Board road show which took place in Manchester on 12 June?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 527 to 529, 531 and 532 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 531 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – DELEGATION TO MANCHESTER ROAD SHOW

Can Government say how many persons made up the official Gibraltar delegation to the Tourist Board road show in Manchester and what offices they hold?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 527 to 530 and 532 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 532 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – ATTENDANCE AT MANCHESTER ROAD SHOW

How many travel agents from the Manchester area attended the Tourist Board road show in Manchester on 12 June?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

The information requested by the hon Member is contained in the schedule which is being handed to him.

Answer to Question 532

BIRMINGHAM ROAD SHOW

Answer to Question 527

Costs:

TAXIS	£57.46
TRAIN TICKETS	
LONDON - BIRMINGHAM	£447.50
DINNER	£2,802.55
AUDIOVISUAL EQUIPMENT	£905.00
HOTEL	£277.30
ENTERTAINMENT MAGICIAN	£528.75
INVITATIONS	£385.40
POSTAGE	£120.00
MISC. EXPENSES	£25.87
TOTAL	£5,549.83

Cont'd.....

CONTD ANSWER TO QUESTION 532

Answer to Question 528

Attendees Gibraltar Delegation

Minister for enterprise, Development, Technology and Transport – J Holliday
Minister for the Environment and Tourism – E Britto
Mr A Poggio, Director Gibraltar Government Office London
Mr N Guerrero – Chief Executive, GTB
Mr P Canessa – PPS to Minister J Holliday
Mr I Leyde – Sales Manager, GTB London
Miss C Lerner – Marketing & Events Co-ordinator – GTB London
Miss K Bensadon – Information Officer – GTB London
Ms T Poggio – Redleaf Associates – marketing & PR Services for GTB London

Cont'd.....

CONTD ANSWER TO QUESTION 532

Answer to Question 529

Attendees – Birmingham Area Tourism Industry

ROAD SHOW BIRMINGHAM	
TRAVEL AGENT	NUMBER ATTENDED
Airport Travel Ltd	3
American Express Europe Ltd	2
Bowen Travel Ltd / First Choice	3
Carlson Wagonlit	3
Carrick Travel Ltd	2
Diamond Travel	3
Going Places	2
Jet Link Travel Ltd	1
Midlands Co-Op Travel	5
Midlands Co-Op Travel	2
Midlands Co-Op Travel	3
Midlands Co-Op Travel	2
Midlands Co-Op Travel	3
Midlands Co-Op Travel	3
Midlands Co-Op Travel	1
Moseley Travel	4
Ross & Brown Travel	2
Thomas Cook	1
Thomas Cook	1
Thomas Cook	2
Thomas Cook	3
Thomas Cook	1
Thomson	4
Travel Club Elite	1
United Travel & Tours Ltd	4
TOTAL	61

Cont'd.....

CONTD ANSWER TO QUESTION 532

MANCHESTER ROAD SHOW

Answer to Question 530

MANCHESTER ROAD SHOW	
	COST
SUBSISTENCE	£102.44
FLIGHTS	£1,811.10
TRAIN TICKETS	£187.20
DINNER COSTS	£3,595.40
AUDIOVISUAL EQUIPMENT	£1,194.40
HOTEL	£862.20
ENTERTAINMENT MAGICIAN	£587.50
INVITATIONS	£390.10
POSTAGE	£105.06
MISC. EXPENSES	£135.95
TOTAL	£8,971.35

Cont'd.....

CONTD ANSWER TO QUESTION 532

Answer to Question 531

Attendees – Gibraltar Delegation

Minister for the Environment and Tourism – E Britto
Mr A Poggio, Director Gibraltar Government Office London
Mr I Leyde – Sales Manager, GTB London
Miss C Lerner – Marketing & Events Co-ordinator – GTB London
Miss K Bensadon – Information Officer – GTB London
Ms T Poggio – Redleaf Associates – marketing & PR Services for GTB London

Cont'd.....

CONTD ANSWER TO QUESTION 532

Answer to Question 532

Attendees – Manchester Area Tourism Industry

ROAD SHOW MANCHESTER	
TRAVEL AGENT	NUMBER ATTENDED
Addison Travel	3
American Express Europe	4
Brightsun Travel	3
Carlson Wagonlit	7
Commodore International Travel	4
Cooperative Business Travel	5
Cresta (Cresta World Travel Ltd)	2
Delta Travel Agency	3
Hebridean Int Cruise	1
Hill's Travel Worldchoice	2
Mayfair World Travel	2
Peregrination	4
Pole Travel	2
Premier Leisure (Chadwell Travel)	9
Thomas Cook	3
Thomson (TUI UK Ltd)	2
Thomson (Tui UK Ltd)	6
Travel Options Ltd	2
WA Shearings Holidays Ltd	1
Miss Ellies Travel World	3
Howards Way Travel	1
TOTAL	67

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 527 TO 532 OF 2008

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In relation to the answer to Question No. 527, this shows a dinner which cost £2,800, can the Minister say how many people attended that dinner?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I think he has got the answer somewhere else in the answer to the question. Is he talking about Birmingham? A total of 78 people, and to save him the trouble of working it out, it is £35.93 per head.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The dinner is again the highest item of expenditure in relation to the Manchester road show, can I ask him how many people attended that dinner which cost £3,595?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Yes, a total of 84 people and the cost per head is £42.80, giving an average across both events of a cost per head of £39.50.

ORAL

NO. 533 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – REVENUE RAISED

Can Government say how much revenue has been raised on a monthly basis since March 2008 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 THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

The information requested by the hon Member is contained in the schedule which is being handed to him.

Answer to Question 533

(a)

Coach Park Revenue March – August 2009

Month	Cash Revenue	Credit Revenue	Month Total
March	£6,169.39	£640	£6,809.39
April	£8,726.54	£760	£9,486.54
May	£8,639.71	£850	£9,489.71
June	£6,354.24	£1,060	£7,414.24
July	£5,896.17	£1,150	£7,046.17
August	£5,580.64	£940	£6,520.64
Total	£41,366.69	£5,400.00	£46,766.69

(b)

Month	Revenue Raised
March 2008	£228,144.90
April 2008	£283,838.11
May 2008	£309,088.20
June 2008	£270,826.06
Total	£1,091,897.27

Figures for July and August are not yet available.

(c)

Month	Revenue Raised
March	£ 887.50
April	£1592.00
May	£2164.60
June	£1103.08

ORAL

NO. 534 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – NUMBER OF INTERVIEWS

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 the information supplied at the last Question Time in this Parliament, stating where they were interviewed and the number interviewed at each location, and in the case of those who stayed at hotels what was the average length of stay in each case?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

The information requested by the hon Member is contained in the schedule which is being handed to him.

Answer to Question 534/2008

a) Stayed at Hotel:-

	Total No. of Interviews	Stayed at Hotel	Airport Interviews	Average length of Stay	Frontier Interviews	Average length of Stay	Elsewhere Interviews	Average length of Stay
Feb 2008	1004	1	-	-	1	2	-	-
Mar 2008	1002	1	-	-	1	4	-	-
Apr 2008	1262	45	44	5.3	1	2	-	-
May 2008	1022	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
June 2008	1197	4	4	3.5	-	-	-	-
July 2008	1193	4	3	10	1	4	-	-

b) Not stayed at Hotel

	Total Interviews Not Stayed at Hotel	Airport	Port	Frontier	Waterport	Marina	Coach Park
Feb 2008	1003	-	-	1003	-	-	-
Mar 2008	1001	-	-	1001	-	-	-
Apr 2008	1217	108	103	1000	-	6	-
May 2008	1022	-	15	1003	-	4	-
June 2008	1193	42	151	995	-	5	-
July 2008	1189	20	104	996	1	-	68

NO. 535 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – VACANCY FOR UPPER ROCK SITE OFFICER

In respect of the vacancy for Upper Rock Site Officer which was advertised at the end of March, can Government say:

- (a) how many posts were vacant;
- (b) how many applications there were for the post and how many were Gibraltarians;
- (c) whether the post has now been filled;
- (d) if so, whether the successful applicant was a Gibraltarian?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

One post was vacant, there were no applicants as the vacancy was cancelled. The post has now been filled by an internal transfer of a Grade II Clerk from within the GTB. The transferee is a Gibraltarian.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 535 OF 2008

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Did I hear correctly that there were no applicants for the post? Nobody was interested, is that what the Minister said?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Well, I said a little bit more than that. I said there were no applicants because the vacancy was cancelled. There was a vacancy but it.....

NO. 536 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

CHARLES V WALL – REFURBISHMENT

What was the final total Government contribution, in addition to the £260,000 donated by the Bonita Trust and the £60,000 donated by the EU, for the refurbishment of Charles V wall?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Government have made no financial contribution to the costs of the Charles V wall refurbishment project. We have, however, contributed by assigning in-house resources to project manage and supervise the works. For the sake of correctness, the hon Member should know that the total contract sum is £312,855, with the EU contribution being, in fact, £65,472 and the balance of £247,383 being contributed by the Bonita Trust.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 536 OF 2008

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The figures the Minister has given are higher than the figures that were published, is that because there were some invoices which had not been paid? Why was that?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

When the hon Member says the figures that were published, I am not aware of what publication of figures he is talking about. In any case, these are the current figures and they are correct. I cannot explain what the difference is.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The reference is to an article which was published in July in which the Minister was quoted, not giving these figures but saying other things. There it says, "the Trust contributed over £260,000 and the EU £60,000 towards the project". The figures given now in this House are higher than this.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Where does the hon Member say that was published?

HON DR J J GARCIA:

On 4th July.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Where?

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In the Chronicle.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I cannot answer for the accuracy of the Chronicle figures, but it would seem to me, because this is an on-going project, in fact I think it is now finished but it only finished recently, the figures that were given in July must have been on-going figures and then the final figures will have to be adjusted when the project has ended. It is also probable that in giving figures which were probably given at the top of Charles V wall at the inauguration of the wall, that these figures were rounded off.

NO. 537 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

UPPER ROCK – ENTRY OF FOREIGN CARS

Can Government say whether it has always been the practice to allow foreign registered private cars to enter the Upper Rock during the peak summer month?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

No, Sir. It has not always been the practice. In the year 2005, the then existing restrictions preventing foreign vehicles from entering the Upper Rock Nature Reserve during August until after 3.00 p.m. were lifted. Current practice, which is considered to be working well, is for control or restriction to be applied and coordinated by the Gibraltar Tourist Board staff, taking into account a number of factors which include traffic congestion at the entry point to the Nature Reserve, at the tourist sites themselves, or on an assessment of the times and passenger numbers of pre-booked tours. When such pre-booked passenger numbers exceed 3,000, entry restrictions on foreign registered private cars is automatically applied.

The number of vehicles entering the Nature Reserve is closely monitored throughout the day and recorded on a half hourly basis, to enable GTB staff to carry out checks on traffic volumes in order to be able to take informed decisions.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 537 OF 2008

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Given the volume of traffic and the amount of chaos which we have seen in the Upper Rock on specific days, does the Minister consider this policy to be working well?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Because the hon Member is incorrect when he says there is traffic chaos in the Upper Rock. There have been, to my knowledge, one, possibly two incidents, both associated with vehicle accidents. One was a bus that went off the road and the road was blocked, and the other was a similar traffic accident. Two incidents caused by factors extraneous to traffic volumes can hardly be defined as traffic chaos. I know it is a favourite word with Opposition Members because they think they can achieve political brownie points, but I refute the allegation.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

I do not know whether the Minister has been to the Upper Rock to see for himself what happens there on a daily basis, particularly in the summer months and particularly in August. But certainly, the information we have and what we have witnessed ourselves is not in line with what he is saying. Does the Minister consider that there is a serious safety risk, in the sense that given the congestion that we tend to get up there, it might not be possible to get people out quickly in the event of a serious accident like the ones he has mentioned, but if that developed even further into a fire or necessitated some kind of evacuation, that at present there is a serious health and safety risk in terms of getting people out quickly?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

In the same way as what the hon Member has described applies to anywhere where a large number of vehicles conglomerate. Like, for example, the frontier or like, for example, a traffic jam in Queensway or along Devil's Tower Road when there is a tailback due to difficulties in traffic passing through the frontier. So, yes, whenever that happens there are concerns but this is one of the things we have to live with. I am conscious of the issues involved and I am taking a more holistic view of the Upper Rock than I am of just this particular issue. But I am conscious of the issue. I am also conscious of the issue that when there are stoppages or conglomeration of traffic on the Upper Rock, it is caused not so much by foreign registered vehicles but by local vehicles which are parked in such a way as to prevent flow of traffic.

HON F R PICARDO:

The Minister will forgive me for not accepting his analogy with Queensway for this reason, it was not the case that until 2005 foreign vehicles were prevented access to Queensway in peak summer months. It was the case, as the Minister has indicated in his answer, that until 2005 foreign registered vehicles were prevented access to the Upper Rock in peak summer months. Why do we not revert to that position which obviously alleviated the traffic, shall we call it situation, in order not to give way to descriptions such as chaos or not chaos, in the Upper Rock?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Because in the assessment of the Gibraltar Tourist Board and the Government, it is not necessary to return to a situation of a complete ban on every day of the week. By the way, when he says up to 2005, it did not start at the beginning of the century, it started, I understand, when the Opposition Members' party were in office and it was assessed that a lot of people coming into Gibraltar in foreign vehicles, were being prevented from going into the Upper Rock at times when there was no reason to stop them, especially during the morning. So the decision was made to do the assessment on an on-going basis and this assessment, as I have described, taking into account cruise liners, taking into account tours pre-booked by coaches coming across the frontier, by and large is working well. Like every human being designed arrangement, there are some days when it may work better than others if people do not do things exactly the way they are supposed to do them. But by and large it works well because when the traffic conditions get bad or are expected to get bad, then the foreign registered vehicles are stopped. But the rest of the time there is no sense in stopping them if there is no need to stop them.

HON F R PICARDO:

Is it that the evidence suggests that if these individuals do not go up in their own vehicles they do not go up at all and, therefore, it has an effect on revenue?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Well, it is not for me at this moment in time to say whether they do not go up at all or whether they go by taxi or cable car instead. That is obviously an individual decision by an individual tourist. The options are obviously open for the individual to make.

HON F R PICARDO:

No, of course I understand, that is why I asked the Minister whether there was evidence that if people did not go up in their own vehicles they did not go up. Is there any evidence of that?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No, there is not to my knowledge but I think it is a natural assumption that if one drives into a place and cannot get beyond a certain point, that the majority of people would then not find an alternative means of doing it. Especially if they have driven in and they are not aware that there are taxi tours that take them up there. The cable car might be more obvious but the indications I have from the GTB are, which I did not include in my answer but if I look at this moment if the hon Member bears with me. In fact, the advice from the GTB says precisely that, I do not know on what they have based their assumption but this has meant, meaning the restriction on foreign registered vehicles, that visitors to Gibraltar who come in their private vehicles get the chance to visit the sites, when what used to happen was that they would go away without seeing the tourist product as they could not get a taxi or the cable car, as they were practically working to full capacity, which happens when there are two liners in port or coaches in the middle of August.

HON F R PICARDO:

First of all, the Minister will excuse me for not accepting his assumption as natural that people who cannot drive up will then turn around and go back because they do not know about taxis. I do not accept that as a natural assumption. The bit that he has read us from the Tourist Board suggests, actually, that the only time when it makes sense to allow people to take their own cars into the Upper Rock is when all coaches and taxis are working to full capacity. So that would appear to be contradictory. The Minister tells us when there is a lot of uptake on coach and taxi tours we then close the Upper Rock. The GTB advice seems to be that it is good to allow people up in their own cars when there are not any taxis available and the coaches are not available because they are all in the Upper Rock. So, I think a truly holistic approach would be to understand what happens to that revenue if we do not allow individuals in their own cars to go to the Upper Rock. Something which appears to me, from what the Minister has read, has not yet been properly assessed.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I am not aware that there has been a xxxxxx.

ORAL

NO. 538 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – TENDER FOR BEACH CONCESSIONS

Can Government list the successful tenderers in respect of the tender for beach concessions, showing the amount bid in each case, the nature of the concession, and the beach in question?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 539 and 540 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 539 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – TENDER FOR BEACH CONCESSIONS

Can Government list the successful tenderers in respect of the tender for beach concessions “kiosks” showing the amount bid in each case and the beach in question?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 538 and 540 of 2008.

NO. 540 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – TENDER FOR BEACH CONCESSIONS

Can Government say how many tenders they received in respect of the tenders for beach concessions and beach concessions “kiosks” and indicate whether in every case the tender was awarded to the highest bidder?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Two beach concessions and four beach concessions for “kiosks” were available and only one application was received in each case, making a total of six applications. These concessions carry a fixed standard fee of £325 for the summer season, so applicants were not required to submit bids and, therefore, the question of whether the highest bidder was successful does not apply.

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

ANSWER TO QUESTION 540/2008

Applicant	Beach	Proposed Venture	Specific Location
1 Sunrise Beach Bar Restaurant Ltd	Eastern Beach	Beach Kiosk (Bar/Restaurant)	Adjacent to playground
2 Sunrise Beach Bar Restaurant Ltd	Eastern Beach	Hiring of beach umbrellas and sun loungers	Area directly in front of Sunrise Kiosk premises
3 Willy's Return	Camp Bay	Beach Kiosk	Camp Bay South Promenade (Next to retaining wall)
4 Little Bay Kiosk	Little Bay	Beach Kiosk	Adjacent to beach facilities
5 El Chiringuito	Western Beach	Beach Kiosk	Enclosed area at south end of beach
6 Latinos on the Beach	Eastern Beach	Hiring of beach umbrellas and sun loungers	Area directly in front of Latinos on the Beach premises

ORAL

NO. 541 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – RENT RELIEF

Can Government state how many households on rent relief have had this benefit terminated, to date, as from March 2008, giving a monthly breakdown?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 542 to 545 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 542 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – RENT RELIEF

Can Government state how many households have had the level of rent relief reduced, to date, as from March 2008, giving a monthly breakdown?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 541 and 543 to 545 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 543 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – RENT RELIEF

Can Government state how many households were on full rent relief, to date, as from March 2008, giving a monthly breakdown?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 541, 542, 544 and 545 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 544 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – RENT RELIEF

Can Government state how many households have received rent relief, to date, as from March 2008, giving a monthly breakdown?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 541 to 543 and 545 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 545 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – RENT RELIEF

Can Government state how many households have applied for rent relief, to date, since March 2008, giving a monthly breakdown?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

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

Answer to Question 545 of 2008

Answer to Question 541

The number of households, on Rent Relief, that have had this benefit terminated, to date, as from March 2008, is as follows:

APRIL 2008	-	9
MAY 2008	-	7
JUNE 2008	-	6
JULY 2008	-	8
AUGUST 2008	-	11
SEPTEMBER (until 12/9/08)	-	6

Answer to Question 542

The number of households that have had the level of Rent Relief reduced, to date, as from March 2008, is as follows:

APRIL 2008	-	32
MAY 2008	-	23
JUNE 2008	-	21
JULY 2008	-	21
AUGUST 2008	-	24
SEPTEMBER (until 12/9/08)	-	13

Answer to Question 543

The number of households that were on full Rent Relief, to date, as from March 2008, is as follows:

APRIL 2008	-	46
MAY 2008	-	46
JUNE 2008	-	46
JULY 2008	-	49
AUGUST 2008	-	46
SEPTEMBER (until 12/9/08)	-	42

Answer to Question 544

The number of households that have received Rent Relief, to date, as from March 2008, is as follows:

APRIL 2008	-	653
MAY 2008	-	622
JUNE 2008	-	626
JULY 2008	-	622
AUGUST 2008	-	614
SEPTEMBER (until 12/9/08)	-	602

Contd Answer to Question 545

Answer to Question 545

The number of households that have applied for Rent Relief, to date, since March 2008, is as follows:

APRIL 2008	-	11 (5 active)
MAY 2008	-	10 (5 active)
JUNE 2008	-	9 (8 active)
JULY 2008	-	9 (8 active)
AUGUST 2008	-	6 (4 active)

ORAL

NO. 546 OF 2008

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 No. 547 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 547 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – WAITING LIST

Can Government state how many applicants, 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

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

Answer to Question 547 of 2008

Answer to Question 546

There are 55 applicants on the Housing Waiting List, to date, who are medically recommended as follows:

A+	-	3
A	-	12
B	-	20
C	-	20

Answer to Question 547

There are 194 persons, to date, who are medically recommended, apart from those who are described as applicants on the Housing Waiting List, as follows:

A+	-	25
A	-	59
B	-	46
C	-	64

ORAL

NO. 548 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – ARREARS OF RENT AGREEMENTS

Can Government state how many tenants have entered into agreements to pay arrears of rent, to date, as from March 2008 giving a monthly breakdown, and what is the total of arrears covered by such agreements?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

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

Answer to Question 548 of 2008

The number of tenants that have entered into agreements to pay arrears of rent, to date, as from March 2008 is as follows:

<u>Month</u>	<u>No. of tenants entering agreements</u>	<u>Amount</u>
March (from 29.3.08)	5	£40,292.57
April	35	£69,695.53
May	12	£66,777.37
June	22	£148,028.05
July	14	£69,036.22
August	12	£40,876.30
September (up to 12.9.08)	2	£7,774.76
TOTAL	102	£442,480.80

ORAL

NO. 549 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – REPOSSESSED FLATS

Can Government state how many Government flats have been repossessed, to date, since the answer given to Question No. 124 of 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Two flats have been repossessed.

ORAL

NO. 550 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – SOCIAL CATEGORY ‘A’ LIST

With reference to the answer given to Question No. 127 of 2008, can Government state how many applicants, since that date, have been removed from the Housing Social Category ‘A’ List because a suitable dwelling has been found for them and give the dates?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 551, 552, 555 and 564 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 551 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – SOCIAL CATEGORY ‘A’ LIST

Since the answer given to Question No. 126 of 2008, can Government state how many applicants have been placed on the Housing Social Category ‘A’ List and give the dates?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 550, 552, 555 and 564 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 552 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – SOCIAL CATEGORY ‘A’ LIST

Can Government state how many persons are currently on the Housing Social Category ‘A’ List?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 550, 551, 555 and 564 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 553 OF 2008

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 No. 559 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 554 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – PRE-WAR UNITS

Can Government state how many pre-war housing units have been allocated, to date, since the answer given to Question No. 123 of 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

A total of seven pre-war housing units have been allocated.

ORAL

NO. 555 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – POST-WAR UNITS

Can Government state how many post-war housing units have been allocated to social cases as from March 2008 providing a monthly breakdown?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 550 to 552 and 564 of 2008.

NO. 556 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – ALLOCATION OF HOMES

How many Government homes have been allocated to applicants other than by the Housing Allocation Committee, whether by direct allocation by the Minister for Housing or otherwise?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

The question does not provide a timeframe and so it is not possible to provide a figure. In particular, given the difficulty I am told in my office, of collating information relating to the previous administration, that is, prior to 1996.

All Government flats are allocated via the Housing Allocation Scheme. There have been occasions when an urgent case has been granted a priority allocation, approved by Government, due to very exceptional social circumstances. Indeed, the hon Member himself, also the Ombudsman and Action for Housing, for example, regularly write to me requesting that individuals who have brought these circumstances to their attention be given such special assistance.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 556 OF 2008

HON C A BRUZON:

More recently, since the new Housing Act was introduced in June this year, I understand that the Housing Allocation Committee, the Medical Advisory Board and the Social Advisory Board all became one. Maybe I should have been more specific in my question, I acknowledge the point that the Minister has made, but since this happened at the beginning of June has this body, in fact, been meeting to allocate homes? Has it been done by the Minister or by Dr Coram or by the Chief Minister? That is the spirit of the question, it is really and regrettably we did not specify that what we are very concerned about is the stopping of those three important committees from working as individual committees, or advisory boards, and being put into one.

HON F J VINET:

A couple of points to make. First of all, the thinking behind the amalgamation of the Housing Allocation Committee with the then two sub-committees was, in fact, to expedite matters and, therefore, rather than having to wait until different sub-committees met, all matters including social cases, including medical requests, could be assessed in the one sitting of the one committee. It is true that the new Housing Allocation Committee has in fact not met since the previous committee ceased to exist. A number of factors, including for example one or two individuals who had initially agreed to form part of the Committee and at a later stage decided not to, and we therefore had to commence the process of appointing new members of the Committee. I am happy to say the Committee is now in place and I understand it will be meeting later on this month. Can I perhaps finalise if there is perhaps something of worry in the hon Member that individual cases who may have been assessed by the Committee and have not had the opportunity of the Committee assessing those cases, if there is perhaps the belief that they have somehow missed out on the opportunity of improving their conditions of entering the social list, perhaps with Mr Speaker's leave I can explain the difference, for example, between the Social List where the Housing Allocation Committee does have a very active role to play, as opposed to the normal waiting lists. In the normal waiting lists, an individual is not necessarily guaranteed to always go up that list. I will give an example, because it is entirely points based, if for example I am an applicant on the Housing Waiting List and today I find myself at No. 20 on the list and whoever is at No. 21 happens to be granted additional points, maybe because of overcrowding, maybe because of the size of the property, that person may well jump over me and I, in effect, go down the list. The Social List works entirely different to that, it works on a first come first served basis. So, whoever gets to the top of the list is offered a flat and everyone else moves up one space. What I am trying to explain is that all those people who have requested their cases to be categorised as a social case and therefore to be included in the Social List, when the Housing Allocation Committee decides or is able to look at those cases, it will do so on a retrospective basis. Therefore, if someone happens to apply say in July, and the Committee decides to approve their case and categorise it as a social case, they will enter the Social List as if the Committee had met and deliberated the application in July. So, therefore, no one would miss out of whatever position they would find themselves in today, even if they had applied earlier and the Committee had deliberated earlier.

HON C A BRUZON:

Is it the intention of the Housing Department to have monthly meetings of this new amalgamated group, because obviously when we are talking about medical cases, my understanding was that there were two or three doctors on this advisory committee, they would deal with medical cases? If it were a question of the Social Advisory Board, obviously there would be people skilled in that area, with knowledge of the field, of what happens in peoples' homes or in areas where there are social problems. Then, of course, the Housing Allocation Committee would be the committee that would actually allocate the flat. Now, I honestly do not think that having these three amalgamated, what would happen? Would there just be one doctor in the new group? One social worker, maybe to advise on social issues? The Housing Manager? I honestly do not see how it is going to work.

HON F J VINET:

Well, the composition of the Housing Allocation Committee is nothing new, it is part of the Housing Act which was approved by this House over a year ago, and if I remember correctly, Opposition Members made no mention of that particular point. They raised no specific issues as to the composition of the Committee. The new Housing Allocation Committee has a total of five members, including an occupational therapist, including a doctor, including someone well versed in social services issues, as well as alternate members with those specific knowledge areas, as it were. Yes, there is just the one doctor, just the one occupational therapist, just the one person with expertise in social services, two additional persons, and the whole reason, as I said earlier, is precisely to expedite matters.

HON F R PICARDO:

Just as a supplementary, the Minister has told us that two people who originally had agreed to be on the Committee, subsequently decided they could not be on the Committee. I am going to ask him who they are and by that I am not going to ask him their names. What I mean is, is it the person who was supposed to be the doctor or the person who was supposed to be the social worker, or was it one of the alternates, can he identify by category who or what category of individual it was that initially said yes and subsequently decided to withdraw?

HON F J VINET:

They were individuals who would have been appointed directly by the Minister as opposed to meeting the criteria of knowledge or expertise.

ORAL

NO. 557 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – MEDICAL LISTS

Since the answer given to Question No. 131 of 2008, can Government state how many applicants have been placed on the various Medical Housing Lists 'A+', 'A', 'B' and 'C', and give the dates?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question No. 558 of 2008.

NO. 558 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – MEDICAL LISTS

With reference to the answer given to Question No. 132 of 2008, can Government state how many applicants, since that date, have been removed from the various Medical Housing Lists 'A+', 'A', 'B' and 'C' because a suitable dwelling has been found for them and give the dates?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

I hand the hon Member a schedule containing the information requested. However, I should add, and this is I think an important point, that the hon Member will see from the schedule once it is in front of him, that in answer to Question No. 558 there were a total of five applicants who were removed from the various Medical Housing Lists since the answer to Question No. 132 of this year. I ought to add, that a further ten offers have been made to applicants on the Medical Housing List which have been refused. Therefore, up to an extra ten applicants could have been removed from the Medical Waiting List had they accepted the flats offered to them, flats which are entirely suitable from a medical perspective. That is to say, there are those who have not been removed from the Medical List even though a suitable dwelling had been found for them.

Answer to Question 558 of 2008

Answer to Question 557

A total of 29 applicants have been placed on the various Medical Housing Lists since Question No. 131 of 2008, as follows:

Date	A+	A	B	C
March (since 29.3.08)	-	-	-	-
April	2	6	2	3
May	3	2	-	-
June	-	-	-	-
July	5	4	-	2
August	-	-	-	-
September (up to 12.9.08)	-	-	-	-

Answer to Question 558

A total of five applicants have been removed from the various Medical Housing Lists since the answer given to Question No. 132 of 2008 because a suitable dwelling has been found for them, as follows:

Date	A+	A	B	C
March (since 29.3.08)	1	-	-	-
April	-	-	-	-
May	-	-	-	-
June	1	-	-	-
July	1	-	-	-
August	1	-	-	-
September (up to 12.9.08)		1	-	-

ORAL

NO. 559 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – WAITING LISTS

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

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

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

Answer to Question 559 of 2008

Answer to Question 553

There are currently 444 applicants on the pre-list. The breakdown of their flat requirement is as follows:

1RKB	-	309
2RKB	-	16
3RKB	-	77
4RKB	-	40
5RKB	-	2

Answer to Question 559

There are 744 applicants on the Housing Waiting List. The breakdown of their flat requirement is as follows:

1RKB	-	348
2RKB	-	59
3RKB	-	198
4RKB	-	125
5RKB	-	13
6RKB	-	1

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 553 AND 559 OF 2008

HON C A BRUZON:

Forgive me for introducing the same topic that I raised this morning, but I would be extremely grateful if the Minister would answer at least, orally, those questions which require or contain a very short answer. For example, the answer to Question No. 552, there are currently 76 persons on the Social Category 'A' List, he has included a lot of short statistics in two sheets of paper which could easily have been given orally for the benefit of my Colleagues and those listening over the radio and anybody who may be here. I suppose I have to accept it if that is the way the Minister wants to present his answers.

MR SPEAKER:

It is not just a question of the Minister, the practice in Erskine May suggests that some Speaker, not over here, the Speaker in the House of Commons, has suggested that lengthy answers should be contained in written format. So I think that is the practice which has been developed, not just over here but in the House of Commons. I take the point the hon Member is making, it is a question of subjective opinion as to whether the answer is lengthy or not lengthy as to merit a written response.

HON C A BRUZON:

I am only referring to non lengthy answers.

MR SPEAKER:

The answers to Question Nos. 553 and 559 are quite lengthy.

HON C A BRUZON:

No, no, with the greatest respect, let us look at the answer to Question No. 552 when I asked how many were on the Social Category 'A' List. The answer is, there are currently 76 persons on the Social Category 'A' List, that is all.

MR SPEAKER:

Yes, that has been clubbed together with Question Nos. 550, 551, 555 and 564 and all that becomes a lengthy answer.

HON C A BRUZON:

Yes but what I am requesting, for the benefit of all of us, is if the Minister would consider in future answering just those questions which have a short answer one at a time.

HON F J VINET:

I am grateful for Mr Speaker's clarification. Can I just add, perhaps, that the answer to these two questions would require me to state a total of ten different figures. In fact, my view at least, is that those figures are far more easily assessable for the purposes of the hon Member, if they are in front of him in written format rather than if I just happen to read them out quickly and he scribbles them down.

MR SPEAKER:

I think the hon Member has in mind the wider audience.

ORAL

NO. 560 OF 2008

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. 133 of 2008, how many applicants had overcrowding points disallowed because other people who had sold their homes moved in with them?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question No. 561 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 561 OF 2008

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. 134 of 2008, how many applicants were allowed points for overcrowding when other people who had sold their homes moved in with them?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

None on both counts.

ORAL

NO. 562 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – APPLICATIONS REJECTED

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 the answer to Question No. 137 of 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question No. 563 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 563 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED

Can Government state how many applicants for housing were accepted because in the judgement of the Housing Allocation Committee the sale was necessary, giving a breakdown by month since the answer given to Question No. 138 of 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

I am happy to give this answer across the floor. Two housing applications have been rejected, one in April and one in May and four applications for housing were accepted, two in April and two in May.

ORAL

NO. 564 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – HOMELESS PERSONS

Can Government state how many cases of applications for housing from homeless persons are currently being dealt with by the Housing Department?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

A reply in written format has now been passed on to the hon Member.

Answer to Question 564 of 2008

Answer to Question 550

Since the answer given to Question No. 127 of 2008, a total of nine applicants have been removed from the Housing Social Category 'A' List because a suitable dwelling has been found for them, as follows:

March (since 29.3.08)	-	Nil
April	-	8
May	-	Nil
June	-	Nil
July	-	1
August	-	Nil
September (up to 12.9.08)	-	Nil

Answer to Question 551

A total of 11 applicants have been placed on the Social Category 'A' List since Question No. 126 of 2008, as follows:

March (since 29.3.08)	-	Nil
April	-	2
May	-	4
June	-	5
July	-	Nil
August	-	Nil
September (up to 12.9.08)	-	Nil

Answer to Question 552

There are currently 76 persons on the Social Category 'A' List.

Answer to Question 555

Five post-war flats have been allocated to social cases since Question No. 128 of 2008, they were all allocated in April.

Answer to Question 564

Thirty-seven applications for housing from homeless persons are currently being dealt with by the Ministry for Housing.

ORAL

NO. 565 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – ANONYMOUS PHONE CALLS

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

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

and provide a breakdown as from April 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

On this occasion and given the voluminous nature of the reply, I will hand over the reply in written format.

Answer to Question 565 of 2008

Since the policy of inviting anonymous phone calls on the possible non-use of Government rented dwellings was introduced:

- (a) 143 phone calls have been received
- (b) 80 were found to be correct

The breakdown as from April 2008 is as follows:

Month	Calls	Correct	Incorrect	Currently being investigated
April	5	2	2	1
May	5	3	2	
June	6	5	1	
July	4	1	3	
August	4	2	1	1
September (up to 12.9.08)	4	2	2	
TOTAL	28	15	11	2

ORAL

NO. 566 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – WAITING LISTS (REINSTATEMENTS)

With reference to the answer given to Question No. 144 of 2008, can Government state how many persons, if any, have in fact been re-instated in the Housing Waiting Lists because of a genuine inability to complete the purchase within any of the Government home ownership schemes?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

A total of eleven persons have been re-instated in the Housing Waiting Lists.

NO. 567 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – NEW GOVERNMENT RENTAL ESTATE

With reference to the answer given to Question No. 145 of 208, how many of the 490 applicants who received letters of allocation in the proposed new Government rental estate have since been offered an existing Government flat and how many have accepted?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

A total of 26 applicants have been offered an existing Government flat and 13 have accepted the offer.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 567 OF 2008

HON C A BRUZON:

The 13 that have accepted the offer, of course, means that there are 13 more people to whom letters can be written maybe offering them these homes. Is that the Government's intention? Though we do not particularly agree with the way it is being done.

HON F J VINET:

No, the intention is to wait until the completion of the new housing estate and then have a better idea of just how many flats remain empty, and then offer them to whoever happens to be next on the Waiting List.

HON C A BRUZON:

I think that makes sense. The actual reason for the supplementary contains a request from an individual who came to see me whose family situation has now changed. They went to Housing and the allocation of a home was made by Dr Coram with the Chief Minister, I believe, prior to the Election. The counter at Housing did not know how to handle this. So what is the procedure when people who have letters promising them a flat of a specific requirement, whether it be a 3RKB or a 4RKB, if their condition changes, if their requirements change rather, what do they have to do?

HON F J VINET:

First of all can I say I am not aware of the particular case the hon Member is referring to, neither have I been asked to intervene in any such request. So therefore, I would not like to give a reply without first knowing what the facts are, what particular circumstances of each individual concerned are. I would imagine that if a person or a family, in effect, have been offered a flat in the new estate, and for whatever reason, they have outgrown the flat they have been offered, then there was a need to look for an alternative. The answer, or how that request is addressed will vary from case to case and I would not like to give just an umbrella approach, because I think the right and proper thing to do is look at individual cases and the merits of each particular case.

ORAL

NO. 568 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – REFURBISHMENT OF DWELLINGS

Can Government state how many Government dwellings are currently in the hands of Buildings and Works for refurbishment?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 569, 571 and 572 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 569 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – EMPTY DWELLINGS

Can Government state how many Government dwellings are currently empty with no work being done in them at present?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 568, 571 and 572 of 2008.

NO. 570 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

BUILDINGS AND WORKS – INCENTIVE BONUS SCHEME

Can Government state, as at the end of August 2008, how many completed jobs under the incentive bonus scheme within the Buildings and Works Department, are still awaiting payment?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

At 31st August 2008, there were three completed jobs awaiting payment.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 570 OF 2008

HON C A BRUZON:

It is interesting that the figure quoted is three because, again, the feedback I get is that in particular sections there are 300 jobs still awaiting payment. Now, I do not know.

HON F J VINET:

Perhaps he may have been given that figure by 100 different persons all quoting the same three jobs. Just to put things into perspective, those three outstanding jobs were outstanding as at 31st August. My understanding is that they have now been processed for payment. They are three outstanding jobs out of a total of 1,816 jobs. So I think that puts things into perspective. The fact is that, usually, there is a two or three week delay from the time the job is carried out until the payment is effected, because the way it works is, someone reports a particular job that needs doing, the estimator goes and checks what work is required and he comes up with what a reasonable time for completing that job is, say ten hours for example. Then the workman undertakes that job and if he happens to complete that job in a shorter time frame then he can pocket the balance. Of course, the estimator then needs to go and check that the job has indeed been carried out to the required standard. Also, on occasions there are what are known as variation orders, where the workman once he actually starts carrying out a particular job, realises that the nature of the job is actually more severe, requires more work than first envisaged and the number of hours need to be recomputed. But my understanding, certainly what I am being told

by Buildings and Works, is that normally it takes two to three weeks for payment to be computed and paid.

ORAL

NO. 571 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – JOBS REQUIRING ATTENTION

Can Government state how many jobs are currently listed as requiring the attention of Buildings and Works within the Housing Department?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 568, 569 and 572 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 572 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – TENANTS REQUIRING WORK TO HOMES

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

I have just handed over to the hon Member a schedule containing the information requested.

Answer to Question 572 of 2008

Answer to Question 568

There are currently 18 dwellings requiring refurbishment which are with Buildings and Works.

Answer to Question 569

There are currently 47 empty dwellings with no work being done in them at present.

Answer to Question 571

The number of jobs currently requiring the attention of Buildings and Works is 4241.

Answer to Question 572

The number of tenants requiring works to be done to their dwellings is 1012.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 568, 569, 571 AND 572 OF 2008

HON C A BRUZON:

I see from the answer to Question No. 571 that there are currently 4,241 jobs requiring the attention of Buildings and Works and that the number of tenants requiring work to be done in their dwellings is 1,012. Is the Minister not concerned about the statistics and should there not be a faster and more pro-active system in place to cover these jobs?

HON F J VINET:

No, I am not concerned in the very least because the hon Member will have seen, from the answer to Question No. 572, that the number of tenants requiring works has in fact been halved since the question was last asked in the House. When the hon Member asked in Question No. 116 of 2008, how many tenants are requiring works to be done, the answer was 2,079. That figure has gone down in just a few months to 1,012. It is arguable what is better, to have fewer pending jobs or fewer tenants requiring works to be done, and that is arguable and the answer may differ from person to person. But if one looks at the figure, bear in mind that the nature of the outstanding jobs depends on the season. For example, shortly after rainfall there will always be a big demand for water penetration work and so on. The numbers can go up, can go down, there has been a push in the past to deal more effectively with some of these jobs but no one can ever foresee that the numbers are going to continue falling. They are just likely to go up, depending on the nature of the jobs that arise.

HON C A BRUZON:

Is the Minister not aware that one of the reasons why there are still these works requiring to be done is because there has been a lack of funds provided for the materials to be bought? This is the feedback I sometimes get, maybe he can clarify that?

HON F J VINET:

Well, if it is the feedback that the hon Member gets, and I am not disputing for one moment that he has received that feedback, it is certainly not true. I cannot recall the exact question but I recall the Leader of the Opposition asking me a question related to funding last Question session of the House, where it was explained that there was indeed ample funding available. That is not the issue. Please bear in mind that the nature of each individual job may differ greatly. There may be some jobs that can be carried out in one or two hours and others in 20 hours. So the fact that, perhaps from one month to another, there are a smaller total of jobs carried out, does not mean that there have been less resources put in place to deal with those jobs. In fact, it could be precisely the opposite.

ORAL

NO. 573 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – REPAIRS TO GOVERNOR’S MEADOW AND RED SANDS HOUSES

Can Government state what plans are in place to carry out external repairs to Governor’s Meadow House and Red Sands House?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

The Government have already, in principle, agreed to proceed with the external works at Governor’s Meadow House and this will commence as soon as practically possible. I am hopeful it will start before the end of this current financial year. But I also would like to add that other blocks, such as Red Sands House, have also been identified for similar works. The works will be carried out systematically on a block by block basis.

NO. 574 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

CAR PARKING – ALAMEDA ESTATE

Can Government state whether residents of Alameda Estate who are elderly or in need of care will be provided with a car parking permit for use by the relevant carer notwithstanding that the resident himself or herself may not have a car?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

No, Sir.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 574 OF 2008

HON G H LICUDI:

The question obviously refers to Alameda Estate because it is the one that has been recently announced and ventilated publicly, but it could just as well refer to any other estate where car parking permits have been in place. Can the Minister tell us whether he has received representations or concerns that there are or may be people who are in need of care, who do need their relatives to come and do some care, washing, the food, and that the restrictions on car parking that are now in place cause severe difficulties for those persons?

HON F J VINET:

No, I have received no such request although I have a meeting with the Alameda Estate Tenants Association some time next week, and for all I know it may arise there, but no such request has been forthcoming to date.

HON G H LICUDI:

Is the Minister aware that the tenants association has said publicly that this scheme will not work? Those were their words, "this scheme will not work" and do the Government not accept that it is really quite extraordinary that a scheme that is put in place ostensibly to help tenants, has resulted in nobody being happy at all, not the residents, not the tenants association, not people who have businesses in the area who are now deprived of parking where parking spaces that were available generally

are no longer available and the general complaint is that there are insufficient parking spaces available for this scheme, yet the parking spaces that are available are not available to people who might otherwise want to use it? Do the Government not recognise that this really is a mess?

HON F J VINET:

The Government recognise no such thing. In fact, I am very surprised to hear that the tenants association have said publicly or otherwise, I have certainly not had sight of that problem, that this scheme will not work. My surprise stems from the fact that the scheme was the one suggested by the tenants association itself. Let me make clear, the Government did not just one day wake up and decide to have parking restrictions for the benefit of tenants in all those areas of estates. The Government decided to go along this route precisely because the various tenants associations came to Government making that specific request. Before doing so and before agreeing to do so, the Government entered into a very lengthy consultation process with those tenants associations. In fact, there were a number of possible schemes to introduce and the ones that have been introduced, which are incidentally exactly the same as Alameda, Laguna Estate and Glacis Estate, are those that had been agreed to with the tenants associations. Now, if there comes a point in the future where, perhaps, the tenants association were to come to the Ministry for Housing and say this is not working as well as we thought it would, then of course, we are always open to looking at different possibilities and perhaps considering changes in the future. But the scheme currently in place is the scheme that has been agreed with the tenants association.

ORAL

NO. 575 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

WATER – AMOUNTS COLLECTED AND BILLED

Can Government state what were the amounts collected and the amounts billed in respect of water in the months of April 2008 to August 2008?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 576 to 581 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 576 OF 2008

THE HONS E LINARES

WATER – DOMESTIC PRIMARY UNITS INVOICED

Can Government state the number of domestic primary units of water invoiced in the months of April 2008 to August 2008?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 575 and 577 to 581 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 577 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

WATER – DOMESTIC PRIMARY UNITS INVOICED

Can Government state the value of domestic primary units of water invoiced in the months of April 2008 to August 2008?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 575, 576 and 578 to 581 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 578 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

WATER – DOMESTIC SECONDARY UNITS INVOICED

Can Government state the number of customers that were invoiced for domestic secondary units of water in the months of April 2008 to August 2008?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 575 to 577 and 579 to 581 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 579 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

WATER – STANDING CHARGES INVOICED

Can Government state the value of water standing charges invoiced to domestic customers in the months of April 2008 to August 2008?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 575 to 578, 580 and 581 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 580 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

WATER – VALUE OF DOMESTIC SECONDARY UNITS

Can Government state the value of domestic secondary units of water for the months of April 2008 to August 2008?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 575 to 579 and 581 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 581 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

WATER – DOMESTIC SECONDARY UNITS INVOICED

Can Government state the number of units of domestic secondary units invoiced in the months of April 2008 to August 2008?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

I now hand the hon Member a schedule with the information requested.

SCHEDULE TO QUESTION NO. 581 OF 2008

Answer to Question 575 of 2008

	Amounts Collected	Amounts Billed
April 2008	£392,891	£420,247
May 2008	£408,519	£448,579
June 2008	£453,903	£444,052
July 2008	£378,858	£515,390
August 2008	£474,559	£560,656

Answer to Question 576 of 2008

Number of Domestic Primary Units

April 2008	386074
May 2008	389456
June 2008	386824
July 2008	387650
August 2008	394931

Answer to Question 577 of 2008

Value of Domestic Primary Units

April 2008	£81,075
May 2008	£81,785
June 2008	£81,233
July 2008	£93,423
August 2008	£95,178

Answer to Question 578 of 2008

Number Customers Domestic Secondary Units

April 2008	5373
May 2008	5605
June 2008	5403
July 2008	5526
August 2008	5551

Answer to Question 579 of 2008

Values of Water Standing Charges

April 2008	£36,663
May 2008	£36,375
June 2008	£36,348
July 2008	£36,042
August 2008	£37,539

Schedule to Question 581 of 2008 (contd)

Answer to Question 580 of 2008

Values of Domestic Secondary Units of Water

April 2008	£104,946
May 2008	£113,251
June 2008	£104,659
July 2008	£127,527
August 2008	£136,074

Answer to Question 581 of 2008

Number of Domestic Secondary Units

April 2008	201819
May 2008	217790
June 2008	201268
July 2008	213257
August 2008	227549

ORAL

NO. 582 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

ELECTRICITY – AMOUNTS COLLECTED

Can Government state what were the amounts collected in respect of electricity in the months of April 2008 to August 2008?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 583 to 590 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 583 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

ELECTRICITY – AMOUNTS BILLED

Can Government state what were the amounts billed in respect of electricity in the months of April 2008 to August 2008?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 582 and 584 to 590 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 584 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

ELECTRICITY – VALUE OF FUEL COST ADJUSTMENT

Can Government state the total value invoiced to domestic customers in respect of Fuel Cost Adjustment (FCA) in the months of April 2008 to August 2008?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 582, 583 and 585 to 590 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 585 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

ELECTRICITY – VALUE OF STANDING CHARGES

Can Government state the total value invoiced to domestic customers in respect of electricity standing charges in the months of April 2008 to August 2008?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 582 to 584 and 586 to 590 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 586 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

ELECTRICITY – VALUE OF T3 (DOMESTIC) UNITS INVOICED

Can Government state the total value invoiced to customers in respect of T3 (Domestic) units of electricity in the months of April 2008 to August 2008?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 582 to 585 and 587 to 590 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 587 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

ELECTRICITY – NUMBER OF T3 (DOMESTIC CONSUMERS) UNITS INVOICED

Can Government state the number of T3 (Domestic Consumers) units of electricity invoiced to customers in the months of April 2008 to August 2008?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 582 to 586 and 588 to 590 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 588 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

**ELECTRICITY – NUMBER OF CUSTOMERS INVOICED WITH T3 (DOMESTIC)
UNITS**

Can Government state the number of customers invoiced in respect of T3 (Domestic) units of electricity in the months of April 2008 to August 2008?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 582 to 587, 589 and 590 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 589 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

ELECTRICITY PURCHASED FROM MOD

Can Government state the number of units and the value of electricity purchased from the MOD in the months of April 2008 to August 2008?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 582 to 588 and 590 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 590 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

ELECTRICITY PURCHASED FROM OESCO

Can Government state the number of units and the value of electricity purchased from OESCO in the months of April 2008 to August 2008?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

I now hand the hon Member a schedule with the information requested.

SCHEDULE TO QUESTION 590 OF 2008

Answer to Question 582

Amounts collected in respect of electricity

	April	May	June	July	August
Collected	£1,369,506.15	£1,465,479.12	£1,309,123.23	£1,372,413.91	£1,414,883.87

Answer to Question 583

Amounts billed in respect of electricity

	April	May	June	July	August
Billed	£1,335,572.52	£1,328,535.04	£1,389,150.33	£1,464,095.23	£1,630,364.95

Answer to Question 584

Total value invoiced to domestic consumers in respect of Fuel Cost Adjustment (FCA) electricity

	April	May	June	July	August
Billed	£148,362.00	£141,594.00	£134,798.00	£122,842.00	£130,954.00

Answer to Question 585

Total value invoiced to domestic consumers in respect of electricity Standing Charges

	April	May	June	July	August
Invoiced	£51,856.00	£51,516.00	£51,784.00	£50,708.00	£53,248.00

Answer to Question 586

Total value invoiced to domestic(T3) consumers in respect of units of electricity

	April	May	June	July	August
Invoiced	£532,444.00	£510,181.00	£488,551.00	£490,086.00	£521,455.00

Answer to Question 587

Number of (T3)Domestic Consumers units of electricity invoiced

	April	May	June	July	August
Units Invoiced	4,489,536	4,284,740	4,080,656	3,768,280	4,557,475

Answer to Question 588

Number of (T3) Domestic Customers invoiced in respect of units of electricity

	April	May	June	July	August
Consumers	12,955	12,965	12,958	12,951	12,946

Answer to Question 589

Number of units and value of electricity purchased from the MOD

	April	May	June	July	August
Units (kWh)	344,809	220,705	350,332	318,570	209,894
Value	£35,492.15	£22,871.79	£36,176.82	£32,596.55	£21,654.87

Answer to Question 590

Number of units and value of electricity from the OESCO

	April	May	June	July	August
Units (kWh)	7,648,720	7,723,620	6,457,180	7,444,800	7,251,270
Value	£1,358,136.88	£1,531,458.01	£1,352,823.35	£1,516,814.72	£1,348,522.51

ORAL

NO. 591 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

POWER CUTS

Can Government state the number of power cuts that affected whole districts in the years 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008 to date giving a breakdown by areas affected and the reason why they occurred?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question No. 592 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 592 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

POWER CUTS

Can Government state how many power cuts there have been during the months of April 2008 to August 2008 stating when these occurred and their duration?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

I now hand the hon Member a schedule with the information requested.

SCHEDULE TO QUESTION NO. 592/2008

RECORD OF POWER CUTS

Incident No.	Date	Duration	Areas affected	Reason
YEAR 2005				
1	Sat 8 Jan 05 13.15 hrs	8 mins to 10 mins	Four districts supplied from WPS. 14,15,17,18	Generator set no. 2 at WPS Alternator's neutral bars earth fault due to vibrations
2	Sat 22 Jan 05 11.30 hrs	18 mins to 20 mins	Four districts supplied from WPS. 14,15,17,18	OESCO no 6 generator tripped on load. Electrical fault.
3	Tue 25 Jan 05 22.24 hrs	7 mins to 9 mins	Four districts supplied from WPS. 14,15,17,8	OESCO no 6 generator taken off load by mistake – Operator error
4	Thu 3 Feb 05 01.12 hrs	9 mins to 13 mins	Four districts supplied from WPS. 10,13,15,18	Failing Frequency Protection System tripped feeders as a result of load surge when closing JBDC interconnector
5	Thu 3 Feb 05 03.25 hrs	5 mins to 7 mins	Four districts supplied from WPS. 10,13,15,18	Failing Frequency Protection System tripped feeders as a result of surge when closing S10 Bayside
6	Sun 6 Mar 05 18.21 hrs	1 hr 24 mins to 1 hr 52 mins	Eleven districts supplied from KBDC & JBDC 1,2,3,4,5,7,8,9,6,19,20	Translay Relays operated at WPS disconnecting the two Interconnectors WPS to OBDC.
7	Fri 18 Mar 05 23.55 hrs	6 mins to 20 mins	Four districts supplied from WPS 10,13,14,15,18 and one from KBDC 9	Generator set no. 3 at WPS tripped due to faulty exhaust valve link pin
8	Sat 19 Mar 05 23.34 hrs	1 min to 3 hrs	District 2 St Bernard's Hosp restored after 1 min. All districts fed from OBDC and JBDC affected by up to 3 hrs.	Fault in Interconnector no. 1 OBDC – OESCO.
9	Sat 19 Mar 05 01.00 hrs	4 mins to 7 mins	Five districts supplied from WPS. 10,13,14,15,18	Fault in Interconnector no. 1 OBDC – OESCO. FFP activated.
10	Sat 19 Mar 05 01.13 hrs	7 mins to 10 mins	Five districts supplied from WPS. 10,13,14,15,18	Fault in Interconnector no. 1 OBDC – OESCO. FFP activated.
11	Thu 19 May 05 09.05 hrs	9 mins to 23 mins	Five districts supplied from WPS. 10,13,14,15,18	Generator set no. 2 at WPS Lub oil trip elec fault.

12	Thu 19 May 05 09.51 hrs	6 mins to 10 mins	Five districts supplied from WPS. 10,13,14,15,18	Generator set no. 2 at WPS Lub oil trip elec fault.
13	Mon 23 May 05 19.03 hrs	6 mins to 9 mins	Five districts supplied from WPS. 10,13,14,15,18	OESCO no 4 generator tripped on load, due to engine governor oil leak.
14	Mon 11 July 05	7 mins to 9 mins	Five districts supplied from WPS. 10,13,14,15,18	Generator set no. 1 at WPS Lub faulty emergency stop valve.
15	Sat 17 Aug 05 12.50 hrs	9 mins to 12 mins	Five districts supplied from WPS. 10,13,14,15,18	OESCO no 7 generator under test at 4MW, tripped on load, due to low lub oil pressure switch
16	Sun 4 Sept 05 14.35 hrs	9 mins to 13 mins	Five districts supplied from WPS. 10,13,14,15,18	Generator set no. 1 at WPS Lub oil trip elec fault.
17	Tue 6 Sept 05 00.26 hrs	8 mins to 9 mins	Five districts supplied from WPS. 10,13,14,15,18	OESCO no 3 generator shutdown instead of no. 1 – Operator error
18	Wed 5 Oct 05 20.02 hrs	7 mins to 1 hr 29 mins	Eight districts supplied from WPS. 10,1,12,13,14,15,17,18 Four Districts supplied from OBDC, 1,7,9,21	Fault in S49 Substation at Europort. Switchgear circuit panel to S72 Safeway substation flashed over.
YEAR 2006				
1	Sat 15 April 06 07.29 hrs	7 mins to 10 mins	Four districts supplied from WPS 10,13,14,18 One District supplied from OBDC, 9	Generator set no. 3 at WPS Tripped manually Turbocharger fault.
2	Thu 27 April 06 02.13 hrs	2 mins to 16 mins	Eight districts supplied from WPS, 10,11,12,13,14,15,17,18 Four districts supplied from WPS, 10,13,14,18 One District supplied from JBDC, 23	Generator set no. 2 at WPS Lub oil trip elec fault.
3	Mon 4 June 06 06.09 hrs	3 mins	One district supplied from WPS, 18	OESCO no 1 generator tripped on load due to low lub oil pressure switch
4	Wed 14 June 06 05.37 hrs	22 mins	Two districts supplied from WPS, 14, 17	Generator set no. 1 at WPS. Broken air valve caused turbocharger surge.
5	Sun 23 July 06 10.25 hrs	10 mins to 11 mins	Four districts supplied from WPS, 10, 13, 14, 15	Generator set no. 2 at WPS. Fuel changeover valve failure.

6	Fri 18 Aug 06 10.52 hrs	3 mins to 10 mins	Five districts supplied from WPS, 10, 13, 14, 15, 18	Generator set no. 1 at WPS. Lub Oil filter changeover activated low pressure trip.
7	Wed 23 Aug 06 12.48 hrs	12 mins to 21 mins	Five districts supplied from WPS, 10, 13, 14, 15, 18	OESCO no 4 generator tripped on load due to high temperature alarm.
8	Sat 26 Aug 06 11.15 hrs	2 mins to 7 mins	Five districts supplied from WPS, 10, 13, 14, 15, 18	OESCO no 4 generator tripped on load due to high temperature alarm.
9	Wed 27 Sep 06 06.41 hrs	11 mins to 12 mins	Four districts supplied from WPS, 10, 13, 14, 18	OESCO no 7 generator tripped on load due to low pressure in coolant circuit.
10	Tue 31 Oct 06 10.30 hrs	4 mins to 9 mins	Four districts supplied from WPS, 10, 13, 14, 18	OESCO no 3 generator tripped on load due to low oil pressure – clarifier fault.
11	Thu 16 Nov 06 13.26 hrs	8 mins to 10 mins	Four districts supplied from WPS, 10, 13, 14, 18	Generator set no. 1 at WPS. Lub Oil pump failure activated low pressure trip.
12	Sun 19 Nov 06 18.09 hrs	10 mins to 29 mins	Five districts supplied from WPS, 10, 11,12,13,14, 15,18 Two districts supplied from OBDC, 1, 9	Generator set no. 2 at WPS. 4B Connecting rod counter weight bolts sheared. Emergency manual trip.
13	Sun 3 Dec 06 16.40 hrs	5 mins to 57 mins	Eight districts supplied from WPS, 10,11, 12,13, 14,15, 18 Four districts supplied from OBDC, 1,7,9,21 Four districts supplied from JBDC, 5,6,16,19,20	Fault in HV cable from S9 Substation at Rosia Road to S31 Sandpits Substation.
14	Tue 19 Dec 06 23.40 hrs	7 mins to 10 mins	Four districts supplied from WPS, 10, 13, 14, 18	WPS generator no. 1. Faulty over-speed protection sensor caused engine trip.
YEAR 2007				
1	Mon 12 Feb 07 19.59 hrs	7 mins to 9 mins	Four districts supplied from WPS, 10, 13, 14, 18	WPS generator no. 2. Broken fuel pipe. Tripped manually.
2	Sat 3 Mar 07 16.36 hrs	3 mins	One district supplied from WPS, 15	WPS Generator set no. 1 Problem in fuel system. Reverse power relay caused engine trip.
3	Wed 14 Mar 07 13.43 hrs	11 mins to 13 mins	Four districts supplied from WPS, 10,13,14,18	OESCO no 6 generator tripped on load due to engine governor failure
4	Mon 7 May 07 14.11 hrs	21 mins to 23 mins	Five districts supplied from WPS, 10,13,14,15,18	WPS generator no. 1 Problem in fuel system. Reverse power relay caused engine trip.

5	Tue 29 May 07 19.21 hrs	12 mins to 14 mins	Four districts supplied from WPS, 10,13,14,18	OESCO no 4 generator shed load due to fuel leak. Engine tripped manually.
6	Thu 23 Aug 07 08.13 hrs	17 mins to 19 mins	Four districts supplied from WPS, 10,13,14,18	OESCO no 4 generator tripped on load due to low lub oil pressure latch.
7	Wed 12 Sep 07 14.12 hrs	6 mins to 19 mins	Four districts supplied from WPS, 10,13,14,18	OESCO no 7 generator tripped on load due to high temperature alarm.
8	Fri 21 Sep 07 00.30 hrs	20 mins to 1 hr 55 mins. Some MOD supplied consumers in excess of 11 hours	Total Blackout in Gibraltar	High Voltage fault in MOD's Glenn Rocky substation caused a cascade tripping effect on the generators operating at the time.
9	Mon 24 Sep 07 22.26 hrs	3 mins to 4 mins	Four districts supplied from WPS, 10,13,14,18. One District supplied from OBDC, 9.	WPS no.3 generator stopped in error by operator whilst on load.
11	Thu 8 Nov 07 09.27 hrs	6 mins to 9 mins	Five districts supplied from WPS, 10,13,14,15,18.	OESCO no 7 generator tripped on load, due to low lub oil pressure switch
12	Tue 27 Nov 07 12.38 hrs	37 mins	One district supplied from WPS, 15.	Contractor engaged in works at Ocean Village damaged an 11000 volts high voltage feeder cable.
13	Fri 7 Dec 07 01.48 hrs	4 mins to 12 mins	Six districts supplied from WPS, 10,12,13,14,15,18. Two Districts supplied from OBDC, 1,9.	Shutdown due to WPS no. 1 generator emergency burst fuel pipe.
YEAR 2008				
1	Sat 12 Jan 08 23.01 hrs	2 mins	Ten substations within the Westside area.	Planned switching schedule caused operation of protection relay having wrong setting (at "64 Eurotowers substation).
2	Tue 22 Jan 08 07.39 hrs	3 mins to 5 mins	Five districts supplied from WPS, 10,13,14,15,18.	WPS generator set no. 3 Lub oil temperature trip elec. Fault.
3	Mon 24 Mar 08 13.40 hrs	3 mins to 6 mins	Five districts supplied from WPS, 10,13,14,15,18.	OESCO no 5 generator tripped on load, due to excitation failure.
4	Tue 25 Mar 08 18.50 hrs	3 mins to 4 mins	Five districts supplied from WPS, 10,13,14,15,18.	OESCO no 5 generator tripped on load, due to excitation failure.
5	Wed 26 Mar 08 15.55 hrs	10 mins	Five districts supplied from WPS, 10,13,14,15,18.	OESCO No.5 generator Tripped on load due to overcurrent.

6	Tue 1 May 08 11.03 hrs	2 hours	Five districts supplied from WPS, 10,13,14,15,18.	HV Cable joint failure at OBDC to Oesco Interconnector No.2.
7	Wed 25 Jun 08 14.25 hrs	20 mins to 3 hrs 55 mins	Five Districts from WPS: 10,13,14,15,18. Six Districts from OBDC: 1,3,5,7,9,21. One District from JBDC: 20	HV Cable fault damage by contractor in South District, Rosia Bay feeder.
8	Wed 16 Jul 08 08.55 hrs	13 mins	Five districts supplied from WPS, 10,13,14,15,18.	WPS generator No.2 tripped on load due to fuel starvation, Changeover fuel valve failure.
9	Wed 23 Jul 08 14.00 hrs	1 hour to 4 hours 15 mins.	All Districts.	Total Blackout caused by HV Cable fault at WPS feeder Panel supplying S68 Western Arm District.
10	Fri 22 Aug 08 10.05 hrs	5 to 20 mins	Five districts supplied from WPS, 10,13,14,15,18.	OESCO No.7 generator tripped on load due to high engine jacket water temperature.
11	Mon 1 Sept 08 12.17 hrs	5 to 10 mins	Five districts supplied from WPS, 10,13,14,15,18.	OESCO No.4 generator tripped on load due to Electrical fault on Bearing temperature sensing circuit.

The districts fed from Waterport Power Station comprises an area covering parts of Queensway, Line Wall Road, Casemates, Marina Bay, Glacis Road, Waterport, North Mole and the whole of the Westside reclamation area.

The districts fed from Orange Bastion Distribution Centre (OBDC) comprises an area covering Laguna, Bayside, British Lines, Devil's Tower Road, Catalan Bay, Sandy Bay, Town Area, Moorish Castle area and parts of Queensway.

The districts fed from Jumper's Bastion Distribution Centre (JBDC) comprises an area covering parts of Rosia Road, Witham's Road, Red Sands Road, Vineyards, Naval Hospital Road, Europa Road, New Harbours, Europa Business Centre.

ORAL

NO. 593 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

SKID MOUNTED GENERATORS

Can Government confirm that they are planning to bring in “Skid” generators and if so when, how many, at what cost and where will they be located?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT

The Government are not planning to bring “Skid” mounted generators.

ORAL

NO. 594 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

GENERATOR AT MOUNT PLEASANT

What approvals in relation to licences, permits or any other have the Government given to Gibtelecom for their installation of a generator at Mount Pleasant?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Gibtelecom have been granted planning permission and building control approval for their installation of a generator at Mount Pleasant.

NO. 595 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

GIBRALTAR BUS COMPANY LTD – NUMBER OF PAYING PASSENGERS

Can Government state the number of paying passengers that were transported and the value of fares from these passengers by the Gibraltar Bus Company Limited in the months of April to August 2008?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The number of paying passengers that were transported and the value of fares from these passengers by the Gibraltar Bus Company in the months of April to August 2008 was as follows:-

	Passengers	Fares
April	166,488	£67,580
May	170,528	£69,404
June	173,293	£69,685
July	211,265	£89,589
August	220,766	£95,547

NO. 596 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

BUS SHELTERS

Can Government state what works have been carried out to bus shelters pursuant to the contract which it awarded to AMCO in January of this year?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

No contract has been awarded to AMCO this year.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 596 OF 2008

HON G H LICUDI:

This question arises as a result of an answer given by the Minister's predecessor at the last House, the last session of the House in April, where I understood and I am happy to check the Hansard if it is available, but I understood the Minister's predecessor for Mr Holliday to have said that there was a maintenance contract and the question was specifically related to bus shelters, there was a maintenance contract which was awarded to AMCO, that is why there is a specific reference to AMCO in January of this year, and our understanding was that that was a maintenance contract in respect of bus shelters and that is why we ask what works are being carried out. Our understanding is that no works have been carried out to these bus shelters because they continue to be in a regrettable state and they are in urgent need of maintenance, or repair, or replacement. Can the Minister confirm what the situation is?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

The only thing I can add to that is that AMCO were given some work to be done on bus shelters in August 2007, but it was part of the highways maintenance term contract and not a specific contract for this. At that time, seven bus shelters were tackled and nothing more than that has been undertaken.

HON G H LICUDI:

May I have Mr Speaker's permission to go back to Question No. 596, because I did say that I thought that there might be a reference in Hansard which I have now found? May I ask a supplementary on that?

MR SPEAKER:

Yes.

HON G H LICUDI:

That question was, "what works have been carried out to bus shelters pursuant to the contract Government awarded AMCO in January of this year"? As I understood the answer, that there was no such contract. Is my understanding correct that that was the answer?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes, what I did say was that there had not been a contract, I think it specified, What question was that sorry?

HON G H LICUDI:

Question No. 596.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes, in January this year, that is correct no contract has been awarded. The only works that have been tasked to AMCO in respect of bus shelters was in August 2007 as part of their overall highways maintenance term contract and not specific to bus shelters.

HON G H LICUDI:

As I indicated earlier, this was a matter that I raised in an earlier session of this House. In answer to Question No. 174 of 2008, the Minister, his predecessor, said "the Government has implemented a scheduled programme of repairs to maintain bus shelters. The repair of bus shelters has been included as part of the highways term maintenance contract and has been awarded to AMCO as from January this year." I took this to mean that there was already the general highways term maintenance contract with AMCO and as from January of this year, the repair of bus shelters was included in that contract. Therefore, the information given to this House was that there was a contractual provision as from January of this year for the maintenance and repair of bus shelters, and I am particularly interested to know why no such repairs have been carried out, given that the House was informed that this was a contractual requirement by AMCO?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Well, I cannot really give an answer on that. As the hon Member knows, there was a Ministerial reshuffle earlier on in the year and when I retook the responsibility for transport I identified that the bus shelters was an issue which I wanted tackled. What I definitely can do is find out what the position is, but my only possible answer for that would have been that as part of the highways maintenance term contract, which I referred to in my original answer, they were tasked to do the bus shelters and those never got done. I do not know why, but if my predecessor gave him the answer that as from January this would be undertaken under this particular contract, it should have happened but did not happen. So, if the hon Member would like I am happy to write to him on the matter and clarify the matter for his information.

HON G H LICUDI:

I am grateful for that. Could the Minister just clarify one thing? In relation to this contract, is it the case that a fixed sum is paid to the contractor for them to do works as and when required, or is it simply a contract for the contractor to be available and to be called upon to be awarded certain works which are then charged for separately? My concern is only that if as from January of this year, as the Hon Mr Britto confirmed, there has been included in a contract, which has been paid for, the repair and maintenance of bus shelters and that has not happened, it may be that the Government are paying for something that they are not getting.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I do not think he should worry about that. The highways maintenance term contract is a contract, and I am here outside my remit because I do not have responsibility for that particular contract, it comes under roads and it is not really my area, but I know for a fact that the highways term maintenance contract is a contract where there are special, not special but agreed rates that are agreed with the Government in order to be on call to be able to deal with matters as and when required. So, therefore, there is an order of works that is given to them at a pre-agreed rate already, and that basically happens throughout the term of the contract. If the work has not been done, I have assumed they have not been paid, and I am not sure whether there has been an agreed term contract in respect of bus shelters. But I can tell him, and as he has probably seen for himself, no work has been done apart from the seven bus shelters which I have referred to in my supplementary, which were tackled in August 2007.

NO. 597 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

BUS SHELTERS

Can Government state whether it has now concluded the feasibility study on bus shelters?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

No Sir. However, since the drafting of this question ten days ago or so the actual study has now been concluded. So it is a no Sir at the time of the drafting of the question but there has been a development since then and, in fact, tender notices should shortly be issued in respect of this. So there has been substantial progress in the last week or so.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 597 OF 2008

HON G H LICUDI:

Can the Minister give us a little bit more detail about what the study actually says and concludes? I note that the Minister has mentioned tenders, can we have some indication of what precisely is proposed and the timescale that the Government is thinking about?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

A study has had to be undertaken in order to ensure that we were totally conversant with the state of the bus shelters, and obviously, to be able to prepare a contract which will enable all the bus shelters to be brought up to good condition. Then there is a phase 2 which is the maintenance of these once these are repaired. There is no point in repairing the bus shelters and then let them deteriorate. So it is a two phased exercise, that has now been concluded and hopefully we will be able to move this fairly quickly now.

HON G H LICUDI:

Can the Minister confirm that the feasibility study actually states that the bus shelters are in a very bad state of disrepair and in urgent need of attention?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Absolutely, one does not need the study to say that, one just needs to drive around to be able to assess for oneself that that is in fact the case.

HON G H LICUDI:

I asked in the previous supplementary the question of timescale, can the Minister confirm whether we are talking of three months, six months, a year, until we see bus shelters that are up to the condition that Gibraltar deserves?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I would not want to actually give a firm answer on that because, obviously, this is going to be the subject of a tender very shortly, but there are funds available during this financial year so, therefore, we would like to definitely see this happening and concluded during this financial year. Then, obviously, phase 2 is the maintenance of this, which will be an on-going contract, which hopefully we will then maintain the buses to the standards that we all desire.

NO. 598 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

BUS SERVICE – BUS ROUTE NO. 2

Can Government state whether a final decision has been taken on the buses it will order for route number 2?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The tenders submitted did not meet the tender specifications, so the tender has not been awarded. A new tender will shortly be published.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 598 OF 2008

HON G H LICUDI:

Can the Minister confirm whether there were some technical problems which will arise with future tenders, or whether it was a problem with this particular tendering process? Have the Government identified why they have been unable to award a tender in this particular occasion?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Well, this happened at the time when my predecessor was leading on transport matters, but from what I understand, the tender was published requiring certain specifications for tenders to comply with, and even though the Tender Board actually went as far as actually trying to have some trials done on some of the tenders, to see whether there was actually a possibility of flexibility in this, because obviously the exact bus that we needed for the Upper Town was very specific, the Tender Board then decided that even those that were possible, successful tenderers with an element of flexibility, really did not meet the mark. One needs to understand that the Upper Town is a very complex area in which to manoeuvre and, therefore, there were elements of size and elements of power within the engines of the buses themselves to be able to operate the system. It may have worked on one or two trials a day but when one has a bus that is actually doing the route on a constant basis, then it has to meet certain targets and none of them really met the targets. So, I have issued instructions for the tender procedures to commence again and,

hopefully, there may be some better tenders that come in which meet our specifications.

HON G H LICUDI:

Can the Government confirm whether the new tender procedure will involve the same specifications, and if it was unsuccessful in finding the right tenderer on the last occasion, is there any reason why the Government are optimistic that they will be able to do so this time round?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Well, from what I am informed, there have been developments in new buses coming onto the market since this tender was published last year. We are hopeful that some of these developments of new products may actually meet the requirements. But, obviously, we will have to wait and see who bids rather than us being able to identify an actual bus itself.

HON G H LICUDI:

Is my understanding correct that this is a route currently operated and will continue to be operated by the Gibraltar Bus Company Limited?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

That is correct.

HON G H LICUDI:

What then is the problem in that particular company that is responsible for that route, simply going out to the market and buying a bus that meets the specifications that the Government set?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Well, the Government tend to go down the route of public procurement through the tender process. However, we may have to go down that route if we do not get the necessary submissions when we publish the tender the second time round.

HON G H LICUDI:

I understand and fully accept the desirability of going down the tender process, but this is not a tender that would be awarded by the Government themselves. It is a Government-owned company so it is the company that has to acquire the necessary vehicles to operate the routes that it is obliged to operate on behalf of the Government. Therefore, where there are difficulties and although we certainly agree that matters should be opened up to tender whenever possible, but in the particular case of a Government company, seeking to acquire a specific vehicle for a specific

purpose, does the Minister not agree that some urgency now needs to be given to this and that, if necessary, the company need to go out and buy the right vehicle?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I have already said that we would go down the new tender route for a second time and if that does not happen then we would have no option but to go down the other option.

NO. 599 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

WEIGHT EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES

Can Government state how many applications for weight exemption certificates were turned down during the period April 2008 to August 2008 giving the reason why each application was turned down?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

In July 2008 an application for an exemption of a weight and dimension restriction to enter Line Wall Road of a forklift was turned down on the advice of the Technical Services Department, because the forklift exceeded ten tonnes, which is the maximum of Smith Dorrien Bridge.

In July 2008 an application for an exemption of a weight and dimension restriction to travel along Ragged Staff Road of a container was turned down because container vehicles can only travel on heavy traffic roads.

NO. 600 OF 2008**THE HON G H LICUDI****WEIGHT EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES**

Can Government state how many weight exemption certificates were granted during the period April 2008 to August 2008 giving a breakdown by month?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT**

Below is a table stating the monthly breakdown of the weight and dimensions exemption certificates that were granted during the period April 2008 to August 2008.

2008	Cranes	Goods Vehicles (lorries, and trucks)	Motor Vehicles designed for excavation or shovelling work	Total
April	11	22	10	43
May	19	8	4	31
June	16	18	3	37
July	10	15	3	28
August	10	19	6	35

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 600 OF 2008**HON G H LICUDI:**

As I understand the position, the weight exemption certificates are granted where a particular vehicle is proposed to go down a road which has certain weight limits, and because of the exceeding of the gross weight of that vehicle of the weight limit for that particular road, it is necessary for a certificate exempting that vehicle from that restriction to be given, otherwise the person or the vehicle would be contravening the traffic legislation. The weight limits on the road are clearly there for a purpose, presumably, because that is the weight that engineers have assessed the road can take. Does the Minister have any concerns about the numbers of vehicles that regularly have to exceed or have to be authorised to exceed the weight limit on particular roads, and does that not defeat the purpose of having the restriction in the first place? I am not suggesting that there should be a free for all and the weight

restriction should be removed, but if on the whole, most people who apply given the answer to this question and the previous question, where only a couple had been refused, but the very vast majority of people who applied for weight exemption certificates are granted that certificate, do Government engineers not have any particular concerns that on a regular basis the weight limit on our roads are being exceeded and therefore damage could be caused?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I think we need to understand, that although there may be a ten tonne restriction on a particular road, there is an element of leeway in that. Therefore, even though there is a restriction on a particular weight, say ten tonnes, the road can actually take much more weight than that. So there is an element of leeway there that should not be of concern. The other issue is that when an application is made, it is normally the Transport Division or Transport Department that actually examine the route for that vehicle to take and, obviously, it minimises the use of roads that are subjected to certain levels of weight so as to minimise the impact that they may have on the road. So the route may not be the straight route or the quickest route to get to it, but it is actually done on that. Additionally to that, obviously, a lot of these exemptions are granted not just on weight but on dimension. Therefore, the issue of being able to control this is obviously because a lot of these vehicles do need police escort to be able to manoeuvre within the city area or within the whole of Gibraltar. So, therefore, there has to be coordination, so the actual control of this permit is not purely on weight but also on dimension itself. Let me say that all certifications are verified by the Technical Services Department, who obviously take a view and if there is an element of concern, like there have been obviously in these two cases that I have pointed out, they would refuse the permit altogether. But the permits are there to control and I think the system works fairly well. We would not like to see any of these vehicles on our roads preferably, but it is a matter of fact that they do need to move along our roads. So, therefore, the system in place I think works well in being able to control and restrict how these vehicles actually move along our roads.

HON G H LICUDI:

I am grateful for the clarification by the Minister. Are the Government aware of any particular damage of a medium or long-term basis which may have been caused to these roads which have weight restrictions, as a result of all these vehicles which exceed the restriction being allowed on the road?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No, I do not think that there are any sort of long-term effects so far. I think there are areas of concern but what has happened is that the Technical Services Department have been able to foresee these and have made certain changes in logistics, in order to be able to address these. I will give an example of this, Europa Road by the area of Shorthorn Farm, he will recall that cars used to be parked against the wall at one time, so the vehicles, these heavy goods vehicles would actually move along the road on the outer side and that has changed. Now the vehicles actually go on the inner side of the road where parking xxxxxx. Also, in the area further down by Sunnyside House and further on, he will notice that before cars used to park against the building and now they actually look over Vineyards, for example. So vehicles and lorries actually move on the inside of the road because, obviously, the long-term

effects are that if they move further inside the road, the likelihood is that the long-term effects of that would be longer lasting. But there are not actual areas of concern. Having said that, there is a monitoring system in place which is constantly being reviewed in order to ensure that if we do identify an area of concern, it will either be addressed or further restrictions put on the use of that road.

NO. 601 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

EXTRA BERTHS FOR SMALL BOATS

Can Government state when it expects to provide the extra 50 berths for small boats which it promised during the October 2007 election campaign?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Following the highly successful and excellent Coaling Island facility provided by this Government to local boat owners, the Government are considering different options for the provision of more berths for local boat owners. As the hon Member knows, the Government invest heavily in local sports and leisure amenities and navigational boating facilities is an important part of that. The Government will be making a statement when ready to do so.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 601 OF 2008

HON G H LICUDI:

Unfortunately and regrettably that really says nothing at all. That simply says, we have an intention to do something at some point in the future, we do not know when, and if and when we get to that point we will make an announcement. That is the same as saying we just do not know when it is that we are doing this. I am aware that this is a matter that the Minister has looked at in the past and has had meetings with different committees, but the purpose or the reason that the question refers specifically to promises which were made, is because this was something that was highlighted during the election campaign and I do recall the Minister on television making a very clear commitment that this would happen. Frankly, it is simply not good enough to say, well this will happen whenever it will happen. We would like to see, certainly.....

MR SPEAKER:

I think the hon Member should put a question.

HON G H LICUDI:

Yes. Do the Government not agree that they need to take a more pro-active approach that there is a dire need in Gibraltar, being almost surrounded by water, for berthing facilities for small boats, that this is now a matter that has been pending for a very long time and can they not give any type of commitment in terms of the timescale, the effort, the money that will be invested and where precisely these extra berths are going to arise?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I can say that Government are actively pursuing this matter, and as the hon Member has clearly pointed out himself, I actively pursue this matter as one of my priorities because I do understand the frustration that some of these boat owners do have. The reason why at the last elections there was the mention of an extra 50 berths, is because considering the berths that are currently available at Watergardens, and if one adds roughly another 50 or so berths to that, we would probably cater for what is the immediate demand that exists in Gibraltar. The demand is far, far greater than that, let me tell him. But at least it will address those that have their boats on the hard as a result of the fact that Western Beach had to be almost dismantled as a result of the weather conditions and the exposure of the area. I have to say that when this commitment, or when this comment was made by me at the last elections, it was done on the basis that this would happen during this term of office and it will be pursued actively and it will come about as soon as possible. One has to understand that Gibraltar does have its limitations, right, and finding an ideal location to find an extra 50 berths is not something that I can just....., I have not got the options there. I am looking at options but I have not got the facility to come up with the answers straight away. But, I mean, I have to say that I find it rather surprising that the hon Member should be complaining at the fact that I made a commitment at the last elections and still not delivered on it, which is a short ten months or eleven months ago, when most of these that are suffering as a result of this were the result of the fact that his party when in office moved them out of the Camber to Western Beach, only to find.....

HON F R PICARDO:

Point of Order. The Minister should sit down if a Point of Order is being made.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

The hon Member is not to tell me what I have to do.

MR SPEAKER:

Order, Order. I will allow the Minister to finish the answer then I will take the point.

HON F R PICARDO:

That would be totally unfair, with respect, because the Minister is misleading the House and to allow him to continue finishing the answer is to allow him to continue misleading the House.

MR SPEAKER:

If the Point of Order is misleading the House, then I will hear the Point of Order. I should hear it if there is an allegation of misleading the House. But I am sure the hon Member knows about the question of bringing a motion.

HON F R PICARDO:

Absolutely. I have said that if Mr Speaker allows him to faintish speaking, he will continue misleading the House. I am not saying that I am going to bring a motion of misleading the House. The Point of Order is simply this.....

MR SPEAKER:

Sorry, sorry, the hon Member has decided to, perhaps, challenge my ruling when I said I would finish hearing the answer on the basis that he will be misleading the House.

HON F R PICARDO:

Yes, that is right.

MR SPEAKER:

So, has he misled the House so far?

HON F R PICARDO:

I believe he is about to mislead the House.

MR SPEAKER:

Well, with respect, in that case I am sorry I cannot accept an anticipation about to do something.

HON F R PICARDO:

Well, the matter is one entirely for Mr Speaker. Let him finish his sentence and then Mr Speaker can make up his mind.

MR SPEAKER:

If the Minister has misled the House up to this point, I will definitely take a Point of Order if he has misled. If he is about to, then I suggest we should wait.

HON F R PICARDO:

If Mr Speaker would listen to my point he might be able to make up his mind, otherwise the allegation of clairvoyance should be directed at Mr Speaker not at me.

MR SPEAKER:

I beg your pardon.

HON F R PICARDO:

The allegation of clairvoyance that has been made across the floor of the House, from the person who seems only to be able to move to make a point, has been made towards me, perhaps it should be directed at Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER:

Well, let us get back into order. If the Minister is said to have misled the House then I will take the Point of Order. If the hon Member anticipates that he is about to mislead the House, with respect I cannot interrupt an answer on what the hon Member anticipates.

HON F R PICARDO:

If Mr Speaker listens to my point, then he can make up his own mind whether my point is one of misleading the House or not.

MR SPEAKER:

With respect, then we move backwards again.

HON F R PICARDO:

Well, yes, the Minister has misled the House in my view and for the following reason. As the Minister knows, because he has been in Government now for over 12 years and has made this point in this House before, the decision to move the small boat owners from the Camber in the area where Queensway Quay was developed, was a decision made by the AACR Government not by the GSLP and it was made before 1988. Now, I stopped the Minister before he went on so he may not yet have misled the House, but he was saying, at the time that the GSLP were in office. So, in my view he was about to mislead the House if he had not misled it already. That is the point Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER:

Well, I will take that point, we will put a marker on that point and perhaps if the hon Member will continue his answer and then we will know which way he was going.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

What I am about to say or was about to say is a matter of fact. I know that Mr Picardo sometimes does not like to face reality and listen to what he has to listen to, but unfortunately he will have to sit and listen to what I have to say. That is, that some of the people *[Interruption]*

MR SPEAKER:

Order.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

What I was about to say when I was interrupted was that the clear fact that most of the people that are now suffering what Mr Licudi is claiming has not happened in the last ten months, are people that were waiting for eight years whilst the GSLP were in office for something to happen. It was this Government when in office who then moved and built the facilities in Coaling Island for over a thousand berths, and therefore, I do not think that he should be able to demand anything from this Government as being overdue when we have been in office for ten months. All I said was, the commitment that I entered into in the last elections will happen and will happen during this term of office, and a statement will be made in due course.

HON G H LICUDI:

The Minister has referred to a thousand berths at Coaling Island, my understanding is more like 300 rather.....

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Whatever, sorry.

HON G H LICUDI:

The Minister may have been slightly exaggerating in his answer.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I agree with that, I am sorry.

HON G H LICUDI:

We certainly accept that when a commitment is given at election time it sets out a programme over the term of office. But the purpose of this question, and let me say also that the reference to 50 in the question, is not because we in the Opposition believe that 50 is sufficient and we agree entirely with the Government that 50 will not solve the problem and there is a dire need for a much greater number. What we simply seek to do is to impress upon the Government the urgency that there are many long-term suffering individuals who have their boats on the hard and who are not able to enjoy those boats. Therefore there is an urgent need for this problem to be addressed. Not in three year's time, not in 2011, not even 2010 but there is an urgent need for the matter to be addressed now. Can the Minister give a commitment that this is now something that is going to be looked at with the priority that it deserves?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

It will be looked at with the same priority as it was before I walked into the House this morning.

NO. 602 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS

Can Government state the number of new registrations of:

- (a) private; and
- (b) commercial,

road vehicles for each month from April 2008 to August 2008?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

From April 2008 to August 2008 a total of 526 new vehicles were registered as private and 96 vehicles were registered as commercial.

Below please find a table of the monthly breakdowns:

2008	Private	Commercial
April	117	31
May	113	13
June	98	19
July	115	16
August	83	17

ORAL

NO. 603 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

NEW FLAME

When do the Government now anticipate that the removal of the hull of the vessel the New Flame will have been completed?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT

The date is dependent on weather conditions and the ability of Titan, the wreck removal company, to work at sea. Titan expect to be finished by the end of December.

ORAL

NO. 604 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

CHIEF EXECUTIVE/CAPTAIN OF THE PORT VACANCY

Can Government say whether the post of Chief Executive/Captain of the Port has now been filled and if so on what date and by whom?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The post of Chief Executive/Captain of the Port was filled on 18th August by Captain Peter Hall.

ORAL

NO. 605 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PORT DEPARTMENT – EAST SIDE RADAR COVERAGE

Can Government say whether the link from the MOD Windmill Hill Signal Station provides the Port Department with live radar coverage of the East Side?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question Nos. 606 and 607 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 606 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PORT DEPARTMENT – VTS SYSTEM

Can Government say what upgrade was provided to the Port Department's VTS system in 2005 and at what cost, and can they say what upgrade was provided to the Port Department's VTS system in 2008 and at what cost?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 605 and 607 of 2008.

NO. 607 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

REGULATION OF FISHING

Have Government now completed their consideration of the following and with what result:

- (a) the implementation of Port Rules to regulate fishing activities from the North Mole;
- (b) the introduction of legislation to regulate the activities of anglers in all of Gibraltar's shoreline?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT

The link from the MOD Windmill Hill Signal Station does provide live radar coverage to the Port Department.

In addition, the Automatic Identification Signals (AIS) are received from each vessel.

In 2005, the VTS was upgraded to include electronic charts. The hardware and software were also upgraded to newer versions. The cost was £2,484.50.

A review of the VTS system is currently underway.

The Government have not yet completed their consideration of the implementation of Port Rules to regulate fishing activities from the North Mole, or the introduction of legislation to regulate the activities of anglers in all of Gibraltar's shoreline.

There is, however, a management system at the Port which enables anglers to fish at times which do not conflict with shipping operations.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 605 TO 607 OF 2008

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Starting with Question No. 605, can the Minister say since when the Port Department has had live radar coverage of the East Side in the link it receives from Windmill Hill?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I think that has been on-going now for some years. I cannot really specify when but I know that the signal is not satisfactory, as far as we are concerned, but the system has been in place now for many years.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

I cannot understand the answer the Minister has given because the question arises out of a report into the Samothraki incident which the Minister may recall. One of the areas which it highlights is the fact that, and I just quote from it, the information is subject to signal interruptions, which is what he just said, but it says and delays and the display data is not in real time. It highlights that as one of the areas which needs looking at. So can the Minister clarify that contradiction?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes, there is a delay but I mean, we are talking of seconds of delay it is relatively live, it is not a situation where we are getting it hours later or even minutes later, so it is fairly live. It may not be a complete second to second transmission but it is realistically live. Maybe the use of the word "live" may be open to interpretation here, in the sense that any delay is not of any good to us and, obviously, the new VTS system that we intend to put in place, firstly will not need the MOD Signal Station at all because we want to do away with all this possible delay. Also the fact that there are interruptions to the system on a regular basis.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Do the Government consider that any safety issues arise or have arisen as a result of this delay?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No, I do not think that is the case. Having said that, we feel that the new system we want to put in place will upgrade the system quite considerably and will enhance our ability to police the East Side in a much more effective manner.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can he tell the House why it is then, if they do not consider that this has contributed or has had any safety implications, why it is that it was highlighted in the report produced by their own Maritime Administration and why it is that they are changing the system?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I think that there is an EU requirement to upgrade all VTS systems in all ports in Europe and that must be complied with by December 2009. The systems are far more sophisticated than anything we have and most ports have. In fact, only the

very large ports actually comply with this already, others are still working to make sure that they achieve this by the end of 2009 and we are working quite hard at this in order to achieve this as early as possible.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Does the Minister know, he said the review on upgrading the system is currently underway, does he know what timescale we are looking at before the new system is in place?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Well, as I have said, we have a target of December 2009 from the point of view of meeting EU requirements. We are hopeful to be reaching that point much earlier than that. I would like to think that some time within the first six months of next year we should have achieved that. In fact, we are very close to now looking at different options for the procurement of the new VTS system. We are actually learning as well from some of the mistakes that others have made, who have sort of come on stream much earlier than anticipated and we are hopeful that within the next nine months or so we should be on track for that.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In relation to Question No. 607, which is the one about fishing in the Port and in other areas of Gibraltar, this has been under consideration now for a considerable amount of time, and my concern is that given the limited number of spaces and the large number of people who want to fish in different parts of Gibraltar, including the North Mole, what kind of priority are the Government giving this and when do they expect the consideration to be completed?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I cannot really give a commitment to that, the only thing I can say is that there are management systems at the Port in order to allow anglers to use the North Mole when it is not in conflict with shipping operations. However, the legislation in respect of activities in other areas of Gibraltar is not something that has been given, possibly, the priority that the hon Member may feel the matter deserves, but it is something that is under review.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

I am not surprised to hear that it is under review because when I asked the Chief Minister the same question in 2005, the answer was the situation is constantly under review. It may be that at some stage a licensing system may be the option that is pursued. Is that the option they are looking at or are they looking at other options?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

We are looking at various options. However, the licensing option is probably the more likely one, probably the more feasible one as well, considering that a lot of the anglers that use our shores are not just locals but those that come over from our neighbouring country to use our facilities.

NO. 608 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

SAMOTHRAKI

Can Government say whether they have now taken a decision on the two recommendations that were under consideration from the report made by the Gibraltar Maritime Administration into the reasons why the Greek tanker Samothraki ran aground in March 2007?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The recommendations have not yet been fully implemented.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 608 OF 2008

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Does that mean that the two, there were five recommendations made, three of them were accepted by the Government and two were under consideration, that is what we were told last time in April at the last Question Time of the House. Is the Minister saying that the two recommendations that were under consideration have still not been implemented? Have they now been accepted by the Government? Is that what he is saying?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No, I think he is referring to the exclusion zone in the area off Europa Point and the off Port limit. When I said "fully implemented" it is because we actually have put in place regimes to be able to establish that. However, at the moment with the New Flame in the position it is, de facto, there is an exclusion zone off Europa Point and off Port limits, again, are being instructed to be undertaken further away from our shores. However, the real time for full implementation will be when we have the fully operational VTS new system where we can police that. At the moment we are finding it difficult to police people off the New Flame wreck and the only way that we can actually enforce this is when we have the new VTS system in place, in order to undertake this and police this adequately.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In relation to the second recommendation, that was to consider establishing a southern limit to the eastern anchorage. At the last Question Time we were told it had been accepted by the Government but it was something that could not be monitored. Has there been any change on that position?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I think he is referring to the three miles off Gibraltar to the eastern side?

HON DR J J GARCIA:

No, that was the third one, I am referring to the second one.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Which is what?

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Consider establishing a southerly limit to the eastern anchorage.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes, that is a recommendation that has been accepted by the Port Authority. The only issue is that one cannot effectively monitor that until the upgraded VTS system has been installed. When we have the new VTS system we will be able to police the eastern anchorage and, therefore, we will be able to enforce that to the letter. But we have accepted that principle and, de facto, it is in operation but whether it is effectively being observed is a different matter.

ORAL

NO. 609 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR AIRPORT – OCCURRENCE REPORTS

Can Government say how many mandatory occurrence reports have been raised in relation to incidents at Gibraltar Airport since the last Question Time in this Parliament, with a breakdown giving the date of the incident, the name of the airline and aircraft involved, and a short description of each case?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

I now hand the hon Member a schedule with the information requested.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 609/2008

A total of 13 Mandatory Occurrence reports have been filed from April 2008 to 15 September 2008 as follows:-

07-Apr-09 @ 17.00 h

Easyjet A320 – Air crew were warned of severe turbulence and waterspouts in the vicinity of Gibraltar, particularly affecting the approaches; the aircraft made an approach and encountered a waterspout on a short final causing it to bank right at a steep angle before carrying out a missed approach.

10-Apr-08 @ 11.18 h

PHCIJ C 680 – Has a runaway excursion during an attempt to land in conditions of severe turbulence.

16-Apr-08 @ 08.45 h

Easyjet A320 – Aircraft was held off due to a failure of the Tetra ground management radio, it subsequently landed safely.

23-Apr-08 @ 09.45 h

Report filed due to repeated failures of the Secondary Radar while the Primary Radar was off for annual maintenance.

04-Jun-08 @ 14.22 h

Taxiway incursion by members of a working party.

04-Jun-08 @ 15.25 h

Runway incursion by the foreman of the working party involved in the previous incident.

24-Jul-08 @ 08.45 h

Easyjet A320 – Emergency State 2 called when pilot reported overheating in a hydraulic system, aircraft landed safely.

06-Aug-08 @ 10.38 h

ECKIH SR22 – Runway incursion, aircraft line up without clearance.

13-Aug-08 @ 10.20 h

ECKIR EC35 – Two reports filed for the same incident, medevac helicopter landed on the southern shoulder without landing clearance while BAW2495 was lined up to depart from runway 27.

14-Aug-08 @ 11.35 h

A works vehicle crossed the threshold of runway 27 without ATC clearance.

19-Aug-08 @ 06.00 h

Report filed re the availability of ATCOs on the watch roster.

31-Aug-08 @ 12.03 h

ECKLY SR22 – Propellor strikes runway on landing.

31-Aug-08 @ 16.21 h

EZY905U A320 – Parachute flare was fired towards the airfield while the aircraft taxied out. The incident was reported to GSP and RGP.

ORAL

NO. 610 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR AIRPORT – BUS TO LA LINEA /FOR ARRIVING PASSENGERS

Can Government say how many arriving passengers on the flight from Madrid to Gibraltar boarded the bus to La Linea after landing here on a monthly basis since the information supplied at the last Question Time in this Parliament?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 611, 612 and 613 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 611 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR AIRPORT – BUS FROM LA LINEA FOR DEPARTING PASSENGERS

Can Government say how many departing passengers on the flight from Gibraltar to Madrid arrived at the air terminal on the bus from La Linea on a monthly basis since the information supplied at the last Question Time in the Parliament?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question Nos. 610, 612 and 613 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 612 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR AIRPORT – TRANSIT PASSENGERS FROM MADRID

Can Government say, of the passengers who arrived in Gibraltar by air from Madrid since the last Question Time in this Parliament, on a monthly basis, how many were deemed to be in transit through Gibraltar and how many stayed in Gibraltar?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 610, 611 and 613 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 613 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR AIRPORT – SHUTTLE AND TERMINAL BUSES

Can Government say what was the cost of operating the Gibraltar airport shuttle bus to and from La Linea and the smaller buses that operate between terminals on a monthly basis since the information supplied at the last Question Time in this Parliament?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

I now hand the hon Member a schedule with the information requested.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 613/2008

Answer to 610 of 2008

March (from 28 th)	0
April	15
May	22
June	34
July	28
August	49
September (up to 7 th)	1

Answer to 611 of 2008

March (from 28 th)	6
April	5
May	15
June	20
July	17
August	15
September (up to 7 th)	4

Answer to 612 of 2008

Month	In Transit	Stayed
March (from 28 th)	42	23
April	184	119
May	382	81
June	503	112
July	408	111
August	410	130
September (to 7 th)	145	17

Answer to 613 of 2008

April	£2,200
May	£2,750
June	£2,200
July	£2,200

The bill for August has not yet been received.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 610 TO 613 OF 2008

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In relation to the cost of the bus to La Linea, the figures the Minister has supplied show that it costs £2,200 a month but in May the cost is £2,750, is there a reason for that? What is the reason for that?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes, the flight to Madrid operates on Friday and Sunday and in the month of May there were five weekends, the same as there probably will be in August as well.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In view of the recent developments in relation to this route, can the Minister say what is going to happen to the buses?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

The issue has not been given consideration yet. However, I think I have been quoted in the Chronicle on Tuesday reacting to this when I actually said that I was hopeful that this would provide a gap for another operator to come on stream. If that is the case, then obviously the buses will be used for that purpose.

NO. 614 OF 2008**THE HON DR J J GARCIA****GIBRALTAR AIRPORT – FLIGHT DELAYS**

Can Government say how many flights from Gibraltar to the following airports were delayed by more than half an hour on a monthly basis:

- (a) London Gatwick;
- (b) London Luton;
- (c) Madrid,

since the information supplied at the last Question Time in this Parliament?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The information requested is as follows:

Delayed	Gatwick	Luton	Madrid
March (from 27th)	2	0	0
April	5	0	0
May	17	8	0
June	24	1	0
July	24	3	1
August	25	1	2
September (to 11th)	6	1	0

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 614 OF 2008**HON DR J J GARCIA:**

I do not know whether the Minister has this information but there certainly seems to be a huge increase in the number of delays on flights to London Gatwick, is there a particular reason for that?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Probably because it is getting to the peak summer months when there are delays generally in aviation around the whole of Europe. Gibraltar is no exception.

NO. 615 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR AIRPORT – FLIGHTS TIMETABLED AND CANCELLED

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 Luton;
- (c) Madrid,

since the information supplied at the last Question Time in this Parliament?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT

The information requested is as follows:

	GATWICK	LUTON	MADRID
March (from 27th)	9	5	2
April	90	30	8
May	101	31	8
June	98	30	9
July	102	31	8
August	101	31	10
September (to 11th)	36	11	2

One flight was cancelled to Gatwick in August 2008.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 615 OF 2008

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Minister say how many of these flight cancellations, and again the number seems to have increased considerably, how many of these cancellations were flights leaving from Gibraltar?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

There was only one cancellation in August 2008.

NO. 616 OF 2008**THE HON DR J J GARCIA****GIBRALTAR AIRPORT – PASSENGERS GIBRALTAR/MADRID ROUTE**

What was the total number of passengers carried by airlines on the Gibraltar-Madrid route, showing inward and outward bound, on a monthly basis since the information was supplied at the last Question Time in this Parliament?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The total number of passengers carried by airlines on the Gibraltar-Madrid route showing inward and outward on a monthly basis is as follows:

	Inward	Outward
April 2008	300	283
May 2008	412	431
June 2008	528	560
July 2008	715	629
August 2008	803	949

NO. 617 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DISCUSSIONS WITH AIRLINES

Can Government say whether discussions continue with the three airlines that are interested in flying to countries not presently served by flights to and from Gibraltar airport and indicate which countries they are?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

I do not know which three airlines the hon Member is referring to. In any case, Government continue their discussions with more than three airlines.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 617 OF 2008

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The three are the ones identified at the last Question Time by his predecessor in that post.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes, well if they were the three airlines highlighted by my predecessor, then I can advise that the discussions continue.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The second part of the question which refers to the countries, can he say which ones they are?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I am not sure which are the three airlines that he mentioned, but I know that all the airlines that he was dealing with as a result of me passing it on to him and him passing it back to me, are all in discussion and they refer to a number of airlines across Europe. So I cannot really specify those three specifics. I am happy to write

to him if he so wishes and confirm it to him, but I can assure him that we are in contact with a vast range of airlines at the moment.

ORAL

NO. 618 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

SHIP CALLS

How many ships have called at Gibraltar since the information supplied at the last Question Time in this Parliament 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 ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

I now hand the hon Member a schedule with the information requested.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 618/2008

SHIP CALLS SINCE APRIL 2008 INCLUSIVE

	April	May	June	July	August
(a) Bunkering	526	575	534	504	549
(b) Cargo	28	24	25	31	22
(c) Repairs	10	12	17	17	8

BUNKERS SOLD (TONNES)

	April	May	June	July	August
	333,661	400,110	350,622	352,405	375,656

ORAL

NO. 619 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

BUNKERING LICENCES

Can Government say whether any new bunkering licences have been issued, or whether any application for such a licence has been made since the last Question Time in this Parliament?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT

No bunkering licences have been issued nor have any applications for such licences been submitted since the last Question Time in this Parliament.

NO. 620 OF 2008

THE HON THE HON DR J J GARCIA

CONFERENCES SPONSORED OR CO-SPONSORED

Can Government list the conferences that they have sponsored or co-sponsored, both in Gibraltar or elsewhere, since the last Question Time in this Parliament, showing the dates when the conferences were held, the cost and the department that was most directly involved?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

My Ministry has not sponsored or co-sponsored in Gibraltar or elsewhere any conferences since the last Question Time in this Parliament.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 620 OF 2008

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In relation to Question No. 620, is the Minister aware of any conferences organised by any other Ministry, which is what the question asks?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

There may be and maybe my colleague Mr Reyes may be able to enlighten us on that.

HON E J REYES:

If I take the meaning of conference to be in its wide range, only last week I opened and concluded a very successful Calpe Conference, more details of which I will refer to in tomorrow's annual general meeting with the Gibraltar Heritage Trust. Whilst I am on my feet, I am glad to say that one of the fruits arising out of the conference is that Gibraltar is being greatly highlighted in international scientific publications. Can I take the opportunity to forewarn Members of Parliament and Gibraltar at large that October's edition of National Geographic carries a lovely article where Gibraltar features prominently and in wonderful double-page colour spread photographs.

NO. 621 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TOURISM/PORT/BUSINESS AND COMMERCE/E-BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCILS

How often and on what dates have the following met since the information supplied at the last Question Time in this Parliament:

- (a) the Tourism Advisory Council;
- (b) the Port Advisory Council;
- (c) the Business and Commerce Advisory Council;
- (d) the E-Business Advisory Council?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT

The respective Advisory Councils have met since the information supplied at the last Question Time in Parliament as follows:

- (a) The Tourism Advisory Council – once on 26th June 2008; may I just remind him that I no longer Chair this particular Advisory Council, so maybe in future questions he may want to split the question up into two;
- (b) The Port Advisory Council have met twice on 24th April and 30th June;
- (c) The Business and Commerce Advisory Council met twice on 24th April and 24th June; and
- (d) The E-Business Advisory Council met twice on 24th April and 24th June 2008.

NO. 622 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

EU FUNDING APPLICATIONS

Can Government list the parties who have applied for:

- (a) EU funding;
- (b) Gibraltar Government funding,

since the last Question Time in this Parliament, indicating the amount of funding 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 ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

I now hand the hon Member a table containing the information requested.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 622**ERDF PROJECTS OBJECTIVE 2 2000-2006 PROGRAMME**

Project No.	Sponsor	Status	ERDF	GOG	Purpose of Grant
134	Savannah Restaurant	Active	£79,601.00 (30%)		Building works, Kitchen & bar equipment, purchase of furniture, sound & CCTV equipment.
135	MED Cleaning	Active	£9,207.60 (30%)		Refurbishment works, purchase of equipment, telephony and data cabling
136	Law Reports	Active	£34,172.00 (50%)	£34,172.00 (50%)	Purchase of data ownership & copywrite, purchase of IT equipment.
137	Embroidery Services	Active	£4,442.17 (30%)		Metal shutters, IT equipment, embroidery equipment, import duty @ 12%
138	Orange Bastion Phase III	Active	£503,450.00 (50%)	£503,450.00 (50%)	Pre-contract works, project execution, project management

ERDF C&EO 2007-2013 PROGRAMME

Project No.	Sponsor	Status	ERDF	GOG	Purpose of Grant
1	Aluminium Services	Active	£1,325.45 (15%)	£1,325.44 (15%)	Purchase of tools, uniforms advertising, IT equipment, furniture, rent subsidy scheme (12 months)

ESF C&EO 2007-2013 PROGRAMME

Project No.	Sponsor	Status	ERDF	GOG	Purpose of Grant
1	Focus 5508	Active	£29,950 (50%)	£29,950 (50%)	Wage subsidy
2	Harmony 08	Active	£29,950 (50%)	£29,950 (50%)	Wage subsidy
3	VTS 6	Active	£118,367 (50%)	£118,367 (50%)	Training
4	Deliverex 2008/2010	Active	£11,562.10 (50%)	£11,562.10 (50%)	Technical Assistance

ORAL

NO. 623 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DPC MEETINGS

How many meetings of the Development and Planning Commission have taken place since the information supplied at the last Question Time in this Parliament and on what dates?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

There have been seven meetings of the Development and Planning Commission since the last Question Time in Parliament.

The dates of these meetings are as follows: 17th April 2008, 1st May 2008, 20th May 2008, 12th June 2008, 26th June 2008, 7th August 2008 and 11th September 2008.

NO. 624 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

RECUSE FROM PLANNING PERMISSION APPLICATIONS

Can Government say whether the Minister with responsibility for Planning and Development has ever recused himself from the consideration of any application for planning permission?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

As has been established practice for all members of the Commission, I have declared an interest whenever an application for planning permission has been heard in which I have a direct or indirect interest and have not participated in discussion or when voting has taken place.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 624 OF 2008

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Does the Minister have a record of how many occasions this has happened, is it something very frequent or very rare?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

On eleven occasions myself, they may be in respect of the same application because it may have been the subject of discussion at more than one meeting, but on eleven occasions.

Before we go to the next question, I said eleven occasions, I had records checked since 2007. I was not going to get somebody to go through the records down to 2003 because it was just too much, but at least it shows the matter is being properly addressed.

ORAL

NO. 625 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DPC – APPLICATIONS FOR 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 this Parliament, 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 ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

I now hand the hon Member a schedule with the information requested.

SCHEDULE TO QUESTION NO. 625 OF 2008

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BETWEEN: 04/04/08 AND 12/09/08

<i>App No</i>	<i>ApplicantName</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>SiteAddress</i>
10887	Gillaine Dellipiani	Proposed demolition of three storey masonry and concrete structure	Pending	6-9 Moreilo's Ramp
10888	Andrews Kent and Stone	Replacement of existing timber stair due to delapidated state.	Pending	23 Casite Road
10889	Mr Brian Schembri	Extension and modification to existing building.	Approved	9a Flat 1/4 Europa Flats
10890	EFG Bank (Gibraltar) Ltd	Office Refurbishment	Approved	Bld 6, 4th Floor Euroflife Building Corral Road
10891	KS Investments	Proposed Offices	Approved	Unit 34 & 36 Ocean Village Promenade Ocean Village
10892	Lionel Desoiza Esq	Proposed construction of glazed aluminium solarium on rooftop terrace of penthouse apartment.	Approved	1201 Block 4 Europlaza
10893	Gilberto Goncalves	Proposed first floor level - part extension	Approved	7 Benoliel's Passage
10894	J.S.Langdon Barch	Proposed single storey extension and improvements to the existing building.	Approved	2D Castle Road
10895	Pride of Gibraltar Lodge	Application for change of use from club to office space	Approved	3 Pride of Gibraltar Lodge Victualling Office Lane
10896	Mr Peter Oton	Renovation and extension of existing footprint by 10%	Approved	4 Lower Bruces Farm Upper Rock
10897	Andrews Kent and Stone	Extension to canopy and interior fit-out	Approved	Unit 14 On the Quay Queensway Quay
10898	Monaco Ocean Village Limited	Office suite fit out.	Approved	23 Leisure Island Ocean Village
10899	Josephine Marr	Installation of metal shutter on workshop front.	Approved	12A Renown House Laguna Estate
10900	J Guiffiano	New internal refurbishment to cater for new shop.	Approved	10-16 Ocean Village Promenade Ocean Village
10901	Loreto Convent School Trust	Demolition of existing derelict out buildings and the construction of a 3 storey classroom block	Approved	Loreto Convent School St Bernard's Road
10902	Government of Gibraltar	Demolition of existing kiosk	Approved	Kiosk Eastern Beach Road

<i>App No</i>	<i>ApplicantName</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>SiteAddress</i>
10903	Mosquera Architects	Extension to existing garage with new terrace above.	Approved	11 Catalan Gardens Sir Herbert Miles Road
10904	Mr W McClaren	Demolition of chimney and duct.	Approved	ROP Plant Dobinson's Way
10906	Talent Trading	New pizza restaurant.	Approved	17 The Sails Ocean Village Promenade Ocean Village
10907	Deepa Aidasani	Proposed single storey new entrance lobby	Pending	Hindu Temple Engineer Lane
10908	Mrs M. Cabedo	Conversion of terrace area and roof of existing bathroom into room and mezzanine floor area. To be covered with Mono Slope Roof.	Pending	94/96 Irish Town
10909	ABCO LTD	Demolition of lookout.	Pending	Sir Herbert Miles Road Both Worlds
10910	M E Bellio & Partners	Installation of additional storage tank.	Approved	S.O.R.T Sullage Plant North Mole Road Western Arm
10911	Colwood Properites Ltd	Re-fit of restaurant premises into offices.	Approved	12 Town Range
10912	Andrews Kent and Stone	Existing blockwork wall to be demolished to allow opening.	Approved	Flat 24 Block 1 Queensway Quay
10913	Andrews Kent and Stone	Internal refurbishment and shop frontage modification	Approved	72 Main Street M. Marquez & Co Ltd
10914	Gillaine Dellipiani	Improvement and alteration to existing property (including some demolition)	Approved	Approved 6-9 Moreilo's Ramp
10915	George A. Olivera	Conversion works to premises (shop) into shop and part offices	Approved	1/5 Governor's Street
10916	GC Architects	Conversion of existing residential property into offices. Works to include general reconditioning, two storey extension, construction over light well, new lift/sanitary cores, new roof terrace.	Works Pending	1-9 Giras Passage
10917	Lewis Stagnetto Limited	Proposed refurbishment and extension of toilet/ablutions block	Pending	Approved 41 Main Street
10918	Mr Nicholas Balban	Proposed extension to building	Pending	42 Crutchett's Ramp
10919	Space Interiors	Change of use from retail to office (A2) and fitting out.	Approved	11 Governor's Street
10920	J.S.Langdon B.Arch	Proposed demolition and re-construction of office building.	Pending	1,3 & 5 Crutchett's Ramp

<i>App No</i>	<i>ApplicantName</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>SiteAddress</i>
10921	Andrews, Kent & Stone	Proposed demolition of buildings.	Government Project	British Lines Road
10922	Francis Sheriff	Proposed conversion of car parking bay into a garage	Approved	Unit 13 Devil's Gap Upper Rock
10923	A Watkins	Extension to shop and installation of new frontage.	Approved	4 Admirals Walk Marina Bay
10924	John S. Langdon	Refurbishment and repair of existing building for office use.	Approved	29/37 Engineer Lane
10925	Desmond Walsh	Redevelopment of existing plot to construct two semi detached houses, first floor offices and lock up garages.	Approved	Pending 1A Cumberland Road
10926	M E Bellio & Partners	Construction of a fire escape staircase in compliance with the requirements of the fire prevention department	Pending	2 O'Callaghan Elliott Hotel Governor's Parade
10927	Mr and Mrs F Burgod	New attic floor and access stairs.	Approved	18 Naval Hospital Road Admiral's Place
10928	Ehsan Malik	Screening of balcony with clear glass.	Pending	1303 Block 6 Europlaza
10929	Barrow Hills Ltd	Brick round existing portacabin and extend storage facility as per drawings.	Pending	Car Wash Waterport Coach Park
10930	John P. Pitaluga	Modification of Internal layout of flat	Approved	7 Laburnum Lodge Montagu Gardens
10931	H Murphy & S Vinales	Fitting out of unit for shop use, suspend ceiling and electrical installation.	Approved	18 Ocean Village Promenade Ocean Village
10932	Stagnetto Properties Ltd	Refurbishment, alteration and extension of existing building for conversion to office use	Approved	51/53/53A Irish Town
10933	Mr and Mrs T S Seaborn	Enclosure of balcony.	Approved	345 Watergardens
10934	Andrews Kent and Stone	The construction of a temporary land mass to join Coaling Island to the Sails land mass for access of site vehicles and materials.	Pending	The Sails Queensway Quay
10935	Mr Jason Ratcliffe	Conversion of two dwellings into one, requiring minor internal structural alterations.	Approved	5/6 Rosia Dale
10936	BWIN International Ltd	Office refurbishment	Approved	Suite 611 Europort Europort Road
10937	Mr John Diaz	Proposed garages building and store.	Pending	Europa view Terrace Europa Road

<i>App No</i>	<i>ApplicantName</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>SiteAddress</i>
10938	Sunitil Nagrani	Proposed works to beautify outside façade front and side elevation.	Pending	13 Main Street
10939	Dr & Mrs M.R. Maskill	Proposed extension to rear upper terrace	Approved	7/1 Tam House Gardiner's Road
10940	Joseph Charles Garcia	New terrace deck and pergola to external area	Approved	5 Lord Napier Mews Rodger's Road
10941	Mr and Mrs Weigold	Partial demolition of building.	Approved	Mount Barbary Mount Road
10942	Mr Zane Bennenworth & Others	Minor works and alterations/refurbishment of three adjacent apartments and building	Pending	Flats 1, 3 & 4, F Block 2 Naval Hospital Hill
10943	D C Grant & J Evans	Proposed new storey to existing flat	Pending	3/5 Charles V Ramp
10944	Gert Albers	Erecting satellite dish in garden (west side), screened off by plants and dish painted by local artist (oleander).	Approved	17 The Island Queensway Quay
10945	Ocean Village Gym Limited	Semi- permanent outdoor wooden structure for sole use as a bar unit.	Pending	44 Royal Ocean Plaza Ocean Village
10946	Marie Victoria Daniell	Proposed leisure room.	Pending	31 Waverley House Cumberland Road
10947	Virginia Bazaars Ltd	Unit 6.2 divided into two office units, East side - divided into smaller office units and West side - open plan	Approved	Unit 6.2, 6th Floor Waterport Place Europort Avenue
10948	Hammonds Ltd	Installation of mezzanine floor	Pending	Unit 8 North Mole Industrial Estate
10949	PISA International Ltd	Proposed refurbishment of existing shop premises.	Approved	7-9 John Mackintosh Square
10950	Andrews Kent and Stone	Refurbishment of interior with no structural works to new restaurant. New fully glazed entrance door to replace existing door.	Pending	22A Main Street
10951	Breckland Trading co Ltd	Proposed two storey extension for office use.	Pending	22 Main Street
10952	Jyske Bank (Gib) Ltd	Internal office refurbishment.	Approved	39/41 Jyske House Irish Town
10953	Barclays Bank Plc	Strengthening works to trusses at 2nd Floor	Pending	Barclays Wealth Tuckey's Lane
10954	Newton Systems Ltd	Refurbishment and conversion works to commercial premises	Approved	75 Irish Town
10955	Anglo Hispano Co. Ltd	Extension to existing building	Approved	3B Piccadilly Garden Bar Rosia Road

12 September 2008

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<i>App No</i>	<i>ApplicantName</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>SiteAddress</i>
10956	Owen Smith	Internal refurbishment of existing house. New rear construction and demolition of existing rear construction.	Approved	Nos 1 & 3 New Passage
10957	Sylvia Desoisa	House extension and refurbishment	Approved	14 Gardiner's Road
10958	The Trading Room	Demolition of temporary partitions to create single open plan office (works already completed)	Approved	4a/b/c Eurolife Building Corral Road
10959	Marrache & Co	Proposed minor alteration to office layouts. Proposed new door and surrounds to Main Façade.	Approved	290A Main Street
10960	Space Interiors	Proposed fitting out of ground floor retail unit including new shop front.	Pending	10 King Street
10961	Damon Hough	Proposed conversion of social club to offices	Pending	3 Pride of Gibraltar Lodge Victualling Office Lane
10962	George Desoisa	Construction of concrete parking platform over existing south-east patio to provide up to 4 No. New parking spaces	Pending	La Morna Sunnyside Steps
10963	Andy Hunter	Proposed new mezzanine floor.	Pending	O'Reilly's Leisure Island
10964	M.E. Bello & Partners	Re-roofing of existing store using lightweight materials	Pending	20 Lancaster Road
10965	The Hon B Linares	Construction of gate/doorway to boundary wall to Europa	Pending	17 Naval Hospital Hill
10966	Mr J J De La Paz	Proposed loft conversion to provide new bedroom, bathroom and storage	Pending	28A Naval Hospital Road Admiral's Place
10967	Mr James Risso	Proposed minor internal alterations to dwelling.	Pending	32 Admiral's Place
10968	Derek J. Moreno	Removal and replacement of balcony rails	Pending	11 Blackwood Tower Brympton
10969	Harridge Ltd	Change of use from stores to store and office	Pending	35 City Mill Lane
10970	Mr & Mrs D Sptier	Carry out minor works to residence (rear patio area) including forming new bedroom and bathrooms	Pending	Pending 1 Mediterranean Terrace
10971	Andrews Kent and Stone	Proposed demolition of 2 Storey reinforced concrete frame building.	Pending	Lathbury Ex-Education Block
10972	Mr F Hernandez	Refurbishment of shop premises and re-modelling works	Pending	110/112 Main Street

<i>App No</i>	<i>ApplicantName</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>SiteAddress</i>
10973	Space Interiors	Fit out a new commercial unit as a sports bar	Pending	Unit R2 Trade Winds
10974	Aarsons Ltd	Refurbishment/remodelling of existing shop premises	Pending	81 Main Street
10975	Mr Neil Hall and Mrs Lourdes	Demolition and replacement of existing garage	Pending	8 Rodger's Road
10976	James Olivero Limited	Proposed change of use from retail to take -away use.	Pending	Units Nos. 4 & 5 Ocean Heights Fish Market Road
10977	Akis Enterprises Limited	Extension of third floor to increase size of existing apartment no. 8 and provide for two additional apartments over existing roof area	Pending	32 Parliament Lane
10978	Mr and Mrs M Castie	Proposed alteration to existing west façade incorporating timber pergola and dutch canopies.	Pending	11 Windmill Hill Road Sunset Close
10979	Mr & Mrs A Anderson	Enclosure of existing balcony with retractable glass roof and windows	Pending	225-226 Both Worlds Sir Herbert Miles Road
10980	Andrews Kent and Stone	Proposed roof conversion into storage space, incorporating new timber staircase and skylights	Pending	No. 16 Admiral Place Naval Hospital Road
10981	Alex Trinidad	Complete internal & external refurbishment inclusive of electrics, waste & plumbing	Pending	Hexagonal Building Governors Cottage
10982	Richfield Holdings Ltd	Refurbishment and conversion of 2 shops, 1 store and 1 dwelling into 2 shops and 3 self contained apartments	Pending	16/20 Engineer Lane
10983	Sharrock Shand Holdings Ltd	Proposed change of use of existing rooms on 4th floor from office to residential flat.	Pending	3 Bedlam Court
10984	AKS Architects & Engineers Ltd	Proposed office development	Pending	47 Line Wall Road
10985	Manuel Anthony Lopez	Proposed extension to garage ventilation and change of ventilation grills to aluminium.	Pending	Sunrise Court Catalaan Bay Village
10986	Andrews Kent and Stone	Proposed internal modification to join both apartments with minor structural opening to incorporate a spiral staircase.	Pending	4A Engineer Road Maida Vale

NO. 626 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PLANNING PERMISSION

Can Government say whether planning permission has been granted in respect of the following and if so on what date:

- (a) Stan James, Marina Bay, one storey extension;
- (b) Loreto Convent, St Bernard's Road, demolish derelict building and construct a classroom block;
- (c) Sullage Plant, Western Arm, North Mole, install an additional storage tank;
- (d) 1, 3, 5 Crutchett's Ramp and Unit FP18 Casemates Square, for a retail and office development;
- (e) Desmond Walsh, 1a Cumberland Road, residential and offices?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Stan James, Marina Bay – this application is under consideration.

Loreto Convent, St Bernard's Road – this application was approved on 18th June 2008.

Sullage Plant, Western Arm – this application was approved on 16th June 2008.

1, 3, 5 Crutchett's Ramp and Unit FP18 Casemates Square – this application is under consideration.

Desmond Walsh, 1a Cumberland Road – this application is under consideration.

ORAL

NO. 627 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PLANNING PERMISSION – MCB (GIBRALTAR) - EASTSIDE PROJECT

Can Government list the conditions that were attached to the planning permission issued to MCB (Gibraltar) in respect of the Eastside project?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Planning permits are granted by the Development and Planning Commission, and, therefore, are not Government documents. The Government are not able to provide the hon Member with the list of conditions attached to the planning permission issued to MCB (Gibraltar) Limited in respect of the Eastside project or any other application. However, this information is available for inspection at the offices of the Town Planner at Suite 631 in Europort.

NO. 628 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

VIEWING OF DEVELOPMENT PLANS OR EIAs

Can Government say what facilities are in place for members of the public who want to view plans for developments or EIA's at the offices of the Development and Planning Commission and does it continue to be the policy of the Government that the public cannot take copies or photographs of the plans?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The public may view applications for developments or EIA's during normal work office hours from 8.00 a.m. to 2.30 p.m. during summer hours, and 8.45 a.m. to 1.15 p.m. and 2.15 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. winter hours, at the office of the Town Planner in Suite 631 Europort.

I think he should know that because he has one of his followers that is sent by him regularly to take notes so I do not know why he is asking the time. But in any case, no photocopies or photographs of the plans are permitted due to copyright reasons.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 628 OF 2008

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Does the Minister consider that scrutiny of these documents..... How effective can scrutiny of these documents be if people are not allowed to make copies of them?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

That has been the practice for many, many years and that is what the law actually says. This would require a change of policy and I do not envisage that taking place for the foreseeable future, but it may well do.

ORAL

NO. 629 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DEVELOPMENT AID ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Can Government list the date of the meetings of the Development Aid Advisory Committee since the information supplied at the last Question Time in this Parliament?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 630 and 631 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 630 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DEVELOPMENT AID LICENCE NO. 3/2008

Can Government say why a new Development Aid Licence No. 3/2008 was issued to Monaco Ocean Village Ltd on 14 April 2008 and on what date this application was made?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 629 and 631 of 2008.

NO. 631 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DEVELOPMENT AID LICENCE NO. 3/2006

Can Government say why Development Aid Licence No. 3/2006 which had been issued to Longhorn Properties Ltd was amended to extend the date of completion of the project to 30 June 2008 and what the reasons were for the delay in completion?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

There has been one meeting of the Development Aid Advisory Committee since the last Question Time in Parliament. The meeting was held on 3rd September.

Monaco Ocean Village Limited had originally been granted a Development Aid Licence No. 04/06 with a stipulated completion date of 31st March 2007. On 26th April 2007 new legislation (section 13(1A)) was enacted which did not allow for the extension of the completion date if the request was made after the stipulated completion date. Monaco Ocean Village submitted a request for the extension of its completion date on 27th April 2008. At the time it was common practice for developers to submit and be granted requests for extensions of completion dates after these had expired, hence the reason to amend the legislation.

Due to this legislation, the Development Aid Advisory Committee rejected the request to extend the completion date of this project but felt that due to the request being submitted a day after the commencement date of the legislation, there was a genuine possibility that Monaco Ocean Village Limited was unaware of the commencement of the new legislation. The Committee, therefore, recommended that due to these exceptional circumstances Monaco Ocean Village Limited could submit a new application for the remaining completion period of the project. This application was approved by the Development Aid Advisory Committee and a new licence No. 03/08 granting the same relief as licence No. 04/06 was issued.

Development Aid Licence No. 03/06 issued to Longhorn Properties Limited was amended to extend the completion date of the project to 30th June 2008 due to unforeseen delays encountered by the contractor. I can just add to that, there was a subsequent application due to further delays and the Development Aid Advisory Committee recommended that these extensions be extended to 31st December 2008.

NO. 632 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

IMPORTS – COMPUTER HARDWARE

What was the value of computer hardware imported into Gibraltar on a monthly basis since the information supplied at the last Question Time in this Parliament?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The value of computer hardware imported into Gibraltar on a monthly basis since February 2008 was as follows:

	Value of Computers (£ thousands)
February 2008	1,248
March 2008	919
April 2008	708
May 2008	674
June 2008	1,176

ORAL

NO. 633 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

IMPORTS – GOODS VEHICLES

What was the value and number of goods vehicles imported by:

- (a) individuals;
- (b) licensed dealers,

on a monthly basis since the information supplied at the last Question Time in this Parliament?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question No. 634 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 634 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

IMPORTS – PRIVATE MOTOR VEHICLES

What was the value and number of private motor vehicles imported by:

- (a) individuals;
- (b) licensed dealers,

on a monthly basis since the information supplied at the last Question Time in this Parliament?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

I now hand the hon Member a schedule with the information requested.

SCHEDULE TO QUESTION NO. 634/2008

	Goods Vehicles Imported by Individuals		Goods Vehicles Imported by Licensed Dealers	
	Number	Value (£ thousands)	Number	Value (£ thousands)
February 2008	1	0	45	633
March 2008	2	4	13	163
April 2008	1	0	45	647
May 2008	1	0	44	575
June 2008	1	0	8	105

	Private Motor Vehicles Imported by Individuals		Private Motor Vehicles Imported by Licensed Dealers	
	Number	Value (£ thousands)	Number	Value (£ million)
February 2008	30	55	626	8.3
March 2008	15	63	509	7.6
April 2008	22	76	501	7.4
May 2008	23	84	540	7.8
June 2008	19	63	457	12.2

ORAL

NO. 635 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

POSIDONIA – COMPOSITION OF GIBRALTAR DELEGATION

Who made up the official Gibraltar delegation to the Posidonia exhibition in Greece and what offices do they hold?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question Nos. 636 to 638 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 636 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

POSIDONIA – COST OF GIBRALTAR’S PARTICIPATION

What was the cost, with a breakdown of Gibraltar’s participation in this year’s Posidonia exhibition in Greece?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT

Answered together with Question Nos. 635, 637 and 638 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 637 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

POSIDONIA – COST OF STAND

Can Government say what proportion of the cost of the stand was part-sponsored by industry players during the Posidonia exhibition in Greece showing how much was paid by each player?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 635, 636 and 638 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 638 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – MEDCRUISE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Can Government say what was the cost of Gibraltar's participation a the 32nd General Assembly of Medcruise in Italy from 21-24 May?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

I now hand the hon Member a schedule with the information requested.

SCHEDULE TO QUESTION NO. 638/2008

Answer to question 635/2008

Albert A Poggio, OBE – UK Representative, Government of Gibraltar/Senior Vice President MedCruise

Claire Lerner – Marketing and Events Coordinator

Alan Cubbin – Maritime Administrator

Answer to question 636/2008

Cost of Exhibition stand space, design, construction and artwork	£33,396.00
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Air fares, hotel accommodation and incidental expenses for Mr Albert Poggio, Miss Claire Lerner and Mr Alan Cubbin	£ 4,335.68
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£37,731.68

Less Contributions	£23,000.00
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Less from 2007/2008 budget	£10,200.00
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Balance	<u>£-4,531.68</u>
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Answer to question 637/2008

Aegean Bunkering	£ 5,000.00
Cammel Laird	£ 5,000.00
Gibunco Group	£ 5,000.00
Vemaoil	£ 5,000.00
Bunkers (Gibraltar)	£ 750.00
Java Oil	£ 750.00
Marine Services	£ 750.00
Marrache & Co	£ 750.00

Total	£ 23,000.00
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Answer to question 638/2008

The total cost was £1,036.89.

ORAL

NO. 639 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

EU FUNDING – ERDF PROJECT NO. 132

Can Government say what are the premises in question in respect of project number 132 which was an ERDF grant of £68,408.16 (28%) to M H Bland Ltd for building works and fitting out costs?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The premises in question are the Top Station of the Cable Car.

ORAL

NO. 640 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

EU FUNDING – ERDF PROJECT NO. 133

Can Government say what are the premises in question in respect of project number 133 which was an ERDF grant of £66,381.30 (30%) to Compo Holdings Ltd for building works, equipment, restaurant furniture and advertising?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The premises in question is the All Stars Sports Café on the Ocean Village Promenade.

ORAL

NO. 641 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PLANNING PERMISSION – EXTENSION TO SUNRISE MOTEL

Can Government say whether planning permission has been granted to construct an extension to the Sunrise Motel and how many representations have been received in respect of this project?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT

This application is under consideration by the Development and Planning Commission.

No representations were received.

ORAL

NO. 642 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PLANNING APPLICATION – OCEAN VILAGE WATERSIDE VILLAS

Can Government say whether they have now completed their consideration of application 10723 by Ocean Village Waterside Villas for the proposed construction of 72 waterside villas and apartments with associated berthing at Marina Bay?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The Commission is awaiting the submission of further details from the applicants. Once submitted, the Commission will give further consideration to the application.

ORAL

NO. 643 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TENDER AWARD – FLAT 4, F BLOCK, 14 NAVAL HOSPITAL ROAD

Can Government say who was awarded flat 4, F Block, 14 Naval Hospital Road and how much has been paid to date and when?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Flat 4, F Block, 14 Naval Hospital Road was awarded to Mr and Mrs M Walsh in the sum of £287,500 paid on 20th May 2008.

ORAL

NO. 644 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

SIX VILLAS PROJECT SANDY BAY

In relation to the six villas project in the Sandy Bay area, can Government say:

- (a) on what date was planning permission granted;
- (b) what was the premium paid by the developers to the Government and when was this paid;
- (c) what is the area of the site in square metres;
- (d) was the site owned by the developer or by the Government;
- (e) what is the present status of the project?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 645 and 646 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 645 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

SIX VILLAS PROJECT SANDY BAY

Can Government say, if the site for the six villas project near Sandy bay was not owned by the Government:

- (a) who it was leased to;
- (b) how long was the lease for and how much was left to run;
- (c) what premium was paid on the original lease;
- (d) what is the use that the land can put to under the original lease?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 644 and 646 of 2008.

NO. 646 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

SIX VILLAS PROJECT SANDY BAY

Is it the policy of the Government that the development of six luxury villas by ABCO Ltd on the sand slopes above Both Worlds should go ahead?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Outline planning permission was granted on 30th June 2008. The premium paid was £135,000 on 11th July 2008. The area of the site is 4,503 square metres. The leaseholder was the developer. Outline planning permission has been granted to the proposal to build six residential units.

The site for the six villas project is held by ABCO (International) Ltd under the terms of a 15 year development licence, with effect from 1st April 1998 for the construction of a residential complex, subject to the grant of a 150 year lease on completion.

The site in question forms part of the land originally held by Hoods Development Limited which undertook the Both Worlds development.

When the conversion of the facilities to residential was agreed in 1998, a new lease was granted for the existing built-up area and a development licence was granted for the land across Sir Herbert Miles Road at the base of the slope. A £360,000 premium was paid for the change of use of the existing building to residential.

No premium was paid on the original lease granted to Hoods Development Limited.

The use allowed under the original lease was a holiday centre.

It is the policy of the Government that the development of six luxury villas by ABCO Ltd on the sand slope above Both Worlds should go ahead.

NO. 647 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DEPUTY GOVERNOR'S GARDEN – VALUATION OF PLOTS

Can Government say who valued the plots of land that have been taken away from the Deputy Governor's garden and sold to the owners of adjacent properties:

- (a) £16,764 for 200 square metres which also includes a sliver of land of approximately 60 square metres;
- (b) £3,390 for 52.5 square metres,

and can Government say whether there is any restriction as to the use which that land can be put to?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The valuation of the plots of land was carried out by Land Property Services Limited.

The use of plots is restricted to a passageway and entrance providing alternative safe access to the family homes at 33A and 33B Europa Road.

ORAL

NO. 648 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

EDEN PLACE DEVELOPMENT

Can Government say what was the premium paid by Taylor Woodrow in respect of the plot of land in Devil's Tower Road which has been earmarked for a new residential scheme called Eden Place, and what is the area of the site in square metres?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 649 and 650 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 649 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

EDEN PLACE DEVELOPMENT

Can Government say whether the land in Devil's Tower Road where Taylor Woodrow propose to construct the Eden Place development was purchased from the Government and if so on what date?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 648 and 650 of 2008.

NO. 650 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

EDEN PLACE DEVELOPMENT

Can Government say whether Taylor Woodrow have submitted an application for planning permission in respect of the Eden Place scheme in Devil's Tower Road, and if so on what date?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Taylor Woodrow has paid Government a premium of £800,000 for the right to develop the existing single house into a residential apartment block. A new 150 year building lease has replaced the existing 150 year residential lease.

The area of the site is approximately 830 square metres.

The land was not purchased from the Government but from the existing leaseholder who held a 150 year residential lease. The date of the transaction was 27th August 2008.

Taylor Woodrow submitted an application on 25th April 2007.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 648 TO 650 OF 2008

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Minister say who was the existing leaseholder that sold it on to Taylor Woodrow?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Mr and Mrs J Zayas.

ORAL

NO. 651 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

AIR TERMINAL – COMMERCIAL UNITS

Can Government say how many commercial units there are in the existing air terminal and in what part of the terminal they are located?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT

There are two shops in the arrivals hall, eight shops and one cafeteria in the departure hall and one shop and one cafeteria in the main hallway. There is also one bureau de change in the main hallway.

NO. 652 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

NEW FLAME

Can Government give the cost to date, with a breakdown, of the operation to remove the wreck of the New Flame?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The costs involved in the removal of the wreck of the New Flame are a matter for the vessel's owners, their insurers and the wreck removal company.

There are no costs to the taxpayer.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 652 OF 2008

HON DR J J GARCIA:

When a similar question was tabled in April, the answer given by the Minister was that the Government had paid out certain costs which were then reimbursed by the insurers. Those are the costs I am referring to. Has there been anything else?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Correct, that is the case. I mean, costs that we may have incurred in legal advice and other advice have been, obviously, claimed from the insurance and those have been settled.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Are those the only costs, £16,723?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No, the additional cost to date which has been incurred by the Government but reimbursed by the insurance, cover legal fees - £46,000 (I will give to the nearest thousand); personnel supplied by the Board for the use of the launch and fuel et

cetera - £90,000; rental of xxxxxx marker buoys, including repairs and spares - £66,000; and Port personnel overtime - £31,000. Roughly about £235,000 which are recoverable from the Swedish Club.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Have these been recovered already or are they in the process of being recovered?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Well some of them have, for example, the Port personnel overtime that is an on-going thing so we put a claim every so often towards them. But everything that we put to them has been settled.

ORAL

NO. 653 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – VACANCY FOR TERMINALS ASSISTANT

Can Government say how many persons applied for the vacancy for Terminals Assistant that was advertised in July, how many were Gibraltarian and has anyone been selected for the post?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question No. 654 of 2008.

NO. 654 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – VACANCY FOR TERMINALS ASSISTANT

In respect of the vacancy for Terminals Assistant which was advertised in April, can Government say:

- (a) how many posts were vacant;
- (b) how many applicants there were for the post and how many were Gibraltarians;
- (c) whether the post has now been filled;
- (d) if so, whether the successful applicant was a Gibraltarian?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The vacancy was cancelled due to the withdrawal of the resignation which caused the original vacancy.

In respect of the vacancy for Terminals Assistant which was advertised in April, there was one vacant post. There were nine applicants, all of whom were Gibraltarian, the post has been filled and the successful applicant was a Gibraltarian.

ORAL

NO. 655 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

STATUTORY BENEFITS FUND – PAYMENTS

Can Government state what payments were made out of the Statutory Benefits Fund for each month from July to August 2008 in respect of employment injuries?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOPR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 656 to 658 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 656 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

STATUTORY BENEFITS FUND – PAYMENTS

Can Government state what payments were made out of the Statutory Benefits Fund for each month from July to August 2008 arising from the insolvency of any employer?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOPR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 655, 657 and 658 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 657 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

INSOLVENCY FUND

Can Government state what payments were made out of the Insolvency Fund for each month from April to June 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOPR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 655, 656 and 658 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 658 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

INSOLVENCY FUND

Can Government state what was the closing balance of the Insolvency Fund as at 30 June 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

I now hand the hon Member the information requested.

In relation to the answer to Question No. 656, no payments arising from insolvency of any employer have been made from the Statutory Benefits Fund in July and August 2008.

In relation to the answer to Question No. 657, no payments have been made from the Insolvency Fund from April to June 2008.

In answer to Question No. 658, the tentative closing balance of the Insolvency Fund as at 30th June 2008, stands at £2,246,997.89.

ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 658 OF 2008

Answer to Question 655/2008

Payments from the Statutory Benefits Fund for July and August 2008 in respect of employment injuries have been as follows:

STATUTORY BENEFITS FUND – TENTATIVE STATEMENT

	July 2008	August 2008
Payments – employment injuries	£75,783.10	£72,583.23

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 655 TO 658 OF 2008

HON G H LICUDI:

In relation to Question Nos. 656 and 657, which relate to either the Insolvency Fund or payments out of the Statutory Benefits Fund in respect of insolvency or arising from insolvency. The Minister has confirmed that no payments were made during the relevant period April to August 2008 in total. I know it is not on the Order Paper, does the Minister know when the last payment was made out of the Insolvency Fund in respect of insolvency of employer? Is it normal that there should be no payments at all during this period?

HON J J NETTO:

No, quite frankly the hon Member will have to give me notice because I have not got the information in front of me. If I had, I would gladly provide the information. Can I also, because the Clerk pointed out when I was giving the answers that I did not turn the page over, so I missed some part of the answer I should have given the hon Member before. So can I say now for his own benefit, in relation to the answer to Question No. 655, payments from the Statutory Benefits Fund for July and August 2008 in respect of employment injuries, has been as follows:

STATUTORY BENEFITS FUND – TENTATIVE STATEMENT

	July 2008	August 2008
Payments – employment injuries	£75,783.10	£72,583.23

I am obliged to the Clerk for pointing this out to me.

ORAL

NO. 659 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – ALBERT RISSO HOUSE

Can Government state what is the current estimated date for completion of “Albert Risso” House for senior citizens?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 660 and 661 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 660 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – WATERPORT TERRACES

Can Government give an explanation concerning the ongoing delays in connection with the completion of Waterport Terraces?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 659 and 661 of 2008.

NO. 661 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – WATERPORT TERRACES

Can Government state what are the current estimated dates for completion in connection with the various phases of Waterport Terraces?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The contractor's current commitment is that all phases of Waterport Terraces will be completed by the end of this year.

There has already been practical completion of two blocks at Waterport Terraces and the process of completing on the purchase and sale agreements is now in hand. In respect of Albert Risso House, the current commitment of the contractor is to complete in the second quarter of next year. The delays are due to a variety of reasons including technical factors. Amongst them, Government's rejection of sub standard works which have therefore had to be removed and redone by the contractor.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 659 TO 661 OF 2008

HON C A BRUZON:

Does the Chief Minister not remember that in December 2007 he described the delays concerning Albert Risso House as slippage? It reminds one of an oil slick when somebody falls to the ground and hurts himself. I think the Chief Minister should apologise to these people for the endless delays in the completion of these phases of Waterport Terraces.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I will apologise to the people of Gibraltar for selling them delayed but high quality residential accommodation at Waterport Terraces, when the GSLP has apologised to the residents of Harbour Views, Montagu Gardens, Montagu Crescent, Brympton Estate, who ten years after delivery of their GSLP supervised properties to them, are still suffering the results of shoddy, hasty construction which the GSD Government is still fixing.

HON C A BRUZON:

If what the Chief Minister says is true then is he saying that two wrongs make a right? If it is true.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, what I am saying is that unlike the defects that all those Estates that I have mentioned have suffered, which was the result of GSLP negligence, the delays being suffered today are not the fault or the result of GSD negligence, but rather the result of GSD care, punctilious care of supervision to ensure that the second generation of Gibraltar home owners does not suffer the same fate as the first generation of Gibraltar home owners.

HON C A BRUZON:

Does the Chief Minister not remember that in December 2007 in connection with the role of GRP Investment he said that Government, because it is a solely owned company the GRP Investment, was in fact responsible and taking over the construction and role of developer? Is there not an element of responsibility on the part of the Government? The Chief Minister should apologise.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, it must be clear by now to the hon Member that he should not start all his questions with the words "does the Chief Minister remember" because it is clear to him, surely, that the Chief Minister remembers almost everything, particularly about their record. What is much less clear is whether the hon Member remembers, or even whether the hon Member accurately refers to things that he has had the opportunity to research in preparation for his supplementary question. The Chief Minister did not say that the Government had taken over the construction of Waterport Terraces. The Government said that there was no taking over, it was a GRP project as developer in the first place. The Government have never taken over construction of the Waterport Terraces. GRP has never been the constructor of Waterport Terraces. GRP, a wholly owned Government company, have always been only the developer with a contracted contractor. So why the hon Member thinks he is entitled to stand up and ask me in supplementary whether I remember that I said that the Government were responsible as contractor and developer, is frankly not clear to me. Except to the extent that it shows that the one who does not remember things is him and not me.

HON C A BRUZON:

It is not a question of my remembering, I have got it here black upon white in Hansard. Insofar as GRP Investment is solely owned by Government, there has to be an element of responsibility. In fact the Chief Minister, when both my colleague the Hon Fabian Picardo and myself questioned him on this matter regarding OEM, which indeed refers to the south district, but the concept that I am trying to project now is that GRP Investment is Government owned and the Chief Minister says "yes, we take over everything lock, stock and barrel".

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I honestly do think that the hon Member in his excitement is confusing Waterport Terraces for the OEM developments in the south district where the Government did take over the construction contracts. Not the contractor but took over the status of employer of the contractor. I honestly do think the hon Member is confused in the excitement that his hon Colleagues, in jeering and encouragement from the wings, give him. Now, what I think that the hon Member does is shamelessly exploit for political reasons something that he knows the Government bears no actual, factual responsibility for. I am going to demonstrate to him that that is the case. He says that the Government bear responsibility because it is a Government owned development company. Presumably what he means is that we bear responsibility for the fate of citizens of Gibraltar who have to suffer delay in receiving the houses which they are expecting. But why is he not equally vociferous if he is genuinely concerned about the delays suffered by Gibraltarian purchasers, and not as I accuse him of just making party political opportunistic point scoring, why is he not equally concerned and equally vociferous, and equally critical of all the other developers in Gibraltar, not Government owned, whose projects suffer equal amounts of delay with Gibraltarian purchasers waiting just as much as the Gibraltarian purchasers of Waterport Terraces? The answer is that the hon Member, despite his pretence to the contrary, is not genuinely motivated by any serious concern for the interests of delayed purchasers. He just thinks this is a good opportunity to put the boot into the Government.

HON C A BRUZON:

Obviously the Chief Minister does not know me, he does not know how I think. *[Interruption]* Would Mr Speaker ask the Chief Minister to allow me to speak? The Chief Minister has to understand, and if he does not, well it is too bad, I am in politics to serve the people who elected me. I can tell with 100 per cent honesty that it is for their sake that I stand here today. I am not being a political opportunist, I am not even thinking of the elections in three year's time, I am thinking generally of the people who stop me in the street, frequently, elderly people, young married couples, who are concerned about the unreasonable delays regarding Waterport Terraces.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, the hon Member might say that but I have to tell him that the views that we are forming on the Government side of the House is that the hon Member, much as he thinks that it should be clear to all of us that we should know him, actually tries to create a public perception of himself which is actually then not consistent by the nature and quality of his behaviour in this House. That is what we think, but if everything that the hon Member has just said in his last intervention, if it were true, I would expect the hon Member to care equally for all Gibraltarians and other residents of Gibraltar who are suffering similar sorts of delays for their completions in other private sector projects. Until he does so and to the extent that he does not, his last statement is not credible.

HON C A BRUZON:

Would Mr Speaker please ask the Chief Minister to withdraw the statement that I am misbehaving in this House?

MR SPEAKER:

I do not think there was an allegation of misbehaviour. I do not understand that as an allegation of misbehaviour. He did indicate, I do not recollect the word "misbehaviour" or even an allegation. But.....

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is the Chief Minister in a position to tell us what are these delays in other private sector developments about which we should be concerned? Does he have that information for us?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, it is self evident, but if it is true as the hon Members say, that Gibraltarians that are concerned by delays in property developments stop them in the street at every corner and form long endless queues outside their party offices in Waterport to complain about this, presumably there will be people from all the other developments as well, and they will know the delays that are involved.

HON J J BOSSANO:

No, we do not know otherwise I would not be asking him. But since he seems to be advising us to do something about it, I would be grateful if he would share with us the information that he has of all the delays that he claims in this House exist in private developments so that we can do something about it.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is not for me to share with the hon Member any information that I have. It is for them to be aware of the considerable delays that exist and have existed over the many recent years in almost every private sector development that has existed. Not least, for example, the blue building next to the new hospital, where there has been a huge delay and I never heard the Opposition Members, of course because the developer was not Government owned and there was not any opportunity to taint the Government electorally and politically, they thought it not worthwhile protecting the interests of delayed Gibraltarian purchasers in those cases.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The Chief Minister makes assumptions and attributes motives to people which reflect the way he behaves which, he assumes, must follow that other people behave as well. Does he not consider that it is probable that the other people do not complain because in all those cases where they do not have conditions attached to resales, the delays have resulted in people reselling the unsold properties many, many times in the course of the construction? Is he not aware that that has been happening?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

That is nothing to do whatsoever with the consequences of the delays suffered by people who are the vast majority of them, who are not purchasers for resale but waiting to move into their new home. I do not accept that anything that I have said is subject to that assumption. Therefore, I do not accept the premise of the hon Member's supplementary.

HON J J BOSSANO:

If the Chief Minister thinks that we should show concern for these people, can he tell us whether he is concerned about them and what he is doing about it?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, I will tell him what I am doing, which if the hon Member had done when he was Chief Minister, thousands of Gibraltarians would not have had the experience of home ownership, the nightmare of home ownership that they had. I personally meet with the contractors, I personally visit the site, frequently and regularly and I personally take an interest in, not only the standards and quality of construction, but all negotiations with the contractor and therefore I do all that is within my power to ensure that these houses are completed, not just as quickly as possible but to the best standard as is possible. Frankly, given the experience of Gibraltar's first generation of home owners, most of the buyers would rather we emphasised the second, that is to say the quality, rather than the first the speed, which is the equation that the hon Members got wrong.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I may have got the equation wrong or not, given that we were the pioneers of home ownership at prices that everybody could afford, which was £19,000 not £120,000. But perhaps the Chief Minister seems to have mistaken, for example, that Brympton was something that predated the GSLP in his anxiety to tar us with everything, and he seems to have forgotten that, in fact, the GSLP did not actually build things, that they were built by private developers, including the ones that he mentioned. Thirdly, that in this area I have followed what he says, which is that the experts that understand construction were the ones doing it, where he takes pride in being a Clerk of Works. In any event, my question was about the private sector developments that he says we should be concerned about. If he has information that we do not, then are the Government doing anything to protect the people who are suffering delays in the private sector developments?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, because the Government are doing nothing for the same reason, presumably, as the Opposition does not complain about it and that is that almost all construction projects of any magnitude suffer delay. Yes, and the more that the hon Members shift the subject matter of this line of questioning from the original question of delay to all the other things that have now being raised, *[Interruption]* No, I have not shifted it to anything, the Leader of the Opposition I can send out for a bottle of valium if they like and give one to each of the Opposition Members because I have never

seen them in such a collective state of nervousness and jumpiness as I have this morning. Can I suggest to the hon Members, I realise that Mr Picardo's natural instincts are contagious to everybody in the Opposition side but can I recommend seriously to all the other Opposition Members to resist the temptation to jump up and down constantly, as is the wont of one or two of them normally. The position is that we were discussing delay and now we are discussing something slightly different. Something I am perfectly happy to discuss. The Government have no power to intervene in private contractual arrangements as they know. The Government have power but as a contractor not as a Government, as an employer to interact commercially with the Government's own contractor, which the Government are doing. But at the end of the day the Government have no alternative but whatever remedies the contracts contain, for any breach of contract, if there are delays. The Government cannot physically influence or control the rate of progress on the site. Now, all the hon Members know that, everybody listening to this debate knows that and the rest of it equals pure political opportunistic point scoring.

HON J J BOSSANO:

If the Chief Minister has invited us to take an interest in the delays in the private sector, how does he reconcile that with the answer that he has just given and which he says everybody knows? Which is that it is not possible to intervene to do anything about it.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, I have not invited the Opposition Members to intervene in anywhere. I have said that the hon Members' constant lament for delayed purchases from property developers that are owned by the Government, contrasted with their complete lack of lament and interest in favour of equivalent Gibraltarians, where the developer is not Government owned, means and demonstrates that they are motivated by pure party political opportunism and not, as they claim, by concern about the purchasers, because both are equally local, most equally Gibraltarian and most affected by delay.

HON J J BOSSANO:

But is it not the case that he has said two things? First of all, that because we do not take the same interest in the private sector developments it means that we are biased in order to criticise the Government, which is in fact what Oppositions do. But that he does not do anything. Oppositions criticise Governments that is what he used to do here when he was in Opposition, I never heard him criticise the private sector, it was always the Government's fault. I never condemned him for doing it because that is, to my knowledge, what happens in every Parliament in Europe. But the point that I am making to him is, I took him at his word, assumed that he was doing it in good faith, perhaps very naïve of me, and that in fact what he was saying is that we did not do it and that we should be doing it. In fact, since I assumed that he was saying that we should be doing it, I have only intervened to find out what we can do to help these other people in the private sector that he says we have been forgetting and neglecting. Therefore, I was hoping that he would be able to tell me how we can raise the matter in the House in future about the private sector delays and ask the Government to do something about it. But he has just told me he cannot

do anything, so how does he think we can do something about it rather than simply be silent?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Leader of the Opposition, as always, is disingenuous in his attempt to move the spotlight away from what I said repeatedly to the hon Member. What I had said to the Hon Mr Bruzon is nothing like what the hon Member is saying now. In short, so that he understands it, although I have no doubt that he has perfectly understood it already, the GSLP's campaign to complain to the Government, albeit that they are entitled to do it, about delays in Waterport Terraces because it is a Government owned developer, is an act of hypocrisy, politically motivated for political capital point scoring only, because they do not show the same concerns, even if they cannot do anything about it, they could at least articulate the same concern when the same fate is suffered by equally Gibraltar delayed purchasers in private sector development. That is what I say and the hon Member can stand as many times as he likes to distort, shift, change the position of the goalpost, try to take me onto different ground, that is what I have accused the hon Members of and that is an accusation that I stand by.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I regret that what he thinks that what we are doing is political hypocrisy. It does not say much for his interest in Parliamentary democracy, if asking the Government in a Government project, which is Government partly funded and where the Government owns the developer, to give explanations about the delays, if that is political hypocrisy because we do not ask the same of private developers, is he in a position therefore to accept questions in this House about delays in the private sector? In which case I am sure that he will be glad to know that we are happy to put them to him.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The hon Member again disingenuously distorts what I have said. I have not suggested that the hon Members are not entitled to ask for explanations, they have asked for explanations and I have given them in my original answer the explanations to the questions that they have asked. So all his little crocodile tear speeches that he might want to give here, about the hon Member not being allowed to ask questions, all that is fabrication, intellectual, factual fabrication on his part. What I have said is hypocrisy is not the request for an explanation but the accusations and the attribution of blame and responsibility and the use that the hon Members seek to put politically the explanations that we give, as put by the hon Members opposite. That is what I think is a hypocrisy, not that they should ask. In answer to the original question, I did not say any of the things that I have said in the supplementaries, because the original question simply asked for an explanation. Therefore, a factual straight explanation was given. So he should not confuse the answers that I had given in supplementaries as being answers given to the original question, because they were not the answers given to the original questions. The answers that I have given in supplementaries are the answers to questions made in supplementaries, which was not just asking for a little explanation.

MR SPEAKER:

I think we must really now begin to curtail this line of debate. I will allow one last question but I think the position of both sides is abundantly clear. The only thing is the Hon Mr Bruzon has a choice between himself or his leader.

HON C A BRUZON:

In connection with the delays, the on-going delays regarding Waterport Terraces, does the Chief Minister, who has responsibility as owners, the Government, as owners of GRP Investments, have they any information concerning the appropriate time which is mentioned in the newsletter concerning the adjudication of the delays in construction?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Standing Orders specifically prohibit me from giving legal advice or him for asking for it across the floor of the House. But if Mr Speaker is willing to indulge us in a clear breach of Standing Orders, then let me say that the hon Member must know that under a construction contract, adjudication of disputes has a procedure attached to it, arbitration, and cannot be done until the full extent of the delay and the claims are known. Some types of contractual dispute can be arbitrated about whilst the contract is in course, others cannot and claims based on delay, which are invariably met by counterclaims by contractors for alleged entitlement to additional monies for other reasons, is a typical, practically inevitable endgame of every construction contract that has ever been signed anywhere. That is the reality of life and I am surprised that the hon Member does not know it.

ORAL

NO. 662 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – NELSON'S VIEW

With reference to Nelson's View, can Government give a breakdown of the current sales details as follows:

- (a) How many flats are being sold with 100% financing from the purchaser;
- (b) How many are being sold with the 50/50 ratio;
- (c) How many are being sold at any other ratio and specify what that ratio is?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 663 and 664 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 663 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – CUMBERLAND TERRACES

With reference to Cumberland Terraces, can Government give a breakdown of the current sales details as follows:

- (a) How many flats are being sold with 100% financing from the purchaser;
- (b) How many are being sold with the 50/50 ratio;
- (c) How many are being sold at any other ratio and specify what that ratio is?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 662 and 664 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 664 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – BAYVIEW TERRACES

With reference to Bayview Terraces, can Government give a breakdown of the current sales details as follows:

- (a) How many flats are being sold with 100% financing from the purchaser;
- (b) How many are being sold with the 50/50 ratio;
- (c) How many are being sold at any other ratio and specify what that ratio is?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I now hand the hon Member a schedule containing all the very interesting information that he has requested.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 664

Breakdown of sales details at Nelson's View, Bayview Terraces and Cumberland Terraces by purchaser share

	Purchaser share												
	50%	55%	60%	65%	70%	75%	78%	80%	82%	85%	88%	100%	Total
Development													
Nelson's View	17	2	12	1	23	4	1	4	0	1	0	53	118
Bayview Terraces	7	0	6	1	26	4	0	5	0	0	0	26	75
Cumberland Terraces	45	0	26	0	22	3	0	5	1	1	1	22	126
Total	69	2	44	2	71	11	1	14	1	2	1	101	319

NO. 665 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – SALE OF 50 PER CENT SHARE OF CO-OWNERSHIP HOMES

Can Government state if there has been any sale of the Government 50% share of co-ownership homes as from March 2008, providing a breakdown by month and estate?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I now hand the hon Member a table giving the information that he has requested. Whilst the information is being sent to him, although I am obviously delighted to carry on giving him the information orally or in this form, the hon Member may wish in respect of questions of this nature, to follow the lead now started by one or two of his colleagues, and ask for the information by way of written answer, which would give him time to prepare for oral cross-examination on the next opportunity.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 665

	SWJG	Montagu Gardens	West View Park	Harbour Views	Montagu Crescent	Totals
Mar-08	Monies Received					£0.00
Apr-08	Monies Received	£29,902.30		£38,042.88		£67,945.18
May-08	Monies Received			£76,201.94		£76,201.94
Jun-08	Monies Received					£0.00
Jul-08	Monies Received	£105,295.67				£105,295.67
Aug-08	Monies Received					
Totals		£29,902.30	£0.00	£114,244.82	£0.00	£249,442.79

ORAL

NO. 666 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – NELSON'S VIEW

With reference to Nelson's View, can Government state what the current estimated date of completion is?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 667 to 669 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 667 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – CUMBERLAND TERRACES

With reference to Cumberland Terraces, can Government state what is the current estimated date of completion?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 666, 668 and 669 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 668 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – SOUTH DISTRICT HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEMES

Can Government state if they are aware of any problems that exist concerning the construction of any of the three Government home ownership schemes in the south district that are likely to cause delays in completion?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 666, 667 and 669 of 2008.

NO. 669 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – BAYVIEW TERRACES

With reference to Bayview Terraces, can Government state what is the current estimated date of completion?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The contractor's, who are Haymills, current commitment is to have all three developments completed by December 2008. The Government's consultants believe that this date will not be met and that completion will take several more months. Realistic, new completion dates have not yet been calculated. The Government's consultants have recently rejected some work carried out with concrete that did not meet the contractual specification. This work will have to be removed and redone and this will invariably cause delay.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 666 TO 669 OF 2008

HON J J BOSSANO:

In respect of the last answer, can the Chief Minister explain, I mean, is the defective concrete not something that they look at before it is actually, as it were, put in situ? How come that they discovered it after the event and, therefore, it has to be removed?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Under the forms of construction contracts that are used in Gibraltar and in the UK, the employer, that is to say the developer, in this case GRP Investments, has not only no obligation but indeed no right to interfere in the works whilst the contractor is building it. We do have a right to inspect work as they finish it and either accept it as being within contractual specifications, or reject it as being outside contractual specifications, in which case, the contractor has to remove it and rebuild it at his expense. That is what had happened. The possibility of a developer measuring every consignment of concrete as it arrives on the site is neither contractually possible, nor desirable because it means that the Government would then become, or the developer in this case the Government, but any other developer would then become responsible for the final outcome with that material, and that is not how

construction contracts work, here or anywhere else that I am familiar with. So this is how it happens, it has happened several times here, it has happened several times in Waterport Terraces. In this instance, the defective, I am a little out of my technical depth here, but I understand the issue was not so much that the concrete was defective but rather that the lorry, the thing that turns, took too long to get to the site and by the time it was poured, the cement had fallen outside of specification, it was too wet or too dry or whatever it was. It was nevertheless poured to form a floor slab and those floor slabs now have to be removed and relayed.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can the Chief Minister say who are the consultants that they use to test that the things are up to standard?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

They are the Government's consultants, I do not know which of them does this particular, it may be John Licudi and Associates, it is one of the local firms of consultants. But it does, without wishing to re-ignite the previous debate under the previous question, it does show how the Government through their consultants is on top of building contracts to ensure that bad workmanship is not covered up and built on so that problems emerge later, but are on the ball, spot things and reject them and require the contractor to redo them. That is what we promised we would do and this is what we are doing and this is not the first occasion. I think this is the most significant occasion because the amount of work involved and their value is quite significant. I think it is two floors in one development and one floor in one of the other ones on the south side. So it is quite a lot of valuable work, it is everything that they poured with that consignment of concrete. In Waterport Terraces there were similar events on a slightly smaller scale, but still, this has been the modus operandi since both projects began since we have been involved.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is it that the Government use different consultants in different sites, or are they permanently employed by the Government to check these things or what? What is the nature of the relationship of these consultants?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, the Government employ different consultants on different sites. So in Waterport Terraces we have one set of consultants and in the OEM site we have a different set of consultants, the ones that we inherited from OEM when we took over the contract. I do not remember who they are but I know that John Licudi and Associates, I think is the name of the firm, is the lead consultant and I think there are probably several of them. Some on the QS side, others on the structural side, others on the mechanical and engineering, there is a team.

HON C A BRUZON:

The problem with regard to the concrete, I am not sure if the Chief Minister specifically mentioned which of the three housing schemes it involved. Can the Chief Minister confirm that this has not happened in the three developments but just in one and which one?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I cannot confirm that it has happened in only one because I have just said it happened in two. It has not happened in one, what I cannot be 100 per cent certain is which is the one in which it has not happened. We see all three of them, in a sense, as one project so when information comes to me I do not focus on which of the blocks it affects. But I think that, I would be guessing, if he is interested I will let him know.

NO. 670 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – SITE FOR BALANCE OF RENTAL FLATS

With reference to the outstanding balance of 210 rental flats that are not now scheduled to be constructed opposite HMS Rooke, has Government now identified another site, and if so, where?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

A site has not yet been decided upon.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 670 OF 2008

HON C A BRUZON:

In answer to a similar question in December, the Chief Minister said that “the issue is not so much identifying a relevant site as designating a relevant site”, and gave me the impression that some sites had been designated. Could the Chief Minister say which?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I think he has both disqualified and answered his own question. What I told him last time was that it was not so much a question of identification as designating sites, and I have now told him when he has asked whether that has now been done, the relevant word in his question is the word “now”, because everything else repeats the question previously. That has not yet been done. We have not yet, I have told him, decided upon a site but he is right at what I said last time and it remains the case, there are several possibilities but one has not yet been decided upon.

ORAL

NO. 671 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

OEM

Has the Government decided whether it will allow OEM to take over some of the projects it was previously involved in and if so which ones?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

No decision has been made, the matter remains under negotiation.

ORAL

NO. 672 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – NEW GOVERNMENT RENTAL ESTATE

Can Government state what are the commencement and completion dates agreed to in connection with the proposed new Government rental estate?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 673 and 674 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 673 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – NEW GOVERNMENT RENTAL ESTATE

Can Government state what clauses or conditions, if any, concerning delays in completion, have been included in the contract signed recently with the contractor in connection with the construction of the proposed new Government rental estate?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 672 and 674 of 2008.

NO. 674 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – TENDER FOR NEW GOVERNMENT RENTAL ESTATE

Can Government list the names of the five companies who submitted a tender for the construction of the housing rental estate near Rooke, showing the amount bid by each?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The tender has been awarded, as the Government have announced, but not yet signed at the time of preparation of this answer. It is thus not appropriate to publish details of other tenderers. In any event, the Government are advised that it is commercially inappropriate to identify the amounts submitted by particular losing bidders. Accordingly, in due course, the Government will publish in the Gazette the name and amount of the winning bidder and the amount of the unsuccessful bids but not the names of unsuccessful bidders. Commencement is scheduled for immediately on signature of the contract, which I incidentally advise is scheduled to happen in the next day or two, the actual signature of the contract. Phase one is, under the terms of the contract, due to be completed by 30th July 2010, phase two by 30th September 2011. As the contract is not yet signed, it would be inappropriate of me to give details of the clauses that it contains but the hon Member may be aware of the sort of standard delay clauses that are to be found in standard forms of building contracts, such as the JCT model building contract.

ORAL

NO. 675 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION RELOCATION

Can Government state when it took the decision to relocate the Department of Education?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 676 to 678 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 676 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION REFURBISHMENT COSTS

How much has it cost the Government to refurbish the new Department of Education at Queensway?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 675, 677 and 678 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 677 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION RELOCATION COSTS

How much has it cost the Government to relocate the Department of Education to the present Queensway premises?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 675, 676 and 678 of 2008.

NO. 678 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – OLD DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PREMISES

Can Government state what the old Department of Education at 40 Town Range will be used for now that the relocation has taken place?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I took the decision in consultation with the then Minister of Education. Although it is difficult to pinpoint the precise moment when a particular decision is made, it was finally made in the sense of authorised to proceed after the election in around November 2007.

The amount paid to date in respect of refurbishment of the splendid new premises for the Department of Education is £619,745.59.

The cost for relocating the Department to Queensway, that is to say the moving costs, have been £25,822.73.

No. 40 Town Range will become an annexe to No. 6 Convent Place in support of the various political responsibilities and administrative functions.

NO. 679 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

THE MOUNT

Can Government state whether the Mount is being used for any purpose other than for private, public functions and for a Tribunal as was the case recently and if so on what terms and conditions is this being done giving a list of institutions or entities to which it is being hired?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

As the hon Member must surely know, the Loreto Convent School is allowed to use part of the Mount for the purposes of their adjoining school. What he may not know is that this is an informal licence arrangement terminable at will and no payment is made.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 679 OF 2008

HON S E LINARES:

I could not have known because, quite frankly, I asked this question in a previous House and the Chief Minister stated that it was not being used for any other function, and that was before the Tribunal. Since the Tribunal happened, I posed the question so saying that I should know is an assumption on his part. So could the Chief Minister tell us when this happened so that we can put a timescale into when he took this decision?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

What he has just said by way of preamble to his supplementary is not true. He has asked a different question now and I have divided my answer carefully into two parts. Part that I had assumed he did know, namely that the Loreto Convent uses it. Everybody in Gibraltar knows that the Loreto Convent uses part of the Mount as classrooms. Then I said what he may not know, because there is no reason why he should, are the basis on which that occupation takes place. So I assume, I would be surprised if he had not known, that the Loreto Convent uses the school. What I acknowledged he might not know, were the terms upon which the Loreto Convent uses the school, namely, informal licensed terminable at will and that no payment is made. I cannot recall exactly when this arrangement began but I think this is the

second academic year, just started, in which it happens. Was there any other part of his supplementary that I have not answered?

HON S E LINARES:

In Question No. 270 of 2007, which is not two academic years by the way, it is only one, but he says two academic years and I should know, I asked, "can the Government state whether the Mount is being used for any purposes other than functions and parties and, if so, by who and how much is the rate being paid for the usage?" Answer the Chief Minister, "no, the Mount is not being used for any other purposes than for functions and parties". Then he goes on to state about the fees for each function and he lists that. Then how is it that I am supposed to know, two academic years before, that the Mount is being used by the Loreto Convent, if in answer to a question here in 2007, which is one academic year, he is saying that it is not being used? So am I supposed to be clairvoyant or what? Can the Chief Minister explain the premise of his answer?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

There is no danger of anybody thinking that the hon Member is clairvoyant. I just think he should set the bar considerably lower when inviting people to attribute such characteristics to him. I did not say two years ago, I said this is the second academic year in which it happens. The second academic year started in September 2008, just a few weeks ago. The first academic year was indeed in 2007 at some point. So he would have to give me the date in which he asked me the question and I will then be able to tell him whether my answer was accurate or inaccurate. But in any event, my answer today which is not two years ago, I said to him that this is the second academic year in which it happened. The second being the one just started, the first one indeed being 2007.

ORAL

NO. 680 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

PUBLIC MARKET – OFFERS TO BUY OUT TRADERS

Can Government confirm whether they have offered to buy out traders at the public market and if so can they list those traders who have accepted the offers and the amounts in question?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 681 and 682 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 681 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

PUBLIC MARKET – AMOUNT PAID FOR BUTCHER'S SHOP

What amount was paid per square metre to the butcher's shop bought out by Government from the local public market?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 680 and 682 of 2008.

NO. 682 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

PUBLIC MARKET – BUYING OUT OF TRADERS

Can Government say if they are buying out traders at the public market why they are doing so?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Yes, the Government are in the process of refurbishing the public market and exposing the City walls at the entrance to Casemates. In this context, it has agreed to buy out the Market Restaurant and is trying to relocate the adjoining take-away in order to demolish these buildings. One of the stall holders who offered to surrender their stall, has also been bought out by the Government with a view to relocating holders of stalls to the south and outside of the market place building and at the rear of the market place itself, to an inside location thereby enabling the Government also to demolish the external structures, thus exposing further parts of the City wall and removing as many as possible of the unsightly, external structures cluttering the public market building.

The traders and the amounts in question are as follows:

Ashall Trading Limited	£300,000
OPH Holdings Limited	under negotiation
SP Butchers	£258,750

Units D and E were surrendered at approximately £1,500 per square metre. Stalls 3, 6 and 23 and a vault at Fish Market Road were surrendered at a rate of approximately £890 per square metre.

NO. 683 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

HEALTH AND SAFETY OFFICERS

Can Government state whether it has now taken a decision with respect to the number of health and safety officers which it employs?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

No, Sir, not yet.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 683 OF 2008

HON G H LICUDI:

It would be useful if the Chief Minister could give a little bit more information about the state of play, particularly having regard to the fact that we know that one particular person retired leaving two officers in place and, therefore, we know for a fact that the Health and Safety Inspectorate is one man short. We were given assurances in April of this year that there was going to be a review of health and safety generally, and that assurance was given by the Hon the Minister for Employment, and that that review was going to be undertaken very quickly, those were his words. Can the Chief Minister or the Government tell us now when the particular post, which is outstanding and which was advertised last year but then withdrawn, when that is expected to be filled?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, I cannot even give the hon Member an assurance, as I think I told him last time, that that particular post would be filled. But I agree with the rest of what he has said and that is exactly where the matters lies. That this review is underway, meetings are taking place, the Government are generating internally a whole new approach to health and safety management in all its aspects in Gibraltar, that is not a simple, short task that can be done quickly, nor in truth, is it number one in the Government's list of priorities although it is not the last either. It is something that is being progressed at whatever rate the exercise turns out to require. This is not a fiddling exercise, it is a whole new architecture, perhaps even a new legislative framework for the approach to health and safety in Gibraltar, and the position of the Government remains the same. That that review, I do not know if my hon colleague said quickly,

if he did of course it is a word that is not capable of precise definition. Certainly, if he did use the word “quickly” I would have better advised him to use the word “expeditiously”, in the sense that one never knows how long these things are going to take. It is being done, it is being given the importance that it does deserve but the position remains that the Government think it is not sensible to fill posts graded at grades that reflect the old architecture, when that might not be what the new architecture requires. So whilst the Government will certainly try to complete its internal review and make a policy decision about how they are going to deal with health and safety issues in the future, that will happen hopefully as quickly as possible, and certainly expeditiously. It remains the Government’s position that in the meantime, we are intending not to fill that post.

HON G H LICUDI:

The hon Member, the Minister for Employment, not only used the word “quickly” I can tell the Chief Minister exactly what he said which was that that particular post and advertisement will be taken in conjunction with the general review which is going to be undertaken very quickly. So the words were not “quickly” or “expeditiously”, the words were “very quickly” which suggests that the Government are giving this a certain impetus and a sense of urgency. We are now being told that this is not number one in Government’s list of priorities. Can the Government explain the apparent change of policy from the urgency that was displayed by the Hon Minister in April of this year with use of the term “very quickly”, which I understand is not a term above but one could be forgiven for believing that there is a sense of urgency, when Government Ministers attribute the term “very quickly” to a review. Can the Government not explain, or can the Government explain why it is not showing a degree of expediency and concern given the amount of construction projects that are going on in Gibraltar and concerns which have been voiced about the lack of availability of health and safety officers?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I cannot agree with the sentiment and the assumptions upon which the hon Member’s supplementary is based. The word “quickly” does not lend itself to precise attribution of a particular length of time. If one agrees to build two things quickly, a cathedral and a garden shed, one uses the word “quickly” about both but one does not expect the cathedral to be finished at the same time as the garden shed. When one does things quickly, the length of time that it takes depends on the nature of what one is doing, and reviewing the legislation and the whole historical system in Gibraltar for dealing with health and safety, even if one is doing it quickly that does not imply that it is going to be next week or next month, or even next year. It means that one will not cause undue delay in pursuit of the process, whatever that might be or however long it might naturally take, given the size, complexity and other aspects of the task in hand. So I do not accept the hon Member’s underlying premise that “quickly” was the wrong word, even though I would have used the word “expeditiously” better to describe the concept that I am talking about. Therefore, I do not agree that there is any contradiction between what I have said and what my hon Colleague the Minister for Employment said, or that what he said would happen is not happening.

HON G H LICUDI:

In the context of the actual review, can the Chief Minister give any details as to who is conducting that review, when it was started and whether it is expected to be finished during this financial year?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I cannot give him any assurance on the last point, I am simply not willing to box the Government into any time frame, still less one set by the Opposition Members whose policy this is not. I do not recall in the hon Members' manifesto seeing a desire. The hon Member appears to be concerned about the filling of the vacancy, that is what his question is. I cannot tell him whether it will be ready, I cannot tell him whether the review will be ready by the end of the financial year. Therefore, I cannot tell him whether a post will have been filled by the end of the financial year or not. The policy initiative to review the health and safety is in the hands of a committee of three. It includes me but I do not take part in the day to day work, it is the Minister for Employment and the Minister for Health and Civil Protection who are jointly doing the thinking and taking this matter forward. It is not yet at the stage where we have made choices between the various options going forward and, therefore, clearly we have not yet made decisions about staffing the option going forward or the legislative amendments that would be needed for the option going forward.

HON G H LICUDI:

The Chief Minister is right in that this does not involve a policy decision on behalf of the Opposition. The concern is that a vacancy was advertised internally within Government and after applications were made for that vacancy, the vacancy would appear to have been withdrawn. When questioned in this House we were given the explanation about the review. Can the Chief Minister or the Government explain whilst this review is on-going, and although we now know that no time scale is attributed or will be given by the Government, what is actually happening to the functions of the person who actually retired, is someone filling it on an ad-hoc basis, is someone acting as health and safety officer, do we actually have three health and safety officers working as health and safety officers or has the post and the work actually been lost?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I am advised that there is somebody acting in the post.

NO. 684 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

FREE PARKING SPACES AT NEW CAR PARKS

Can Government state how many free parking spaces will be made available at the new car parks at Willis's Road, Sandpits and New Harbours?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

None within the car parks. However, as part of the Sandpits car park project five spaces and a motor cycle parking bay were created on the public highway for free public parking.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 684 OF 2008

HON G H LICUDI:

I am not sure whether I understand the Chief Minister's answer to mean five spaces which did not exist previously, because as I understand it, there was some parking available outside Sandpits even before the development, people did use to go to Sandpits with their cars and park outside. So I am not sure whether this refers to five additional parking spaces, perhaps the Chief Minister can clarify that? Can the Chief Minister also state how many parking spaces which were available in the public highway in the vicinity of the three car parks, have actually been lost as a result of the construction of these car parks?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

First of all in relation to the first part of his supplementary, I believe that these are additional parking spaces in places where parking was not possible before. I think they are on the ramp on the way down into the parking, on the right there xxxxx rough land. The parking that used to be available outside, where people going to play tennis go up, that he knows will be reprovided, I think, probably with bigger capacity in a more ordered and xxxxx surfaced way. I believe that there is no net loss in parkings on any of the roads as a result of the building of these three car parks.

HON G H LICUDI:

Would the Chief Minister not agree with our understanding, particularly with regard to the one at Willis's Road, that the entrance to the car park previously used to be a wall which was part of the road that came down from the Moorish Castle area, the entrance to Moorish Castle from the Upper Rock, and that necessarily as a result of the opening up of the wall in order to create the entrance to the car park, that free street parking facilities, opposite the wall as I understand it, have actually been lost? Does the Chief Minister not agree that some parking spaces have been lost? My question is, why have they not been reprovided within the car parks themselves?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, first of all I said to the hon Member that I did not believe that there was any net loss of parking spaces, which means that they may be lost in one place and reprovided in another. He needs to listen to the answer more carefully. Secondly, even if there were two or three, even if contrary to what I was saying it turns out at the end of the day that there were two or three, the Government, given the huge net gain for that project, would not necessarily feel..... If there were a substantial number of losses then the Government would certainly have to consider, and I think indeed in the past we have said that in those circumstances we would provide for free public parking inside. But for one or two it is just not viable because what we cannot have is the general public entering the car park building to see if one of two or three public parking spaces were available or not. This means that one cannot operate a barrier system, one cannot issue, it makes the whole system unviable. So, therefore, I do not believe there are any net losses, particularly not following the making of Willis's Road one-way. But even if there were, contrary to what I am saying, just a handful of them the Government would be minded to let that be, given the overall net gain to residents of the area.

HON G H LICUDI:

The answer to the question, to the supplementary, really is quite extraordinary that this is something to do with viability in connection with access by the general public through the barrier. Is it not the case that this is something that the Government would have known about when they started constructing the car parks? Did they not know exactly the amount of car parking spaces that would be available and exactly the car parking spaces that would be available for rental as opposed to having them as free parking spaces? Did they not have the plans when they started building a long, long time ago and well before the last Elections? Did they not know that the plans showed car parking spaces of exactly the same number that would subsequently be advertised for rental or for sale? In those circumstances, given the answer about viability, and this appears to be a policy decision, can the Chief Minister explain the commitment that was given by the Government at the time of the last Elections, which is actually contained in this document, their manifesto? With regard to Willis's Road, Sandpits and New Harbours car parks the Government actually said in their manifesto, "our projects to provide 460 new parking spaces at Willis's Road, Sandpits and New Harbours are nearing completion and will become operational soon", November 2007. By the way, almost one year later they are still not operational. So, so much for their prediction as to time. These will provide a mixture of free parking spaces, a manifesto commitment, and in brackets to cover themselves, "(if street parking has been lost in the vicinity)". Then weekly, monthly rentals and outright purchases opportunities. So, the Government's explanation now

that it is simply not viable simply does not fit with a policy decision and announcement made at the time of the Elections, that a mixture of free parking spaces and other types of arrangement would be implemented. Does this not amount to yet another electoral fraud by this Government which this Government must explain?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, what it amounts to is another example of how behaviour on the Opposition side of the House seems to contagion from one Member to the other, and it has now reached even the Hon Mr Licudi whom we had thought was amongst the more sensible of the Opposition Members. But apparently not. Look, I would not expect a lawyer to make a preamble of a case, suggesting to all that were listening that the Government was somehow in breach of a manifesto commitment and then read out the manifesto commitment which says exactly what I had told him before he bothered to stand up to get up, that is, that the Government would consider, would make free public parking available if there were losses of street parking in the area. That is not to cover, where is the electoral fraud? The manifesto says mixture of sale, hire and free, if there are losses in the public highway, and the hon Member, because he wants to describe the words in brackets as cover, then goes on to describe the rest of it as a fraud. What is a fraud is the hon Member's distortion, misrepresentation and conscious premeditated misreading of the Government's manifesto, in order to falsely accuse the Government of another electoral fraud. That is what is a fraud.

HON G H LICUDI:

Does the Chief Minister not realise and understand, in his haste to chastise us, that the electoral fraud arises precisely from the knowledge that this Government would have had in October 2007, because at that time they would have known precisely that the plans were ready, that the projects were nearing completion, as they said, and they gave a date of November 2007 and they would have known that there would be not a single free parking space available. Yet in their manifesto one month before the date of completion, they said there would be a mixture. Does he not understand that that clearly amounts to an electoral fraud?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, I am sorry, the Government did not say that there would be a mixture including free parking. The Government said that there would be a mixture including free parking if there were losses on the highway. That is what the Government said and that is exactly what I said to him five minutes ago before he misread, misinterpreted, distorted what the Government's manifesto says. But the hon Member, in his haste to score political points, has still not understood the position, which is that whether there is a net loss or not, does not depend only on the car park. It also depends on how the one-way system works, and whether as a result of the one-way system in Willis's Road, which is nothing to do with the car park, there is a net loss of free public parkings on the highway or not. Why the hon Member thinks that this depends only on the building of the car park, is certainly a false assumption on his part. Many things can impact on whether there is a net loss of public parking spaces. In the case of Willis's Road, as a result of eliminating the two-way traffic flow, parking becomes viable in places in which it was not viable before. So places that one loses in one place, because we need to leave a gap to get into the garage as he quite

rightly says, one may gain somewhere else which one could not park before because it used to be a two-way street before. Now, the hon Member is the one who in his, not for the first time hasty interventions in this House, simply gets it wrong. Not content with getting it wrong, builds on his mistake the most hostile attack on the Government accusing it of electoral fraud. That is the hon Member, it is not the first time he does it.

HON G H LICUDI:

Well it might not be the first and it will not be the last.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I have no doubt.

HON G H LICUDI:

If we discover that there are continuing electoral fraud, as I am sure we will discover in the next three years. The Chief Minister seeks to divert attention from the thrust of the accusation in the question and in the supplementary. In answer to the previous question or supplementary, the Chief Minister seemed to give the very clear impression that quite apart from the fact that there may be parking spaces lost in the public highway, there seemed to be this over-arching principle or policy decision which prevented the general public having access to this, and this was that it was simply not viable to have the use by the general public of a private car park with access to the barrier. Can the Chief Minister explain, in the light of that lack of viability, unless that lack of viability has suddenly been realised today by the Chief Minister, can the Chief Minister explain in the light of that lack of viability how he or his party envisaged in October 2007 that there could, in theory, whether there would or not is another matter, be a mixture of free parking spaces and rental. How did he envisage when he wrote this manifesto that that would actually work in practice when we are now being told it was simply not viable?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The hon Member has just done it again. Another example of misleading, distorting, misrepresenting in this House what I have said not more than three minutes ago.

[Interruption]

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, Mr Speaker, I have heard a lengthy answer, I am entitled to answer it.

MR SPEAKER:

Order, Order.

HON F R PICARDO:

Point of order, Mr Speaker. The Chief Minister has just made an allegation that the hon Questioner has misled the House. I thought we had come to terms with the fact that one did not do that in this House unless one did it in a particular way.

MR SPEAKER:

I know that but yesterday we went through the same exercise again.

HON F R PICARDO:

Yes, Mr Speaker. The Chief Minister has made an allegation that the House was being misled. Now, either that is to be done by way of Point of Order or to be done by way of motion. Not to be done across the floor of the House. If Mr Speaker allows the Chief Minister to get away with saying that the Hon Mr Licudi has misled the House, I assure Mr Speaker he will not be the only one who makes that sort of allegation across the floor repeatedly.

MR SPEAKER:

Is that a threat from the hon Member?

HON F R PICARDO:

No, it is not a threat, it is that if Mr Speaker is going to make the ruling that the Chief Minister can say to Mr Licudi that he has misled the House, and that is going to be proper, it will surely be proper coming from all other Members. That is not to threaten you Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER:

Does the hon Member recall his own behaviour yesterday when he accused the Hon Joe Holliday of about, with respect, of about to mislead the House? Not that he had actually done so.

HON F R PICARDO:

Absolutely.

MR SPEAKER:

How does that differ then from today's proceedings?

HON F R PICARDO:

Well, very simply, because I got up on a Point of Order to say that the hon Gentleman was about to say something that was going to mislead the House. When I made the point, the hon Gentleman actually had the courtesy, although in very political terms, not to pursue what he was doing. Therefore, I did not pursue the matter any further. The Chief Minister now has made a very clear statement that would not stand in Parliament, that should not stand in Parliament, which is that the Chief Minister said that Mr Licudi has misled the House. He has not said that in a Point of Order, he has said that in the course of debate and as part of his answer. Now if that is proper Parliamentary debating manner, then we should all be free to adopt it. I am sure Mr Speaker would agree.

MR SPEAKER:

I agree. But does the Hon Joe Holliday's response yesterday minimise the hon Member's own conduct yesterday?

HON F R PICARDO:

I do not think there is absolutely anything wrong with my conduct yesterday. I got up in keeping with the practice in this House as Mr Speaker is aware on a number of occasions, and even now, to make a Point of Order, and the Point of Order was that the hon Gentleman was about to mislead the House.

MR SPEAKER:

Absolutely.

HON F R PICARDO:

It was not in the course of debate an allegation that the Minister had misled the House, which is what we have now. If that is proper and Mr Speaker is ruling that proper, we should all know and be clear that that is the procedure. I am sure that we will enjoy thrusting that sort of allegation across the floor to each other.

MR SPEAKER:

Well, I will rule on the point right now. An allegation that a Member is about to mislead the House is a far greater crime than an allegation that a Member has misled the House. Let us get that clear for a start. Going back to the present issue, yes, allegations of misleading must necessarily be the subject of a motion.

HON F R PICARDO:

Thanks.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, all I can say is two things to the Hon Mr Licudi. First of all, that what has been left most clear in this House is that the Hon Mr Picardo thinks that his partner in legal practice needs his instant and considerable protection in this House. The second thing is that I am very sorry that he should be responsible for raining upon his head a motion of misleading the House which would not otherwise rain upon him. He has his colleague to thank for that. I will indeed bring a motion that the hon Member has misled the House, because for the second time this morning he has chosen to ignore what I have said, to distort what I have said, to attribute to me words that I have not said, for the purposes of making a false point. I have not said to him, as he pretends in his supplementary, that there is a policy decision against allowing any free public places in the garage. I said to him that it is not viable if it is only for a handful because of the logistics involved in making that system operate. But I also told him that if it turned out to be more than a handful, then the Government would honour its commitment to do it. That is what I have said, which is practically the opposite of what the hon Member attributes to me in his supplementary. The opposite, and therefore, I do believe that he has misled this House about what I said to it and therefore, I will bring a motion because I agree that there are rules about this with which I fully intend to comply. The position, therefore, is that the manifesto says exactly what I said in this House before the hon Member theatrically produced the manifesto, and that is that the Government would consider free public parkings in the garages if there was a loss of parking spaces, free public places on the highway. That is what I have said in this House, that is what the manifesto says and any attempt by the hon Member to suggest anything to the contrary, including building on that anything to the contrary the extraordinary accusation of electoral fraud on the basis of the most convoluted non-arguments, about whether we knew at the time how many parking spaces were in the garage, is simple fraud, distortion and misleading this House. Let me say to the hon Member, but of course the Government knew how many.....

MR SPEAKER:

Motion. It is a repetition of misleading the House.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, I have committed to bring a motion and I will bring a motion, that the hon Member builds his fantastic argument on the premise that because the Government knew how many spaces there were in the car parks before they were built, they must have known that there would be no free parking. That is simply wrong. Of course the Government knew, one can never be sure whether in the end the builder is going to tell one, well look, you cannot get this because of that, but of course the Government knew how many parking spaces there would be in the garage. But that is not what determines whether there is a loss of parking spaces on the highway in Willis's Road. There has been no loss of parking spaces on the highway in any of the other developments, one is on the roof of New Harbours, I do not suppose he could ever have thought that there might have been any loss of public spaces on the public highway as a result of building an extra floor on New Harbours, and certainly, in Sandpits there have turned out to be a net gain not a net loss of free public highway. In the case of Willis's Road, it is a question of net because of the one-way system. That is the position and anything that the hon Member says to the contrary is pure politics, fought on a factually false and dishonest premise.

HON G H LICUDI:

Not only do we have an accusation of misleading the House now also of dishonesty, which is actually worse.

MR SPEAKER:

Dishonest premise.

HON G H LICUDI:

Dishonest premise is the same as dishonesty. Knowing that the premise is false I have made the argument on that false premise, dishonestly. That is the accusation and the Chief Minister should be very careful in the sort of Parliamentary behaviour that he indulges on. We in the Opposition side of the House will not be silenced by threats of motions by the Government Ministers. We will do our job as we have to do and people out there will judge the behaviour of both sides of the House. The Chief Minister may be comforted by the fact that if he brings the motion, that motion would be successful, because he has all his people there who will vote with him on that motion. So every single Government motion on misleading the House will succeed, and every single Opposition motion on accusations of misleading the House will fail. That is not the true test of whether the House is being misled. We will be happy to debate that motion when the time comes and people out there will see through the political prank that the Chief Minister is trying to pull. Quite frankly, the behaviour by the Chief Minister is quite astonishing this morning. But he simply has not answered the last point in the supplementary, and I stand by everything I have said previously. The last point in the supplementary was, quite simply, how did the Government envisage in the event that street parking were to be lost, how did the Government envisage that it would operate in practice given the practical difficulties that he has explained and lack of viability that he has explained? He must have given some thought, it was actually in the manifesto, if it is not an electoral fraud then it must have been thought out. Can the Chief Minister explain how that policy was thought out and how it would work in practice? We still have not got an answer to that question.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

First of all, in respect of the first part of his lengthy supplementary, of course people in Gibraltar expect the Opposition to hold the Government to account. Of course people in Gibraltar do not expect the Opposition Members to be covered by threats of a motion, and of course the hon Member, but again that is not the issue here, because all those people that expect the Opposition to do all that, expect them to do it by reference to the facts and to the truth. What all those people out there do not expect their elected Parliamentarians to do is to fabricate a set of facts for the purposes of building a political attack. That is what nobody in Gibraltar expects and that is what the Opposition Members do as a matter of political style and system, and they have done it, not now, but for many, many years, which is why they have been in Opposition for the last four elections, amongst many other reasons. Now, the hon Member cannot be as unimaginative as the second part of his supplementary question suggests that he is. Well look, his argument now appears to be reduced to this. There must be an electoral fraud here because what could be the logistical system for allowing some free public parking in the building, given what one has said

about the barrier, and if one had not thought about that then I stand by everything that I have said because there must be an electoral fraud. How superficial, ill thought through and on the hoof can somebody's arguments in public be? It is perfectly simple. Not simple enough for him to understand so I will explain it to him. What one does is that one gets the barrier at some cost and build it further in to the ground floor not at the door, so that before one gets to the barrier, beyond which only permanent renters can get, there are a number of spaces to which one gets and therefore the public can accede before one gets to any barrier control. That is how it is done. It is hardly worth doing it for one, two or three or a handful of parking spaces, because the amount of space that one would have would barely give one room to manoeuvre, which is why I said that it would not be practical for only a handful of places. But if it was more, there is plenty of space because I can put the barrier for cars to get into this room at the door or I can put it under this arch, leaving all these spaces here for people. See how simple it is, not everything has to be an electoral fraud, despite their political desires to make it seem so.

HON G H LICUDI:

The manifesto commitment was certainly not qualified in any way in terms of numbers. It did not say if substantial street parking is lost in the vicinity, or if ten parking spaces are lost in the vicinity. So for now the Chief Minister, to qualify that commitment, is somewhat disingenuous. Given that the Chief Minister accepts that it is feasible and viable, there must have come a point, again given that the possibility of free parking spaces within the car parks was considered at the time of the Elections, there must have come a point when the Government decided that there would not be any free parking spaces made available, whether viable or not. That there would not be as a matter of fact. Can the Chief Minister tell us when that decision was taken?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, what I will say to the hon Member finally on this question is that in keeping with our performance in Government in almost all areas of public administration, being hugely superior than anything that the Gibraltarians experienced under the GSLP, this Government have, since it has been in office, created a multiple number of free public parkings, when the previous GSLP Government showed no interest whatsoever in doing so. Indeed, removed free public parking without any care or concern about replacing it. We replace the ones that we remove and created hundreds more. That is what I would tell the hon Member in answer to his supplementary.

HON G H LICUDI:

Unfortunately that does not provide an answer and it seems that the Chief Minister refuses to tell us when that decision was taken, which leaves open the possibility of interpreting this that that decision was taken before this commitment was given and therefore it does amount to an electoral fraud.

MR SPEAKER:

Well in the absence of a question, next question please.

NO. 685 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

NEW ROAD SYSTEM – COST OF WORKS

Can Government now provide the total estimated cost for the works for the new road system at Devil's Tower Road, Eastern Beach and the tunnel under the airport?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The tender evaluation is still in progress and the estimated cost for the works cannot be disclosed at this stage.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 685 OF 2008

HON G H LICUDI:

Is that a reference to tender evaluation in respect of the whole project? Has any part of the project been allocated or decided upon? The reason I say that, perhaps I should just premise this, my understanding is that some works will be carried out imminently, maybe next week or in the next two weeks or may have even started, in the Eastern Beach area in terms of relocation of premises, of changing rooms, and all that is in preparation of this. So there must be some cost element which has already been built in and which the Government, I assume, know about. That is why I am asking.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

That is not what the hon Member was asking. What the hon Member asked was "can the Government now provide the total estimated cost for the works for the new road system at Devil's Tower Road, Eastern Beach and the tunnel under the airport?" to which the answer is no, we cannot.

HON G H LICUDI:

We still do not have an answer. Certainly the Chief Minister may indulge in semantics and just attach particular importance to particular words like "total", but if the Government do not have a total cost but have a partial cost, one would have thought that the easiest thing in the world would be for the Government to say, "no

we cannot provide the total cost but this part of the project has been allocated and will cost £x million". Do the Government have that information? That is a perfectly reasonable supplementary to ask in the context of this question.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The answer is that the tender evaluation is still in progress and the estimated cost of the works cannot be disclosed at this stage.

NO. 686 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

FRONTIER – TRAFFIC FLOW

Can Government state when it expects the flow of traffic at the frontier with Spain to be regularised so that the present bottle-neck going into Spain is removed?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

It is not clear what the hon Member means by “regularised”. The Government understand that the industrial action by Spanish border police may be over. The flow appears to have been restored pre-industrial action levels, although in the last day or two I noticed that there has been a queue again. However, frontier fluidity remains under constant review in the Trilateral Forum.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 686 OF 2008

HON G H LICUDI:

The Chief Minister suggests that he does not understand or is not clear what the term “regularised” means, and everybody, I will suggest everybody in Gibraltar looks at the media and is aware of what the problem is, knows exactly why the problem is irregular and therefore needs to be regularised. If one has a tap and simply turns on the water and does not let any out, the bath eventually overflows and we have a problem, and that is precisely what Gibraltar has been suffering from in the last couple of years, with a tap coming into Gibraltar being open but not to the same extent going out of Gibraltar. That is why there is a need for the position to be regularised, because by the Government’s own admission there is much more traffic coming in to Gibraltar now. Given that that is the position, is it not desirable and does the Chief Minister not agree that it should be addressed as a matter of urgency, that the rate of flow coming in should equal the rate of flow going out? At present it does not, everybody knows that, do the Government not wake up to that reality?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not know how many people share that reality but it is a false reality. First of all let me deal with the first part of the hon Member’s question. The Government are not willing to use the word “regular” or “regularised” for any aspect, at any time of the flow across the border, not before Cordoba, not after Cordoba, not before industrial action or after industrial action. I think that the hon Member makes a mistake by

choosing to use the word “regularised” in relation to the regime that has existed at the border at any time in living memory. To me a regular system of frontier flow is one which permits the Spanish authorities to do whatever checks they are legally entitled to make, but to deploy the number of crossing points and to deploy the amount of resources that allows them to do that, without causing more delay at this border than at other borders where they carry out the same legal checks and customs. That to me would be regularising the border flow and that has never been the case, ever, and is still not the case with or without what has been achieved in Cordoba yet. So, I would not in the name of Gibraltar attribute the term “regular” or “regularised” to any of those times. I think the hon Member makes a mistake in doing so. As to whether the rate of flow in and out should be the same, the answer is that it is not and should not be the same. No, because look, much as we criticise Spain justifiably for failing to have the sort of resources that are available and the number of manned crossing points that are available at other borders on this border, that is the Gibraltar Government’s complaint. Gibraltar cannot complain that they carry out customs and immigration checks, because not only are they entitled to, but indeed they are obliged to under the Schengen in respect of passports and under the Common Customs Union regulations in respect of customs. The extent of the checks that they are obliged to carry out on Schengen and customs exit are less than the extent of the checks that they are obliged to carry out in respect of Schengen and customs entry. I am talking about exit from Spain and entry into Spain. Therefore, given that their obligations as to the amount of checks going into Spain are qualitatively different to their obligations in respect of checks carried out on people leaving Spain, it is not logical to suggest that the rate of flow in should be the same as the rate of flow out. The thrust of the Gibraltar Government’s position, let me tell the hon Members when I discuss these things with the Spanish Government, is not to complain about the checks because it is an argument that we cannot win because they are entitled and required to and they could just turn round and say that and there would be nothing more to be said. The Government’s thrust, the Government’s position is, okay, so they have got an obligation to do these things, fine. That does not prevent them from having a sufficiently resourced and sufficiently designed and a sufficiently large crossing area, so that there can be multiple crossing points, as happens in many other frontiers. So the issue is not checks, the issue is lack of crossing facilities, if I could just refer to them all collectively as that, given the volume of traffic trying to cross. If one had just 100 cars waiting to cross into Spain, and they took just 30 seconds on each, and I do not think anybody would argue that 30 seconds is too long to take in checking passports and customs control, if we multiply 100 by 30 second we get a queue. So the issue is not that they are taking too long to service each car, the issue is that they have not got enough facilities at the border to handle the volume of traffic that wants to pass through it. That is the thrust of the Government’s political revindication against the Spanish Government, because that argument we are right and can win and the argument, even though they are in Schengen and even though they are in the Common Customs Union and even though we are not in Schengen and not in the Customs Union, and even though we insist on having a border here, and even though we insist on our right to sell tobacco, perfume and petrol more cheaply than them, we do not want them to exercise any control when they come from our country into theirs, is not a rational or even a winnable argument. The rational and winnable argument is, carry out whatever checks they must but do it in a regular fashion, do it as other countries do it in other borders, with enough resources, enough facilities, so that it does not need to be more of a source of delay here than it is when people get off the ferry in Algeciras, or when people cross from Andorra, or when people get into Germany from, I cannot remember now, there is a non-EU country to the east of Germany. That is the argument and that is where we should focus our political aims.

HON G H LICUDI:

The Chief Minister describes what he has just set out as the rational and reasonable argument which Gibraltar can win. That in itself would suggest that so far this Government have failed to win that argument and have failed to bring about a system where sufficient resources are deployed on the other side of the border. The Chief Minister says that the issue is not checks, this question has nothing to do with checks nor have I said anything about checks, or the availability of checks on the other side of the frontier. The question relates to a bottleneck and the bottleneck arises because of the lack of sufficient resources, not because of the checks per se, but because of the lack of sufficient resources on that side of the border. We all accept, and do the Government not recognise that we accept that checks have to be made. They have their obligations, we have ours. We have obligations to carry out checks but we do it with two green channels. On the Spanish side there is only one green channel. Do the Government not accept that they have so far failed abysmally on this question of frontier fluidity? There are more cars coming in to Gibraltar than are allowed to go out at the same rate and the Government have not been able to successfully, so far, deploy the argument that this is nothing to do with checks but with amount of resources. Why is it that this Government did not secure that precise provision and that precise arrangement when we decided to open up our frontier with two green channels?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Government do not accept that they have failed abysmally. The Government accept, because it is self-evident, that we have not achieved what we ultimately wished to achieve yet. But look, the frontier situation is worth, unless the hon Member is saying that it is not worth achieving small gains unless one can first achieve at the same time the totality, God help Gibraltar if the hon Member with that attitude should ever find himself on this side of the House. Now, what I can tell the hon Members about miserable, abysmal failure is that if he compares the state of the border flows now to what it was at the time of the Braña triple filters, which was the case when the GSLP was in Government for reasons that we all know, most people would not describe the Government's performance as an abysmal failure.

NO. 687 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

CONSULTANCY/SERVICES PROVIDED TO GOVERNMENT BY MR PARDO

What salary or fee does Mr Nigel Pardo (or any company legally or beneficially ultimately owned by him) receive from the Government or any Government owned company for the provision of consultancy or other services and provide a list of the services provided to the Government in return for such remuneration?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Gibraltar Investment (Holdings) Limited, which is a wholly owned Government company, has engaged Gibraltar Land Reclamation Company Limited and Land Projects Consultants Limited, being companies in which Mr Pardo and/or his family interests have shareholding interests, to provide professional services in relation to a number of Government projects.

The services include full project design development and management, development control, cost management, health and safety management, negotiation and management of the building contracts, coordination of all legal work provision and provision of general office facilities, programming and overseeing all aspects of the execution and delivery of the projects, acting as project director and single point of contact for the delivery of the projects, coordinating all aspects of the delivery of the various projects and assisting in the negotiation and obtention of project finance.

The fees are a composite comprising 20 per cent of the cost of the services to be provided by all the project design consultants. So in other words, that is a fee equivalent to 20 per cent of other fees, and one per cent of the agreed project values. There are also performance bonuses equivalent to one per cent of any sum by which they are able to reduce the tendered sum, through negotiation with the preferred bidder, without altering the nature and scope of the project and 0.25 per cent of the contracted sum if the projects are completed and delivered within the contracted sum.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 687 OF 2008

HON F R PICARDO:

The Chief Minister said a number of projects, can he say how many?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, 12 and if he likes I will list them for him.

HON F R PICARDO:

Yes please.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The airport and frontier access roads and tunnel; the new air terminal; the various MOD airfield facilities relocations; the mid harbour reclamation works; the Government rental housing project; new boat sheds for the Mediterranean Rowing Club, Calpe Rowing Club and also the RGYC relocation; the relocation of JATU which is the MOD joint training unit at No. 4 Dock, in layman's terms; Gibraltar Boat Squadron relocation; relocation of Police and Customs marine units, and also relocating the sea scouts. Seventh, Gibraltar infrastructure review and sewage upgrade project; the new power station and distribution network; the new waste water treatment plant; new energy from waste facility; simple approach lighting for the airfield and the park and ride car park at Devil's Tower Road and the air terminal car park in Winston Churchill Avenue.

HON F R PICARDO:

Can the Chief Minister tell us whether any of those have now been completed and resulted in a payment? I know that some of them are projects which are on-going, it may be that some phases are the ones that have been completed and payment has already been made.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not think that any of these projects are anywhere near completion, but to my knowledge I am certain that payments have been made on an on-account formula. I cannot tell him how much but I can do if he is interested.

HON F R PICARDO:

Are there any projects not listed on which Mr Pardo has previously, or the companies which the Chief Minister has told us about, previously been engaged and completed and which have not been covered, perhaps inadvertently, by the language of my question? Or is this a practice which has commenced in respect of these projects?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, the way the question is formulated asks for current arrangements and not for past arrangements. It says "what salary or fee does Mr Nigel Pardo (or any company legally or beneficially ultimately owned by him) receive from the Government in respect of the provision?" That is not language which suggests, I do not know whether in the past, I have to think whether he was involved in any of, he or these

companies in which he has ownership interests, or indeed other companies, I do not know. I need notice. It is possible.

HON F R PICARDO:

I am happy to give notice of the question in respect of past projects for the next House.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Are all these projects financed from the Improvement and Development Fund? Does the Chief Minister know if they are not all, which are and which are not?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, I would need notice of that question. I can see one or two that I think are financed from the companies. For example, some of the MOD relocation work has been financed. The projects in which there has so far been the most capital expenditure, in terms of payments for the work of the projects themselves, are the various MOD airfield facilities relocation. One can see, for example, as one drives round the Cross of Sacrifice, there is a structure going up there just next, in the south dispersal, that is part of the relocation. So that is the one in which most money has been spent. Obviously the mid harbour reclamation, phase one of the reclamation work is complete. Phase two, I think, is going to start quite soon. That I think has come out from the companies and then there is the road club relocation works, I think that has come out from the companies as well. So the Government have not yet decided which are coming in from the companies and which are not. But it seems likely that all the ones that cannot be funded from the company's own resources, given that those reserves that part of the reserves if he will remember from the figures I have given him, are more or less used now. It is very probable that all the projects that require Government resourcing will come from the Improvement and Development Fund and will be passed through there. What is not clear is which of these projects may end up being financed through some model of the public finance initiative, and those might not require treatment through the Improvement and Development Fund.

ORAL

NO. 688 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDY

In light of the Government's commitment to pursue the Opposition policy of carrying out an epidemiological study, when does Government anticipate that it will have evaluated and analysed the statistics that Gibraltar has been collecting for a "Cancer Register" and will the Government commit itself to the publication of these statistics when evaluated and analysed?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 689 of 2008.

NO. 689 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDY

What progress has been made in identifying consultants in respect of the decision by the Government to finally adopt the policy previously set out by the Opposition for the carrying out of an epidemiological study, and what has the Government done in the process of identifying such consultants?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The premise of both questions is false. The Government are not pursuing any policy of the Opposition in this matter. Policies are set out in election manifestos. The Government's manifesto contained a commitment to an epidemiological study. The Opposition's manifesto is completely silent on the matter.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 688 AND 689 OF 2008

HON F R PICARDO:

As the Chief Minister well knows, the Opposition's policy was set out in a communication direct to all the environmental bodies as far back as 2003. But in any event, will the Chief Minister having set out his position on the premise of the question, care to answer the substance of both questions?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, I am not willing to answer the substance of a question which is asked on a false premise. If in 2003 the hon Members had the thought, which they reduced to paper, of conducting an epidemiological study I regret that they abandoned their policy, because they certainly did not give it sufficient importance to merit even one line of a manifesto otherwise full of things that they thought were important. So either they had the policy and abandoned it, or maintained the policy but did not think it was important enough even to feature in the manifesto. In either case, the Government are not following the Opposition's policy, self-evidently, and I am not willing to answer a question based on a false and, one should add, ironical premise.

HON F R PICARDO:

I do recognise that the Chief Minister this morning is as tightly wound as the Duracell bunny and I do not want to push him further than one should. But the Opposition's policy set out in 2003, once again set out in 2007 directly to the environmental groups who are pursuing this issue, and in fact neither the Government nor the Opposition should claim to be the originators of this. It is an issue very firmly put on the policy agenda by the environmental groups, but so be it, and debated by the hon Gentleman's colleague for the environment and myself when we had the debate on the environmental issues. It is hardly something that was ignored during the election campaign. But I have asked two very clear questions, despite their political paraphrasing, one relates to the cancer register, an issue of general public importance, and the other one to the identifying of consultants, which is an issue that the Minister for the Environment referred to recently in an interview with the Gibraltar Chronicle. I think in the interests of the public having the information on an issue as crucial as this, would the Chief Minister not consider just simply telling us when the remarks I have asked him for on the cancer register and on the consultants, when we will see progress on this?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, just for the record, the Government do not accept that the Opposition have any known policy to conduct an epidemiological study. But on the assumption and on the basis, and upon the clear understanding that the supplementaries are delinked and decoupled from the false and ironical premise of the original questions, I have no difficulty dealing in isolation with the more sensible parts of the hon Member's questions. The position is that as we speak a brief, yes the document through which one commissions the study, the briefing paper, the instructions, the brief to the consultants has been drawn up and is awaiting final approval. A number of non British and non Spanish but globally renowned experts in this area have been identified, and initial contact has been made with them. What is now required is for.....

HON F R PICARDO:

If the Chief Minister will allow me? That is in relation to the second one, in relation to the consultants for the study not the cancer register, yes?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes. The figures that have been collated for a cancer register are no more than a data resource for the first. In isolation, cancer statistics by themselves do not give a sufficient, particularly the very localised because, of course, it is different pollutions of the atmosphere lead to different types of cancer. So it is not every cancer that results from benzene. So one has got to get information over a wide enough area and over a long enough period of time to see if there is a significantly greater than average, because obviously an average means that there will always be places that there are more, that is what an average is, but a significantly greater than average cluster of a particular form of cancer in a particular part of the anatomy, which suggests a particular type of environmental threat to public health. That is done in the context of the epidemiological study. One of the things, I am not a great expert on this but from what little has been explained to me, that the epidemiological study

consultants will do is precisely analyse the cancer statistics and the cancer types within those statistics, and one of the reasons why we are anxious even at this late stage to encourage the Spanish authorities to join us in the study, is so that the statistics will have a broad enough base to be statistically xxx. Which is not to say that the study cannot be done without that, but that it is necessarily less empirically reliable, the smaller the sample and the measure is. So I think it would be true for me to say that the Government itself, I suppose the Director of Public Health looks at these cancer statistics, I am not aware that he has brought anything specific to ministerial attention, but the purpose of setting up the cancer registry in the first place was in order to start creating a body of information for the study. So I do not think that we can really so clinically separate the two issues.

HON F R PICARDO:

I am grateful for that clarification even though, of course, I do not accept the premise of the answer insofar as it suggests that anything that had been said by the Opposition was false. But drawing him further if I can, and with our differences marked out on the issue, given that the brief has already been drawn up does the Chief Minister envisage that the consultants will be engaged in this calendar year?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

If not in this calendar year, which is a very strong possibility, certainly very early in the new year. But before Christmas is more likely than after Christmas.

HON F R PICARDO:

Certainly in this financial year then?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I would have thought so, yes.

ORAL

NO. 690 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

RULINGS ON NON-TAXABLE ACTIVITIES IN GIBRALTAR

Since July 2005, how many requests for rulings that companies registered in Gibraltar are undertaking activities which are not to be considered taxable in Gibraltar on his interpretation of Section 6(1) of the Income Tax Act (pursuant to his exchange of letters with the Chairman of the Finance Centre Council in June and July 2005), have been turned down, giving a breakdown by month?

Mr Speaker, I think the words "Commissioner of Income Tax" are missing from that question, although I am almost certainly sure that they were in the question as put. I hope that is understood.

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 691 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 691 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

RULINGS ON NON-TAXABLE ACTIVITIES IN GIBRALTAR

Since July 2005, how many rulings have been made by the Commissioner for Income Tax that companies registered in Gibraltar are undertaking activities which are not to be considered taxable in Gibraltar on his interpretation of Section 6(1) of the Income Tax Act (pursuant to his exchange of letters with the Chairman of the Finance Centre Council in June and July 2005), giving a breakdown by month?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Government do not consider it to be in the public interest to provide the information requested publicly. I am, however, willing to provide it to him confidentially, together with an explanation privately about why we do not think it is in the public interest to provide it publicly.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 690 AND 691 OF 2008

HON F R PICARDO:

In those circumstances, I will await the explanation and the information privately.

ORAL

NO. 692 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

GBC REVIEW

What is the contracted sum payable to Allan King for the "review of GBC" commissioned from him by the Government?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 693 and 694 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 693 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

GBC REVIEW

When do the Government expect that the review of the GBC it has commissioned from Mr Allan King will be completed?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 692 and 694 of 2008.

NO. 694 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

GBC REVIEW

Will Government agree that Mr Allan King's report on his review of the GBC should be published without the Government first being provided with a draft?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Government will make no decision about the publication of Mr King's report until it has been submitted to the Government and considered.

The contract sum payable to Mr King is £50,750. It is currently envisaged that the report will be submitted in March 2009.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 692 TO 694 OF 2008

HON F R PICARDO:

That is an anticipated date for the submission of a complete version of the review not of a draft, is that right?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, the Government are not willing to curtail whatever may be the usual practice in the delivery of reports to Government. If he is specifically ferreting for an answer to the question, "will the Government agree that Mr Allan King's report from his review of GBC should be published without the Government first being provided with a draft?" the answer is firstly that we will make no decision about the publication, which is what he xxxxxx it to. He has not asked whether Mr King should send the final draft to the Government without first handing in....., he has not asked whether Mr King should give a final report without handing in a draft first. What he has asked is whether the publication of it by the Government should be without it first being provided with a draft. As he has asked about publication, the answer is that the Government have made no decision about publication and will not make. He should not be asking me for expressions of opinion, according to my recent reading of Hansard, but I do not mind expressing one if Mr Speaker will indulge. I do not agree with the premise of the question, as it happens, I do not think there is anything wrong with governments being shown drafts of their internally commissioned reports for themselves. This is not a report for the world, this is a report to advise the

Government of how it might decide to reform GBC. I see no objection, frankly, to Government being provided with a draft to give the Government an opportunity, for example, to correct factual inaccuracies, or perhaps to seek the elimination from the report of confidential information that might impinge upon the Government's ability to decide to publish it. So there are any number of legitimate reasons why it is proper for somebody who commissions a report to be shown to it in private. However, is what the hon Member is getting at, without actually saying so, is that he fears that the purpose of submitting to the Government a report might be for the Government to doctor its content, in terms of, oh for God's sake, do not recommend that because I do not want to have to explain why I will not accept your advice. Well, that is a different matter of course. There is no purpose in a government seeking a report if the government is going to ultimately be the author of its content.

HON F R PICARDO:

I am grateful for that clarification on the very limited circumstances in which the Government would interfere with a report submitted to it in draft. Would the Chief Minister agree with me that given that the GBC is a publicly funded public broadcaster, and that this review has been advertised, as it rightly should have been, it is important that not just the Government but certainly at least in this House, if not all the community, should know what it is that Mr King, who has been advertised as being sufficiently qualified to carry out the review, if not more so, that we should all have access to his report and consider as a community, or at least as a parliament, and then of course each of us make our own policy decisions, about what should happen to the future of GBC.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, that may turn out to be the Government's position but I do not think it follows necessarily. Look, everything that the Government do is publicly funded, which is not to say or imply surely, that the Government are not entitled to maintain confidential things that the Government consider should be confidential. So the fact that it is publicly funded I do not think leads necessarily to the conclusion that the hon Member is inviting me to share with him. The subject matter may and that is precisely why the Government are not saying to him now we do not intend to publish. What Government are saying is that we have not yet addressed our minds to the question of publication and it may well be that when we do set out minds to it, it may be that we agree with what the hon Member has said or for other reasons which the hon Member has not touched on, we think it should be published. It has to be said that previous reform of GBC, of course, has not been as transparent as this would be if we publish the report.

NO. 695 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

FREQUENT FLYER SCHEMES

Can Government confirm that Ministers and Senior Civil Servants who travel frequently at the expense of the taxpayer are able to apply for their personal use the benefits they collect from frequent flier schemes operated by airlines?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Yes, that is indeed the case and it has always been so. The Government have not considered it to be improper and so has not changed the position that we inherited from the previous GSLP Government in May 1996. Ministers and/or Civil Servants, for that matter, are not required to belong to a frequent flyer scheme operated by an airline. Therefore, if they choose to belong to it, without any form of compulsion, it is from their personal choice and they do so in a personal capacity. Consequently, those who choose to belong to such schemes do not need to account to Government for any benefits of membership that might arise. There is no cost to the taxpayer.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 695 OF 2008

HON F R PICARDO:

Is the Chief Minister aware, in fact, if Mr Speaker will allow me I will preface my answer by saying we have had this debate in this House before, where the Chief Minister has only been able to allude to a faint memory of following a Minister in a previous Government to a checking desk sometime, somewhere, he cannot remember when, because the Minister was going to collect some travel points. I think that is the only debate we have had previously about this issue. Is the Chief Minister aware that the ministerial code of conduct in the United Kingdom actually sets out what should happen to air miles collected by Ministers, given their travel at public expense, and that they should be applied for the purpose of the taxpayer in future travel and not for their personal travel?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, I am aware of what the practice is in the United Kingdom, which does not as far as we are concerned consist of any form of gospel on the subject. There are many things about the way we administer ourselves in Gibraltar that does not follow UK

practice. The fact that it is a practice in the UK is not decisive about whether (a) it is the best practice, and certainly it is not decisive or determinative about what is right and what is wrong. The UK choose to do it that way, that is legitimate. Other countries that choose to do it a different way is not illegitimate simply because the UK chose to do it the different way. Now, of course it would be possible to adopt the policy that the hon Member appears to be recommending by the thrust of his questions. But then, really, logically, one would have to oblige every frequent flyer publicly funded, he would have to oblige them to join the frequent flyers. What he could not say is, "you fly at public expense, you do not have to join a frequent flyer club but if you do then you have got to give the benefit of it to the taxpayer". The logical thing would be that if the taxpayer thought that frequent flyer benefits should belong to it because it has paid for the travel, is to make it compulsory for everybody that flies at public expense to join frequent flyer schemes so that the taxpayer then gets some sort of benefit. Let me say that the benefit would be narrow because it cannot be transferred to unrelated people. I think it extends to one and one's members of family but I do not think one can give it to a stranger. But can I just say, I am not sure that he was trying to, but I have no difficulty recollecting either who the Minister was, where we were going, what we were going for, unlike the hon Members I try to avoid mentioning individual's names in this House where possible. But no one should be in this House or elsewhere, in any doubt about the firmness or nebulosity of the incident in question.

HON F R PICARDO:

I agree with the premise that not everything that is done in the United Kingdom is best done just because it is done in the United Kingdom. Given developments in the way that frequent flyer air miles can be collected, and given that it is now possible to have corporate membership so that parts of a corporation, like the Government for example or individuals in a corporation, can collect points or air miles as they are colloquially known, and then others can travel on them and thereby earn considerable saving for the taxpayer, it may be that this is not an issue that we want to consider, either collectively as a Parliament or separately as a Government and Opposition. The relevant reference is to paragraph 10.16 of the latest version of the ministerial code, which reads as follows: "air miles and other benefits earned through travel paid for from public funds other than where they are de minimis for example, access to special departure lounges or booking arrangements which go with the membership of regular flyer clubs, should be used only for official purposes or else foregone. If it is impracticable to use the benefits for Government travel, there is no objection to Ministers donating them to charity if this is permissible under the chosen terms of the airline scheme and the charity is one chosen by the airline." The hon Gentlemen were returned to Government for four years. There are three years to go. This is not necessarily an issue that has to become partisan; it is an issue which could save the taxpayer money. Will the Chief Minister agree to look into this issue again, given what I have told him about the possibility of corporate membership?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, frankly, no, we are not particularly inclined to do so. Look, the position before the United Kingdom decided to adopt that guideline, which is quite recent, was that it was the same as it is here now. In other words, the UK for many years thought that it was perfectly proper for Ministers and other officials to be allowed to keep the benefit of their air miles. One day, usually these things happen in the UK because somebody writes an article in the Guardian or something, some bright spark decided that it will

be done differently. What the UK had done itself for many years and suddenly decides to reverse, that decision by the UK to reverse on a given day does not render improper either what they were doing for many years, or any less improper that people continue to do it thereafter. Presumably the hon Members agree because whilst they were in office, it surely did not take the UK to change its practice for the hon Members to know that it was possible for the taxpayer to save money, by saying to, for example, the Minister in the example that we are not particularising, no, keep those and next time you have to travel on official business, use your air miles and that way the taxpayer saves having to buy you another ticket. Surely the previous Government did not need to change its practice to know that it was mechanically possible for it to have had the policy that it is now recommending to us, that could result in a change of attitude. I am not saying that what the hon Member is suggesting is not arguable. It is a perfectly legitimate point of view. It is possible to come to the conclusion that no one should have any tangential benefit from something that they have accessed as a result of something the taxpayer has paid. That is perfectly possible. If one follows that logic to its enth degree, one may not be limited to the use of air miles. I cannot right now think of others but I am sure there are. So, it is perfectly legitimate to change to the system that the hon Member is recommending. What I do not concede is that there would be any degree of illegitimacy to coming to the opposite conclusion. Therefore, this is not a matter that the Government feel particularly bound to change. It can be changed, if we were to decide to do so, but frankly, we do not think that the argument is that compelling. This is not something that costs the taxpayer money. If it costs the taxpayer money, then there would be no argument. Because it does not cost the taxpayer money, what he is saying is a foregone, future saving to the taxpayer as a result of something that one has chosen to do. To do what the hon Member is suggesting, one would have to make it compulsory for everybody. What we could not have is to say, well, the taxpayer does not require one to give it the opportunity to save this money in the future. But if one personally makes the choice of joining these schemes, then one has got to give the taxpayer the benefit. So I think it would go hand in hand with any adoption of what the hon Member is suggesting that the Government would have to organise all its travel procurement through a channel that made it compulsory for everybody to go. It could not be based on the choice of the flight. So we make no commitment to doing so, which of course does not mean that at some stage we might not do so. But the hon Member has asked me for a commitment and I do not feel able to give it to him now.

HON F R PICARDO:

I appreciate that and the Chief Minister knows that I have never been in office so, therefore, it is not a practice I have incorporated before. In fact, it is not just that, it is the fact that these schemes have developed and corporate membership of these schemes is possible only, I think, in the past two years. I am not for one moment suggesting that not adopting this code, or this part of the code, results in a position that is illegitimate. Of course, the position until now is legitimate. But as a matter of good corporate governance, given that there is this possibility now and given that joining these schemes involves simply signing up, filling in a form and signing up, as a matter of good corporate governance, even if the Chief Minister will not give a commitment to doing this, would he agree to consider this given that, for example, three Club Class fares across the Atlantic done by one individual on three occasions or by three individuals on one occasion, going into a corporate account can result in the next trip across the Atlantic either being free of charge to the taxpayer who will be meeting the bill, or paid for at an economy rate but actually then transferring the individual across the Atlantic in Club Class, which is the class which the individuals

travel. It is something that would provide a considerable saving, perhaps even of up to ten per cent in the cost of travel in the context of a year's travel. Would the Chief Minister at least agree to consider this more carefully given the potential savings?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, I propose to deliver to the taxpayer savings on the cost of trans-Atlantic travel by more direct means than the hon Member has suggested. I will look into how the corporate thing would work and if it makes it logistically more, the case more compelling, then I will certainly give the matter some further thought to see if our position changes or does not change. But these frequent flyer schemes are not for free and we have also got to be careful, of course, there may be the potential for savings that the hon Member suggests but benefiting from frequent flyer schemes requires one to fly with particular airlines, who do not always offer the cheapest way of getting to one's destination. One needs to be careful that in ensuring that one gets savings when one can, that one does not institutionalise a system where one is, in effect, encouraging everybody to fly in what might not be, in any event, the cheapest option. I will look into the question of the corporate account and see on what terms it is available and whether that alters the balance of the Government's position on the matter.

HON F R PICARDO:

I am obliged. By way of information the Chief Minister might like to know that on joining it is possible to go back six months to obtain air miles and points. So the sooner the consideration happens we might even be able to obtain miles for the June trips that he is no longer going to be doing to New York. I am sure the people of that city will be devastated to know that he will not be there biannually.

NO. 696 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS BY MINISTERS AND SENIOR CIVIL SERVANTS

Can Government say whether Ministers and Senior Civil Servants who are allowed to travel club class by air, are allowed to keep the difference in price in credit for their own personal use if they choose to travel economy or if there is a reduction in the club fare?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

No, Sir, they are not.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 696 OF 2008

HON F R PICARDO:

Would the Chief Minister be surprised if I told him that, in fact, it has come to my attention that certain travel agents allow this practice to occur? Would he investigate that to make sure it does not happen?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes to the first, no the second. It would come as a surprise to me, but I am not going to go and investigate on the basis of the non-information that he has provided to me. If he would provide me with the name of a particular travel agent and a particular incident, I will most certainly investigate it.

HON F R PICARDO:

I will be delighted to do so privately, I think it would be unfair to do so across the floor of this House.

ORAL

NO. 697 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

NEW POWER STATION

On what date does the Government presently anticipate the completion of the new power station it has announced?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Government is currently embarked in the tender process for the appointment of a contractor. The first stage of this process has already been completed and we will very shortly be embarking on the second stage leading to an appointment. It is envisaged that works will not physically commence on site until early to mid 2009. The works are estimated two years.

NO. 698 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

NEW POWER STATION

What, in the Government's view, will make the new announced power station "environmentally friendly"?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I believe that this question asks for an expression of opinion which I will not express. However, the new station uses modern technology and replaces three stations that are using old technology. In addition, the stations are being removed from built up residential areas, will be moved away from built up residential areas, and accordingly there is a significant net environmental gain.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 698 OF 2008

HON F R PICARDO:

The position of the Government is that the new power station will be not environmentally friendly but more environmentally friendly than the three power stations we have at the moment.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well they are not mutually exclusive. It is certainly the position of the Government that the new power station will be more environmentally friendly than the existing arrangements for power generation in Gibraltar. It is not the position of the Government that it is impossible at cost, and if the Government were willing to make technology choices, which it is not willing to make, and fuel burning choices which it is not willing to make, it is possible to have power generation in Gibraltar that would be even more environmentally friendly than what is being built. But it involves burning gases and things which we think brings public safety issues to Gibraltar which the Government are not willing to do. So, the Government do not say that it is not possible to generate electricity in Gibraltar more environmentally friendly than it would be the case with the new power station, but the new power station is environmentally friendly in the sense that it will use leading technology in oil burning power stations, and will represent a gain for that reason, for reason of the fact that

the engines will be new and for reason of the fact that they will be outside of built up areas.

HON F R PICARDO:

I appreciate that. Is there a commitment then from the Government that the generation will be using best available technology in the technology that the Government choose to pursue?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Not necessarily because best available technology also has to be balanced with cost and has to be balanced with the technical ability of people in Gibraltar to work, maintain, overhaul the equipment, so it has to be best available affordable technology, which is compatible with the skills sets that we have in an engineering sense in Gibraltar, for the future maintenance, upkeep and overhauling of that equipment. It is not a one dimensional.....

HON F R PICARDO:

That is actually the definition of "best available technology" in the Directive which is relevant to this.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Alright, well, I am not familiar with that. If that is the definition of "best available technology" balancing cost and all of those issues as well, the answer is yes. In other words, we are not buying the cheapest kit simply because it is the cheapest regardless of the environmental implications of that. Which is not to say that we are buying the most expensive kit. It is a multi-faceted balance and the environment is not least amongst the variables or the factors that have informed the decision.

NO. 699 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

KING'S BASTION LEISURE CENTRE

On what technical advice did the Government decide not to have solar panels fitted to the roof of the Leisure Centre?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Solar panels were not recommended by the design team of the Leisure Centre.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 699 OF 2008

HON F R PICARDO:

Did the Chief Minister not think to propose them himself as Clerk of Works for that particular site?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No.

HON F R PICARDO:

Was that a failure of vision or was it simply not addressing the issue of the environment as strenuously as we are led to believe the Chief Minister does in all his decision making?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

If the hon Member has a sensible question I am perfectly happy to answer it. I am not willing to engage on banter based exclusively on his sarcasm and irony.

HON F R PICARDO:

Was it a failure to appreciate the potential advantages of having solar powered generation on the roof of the Leisure Centre?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Government's expert design team in this project does not think so.

NO. 700 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

KING'S BASTION LEISURE CENTRE

How "regenerative" is the Leisure Centre building?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The meaning of this question is not intelligible to the Government and the Government are thus unable to detect the information being requested. The Government are not required, in any event, to express opinions in answers to questions.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 700 OF 2008

HON F R PICARDO:

First of all, if the Chief Minister were as concerned about the environment he would have read the term "regenerative" in a number of publications that deal with how buildings renew the energy that they use. He obviously is not. Secondly, the question does not call for an opinion, it calls for a statement of fact, how regenerative is the Leisure Centre building?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

That is precisely why the Government cannot answer the question. The Government are entitled to answer questions that it is asked and that it can understand without going off to read whatever publications the hon Member whiles his time away reading in his spare time. Questions should be clear, explicit and not require the Government to have to wonder what it is that the hon Member is after. The word "regenerative" can apply to anything. I do not see why he thinks it should apply just to the environment, he could have meant regenerative of heritage, he could have meant regenerative of leisure facilities, he could have meant regenerative of anything. It is an unintelligible question. It is calculated as a trick question, which would not be of concern to us, if at least we knew what the hon Member wanted answering. This question does not enable us to know what question we are being asked. There is no reluctance, he can try and ask me a supplementary now, if I can help him I will tell him. The question, as it stands, does not enable the Government to deduce, or to

perceive, or to discern what it is being asked and we do not see why we should submit to such questions.

HON F R PICARDO:

Well, despite the bluster and the complaints about my question and Mr Speaker's approval of it, we all know the answer and the answer is that there is no energy regeneration carried out at the Leisure Centre, because there are no solar panels and there is none of the other materials that could have been used in the process of the refurbishment that could have provided some regeneration. But so be it and there lies the Chief Minister's commitment to his own environmental charter.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, none of that is the case because the hon Member is assuming, as only he could know in his mind because he is the author of the question, that by regenerative he means environmentally regenerative. Why the hon Member should think that it is clear that this means environmentally....., why should we assume that this means environmentally regenerative when he has just asked another question specifically about solar panels? Or has he asked the same question twice in different words?

HON F R PICARDO:

No, the Chief Minister clearly does not know what he is talking about. A building does not just have to be regenerative because it has solar panels, there are many other things that can be done to a building to make it regenerative, some of which might not be visible....., of energy.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Ah, but the question does not say that.

HON F R PICARDO:

As the Chief Minister would know if he visited, for example, the Welsh Parliament building, which I understand he has visited already and as the Minister for the Environment knows from our recent CPA Conference, that building regenerates a lot of its electricity. But I cannot take from this attempt to avoid playing a trick on the answer in the question, anything other than the fact that the Chief Minister really is a voice piece for the environment when he thinks it is politically useful to be, but is not really committed when he is the Clerk of Works to a building site, to ensure that what he is building or refurbishing actually does something for the environment.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Look, this Government's commitment to the environment in action makes the previous Government look like environmental terrorists. We do not need commitments to the environment, it is self-evident that the difference between this Government and the GSLP is that when we are in office we do things which suggest

that we are committed to the environment, that when the GSLP is in Government they ignore the environment and when they are in Opposition they pretend to be environmental crusaders. That is the accurate description of our respective positions on this matter and not the one that he has just described. But if he is inviting me, since the question reads "how regenerative is the Leisure Centre building?" and if he thinks that I can apply to the word "regenerative" apply that to whatever field I like, let me say that the Leisure Centre is spectacularly regenerative of important Gibraltar heritage, which the GSLP Government was willing to allow derelict and abandoned for the eight years that it was in office.

HON F R PICARDO:

That is just a party political diatribe which does not address the issue of what has been done at that building.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Inaccurate.

HON F R PICARDO:

Inaccurate in so many respects, that I am not going to descend to ask supplementaries on it.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

How was it inaccurate?

MR SPEAKER:

The hon Member is trying to put the question, I think.

HON F R PICARDO:

That is an invitation to debate, I mean, this is Question Time.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I am not shy about debating.

HON F R PICARDO:

Oh, well, I am quite happy to debate with him anywhere he likes except not here in Question Time, and I am not going to ask any supplementaries xxxxxx on party political diatribe.

MR SPEAKER:

Next question, please.

NO. 701 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

USE OF VEHICLE G1

On how many occasions since he took office has the Chief Minister allowed the vehicle G1 to be used for purposes other than official Government business and what have any such occasions been?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

G1 and its driver are available to the Chief Minister for his use in his capacity as Chief Minister and to support the Chief Minister in the discharge of his duties and responsibilities. It does not necessarily follow that every use of G1 is what the hon Member calls "official Government business". I cannot therefore consider an appropriate answer to the question without knowing exactly what the hon Member means by "official Government business".

ORAL

NO. 702 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

CHIEF MINISTER'S VISITS OVERSEAS

Why is no cost attributed to the cost of air fares in respect of the meetings with various airlines referred to in answer to Written Question No. W2 of 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 703 and 704 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 703 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

CHIEF MINISTER'S VISITS OVERSEAS

Are the figures for airfares provided in answer to Written Question No. W2 of 2008 for the cost of travel by the Chief Minister alone or by the whole of the party travelling with him?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 702 and 704 of 2008.

NO. 704 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

CHIEF MINISTER'S VISITS OVERSEAS

Why is no exact figure available for the cost of accommodation in relation to the answer given to Written Question No. W2 of 2008, in respect of the travel to the UN 4th Committee between 13.12.07 – 18.12.07 (which dates must be wrong, and should be referenced to October and not December 2007)?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Minister for Enterprise, Development, Technology and Transport and I were invited by Mansion to watch a football match between Tottenham Hotspur and Manchester United, which I am glad to say Manchester United won, in London. Mansion are the main sponsors of Tottenham Hotspur. We therefore travelled to the United Kingdom at no cost to the Government.

I took that opportunity to leverage some value for the taxpayer, to meet with the airlines during that visit.

The figure for airfares for the UN trip are in respect of myself alone, which must have been what the question asked. The figure of £620.25 for accommodation is, in fact, correct. The reason for the use of the word "approximately" which is difficult to attribute to the figure of £620.25, was because the amount was being converted from dollars to sterling. I am not sure if that provides a rational explanation, but yes, it should not have had the word "approximately" in effect.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 702 TO 704 OF 2008

HON F R PICARDO:

In relation to Question No. 703 where the Chief Minister has said that the travel to the UN is the cost for himself alone, Question No. 703 does not actually just ask about that. Question No. 703 asks whether the schedule is providing information in relation to air fares for the Chief Minister alone, or whether the schedule sometimes covers the cost of air fares for the party. Can I take it from his answer that all the air fares listed, the cost of all the air fares listed is for the cost of him alone?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, in the question to which his question refers, namely Written Question No. 2 of 2008, yes. But he cannot necessarily generalise that to all the occasions. He asks, "are the figures for air fares provided in answer to Question No. W2 of 2008 for the cost of travel by the Chief Minister alone or by the whole of the party travelling with him?" The answer to that question is that the figures for air fares provided in answer to Question No. W2 of 2008, are for the cost of travel by the Chief Minister alone.

HON F R PICARDO:

It makes sense when the Chief Minister refers me to the travel to the UN Fourth Committee that a trans-Atlantic Club Class fare should cost £2,400, but for a flight to London to cost £1,000 seems quite excessive. I must put it to the Chief Minister, that he will agree with me, that that is not the standard cost for a flexible Club Class fare to London, which at its highest usually reaches £800. That is why I have asked him whether it relates to him and other individuals travelling with him. Can he undertake to look at that cost and ensure that, either it relates only to him or that he gets a better deal on his Club Class flights to London?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, I agree that flying to London is quite expensive, I do not make my travel arrangements and I do not deal with minute detail of that sort. If he will write to me asking precisely what he wants, I will pass it down and I will reply to him.

HON F R PICARDO:

No, the question is whether the answer given today, which is based on an answer given already earlier this year, is accurate and if it is accurate does he agree with me that this is a very elevated cost for a Club Class return to the United Kingdom? It is almost, I would have thought, unprecedented to pay that much for a Club Class return to the UK.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, that is what I have been told. My answer remains the same on the basis of the information that I have provided, and the premise for the hon Member doubting it would not appear to be correct. My colleague, the Hon Mr Britto, is just passing me details of an occasion in June in which he was charged £1,185.90 for a return Club Class fare to London.

HON F R PICARDO:

That is why I put it to him that he needs to look at this in more detail. It seems to me that the only corporation that has been charged over £1,000 to go return to London is the Government.

NO. 705 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

CHIEF MINISTER'S VACATION

Has the Chief Minister, since taking office, ever accepted the hospitality of any company or individual to spend time on any vessel on vacation?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Like other Ministers I am accountable in this House under Standing Order 15, through Opposition questions that relate to the public affairs of Gibraltar, or to a matter of administration for which the Government are responsible.

The Chief Minister is not accountable in this House for the manner in which he spends his vacation. Save as may be required by the rules relating to the registration of Members' interests. If the hon Member thinks that his question raises a matter of public affair of Gibraltar, or a matter of administration for which the Government are responsible, he will need to identify it before I consider answering the question in a different way.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 705 OF 2008

HON F R PICARDO:

Does the Chief Minister not accept that if a Minister of any Government accepts the hospitality of an individual when he is on vacation, that individual may believe, perhaps entirely erroneously, that he may have the ear or some advantage in respect of the Minister who he may have invited on vacation? This is an issue which has been ventilated in many other Parliaments. For example, in the United Kingdom the fact that the Right Hon Tony Blair when he was Prime Minister accepted the hospitality of Cliff Richard in respect of his Barbados villa whilst Mr Richard was pursuing changes in the law in relation to copyright and the length of the period of copyright, was considered to be relevant and were debated.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

In the case of this Government, simple social contact between members of the community and Government Ministers could not possibly lead the citizen to believe that he is capable of gaining an advantage there. But I can understand why the hon

Member might think that it might be different, because indeed it may have been different in times gone by. So I do not accept the basis, I do not accept the premise of his question and frankly, the suggestion that because Ministers interact socially with members of the community, that they or the Ministers may be more or less prone to corruption, is frankly inappropriate. Unless the hon Member can I have invited the hon Member to identify, what I have said to the hon Member is that I am not willing as a matter of system, to account to this House as to how I spend my social life or how I spend my holidays. Unless he can make it a question that relates to the public affairs of Gibraltar or to a matter of administration for which the Government are responsible. So, for example, if the hon Member thought that I have gone on holiday with, or accepted the hospitality of somebody who was a bidder for a contract that the Government was about to allocate, by that means he could make it a matter of public administration and the question would be perfectly proper that it should be both asked and answered. I have therefore said to him, if the hon Member thinks that his question raises a public affair of Gibraltar or a matter of administration for which the Government are responsible, which are the only two things that he can ask me questions on in this House, he will need to identify it before I consider answering the question differently. In other words, he has got to ask a question that raises an issue of a public affair of Gibraltar or a matter of administration for which the Government is responsible. Simply what my holiday arrangements are, is not per se a matter of the public affairs of Gibraltar. The example that he uses of Mr Blair and his Tuscany villas, or his Barbados villas or whatever it is they are, is not comparable because there are rules in the United Kingdom Parliament about registration of such things which do not apply here. But if the hon Member wants to reformulate his question in a way which raises a matter of public administration or a matter of public affairs, I will of course be entirely happy to answer it. But I am not willing to accept that he can simply ask me how I spent my holiday on Thursday 23rd August.

MR SPEAKER:

Before the hon Member moves to pose his next supplementary and before this matter gets out of hand, may I borrow the hon Member's copy of Erskine May? I do recollect. I will ignore everything other than page 344, if I am not mistaken. Yes, page 344, "questions addressed to Ministers should relate to the public affairs with which they are officially connected, to proceedings pending in Parliament, or to matters of administration for which they are responsible". I think the first part of the stricture there relates to public affairs. So the question must be directed.

HON F R PICARDO:

I am obliged. Mr Speaker has, of course, approved this question by allowing it to go on the Order Paper. But.....

MR SPEAKER:

May I call the hon Member back? Page 342, "or on his attention being drawn to an irregularity the Speaker has refused to permit a question to be asked, although it stood upon the Order Paper". So, I have allowed it to be asked, the answer has been provided, any supplementary must bear those in mind.

HON F R PICARDO:

I am very grateful for Mr Speaker's guidance, as usual. I am not asking about simple social contact, we all speak in the street and we might even accept a coffee from someone who is a constituent. I am not raising any allegation of corruption, that word has been only on the Chief Minister's mouth. It is very difficult, other than acting upon gossip or hearsay, to put to the Chief Minister an allegation. But I appreciate the way he has framed his second answer to my supplementary, and perhaps I could rephrase my question in this way. Has the Chief Minister, since taking office, ever accepted the hospitality of any company or individual, spent any time on any vessel on vacation from any individual who may have received any tender, permit or award or concession, since 1996?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The answer to that question is almost certainly yes and it is probably not limited to one. But speaking of gossip, whilst I was spending a very pleasurable two or three days in Ibiza during the summer, I did chance upon his partner Mr Lewis Baglietto, who saw me in the company of the person to whom this question is no doubt intended. Now, in interacting socially with Mr Baglietto in Ibiza, even though I was not staying on his boat, I do not consider Mr Baglietto to be disqualified as a recipient of Government legal instructions in the future.

HON F R PICARDO:

Perhaps if I could pass up Erskine May again, Mr Speaker could find how many rules has that answer breached. There will be no supplementaries on it because I consider it to be so below par for the Chief Minister to make such a personalised intervention in relation to somebody who has absolutely no connection with this question, and no reason to be named across the floor of this House, that I will leave it exactly at that and I will pursue this matter elsewhere.

MR SPEAKER:

Surely this line of questioning, which is perfectly reasonable for an Opposition to pursue within the Parliamentary context, should be raised in the context of their code of conduct rather than across the floor of the House in these circumstances.

HON F R PICARDO:

With the very greatest of respect, I simply asked a question. It may be that there is nothing improper, there may be nothing in respect of a code of conduct, there may be absolutely nothing to talk about here. The Chief Minister has said himself that there actually may be more than one occasion when he has accepted hospitality from people who have been recipients of tenders, permits, awards or concessions. I think it is in the public interest and it relates to the public administration of Gibraltar, perhaps to pursue that further and then to find, I sincerely hope as a citizen and as a Member of this Parliament, that there is nothing untoward and nothing of conduct. But Question Time is to put questions of that sort.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is a typical example of the hon Member pretending that an innocent line of questioning does not have a very specific insinuation objective. It is not the first time he does it, he did it last time as well. The hon Member should be big enough to acknowledge that the purpose of asking this question is to leave people with the impression that I have accepted grace and favour from people who have then benefited. Everybody listening to this debate knows that and the hon Member should have the courage not to run away from that inescapable conclusion. It goes without saying that there has been no impropriety and we do not need any investigation by him to establish it. Although he is free to ask. The issue here is not whether I am willing to say to the hon Member how I spent my summer holiday, perhaps if he bumps into me in the street it is no secret how I spent my summer holiday and where I went and with whom I did not go. The point of my position here today is that I am not willing to put my private life into the political domain as a matter of general questioning by the hon Member. I am willing to make an exception to that rule, as I am obliged to make, it is not even voluntary on my part, if he can establish that it raises a matter of the public affairs or the public administration of Gibraltar. Unless he makes it relevant to my official duties in that way, as the rules require, I am simply not willing to allow him to pry into my private life. It is as simple as that.

HON F R PICARDO:

I assure the Chief Minister that I have no interest whatsoever in his private life. It is for that reason his private life, and if I wanted to know it simply because I wanted to pry into his private affairs, I would have asked him if we would have had the opportunity to take coffee together in the back room. I assure him, although he obviously thinks that size matters and he is one of those men, I am big enough for him and for all his cronies and I have the courage to put my position..... I am gutless, if I am gutless the hon Gentleman has not got a fibre in his being.

MR SPEAKER:

Order, order. Is there a question there?

HON F R PICARDO:

Only to say that as I told the Chief Minister before, I will not be pursuing this in this House, I may do it elsewhere and on the next occasion I may ask him questions which do reflect more clearly on whether he has accepted grace and favour from those who he has said he has accepted it, in respect of each particular tender or award that has been granted. I think, from what the Chief Minister has said, he himself will be obliged to answer it.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Having said that, he still maintains that a sentence which contains the concept, both of grace and favour and of award of tenders, is not intended to insinuate any impropriety on my part. That is why he is gutless, because he flies kites and the moment the wind gets a bit strong he says I am not flying a kite.

HON F R PICARDO:

The terms “awards of tender” and “grace and favour” were introduced into this debate by the Chief Minister and that is why I adopted them. The only person who is gutless in this place is the Chief Minister, who makes his arguments only when he can at a distance and has not got the courage to say to people to their faces and up front outside this Parliament, the things that he says in this House. If anybody is gutless and unprincipled in this place it is the Chief Minister and it has been his position since he entered politics in 1991.

MR SPEAKER:

Order, order. We have had enough of gutless accusations on both sides, I really think we ought to move to the next question.

NO. 706 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

GIBRALTAR CHRONICLE LEASE

Why has the lease of the Gibraltar Chronicle over its old premises at the Garrison Library not yet been transferred to the Government in consideration of the £450,000 paid by the Government to the Chronicle?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The answer is because part of it is still being used by the Gibraltar Chronicle printers.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 706 OF 2008

HON F R PICARDO:

Is there a date when possession is envisaged to be handed over to the Government?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No.

HON F R PICARDO:

Given that the Government are paying £450,000 for a particular property, why does the Government not know when it is going to take possession of it?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Government are not paying, the Government has paid.

HON F R PICARDO:

All the more relevant that the Government have already paid that money and do not seem to know on what date they are going to receive vacant possession of the property. Why is that the case?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Because the Government are quite content for the Chronicle to carry on using it until they no longer need it.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is it that the Government have to provide them with alternative premises for the printing that is carried out there to be carried out somewhere else?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, it has already done that.

HON J J BOSSANO:

This is a complete mystery then. The Government pay money to obtain premises, provides alternatives so that the work that is done in the premises can be carried on somewhere else, and is content that the work is still being done there? What is the point of having bought the place in the first place?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is not a mystery at all, the migration process between the premises is not yet complete.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Oh I see, so then there is a timescale by which it has to be completed, is there?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I am not aware of a specific timescale.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I see, so then if I give him notice he will be able to provide that answer?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

If there is one yes, if there is not one no.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well, is it then the case that in providing this money in order to obtain the premises, the migration process as he calls it is open ended and may last for an indefinite time?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, it could last an indefinite time but certainly the Government are not concerned until it identifies a specific use and wants to put that use to it for the building. The Government are just not concerned at the moment, which is not to say that it is an open ended facility.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So then really the answer is that it is not pressing for the release because it has no immediate function to put there. Is that the position then?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is not pressing because the functions that the Government are considering putting there are not going to happen any time soon.

NO. 707 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

CHIEF MINISTER'S SALARY

What is the present rate of the Chief Minister's salary?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I think, my present salary for office of Chief Minister is £71,179, a snip at the price if one asks me.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 707 OF 2008

HON F R PICARDO:

Yes, not bad for a man without courage. What is the, are there any further allowances payable in respect of that amount?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No allowances are payable in respect of that amount.

HON F R PICARDO:

In addition to that amount the Chief Minister receives the House salary as well, is that correct?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, in addition to that I get what he gets for the little that he does.

HON F R PICARDO:

Believe me, I earn my salary and I am quite happy to defend it and I am sure he is happy to defend his.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I am sure he earns more money than me but not for his xxxxxx

HON F R PICARDO:

I am quite happy to debate this and everything else that the Chief Minister likes, face to face in the back room if he prefers.

NO. 708 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

TENDERS AWARDED TO MR PARDO

Can the Government provide a list of all tenders (whether in respect of the award of property, provision of services or any other type of tender) awarded since May 1996 to Mr Nigel Pardo or to any company in which Mr Pardo is (or was at the time that the relevant tender was granted) either a director, a legal shareholder or an ultimate beneficial shareholder, giving a breakdown by year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The information on tender awards is not maintained by the Government on the basis outlined in the question and is thus not readily available to the Government in any case. Rather, is not readily available to the Government. In any case, the winner of all such tenders (save in respect of services) have been published in the Gazette. The directors and shareholders of successful companies are available to the hon Members by searching the Companies Registry, which is a public register.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 708 OF 2008

HON F R PICARDO:

As the Chief Minister will be aware, it is possible for individuals to be shareholders known to the Government as ultimate beneficial shareholders, but not visible to the public on a search of the public register. For that reason would the Chief Minister consider providing the information?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, the Chief Minister cannot provide the information for the reasons that I have explained and the possibility, the hypothetical possibility, that people may be hiding behind the sort of nominee services that he provides in his professional capacity has not yet been established. Therefore, it is hypothetical. He should go away, see what he can find out in the public register, since he is not allowed to ask me for information which is available in public documents, and then come and ask me whatever he cannot find. But look, if I could put up a list, if I could draw up a list of the tenders for the award of property, provision of services or any other type of tender awarded to Mr Nigel Pardo, and I went back not to 16th May 1996 but to March 1988, I guarantee

him that there would be more items on the list when they were in office than there will be on the list since we were in office after 16th May. That almost for sure, with one difference. The ones he got after 1996 were following tenders, most of them, almost all of them, whereas the ones he got before were practically none with tenders.

HON F R PICARDO:

Perhaps the Chief Minister can provide the list from 1988 that he says he cannot provide from 1996. It is a matter for him but I am sure that we will come back, we will look at this and we will see the value of the guarantees that he brings.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I detect no question there, and therefore we must all get used to the fact that the hon Member thinks that he has a right in this House to have the last word. Even when there is not a supplementary question. For someone who is allegedly obsessive about Standing Orders and things like this, it is a remarkable style that he pursues.

MR SPEAKER:

Order, is there a question? That comment by the Chief Minister was a fair reflection on the absence of a question before. Is there a question now?

HON F R PICARDO:

Yes there is. Would the Chief Minister not accept that I built up my practice, given that he uses Question Time to debate rather than just to answer questions?

MR SPEAKER:

Xxxxxx of the question?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I cannot accept that because I do not know the sort of business that he does in his professional practice. I only know the sort of business I used to do.

ORAL

NO. 709 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

PROVISION OF INSURANCE COVER BY ARGUS INSURANCE COMPANY (EUROPE) LTD

Does Argus Insurance Company (Europe) Ltd (or any related company) provide any insurance cover or other service to the Government or any other statutory authority or public body?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Yes.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 709 OF 2008

HON F R PICARDO:

Which?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is a very long line of business for which I would need notice and provide it to him in writing. But he has not asked in his question for the details, he has asked whether.

HON F R PICARDO:

Yes, and I am sure that given that he knows that it is a very long list, he must have it there. I am quite happy to jot it down whilst he reads it, if he likes.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is too long for me to read and I have not got it in a form that I can hand it to him. So he will have to ask for that specific question next time and it will be given in the usual way.

HON F R PICARDO:

Very well.

NO. 710 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING IN LOCAL NEWSPAPERS

Given his answers in this House, why did the Chief Minister tell the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Parliament in Westminster that the Government had not withdrawn advertising from any newspaper?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Chief Minister is not accountable in this House for what he says outside of it to other people. I confirm that the statements made in this House in relation to this matter are accurate.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 710 OF 2008

HON F R PICARDO:

The Chief Minister is accountable in this House, as he has reminded us, for the public administration of the affairs of Gibraltar. When the Chief Minister was questioned in the Foreign Affairs Committee of Westminster on 5th March this year, he told the questioner who was Mr Andrew Mackinlay, "we have not withdrawn advertising from any newspaper". Yet in supplementaries in answer to Question No. 284 of 2007, the Chief Minister told us that he had withdrawn, or that the Government had withdrawn advertising from the Vox newspaper, because it had not paid arrears of debt. Those two answers are conflictive. It is not in the interests of the public administration of Gibraltar that the leader of Government should give conflicting answers in this House and in another Parliament. Can he clarify the position?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I repeat my answer. I confirm that the statements made in this House, where I am accountable for my statements, are accurate.

HON F R PICARDO:

Given that the Chief Minister has given an answer in another place, whether it is at Westminster or in the street, which conflicts with the answer that he gave here, can he explain why he said something somewhere else as the Chief Minister of Gibraltar?

Not at that stage on vacation in London seeing Andrew on the street, but as Chief Minister of Gibraltar, something which appears not to have been true, given the confirmed veracity of the answer given in this House.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I confirm that the statements made in this House are accurate.

NO. 711 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

JUDGMENT IN LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Do the Government have any date for the delivery of the judgment in the legal proceedings (Court of First Instance register number 240836 and allocated case number T-211/04) against the EU Commission, or any indication of when a date for the delivery of that judgment will be forthcoming?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

No.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 711 OF 2008

HON F R PICARDO:

Are the Government doing anything to try and ascertain when this judgment will be delivered?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Government are doing what they can and what is appropriate, which is to make discreet, indirect enquiries. But as the hon Member must know, it is not normal for litigants to demand from judges when they deliver their judgments and when they do not. He must know that.

HON F R PICARDO:

Absolutely right and I have not suggested that we should. But what have been the results of those discreet enquiries at the Registry of the Court of Justice?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I have not said that the enquiries were at the Registry of the Court of Justice and I am not willing to disclose to him, even confidentially, what the answers to discreet enquiries were, since they would thereby, by definition, cease to be discreet.

HON F R PICARDO:

That is plainly ridiculous, of course. First of all, I never seek information from him confidentially because I do not expect him to take me into his trust. But given that he has already told the House that he has made discreet enquiries, and I am not asking him of whom he made them and the House will forgive me for my assumption, can he tell us what the result of those discreet enquiries has been?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I have not said that I have made enquiries, discreet or otherwise.

HON F R PICARDO:

Will the Chief Minister accept that this is an issue which is, we agree, highly important to the Finance Centre, that we need a judgment as soon as possible, that cases dealing with the same subject matter filed after ours have already been provided with, thankfully, very positive decisions in very similar matters, and that we should do everything possible to ensure within the bounds of what a litigant can do in terms of procuring a judgment in a matter in which he is a party, that we have this ruling as soon as possible for the sake of the Finance Centre in Gibraltar?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Those are facile words. The hon Member knows that it is outside the power of the Government to do anything such as he has just tried to make the moral, political or professional responsibility of the Government. Nor is he right in saying that the helpful cases in which judgment has been delivered earlier, deal with the same subject matter. There is in part a coincidence of issues at stake, in part, it is not to say that they deal with the same subject matter.

ORAL

NO. 712 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

THIRD MONEY LAUNDERING DIRECTIVE

Have the Government now had a chance to consider amending its implementation of the Third Money Laundering Directive in the Criminal Justice (Amendment) Act 2007 to allow for reliance on the due diligence carried out by Company Managers?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

No, Sir, whilst this may be done in due course it is not a priority for the Government in the allocation of drafting resources.

ORAL

NO. 713 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

CHIEF MINISTER'S SECRETARIES AND ASSISTANTS

How many private secretaries and personal assistants does the Chief Minister have?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

My private office consists of nine officials. A Principal Private Secretary; a Private Secretary for legal and legislation issues; a Private Secretary for project, commercial and land issues; a Private Secretary for financial issues; a Personal Assistant and then there are three Executive Officers and one Senior Personal Secretary that support me and the four senior officials that I have listed.

ORAL

NO. 714 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

ROCK HOTEL – CHANGE OF USE

Does the Government have a position, as a matter of policy, on any possible application for change of use in respect of the property presently known as the Rock Hotel?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

It is the policy of the Government that the site of the Rock Hotel should continue to provide Gibraltar with a quality hotel.

ORAL

NO. 715 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TENDERS – COMMERCIAL UNITS AT CHATHAM COUNTERGUARD

Can Government say how many tenders were received for each of the commercial units at Chatham Counterguard?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

A total of 27 tenders The tenders received per unit are as follows:-

Unit	Tenders Received
3	11
4	14
5	17
6	19
7	17
8	18
9	18
10	15
11	16
12	11
13	7

I hope it is clear to the hon Member that the first of those figures is the unit number and the second is the number of applications for it.

ORAL

NO. 716 OF 2008

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 1,802 persons were employed by 19 companies as at 31st August 2008. The breakdown requested by the hon Member is set out in the schedule which I now hand to him.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 716

REMOTE GAMBLING COMPANIES - EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS AS AT 31 AUGUST 2008

	Gibraltarian	Other British	Spanish	Other	Total
Ladbrokes (Gibraltar) Limited	21	72	4	8	105
Victor Chandler (International) Limited	50	164	17	31	262
Stan James (Gibraltar) Limited	6	156	18	55	237
bwin International Limited	23	41	16	120	200
Eurobet (Gibraltar) Limited	10	22	0	4	36
Carmen Media Group Limited	5	4	2	2	13
32 Red P/c	4	30	0	6	40
St Mirren Limited	22	28	15	50	115
Digibet Limited	0	1	0	9	10
888 Holdings P/c	41	106	18	74	239
Globet.com Group Limited	0	9	0	7	16
International Betting Association Limited	0	0	0	6	6
PartyGaming P/c	74	133	15	85	317
Mansion (Gibraltar) Limited	18	104	4	23	149
Futuresbetting.com Limited	1	6	0	0	7
Pantouche Interactive (Gibraltar) Limited	0	2	1	2	5
William Hill (Gibraltar) Limited	1	10	0	1	12
Hillside (Gibraltar) Limited	1	7	0	2	10
Petfre (Gibraltar) Limited	5	17	0	1	23
Overall Total	284	912	110	498	1802

(a)

Source : Ministry of Finance, Gambling Division

(a) Reduction to 4 is attributable to further mis-classifications by 32 Red P/c between Gibraltarians and Other British (March 08 figure for Gibraltarians was 22)

NO. 717 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

ENERGY CHARTER TREATY 2007/GENEVA CONVENTIONS ACT 2007

Can Government say what were the technical reasons why it did not proceed with the Energy Charter Treaty 2007 or the Geneva Conventions Act 2007 last year and indicate when they expect to proceed with them?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

On 9th April 2008 the Government of Gibraltar asked Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom for the Energy Charter Treaty to be extended to Gibraltar. Consideration is now being given to whether we wish the trade amendments also to be extended to Gibraltar.

I am advised by Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom that there are a variety of Geneva Conventions. A raft of Conventions that cover the laws of war and another body that covers copyright issues, just two examples. It is not clear which Geneva Convention the hon Member is referring to.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 717 OF 2008

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The Geneva Conventions Act which was published locally and which we were to consider in this House in 2007, and the Chief Minister advised the House that we were not proceeding with them for technical reasons at this stage. The Act of 2007 which we were going to consider in this House, that is the one.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

So it is the second Geneva Convention, which I advised what?

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Which of the two Geneva Conventions I was referring to is the one that was published as a Bill, circulated to all Members.....

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I was hoping that he would prompt me, jog my memory by just finishing what he was saying that I did not hear about what I had told the House.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

That we are not proceeding with them for technical reasons, the Chief Minister said.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I am sorry, then the drafter of this answer has failed to spot the word "Act", because of course the question actually now, on reflection, does not refer to Conventions but to the Conventions Act, for which a wholly different answer would have been available. But I regret I do not have the answer. I do not remember what the Geneva Conventions Act was precisely about now on my feet here, but there was certainly a reason why it was not proceeded with and that would be available to me now to give him, had the question not been misread. I apologise. I will provide him with the answer.

NO. 718 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

INFRACTION PROCEEDINGS

Can Government say whether the European Union has opened any new infraction proceedings against the United Kingdom for the non-implementation of EU Directives in Gibraltar since the last Question Time in this House, and if so when, what Directives does it relate to and at what stage are the infraction proceedings?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The stage is all infraction stage and the Article 266 letters were issued on 25th July 2008 in the five cases which I will now refer him to.

Directive 2006/7/EC concerning the management of bathing water quality.

Directive 2006/23/EC on Community air traffic controller licence.

Directive 2006/32/EC on energy end-use efficiency and energy services (which actually repeals a previous Directive).

Directive 2006/43/EC on statutory audits of annual accounts and consolidated accounts.

Directive 2006/21/EC on the management of waste from extractive industries

In this last case the Government is querying the applicability of the Directive to Gibraltar.

NO. 719 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

POST-BOXING BY COMPETENT AUTHORITIES OF GIBRALTAR AND SPAIN

Can Government list the competent authorities of Gibraltar and those of Spain that made or received each post-boxing request through the UK shown in the table given in answer to Question No. 298 of 2008 in the period 2000-2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I now hand the hon Member eight pages of closely typed print, which will give to the hon Member details of the 133 cases, no it is more than that. He will see that the numbering reference is by year, so there were 133 of them in 2007 alone. But anyway, they are all there broken down by year and by authority and by subject matter. If he has got nothing better to read, I can recommend a very good book to him that I have just finished.

Answer to Question 719

Competent Authorities of Gibraltar and Spain that made or received post-boxing requests in the period 2000 – 2008

Year 2000 (Outgoing)

Post-Box ref	Issuing Authority	Receiving Authority
PB/01/00	Environmental Agency, Gibraltar	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla
PB/02/00	Environmental Agency, Gibraltar	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla
PB/03/00	Environmental Agency, Gibraltar	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla
PB/06/00	Financial Services Commission, Gibraltar	Director de Instituciones Finacieeras, Bank of Spain, Madrid, Spain
PB/07/00	Environmental Agency Gibraltar	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla
PB/09/00	Environmental Agency Gibraltar	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla
PB/10/00	Environmental Agency Gibraltar	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla

Year 2001 (Incoming)

Post-Box ref	Issuing Authority	Receiving Authority
(I) PB/01/01	Court of First Instance & Instruction No2, Fuengirola, Spain	Supreme Court of Gibraltar
(I) PB/03/01	Agencia Tributaria, Madrid	Income Tax Department, Gibraltar
(I) PB/04/01	Court of First Instance No3 of Ronda, Spain	Attorney General's Chambers, Gibraltar
(I) PB/06/01	Central Examining Court No 4, Madrid, Spain	Attorney General's Chambers, Gibraltar

Year 2001 (Outgoing)

Post-Box ref	Issuing Authority	Receiving Authority
PB/01/01	Environmental Agency, Gibraltar	Dirreccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla
PB/02/01	Financial Services Commission, Gibraltar	Ministerio de Economia Y Hacienda, Spain
PB/03/01	Environmental Agency, Gibraltar	Dirreccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla
PB/04/01	Financial Services Commission, Gibraltar	Spanish Supervisory Authority
PB/06/01	Financial Services Commission, Gibraltar	Direccion General de Seguros, Spain
PB/07/01	Environmental Agency, Gibraltar	Dirreccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla
PB/08/01	Environmental Agency, Gibraltar	Dirreccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla
PB/09/01	Supreme Court of Gibraltar	Judicial & Enforcement Authority, Spain

Contd.....

Contd Answer to Question 719**Year 2002 (Incoming)**

Post-Box ref	Issuing Authority	Receiving Authority
(I) PB/01/02	Servicio Ejecutivo de la Comision de Prevencion del Blanqueo de Capitales or Infracciones Monetarias	Gibraltar Financial Intelligence Unit (GFIU)
(I) PB/05/02	Servicio Ejecutivo de la Comision de Prevencion del Blanqueo de Capitales or Infracciones Monetarias	Gibraltar Financial Intelligence Unit (GFIU)
(I) PB/07/02	Spanish Ministerio de Economia	Financial Services Commission, Gibraltar

Year 2002 (Outgoing)

Post-Box ref	Issuing Authority	Receiving Authority
PB/01/02	Environmental Agency, Gibraltar	Dirreccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla
PB/03/02	Environmental Agency, Gibraltar	Dirreccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla
PB/04/02	Financial Services Commission, Gibraltar	Direccion Nacional de Seguros, Spain
PB/05/02	Financial Services Commission, Gibraltar	Bank of Spain
PB/06/02	Environmental Agency, Gibraltar	Dirreccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla
PB/11/02	Financial Services Commission, Gibraltar	Spanish Insurance Supervisory Authority
PB/12/02	Financial Services Commission, Gibraltar	Direccion Nacional de Seguros, Spain

Year 2003 (Incoming)

Post-Box ref	Issuing Authority	Receiving Authority
(I) PB/03/03	Spanish Ministerio de Economia	Financial Services Commission, Gibraltar
(I) PB/12/03	Spanish Ministerio de Economia	Financial Services Commission, Gibraltar

Year 2003 (Outgoing)

Post-Box ref	Issuing Authority	Receiving Authority
PB/01/03	Environmental Agency, Gibraltar	Dirreccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla
PB?03/03	Environmental Agency, Gibraltar	Dirreccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla
PB/04/03	Environmental Agency, Gibraltar	Dirreccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla
PB/05/03	Environmental Agency, Gibraltar	Dirreccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla
PB/09/03	Financial Services Commission, Gibraltar	Ministerio de Economia, Spain
PB/14/03	Financial Services Commission, Gibraltar	Ministerio de Economia, Spain
PB/26/03	Financial Services Commission, Gibraltar	Bank of Spain
PB/33/03	Financial Services Commission, Gibraltar	Bank of Spain

Contd.....

PB/34/03	Environmental Agency, Gibraltar	Dirreccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla
PB/44/03	Financial Services Commission, Gibraltar	Bank of Spain
PB/46/03	Environmental Agency, Gibraltar	Dirreccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla
PB/47/03	Financial Services Commission, Gibraltar	Bank of Spain
PB/52/03	Environmental Agency, Gibraltar	Dirreccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla
PB/53/03	Environmental Agency, Gibraltar	Dirreccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla
PB/54/03	Environmental Agency, Gibraltar	Dirreccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla
PB/55/03	Environmental Agency, Gibraltar	Dirreccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla
PB/73/03	Financial Services Commission, Gibraltar	Bank of Spain
PB/78/03	Environmental Agency, Gibraltar	Dirreccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla

Year 2004 (Incoming)

Post-Box ref	Issuing Authority	Receiving Authority
(I) PB/04/04	Spanish Ministerio de Economia	Financial Services Commission, Gibraltar
(I) PB/05/04	Spanish Ministerio de Economia	Financial Services Commission, Gibraltar

Year 2004 (Outgoing)

Post-Box ref	Issuing Authority	Receiving Authority
PB/06/04	Supreme Court, Gibraltar	Ministerio de Justicia, Spain
PB/10/04	Financial Services Commission, Gibraltar	Direccion General de Seguros y Fondos de Pensiones
PB/17/04	Environmental Agency, Gibraltar	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla
PB/19/04	Supreme Court, Gibraltar	Ministerio de Justicia, Spain
PB/40/04	Financial Services Commission, Gibraltar	Direccion General de Seguros y Fondos de Pensiones
PB/43/04	Financial Services Commission, Gibraltar	Comision Nacional del Mercado de Valores
PB/45/04	Financial Services Commission, Gibraltar	Comision Nacional del Mercado de Valores
PB/47/04	Chief Secretary	Ministerio de Justicia, Spain
PB/48/04	Environmental Agency, Gibraltar	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla
PB/50/04	Supreme Court, Gibraltar	Ministerio de Justicia, Spain
PB/54/04	Environmental Agency, Gibraltar	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla
PB/57/04	Environmental Agency, Gibraltar	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla
PB/59/04	Environmental Agency, Gibraltar	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla
PB/61/04	Environmental Agency, Gibraltar	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla

Contd.....

Contd Answer to Question 719**Year 2005 (Incoming)**

Post-Box ref	Issuing Authority	Receiving Authority
(I) PB/14/05	Oficina Nacional de Investigacion, Spain	Commissioner of Income Tax

Year 2005 (Outgoing)

Post-Box ref	Issuing Authority	Receiving Authority
PB/02/05	Financial Services Commission, Gibraltar	Comision Nacional del Mercado de Valores
PB/16/05	Financial Services Commission, Gibraltar	Direccion General de Seguros, Spain
PB/28/05	Financial Services Commission, Gibraltar	Direccion General de Seguros, Spain
PB/36/05	Supreme Court, Gibraltar	Ministerio de Justicia, Spain
PB/37/05	Supreme Court, Gibraltar	Secretaria del Juzgado de Instruccion
PB/38/05	Supreme Court, Gibraltar	First Instance and Trial Court No 2 of Vera Spain
PB/43/05	Financial Services Commission, Gibraltar	Direccion General de Seguros, Spain
PB/44/05	Financial Services Commission, Gibraltar	Direccion General de Seguros, Spain
PB/49/05	Environmental Agency, Gibraltar	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla
PB/52/05	Financial Services Commission, Gibraltar	Direccion General de Seguros, Spain
PB/53/05	Financial Services Commission, Gibraltar	Direccion General de Seguros, Spain
PB/55/05	Financial Services Commission, Gibraltar	Direccion General de Seguros, Spain
PB/60/05	Financial Services Commission, Gibraltar	Direccion General de Seguros, Spain
PB/62/05	Financial Services Commission, Gibraltar	Direccion General de Seguros, Spain
PB/68/05	Environmental Agency, Gibraltar	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla
PB/70/05	Financial Services Commission, Gibraltar	Direccion General de Seguros, Spain
PB/73/05	Financial Services Commission, Gibraltar	Direccion General de Seguros, Spain
PB/74/05	Financial Services Commission, Gibraltar	Direccion General de Seguros, Spain
PB/75/05	Environmental Agency, Gibraltar	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla
PB/77/05	Financial Services Commission, Gibraltar	Direccion General de Seguros, Spain
PB/80/05	Financial Services Commission, Gibraltar	Bank of Spain
PB/82/05	Financial Services Commission, Gibraltar	Bank of Spain
PB/100/05	Environmental Agency, Gibraltar	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla
PB/101/05	Financial Services Commission, Gibraltar	Direccion General de Seguros, Spain
PB/102/05	Financial Services Commission, Gibraltar	Direccion General de Seguros, Spain
PB/109/05	Financial Services Commission, Gibraltar	Direccion General de Seguros, Spain
PB/114/05	Environmental Agency, Gibraltar	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla
PB/115/05	Environmental Agency, Gibraltar	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla
PB/116/05	Financial Services Commission, Gibraltar	Direccion General de Seguros, Spain
PB/119/05	Environmental Agency, Gibraltar	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla
PB/120/05	Environmental Agency, Gibraltar	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla

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Contd Answer to Question 719

PB/126/05	Financial Services Commission, Gibraltar	Direccion General de Seguros, Spain
PB/128/05	Supreme Court, Gibraltar	Ministerio de Justicia
PB/129/05	Environmental Agency, Gibraltar	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla
PB/132/05	Financial Services Commission, Gibraltar	Direccion General de Seguros, Spain

Year 2006 (Incoming)

Post-Box ref	Issuing Authority	Receiving Authority
(I) PB/07/06	Oficina Nacional del Fraude	Commissioner of Income Tax
(I) PB/10/06	Ministerio de Justicia	Supreme Court, Gibraltar
(I) PB/16/06	Ministerio de Justicia	Supreme Court, Gibraltar
(I) PB/18/06	Juzgado de Instruccion No1, Cadiz	Supreme Court, Gibraltar
(I) PB/19/06	Ministerio de Justicia	Attorney General Chambers

Year 2006 (Outgoing)

Post-Box ref	Issuing Authority	Receiving Authority
PB/01/06	Environmental Agency, Gibraltar	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla
PB/06/06	Financial Services Commission, Gibraltar	Bank of Spain
PB/13/06	Environmental Agency, Gibraltar	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla
PB/16/06	Environmental Agency, Gibraltar	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla
PB/20/06	Environmental Agency, Gibraltar	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla
PB/21/06	Environmental Agency, Gibraltar	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla
PB/26/06	Environmental Agency, Gibraltar	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla
PB/33/06	Environmental Agency, Gibraltar	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla
PB/46/06	Financial Services Commission, Gibraltar	Direccion General de Seguros, Spain
PB/54/06	Environmental Agency, Gibraltar	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla
PB/56/06	Financial Services Commission, Gibraltar	Director General de Supervision
PB/73/06	Environmental Agency, Gibraltar	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla
PB/75/06	Financial Services Commission, Gibraltar	Bank of Spain
PB/78/06	Environmental Agency, Gibraltar	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla
PB/107/06	Financial Services Commission, Gibraltar	Bank of Spain

Contd.....

Contd Answer to Question 719**Year 2007 (Incoming)**

Post-Box ref	Issuing Authority	Receiving Authority
(I) PB/01/07	Oficina Nacional del Fraude	Income Tax Department, Gibraltar
(I) PB/02/07	Direccion General de Seguros y Pensiones	Financial Services Commission, Gibraltar
(I) PB/05/07	Ministerio de Justicia, Spain	Supreme Court, Gibraltar
(I) PB07/07	Ministerio de Economia Y Hacienda, Spain	Financial Services Commission, Gibraltar
(I) PB/ 08/07	Ministerio de Justicia, Spain	Attorney General's Chambers
(I) PB/09/07	Ministerio de Justicia, Spain	Government of Gibraltar
(I) PB/11/07	Ministerio de Economia Y Hacienda, Spain	Financial Services Commission, Gibraltar
(I) PB/12/07	Ministerio de Economia Y Hacienda, Spain	Financial Services Commission, Gibraltar
(I) PB/13/07	Ministerio de Economia Y Hacienda, Spain	Financial Services Commission, Gibraltar
(I) PB/21/07	Ministerio de Economia Y Hacienda, Spain	Financial Services Commission, Gibraltar
(I) PB/23/07	Ministerio de Justicia, Spain	Attorney General's Chambers
(I) PB/24/07	Ministerio de Economia Y Hacienda, Spain	Financial Services Commission, Gibraltar
(I) PB/ 25/07	Ministerio de Justicia, Spain	Attorney General's Chambers
(I) PB/29/07	Ministerio de Economia Y Hacienda, Spain	Financial Services Commission, Gibraltar
(I) PB/30/07	Administracion de Justicia, Spain	Supreme Court, Gibraltar
(I) PB/34/07	Ministerio de Economia Y Hacienda, Spain	Financial Services Commission, Gibraltar
(I) PB/36/07	Oficina Nacional del Fraude	Commissioner of Income Tax
(I) PB/37/07	Oficina Nacional del Fraude	Commissioner of Income Tax
(I) PB/39/07	Consejeria de Medio Ambiente, Spain	Environmental Agency
(I) PB/40/07	Administracion de Justicia, Spain	Registrar of the Supreme Court
(I) PB/41/07	Ministerio de Justicia, Spain	Attorney General's Chambers
(I) PB/42/07	Ministerio de Justicia, Spain	Attorney General's Chambers
(I) PB/4807	Ministerio de Economia Y Hacienda, Spain	Financial Services Commission, Gibraltar
(I) PB/51/07	Ministerio de Justicia, Spain	Supreme Court, Gibraltar
(I) PB/53/07	Ministerio de Justicia, Spain	Attorney General's Chambers
(I) PB/58/07	Administracion de Justicia, Spain	Registrar of the Supreme Court
(I) PB/60/07	Ministerio de Economia Y Hacienda, Spain	Financial Services Commission, Gibraltar

Contd.....

Contd Answer to Question 719**Year 2007 (Outgoing)**

Post-Box ref	Issuing Authority	Receiving Authority
PB/17/07	Attorney General's Chambers	Ministerio de Justicia, Spain
PB/20/07	Financial Services Commission, Gibraltar	Bank of Spain
PB/21/07	Environmental Agency, Gibraltar	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla
PB/22/07	Environmental Agency, Gibraltar	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla
PB/24/07	Financial Services Commission, Gibraltar	Mercados Secundarios, Spain
PB/25/07	Financial Services Commission, Gibraltar	Bank of Spain
PB/27/07	Financial Services Commission, Gibraltar	Direccion General de Seguros y Fondos
PB/28/07	Environmental Agency, Gibraltar	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla
PB/29/07	Environmental Agency, Gibraltar	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla
PB/38/07	Financial Services Commission, Gibraltar	Direccion General de Seguros y Pensiones
PB/40/07	Environmental Agency, Gibraltar	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla
PB/44/07	Financial Services Commission, Gibraltar	Direccion General de Seguros y Pensiones
PB/53/07	Supreme Court	Ministerio de Justicia, Spain
PB/55/07	Environmental Agency, Gibraltar	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla
PB/56/07	Financial Services Commission, Gibraltar	Direccion General de Seguros y Pensiones
PB/63/07	Financial Services Commission, Gibraltar	Direccion General de Seguros y Pensiones
PB/91/07	Financial Services Commission, Gibraltar	Direccion General de Seguros y Pensiones
PB/93/07	Environmental Agency, Gibraltar	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla
PB/101/07	Environmental Agency, Gibraltar	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla
PB/102/07	Environmental Agency, Gibraltar	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla
PB/106/07	Financial Services Commission, Gibraltar	Direccion General de Seguros y Pensiones
PB/108/07	Financial Services Commission, Gibraltar	Direccion General de Seguros y Pensiones
PB/113/07	Financial Services Commission, Gibraltar	Direccion General de Seguros y Pensiones
PB/117/07	Environmental Agency, Gibraltar	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla
PB/120/07	Environmental Agency, Gibraltar	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla
PB/121/07	Financial Services Commission, Gibraltar	Director General de Seguros y Fondos
PB/122/07	Environmental Agency, Gibraltar	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla
PB/128/07	Financial Services Commission, Gibraltar	Direccion General de Seguros y Pensiones
PB/133/07	Financial Services Commission, Gibraltar	Direccion General de Seguros y Pensiones

Contd.....

Contd Answer to Question 719**Year 2008 (Incoming)**

Post-Box ref	Issuing Authority	Receiving Authority
(I) PB/04/08	Juzgado de 1a Instancia, Marbella, Spain	Supreme Court, Gibraltar
(I) PB/07/08	Ministerio de Justicia, Spain	Attorney General
(I) PB/10/08	Juzgado de 1a Instancia, San Roque, Spain	Attorney General
(I) PB11/08	Juzgado de 2a Instancia, Almeria, Spain	Supreme Court, Gibraltar
(I) PB12/08	Ministerio de Justicia, Spain	Attorney General
(I) PB13/08	Court of First Instance, Belgium	Attorney General
(I) PB/14/08	Court of First Instance No 3, Spain	Supreme Court, Gibraltar

Year 2008 (Outgoing)

Post-Box ref	Issuing Authority	Receiving Authority
PB/05/08	Environmental Agency, Gibraltar	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla
PB/08/08	Environmental Agency, Gibraltar	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla
PB/10/08	Financial Services Commission, Gibraltar	Comision Nacional del Mercado de Valores
PB/17/08	Attorney General	Ministerio de Justicia, Spain
PB/19/08	Environmental Agency, Gibraltar	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla
PB/20/08	Environmental Agency, Gibraltar	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla
PB/23/08	Environmental Agency, Gibraltar	Direccion General de Prevencion y Calidad Ambiental, Sevilla

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTIO NO. 719 OF 2008

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Just to clarify a figure. The actual table the question refers to in respect of Spain for 2007 shows 29 outgoing and 27 incoming. The Chief Minister said 137 if I remember correctly or 133?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

There is a page full of outgoing and a page full of incoming but I do not think it is 133 of any category. So the numbering plan does not appear to be..... I do not know. I had assumed that the numbering plan was continuous and as the last number was 133, but it is not. Yes, it is possible if he wants some more information. It is possible that the question asks for Spain, so the gaps are maybe to other Member States.

ORAL

NO. 720 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

NEW HARBOURS INDUSTRIAL PARK

Can Government say how many tenants there are in New Harbours and how many of these have indicated an interest in purchasing their unit from the Government?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

There are 92 tenants in New Harbours. Of these, ten are Government Departments, Companies or Agencies, leaving 82 eligible to purchase. Of those, 30 to date have expressed an interest to buy their leases.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 720 OF 2008

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is there a price per square metre for the sale?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

There is a price per square metre, from memory so please do not accuse me of electoral fraud if I got it wrong. It is £1,000 a square metre.

ORAL

NO. 721 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

IMPORT DUTY COLLECTED – NON-COMMERCIAL GATE

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 the information supplied at the last Question Time in this Parliament?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 722 of 2008.

NO. 722 OF 2008**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 the information supplied at the last Question Time in this Parliament?

ANSWER**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

In respect of the collections from persons in the non-commercial gate, starting with March 2008 and then monthly thereafter:-

March 2008	-	£18,627.20
April 2008	-	£17,167.07
May 2008	-	£19,155.06
June 2008	-	£14,874.64
July 2008	-	£13,531.94
August 2008	-	£11,017.12

In respect of import duty collected on building materials over the same monthly periods:-

March 2008	-	£269,718.21
April 2008	-	£93,844.30
May 2008	-	£125,305.15
June 2008	-	£132,036.66
July 2008	-	£141,268.63
August 2008	-	£96,008.43

ORAL

NO. 723 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

MINISTERS' AIR TRAVEL

Can Government list the cost of air travel incurred by each individual Minister and the Chief Minister on official business since the information supplied at the last Question Time in this Parliament, with a breakdown showing the date of travel, the destination, the airline, the category of seat paid for and the travel agent that was used to make the booking?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I now hand the hon Member a schedule containing the information and his colleague, although not of the same party, the Hon Mr Picardo, may be interested to see the information about the cost of Club Class fares to London.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 723/2008

CHIEF MINISTER'S AIR TRAVEL

Destination	Dates	Amount	Airline	Seat Category	Travel Agent
London	07.05.08 – 10.05.08	£944.50	British Airways	Club Class	Blands
Geneva	21.05.08 – 23.05.08	£215.00	Easyjet	N/A	Blands
New York - London	17.06.08 – 24.06.08	£3,626.50	British Airways	Club Class	Blands
London	01.07.08 – 03.07.08	£909.80	British Airways	Club Class	Blands
London	08.07.08 – 09.07.08	£909.80	British Airways	Club Class	Blands

CONTD ANSWER TO QUESTION 723/2008

MINISTERS' AIR TRAVEL

Minister	Destination	Dates	Amount	Airline	Seat Category	Travel Agent
Minister Holliday	London	04-08 April 08	£170.00	Easyjet	N/A	Blands
	London	15-16 May 08	£398.50	British Airways	Club Class	Blands
Minister Britto	London	09-10 April 08	£198.00	Easyjet	N/A	Blands
	London	01-02 May 08	£868.50	British Airways	Club Class	Blands
	London	12-13 June 08	£1,185.90	British Airways	Club Class	Blands
	London-Manchester	12-13 June 08	£289.20	British Airways	Economy	Blands
	London	21-22 July 08	£386.00	Easyjet	N/A	Blands
	London-Malaysia	03-11 August 08	£5,423.10	British Airways-Japan Airlines-Singapore Airlines	Club Class	Blands

ORAL

NO. 724 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

NEW GIBRALTAR OFFICE IN LONDON – COST

Can Government provide the cost, with a breakdown of the purchase of the new Gibraltar office in London including the legal and other expenses associated with it?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 725 of 2008.

NO. 725 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

NEW GIBRALTAR OFFICE IN LONDON – REFURBISHING COSTS

Can Government say what are the estimated refurbishing costs, with a breakdown, of the new Gibraltar office in London?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The wonderful freehold property at 150 The Strand, which the Government will use for its new offices and other facilities for Gibraltar-based industries, was purchased for £4.375 million.

Other expenses related to the purchase were: Stamp Duty £300,000; the refurbishment and building works in progress which were taken over, they were already in hand at the time of the purchase in the previous ownership is worth £900,000; legal fees, surveyors fees and other professional fees amounted to £200,000; other refurbishment works over and above the ones that were already in hand, which the Government have decided to do £500,000; and furniture and fittings have so far cost £100,000.

It is a basement plus ground and then four more storeys, so it is a six storey building including basement and ground.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 724 AND 725 OF 2008

HON J J BOSSANO:

Are these costs met by the Government from the Improvement and Development Fund or is it being done through a Government company?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, this acquisition has been funded by a mortgage facility from a bank to the Government company that owns the building. I cannot tell him off hand what the name of the company is but it reflects the property. I think it is called The Strand property or 150 The Strand Limited or something like that.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is it a Government company that is incorporated in Gibraltar or in the UK?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I am almost certain it is incorporated in Gibraltar but I cannot be 100 per cent certain of that.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is the mortgage facility being provided in the UK then, notwithstanding the fact that the company is here?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The mortgage facility has been provided by a bank that has branches both in Gibraltar and in the UK.

HON J J BOSSANO:

But is it a UK originating or a Gibraltar originating mortgage? Who does the company pay? Does it pay somebody here or somebody there?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not know. I suspect it is somebody here, it is no secret, I think it is the Royal Bank of Scotland. I do not know whether they booked it in the London Branch or whether they booked it in the Gibraltar Branch, I just do not know. But certainly the payments are administered from here by the Financial Secretary.

ORAL

NO. 726 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

EIA – AIRPORT ROAD AND AIR TERMINAL PROJECTS

Can Government say who conducted the EIA into the airport road and air terminal projects, at what cost and on what date was this submitted to the Government?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The EIA was conducted by Environmental Gain Limited. The cost of the EIA for the airport terminal has been £141,507.93 and £116,111.92 for the new road. The EIA for the airport terminal was submitted by the Government to the Development and Planning Commission on the 6th December 2007, and for the new road on 17th December 2007.

NO. 727 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

NEW AIR TERMINAL – TENDER FOR CONSTRUCTION

Can Government confirm whether the award of the tender for the construction of the new air terminal and related facilities to Dragados SA in the sum of 59 million euros was the lowest tender received?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Yes.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 727 OF 2008

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is the tender a Government tender and therefore this is a contract between Dragados and the Government? Or is there some other entity in the middle?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I am 99.9 per cent certain that it is the Government not a company.

HON J J BOSSANO:

It is not the Gibraltar Development Corporation that happens to be the owner of the existing terminal?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No.

NO. 728 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

NEW AIR TERMINAL – TENDER FOR CONSTRUCTION

Can Government supply a list of all the companies that tendered for the construction of the new air terminal and related facilities showing the amount bid in each case?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Government are advised that it is not commercially appropriate to publish the names of unsuccessful tenderers. The name and amount of the winner and the amounts, but not the names of the unsuccessful bids will be gazetted in due course. Indeed, it may already have been done. I do not know if the hon Member has seen it or not. But I am told that this is how it has always been done. One publishes the name of the winner and the amount, the same answer as I gave the Hon Mr Bruzon, and the amounts but not the names of the unsuccessful bids, obviously so people can see if it was given to the highest one or to whom, but not the names of the unsuccessful bidders.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 728 OF 2008

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Does he have the other amounts available to give across the floor of the House?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, I have not.

ORAL

NO. 729 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

LAND AND PROPERTY SALES

Can Government give a breakdown of the revenue collected from land and property sales since the information supplied during the last Question Time in this Parliament, giving the date the revenue was received, the name of the land/property and the cash received in each case and from whom?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The very extensive information that the hon Member seeks is given to him on the three pages that are now being handed to him.

Answer to Question 729 of 2008

Residential Property Sales From 1 March 2008 To 31 August 2008 (Improvement And Development Fund)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Tenant</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>
Mar-08	B Alvares	Part payment of GOG share with 4E Rulander	£30.00
Mar-08	R Peire	Sale of 2C Elliotts Battery	£47,600.00
Apr-08	R & M Estella	Premium iro of 150 Year Lease for 51C Europa Road	£2,000.00
Apr-08	Messrs J Casciaro	10% Deposit iro Sale of 2/4 North Pavilion Road	£30,350.00
Apr-08	C & L Avellano	Premium iro Surrender & Grant of 99 Year Lease for 15 Rosia Steps	£34,000.00
Apr-08	B Alvares	Part payment of GOG share iro Sale of 4E Rulander (Pd by S/O 14/4/08)	£30.00
May-08	B Alvares	Part payment of GOG share iro Sale of 4E Rulander (Pd by S/O 13/5/08)	£30.00
May-08	Mr & Mrs A Garro	GOG Share IRO Sale 4C Rulander House	£13,524.58
May-08	Messrs M Yome	10% Deposit iro Sale of Vista Alegre, 16/20 Europa Road	£125,800.00
May-08	Mr & Mrs Llamas	90% Balance iro Sale of 3 Johnstones Passage	£168,300.00
Jun-08	B Alvares	Part payment of GOG share iro Sale of 4E Rulander (Pd by S/O 12/6/08)	£30.00
Jun-08	M & P Casciaro	90% Balance iro Sale of Lower Elms, 2/4 North Pavilion Road	£273,150.00
Jul-08	B Alvares	Part payment of GOG share iro Sale of 4E Rulander (Pd by S/O 14/7/08)	£30.00
Jul-08	J C & E V Perez	Sale of 4/8 Centre Pavilion Road	£495,000.00
Jul-08	J K & G Lopez	Premium iro strip of land leading to 33A Europa Road	£3,390.00
Aug-08	B Alvares	Part payment of GOG share iro Sale of 4E Rulander (Pd by S/O 12/8/08)	£30.00
Aug-08	M & I Yome	90% Balance iro Sale of Vista Alegre, 16/20 Europa Road	£1,132,200.00
			£2,325,494.58

contd....

Contd Answer to Question 729 of 2008

Commerical Property Sales From 1 March 2008 To 31 August 2008 (Improvement And Development Fund)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Tenant</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>
Mar-08	Casino Calpe	Part payment of 51 Line Wall Road	£1,964.00
Mar-08	Care Care Centre	Premium iro 99 year lease for Unit 1, 59 Devil's Tower Road	£40,000.00
May-08	Casino Calpe	Part Payment iro 51 Line Wall Road	£1,964.00
Jun-08	Casino Calpe	Part Payment iro 51 Line Wall Road	£982.00
Jul-08	Casino Calpe	Part Payment iro 51 Line Wall Road	£982.00
Jul-08	Abco Int	Premium iro Development of Six Houses on plot opposite Both Worlds	£135,000.00
Jul-08	Runciman Ltd	Premium iro construction of additional floor to Blake House	£10,000.00
Aug-08	Casino Calpe	Part Payment iro 51 Line Wall Road	£982.00
			£2,517,368.58

Cont....

Contd Answer to Question 729 of 2008

Residential Property Sales From 1 March 2008 To 31 August 2008 (Government-Owned Companies)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Tenant</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>
Mar-08	Mr Gabay	Sale of 3/1 Centre Pavilion Road	£101,300.00
Mar-08	M A & ME Walsh	10% Sale of Apartment 4 F Block, 2 Naval Hospital Hill	£28,750.00
Apr-08	Ocania & Molina	20% Sale of 21 Palm Tree Lodge	£29,902.30
Apr-08	Mr & Mrs Poggio	50% Sale of 26 Melbourne Court & CPS No. 953	£38,042.88
May-08	Mr Alman	40% Sale of 27 Halifax Court	£38,460.34
May-08	Mr & Mrs Gonzalez	50% Sale of 19 Nassau Court	£37,741.60
May-08	Mr & Mrs Caetano	Sale of Flat No. 2 Electra Flats	£100,400.00
May-08	Z & J Benneworth	90% Sale of Apartment 1 F Block, 2 Naval Hospital Hill	£257,175.00
May-08	H & A Benitez	90% Sale of Apartment 3 F Block, 2 Naval Hospital Hill	£258,750.00
Jun-08	M A & ME Walsh	90% Sale of Apartment 4 F Block, 2 Naval Hospital Hill	£258,750.00
Jun-08	Mr G Guiliano	10% Deposit iro 5 Castle Steps and 7/9 Richardsons Passage	£1,000.00
Jun-08	Mr & Mrs Pardo	Deposit fee iro Flat 4 Sandpits	£500.00
Jun-08	Mr & Mrs Russo	Deposit fee iro Flat 5 Sandpits	£13,500.00
Jun-08	Mr & Mrs Collado	Deposit fee iro Flat 8 Sandpits	£13,500.00
Jun-08	Mr & Mrs Soiza	Deposit fee iro Flat 9 Sandpits	£13,500.00
Jun-08	Ms Budhrani & Mr T Garcia	Deposit fee iro Flat 10 Sandpits	£13,500.00
Jun-08	Mr & Mrs Bocarisa	Deposit fee iro Flat 11 Sandpits	£500.00
Jun-08	Mr & Mrs Rodriguez	Deposit fee iro Flat 12 Sandpits	£500.00
Jun-08	Mr & Mrs Goodman	50% Sale of 1/3 Daninos Ramp	£18,800.00
Jun-08	Mr & Mrs Goodman	Sale of 1/4 Daninos Ramp	£21,800.00
Jun-08	Mr & Mrs Bruzon	Sale of Flat No. 3 Electra Flats	£129,500.00
Jul-08	Dr M A Zammit	Deposit fee iro Flat 6 Sandpits	£500.00
Jul-08	C Pitaluga	Sale of Flat No. 5 Electra Flats	£129,500.00
Jul-08	Mr L Garbarino	Sale of Flat 7, Store 1 & CPS No.2 Electra Flats	£129,500.00
Jul-08	Mr & Mrs Mason	40% Sale of 1:05:04 Oleander Court, SWJG	£38,185.67
Jul-08	Mr & Mrs Victor	50% Sale of 2:00:19 Rosemary Court, SWJG	£44,582.67
Jul-08	Mrs Penalver	Sale of Previous Option C Flat 5:03:02 Apricot court, SWJG	£22,527.33
			£1,740,667.79

ORAL

NO. 730 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

RESIDENTIAL TENDERS AWARDED

Can Government list the residential tenders they have awarded since the information supplied at the last Question Time in this Parliament, showing the name and the amount paid by the successful tenderer, the name of the property in question and the date on which the payment was made?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 731 of 2008.

NO. 731 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

ALLOCATION OF SANDPITS APARTMENTS

Can Government say whether the 12 apartments with garage at Sandpits have now been allocated and if so when and to whom?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Vista Alegre and the 12 units at Sandpits have been awarded via the tender process since the information supplied at the last Question Time. Details of these sales will be published shortly by way of Official Notice. I can tell the hon Member that Vista Alegre was sold to a Mr and Mrs Yome for £1.25 million, which was received in August 2008. Although of the 12 units at Sandpits were allocated by public draw, there were 33 applicants in total, some purchasers have since dropped out and, therefore, full details will be published as soon as these are re-allocated and all 12 purchasers have signed up.

ORAL

NO. 732 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

NEW AIR TERMINAL – COMMERCIAL UNITS

Can Government confirm that the existing commercial tenants in the air terminal building will be granted a commercial unit in the new air terminal and that any remaining units will be put out to tender?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 733 of 2008.

NO. 733 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

NEW AIR TERMINAL – COMMERCIAL UNITS

Can Government say how many commercial units will be available in the new air terminal building and in what part of the terminal will they be located?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Speaking politically and not legally, in the sense that no legal commitment is hereby created, it is the Government's intention that concession holders in the current terminal, who are in good standing at the time, will be offered concessions in the new terminal. The remaining concessions available will go out to tender.

As currently designed, there are three retail units spread over 120 square metres. Then there is an 137 square metre catering facility, all of that at the arrivals check-in concourse. So, land side so to speak.

On the first floor, that is air side, there is provision for 13 retail units spread over 895 square metres and 425 square metres of catering facilities, all at the departure lounge. So we shall all be able to tuck in as we wait to catch our flights to Spain.

ORAL

NO. 734 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

COMMERCIAL UNITS AT CHATHAM COUNTERGUARD

Can Government say whether the commercial units at Chatham Counter guard have now been allocated and if so to whom and in what amount?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The commercial units at Chatham Counter guard have not yet been allocated.

ORAL

NO. 735 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TENDERS – COMMERCIAL UNITS AT WATERPORT TERRACES

Can Government say how many tenders were received for each of the commercial units at Waterport Terraces?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 736 of 2008.

NO. 736 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TENDERS – COMMERCIAL UNITS AT WATERPORT TERRACES

Can Government say whether the tender for the commercial units at Waterport Terraces has now been allocated and if so to whom?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Nine tenders were received for the commercial units at Waterport Terraces. These units have not yet been allocated. The number of tenders received per unit is apparently sensitive commercial information until the units are allocated, which appears not to be the case in the other one where I gave it to the hon Member before. I do not have the information, I do not agree with this answer. I have the information here. It may take me some while to..... Three tenders were received for unit 1, well, the unit numbers are more complicated in this case. Three tenders were received for unit 3.0.1; two for unit 3.0.2; two for unit 4.0.1; two for unit 4.0.2; two for unit 5.0.1; one for unit 5.0.2; two for unit 8.0.1; two for each of unit 8.0.2, unit 11.0.1 and unit 11.0.2; three for unit 12.0.1 and three for unit 12.0.2; four for unit 13.0.1; three for unit 13.0.2; three for unit 18.0.1 and five for unit 18.0.2. I should say, and perhaps this is what the person who drafted the answer had in mind, the fact that there is only one tender for a unit does not necessarily mean that it will be awarded, because there is the question of the purpose for which it is wanted, which may or may not be compatible with the tender conditions.

ORAL

NO. 737 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

TENDERS – “VISTA ALEGRE”

How many tenders have been received for “Vista Alegre”, 16/20 Europa Road, has the tender been awarded and if so when, in what amount and to whom?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Twenty-seven tenders were received and I have already given him the other information.

NO. 738 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

MOD REPRESENTATIVE ON DPC

Can Government say whether it is their policy that MOD should no longer have a representative on the Development and Planning Commission?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The MOD currently have a representative on the Development and Planning Commission and that, therefore, means that it is currently the Government's policy that this should be case at this time. However, that policy will be reviewed at some point in time.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 738 OF 2008

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The question was tabled because, actually, a Bill was published to that effect, withdrawing the MOD representative from the DPC and the Bill was then withdrawn itself. How did that Bill come to be published if it was not the policy of the Government to proceed with it in that direction?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I think I have given an explanation for this but I may not have. But I am almost certain I have. That is that the publication of the Bill was premature because it had not been followed by an appropriate process of consultation. So, it was xxxxxx, the matter has not yet been, to my knowledge, pursued but certainly the Government will review that policy at some point in time. My personal view is that it is not necessary or appropriate for the MOD to have a seat on the DPC, and it is certainly not appropriate for the MOD to express a view or cast a vote on applications which do not impact on the MOD.

NO. 739 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY

Can Government state when they propose to set up a Gibraltar Civil Aviation Authority and can they say whether a prospective chairman has already been selected?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Government have no plans to set up a Gibraltar Civil Aviation Authority.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 739 OF 2008

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Do they have plans to set up a Gibraltar Aviation Authority not a Gibraltar Civil Aviation Authority?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, not as a corporate entity. The Government intend to appoint a director of civil aviation who will be the authority within the Government for civil aviation matters. But it is not a civil aviation authority in the sense that it is a corporate entity, as is the case, for example, in the UK where there is actually a statutory body called The Civil Aviation Authority. So I suppose the authority would not mean a capital 'A'. In other words, there will be an aviation director who will exercise authority in civil aviation matters.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Has a person, has a director already been selected?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes indeed, he has his feet tucked up under a desk in anticipation of the legislation, and in the meantime he is working in the context of a Government department

without statutory framework. Is the hon Member going to ask me who it is? Well ask.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Who the person is and how is he being paid and where from, given his position?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is Wing Commander Curtis, who was until recently the Station Commander of the RAF, who has expressed a wish to stay in Gibraltar and has all the understanding and, in our judgement, personal attributes to do the job. Did he say how he was being paid? I do not know. Well, the Financial Secretary must have created a vote or it must be in some department, presumably the Minister's, it must be in some departments payroll, as expenditure. Certainly the office was not created, I think, at the time of the Budget. I assume he is being paid, I doubt if he is working for nothing.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Chief Minister say how much this person actually earns?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is not an insubstantial amount, I cannot remember the figure, it was sort of negotiated over quite a long period of time. I cannot remember but I think it is upwards of £70,000 or £80,000. Yes, it is somewhere between £80,000 and £100,000. If he gives notice of the question I am happy to answer him.

HON J J BOSSANO:

At the moment then is it the position that he is employed by the Crown or he is employed by somebody like the Development Corporation?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I think his position is that he is a contract officer at the moment. But I think it is by the Crown, I think it is by the Government, yes.

NO. 740 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PARTYGAMING – REDUNDANCIES

Can Government confirm whether they have been officially notified that Partygaming has declared a state of collective redundancy and if so on what date was the Government notified and what is the total number of persons that they wish to make redundant?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I confirm that Partygaming notified the Government a day or two before the public announcement of the possibility and, indeed, of their intention to declare a number of redundancies and to conduct the required process of consultation required by law, during which they would determine the exact number of the posts that might be affected. But I think we are talking about something in the order of just over one hundred posts in all that are under threat. Whether they will all materialise or not is not known.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 740 OF 2008

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Have the Government been informed as to whether these posts are actually being abolished completely or they are being moved elsewhere in Europe or anywhere else?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I think the majority of them are moving, it is a consolidation. Partygaming already has activities which it carries out in several places and it is consolidating them in one place. This particular activity, I think, is being consolidated in Bulgaria and Romania or one of those new Eastern European Member States. That accounts for the bulk of them, not necessarily all of them. But certainly the bulk is in that category.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Have they given a reason why the consolidation is taking place from Gibraltar to Bulgaria or Romania and not the other way round?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I can only suppose that it is the fact that labour costs in these countries is a fraction of the cost here, and it is no coincidence therefore, that the function involved is a call centre, call and customer services, which involves a large number of people. Let me say that, of course, Partygaming will still remain by some margin probably the largest employer in Gibraltar in the on-line gaming sector, and that the Government are confident that all the belonger people in that category, who want to continue working in that sector, will be able to find jobs in the two or three new licence applications that are on the point of being favourably considered.

NO. 741 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

COPIES OF WRITTEN ANSWERS FOR ALL OPPOSITION MEMBERS

Can Government ensure that each member of the Opposition is provided with a copy of the information given in written form in reply to questions tabled for oral answer so that all members have the opportunity to ask supplementary questions on the information provided if they so wish?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Government will give consideration to this request. On the one hand, the Government has no objection to doing so for any reasons relating to the Government itself. On the other hand, the Government wish to consider the effect that this would have on the length of time that would be taken up on each question. For example, if the Clerk were expected to wait until each Member of the House had perused the written information, often a very voluminous amount of information provided, before moving on to the next question, then that would, I think, simply extend the period of time each question would take. Perhaps he and I could consult about this, or otherwise leave it to include in the reform proposals that, hopefully, the Select Committee will get stuck into this year. I would certainly have no difficulty in doing that immediately for written answers to questions, or otherwise, if it were indicated. Let us start by saying that most of the answers to which the question refers are really answers that in most other parliaments would be asked for written answer. The Government have no difficulty in sending him the answer with seven copies attached to be circulated from the written version. We do not have any problem with making those extra copies and having sort of the Usher circulating them from here. Those are not our concerns. The concern is that the degree of disruption that it might bring to what is already a very extended process of waiting to see whether any supplementaries arise from the very voluminous question, and that is something that I would like to have an opportunity to exchange views on. Perhaps before I give a commitment.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 741 OF 2008

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well, given that the question is for oral answer and that all Members would be able to hear the answer, and that presumably all Government Ministers already have the answer, then it seems to me that it is only right that we should all have the answer rather than just the original question. Secondly, there is no reason why if everybody

gets the written answer at the same time, everybody should not take as long to read it as one person now does. It may be that some other Member wants to put a supplementary as a result that is not able to do so now. But that is precisely why I put the question because I think there should be a right to do that. I mean, Mr Speaker has never ruled that Members cannot put supplementaries in respect of a Member's answer originated by a different person. But even when Mr Speaker's predecessor did, he still allowed two questions to be put by every other Member if need be to the original question.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, but that is not in the Government's mind the issue, the Government have no objection to the secretarial aspect of providing the information. Let me say that the fact that the question has been asked for oral answer does not make the case, that is precisely the problem. Take the question that was asked a moment ago by the Hon Dr J J Garcia about the number of instances broken down by year of all the instances in which the post box had been used. Well, there are seven or eight pages, it would have taken me well over half an hour to read the information and if I had, they would have had no chance whatsoever of absorbing it or of using it for any supplementary question. So the issue here is that we need to have, I think, a change which obviously is not going to come across now it is going to be part of the reform of Parliamentary processes. We need a change in relation to the sorts of questions that are and can be asked for oral answer. Some of the questions that are asked for oral answer cannot conceivably, sensibly be answered orally. I am willing to consider it on the basis of this exchange of views, if that is what he wants me to do, and I will let him know. But that is the Government's only concern, if it were not for that the answer would be yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well, if the answer is not yes by the time of the next question, then presumably we can ask the Usher to make copies of the original one when he gets to this side of the House, because I do not see how we can be denied all having the copy of an answer where the answer to the question, it is true that there are some areas which create the necessity for providing long, detailed tables, but of course, there are also questions where we do not know we are going to get a long, detailed table until we get the answer because we do not know what the answer is. There are many occasions when there is not long, detailed tables and the Government choose to group 20 questions together and answer it on one piece of paper, as they are entitled to do. All I am saying is that everybody on the Opposition is entitled to information simultaneously as far as I am concerned, because that is what the oral answer is all about.

MR SPEAKER:

Can I help on this one? Again going back to Erskine May, it is part of my favourite bedtime reading as well as the Hon Mr Picardo's. This is at page 354, the Speaker has stressed that the length of both Ministerial replies and of supplementary questions should be curbed, that is a separate issue there, the Speaker suggested that the lengthy answers should be circulated with the official report instead of being given orally. So at Westminster that would go straight into Hansard as opposed to

being circulated within the House on the day in question in answer to the point the hon Member is making.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Yes, where the Parliament is meeting all the time, where questions are being put all the time and where Hansard is available within 24 hours.

MR SPEAKER:

Absolutely and the opportunity to ask questions arises.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

On an experimental basis we will do that next time.

HON J J BOSSANO:

That is all I want.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

My only concern is that we should not now have a situation which is not one that the Government think is particularly appropriate anyway, where there is a long pause before the Clerk feels he can move on. At the moment he sort of looks at the questioner and waits for an eye signal from the questioner. The Clerk cannot be in a position where he has to go round seeking eye contact with every Member before he can feel that he can move on. That is the only concern. On an experimental basis and subject to the opportunity, which I suppose I would have to justify, to withdraw the facility, we will do it that way next time.

NO. 742 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CASEMATES ARCADE – ACCESS

Can Government explain why there is a £25 fee for unlocking the padlock that gives access to the Casemates Arcade for businesses in the arcade on public holidays charged by LPS?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The arcade's main entrance is locked on public holidays and weekends, I understand, no on public holidays, I beg your pardon. A fee of £25 is levied by LPS to cover the cost of the security guard attending to open and close the gate when requested.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 742 OF 2008

HON J J BOSSANO:

But is it not the case that the people who have these businesses, in fact, are functioning on many occasions on these days and therefore they are there to service customers, why should they be deprived of that opportunity by having to pay?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Because those are the terms of their lease. The arcade is not public highway, it is a private, Government-owned but private as opposed to public highway, shopping mall and the rules are that it is closed at weekends. The gates, the bit going upstairs, it is not public highway, it is closed on certain days of the year and everybody has accepted that and that is the arrangement. If they do want access it is given but they have got to pay for the unlocking.

ORAL

NO. 743 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR SERVICES POLICE

Has the Gibraltar Government sought an explanation from the MOD as to why they persist in giving the erroneous impression that the preferred option of the Gibraltar Government is the option the MOD is pursuing of reducing the level of direct employment in the GSP and transferring some jobs and responsibilities to the Government?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 744 of 2008.

NO. 744 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR SERVICES POLICE

Can Government state what discussions have taken place with the MOD over the future strength or other aspect of the Gibraltar Services Police, on which dates and who has represented the Gibraltar Government in these discussions?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I agree that the erroneous impression is being created that the preferred option of the Gibraltar Government is the option of reducing the level of direct employment in the GSP and transferring some jobs and responsibilities to the Government. However, the Government do not know that it is the MOD that is creating this false impression. Certainly the MOD deny it and, indeed, they have since denied it publicly. They had denied it privately to me before by, I understand, the CBF made some sort of statement in the last few days. In fact, the Government policy is the very opposite. No discussions have taken place as yet between the Government and the Ministry of Defence, about service transfers, policing service transfers that GOG may be willing to consider. Nor, indeed, about the future strength or other aspect of the GSP, which is specifically what the question refers to.

ORAL

NO. 745 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

NEW AIR TERMINAL – CAPITAL TO MEET COST

Can Government state whether they have now decided how the capital to meet the cost of the air terminal contract and related works is to be raised?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 746 of 2008.

NO. 746 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

NEW AIR TERMINAL – COST OF CONTRACT

Can Government state whether the cost of the contract for the airport terminal and related works is being met from the Improvement and Development Fund or from some other Government controlled fund or Government owned Company?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The cost of the new airport terminal building and related capital investment will be met from the Improvement and Development Fund. Token provision under Head 103 – 6(g) was included in the Approved Estimates of this year. The contract sum for the terminal building, as the hon Members know, is just over 59 million euros.

The Improvement and Development Fund source of funds for the project will include borrowing and contributions from the Consolidated Fund reserves. The Government, however, has still not decided whether to have recourse instead to other possible sources of funding, such as PFI type arrangements. But it is certainly true, given that the construction is about to start physically, it will start as the first type. It will start as an Improvement and Development Fund project, which is not to say that at some stage it may not become a PFI project and the funding rebooked and resourced. But as we speak, given that the contract has been signed and that the contractor is mobilising any day now, it will be I&DF.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 745 AND 746 OF 2008

HON J J BOSSANO:

On the basis that it is an I&DF project using the token vote, which of course will not take him very far, is the Government covering itself for a change in fluctuation since the contract seems to be in euros and not in sterling?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Government have entered, or are about to enter into two contracts in euros, this one and indeed the contract for the Government rental housing. The Government's view is that over a period of time, relevant to the construction of these projects, the euro will fall in value against the pound and has, therefore, chosen to enter into these

contracts in euros. But there has been some hedging contracts taken out. I do not believe, specifically, in relation to this contract but given that we will have exposure to euros in both contracts, then hedging has either already been done or is about to be done, it has been under discussion for the last two or three weeks, to create what is called a bottom in case the market moves the other way.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Would the hedging be with a local financial institution that would cover for possible changes in the currency from the Government's expectations?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I understand the hedging product is available from Barclays Bank and other leading banks. I did not understand the rest of the question.

HON J J BOSSANO:

It is available from branches in Gibraltar, is that correct?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is available through the branches of Gibraltar, I suspect that detailed, expert products of this source are probably run centrally from some place other than Gibraltar. But it is through the Gibraltar office.

ORAL

NO. 747 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

MOD LAND TRANSFER RELOCATION COSTS

Can Government now state what have been the total relocation costs to date arising out of the 2004 MOD Land Transfer?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Yes, the total relocation costs arising from the 2004 Land Transfer so far is £2,869,798.43.

ORAL

NO. 748 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

MOD LAND RELOCATION COSTS

Can Government now state what, if any, relocation costs, other than publicly funded costs, have been borne by private developers who have acquired MOD land for development purposes since 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

All relocation costs have been publicly funded.

ORAL

NO. 749 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

LAND AND PROPERTY SALES

Can Government state what property or land sales there have been in the current financial year resulting in receipts to the Improvement and Development Fund?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 750 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 750 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

LAND AND PROPERTY SALES

Can Government state what land or property sales there have been in the current financial year resulting in receipts to a Gibraltar Government company and if so to which company has the proceeds of such sales been credited?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I will hand the information to the hon Member in the table that is now being handed to him.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 750

ANSWER TO QUESTION 749 OF 2008

**Breakdown of Receipts to the Improvement and Development Fund for the period
1st April 2008 to 31st August 2008**

Property	Cash Received
51C Europa Road	£2,000.00
2/4 North Pavilion Road, Lower Elms	£303,500.00
15 Rosia Steps	£34,000.00
4E Rulander House (Part Payment iro profit of GOG's share)	£150.00
51 Line Wall Road	£4,910.00
4C Rulander House	£13,524.58
16/20 Europa Road, Vista Alegre	£1,258,000.00
3 Johnstones Passage	£168,300.00
6 House Development, Opposite Both Worlds	£135,000.00
Blake House Additional Construction	£10,000.00
4/8 Centre Pavilion Road	£495,000.00
Strip of Land Leading to 33A Europa Road	£2,427,774.58

Contd.....

CONTD ANSWER TO QUESTION 750 OF 2008**Answer to Question 750****Breakdown of Receipts to Government Companies in respect of Land and Property
Sales for the Period 1st April 2008 to 31st August 2008**

Gibraltar Co-ownership Company Ltd	Cash Received
20% Sale of 21 Palm Tree Lodge	£29,902.30
Westside Two Co-Ownership Company Ltd	
50% Sale of 26 Melbourne Court & CPS No. 953	£38,042.88
40% Sale of 27 Halifax Court	£28,460.34
50% Sale of 19 Nassau Court	£37,741.60
	£114,244.82
Gibraltar Residential Property Investments Company Limited	
Sale of Flat No. 2 Electra Flats	£100,400.00
Sale of Flat No. 3 Electra Flats	£129,500.00
Sale of Flat No. 5 Electra Flats	£129,500.00
Sale of Flat 7, Store 1 & CPS No.2 Electra Flats	£129,500.00
90% Sale of Apartment 1 F Block, 2 Naval Hospital Hill	£257,175.00
90% Sale of Apartment 3 F Block, 2 Naval Hospital Hill	£258,750.00
90% Sale of Apartment 4 F Block, 2 Naval Hospital Hill	£258,750.00
10% Deposit iro 5 Castle Steps and 7/9 Richardsons Passage	\$1,000.00
Deposit fee iro Flat 4 Sandpits	£500.00
Deposit fee iro Flat 5 Sandpits	£13,500.00
Deposit fee iro Flat 6 Sandpits	£500.00
Deposit fee iro Flat 8 Sandpits	£13,500.00
Deposit fee iro Flat 9 Sandpits	£13,500.00
Deposit fee iro Flat 10 Sandpits	£13,500.00
Deposit fee iro Flat 11 Sandpits	£500.00
Deposit fee iro Flat 12 Sandpits	£500.00
50% Sale of 1/3 Daninos Ramp	£18,800.00
Sale of 1/4 Daninos Ramp	£21,800.00
40% Sale of 1:05:04 Oleander Court SWJG	£38,185.67
50% Sale of 2:00:19 Rosemary Court, SWJG	£44,582.67
Sale of Previous Option C Flat 5:03:02 Apricot Court, SWJG	£22,527.33
	£1,466,470.67

ORAL

NO. 751 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CORPORATION TAX – AMOUNTS COLLECTED

What was the amount of Company Tax collected in each month since February 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 752 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 752 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

PAYE – AMOUNTS COLLECTED

How much was collected in PAYE each month since February 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

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

ANSWER TO QUESTION 752 OF 2008

Answer to Question 751 of 2008

The Corporation Tax collected (net of refunds) in the months of March 2008 to August 2008 is:

	£M
March 2008	0.85
April 2008	1.70
May 2008	0.18
June 2008	0.73
July 2008	0.45
August 2008	0.58

Answer to Question 752 of 2008

The PAYE Tax collected (net of refunds) in the months of March 2008 to August 2008 is:

	£M
March 2008	9.31
April 2008	6.73
May 2008	7.57
June 2008	7.64
July 2008	8.46
August 2008	7.23

ORAL

NO. 753 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CORPORATION TAX

As at the end of August 2008, how many companies, in each tax year 1995/1996 to 2007/2008 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

I now hand the hon Member a table containing the information requested.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 753 OF 2008

	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02
	£M						
Assessed	15.8	15.7	20.1	26.1	90.4	29.1	31.7
Discharged	5.8	5.2	9.5	11.5	76.6	15.9	16.9
	10.0	10.5	10.6	14.6	13.8	13.2	14.8
Paid	9.6	10.4	10.5	14.5	13.6	13.2	14.3
Outstanding	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.5
No. of companies	1446	1419	1468	1463	1550	1591	1554

	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
	£M	£M	£M	£M	£M	£M
Assessed	36.8	41.7	35.9	47.3	51.1	41.5
Discharged	20.2	18.8	13.2	22.2	25.9	16.2
	16.6	22.9	22.7	25.1	25.2	25.3
Paid	15.6	22.0	20.4	22.3	22.9	21.1
Outstanding	1.0	0.9	2.3	2.8	2.3	4.2
No. of companies	1546	1607	1613	1538	1450	1181

ORAL

NO. 754 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CORPORATION TAX – ASSESSMENTS ON DECLARED TAXABLE PROFITS

As at the end of August 2008, 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 2007/08, and what was the tax assessed and paid in each category and year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 755 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 755 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CORPORATION TAX – ASSESSMENTS WITHOUT A RETURN OF TAXABLE PROFITS

As at the end of August 2008, 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 2007/2008, and what was the tax assessed and paid in each case for each category and each year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

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

ANSWER TO QUESTION 755**Answer to Question 754 of 2008****COMPANIES ASSESSED HAVING MADE A RETURN OF TAXABLE PROFITS**

Year of assessment	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03
	£	£	£	£	£
Under £35,000					
No. of companies assessed	231	317	382	444	448
Total assessed (i.e. total tax payable)	0.5M	0.6M	0.9M	1.1M	1.1M
Total paid	0.5M	0.6M	0.9M	1.1M	1.0M
Over £35,000					
No. of companies assessed	78	102	135	153	157
Total assessed (i.e. total tax payable)	6.3M	9.7M	12.0M	13.5M	15.2M
Total paid	6.3M	9.7M	12.0M	13.4M	15.2M
Year of assessment	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
	£	£	£	£	£
Under £35,000					
No. of companies assessed	468	443	465	399	258
Total assessed (i.e. total tax payable)	1.1M	1.1M	1.0M	0.7M	0.6M
Total paid	1.1M	1.1M	1.0M	0.7M	0.6M
Over £35,000					
No. of companies assessed	169	169	146	134	114
Total assessed (i.e. total tax payable)	21.9M	22.1M	22.3M	20.7M	19.7M
Total paid	21.9M	21.1M	20.9M	20.1M	18.4M

Contd.....

CONTD ANSWER TO QUESTION 755**Answer to Question 755 of 2008****COMPANIES ASSESSED WITHOUT HAVING MADE A RETURN OF TAXABLE PROFITS**

Year of assessment	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03
	£	£	£	£	£
Under £35,000					
No. of companies assessed	714	517	222	224	239
Total assessed (i.e. total tax payable)	1.4M	0.9M	0.4M	0.5M	0.6M
Total paid	1.3M	0.7M	0.2M	0.2M	0.2M
Over £35,000					
No. of companies assessed	42	34	8	11	27
Total assessed (i.e. total tax payable)	2.7M	2.5M	0.2M	0.3M	0.9M
Total paid	2.7M	2.5M	0.1M	0.1M	0.4M
Year of assessment	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
	£	£	£	£	£
Under £35,000					
No. of companies assessed	259	321	408	526	632
Total assessed (i.e. total tax payable)	0.6M	0.9M	1.0M	1.3M	1.3M
Total paid	0.2M	0.3M	0.2M	0.3M	0.1M
Over £35,000					
No. of companies assessed	20	21	46	73	98
Total assessed (i.e. total tax payable)	0.7M	0.8M	1.0M	2.1M	3.5M
Total paid	0.4M	0.3M	0.4M	1.1M	1.8M

ORAL

NO. 756 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

PAYE – OUTSTANDING ANNUAL RETURN OF DEDUCTIONS

Can Government state, as at the end of August 2008, how many employers had failed to submit an annual return of PAYE deductions for employees for the tax year 2004/2005?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with question Nos. 757 and 758 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 757 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

PAYE – OUTSTANDING ANNUAL RETURN OF DEDUCTIONS

Can Government state, as at the end of August 2008, how many employers had failed to submit an annual return of PAYE deductions for employees for the tax year 2005/2006?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 756 and 758 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 758 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

PAYE – OUTSTANDING ANNUAL RETURN OF DEDUCTIONS

Can Government state, as at the end of August 2008, how many employers had failed to submit an annual return of PAYE deductions for employees for the tax year 2006/2007?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The information is being given to him but it is short enough for me to read, but he has it there in front of him.

As at 8th September 2008, 77 employers had not yet returned their 2004/2005 Employers' Declaration and PAYE Certificates; 125 employers had not yet returned their 2005/2006 Employers' Declaration and PAYE Certificates; and 203 had not yet done so in respect of their 2006/2007 Declaration and Certificates.

NO. 759 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SOCIAL INSURANCE FUND – ACTUARIAL REPORT

Can Government now say when it will be in a position to provide the Actuarial Report on the Social Insurance Fund of 30 March 2007?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

No, I am afraid that despite the time that has elapsed since this matter, the Government are not yet in a position to do so. The Government are still studying the report in connection with a comprehensive review of social insurance benefits and related funding arrangements. Indeed, a further actuarial assessment may be required in order to update the report, in order to take account of the changes to the scheme that have taken place since April 2007. The Actuarial Reports and assessments, the Government still believe it would like not to produce until it has got a position. The fear is that if we put it in the public domain, we shall be fighting political debates at a time that we are not really in a position. I would not mind giving it to the hon Member confidentially, in the sense that he understands that until the Government has completed the review he would not be at liberty to sort of challenge the Government or hold the Government to account. If he has some sort of technical interest in it, I obviously have no difficulty that he should have it, but that it should not be treated by him as being in the public domain for the purposes of referring to its content. If he is happy with that he can have it now.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 759 OF 2008

HON J J BOSSANO:

In fact, it was on that basis, I think, that he promised to give it to me the last time. I am happy to have it now. Really, this is a historical document because I think he answered in one of his original questions some time ago, that it was done when the scheme was still frozen. So really, it is just to get a technical picture of the state of play before the changes.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Do I take that to mean that he accepts the stricture?

HON J J BOSSANO:

Yes.

ORAL

NO. 760 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

WATERPORT DEVELOPMENT – PAYMENTS TO CONTRACTORS

Can Government state what further payments have been made to the contractors or other parties in respect of the Waterport Development since the answer to Question No. 340 of 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 761 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 761 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

WATERPORT DEVELOPMENT – PAYMENTS BY ENTITIES

Can Government state by which entity payments in respect of the Waterport Development have been made in the financial year 2007/2008 and in the current financial year and in respect of the latter the total amount paid since 1st April 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I now hand the hon Member a schedule which contains the statistical information, but I do not see that it sets out by which entity. I am almost certain that it is between them, GRP and Gibraltar Investment Holdings. But if he particularly wants to know I will have that provided to him. I am sorry, the schedule does not identify the entity.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 761**Answer to Question 760**

<u>Date Paid</u>	<u>Contractors</u>	<u>Quantity Surveyors</u>	<u>Engineers</u>	<u>Total</u>
30/04/2008	1,598,636.35	-	-	£1,598,636.35
09/05/2008	-	3,786.95	-	£3,786.95
30/05/2008	1,510,940.88	-	-	£1,510,940.88
30/06/2008	2,641,760.85	-	-	£2,641,760.85
30/07/2008	1,230,071.69	-	-	£1,230,071.69
06/08/2008	-	-	5,086.42	£5,086.42
06/08/2008	-	-	5,086.42	£5,086.42
06/08/2008	-	-	5,086.42	£5,086.42
06/08/2008	-	-	5,086.42	£5,086.42
06/08/2008	-	-	5,086.42	£5,086.42
31/08/2008	1,502,458.72	-	-	£1,502,458.72
	8,483,868.49	3,786.95	25,432.10	£8,513,087.54

Answer to Question 761

<u>Date Paid</u>	<u>Contractors</u>	<u>Quantity Surveyors</u>	<u>Engineers</u>	<u>Total</u>
02/04/2008	-	3,786.95	-	£3,786.95
30/04/2008	1,598,636.35	-	-	£1,598,636.35
09/05/2008	-	3,786.95	-	£3,786.95
30/05/2008	1,510,940.88	-	-	£1,510,940.88
30/06/2008	2,641,760.85	-	-	£2,641,760.85
30/07/2008	1,230,071.69	-	-	£1,230,071.69
06/08/2008	-	-	5,086.42	£5,086.42
06/08/2008	-	-	5,086.42	£5,086.42
06/08/2008	-	-	5,086.42	£5,086.42
06/08/2006	-	-	5,086.42	£5,086.42
06/08/2008	-	-	5,086.42	£5,086.42
31/08/2008	1,502,458.72	-	-	£1,502,458.72
	£8,483,868.49	£7,573.90	£25,432.10	£8,516,874.49

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 760 AND 761 OF 2008

HON J J BOSSANO:

It is just that given the fact that at the end of the last financial year there was only £1 million left as the cash balances of all the companies, it seemed to me that there must have been some changes taking place as to who was paying. Originally I think it must have started in one company, maybe it has changed since, but I am asking for the information against the background of being given information as to the amount of cash that there was in different companies.

ORAL

NO. 762 OF 2008

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 loans from local banks in each month since the answer to Question No. 361 of 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

It was £10 million, split equally £5 million each in July. In August it went up to £17 million, still split equally between the two.

ORAL

NO. 763 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR SAVINGS BANK – INVESTMENTS

Can Government state what changes have taken place in the investments held by the Gibraltar Savings Bank since the coming into effect of the Gibraltar Savings Bank (Amendment) Act 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 764 and 765 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 764 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR SAVINGS BANK – DEPOSITS

Can Government say whether the final figure for Government deposits in the investment accounts with the Gibraltar Savings Bank in 2007/2008 was £70 million as forecast?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 763 and 765 of 2008.

NO. 765 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR SAVINGS BANK – BONDS/DEBENTURES

Can Government state whether the Gibraltar Savings Bank continues to issue bonds or debentures to the public and if so what are the terms?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Since the coming into effect of the Gibraltar Savings Bank (Amendment) Act 2008, investments have been restricted to cash or near cash deposits in order to protect their capital value in accordance with the amendments to the said Act. The current asset allocation is as follows:-

Cash/Call Deposits	-	23.5 per cent
Certificates of Deposit	-	39 per cent
Floating Rate Notes	-	37.5 per cent

Government deposits in the investment accounts with the Gibraltar Savings Bank stood at £66.3 million as at 31st March 2008.

The Gibraltar Savings Bank debentures currently available to the public are Pensioners' Monthly Income Debentures and Monthly Income Debentures.

The Pensioners' Debenture currently pays interest at par with the Bank of England's Repo Rate, presently 5.0 per cent per annum. The interest rate for the Monthly Income Debenture is current 4.5 per cent per annum, that is, 50 basis points below the Bank of England's Repo Rate, which presently stands at 5 per cent.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 763 TO 765 OF 2008

HON J J BOSSANO:

The Government then is planning to continue to make further issues of these debentures available to the public, is that the case?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, the Government have no intention of varying. At some point in time, the Government may decide to restore the practice of issuing Government debentures

now that there is headroom in the public borrowing statutory ceiling. But that decision has not been addressed or taken and for the moment, I think it is open for business, there is no closing of them.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I thought the Government had given an indication previously that they were planning to resume issuing Government debentures as opposed to Post Office debentures the last time that I raised it, that is why I am asking the question. But it has not happened yet?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Indeed, in these times of credit crunch, although it has not yet affected the Government, it may be a very welcome source of public debt financing. But as I say, that is certainly a distinct possibility but at the moment it is not being actively considered as we speak.

ORAL

NO. 766 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SALES OF GOVERNMENT BONDS/DEBENTURES

Can Government state what sales of Government bonds or debentures to the public have taken place in the current financial year and give a breakdown by month to the 31st August?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

None.

NO. 767 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR COINAGE IN CIRCULATION

Can Government state as at 31st March 2008 what was the total value of the Gibraltar coinage put into circulation net of coins withdrawn from circulation since the coinage fund was set up?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Treasury estimates that the circulation figure of Gibraltar coinage is currently around £3 million to £4 million.

The Gibraltar Coinage Fund was dissolved on 1st April 1997. Since then all net proceeds from the issue of circulating coinage, that is to say, issues less redemptions, are credited directly to the Consolidated Fund. The total credited to revenue during the period 1st April 1997 to 31st March 2008, was £4.6 million.

However, the total proceeds from coin issues is not representative of the Gibraltar coinage actually in circulation, as a good proportion of these coins are withdrawn from local circulation by visiting tourists, coin collectors and others.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 767 OF 2008

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am not sure what the answer to the original question is, having heard all that. Is he saying then that the number of coins that have actually been put into circulation since the coinage started is £4.6 million plus the £3 million to £4 million that he mentioned in the first part of the answer? Or is it that the profit that has been made is £4.6 million?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, the £4.6 million is the net amount of coinage put into circulation since the Coinage Fund was dissolved on 1st April 1997. In other words, that has been credited to the Consolidated Fund. By xxxxxx that is the total aggregate amount of coins put in circulation minus coins reduced during that period from 1st April 1997. The £3 million to £4 million that are in circulation as an estimate, is that part of the

net £4.6 million which is estimated as not being taken away, and is therefore in circulation. The answer does not purport to give any information about since the Coinage Fund was set up, which was many years ago and since which accounts have been published for coinage.

ORAL

NO. 768 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

STAMP DUTY

Can Government state how much has been collected as Stamp Duty in each month since the answer to Question No. 368 of 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 769 to 771 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 769 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

STAMP DUTY

Can Government state what has been the amount collected in each month since the answer to Question No. 369 of 2008 from the £10 Stamp Duty on share issues?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 768, 770 and 771 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 770 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

STAMP DUTY

Can Government now state what has been the revenue yield per month of the 1.6 per cent Stamp Duty on property sales since the answer to Question No. 370 of 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 768, 769 and 771 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 771 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

STAMP DUTY

Can Government now state how many properties have been approved as qualifying for Zero Stamp Duty on their sale in each month since the answer to Question No. 371 of 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I now hand the hon Member the information requested in written form.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 771/2008

Answer to Question 768/2008

Stamp Duty collected in each month since March 2008 is as follows:

March 2008	£340,069.15
April 2008	£451,869.94
May 2008	£290,545.74
June 2008	£314,740.75
July 2008	£325,668.64
August 2008	£390,539.46

Answer to Question 769/2008

The amount collected from the £10 Stamp Duty on share issues in each month since March 2008 is as follows:

March 2008	£1,640.00
April 2008	£2,280.00
May 2008	£1,730.00
June 2008	£2,060.00
July 2008	£1,400.00
August 2008	£1,360.00

Answer to Question 770/2008

The revenue yield in respect of the 1.6 per cent duty in each month since March 2008 is as follows:

March 2008	£70,680.00
April 2008	£39,712.00
May 2008	£34,228.80
June 2008	£20,120.00
July 2008	£41,907.20
August 2008	£14,087.20

Answer to Question 771/2008

The number of properties which have qualified for Zero Stamp Duty on sale since March 2008 is as follows:

March 2008	20
April 2008	10
May 2008	14
June 2008	29
July 2008	10
August 2008	24

ORAL

NO. 772 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

VACANT POSTS IN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

Can Government state whether any further vacant posts in Government departments have been filled since the answer to Question No.372 of 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 773 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 773 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

VACANT POSTS IN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

Can Government state whether any additional posts in Government departments have become vacant since the answer to Question No.373 of 2008, and if so, show the grade and department?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The information the hon Member requests is set out in the two schedules that are now being handed to him.

ANSWER TO QUESTION P773

Answer to question 772

The posts filled are as follows:-

<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>GRADE</u>	<u>NO. OF POSTS FILLED</u>
Attorney General	Clerk/Word Processor	1
Audit	Audit Clerk	1
Buildings and Works	PTO (Complaints and Customer Support Manager)	1
Civil Status and Registration Office	Administrative Officer	1
Customs	Assistant Officer	1
Department of Social Security	Personal Secretary	1
Department of Enterprise, Development & Transport	Personal Secretary	1
Education	Headteacher	1
	Deputy Headteacher	1
	Teacher	9
	Cleaner	1
Fire Brigade	Sub-Officer	1
	Firefighter	2
	Clerk/Word Processor	1
Gibraltar Health Authority	Administrative Officer	2
	Clerk/Word Processor	2
	Messenger	1
	Labourer	2
Housing	HPTO (Building Surveyor)	1
Income Tax	Administrative Officer	1
	Clerk/Word Processor	1
Gibraltar Port Authority	Chief Executive/Captain of the Port	1
	Port Operations Room Operative	2

Contd.....

CONTD ANSWER TO QUESTION 773

Answer to Question 772

<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>GRADE</u>	<u>NO. OF POSTS FILLED</u>
Legislation Support Unit	Law Drafter	2
	Clerk/Word Processor	1
Maritime Administration	Marine Surveyor	1
No.6 Convent Place	Executive Officer	1
	Clerk/Word Processor	1
Police	Administrative Officer	1
Procurement	Executive Officer	1
Statistics	Statistics Officer Level 1	1
Supreme Court	Clerk/Word Processor	1
Technical Services Department	SPTO (Quantity Surveyor)	1
	HPTO (Infrastructure Engineer)	1
	TG1 (Trench Inspector)	1
	Drains Operative	1
	Sewer Operative	1
	Labourer	4
Treasury	Administrative Officer	1
	Clerk/Word Processor	1

Contd.....

CONTD ANSWER TO QUESTION 773

Answer to question 773

<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>GRADE</u>	<u>NO. OF POSTS FILLED</u>
Audit	Audit Clerk	1
Buildings and Works	Chief Executive	1
	Works Supervisor	2
	Labourer	1
	MT Driver	1
Customs	Executive Officer	1
Environment	Senior Environment Officer (SPTO)	1
	Energy and Conservation Officer (HPTO)	1
Fire Brigade	Chief Fire Officer	1
	Sub Officer	1
	Firefighter	1
	Fire Control Operator	1
Housing	PTO (Clerk of Works)	1
Legislation Support Unit	Senior Officer	1
No.6 Convent Place	Higher Executive Officer	1
	Messenger/Driver	1
Police	Sergeant	2
Procurement	Higher Executive officer	1
Treasury	Administrative Officer	2
Technical Services Dept	PTO (Engineering Assistant – Sewers)	1
	HPTO Quantity Surveyor (Contracts Manager)	1

ORAL

NO. 774 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CIVIL SERVICE PENSIONS – BROKEN SERVICE

Can Government state, since the provision for counting previous broken service in the calculation of civil service pensions, what has been the effect for existing pensioners of the retrospective calculations since their date of retirement and the amounts due and number of pensioners affected?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 775 of 2008.

NO. 775 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CIVIL SERVICE PENSIONS – BROKEN SERVICE

Can Government state, since the provisions were introduced to enable civil servants' pensions to be recalculated on the basis of removing the broken service provisions, how many (a) existing pensioners; and (b) current civil servants have become eligible to obtain pension increases in respect of previous broken service?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

There are 192 existing pensioners who are eligible for an up-rated pension. Around 50 per cent of the computations have already been processed by the Treasury at this stage. The estimated overall effect of these 192, is an estimated £0.5 million a year, although only 50 have been individually computed the rest is just presumably a straight line projection. A total of 192 existing pensioners and a further 17 civil servants, who have retired since the legislation was introduced, have become eligible for pension increases for previous broken service. The Pension (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulation 2007 came into operation on 1st July 2007. There are a further 77 civil servants, currently in employment, who have previous broken service. They will eventually become eligible for an increased pension for previous broken service as and when they retire as eligible pensioners.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 774 AND 775 OF 2008

HON J J BOSSANO:

The £0.5 million estimate takes account of the retrospective element for the 192 that are already pensioners?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The retrospective element to the 1st July 2007 which is as far as the retrospection goes. In other words, there is no historical retrospection.

HON G H LICUDI:

Of the 192 mentioned by the Chief Minister, are these all existing pensioners who have approached the Government and applied for up-rated pensions, or is it an

exercise being carried out by the Government itself to identify who has broken service and contact those people who may be entitled to up-rated pensions?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not know. I cannot imagine that too many eligible pensioners have not applied, but it is possible, I do not know if the Treasury have done an internal, spontaneous so to speak exercise or whether it has waited for applications. I guess they, actually, probably had their own exercise but it is pure guess, I do not know.

HON G H LICUDI:

Could I ask the Chief Minister to make enquiries? It is possible there may be some elderly pensioners who may not have done this, either for an oversight or for whatever reason and it would be useful if the Government could identify that, if it is possible.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I would like the hon Member to write to me since it arises from a supplementary and not from a deficiency in the answer as originally given.

NO. 776 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

FINAL SALARY CIVIL SERVICE PENSION SCHEME

Can Government state what is the estimated value of the final salaries civil service pension scheme as a percentage of salary calculated on the basis of a non-contributory funded scheme and on the same basis what would be the comparable ratio in the case of police officers and fire fighters whose compulsory retirement age is younger?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

No, as the hon Member knows the civil service pension scheme is neither contributory nor separately funded. Pensions and gratuities to retiring civil servants are paid directly from the Consolidated Fund on a pay-as-you-go basis. There is no actuarially assessed pension fund value or contribution level.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 776 OF 2008

HON J J BOSSANO:

Yes, I know all that, this is why I am asking for an estimate of the value so that I can compare it with, for example, the answer to the next question dealing with the ones that apply in the Agencies and the other ones where people make a contribution. The Government charges an amount when they charge fees for work done by civil servants, which is supposed to be an estimate of what the cost of the pensions are. The Government, for example, has a footnote in respect of the Electricity Authority, which makes clear that the pensions of people in the Electricity Authority who are xxxxx civil service pensions is not reflected in those accounts. So that is the kind of estimate I am asking.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, the Government do not have quite that, the Government have something which is what the hon Member may be alluding to although not specifically describing. When there is a non-pensionable officer on contract terms, therefore, not permanent and pensionable, the Government pays a terminal gratuity of 25 per cent in lieu of pension. So I suppose if he wanted to, he could say, ah that suggests that the Government thinks that 25 per cent is the value, so to speak, of having or not having a pension. That is the only thing that I can think of that the hon Member may be

referring to, and it is a figure that is widely bandied about as being the sort of contribution that an employer that is trying to fund a final salary scheme, it is said, almost on the informal sort of grapevine, that it should be somewhere of the order of 25 per cent. But of course it depends on a lot, it depends on the age profile of a workforce, it depends on the other terms and conditions of the pension scheme.

HON J J BOSSANO:

But when the Government charges for services by public officers, by civil servants, does it not charge an hourly rate to which a percentage amount is added to cover for their entitlement to a pension?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not know whether it does or it does not but if it did, I am sure they use the 25 per cent measure for that, if they do do that. I do not know if the Government does add pension cost to the payroll cost when trying to get back on a full recovery cost basis, the services of permanent and pensionable officers, I do not know whether it does or it does not. But if it did do it I have no doubt they would use the 25 per cent measure, because this is the nearest figure that exists within the Government.

HON J J BOSSANO:

To my knowledge it does so, if it does, that would be presumably the value that they estimate the final salaries as in terms of charging customers for services provided by people who are entitled to final salary pensions.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The value of the pension to the pensioner is what it is, it is worth different amounts to different individuals, as the hon Member knows it is calculated with part of it payable commutable. That is what it is worth to the pensioner, to the employee. What the value of it is to the Government is academic because it is not a funded obligation. If the Government did have a fund to finance its occupational pension scheme, it would then, I suppose, have as others, for example, as the Gibraltar Chronicle does, an actuarial report and assessment of how much the employer's contribution and how much the employee's contribution would have to be to the fund, so that the fund were fully funded given the pension entitlements and the age profiles and the level of earnings et cetera of the employees. But, of course, the Government do not bother to do that because in any case it comes out of budgetary expenses. So I do not think the Government have ever attempted to do a calculation of cost or value in that sense. Perhaps it should.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well, can the Government establish whether in fact when the services of public officers are charged to private entities, the full charge cost includes a percentage addition for the pension and, if so, what that percentage addition is?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes.

NO. 777 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

FINAL SALARY CIVIL SERVICE PENSION SCHEME

Can Government confirm that its policy is to discontinue the final salary civil service pension scheme for new entrants into the civil service and replace this with the provident fund arrangements currently applicable in Government agencies?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Government has no such current policy. But this is one of the issues that will be discussed between Government and civil service unions, amongst other strategic reform issues.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 777 OF 2008

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well, but surely, if it is going to be discussed with the unions I do not imagine that it is a union initiative to put this proposal to the Government, so is it that it is something that the Government are going to propose to the union because it is something they would like to see introduced?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Government have no policy but the Government wish to discuss the matter with the unions and the Government will arrive at a policy decision after the discussion. That is the whole purpose of consultation.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well, but what they wish to discuss with the union is the possibility of discontinuing the civil service pension, is that correct or not?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, for new entrants, of course not for existing pensioners.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Not for existing pensioners, for new entrants as the question says.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, what is on the agenda for discussion is in relation to new entrants not existing pensioners or employees.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Right and the question in fact is about new entrants unless I made a mistake in drafting it.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is the policy of the Government that it wants to discuss it, not that it wants to do it. It may become the policy of the Government that it wants to do it.

HON J J BOSSANO:

If the unions agree.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Not necessarily if the unions agree but the Government will decide whether it wants to do it when it has seen what the stakeholders' opinions are. That is what consultation is about.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In arriving at finding out what the stakeholders' opinions are and indeed then making up its mind what it wants to do, is the Government not going to do an exercise which establishes what is the value of the present arrangements, which was the previous question, to compare it with the value or the cost, whichever way one wants to look at it, value to the recipient, cost to the payer, which is the Government of the alternative arrangements. Surely, in evaluating that to arrive at a policy decision there ought to be two figures to consider?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, not necessarily, because the new arrangements are not an attempt to replicate either the cost or the value of the old arrangements. This would be a new scheme and there is no need, therefore, to have the value cost analysis of the original scheme to decide whether to set up a new scheme. The principle and reason for doing this, is actually a disadvantage to the Government. The principal reason for the Government being interested in this area is that we draw a line in respect of unfunded occupational pensions liability for the Government, civil service pensions,

when the last of the pensioners and employees dies off, that will be the end of the unfunded, it will take a long time to happen, and in the meantime we start creating a funded pension scheme for new entrants. But, of course, that is a huge disadvantage to the incumbent Government because it means that we have to use current revenue for paying contributions into a pension scheme, and therefore it would not be available for us for other recurrent expenditure. So if it happens it is an act of responsibility, in the sense that rather than taking the view, never mind that it is unfunded because it is some future generation's responsibility, it is an attempt to say, how can we pass from an unfunded pension scheme, which is growing in cost quite a lot each year, to a funded pension scheme so that each year the Government is actually making a provision for future pensions liability. Now that transition necessarily has to take place over a long period of time, and that is the principal motivator for the Government in doing this.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So the principal motivation is not to reduce the cost and make the pension provisions less generous than the ones that are in place, that is not the principal.....?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Different people have different views. There are some people who think that the Government's present pension scheme, particularly since the hon Member discontinued the widows and orphans aspect of it, there are many people who think that the current pension scheme in the Government, whilst quite generous to a retired officer whilst he lives, is actually quite ungenerous to the dependants of an employee or a pensioner who dies. There are many people who think that the provident scheme creates more security for their family because there is actually a capital sum of money being built up with one's name and address on it. If one dies whether before or after retirement, that lump sum is family assets. So there is £150,000, £160,000, £200,000, whatever it is, that has accumulated. That is one's money and it does not matter if one dies before whilst in service, or one dies the day after one retires, there is an asset there for one's family. There are many people who find that proposition much more attractive and generous than the final salary scheme which is very generous whilst one is alive but actually makes very little provision, I think the widow gets the gratuity if one dies but very little provision for sustained maintenance of dependants.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well, can I just say for the record, although I have said it before, and I have said it publicly and it has been accepted by the Pensioners Association publicly, that all the people that opted out of the Widows and Orphans Pension Scheme did so voluntarily, and indeed, as the Chief Minister knows, there are some people who did not and continue to be entitled to it. Therefore, the people who took their money, took their money on the basis that it was better to have the money in their pocket than the protection for afterwards. It was a choice that was given to them because they asked for it. But the point that I am making, I certainly know of no one in the United Kingdom, where this has been going on for some time, that has not considered the funded scheme inferior to the final salary. Therefore, if what the concern of the Government is to have a funded scheme, there is nothing to prevent, as he himself has acknowledged, in the case of a Gibraltar Chronicle pension fund, a

funded final salary scheme. So if it is not that he wants to bring to an end final salary schemes then there is nothing, surely, to prevent the Government from funding a final salary scheme, if that is what they want.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I have not said that it is not one of the Government's objectives to end the final salary scheme. Nor has anybody suggested that anybody was forced to give up the old Widows and Orphans Pension Scheme. What the hon Member has said publicly, which has been contradicted to me privately, is the suggestion which he has made publicly that somehow the unions came asking for this. Well, I know that the hon Member has said publicly that the unions asked him for this. A different version of events has been put to me privately and it is neither here nor there. The Government want to make the civil service pension scheme less of a burden to future generations of taxpayers, without affecting the accrued rights of any existing employee. That is something that governments and private sector employers all over the world are doing, and I do not suppose that the hon Member thinks Gibraltar has some divine protection from all the factors that are leading almost all governments in the world, and almost all companies in the world, to abandon, even funded final salary schemes, let alone unfunded final salary schemes. So if we can bring about these changes, which will do a service to future generations of taxpayers, then our view or our responsibility as a Government extend that far. Of course, we know that we are opening the door for an extra item on the hon Member's list of goodies for the next general election. But as we are confident that those do not ever do the trick, then we will stick with the responsible thing which is not to cut anybody's pension entitlement. In England, for example, in the British Government, when they do this, I was talking to somebody in the Foreign Office recently, they actually alter the scheme, not in respect of past years of service but even if one is still an employee, in relation to one's future years of service they actually alter the scheme. We are not planning to do that. The scheme will remain. If any change ever happens we do not envisage any change whatsoever to the scheme as it currently is for people who are already in it. Namely, current employees. But we do feel that we have an obligation to future generations of taxpayers to change the scheme by then having a wholly different funded scheme, which may very well be not a final salary scheme, as is presently the case of all employees of the Gibraltar Development Corporation and all Government owned companies.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Yes, that is in fact, I think, that is closer to an accurate explanation to the original question than anything that has been said until now. Of course, it is true, as the Chief Minister says, that many other governments have moved in this direction in other places, but none of them have claimed to have done it for the reasons that he has claimed in the House today, which is to do it out of concern for the welfare of their employees in order to give them more protection. In the original questions the Chief Minister said there are many people all over the place who actually think that funded schemes that are money purchased are actually better, because they can give a pot of money that one can pass.....

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I have said that but that was not the explanation of why the Government was doing it. He is converting that comment into the explanation for the Government's position, which is not what I said.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I see, well, it may not be the explanation, it then may be a way of selling the package so that it looks as if it is an improvement instead of.....

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

If he will give way, the explanation is the one that I have given him and that is, it is an attempt to relieve future generations of Gibraltar taxpayers of increasingly expensive burdens arising from the current Government pension scheme. That is the objective and it can be done (1) by converting to a funded scheme; and (2) by that funded scheme being contributory, as opposed to non contributory, and that new funded contributory scheme not being final salary but being money purchased schemes, of which he is aware. That is the motivation. The remark that actually some people find the Government schemes less generous than people think in certain circumstances, is indeed the case. The fact that some people prefer the endowment scheme rather than that final salary scheme is also true. But that is not the reason why the Government is doing it. The hon Member is not going to get away with switching, on the basis of his selective drawing from what I have said at different times in this discussion, what are the reasons why the Government is doing it.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I gave way although we are not in a debate, obviously, but it sounds as if we were in a debate. The point is that my original question was whether they had a policy to move to the scheme that is in the agencies, and the answer was no, there is no such policy. It is only after many supplementaries that we have been given the last answer, which is possibly the most accurate answer as to the motivation for wanting to sit down with the unions to discuss it. In fact, if the Chief Minister is concerned simply, in terms of Government policy, about the funding as opposed to the cost annually of a final salary scheme, can he confirm therefore that one of the options under consideration will be a funded final salary scheme?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I am not willing to confirm that or deny that. What we are initiating is a discussion. The cost of it is double, because during all the years that it takes to transition into this, the Government has to pay both the unfunded gratuity and annual pension payments to the retired and retiring members of the current scheme, and also the contributions for the new scheme of its then current employees. So this is not something that the Government does to save annual budgetary costs, it is actually more expensive for the Government, in terms of disposable public monies, it diverts resources for a long period of time to pensions from other things. But when the system is fully in place, the taxpayer of Gibraltar would have, if it proceeded, a fully

funded occupational pension scheme for its public servants that would not be an annual budgetary drag, in terms of the cost in paying out the benefits, as the present one is and the Government is not going to succumb to whatever attempt the hon Member devises now to talk to him about what may or may not be, hypothetically, in a policy that has not yet been formulated and about which the Government have so far only the policy of sitting down to discuss it with the unions. That is the position.

ORAL

NO. 778 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

PERMITS OF RESIDENCE – NON-EEA SPOUSES OF GIBRALTARIANS

Can Government state if the policy for non-EEA spouses of Gibraltarians is to restrict the permit of residence initially to 6 months and require repatriation if the couple cease to live together as man and wife, how many Gibraltarians currently have non-EEA spouses living in Gibraltar who are subject to these conditions?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 779 of 2008.

NO. 779 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

VISAS AND PERMITS OF RESIDENCE – NON-EEA SPOUSES OF GIBRALTARIANS

Can Government confirm that the policy applied to the issuing of visas and residence permits to the non-EEA spouses of Gibraltarians is that in the first instance this is on a 6 months residence permit and subject to the requirement for an undertaking by the Gibraltarian applicant to repatriate the spouse to the country of origin if the couple cease to live together as husband and wife?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The answer is yes, where the non-EEA spouse of the resident Gibraltarian is also a visa requiring national. There are currently 18 non-EEA visa requiring spouses residing in Gibraltar who are subject to these conditions.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 778 AND 779 OF 2008

HON J J BOSSANO:

And that is the condition mentioned in both questions, including the repatriation?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is very difficult to spot the difference. Repatriation is mentioned in both.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well, in the second one there is an undertaking required, presumably, from what I have seen of the letters concerned, it would mean that if the Gibraltarian applicant was not willing to sign such an undertaking the spouse would not be allowed to come.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Correct.

HON J J BOSSANO:

That is applied to all of them? Can the Chief Minister say whether in all cases we are talking about a male Gibraltarian and a female partner being the non-EEA national?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, I cannot tell him that.

NO. 780 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

VISAS AND PERMITS OF RESIDENCE – NON-EEA SPOUSES OF GIBRALTARIANS

Can Government state whether the policy that applies to the issuing of visas and residence permits to the non-EEA spouses of EEA nationals residing in Gibraltar is the same as the one that applies to Gibraltarians, and if not can Government identify the difference?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The issuing of visas and residence permits to the non-EEA spouses of EEA nationals is a matter of law and not of Government policy. EU law on freedom of movement, which is given effect in Gibraltar by our legislation, unconditionally entitles the non-EEA spouses of EEA nationals exercising EU residence rights in another Member State, to enter and reside in the state where the EEA national is resident. In other words, there is an EU right to bring your non-EEA spouse with you if you are exercising an EU right.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 780 OF 2008

HON J J BOSSANO:

Yes, but I am asking if the policy that is applied, presumably as a requirement under EU law, is different from the one that has been explained in answer to the previous question, which is confirmation of what the question asked and the Chief Minister has not mentioned in the difference, whether there is a difference on having.....

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

None of that arises. There is no policy discretion, the law requires unconditional rights to remain.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So, therefore, the unconditional rights to remain continue to apply to the spouse even if the EEA national leaves Gibraltar?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well then?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is whilst the EEA national is exercising his EU residence rights in another Member State.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I see. If the EEA national is exercising his rights in Gibraltar and the couple cease to live together, the position continues to be that the spouse can still remain here?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I am sure that that is regulated by the legislation, by the EU Directive, I do not know what the answer to that is. I suspect the answer is no. But it is a matter of law, in any case, not policy.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am trying to establish, I do not know whether the Chief Minister has got the hang of it or not, I am trying to establish if, in fact, as appears to be the case, Gibraltarians are actually worse off in this particular area than EEA nationals. Is that the case or not?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, what does he mean by worse off? Both are allowed to be here, the EEA national that used to be attached to a Gibraltarian has to go when they cease to be attached. Whether that is the case also for the non-EEA spouse of an EEA national is a matter of law, the answer to which I do not know. But in any case, it is not a matter of Government policy. I am sure that the circumstance that the hon Member is describing and trying to contrast with the Government's policy in relation to the non-EEA spouses of Gibraltarians, is provided for under the Directive. I would be very surprised if the Directive left that lacunae in its provision but he would have to look it up. It is a legal matter and the Government have no policy which is different.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well, would the Chief Minister not agree that if, in fact, the legal requirements under the EU provisions provide a level of protection for the spouse of an EEA national,

which is absent in the policy that applies to the Gibraltarian, that that is a matter that has to be looked into?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, I do not because the person who may deserve protection is the Gibraltarian not the EEA spouse that has left the Gibraltarian.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I see, and therefore, this is not a question, we are not talking about a spouse leaving a Gibraltarian as the Chief Minister says.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

What is the hon Member talking about?

HON J J BOSSANO:

A marriage may go through a period when the two people are not living under the same roof, and here we pick the wife, I imagine in nearly all the cases, because in fact certainly all the people that I know are cases of male Gibraltarians with wives of another nationality which is not an EEA nationality. I do not know of any other one. I asked him and he does not know either. I asked him if he knew and the answer is that he did not know. I have to put a question to him about the 18 for the next House so I get the breakdown.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

What does he expect me to do the division between sexes of the 18 examples?

HON J J BOSSANO:

Because for all I know he may have on that bit of green paper the 18 listed, I do not know what he has got there.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, I have not.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am not to know whether he has it or not. It would not be the first time that I have asked a supplementary to which he is able to give me an answer because the information is in front of him. He has told me he does not have the information, I accept it, and I will ask him a question on it and then he will have the right bit of

green paper in front of him. That is why I expect him to know the next time round and he does not know this time. But what I am saying is, here we have a situation where the treatment of the spouse is that the spouse gets deported from Gibraltar if they cease to live together under the same roof. But if the guy was a Spanish national with a non-EEA spouse, if the law does not allow that to happen then, in fact, there is a difference there which seems to me very peculiar and needs looking into. Is the Government prepared to look into that or not?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. The position is that a spouse has to leave when the entitlement ends. So if the position is that the entitlement under EU law ends when they separate, then the Government is free and would expel the non-EEA spouse of an EEA member. There are no circumstances in which the Government, being free as a matter of policy to expel the non-EEA spouse of a Gibraltar, would not expel the non-EEA spouse of an EEA member unless it was prevented by EU law from doing so. That is the position.

HON J J BOSSANO:

What I am saying is, if it is prevented by EEA law would the policy of the Government be to continue to do it for the spouses of Gibraltar, even though they could not do it for the spouses of any other of the 13 nationalities of the EEA?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

For the ex spouses of Gibraltar, yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

No, look, an ex spouse is someone that has gone through a procedure of divorce. The rule that the Government apply as a matter of policy is not that. If they cease to live together as husband and wife, they can have a quarrel and move out.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, well the answer is yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

They would continue to apply to Gibraltar.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes. To the non-EEA spouse of Gibraltar, yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

If they have a child, the child will have to go with the mother.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No. Does the hon Member want to ask supplementaries about children?

HON J J BOSSANO:

There is nothing in the policy to indicate that there is anything about children, because there is nothing in the letters telling people that they have to go. There is no mention of children there.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The position is that if there are children who have acquired Gibraltar belonger status, of which by the way there is no such case yet, but where there are children born before the separation who have acquired Gibraltar belonger status, this policy is not enforced. The mother or father of a child that has acquired Gibraltarian status.

NO. 781 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

VISAS AND PERMITS OF RESIDENCE – EEA NATIONALS AND GIBALTARIANS

Can Government state if there is a different policy applied to EEA nationals and Gibraltarians in respect of the issuing of visas and residence permits for non-EEA spouses whether non-Gibraltarian British Citizens are treated according to the policy that applies to Gibraltarians or the one that applies to EEA nationals?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Our legislation provides for United Kingdom nationals who are defined as EEA nationals to be treated as EEA nationals in Gibraltar. Therefore, non-Gibraltarian British Citizens are treated in accordance with the law applied to EEA nationals.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 781 OF 2008

HON J J BOSSANO:

So that means that the first regime which is Government policy, because there is no law on it, only applies to those British Citizens that have got the right to be registered under the Gibraltarian Status Act?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Here is what it says, the question asked whether non-Gibraltarian British Citizens are treated in accordance with the policy that applies to Gibraltarians or in accordance with the policy that applies to EEA nationals. The answer is that they are treated in accordance with the law that applies to EEA nationals. That is the answer. There is only one way of saying that, it does not have to be re-articulated.

NO. 782 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

PROVIDENT FUND PENSION ARRANGEMENTS

Given the policy decision to allow 100% commutation in respect of provident fund pension arrangements, will Government extend the choice to those entitled to a civil service pension?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

No Sir. Provident Fund pension arrangements are fully funded in the sense that a fund exists that contains 100 per cent of the capital monies attributable to each pensioner. One hundred per cent commutation, therefore, has no capital or funding implication for the Government. The Government's Civil Service Pension Scheme is entirely unfunded and thus 100 per cent commutation would require the Government to provide a significant amount of capital every year for that purpose. What is more, the question confuses the Government in two different statuses. Contrary to what is implied in the question, the allowance of 100 per cent commutation rights is a taxation decision made by the Government as the taxing authority. To benefit from that, it is still necessary for a pensioner to belong to a pension scheme that allows 100 per cent commutation. This question relates to the Government's status as an employer in respect of the pension terms of its employees. Therefore, the word "given" in the question is inappropriate, in the sense that the two issues are not comparable. In other words, the fact that the Government as taxing authority has allowed those people who belong to a pension scheme that permits it, to commit, commute from a taxation point of view 100 per cent of their pension, is a non sequitur when it comes to whether the Government should do the same as an employer of its own occupational pension scheme. The word "given" is therefore inappropriate and misleading.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well, I do not know whether it is inappropriate or misleading, I suppose we ought to send him draft questions so that he can now decide as well what pleases him in the terminology.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Absolutely, just as his people ask xxxxxx to categorise it and characterise it.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well yes, I mean the whole purpose of the exercise is to seek information but if the Chief Minister gets more pleasure out of making remarks about the drafting capacity of the Opposition than about providing the information, I am not going to deny him his pleasure. There are few pleasures in life, apparently, so why should I want to take that one away from him? Is it not the case that the private sector schemes that have a limit of 25 per cent commutation, have got a 25 per cent commutation limit precisely because the tax authorities required it before the 100 per cent commutation was, in fact, introduced and that now there is nothing to stop private employers from having 100 per cent commutation and getting the scheme accepted by the tax office?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

That is precisely what I have said in the answer, and with the greatest of respect to him, although it is a systemic approach, the purpose of this question was not just to ask information. If the hon Member's purpose in asking this question were simply to ask for information, he could have said, will the Government allow 100 per cent commutation, that would have been request for information. By saying "given the policy decision to allow 100 per cent commutation in respect of provident pension arrangements, will Government extend the choice to those entitled to a civil service pension?" is to compare apples with pears and to say, because you have allowed apples now allow pears. The Government have allowed it as tax authority not as employer in its pension scheme. In other words, all Government employees would be free as all employees of all private sector companies would be free, as far as the tax laws of Gibraltar are concerned, to commute 100 per cent of their pensions if they are in a pension scheme that allows 100 per cent commutation. So there is no discrimination between anybody in the context in which the Government have made the policy decision to allow 100 per cent commutation. Government pensioners, like pensioners in many private sector pension schemes, belong to a pension scheme that does not allow 100 per cent commutation. If the question is, is the Government as an employer willing to amend the Pensions Act to allow its pension scheme members to commute 100 per cent of their pensions, the answer is no.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I know that the answer is no because he has already given me the answer at the beginning. But, in fact, is it not the case, and he says that this is a repetition of the thing, that because the Government as a matter of policy took away the requirement of capping commutation at 25 per cent, it is now open to all employers, which it was not before and because it is open to all employers then it is, in my view, legitimate to say that given that this has happened, it is open to them as an employer to do the same as is open to all other employers, and the Government chooses not to do it. Fair enough.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, that is not an optional interpretation of this question because he says, given that the Government have made a policy decision wearing its tax hat, to allow for tax purposes 100 per cent commutation, will Government extend the choice to those entitled to a civil service pension? At that point he is destroying the availability to him of the justification that he has just, because the Government have not given a choice to

anyone that is a member of a pension scheme that does not allow 100 per cent commutation, to go for 100 per cent commutation. What the Government have said, there is no taxation objection to going for 100 per cent commutation, but one first has to belong to a scheme that does. The Government did not do this as a matter of policy because it dreamed it up one day. The Government did this because the only company that was selling annuity schemes in Gibraltar, which is what people in private sector pension schemes have to do with the part of their lump sum that they are not allowed to commute, withdrew from the market and there were people retiring with private sector pension schemes, with a legal obligation under the Income Tax Act to commute no more than 25 per cent, obliged, therefore, to buy if it is a money purchase scheme an annuity for the balance of 75 per cent, and the annuities were simply not available in the market to residents of Gibraltar. So it was a trap, people had a legal obligation to do something which, in fact, the market was not giving them a way of providing. Quite apart from the fact, as if that had not been enough, that in the Government's view annuity contracts are not good value for money. But it was driven by the market.

HON J J BOSSANO:

He seems to have forgotten that the first time he amended it he kept the 20 per cent tax on the balance over 25 per cent and, that in fact, we voted against it for this reason. It was only the second time round....

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

That was a different policy.

HON J J BOSSANO:

No, that was the policy when he was talking about providing the annuities from the Provident Fund. But, anyway, it is all on the record, it is all in Hansard and I will fish it out for him. My point is that, of course, the Government as an employer in the Development Corporation have as a result of the change in the tax law allowed 100 per cent commutation. Is that not the case?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

They are two different things. There is whether one is allowed to commute more than 75 per cent, and there is the separate issue of the taxation of the resulting part. The first stage, as I recall now on my feet, is that there was a relaxation of the commutation.....

HON J J BOSSANO:

But it was still taxed?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, and the second stage was, when we abolished tax on pensions, that there was no tax paid on the balance. They are different policies taken in respect of different issues.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So the reason for abolishing the tax on the balance was the fact that pensions were not taxed.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Exactly.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The decision to remove the ceiling on the commutation came earlier and was not as a result of removing the tax.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, it was as a result of the market unavailability of xxxxxx

HON J J BOSSANO:

But, clearly, when it was still being taxed, in people taking a decision would the Chief Minister not agree, as to whether to go beyond the 25 per cent or not, they had to take a decision in the knowledge that if they went over 25 per cent it was taxed at 20 per cent, the amount was taxed at 20 per cent.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Correct.

HON J J BOSSANO:

When the change in the tax followed the removal of tax on pensions, it was then that the Government changed the provisions of its own provident fund for employees in the GDC, in the Electricity Authority and in other areas, to have 100 per cent commutation. There we have got a Government policy in respect of public employees following the decision to do away with the ceiling on commutations. So it seems to me perfectly logical that having done it for those other employees, I should ask him whether there is a policy to do it also for civil service pensions. The answer is no, okay.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The answer is no for the reason given, that in the case of a provident fund it is fully funded and has no capital implication, and in the case of the unfunded civil service scheme, it would have huge annual capital implications. In the case of a provident fund, there is no cost to the scheme of allowing 100 per cent commutation because the money is there with the pensioner's name on it. Whether the provident scheme trustees allow them to take 100 per cent in one go or not, is of no cost consequence to the pension scheme because the money is all there in their account. They either take 100 per cent of it on day one, or less than 100 per cent on day one and the rest over a period of time, but the money is all there. There is no logic in preventing them from taking it because originally the provident scheme was tailor made to the tax laws. When the tax laws changed there was a rationale to say to people who have a pot of money with their name on it sitting in an account in the Treasury under the provident fund, no it cannot be taken, even though there is no xxxxxx. In the case of the civil service pension scheme, it is unfunded so just as now they can take 25 per cent or whatever it is by way of gratuity, if they were allowed to take 100 per cent then the costs would be huge in capital terms. Huge, the hon Member can work this out and that is the difference, that is what I said to him in the first answer, No Sir, provident fund pension arrangements are fully funded and have no cost implications. The Government civil service pension scheme is entirely unfunded and thus..... That is the reason why the Government will not consider changing the pension scheme terms for civil servants to allow 100 per cent commutation, even though there would be no impediment under the tax laws to that happening.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Fine, so then the "given" and all the rest of it is now irrelevant. I mean, it is quite obvious that the cost in a given year, if people chose to take that option, would be higher than it is at the moment in a given year. But it is possible, actuarially, to produce a present value lump sum which is the same as the stream of income over the future years.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is not, and the hon Member must know that it is not. Look, if civil servants could commute 100 per cent of their pensions they would all do it because that way they avoid the risk that they will die soon and lose it all. Or why does he think that every civil servant commutes the maximum that they can, at least the 25 per cent, because what one commutes ceases to be at risk of one's death. What one does not commute is at risk of one's death. So allowing 100 per cent commutation is actuarially the equivalent of paying every civil servant a pension, regardless of how long it would have been paid for depending on how long they were going to live. That is the effect of allowing 100 per cent commutation and the cost, not just annually but over any period of time, is huge because the hon Member is depriving the taxpayer of the savings that it presently earns from the fact that civil servants drop in and out of the pension scheme, some reach pensionable age and other pensioners die. The net annual cost is the difference in the cost between those two. Well, of course, if we eliminate the cost falling out because everyone has commuted their pension 100 per cent, one does not have to be a mathematician or a brain surgeon to work out that the cost over any period of time to the taxpayer is massively higher.

ORAL

NO. 783 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CHIEF FIRE OFFICER POST

Can Government state what are the succession plans for the Chief Fire Officer post in the Fire Brigade?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The vacancy will be filled in accordance with the long established practice for filling vacancies in the public sector.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 783 OF 2008

HON J J BOSSANO:

So the Government propose to open the vacancy within the service then? This is the long established practice.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I understand that that is the long established practice for filling vacancies in the public sector.

ORAL

NO. 784 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CONSOLIDATED FUND FIGURES

Can Government state what are the latest updated figures for the forecast outcome in the Consolidated Fund for 2007/2008 in respect of (a) revenue; (b) expenditure; and (c) the Consolidated Fund balance?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Revenue £231,885,000; Expenditure £216,223,000; and the Consolidated Fund balance £49,296,000.

NO. 785 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

SALE OF LOWER ELMS

Can Government say whether the Lower Elms has now been sold to the next highest bidder, indicating the amount and the name of the successful tenderer?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Yes, just before I do so can I just offer the House an explanation as to why these two questions are tagged on to the end after the Leader of the Opposition. Unfortunately, they were omitted from the original workload and reinserting them in numerical order would have meant renumbering all the other questions with all the cross references to questions, that is too much work so we decided to add them at the end.

Yes, the sale of this property has recently been completed. The purchasers are Mr and Mrs M Casciaro in the sum of £303,500.

ORAL

NO. 786 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

AIR TERMINAL – COMMERCIAL UNITS WITHIN DEPARTURE LOUNGE

On how many occasions since May 1998 has the Government granted consent for the assignment of licences over retail commercial units within the departure lounge at Gibraltar Airport, giving (if possible) also a breakdown of the names of the assignee and assignor, identifying the date any such consents were granted and any premiums charged by the Government as landlord in respect of any such assignments?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Government's consent has, I understand, been sought only once since May 1998 and granted. The assignor was Sakata Duty Free Limited and the assignee was L Sacarello Duty Free Limited. The consent was sought on 22nd January 2008 and granted on 19th June 2008. In accordance with previous practice, no premium was charged given that what was assigned were personal rights under a licence and not a lease or tenancy of property.

ORAL

NO. 787 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

MUSIC CENTRE (BFBS BUILDING)

Can Government state whether the Music Centre at the old site of the BFBS building was given to the Trustees under a lease or licence and if not any of the two mentioned, under what condition was it given?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 788 to 790 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 788 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

MUSIC CENTRE (BFBS BUILDING)

Can Government state when the building for the Music Centre was given to the Trustees?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 787, 789 and 790 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 789 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

MUSIC CENTRE (BFBS BUILDING)

Can Government state what are the terms and conditions under which the Trustees run the Music Centre?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 787, 788 and 790 of 2008.

NO. 790 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

MUSIC CENTRE (BFBS BUILDING)

What are the terms of licence granted to the Music Centre or any other parties for the use of the old BFBS site?

ANSWER

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

I do not have the exact date of when the building was given to the Trust but related correspondence points to late in the year 2003.

As for the rest of the questions, the position remains as answered in Question No. 394 of 2008 and its supplementaries.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 787 TO 790 OF 2008

HON S E LINARES:

The Minister said he answered the questions, I have never asked any of these questions as in licence. For example, whether it is a lease or the licence, the building, I have never asked that question so I do not know what the Minister is referring to. He might have answered certain questions in relation to the Music Centre, but I have not asked these questions so can the Minister refresh my memory as to what was answered in Question No. 394?

HON E J REYES:

Question No. 394 of 2008 was tabled by the Leader of the Opposition quite recently and the question specifically referred to whether it was a lease or a licence, and there was a formal answer given and supplementaries relating to it, to which even the Chief Minister made a contribution.

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Minister state under what condition the lease or the licence was given?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Just on a Point of Order, can I just refer Mr Speaker to Standing Order 17(1)(v), since we are determined, are we not all, to ensure the Rules of the House are complied with, which says that a question shall not refer to any debate that has occurred, or answer that has been given within the preceding six months.

MR SPEAKER:

The question is when was Question No. 394 answered? Would it be within the last six months, do we know? I must confess I certainly do not have the resources to be able to check a question against all the questions put in the last six months, but if Question No. 394 was answered within the last six months, then Standing Order 17(1)(v) would apply, but I do not think it intones on this.

HON S E LINARES:

If I can remember correctly it was in April and we are well beyond the six months anyway.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It was six weeks ago, or was it five?

MR SPEAKER:

Question No. 394 would be in the September sitting.

HON F R PICARDO:

Why do we not stand the matter down for a moment and carry on with other questions and I will go behind and check the Hansards and see the date?

MR SPEAKER:

Thank you very much, but Question No. 394 strikes me, the numbering here, it is within the 400 mark so it would be the last sitting which began in September.

HON S E LINARES:

I could carry on with supplementaries but I would rather wait until we get a hold of Question No. 394 and we can come back.

MR SPEAKER:

He can carry on with supplementaries and I am sure Mr Picardo will come back with the answer very quickly.

HON S E LINARES:

Thank you, no problem. Can the Minister state who appoints the Trustees?

HON E J REYES:

I do not know exactly. What I do know was that I did reply to the Hon Steven Linares in Question No. 60 of 2007, so obviously that is more than six months ago, and I did say there that the Music Centre is a charitable trust, not one appointed by Government, run by its Trustees and it is up to the Trustees to decide how their business is managed. Government are therefore not answerable to this Parliament on most of the matters raised in the questions, both in Question Nos. 60 and 61 of 2007.

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Minister state whether any interested parties, who also use the facilities other than the building, that is the surrounding areas, do any other entities, or any other person, or any other corporate, use under a licence or as a concession or whatever around the area of the building?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

That is a different question. If the question relates to the business of the Trust, then the Government either do not know or are not answerable, this is not a Government trust. If the question is about, and it would be a perfectly proper line of questioning, are the Government satisfied that public property is being put to proper use, they would be perfectly entitled to put questions of that sort to the Government, regardless of the business of the Trust. It is a wholly different question upon which we would need notice. The question that he now asks is not about the business of the Trust, it is about whether in that plot of land, the ex BFBS house and presumably he means its gardens and its driveway and all of that, whether there is any other authorised user of the land. Well, it is a perfectly proper question but the Government would need notice of that question so that we can obtain the information and we can provide him with as accurate an answer as we can.

HON S E LINARES:

I have asked the question and if the Chief Minister dares to look at Question No. 790 of 2008, it says, "what are the terms of licence granted to the Music Centre or any other parties?" So I am including the whole area, that is the area of the Music Centre and whether that includes another party as opposed to the Trustees of the Music Centre. So it is there, so I do not see why it cannot be answered. That is not a supplementary, it is on the Order Paper, and it specifically says the "old BFBS site" it does not say the building. So the site should be all the area that has been given by the Government, whether under licence, lease or whatever. We will have a look at it later in the questions.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Speaking from memory, but he will have to therefore allow for a possible degree of inaccuracy, I for example know that there are nearby residents that are allowed to use part of the area for parking their vehicles, I believe, in a very long-standing arrangement. I do not know if that is the sort of arrangement that he thinks is captured by Question No. 790, which are a series of questions about the Music Centre and about the Trustees of the Music Centre, and so no one has focussed on any other user. But if the hon Member is interested to know the nitty gritty of the use of all the site that used to be attached or part of the old BFBS site, we shall have to identify precisely what was the old BFBS site, not just the building, presumably he wants all the way to whatever may ever have been the parameters of its garden. That is a very different question of which we would need more specific notice. If that is what he intended to refer by "or any other parties for the use of the old BFBS site". The old BFBS site is the building. If he means the grounds then it is a different question. There are other users and I know that many, many years ago there were arrangements made with residents of nearby buildings, I cannot tell him now what those arrangements are but I know, somewhere in the back of my mind I remember there was some arrangement made, at least, well certainly more than four years ago.

HON S E LINARES:

Were the arrangements made directly with the Government or with the Trustees?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The arrangements to which I am referring, which he should not regard as exhaustive or accurately put to him, would be arrangements that were made directly by the Government. I do not know what the Trustees do or do not do. I am speaking for the Government in respect of a matter for which the Government are responsible and accountable to this House, which is what the Government do or how the Government oversee the use of public property, even, but not the business of the Trust in terms of the Music Centre.

HON S E LINARES:

We have now Question No. 394 which the Minister referred to and the Chief Minister is correct in that it was, we did not actually know but we can ascertain that it was September. I am just saying that it was in September, therefore, it is not the six months that we are talking about. But in answer to the question whether it was a lease or a licence there is no answer, the Chief Minister said, "I am almost certain there is no lease, and I think it is a licence but I will have that checked". So that is why I have posed the question in a different way and want the answer whether it is a lease or a licence and under what conditions, either lease or licence, have been given to the Trustees of the Music Centre. So the answer is still pending.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The answer is that the position remains the same, as answered in the question

HON S E LINARES:

So the answer is that he has still to check, is it? He has to go and check?

MR SPEAKER:

I think the answer is as the rules say, a question shall not refer to any debate that has occurred or answer that has been given within the preceding six months. So one can not even refer to it according to the rules. So, really, what the hon Member on this side should do is when a Minister says he will have it checked, write to him a week later asking if he has checked it. But with respect, according to the rules, again, it seems in my view unnecessarily restrictive but that is what the rules say. A question shall not refer to any debate that has occurred or any answer that has been given in the last six months.

HON J J BOSSANO:

If that were to be interpreted in that novel fashion, then Mr Speaker would have to remove 200 questions straight away, because every time we are told that they have not got the answer, or they need notice of a question, we have just been told that if we want that question answered we need to give notice. Now, if I give notice I will be referring to the answer that he has just given me.

MR SPEAKER:

I have expressed the view that it seems unnecessarily restrictive.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, Mr Speaker, I do not think the hon Member is right. There is a difference between a question that is put down for oral answer and a supplementary asked. Where I have said that it is a different question and requires written notice..... First of all, it arises on a supplementary, secondly, I am thereby conceding that if he asks the question it cannot breach, in our opinion at least, the rule because it is precisely what I am saying it is a different question about which we need notice. So having said that it is a different question about which we need notice, it is hardly also possible that it should be the case that it has already been the subject matter of a question in the House. It says, "or question asked". "Question asked", it is up to the Speaker, of course, to interpret that but I would have thought that "question asked" means.....

HON J J BOSSANO:

The original.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

But that is not for me to say.

HON F R PICARDO:

But is Mr Speaker not saying that the supplementaries amount to a debate and there has been a reference to it in a debate, and I think that is why we have reached the conclusion which we think, obviously as the Leader of the Opposition suggested, is unnecessarily restrictive.

MR SPEAKER:

The point I am making, I am quoting the wording of Standing Orders. It says, "a question shall not refer to any debate that has occurred or answer that has been given". So mere reference in a question to a debate or an answer in the last six months is prohibited. However, having said that, I do take the view it is unnecessarily restrictive and I have not in the past....

HON F R PICARDO:

With respect if I may? The question does not refer to the debate that has occurred or the answer that was given. The question stands on its own. It may be that the question standing on its own offends the rule that we say in shorthand is that one should not ask the same question in six months. But the question put by the hon Gentleman does not refer to the debate.

MR SPEAKER:

Well, it does not have to refer specifically to the debate or referring to the answer, the mere context of the question may refer and that could be taken as referral.

HON F R PICARDO:

I am sorry, but the rule says "a question shall not refer". Now the question does not refer to the debate. Therefore, the question must be parliamentary. Now, if the hon Gentleman says it is the same question that was asked six months ago, that I think should offend a different rule but not this rule.

MR SPEAKER:

As I say, I have not applied this very strictly in the past, I do take the view it is unduly restrictive but I shall keep careful thought on this. Without wishing to stifle the latitude allowed to the Opposition, questions will be allowed as far as possible.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Perhaps I could, at the risk of being accused of clarifying Mr Speaker's thoughts. Of course, the Leader of the Opposition does not describe as clarifying one's thoughts on those occasions where the Chair agrees with him. When the Chair happens to agree with me, then it is a clear cut case of my clarifying your thoughts. Never mind. The view on the Government side and expressed by me as Leader of the House, is that I think that Standing Order, when it refers to debate, means debate on a debate

on a motion. It may also be arguable that it is a breach of Standing Orders that we should convert every question into a debate. That is also true but that is not the issue we are discussing today. I think the Standing Order says, regardless of whether anybody thinks it is too restrictive or not, it is the Rule of the House and therefore should be adhered to, that whether it is in a debate or in questions, meaning answers to questions, not meaning debates that flow from a question. My interpretation of the word "debate" is that it refers to debates on motions. But look, I have not researched it, the Speaker has not had an opportunity to research it, the hon Member has not had an opportunity to research it, I think that these are matters upon which the Speaker may wish to make rulings in due course, if he feels it appropriate to. Certainly, from the Government's point of view, we certainly have the feeling, as I think many others do as well, that we constantly face the same subject matter, the same questions, time and time again and that on this occasion, because the Constitution now requires us to get three meetings of the House in, it happens to be within a very short period of each other. That is the only point but still, it is certainly not novel. I accept what the Speaker has said that in the past this rule, at least in the recent past, this rule used to be more strictly enforced when I was sitting on another side of the House. But still, I accept that in the last 13 years it has not been strictly enforced.

HON S E LINARES:

Therefore, if the question should be ruled as not being within the time limit that I have to ask, can I then sort of remove that question so that it goes retrospective to April so that when the next House comes I can then ask the question? What is going happen now is that it is going to be as if I have asked the question on December 3rd, and therefore I now have to wait well into July or August in order to pose the question again. Unfortunately, as far as I am concerned, the question has not quite been answered. Therefore, I would like a full answer to the question, if that is possible.

MR SPEAKER:

I do not think it is up to me to advise the hon Member how to conduct his parliamentary.....

HON S E LINARES:

No, what I am saying is, I am asking Mr Speaker whether this question will now be taken as if it was put today or is it a question that should not have been there, and therefore it is retrospective from when it was last asked.

MR SPEAKER:

Well, after much debate on the subject, I will rule that this question was not properly put and therefore never happened.

HON S E LINARES:

Okay, thank you Mr Speaker.

HON E J REYES:

I want for the purposes of those who may be listening, I want to make certain that no one starts to believe that I am trying to shy away from providing any type of answer whatsoever. I am referring to the original Question.....

MR SPEAKER:

There is a rule somewhere that if a question is disallowed, a Minister may not answer the question.

HON E J REYES:

Alright.

ORAL

NO. 791 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

SPORTS AND LEISURE AUTHORITY – EMPLOYEES

Can Government state how many persons were employed by the Gibraltar Sports and Leisure Authority as at the end of October 2008 giving a breakdown by grade, sex, nationality and department?

ANSWER

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

The information requested is contained in the written schedule that I now hand over to the hon Member, as indeed all Members of the Opposition.

ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 791 OF 2008

**PERSONS EMPLOYED BY THE GIBRALTAR SPORTS AND LEISURE
AUTHORITY
AS AT END OCTOBER 2008-12-05**

NO.	GRADE	SEX	NATIONALITY
1	Chief Executive Officer – Gde 1	Male	British
1	Finance Manager – Gde 3	Male	British
1	Facilities Manager – Gde 3	Male	British
1	Administration and Resources Manager – Gde 3	Female	British
1	Sports Development and Training Officer – Gde 3	Male	British
1	Asst Sports Development and Training Officer – Gde 4	Male	British
5	Centre Managers – Gde 5	Male	British
1	Centre Manager – Gde 5	Female	British
2	Administrative / Clerical Officer – Gde 6	Female	British
2	Supervisory Groundsman – Gde 7	Male	1 British 1 Moroccan
22	Sports and Leisure Officers – Gde 8	Female	British
1	Sports and Leisure Officer – Gde 8	Female	British
1	Administrative & Secretarial Officer – Gde 9	Female	British
1	Support –Gde 11	Female	British

ORAL

NO. 792 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

VICTORIA STADIUM

Can Government state whether it will install floodlights to the small pitch at Victoria Stadium?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question No. 793 of 2008.

NO. 793 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

VICTORIA STADIUM

Can Government state when it will replace the defective floodlights at Victoria Stadium?

ANSWER

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

The required spares to replace the fused and/or any defective floodlights at the Victoria Stadium's either main pitch or pitch No. 2, have now been received. Earlier on in the week the Electricity Authority assured me that they will commence works as soon as the weather conditions permitted them, and I am glad to say that as of yesterday afternoon, it was confirmed that the Electricity Authority employees were actually at the Stadium carrying out the commencement of those repairs to change fused lights or any defective works that needed to be undertaken. In respect now specifically of Question No. 792, pitch No. 2, which we refer to as a training pitch, is lit up for training purposes from the floodlight installations installed at the main pitch.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 792 AND 793 OF 2008

HON G H LICUDI:

In relation to the main pitch and the answer that the Minister has given that the lights have now been received this week, clearly coincidental with the asking of the question last week, I am sure it is of no consequence, is our understanding correct that the system for replacing the lights requires the lowering of the actual floodlights where the lights actually are, and there is a problem with the lowering of at least one and that is why the floodlights have not been replaced in the past?

HON E J REYES:

I do not want to shy away from answering but, certainly, he is asking me a question that requires a little bit, at least, of technical knowledge on how the actual repair work is carried out. Unless I have notice, it will be misleading of me to even attempt to answer on what system is used.

HON G H LICUDI:

The question refers to defective floodlights, what I am asking is what is the nature of the defect which I would have expected, because it is not just a question of replacing bulbs, if the system itself is defective, as I have been led to believe and as the Minister knows I am not a technical man, I do not know for certain, but I have been led to believe there is a problem with the system itself of bringing it down and doing the replacement. What I am trying to find out is, is there that defect in place and if there is, how will it be remedied?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Minister understood his question, it did not require repetition if it was perfectly clear the first time. The answer is, whatever may be the difficulties, whatever may be the problem, whatever may be the system, whatever colour of screwdriver the electrician intends to take up with him to change the bulb, the answer is that the Gibraltar Electricity Authority will be carrying out the necessary works whenever the weather conditions permit. So, clearly, there are no difficulties which are insuperable, because if there was a difficulty which was insuperable, assuming there is any difficulty at all, the Gibraltar Electricity Authority will not be in a position to carry out the necessary works whenever the weather conditions permit. Now, if he is particularly interested in the mechanics of how the floodlights system works, I am sure the Minister will have no difficulty in finding him the information. But it should not surprise him that the Minister is not personally familiar with the intricacies of the mechanics of a floodlighting pole.

HON G H LICUDI:

The Minister clearly misunderstands the nature of the question. The question is not about the mechanics and the actual changing of the bulbs. The question is about a defect and the question has not been answered in terms of is there a defect and will it be repaired? Specifically what I have said, is my understanding is a particular defect in the lowering system in order to carry out the replacement of the bulbs. Now I can understand that the Minister has not understood the question as meaning that and does not have the answer. He should simply say that rather than throw it back that they have perfectly understood the answer and they have given an answer to the question. They clearly have not. If the Minister does not have the answer perhaps he can check whether there is, in fact, that defect.

MR SPEAKER:

I think the Minister did say that he has no knowledge of how the system works, whether it is lowered or not lowered. He did say that in the first answer and then in response to further supplementaries when the Chief Minister stood up with his intervention, the first answer was to me very clear that he just did not know the system, he needs notice of the question.

HON G H LICUDI:

Yes, even though he has had notice of a question which refers to a defect and he now says he does not know whether there is a defect or not. But leaving that to one

side, the other question about the floodlights in the small pitch, the Minister has confirmed that those are floodlights that are used by the main pitch floodlights. Does the Minister acknowledge that there may be situations where the training pitch may be necessary but the main pitch is not being used, therefore the floodlights might not be in use. I do not know whether that in practice exists and does the Minister not also know, my understanding is that there used to be separate floodlights in the small pitch but when the fence towards the airport was replaced, those floodlights were lost and have not been replaced. That is why there is a specific question about specific floodlights in that pitch, which I understood and I do not want to mislead the House, but it is just my understanding that there used to be those floodlights and they are no longer in place and it simply relies on the floodlights to the main pitch, which are directed to the main pitch and are therefore inadequate. That is the purpose of the question.

HON E J REYES:

What used to be there or not I am afraid I do not know. With adequate notice I can always check up historically what was there. The question was when will the defective floodlights be replaced or fixed. What I can inform the hon Member is that when I have explained that from the main pitch, from one of the actual big pylons that hold floodlights, pitch No. 2 is illuminated from there even if there is no game going on in pitch No. 1 and that does not require to be lit up, it is possible to illuminate the training practice pitch, which is otherwise known as pitch No. 2. So it does not matter whether there is a game going on in the main pitch or not. That is to answer that specific part of the question.

HON G H LICUDI:

The question specifically asked whether it will install floodlights at the small pitch. As I understand the answer, the answer is no. Can the Minister clarify that they have no intention whatsoever of doing that?

HON E J REYES:

There are no current plans to install floodlights then.

HON E J REYES:

Yes, because the hon Member asked me a supplementary which I said that since I had not received notice I could not answer. But I have now been able to get the information that, I hope, will satisfy the hon Member and all sports lovers in Gibraltar equally. The Electricity Authority have returned to the Victoria Stadium this morning to continue with its necessary works in respect of the floodlights. It has been confirmed to me that yes, the pylons, the four pylons on the main pitch, or pitch No. 1, do slide down – that facilitates the repair. I was told that there is no defect in itself in that mechanism. What the workers commenced on yesterday, and the example given to me made it a bit more intelligible, in the same way that those of us who own a private vehicle, the vehicle is not defective but it does undergo its sort of maintenance service periodically, the same work is actually being done. So not only are they repairing and changing any fused lights, but this sort of service to the whole

mechanism that allows the lighting system to come down for easier changing of a fused light is taking place today. I think not only the hon Member but sports lovers in Gibraltar would like to know what is happening in that respect.

HON G H LICUDI:

I am extremely grateful to the Minister for the clarification given.

ORAL

NO. 794 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

HERITAGE ACTION COMMITTEE

How often and on what dates has the Heritage Action Committee met since 30 June 2008?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 795 and 796 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 795 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

HERITAGE PROTECTION ACT

Can Government say at what stage of preparation is the Heritage Protection Act?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 794 and 796 of 2008.

NO. 796 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

HERITAGE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Can Government list the NGOs that it intends to consult “as and when it deems necessary” in relation to the Heritage Management Plan?

ANSWER

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

In answer to Question No. 794, the Heritage Action Committee met twice, that is, on 30th June and 20th September 2008.

As for Question No. 795, the Government continue to consider its policy options in respect of the new Heritage Act.

As for Question No. 796, it is premature to list which parties will be consulted and will be so until such time as the limits of the plan are established. I can say that, without doubt, the Gibraltar Heritage Trust will clearly be consulted in the process but there may be others also.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 794 TO 796 OF 2008

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In relation to the Heritage Protection Act, the Minister said the Government were considering the options. What options are they considering? Whether to proceed with the Heritage Protection Act or not? What are the options?

HON E J REYES:

I am referring to, let us xxxxxx this. In Question No. 392 of 2008, the Hon Dr Garcia asked at what stage of preparation is the Heritage Management Plan and so on. At the time, I answered that a Heritage Management Plan is presently being drafted by the Heritage Division and that pertinent Government Departments would be consulted as and when deemed necessary. That is the position.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The Minister is answering Question No. 796, my supplementary was on Question No. 795.

HON E J REYES:

Sorry then. Then the Heritage Act is something that Government is drafting and, therefore, those are the options it has. It is in the drafting stage and its option is that whilst drafting I am also listening, taking advice, amending and then a Bill will be presented to this House as is required.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The Minister is confusing the two. He said in relation to the Heritage Protection Act that the Government were considering their policy options. My question was what is the policy, whether to proceed with the Act or not to proceed with the Act. What are the other policy options?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Government intend to publish a new Heritage Act. What the Government are not willing to do is to give a sort of month by month, or quarter by quarter account of how we are doing in developing our own policies. The question is, I think the one he has just referred to, is at what stage of the process. This is a matter of Government policy, it will emerge when the policy is complete and when the Government are ready, and in the meantime what we are not willing to say it is at this particular stage or that particular stage. I do not mind telling him that there is an early draft, or there is a draft of an Act which is very old, but which is not going to form the basis of the new legislation. The Government are still formulating their own views about what should be the system for heritage protection in Gibraltar. That, in due course, will be reflected in a consultation paper, which will be followed by a new piece of significant legislation which will provide a new piece of architecture on the planning of public administration in Gibraltar, in this case dealing with heritage. I do not mind telling him that that is what the Government's scheme is. What I cannot tell him is, from time to time or where it is in the process because Governments do not work in that way. Eventually all these pieces come together, ideas, and then the first public indication of what the Government are thinking of doing will come in the consultation paper. Until that date, it is an internal, private matter within the Government, which the Government ought really not to be asked to give a public account of how they are doing with our own internal thinking processes, because it is Government policy it is not a question of public administration as such. But nor should the hon Member either think that this is something that is being worked on as a matter of priority, it is not. It is going forward but I would not like to give the hon Member the false impression that this is somehow something which is imminent. I do not think it is imminent. I think when it emerges, in accordance with our manifesto commitment sometime during this term, it will be an important piece of legislation but it is not being worked on at the sort of rate and speed that would entitle the hon Member to think that it may be imminent. It is not.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

I am grateful for that information. The confusion arose because when the Minister said he was considering policy options, it was left open as to whether the Government were going to proceed with the Act as a matter of policy or not proceed. That was the confusion.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, and this is something that we had intended to deal with sooner, it has just slipped down the list, a little bit, of priority. It is still an important priority but everything is relative, so, yes, if what he is interested to know is whether the Government are still working on this project as opposed to having abandoned it, because they may have decided that they do not want to change the heritage legislation, the answer is that that is not the case.

ORAL

NO. 797 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

CALPE CONFERENCE

Can Government say how many delegates registered for this year's Calpe Conference and how many of these were from Gibraltar?

ANSWER

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

Answered together with Question No. 798 of 2008.

NO. 798 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

CALPE CONFERENCE

What was the cost, with a breakdown, of this year's Calpe Conference?

ANSWER

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

For this year's Calpe Conference there were 120 registered delegates. These include speakers and organisational staff and of these 83 were actually from Gibraltar. I cannot at this stage give the details of the costs since invoices have still to come in and accounts have to be settled. I can, however, tell the hon Member that the total amount will not exceed the £40,000 approved by this Parliament under Head 2A subhead 3(3)(b).

NO. 799 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

INSTITUTE OF GIBRALTARIAN STUDIES

What are the terms of reference of the Institute of Gibraltarian Studies that was set up by the Ministry of Heritage last year and at what stage of development is this project?

ANSWER

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

The brief of the Institute is to research and compile as much available information on Gibraltarians, our social history, so as to create an archive of information for future generations. Specifically, the creation of a library of oral histories of living Gibraltarians is a major first task. The oral histories project has been started on a pilot basis and this is the first stage of the overall developments.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 799 OF 2008

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Does the Institute have its own staff and its own premises?

HON E J REYES:

If I recall the wording I have said in addresses and in opening of conferences, it is that I have instructed Dr Geraldine Finlayson to head this. For the sake of the record, I would have to look further into what sort of other staff have been co-opted. There is no one exclusively and specifically working on this, but rather, those that come under the general umbrella of the Heritage Division have been assigned certain tasks, and the hon Member might even wish to write a note to me just to remind me and I will provide the information, because there is a lot of keenness behind it and I would certainly like to share the information because it is for the benefit of Gibraltarians.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The Minister mentioned the oral database that is being compiled. How are persons being selected for this project?

HON E J REYES:

From what I know, it has been more of a personal contact at first, those that we know and those who sort of let us know that they are going to have some time available. Some may still be working and they say they have leave coming up so we fit them into the schedule. They are being selected as and when the persons that we wish to get the information from are available. They are what is known in the history world as a primary source of information. We have to adapt to their availability in order to record this. So they are being selected as and when they are available.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is there a particular profile of person that the Institute would be looking for? People who were evacuated, is there any particular profile?

HON E J REYES;

The best way to describe the profile is, anyone who has actual first hand living recollection of an event. That is what we are looking at. We are not just limiting ourselves to either talking to someone who may have been the president of a particular Let us think about the Second World War. Someone who may have been the president of a particular association has a lot to offer, but certainly the rank and file members also have very valuable contributions to make. So the profile is, let us gather as much information from as many people as possible within time constraints, obviously, time consuming for the members of the Heritage Division who still have to carry on with their normal day to day work.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is there a certain age limit above which people would qualify to take part in this project because of their age or their experiences?

HON E J REYES:

No, I am referring to primary sources of information, certainly there is no age limit. A young person can still be a primary source of information.

NO. 800 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATIONS

Can Government say who was the successful tenderer for the organisation and staging of the New Year's Eve celebrations at Casemates Square, how many tenders were submitted and the amount of the successful bid?

ANSWER

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

Four tenders were submitted and the successful tender was awarded to Events Unlimited for the sum of £42,500.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 800 OF 2008

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Minister say whether this was in fact the lowest bid?

HON E J REYES:

From the information I have in front of me, no I cannot confirm or deny that. The question specifically did not refer to whether it was the lowest tender or not so I have not got that information with me.

ORAL

NO. 801 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT – BREAKDOWN OF FULL-TIME JOBS

Can Government now state whether the information on the number of employees provided in answer to Question No. 401 of 2008 was in respect of the 836 employers or a lesser number and if the latter, provide a number?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL
RELATIONS**

The answer to Question No. 401 of 2008 was in respect of 533 employers.

ORAL

NO. 802 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT – DETACHED WORKERS

Can Government state as at the end of each month since October 2007, how many detached workers were in employment and provide a breakdown by industry and nationality?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL
RELATIONS**

Answered together with Question Nos. 803 to 805 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 803 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT – DETACHED WORKERS

Can Government now confirm whether all the 1,441 detached workers shown as working in October 2007, were excluded from the table of the October 2007 Employment Survey Report showing the number of full-time workers in the private sector?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL
RELATIONS**

Answered together with Question Nos. 802, 804 and 805 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 804 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT – DETACHED WORKERS

Can Government state as at the end of October 2004, 2005, 2006, how many detached workers were in employment and provide a breakdown by industry and nationality?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL
RELATIONS**

Answered together with Question Nos. 802, 803 and 805 of 2008.

NO. 805 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT – DETACHED WORKERS

Can Government state in respect of the number of detached workers as at October 2007 given in answer to Question No. 40 of 2008, can Government now confirm whether any were included in the October 2007 Employment Survey Report, and if so, identify those included by number, nationality and industry group?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

I regret to inform the hon Member that the figure of 1,441 provided in answer to Question No. 406 of 2008 is incorrect. Since providing that answer it has come to light that the programming formula used to calculate such a figure from the employment service database was flawed, inasmuch as the formula contained erroneous parameters. The correct figure has now been ascertained to be 386. An amended table will be made available with the other schedules. I would like to inform the hon Member opposite that the information requested in Question No. 802 of 2008 has already been made available to him as part of the employment related statistics that I pass to him each quarter. The Employment Service questionnaire does not pose a question that requires employers to identify detached workers. It is not, therefore, possible to know from the Employment Survey whether and if so how many detached workers may have been included or excluded by different employers. This would require a specific question to be included in the questionnaire, a matter to which consideration is being given. In the meantime, I will inform the hon Member that the figure quoted in respect of detached workers as of October 2007, are derived from the Employment Service records and not from the Employment Survey. The statistical information requested in relation to Question No. 802 and No. 804 is set out in the schedules that I now hand to him.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 805**Amended Answer to Question 406 of 2008**

Breakdown of Detached Workers in employment as at the end of October 2007 by industry and nationality, (corrected answer to Question 406 of 2008):

2007

INDUSTRY GROUP	Other British	Spanish	Other EEC	Other Non-EEC	Total
Shipbuilding, etc.			22	113	135
Construction	5	148	7	18	178
Wholesale Trade		4			4
Retail Trade	3	1			4
Repair of Consumer Goods					0
Sea Transport and Related Services					0
Post & Communication				2	2
Banking, Finance and Insurance		3		2	5
Other Services		14	1	43	58
Total	8	170	30	178	386

ANSWER TO QUESTION 805**Answer to Question 802**

The breakdown of Detached Workers in employment by industry and nationality since October 2007 is as follows:

October 2007	Spanish	British	Other EEC	Other Non-EEC	Total
Managerial				2	2
Professional	23		8	20	51
Associate Professional					
Administrative					
Skilled Trades	25	1	1	18	45
Personal Services					
Sales & Customer Svcs.		29			29
Plant Operators					
Elementary Occupations					
Totals	48	30	9	40	127

November 2007	Spanish	British	Other EEC	Other Non-EEC	Total
Managerial				3	3
Professional	8		6	30	44
Associate Professional	1				1
Administrative					
Skilled Trades			2	11	13
Personal Services				4	4
Sales & Customer Svcs.					
Plant Operators					
Elementary Occupations	2				2
Totals	11		8	48	67

December 2007	Spanish	British	Other EEC	Other Non-EEC	Total
Managerial				18	18
Professional	1				1
Associate Professional					
Administrative					
Skilled Trades	17			6	23
Personal Services					
Sales & Customer Svcs.					
Plant Operators					
Elementary Occupations					
Totals	18			24	42

Contd.....

CONTD ANSWER TO QUESTION 805

Contd Answer to Question 802

January 2008	Spanish	British	Other EEC	Other Non-EEC	Total
Managerial	7				7
Professional	12		1	23	36
Associate Professional					
Administrative					
Skilled Trades	17	1	13	31	62
Personal Services					
Sales & Customer Svcs.					
Plant Operators					
Elementary Occupations	1				1
Totals	37	1	14	54	106

February 2008	Spanish	British	Other EEC	Other Non-EEC	Total
Managerial					
Professional	18		4	4	26
Associate Professional					
Administrative					
Skilled Trades					
Personal Services					
Sales & Customer Svcs.					
Plant Operators					
Elementary Occupations					
Totals	18		4	4	26

March 2008	Spanish	British	Other EEC	Other Non-EEC	Total
Managerial			16	2	18
Professional	56	10		40	106
Associate Professional		3		1	4
Administrative					
Skilled Trades	10		1	8	19
Personal Services					
Sales & Customer Svcs.					
Plant Operators					
Elementary Occupations					
Totals	66	13	17	51	147

Contd.....

CONTD ANSWER TO QUESTION 805

Contd Answer to Question 802

April 2008	Spanish	British	Other EEC	Other Non-EEC	Total
Managerial	65			1	66
Professional			8	72	80
Associate Professional					
Administrative					
Skilled Trades	18	1	4	10	33
Personal Services			1	1	2
Sales & Customer Svcs.					
Plant Operators				1	1
Elementary Occupations					
Totals	83	1	13	85	182

May 2008	Spanish	British	Other EEC	Other Non-EEC	Total
Managerial				25	25
Professional	159		2		161
Associate Professional					
Administrative					
Skilled Trades				21	21
Personal Services					
Sales & Customer Svcs.	1				1
Plant Operators					
Elementary Occupations					
Totals	160		2	46	208

June 2008	Spanish	British	Other EEC	Other Non-EEC	Total
Managerial					
Professional	53	23		8	84
Associate Professional					
Administrative					
Skilled Trades				1	1
Personal Services					
Sales & Customer Svcs.					
Plant Operators					
Elementary Occupations					
Totals	53	23		9	85

Contd.....

CONTD ANSWER TO QUESTION 805

Contd Answer to Question 802

July 2008	Spanish	British	Other EEC	Other Non-EEC	Total
Managerial					
Professional	45	15	2	7	69
Associate Professional				1	1
Administrative					
Skilled Trades		6	1		7
Personal Services	1		1	1	3
Sales & Customer Svcs.					
Plant Operators					
Elementary Occupations					
Totals	46	21	4	9	80

August 2008	Spanish	British	Other EEC	Other Non-EEC	Total
Managerial				1	1
Professional	9	3			12
Associate Professional					
Administrative					
Skilled Trades	23	21		46	90
Personal Services					
Sales & Customer Svcs.					
Plant Operators					
Elementary Occupations	3				3
Totals	35	24		47	106

September 2008	Gibraltarian	Spanish	British	Other EEC	Other Non-EEC	Total
Managerial						
Professional						
Associate Professional					2	2
Administrative					1	1
Skilled Trades	2	10			11	23
Personal Services		3				3
Sales & Customer Svcs.						
Plant Operators						
Elementary Occupations		24		1	1	26
Totals	2	37		1	15	55

Contd.....

CONTD ANSWER TO QUESTION 805**Answer to Question 804**

Breakdown of Detached Workers in employment as at the end of October 2004, 2005
and 2006 by industry and nationality:

2004

INDUSTRY GROUP	Other British	Spanish	Other EEC	Other Non-EEC	Total
Shipbuilding, etc.	1	31	8	39	79
Construction	3	106		2	111
Wholesale Trade		31			31
Retail Trade		3		1	4
Repair of Consumer Goods	1	4			5
Sea Transport and Related Services					0
Post & Communication					0
Banking, Finance and Insurance		1		1	2
Other Services	3	5	10	27	45
Total	8	181	18	70	277

2005

INDUSTRY GROUP	Other British	Spanish	Other EEC	Other Non-EEC	Total
Shipbuilding, etc.		23	2	60	85
Construction	7	96	7	7	117
Wholesale Trade					0
Retail Trade		7		1	8
Repair of Consumer Goods					0
Sea Transport and Related Services					0
Post & Communication				1	1
Banking, Finance and Insurance			2	2	4
Other Services		4	6	63	73
Total	7	130	17	134	288

Contd.....

CONTD ANSWER TO QUESTION 805

Contd Answer to Question 804

2006

INDUSTRY GROUP	Other British	Spanish	Other EEC	Other Non-EEC	Total
Shipbuilding, etc.	0	3	2	48	53
Construction	13	62	31		106
Wholesale Trade			5		5
Retail Trade		2			2
Repair of Consumer Goods					0
Sea Transport and Related Services	1	1	4		6
Post & Communication				1	1
Banking, Finance and Insurance				2	2
Other Services		4	2	41	47
Total	14	72	44	92	222

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 802 TO 805 OF 2008

HON J J BOSSANO:

So, in fact, not only was the answer given the last time in terms of the numbers incorrect, but in fact, the supplementary to the answer that none were included, that is to say, it is not that the 1441 were not included, it is that they were not 1441, they were 386 and that we have no way of knowing whether the 386 are included or not included in the figures. That is the correct position?

HON L MONTIEL:

Well, is the hon Member referring to the Employment Survey or Employment Service information?

HON J J BOSSANO:

My original question in relation to the information provided was given that I saw such a high figure, obviously, which turns out to be wrong, whether in fact those 1441 were part of the Employment Survey. The answer that the Minister gave me was that by definition they could not be because detached workers were not employed in Gibraltar but somewhere else. That was the answer he gave me the last time. Now the answer he has given me this time, I think is, that whether they should be or should not be, he does not know whether they are. So, in fact, at the moment we have no way of knowing whether the 386 workers that were identified as detached workers in October 2007, formed part of the workforce in the Employment Survey Report or not. Is that the correct position?

HON L MONTIEL:

Yes, the Employment Survey does not make a provision for identifying who are detached workers. Therefore, the answer that I have been given is that they do not know. However, as far as the mistake is concerned, this arose when we tried to answer the question related to the information held by the Employment Service. Therefore we made the mistake in the parameters and it did not capture one month, it collected information from other months. Therefore, it made the figure totally erroneous.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I know that the figure is totally incorrect and I understand the mistake, or the flaw in the programme for the computer. My question is, the last time the Minister answered in this House, it is on the record, the detached workers cannot be in the Survey Report because by definition they are not employed in Gibraltar. Indeed, I said to him then, how does he know whether the employers have included it or not if the form that goes to the employer does not tell them do not include detached workers. We have a lengthy exchange of questions and answers on that question, where I referred to the figure that had been given the last time for construction workers which was that were 724 unidentified detached workers. Well, look, 724 would fill quite a large building site. So for all those reasons, when I have come back what I want the

Minister to give me is a straightforward yes or no answer. I know what he says that the form does not carry the caveat, he has told me that twice and, in any case, I told him that in the last House. My question is, does he accept that the answer that he has given me is that at this moment in time, he does not know, the Government do not know, none of us know, whether the 386 people that have been identified as being detached workers are included in the workforce in the report for October 2007 or excluded, there is no way of knowing, is that correct?

HON L MONTIEL:

That is precisely the answer. There is no way of knowing because the Employment Survey does not ask the question.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is there still time to do anything about it this year or would it have to be left for next year, the Survey?

HON L MONTIEL:

I am afraid I am advised that the matter is being considered as to when to include it, presumably for the next time they do it.

HON J J BOSSANO:

It would be for the October 2009, then it is too late for the 2008?

HON L MONTIEL:

I presume so, but that would be the logical position to take.

HON G H LICUDI:

The Minister has referred to the calculation of these figures and suggested that they were wrong because certain parameters in the formula were incorrect. Does the Minister have any details of how that mistake came about? In particular what I am interested is whether that is a formula and parameters which affects only this particular calculation, in the figure of 1441 which was given and the figure of 386 which is now given, or it is of more general application and affects the other employment statistics which we get regularly? Can we rely safely on those employment statistics in the light of the information given today?

HON L MONTIEL:

Well, I would assume and the hon Member will agree that mistakes will be made from time to time. I cannot presume to think that my staff make systematic mistakes throughout. From time to time, I am sure there will be mistakes and we will correct them as they come. In this particular case, what happened was that because the

parameters were not right, we were collecting information from other months not related to the period in question.

HON G H LICUDI:

I am not chastising the Government or the staff for making mistakes. I am simply trying to ascertain whether this error only related to this particular calculation or is of a more wider application? I do not believe we have an answer to that yet.

HON L MONTIEL:

Well, having discussed this with my staff I am reassured that they do not think that there are any other problems that arise from this particular problem.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Before I proceed with the additional question, can I just point out that the answer to Question No. 802 in respect of the months from October 2007, provide a breakdown by trade and not by industry, which is an error as well. The question was for the breakdown to be by industry and nationality, and the answer is not by industry, the answer is by trade. When the question is by industry it says Shipbuilding Construction, Wholesale Trade, Retail Trade and so forth. That was the question answered the last time and that is the question I am asking for other months. But the answer that I have been given breaks the workforce into managerial, professional, associate professional, administrative, skilled, and therefore they could be in any industry. So, perhaps I can get the right answer without having to run the risk of putting the same question or one like it in another meeting of the House, because this is an answer with notice. Will the Minister be able to provide me with the right information?

HON L MONTIEL:

Of course, we will try and comply with the hon Member's request.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I think they pushed the wrong button on the computer and got xxxxxx

ORAL

NO. 806 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT – QUESTIONNAIRES

Can Government state whether there are any new employers who have been sent questionnaires for the October 2008 Employment Survey who were not included in the October 2007 Employment Survey, and if so, how many?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL
RELATIONS**

Answered together with Question No. 807 of 2008.

NO. 807 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT – QUESTIONNAIRES

Can Government say whether any of the employers included in the 2007 Employment Survey, had not been sent questionnaires in the October 2008 Employment Survey, and if so, how many?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

A total of 323 new employers have been sent questionnaires in the October 2008 Employment Survey who were not included in the October 2007 Employment Survey. A total of 239 employers, who were included in the 2007 Employment Survey, have not been sent questionnaires in the October 2008 Employment Survey.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 806 AND 807 OF 2008

HON J J BOSSANO:

Does the Minister have information on whether the 300 that were not included last year were all employers that have actually started their activity in the intervening 12 months?

HON L MONTIEL:

No, I can tell him though that the reason why the 239 were not sent was either because they had ceased trading or had no intention, the employers, of employing anybody. Or indeed, there may have been a change of name. This is the logical explanation that I have been given as to why they have not been sent.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I was not asking about the ones that had not been sent, I was asking about the ones that have been sent but were not there a year ago.

HON L MONTIEL:

I do not know.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The question was, is it that these people who were not there were not trading a year ago and they have all started trading in the last 12 months? The answer to Question No. 806, which tells me the ones who are new this year and who were not included in 2007. What I am asking is, does the Minister know whether all those people are people who, in fact, started their business in the last 12 months?

HON L MONTIEL:

I really do not know but I can guess that that would be the case.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I see. Would he be able to ask those who prepare the answer for him whether they think they know or whether they are also missing?

HON L MONTIEL:

I will ask the question.

ORAL

NO. 808 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT – QUESTIONNAIRES

Can Government provide a breakdown by industry of the employers, if any, included in the 2007 Employment Survey, who had not been sent questionnaires in the October 2008 Employment Survey?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL
RELATIONS**

Answered together with Question No. 809 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 809 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT – BREAKDOWN BY INDUSTRY

Can Government provide a breakdown by industry of the employers, if any, included in the October 2008 Employment Survey, who were not included in the October 2007 Employment Survey?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL
RELATIONS**

The information requested by the hon Member is set out in the schedules that I now hand to him. I think I have got the industries right here.

Answer to Question 809 of 2008

Table of Companies by Industry Groups who had not been sent a questionnaire for the October 2008 Employment Survey

Industry Group	Number of Companies
Shipbuilding	1
Other Manufacture	5
Construction	13
Wholesale and Retail Trade	42
Hotels and Restaurants	16
Transport and Communication	9
Financial Intermediation	35
Real Estate and Business Activities	35
Education	1
Health and Social Work	4
Other Services	13
Not Allocated*	65
Grand Total	239

*65 employers have not been allocated an industry group because the questionnaires were nil returns.

Contd. Answer to Question 809 of 2008

Table of New Companies in October 2008 by Industry Group not included in the Employment Survey of October 2007

Industry Group	Number of Companies
Other Manufacture	2
Construction	11
Wholesale and Retail Trade	22
Hotels and Restaurants	16
Transport and Communication	7
Education	1
Financial Intermediation	21
Real Estate and Business Activities	34
Public Administration and Defence	1
Health and Social Work	3
Other Services	16
Not Allocated*	189
Grand Total	323

*189 employers have not yet been allocated an industry group because the questionnaires have not been received to date.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 808 AND 809 OF 2008

HON J J BOSSANO:

In the light of the supplementary that I asked in relation to these same questions in the earlier part before the breakdown, perhaps the Minister, in going back to see if he can obtain further information, can look at the area of hotels and restaurants, where he will see there are 16 hotels and restaurants that were left out in 2008 that were included in 2007 and 16 that were included in 2008 and were not there in 2007. So, maybe that is an area where there has been a change of name, because it seems odd that 16 restaurants should have disappeared in 12 months and 16 new ones have appeared. Or maybe it has happened, I do not know, but if he focuses on one it might give him a clue as to the rest. If he will do that.

NO. 810 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT – EMPLOYERS WITH NIL RETURN

Can Government state in the light of the answer provided to Question No. 419 of 2008 whether all the 541 employers which recorded a nil return of employees in October 2007 were sent a questionnaire in October 2006 and if not how many were?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

A total of 430 employers out of the 541 employers who recorded a nil return of employees in October 2007, were sent a questionnaire in October 2006.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 810 OF 2008

HON J J BOSSANO:

I think the answer that the Minister read out, where he hesitated, he is not saying that the 430 sent a nil return, it is the 541 that sent a nil return, is that correct?

HON L MONTIEL:

Yes, 541 sent a nil return. The difference is that 111 new employers who were sent a questionnaire in October 2007.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Yes, I understand that the 430 who sent a nil return out of the 541, 430 were there a year before and there were 111 new ones who, notwithstanding the fact that they were there for the first time, employed nobody.

ORAL

NO. 811 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT – RETURNS BY EMPLOYERS

Can Government state what was the number of employers who were sent a questionnaire in October 2006 who were included in the 541, who made a return in October 2007, and of those employers in 2006, how many made a return showing employees, and how many employees were covered, how many made a nil return and how many failed to answer?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

A total of 430 employers were sent a questionnaire in October 2006 who were included in the 541 employers who registered a nil return in October 2007. Of these 430 employers in 2006, 88 employers made a return registering 272 employees, 340 employers made a nil return and two employers failed to answer.

NO. 812 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT – RETURNS BY EMPLOYERS

Can Government state the total number of persons employed in October 2007 by the 33 employers who had made a nil return and the 5 employers who had made no return in the October 2006 Employment Survey and how many of these employees were Gibraltarians?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

The 33 employers who had made a nil return in October 2006 employed 116 employees in October 2007, of which 52 were Gibraltarian. The five employers who had made no return in October 2006, employed 12 employees in October 2007, of which one was Gibraltarian.

ORAL

NO. 813 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

UNEMPLOYED FEMALE GIBRALTARIANS

Can Government provide a breakdown of the female Gibraltarians who registered as unemployed in each month since June, showing those who had previously been employed listed by occupation and those entering the labour market for the first time?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL
RELATIONS**

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

Answer to Question 813 of 2008

Female Gibraltarians Registered showing if registered for the first time and those who were previously employed by occupation.

	First Registration	Managers and Senior Officials	Professional Occupations	Associate Professionals and Technical Occupations	Admin and Secretarial Occupations	Personal Service Occupations	Customer Service Occupations	Elementary Occupations	Total	Total Female Registered
Jun-2008	9				5	83	8		105	134
Jul-2008	2	1	2	2	12	16	13	7	55	56
Aug-2008	4		1	1	14	3	12	5	40	46
Sep-2008	7	1	1	2	9	4	10	8	42	58
Total	13	2	4	5	35	23	35	20	137	294

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 813 OF 2008

HON J J BOSSANO:

The figures since June appear to be much lower than the June figure. Was the June figure an exceptionally high figure for any particular reason that the Minister knows?

HON L MONTIEL:

Yes, there was a number of about 83 females from personal service occupations that terminated employment and then they were re-employed a few months later.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In the breakdown that shows the 83 personal service occupations, these are not domestics are they, or is that what they are?

HON L MONTIEL:

Yes, they are attendants, they are school attendants I believe and they decided to register for unemployment during the summer period.

HON J J NETTO:

Could I perhaps say very quickly, because I have a question within my own bundle of questions, which specifically relates as to the rise in unemployment and the answer we give is the answer the Leader of the Opposition is seeking. So, perhaps, if we could park it for now and then wait for my question to come up, then I can give him the answer to that.

NO. 814 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

UNEMPLOYED FEMALE GIBRALTARIANS

Can Government provide the answer to Question No. 415 of 2008 as regards the number of women that entered the register of unemployed Gibraltarians during the course of the month of June showing those who had previously been employed listed by occupation and those entering the labour market for the first time?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

The answer to this question remains as already stated in relation to Question No. 415 of 2008.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 814 OF 2008

HON J J BOSSANO:

The last time in the supplementaries the answers were left on the basis that the answer that had been given could not be right. The Minister is saying that the answer was right? This is why my question now says, "can they now provide the information", because the last time the last answer I had was that the information could not be correct because it showed the 834 being registered for the first time, sorry, coming out of jobs. But I mean, is it that the information was correct even though it was thought not to be correct?

HON L MONTIEL:

Well, it appear so, I have no answer to the contrary. It appears that the answer we gave in Question No. 415 of 2008 seems to be the situation. What was required was more of an explanation as to why.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well, I remember the last time the Minister gave by way of an explanation, which does not seem to be correct, that people were lapsed and then they came back. This

is not the case, these are people who were actually working and then stopped working.

HON L MONTIEL:

That is right. It seems to be..... well, it coincides with the previous question in that for that particular period there seems to be a great number of women that actually left employment.

ORAL

NO. 815 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

**EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT – BREAKDOWN OF LABOUR RECRUITMENT
SUB-INDUSTRY**

Can Government provide a breakdown by gender and nationality of the 842 jobs in the October 2007 and the 575 jobs in the October 2006 Employment Surveys in the labour recruitment sub-industry?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL
RELATIONS**

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

Answer to Question No. 815 of 2008

Labour Recruitment Sub-Industry

	<u>October 2006</u>			<u>October 2007</u>		
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Gibraltarian	335	177	512	413	182	595
UK British	22	17	39	54	32	86
Moroccan	3	3	6	4	0	4
Spanish	9	6	15	52	6	58
Other EU	0	1	1	95	2	97
Other	1	1	2	1	1	2
TOTAL	370	205	575	619	223	842

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 815 OF 2008

HON J J BOSSANO:

If I may, I have just noticed that the answer to Question No. 813, like the previous answers, the Minister has provided the breakdown by occupation and, in fact, the one for Question No. 415 was provided by industry, so we have got different breakdowns. Perhaps he can also get for me the same one as the last time?

HON L MONTIEL:

Yes, xxxxxxxx systems.

ORAL

NO. 816 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

**EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT – RETURNS BY EMPLOYERS IN THE
LABOUR RECRUITMENT SUB-INDUSTRY**

Can Government state the number of employers in the labour recruitment sub industry group who a) made no return b) made a return showing the number of employees in the Employment Surveys from October 1998 to 2007?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL
RELATIONS**

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

Answer to Question No. 816 of 2008

Labour Recruitment Sub-Industry

		<u>Number of Employers</u>
<u>Made no Return:</u>	October 1998	n/a
	October 1999	2
	October 2000	3
	October 2001	3
	October 2002	4
	October 2003	3
	October 2004	2
	October 2005	3
	October 2006	2
	October 2007	2

	<u>Number of Employers</u>	<u>Number of Employees</u>
<u>Made a Return:</u>	October 1998	
	October 1999	397
	October 2000	386
	October 2001	418
	October 2002	342
	October 2003	493
	October 2004	477
	October 2005	499
	October 2006	575
	October 2007	842

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 816 OF 2008

HON J J BOSSANO:

Are these companies that are like employment agencies that supply temporary staff or are they something else? Is that what we are talking about? The industry group labour sub-contracting, the labour recruitment sub-industry group is something that appeared mentioned for the first time in 2007, we did not know such a group existed before that, that is why the information is taking us back. I am asking, are these entities people like the employment agencies that supply workers to other people, like temporary office staff and that kind of thing? Is that what this is?

HON L MONTIEL:

I am not sure but it sounds logical that this would be an area which has been growing and, presumably, is a new inclusion in it. I can only guess that that may be the case but I honestly do not know whether that sub-industry group is what he thinks it is.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well, presumably in the industry classification coding system there must be a definition of who gets included in this group. Perhaps the Minister can obtain that.

HON L MONTIEL:

Yes, and I will look at my notes to see if I have got any information there. Yes, I will do that.

ORAL

NO. 817 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

**EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT – RETURNS BY EMPLOYERS IN THE
LABOUR RECRUITMENT SUB-INDUSTRY**

Of the employers in the labour recruitment sub-industry group who made a return showing the number of employees, can Government provide the breakdown by gender and nationality in respect of the return for each Employment Survey Report from the year 1998 to 2007?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL
RELATIONS**

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

Answer to Question No. 817 of 2008

Labour Recruitment Sub-Industry

	<u>October 1998</u>			<u>October 1999</u>		
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Gibraltarian	339	2	341	365	9	374
UK British	15	2	17	11	5	16
Moroccan	1	0	1	5	0	5
Spanish	0	1	1	1	0	1
Other EU	4	3	7	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	359	8	367	382	14	396

Contd.....

Contd. Answer to Question No. 817 of 2008

Labour Recruitment Sub-Industry

	<u>October 2000</u>			<u>October 2001</u>		
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Gibraltarian	371	8	379	374	26	400
UK British	5	1	6	5	5	10
Moroccan	1	0	1	4	0	4
Spanish	0	0	0	2	1	3
Other EU	0	0	0	0	1	1
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	377	9	386	385	33	418

Contd.....

Contd. Answer to Question No. 817 of 2008

Labour Recruitment Sub-Industry

	<u>October 2002</u>			<u>October 2003</u>		
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Gibraltarian	317	11	328	281	186	467
UK British	3	4	7	3	11	14
Moroccan	3	0	3	4	2	6
Spanish	1	3	4	2	3	5
Other EU	0	0	0	0	1	1
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	324	18	342	290	203	493

Contd.....

Contd. Answer to Question No. 817 of 2008

Labour Recruitment Sub-Industry

	<u>October 2004</u>			<u>October 2005</u>		
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Gibraltarian	253	189	442	275	195	470
UK British	5	14	19	6	12	18
Moroccan	4	1	5	3	1	4
Spanish	2	8	10	2	5	7
Other EU	0	1	1	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	264	213	477	286	213	499

Contd.....

Contd. Answer to Question No. 817 of 2008

Labour Recruitment Sub-Industry

	<u>October 2006</u>			<u>October 2007</u>		
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Gibraltarian	335	177	512	413	182	595
UK British	22	17	39	54	32	86
Moroccan	3	3	6	4	0	4
Spanish	9	6	15	52	6	58
Other EU	0	1	1	95	2	97
Other	1	1	2	1	1	2
TOTAL	370	205	575	619	223	842

ORAL

NO. 818 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY REPORT – LABOUR RECRUITMENT SUB-INDUSTRY

Can Government state for each year from 1999 to 2007 whether there was a change in the composition of the employers in the labour recruitment sub-industry group, i.e. an addition or deletion of an employer in each year compared to the preceding year?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL
RELATIONS**

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

Answer to Question No. 818 of 2008:

Labour Recruitment Sub-Industry

	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Deletions</u>	<u>Total Employers</u>
October 1998	n/a	n/a	4
October 1999	n/a	n/a	3
October 2000	1	2	2
October 2001	1	0	3
October 2002	1	1	3
October 2003	3	1	5
October 2004	1	0	6
October 2005	1	2	5
October 2006	2	0	7
October 2007	4	0	11

NO. 819 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INDUSTRIAL TRIBUNAL – COMPLAINTS

Can Government confirm which of the 9 complaints received by the Industrial Tribunal of discriminatory treatment on grounds of sex given in answer to Question No. 420 of 2008 involved a complaint of unfair dismissal?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

I am informed by the Secretary to the Industrial Tribunal that all nine complaints received involved complaint of unfair dismissal.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 819 OF 2008

HON J J BOSSANO:

So, therefore, the principal grounds for the complaints in all nine cases was that there was a dismissal deemed to be unfair, which could have been for reasons other than the complaint of discrimination, is that correct?

HON L MONTIEL:

That is my understanding. Lawyers tend afterwards to change the terms during the course of the Tribunal and sometimes it can even be sexual, that is my experience.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well, only if they have very lenient chairmen.

HON L MONTIEL:

They get away with murder.

HON J J BOSSANO:

But, I mean, the reason why I am asking is because in answer to my original question in the previous meeting, I was asking about complaints arising out of newly created offences. I take it these are not arising out of newly created offences? These are simply, that even if there has been no question of harassment or discriminatory treatment, it would be a dismissal in its own right.

NO. 820 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INDUSTRIAL TRIBUNAL – COMPLAINTS

Since the coming into effect of the Equal Opportunities Act 2004 and its replacement the Equal Opportunities Act 2006, how many complaints have been presented to the Industrial Tribunal in respect of their new competence for alleged unlawful discrimination?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

I am advised that five such complaints have been presented to the Industrial Tribunal.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 820 OF 2008

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can the Minister say whether those five complaints, whether any of those were included in the nine that he previously gave me in the previous answer, and (b), if not, whether the five complaints also involved a claim for unfair dismissal or were complaints made in respect of people still in employment?

HON L MONTIEL:

I do not know, I will try to get that information but I could not get the right answer, so I will say that I do not know.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Does he know the dates of the complaints? Did they arise out of the 2004 or out of the amendments introduced in 2006?

HON L MONTIEL:

Well, these five complaints that I am referring to come as a result of the Equal Opportunities Act 2006.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I see, so they are all post-2006, none of them are between 2004 and 2006 is that right?

HON L MONTIEL:

That is my information.

HON G H LICUDI:

Can the Minister say whether any of these are on-going or whether they have all now concluded the determination by the Industrial Tribunal?

HON L MONTIEL:

I am not aware whether they are on-going or not. I know that there is a process which I do not follow very closely because they tend to work more independently rather than controlled by the Employment Service. Controlled by lawyers.

HON G H LICUDI:

Can the Minister say whether he is aware of what the findings may have been, whether the Industrial Tribunal in respect of any of these complaints have actually found that there was a lawful discrimination?

HON L MONTIEL:

I have not followed the results of each case, I do not follow those cases.

HON G H LICUDI:

Can the Minister then say what the nature of the alleged unlawful discrimination was in each of these complaints? Which type of discrimination is the Industrial Tribunal dealing with in these complaints?

HON L MONTIEL:

No, all I know is that they are unlawful discrimination.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Obviously the complainant might think it unlawful otherwise he cannot put a complaint. But, I mean, are we talking about discrimination on grounds of age, or race, or sex, which are listed in the legislation we have passed? The purpose of the exercise is to see the effect the legislation is having.

HON L MONTIEL:

I do not have the information but I do know that there are a number of scenarios in each of the complaints, where it is focussed in different ways, by sex discrimination or by unlawful discrimination. I believe there were some, about 14 cases in total, related with one thing or the other, sex discrimination, age discrimination, but since I have not looked at this particular question, I would rather not commit myself with a definite answer.

HON J J BOSSANO:

When he says 14 what is it? Is he adding these to the previous nine, is that what he is saying?

HON L MONTIEL:

Yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

But the nine were before the legislation was passed.

HON L MONTIEL:

Right.

HON J J BOSSANO:

How could they then be? The Minister has told us that these five complaints have all come about after the House approved the 2006 Act. Therefore, they must be complaints alleging that somebody has been discriminated against in a manner which is unlawful because of the 2006 Act. But, of course, the other nine are all before that date, so how can they be.....?

HON L MONTIEL:

As I answered in the question, nine complaints received by the Industrial Tribunal of discriminatory treatment on grounds of sex that also involved unfair dismissal. So, yes, absolutely correct, these nine came before the Act.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Before the Act?

HON L MONTIEL:

Yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Right, but before the Act it could be that somebody went to a tribunal and complained of unfair dismissal by arguing, "I was not dismissed for redundancy because I was the last in, I was dismissed for redundancy because they decided to apply gender discrimination in the redundancy". Now that would be something that would have been available as an argument, even before the passing of the new law.

HON L MONTIEL:

Yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

But in the new law, see, there we have got a situation where the principal ground of complaint is the dismissal. Then the other argument is used to say, "I was not dismissed for a permitted reason in a law that has been there since 1975". What I am trying to do is try and get some feedback on the effect of the new legislation that had been passed.

HON L MONTIEL:

All I know is that there are five complaints.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So it is five and not 14 then?

HON L MONTIEL:

That is right. Of the 14, five.

HON G H LICUDI:

The question certainly relates to the number of complaints, and it appears that what the Minister has done is simply limit himself to finding a number rather than obtaining any information about the nature of the complaint itself and the type of discrimination

that is alleged. Does the Minister not consider that it is important to investigate the nature of the discrimination alleged, and the effect that the Equal Opportunities Act 2006 is having? Particularly, if there is a trend shown by the nature of the unlawful discrimination alleged that it is of a particular type, it may require a policy decision to tackle that particular issue, if employers are regularly or systematically discriminating on a particular basis. Does the Minister not believe it is fundamental, not just to see, well these are the statistical analyses that we can make, we can point to certain numbers, but what lies behind the numbers is certainly much more important, does the Minister not agree?

HON D A FEETHAM:

Mr Speaker, if I may? If the question is so fundamental, in fact, the hon Gentleman or indeed his colleague, the Leader of the Opposition, could have given notice of the question and asked it. I would have thought if the question was so fundamental as the hon Member says that the question and the information is, he should have given notice to my Colleague and, no doubt, then my Colleague would have come to Parliament prepared to answer the question. He has answered, he has come prepared to answer the question that has been put on notice, which is the question which the Leader of the Opposition put, and he has answered it. If they want more detail or if the next time they want more detail, they should give notice of the question.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The Minister seems to expect us to have a crystal ball and know the answer to the question before we put the question. Surely the supplementary arises because we have now been told there have been five, and it is with great difficulty, given the complex way of giving answers that the Minister has, that we have been trying to establish whether there are five or 14, because he keeps on telling us they are five out of 14 but that the other nine were before the Act was passed. So, now that we know that there are five cases post-2006, now and only now as a result of that information can we ask, "well, look, do you not think it might be a good idea to try and see if there is a pattern to these five cases?" If we had been told there were 500, or if we had been told there were zero, then the suggestion would have been a different one. Clearly we could not put a question down for the Order Paper unless we put it, "can the Government tell us if it is 500 whether they think they should do this, and if it is zero whether they think they should do the other?" That would be seeking to pre-empt the answer to the question even before we put the question. In fact, the analysis of those five only arises now that we know that there are five.

MR SPEAKER:

I think both sides have a point. The question was put on the statistical information required. The statistical information required has been provided in a manner, whether it is comprehensible or not is neither here nor there, as far as I am concerned. So that is as far as the Minister can go and if he says he has no further information, that is where the answers must necessarily stop. I think the question put by the Hon Gilbert Licudi sought to take the matter a step further, and I think it is in that way the Hon Daniel Feetham says, "well we are going to take it a step further, the matter is a separate debate and should form the basis of either a separate motion or separate questions". Is it not accepted this should happen?

HON G H LICUDI:

Mr Speaker, ordinarily yes, but without seeking to suggest that.....

MR SPEAKER:

No, I am just trying to summarise the whole debate where both sides seem to be on the right track, except that it is only so far a question and answer can really go.

HON G H LICUDI:

That is certainly helpful, but from our point of view, not having any information at all and trying to elicit the information, we cannot proceed on the basis of hypothesis or speculation. Therefore, we proceed on the basis of information being sought and on the basis of that information, as the Leader of the Opposition has explained, there may or there may not be supplementaries. If, in this particular case, a question is asked about complaints, and the question is about complaints alleging unlawful discrimination, one would have thought that what the Minister would have done would have been to sit down with his officials who prepared the answer for him, and said, "well what are the nature of the complaints because there may be supplementaries in relation to those complaints". It appears, this is the first time today, only today, the third time today, that we are being told that we need notice of supplementaries which we say follow naturally. But it appears that what Government Ministers limit themselves to doing, is coming to this House with a green piece of paper and reading what the official has prepared, without having any notion of what lies behind that. That, we suggest, is disgraceful treatment and improper preparation for the House.

MR SPEAKER:

With respect, I am sorry, I must draw the line there. A question is put, the Minister is under duty to answer the question, to the best of his ability, the answers have to stand for what they are. Then it is a matter of comment whether the answer is adequate or not. In terms of preparation, well, I have never had the pleasure or privilege of being prepared by my officials as to answers. Some people on the Opposition and many on the Government side have the privilege, I do not know where the shortcoming, if any, lies, but then one has to accept the answers. That is what Question Time is about, the answer is the answer.

NO. 821 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

UNEMPLOYED EU FRONTIER WORKERS

Can Government confirm that EU frontier workers on becoming unemployed are permitted to register in order to seek employment and remain part of Gibraltar's labour market?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Just as before taking up employment, EU frontier workers are not registered as seeking employment. The same applies when they become unemployed. That is to say, they are not registered as unemployed and so, do not remain part of Gibraltar's labour market.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 821 OF 2008

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well, the Minister has told me what happens and my question is not what happens, it is whether they are permitted. Is he saying that they are not permitted?

HON L MONTIEL:

That is correct.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is the Minister satisfied that that is not in breach of EU law?

HON L MONTIEL:

Well, my understanding is that according to EU law, an unemployed person has to register in the nearest jurisdiction. If they are not local employees, presumably they would have to register in another jurisdiction, in Spain, in the place of residence.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The Minister for Labour is supposed to be conversant with the labour laws which he has to ensure are observed. I mean, is it not the case that a frontier worker is entitled under Community law to continue to seek employment in the Member State in which he has last worked?

HON L MONTIEL:

Yes, there is nothing prohibiting the unemployed person from a neighbour State seeking employment in Gibraltar, but he/she does not have necessarily, according to the information I have received, need to be registered in the Gibraltar unemployment register.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I see. So if an EEC worker that lives in Spain, in La Linea, of which there are several thousand, loses his job and goes to the Employment Agency to find out what jobs there are because he is seeking re-employment, what does he get told? That he cannot be told of the jobs that there are because he is not entitled to be registered?

HON L MONTIEL:

The Employment Service do not register that individual as unemployed.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I see, so he is entitled to seek re-employment but he is not entitled to use the services of the Employment Agency to seek that re-employment, and the Minister thinks that that is complying with EU law?

HON L MONTIEL:

Well, that is the practice.

HON J J BOSSANO:

But is it that the Minister does not know whether the practice is legal or illegal under EU law? Obviously I know, otherwise I would not be asking him.

HON L MONTIEL:

So far it has not been challenged.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I see.

MR SPEAKER:

Surely if the hon Member knows the answer he should not be asking the question.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I know the answers to all my questions, I just seek confirmation of what I already know. Is it that the Minister may be confusing the fact that they are entitled to receive unemployment benefit in their State of residence, with registration but not for the purpose of claiming benefit, but registration for the purpose of seeking employment. Will he look at that difference?

HON L MONTIEL:

Yes.

NO. 822 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

COMPUTER HACKING

Does Government have any plans to expressly outlaw computer hacking in and from Gibraltar and if so in what timescale?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR JUSTICE

The term “computer hacking” is one used in everyday language rather than in legal terminology. As part of the criminal review project, Government will introduce various computer crimes which would be considered to be within the scope of computer hacking. The offences are in the nature of unauthorised access to and interception of any computer or computer material and services. We hope to have the new provisions in place within the next six months, as part of the computer misuse part of the Crimes Bill.

NO. 823 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – SCHOOL ATTENDANCES

Can Government state what the percentage attendance of school children is compared to total possible sessions offered in the academic year of 2007/2008 giving a breakdown by school and term?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The statistical information requested is set out in the schedule which is being handed out right now.

Answer to Question 823 of 2008

2007/2008			
School	Term		
	Autumn	Spring	Summer
Bayside	91	88	88
Westside	85	89	82
Sacred Heart	92	91	88
St Joseph's Middle	94	92	91
St Anne's Middle	92	90	88
Bishop Fitzgerald Middle	94	91	90
Hebrew Primary	93	88	89
St Mary's First	88	89	93
St Bernard's First	90	86	87
St Joseph's First	89	86	86
Governor's Meadow	93	90	92
St Paul's First	94	90	91
Notre Dame First	91	91	90

NO. 824 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – BEST

Will the Minister of Education state how many pupils have been supported by the BEST (Behavioural and Educational Support Team) from May 2008 to the end of the academic year and from September 2008 to date giving a breakdown by month?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The number of pupils who have been supported by the BEST team from May 2008 to the end of the academic year and from September to date is as follows:

May	-	179
June	-	179
September	-	138
October	-	154
November	-	154

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 824 OF 2008

HON S E LINARES:

Just to get my list right, May 179, June 179, July was it July?

HON C G BELTRAN:

No, July is towards the end of the term, it is just a few days really. The children in question have been involved in all sorts of end of term activities and so on.

HON S E LINARES:

Okay.

ORAL

NO. 825 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – ALTERNATIVE LEARNING CENTRE

Can Government state how many pupils attended the Alternative Learning Centre in Bayside from May 08 to the end of the academic year and from September 2008 to date giving a breakdown by month?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question No. 826 of 2008.

NO. 826 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – ALTERNATIVE LEARNING CENTRE

Can Government state what the alternative is to an Alternative Learning Centre in Westside School?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

In respect of Question No. 825, the breakdown is as follows:

May	-	4 pupils
June	-	4 pupils
July	-	4 pupils
September	-	4 pupils
October	-	5 pupils
November	-	4 pupils

In respect of Question No. 826, Westside attends to the needs of disaffected pupils within its Special Needs provision.

ORAL

NO. 827 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – 14-19 WORKING GROUP

Can Government state how many times the 14-19 working group have met since April 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 828 and 829 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 828 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – 14-19 WORKING GROUP

Can Government state whether co-education was discussed in the 14-19 working group and whether any recommendation has been made?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question Nos. 827 and 829 of 2008.

NO. 829 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – 14-19 WORKING GROUP

Can Government state what other issues were discussed by the 14-19 working group in the last meeting?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

In respect of Question No. 827, the 14-19 Working Group have met four times since April 2008.

In respect of Question No. 828, the 14-19 Working Group has made no proposals on co-education.

In respect of Question No. 829, the answer is that a range of issues are normally discussed at these meetings but the steering group meets with the aim of addressing the on-going operational needs of the three secondary sector institutions. Contact with the Minister arises in the case of this group broaching new initiatives that actually require Government approval, otherwise they get on with the work as they see from the point of view of a steering group or think tank.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 827 TO 829 OF 2008

HON S E LINARES:

Was not the original, because the remit of the 14-19 Working Group, as I understand it, and the previous Minister used to state, was widened to include things like co-education, and the previous Minister used to state that there were on-going discussions and they would put recommendations and a report would be done on co-education. Has any report been forwarded to Government in relation to this, because it is part of their remit? If it is not, does the Minister not think that there should be, within the 14-19 Working Group, because I think it is the right forum where the co-education should be discussed?

HON C G BELTRAN:

Well, I think that particular question was answered in reply and supplementaries to Question No. 417 of 2007, actually, and I think it made clear that the original group that existed to look into co-education was subsumed into the 14-19 Group. So, yes,

that is part of what may be discussed there, but nothing has emerged in terms of any report or any signs of co-education being alive and kicking, as it were, because it is not an issue that arises with any urgency or any need for change. This is what comes out of the 14-19 Group, there is no specific recommendation to Government. As I said, they get on with their work as a think tank on education and I do not believe that at this point in time they have seen it fit to look into the question of co-education with any urgency, or as an important issue to discuss at this moment in time. Single sex secondary schools work in Gibraltar at the moment, there is nothing, as I think I said yesterday in an interview which will probably appear on GBC this evening, there is nothing to show..... There is no evidence from many studies undertaken, the latest one I think by the Harvard School of Medicine, actually, that a co-education environment offers better prospects for young peoples' education, particularly in adolescence, compared to single sex schools. So, you know, if it is not broken why fix it? It is working well as it is. This is why there are no specific recommendations made from that forum to Government.

NO. 830 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – ENTITLEMENT TO FREE STATE EDUCATION

Can Government state what documents are needed by parents of children of school age to be entitled to free state education if they are:

- (a) British Nationals;
- (b) EU Nationals;
- (c) Non EU Nationals, respectively?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

In order to be entitled to free state education, a child must be ordinarily resident in Gibraltar and the following are accepted by the Department of Education and Training as evidence of residence:

In the case of British Nationals and EU Nationals, any one of the following:

- A Permit of Residence, or
- A Civilian Registration Card, or
- Any residence documentation issued by the Civilian Registration Office.

In the case of non-EU Nationals:

- A Permit of Residence issued by the Principal Immigration Officer, or
- A Civil Registration Card, and in some cases, both may be required.

In the case of non-EU Nationals who are family members of resident EU Nationals, any residency document issued by the Civilian Registration Office. This is the information that has been.....

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 830 OF 2008

HON S E LINARES:

In relation to the answer that a Permit of Work is one of them, which he said, resident and a permit of work.

HON C G BELTRAN:

No.

HON S E LINARES:

Could he clarify which one was the first one? Someone coughed there and I did not quite hear it.

HON C G BELTRAN:

Right, okay, I shall repeat the answer. In the case of British Nationals and EU Nationals any one of the following: a Permit of Residence, or a Civilian Registration Card, or any residence documentation issued by the Civilian Registration Office. In the case of non-EU Nationals, a permit of residence issued by the Principal Immigration Officer, or a Civil Registration Card. In some cases both may be required. I believe that this is because a Permit of Residence might not be for long enough to cover an academic year. In the case of non-EU nationals who are family members of resident EU Nationals, any residency document issued by the Civilian Registration Office.

HON C A BRUZON:

In the case of a single parent who is male, a single father, can a single father who produces evidence that the child is his son, is he entitled to have his son educated in Gibraltar as long as he is legally resident here?

HON C G BELTRAN:

The answer to that, I think, is yes. The law is based on residence and, obviously, there would have to be legal custody of a child to be able to represent that child as a parent or custodian of a child.

ORAL

NO. 831 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – TEACHERS ON SUPPLY

Can Government state how many teachers have been offered supply work for one term, two terms and one year respectively?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Answered together with Question No. 832 of 2008.

NO. 832 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – TEACHERS ON SUPPLY

Can Government state how many teachers on supply have been on that status for one year, two years, three years, four years, five years or more than five years respectively?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

In answer to Question No. 831, the following have been offered supply work for one term, that is eight; two terms – 14 and one year – 24.

In answer to Question No. 832, the number of teachers who have been on the supply list for one year is 14; for two years is 15; three years is five and four years is three.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 831 AND 832 OF 2008

HON S E LINARES:

I presume there are none of five?

HON C G BELTRAN:

Yes

NO. 833 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

EDUCATION – TLR POSTS

Can Government state how many of the TLR posts are yet to be awarded and when the whole process will end taking into consideration the domino effect of giving the posts to those who hold a different one already, et cetera?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

A total of 49 TLR posts are still to be awarded. The process will be concluded by the end of December, I think I also quoted these dates at the last Question session. The process will be concluded by the end of December 2008, or perhaps January 2009.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 833 OF 2008

HON S E LINARES:

Yes, he did say the end of December but I continued the question by asking about the domino effect, because as the Minister knows, somebody who gets a post somewhere else vacates the post and that is what I meant by it. I understand that there are still 49 TLRs to give but there could well be domino effect from those 49, and that is what I am trying to ascertain, the whole process as in when will every single teacher be settled in whatever job they get?

HON C G BELTRAN:

Well, that is very difficult to say. The Opposition Members sometimes cry out, almost in dismay, we do not have a crystal ball here to know exactly who is going to apply for what post. Since we are now talking about the last batch of posts, which are the 2D allowances, which are in the lower scale of allowances, the probability is that we will get the younger teachers in the system applying for these posts, who do not already have a post to give up when they apply for this. So the probability is that there will not be. The majority of the domino effect, as he calls it in the question, I think has already been taken care of but some more could arise. I do not expect a lot.

HON S E LINARES:

Okay.

NO. 834 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY – DR GIRALDI HOME

Can Government list the entirety of the allegations that have been received by the management of the Social Services Agency concerning the welfare of service users since January 2005, stating the nature of the allegations, the date on which the allegations were made and the action, if any taken?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

No Sir. This question simply seeks to raise, yet again, information that has already been provided and debated, both in this House as late as September and outside of this House. The Government are not willing to facilitate by these means a continuation of a political campaign against the Social Services Agency, at the expense of staff morale, arising from the fact that the Leader of the Opposition represented a disgruntled member of staff in the Industrial Tribunal.

The Social Services Agency provides an infinitely better, safer, more professional and more extensive and better staffed and resourced service than was ever available under the GSLP Government between 1988 and 1996. The Social Services Agency provides a service to the Community of a high standard that Gibraltar has never enjoyed before. It has a dedicated, committed and hardworking staff.

Furthermore, as I have told this House and the public at large on various occasions already, when standards have fallen below the required level, all allegations have been fully and properly investigated (where appropriate by the Police) and, where indicated, appropriate remedial action taken. This will continue to be the case. Recently, I gave detailed explanations in relation to the list of cases, some of which were real cases and some were not, about which the hon Member asked me in an earlier Parliamentary Question. In fact, last September.

As Minister for Social Services, my door has been and will remain open to service users, family members responsible for them, members of staff, and indeed, Members of the Opposition with regard to any specific and specified concern relating to the quality of care now provided, either generally or in relation to a particular service user. But the Government being fully satisfied that there has been no cover-up of any past irregularity, it is now time to move on in the interests of the service users, staff and the Agency alike.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 834 OF 2008

HON N F COSTA:

First of all, I cannot accept this statement that this matter has been debated for the longest time. As the hon Members opposite are aware, there has been no admission whatsoever that there has been anything wrong with the Social Services Agency at all. It has only been after our specific list of questions that there was for the very first time an admission in relation to those incidents and never before. So there has never been debate, either outside or in this House. When the answers were given at the time, all that the hon Members could say was that the answers were given maybe from official records, maybe from memory. So there has been no debate in this House. I refute that point. Secondly, the accusation that there has been a political campaign, that is simply not the case. Standing Orders say..... We are simply quoting that back and forth across the floor of this House, is simply to elicit information. I have asked a question to elicit information specifically as to whether there have been allegations made to the Social Services Agency. I do not understand the reason why every time questions are asked they are objected to, when purely and simply all I am asking for is information which the Government Ministers should have and give to the Members of the Opposition. This question has not been prefaced with any political debate, with any political implication, with any innuendo. It has been simply to make a question and for the answer to be given.

MR SPEAKER:

I should ask the Member to get to the question now.

HON N F COSTA:

Yes, I was about to say that there was some.....

MR SPEAKER:

Order, Order. A question was put and a lengthy answer was given. That is correct. Order, Order. One may interpret the answer whichever way one chooses to but an answer was given and my powers as Speaker are only to allow an answer to be given. An answer has been given, the rules are very clear, questions must not be preceded by very lengthy prologues, I have allowed lengthy prologues, I have not curtailed the hon Member. All I have done is invite the hon Member to get to the next question.

HON N F COSTA:

Well Mr Speaker, I will proceed to the supplementary. It is simply to clarify that the answer that was given was that no, the information would not be provided. In respect of the first supplementary, is the Minister then aware whether there was a report submitted to the then Manager of the Dr Giraldi Home, to the then Chief Executive Officer on 17th June 2005, and if so, whether there was any investigation that arose as a result of that report? From a sedentary position the Hon the Minister for Justice seems to be making some remark.

HON D A FEETHAM:

Yes, Mr Speaker. What I was asking was whether, in fact, this relates to the question asked, whether it was a proper supplementary in all the circumstances or whether it is a question that he should have given notice of. I make this point, and I have made it on a number of occasions in the past, because it is the practice of Opposition Members to ask these barrages of supplementary questions without notice, which in the circumstances, the rules are there for a reason, in order to give an opportunity, a fair opportunity for Members of this bench to answer questions put. That appears to me to be a question in relation to which appropriate notice should have been given.

MR SPEAKER:

The rules are very clear, all supplementaries must refer to the subject of the original question and must arise from the answer given on the original question. However, it is the discretion of the Speaker to take a view and allow supplementaries. The view I have taken generally in the last four years I have been in this office, is to allow some latitude given the limited opportunities that this House enjoys in debating issues of general concern. I have generally allowed questions which are relevant to the subject matter without insisting that the supplementary must arise from a previous answer. So, I take the view that the question put by the Hon Mr Costa is relevant, in terms that it relates to the same subject matter. A clear question has been put and it is up to the Minister whether he feels able to answer it or not.

HON J J NETTO:

The fact remains that three months ago I did answer the supplementary question which right now, the Hon Member Mr Neil Costa is asking me for. So, if he wants that he will have to go and see Hansard.

HON N F COSTA:

They were not supplementaries, they were a list of specific questions.

MR SPEAKER:

If it was a specific question, then it ought not to be asked as a supplementary today. We have just established that earlier this morning, it happened in the last six months as a specific question, a substantive question, and it ought not to feature in a supplementary, or as a substantive question today.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The questions that have been put before have identified specific allegations which the Government had been choosing to ignore since they were made in 2005, and which in fact they decided for the first time on the last occasion to answer. The answer was given on the basis that they were asking the present staff, who were not necessarily there in 2005, whether certain things had been happening or not happening. When I asked the Minister who had provided the answer for him, he said the present Head of the Dr Giraldi Home says there has never been a punishment

room. Even though there are signed statements by people willing to say under oath that there was. If the Minister has asked the person who is there now what happened in 2005 when the allegation was first made, who did they ask? Is it or is it not a fact that a report submitted by the then Manager of the Dr Giraldi Home, according to the hon Member a disgruntled employee, a report was submitted which the CEO said was not being investigated. Is that a fact or is that not a fact?

HON J J NETTO:

Three months ago I made it very clear that when we receive questions from the Opposition, the normal established practice is that the information goes to the Head of Department, in this case the Chief Executive of the Social Services Agency. He looks at it, he determines what the function is, what quarter within the Agency it goes to, it then goes to the person who is heading, managing that particular function (in this case the Dr Giraldi Home), the current Manager of the Dr Giraldi Home looks at the question, collects the information that he has available to him either in written form or in the form of people who were there at the time, he then prepares a draft, sends it up to the Chief Executive who is working for me and then he passes it on to me. That is the information that we gave him three months ago. The fact of the matter is, as I have said in my substantive answer, this has got nothing to do about whether he is concerned about certain allegations or no allegations there. This is a manipulative, political campaign on his behalf to tarnish our record, our excellent record. This is a manipulative attempt by the Leader of the Opposition to tarnish our excellent record when it comes to defending the interests of vulnerable people, against his abominable record when he had the chance and he was Chief Minister. Given that this is just a smokescreen about concealing his dereliction of duty towards the most vulnerable members of our society, well I am going to remind him now. Do the Members want to know what he used to do when he was on this side? Well I am going to tell you now. Mr Speaker, if we draw a comparative analysis.....

MR SPEAKER:

I must ask the Hon Minister to direct his answer to the question rather than go into....., this is not a motion.

HON J J BOSSANO:

It is not a debate on a censure motion on the present Minister or on any previous one. I am asking whether the Minister is aware that the CEO at the time, when he was not there, said the matter would not be investigated. Is he aware of that or not? Now, he can call me all the names that he wants but it will not alter the fact that either he is not willing or he does not know. Which is it?

MR SPEAKER:

I think I should draw a line here, this is not a debate on a motion. Both sides have had ample opportunities to bring motions before this House, it is not a debate of a motion, we must really focus on the question asked, information is what it is all about.

HON J J BOSSANO:

My supplementary question is simple and straightforward. If he does not answer it, it is either because he does not know or because he knows but he does not want to say so. Is he aware that the report submitted by the person he claims was a disgruntled employee, which presumably, in his view, is the reason why she made the report, and I did not even know her then, incidentally. But I can tell him that Members on his side were then defending the same arguments then. Does he know that, in fact, the reply given was that the report of allegations was being disregarded? Does he know that?

HON J J NETTO:

It is not a question of it being disregarded. What the hon Member has to realise is that the disgruntled person that he defended in the Industrial Tribunal, the manner in which she went about collecting that information was totally inappropriate, both in a management form and it was surreptitious in the sense that she was trying to obtain information from people, who were not working during working hours but outside working hours at the time and not in accordance with the disciplinary procedures established by the Social Services Agency. So the answer to his question is, that when the then Chief Executive thought that the allegation was serious, an investigation actually did take place. When the suggestions of any allegations were anecdotal and not based on any credible evidence, obviously the Chief Executive might have thought that he would not get into a proper disciplinary procedure. But the point is, as I am told, that the then Chief Executive did investigate all the allegations.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The Minister is telling the House that notwithstanding the fact that in the letter dated 11th August 2005, the Chief Executive Officer said, "I have disregarded", she said what the hon Member says, that she did not think the information had been obtained appropriately, and then goes on to say, "I have as a result disregarded the content obtained". He said that notwithstanding the fact that she said that she had disregarded the content, she had not disregarded the content and that, in fact, she had investigated the content. Is that the position?

HON J J NETTO:

Yes, I am informed that she sent the Social Workers to investigate the incident.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I see, and presumably this is something of which the Agency has a record, because whatever the Minister thinks is going on with name calling, I can assure him this will not end until we get to the bottom of this. I can promise him that. So, is he saying that there is a record in the Agency of this having taken place, because the last time the Minister said that people were speaking from memory?

HON J J NETTO:

It is a question of both. It is a question that some people who were there at the time are speaking from memory, and it is also that there are records in the Agency with regard to this. So it is both.

HON J J BOSSANO:

There are records in the Agency then of the investigation having taken place?

HON J J NETTO:

Of course.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am glad to hear that. Therefore, the Minister is satisfied that the requirement that there is in the Act for any allegation to be investigated without delay was actually complied with.

HON J J NETTO:

Yes, I am.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can he say whether the same is true of the two reports by the psychologists that asked for an investigation? A report by the psychologists on 17th March 2005 and the other one in June?

HON J J NETTO:

I am not aware of any such report.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I see, but presumably the Minister can ask for that to be investigated in the sense of him being provided with the information as to what happened with those reports?

HON J J NETTO:

Well, as Minister responsible for the Agency I am interested in everything that anyone has to say.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The everyone does not include me, I take it? The Minister, I take it then, is not aware and I accept that. He may not be aware because he has not been there all that long and this happened before he was there. But in fact, is he saying then that he is not in a position to tell us at this point in time, whether the report by the psychologists employed by the Government, in fact, that there was some evidence of sexual abuse of residents and that an investigation should be conducted, which was submitted on 17th March and one that was submitted on 5th May, he is not in a position to say what action was taken on those reports, is that it?

HON J J NETTO:

I am not in a position to say what action was taken in relation to those reports, but I am in a position to say that those allegations were investigated by the Police and that the Police determined that there was no case for the Police to proceed.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So that was in relation to those two psychological reports?

HON J J NETTO:

I would need to look at that one.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The Minister is saying that, in fact, other than the report of June 2005, submitted according to the Chief Executive Officer in a manner that was not consonant with the rules, other than that report, there has not been any complaint made or any allegations made from January 2005 to date, that is the position, because that was the original question. Since January 2005 have any allegations been made and have they been investigated as the law requires?

HON J J NETTO:

Well, by the very, very nature of the work that the Social Services Agency does, and in particular looking after people with learning disabilities, in any institution in any part of the world, obviously there might not be necessarily allegations or wrongdoing, but perhaps there are incidents, perhaps a particular resident may be eating something he should not be eating and swallows a bit of a bone from a chop, of course that is an incident. So I do not know whether he is drawing a distinction between some sort of normal kind of day-to-day incident that may or may not happen, against some broad allegations of wrongdoing that he may be implying.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well, the law requires that allegations are investigated without delay, that is in the Act. Therefore, presumably, a record is kept if an allegation is made so that there is

a record of the allegation, the action taken and the result. What I am trying to find out is, well, is he saying that has never happened since January 2005? The original question was that.

HON J J NETTO:

The answer to the question now, as I said it three months ago, is that every single allegation, every single complaint, as a matter of policy by the Agency is investigated.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I see. Then the Minister is not in a position to give us an answer to the original question which says how many there have been. Is it that there are so many or what?

HON J J NETTO:

What I am not prepared to do, as I said in my substantive original answer, is to play the political game that the Leader of the Opposition is trying to do in order to try and tarnish the good and excellent record of this Government in looking after the most vulnerable people in our society, for their own party political interests.

HON J J BOSSANO:

As he knows, the rules do not allow me to impute improper motives to him. They only allow him to impute them to me. But then, of course, his opinion of me does not matter, what matters is that I have got a job here to do for which I am paid, and he has got a job for which he is paid considerably more, which is to provide information. The information is what is the list of allegations, that is how many allegations, have there been since the 1st January? I do not see how that is designed to further any agenda, other than there may be a lot or there may be none. But his original answer said there were none. That is what he said in his substantive answer, no allegations in 2005.

HON J J NETTO:

No.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Then how many have there been?

HON J J NETTO:

I am sorry. I have not.

HON J J BOSSANO:

How many then?

MR SPEAKER:

I think the Minister made a lengthy statement for his refusal to provide the information, I do not think he provided the specific information asked. But that is the answer on the record and I think we have to really move from there, unless there is any specific question to be put. The answer was, no Sir, really in effect.

ORAL

NO. 835 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

BEREAVEMENT ALLOWANCE SCHEME

Can the Government say whether the Bereavement allowance has now been reviewed and if so what have been the conclusions of the review?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

As stated in our manifesto, the Government are committed to introduce an appropriate Bereavement Allowance Scheme within this term of office. The matter is being considered but no decision has yet been taken as to when this allowance will be introduced.

NO. 836 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

“HALF-WAY” HOUSE TEMPORARY SITE

Can Government say whether a site has been identified for the temporary “half-way” house for men and women who become homeless?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Government are considering some sites for this purpose, but no final decision has yet been taken.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 836 OF 2008

HON N F COSTA:

Can the Minister say the time frame in which the decision will be taken?

HON J J NETTO:

Not really, I mean, this obviously is a desire because it is one of our manifesto commitments. But there is not a time frame in which to bring this about. Obviously, there is a desire to bring it about within our term of office but I cannot be more specific than that, really.

NO. 837 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

PURPOSE BUILT FACILITY FOR THE ELDERLY

Can Government say whether construction of the planned new purpose built facility for elderly patients has begun and if so on what date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

No Sir, it has not.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 837 OF 2008

HON N F COSTA:

Could the Minister tell us the reason for the delay, or the reason why this has not yet happened?

HON J J NETTO:

Well, this is a complex matter in the sense that when we are talking about building a facility for the elderly, an analysis has to be made first of all in terms of what are the greatest needs of the elderly, in terms of the nature of the purpose-built building in accordance with what are their priorities. There are some buildings around which we have looked at, they are not purpose-built buildings, some are in existence, they pose a number of technical construction problems in adjusting to what we think is the best service that we can provide for our elderly, and this is one of the reasons why we are still looking at this and not just in relation to existing buildings but also other sites where, perhaps, we can construct from the ground, and then we can adapt it more specifically to the needs that we want.

HON N F COSTA:

One of the related issues that arises as a result of the occupation of the elderly of beds in hospital once they have been discharged, and as always I ask questions about the number of elderly patients once they have been discharged, occupy beds and, of course, some of these elderly patients need to be taken care of. But of course, they cannot be moved out of the hospital simply because of the numbers in the Elderly Care Home at the moment and so on. Given that this is an issue that

arises year in and year out, would the Minister not agree with me that the matter is of some urgency? If he does so agree with me, why has this matter not been looked at before and with the urgency that it deserves?

HON J J NETTO:

Well, the hon Member opposite should bear in mind that only three years ago we doubled the bed occupancy in Mount Alvernia. If my memory serves me right, from 62 to 135. So we have given this urgency in terms of trying to provide different options for the elderly. In fact, we have Bishop Canilla House, which is one of the things that we did, which is another option for a certain number of other people and the elderly. We also have nearing completion the other building down at Waterport, to be called Albert Risso House. In fact, that particular building is even bigger than Bishop Canilla, I think it will provide something like 140 flats. I could not tell how soon this building is going to be completed but it is another option, and we are actively seeking how we develop this particular manifesto commitment, which is being referred to now. So, indeed, I can assure the hon Member opposite that we are definitely giving this the importance that we feel that this deserves, which is really one of the reasons why we have it as a manifesto commitment.

NO. 838 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

ELDERLY CARE – NEW MODEL

Can Government give details of the new model being developed for elderly care, which combines and co-ordinates health care with social services?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

The Government will provide details of its plan when it is ready to do so.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 838 OF 2008

HON N F COSTA:

Well, the manifesto commitment would have suggested that the model is currently being developed, and of course, it has been over a year now. So, at what stage is the process?

HON J J NETTO:

Well, I am not quite sure what the hon Member opposite is trying to get at in terms of this particular question and whether it is as a result of previous statements by me in relation to the new model that we wish to create in terms of amalgamating, merging together the Social Services Agency, Elderly Care Agency and Drug Rehabilitation. If that is where he is coming from and I have understood him correctly, then obviously my answer, as I have said, is that we are not ready to do so as yet, but certainly I am looking at this. But at the moment the Government are not even in a position to know what my ideas as to the model is going to be. I have to complete the model, be satisfied with what I think is in the best interests, both for the elderly and Social Services, and in fact, people from Drug Rehabilitation, and then submit the document for Government discussion. Then my Colleagues, obviously, will have contributions to make towards, what I believe, is the best model and then, obviously, once we do so we will announce it.

ORAL

NO. 839 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT APPLICATIONS

Can the Government explain the reason for the increase in the number of Unemployment Benefit applications received and approved in June?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question No. 840 of 2008.

NO. 840 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

PATERNITY ALLOWANCE SCHEME

Can the Government state at what stage are their plans to devise and implement a paternity allowance scheme?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

In regard to the answer to Question No. 839, and this is also related to a previous question in which the Leader of the Opposition was seeking information about the unemployment figures. The answer to that is as follows. The increase in the number of Unemployment Benefit applications received and approved in June, was due to the fact that a considerable number of lunchtime school attendants applied for this benefit in that month. It should be noted that prior to 1st April 2007, those employees who worked for less than 15 hours per week (including lunchtime school attendants) were only required to pay a reduced contribution, which did not provide cover for unemployment benefit.

Under the new earnings-related system of contribution, all employees in insurable employment are covered by the whole range of statutory social security benefits, regardless of the number of hours worked, even if they only paid a reduced contribution because of their small earnings. This is, of course, subject to satisfying the pertinent contribution conditions of the benefit claimed.

In relation to the answer to Question No. 840, no Sir.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 839 AND 840 OF 2008

HON N F COSTA:

In answer to Question No. 840, no refers to no they are not introducing a paternity allowance, or no they have not reached any stage because they have not yet begun?

MR SPEAKER:

No, the question is "can the Government state", and the answer is no the Government cannot state. That is what I understand from the answer.

HON G H LICUDI:

I am not sure that we have understood that. The question is certainly “can Government state at what stage are their plans?” and the answer is “No Sir” meaning that they cannot give any indication of their plans, rather than they have no policy decision on this matter.

HON J J NETTO:

It is the former and not the latter.

ORAL

NO. 841 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

STATUTORY BENEFITS FUND – NUMBER OF PENSIONERS

Can Government state what was the number of pensioners being paid or with entitlement to payment, for each month to date, as from 1st September 2008, from the Statutory Benefits Fund, giving a breakdown of pre-1969 Spanish pensioners and locally funded pensioners, showing the number of Gibraltarians/UK nationals, Moroccans and other nationals for the months in question?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 842 and 843 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 842 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

DISABILITY ALLOWANCE

Can Government state how many persons were in receipt of a disability allowance under the social assistance arrangements as from September 2008, to date, giving a monthly breakdown of their age and sex?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 841 and 843 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 843 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

STATUTORY BENEFITS FUND

Can Government state what was the monthly income, expenditure and balance of the Statutory Benefits Fund as from 1st September 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

I now hand the hon Member lists giving the information requested.

ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 843 OF 2008

Answer to Question No. 841

The following pensioners were being paid or with entitlement to payment from the Statutory Benefits Fund for the months of September to October 2008.

	Sep-08	Oct-08
<i>Pre-1969 Spanish Pensioners</i>	284	285
<i>British Pensioners (Gib/UK Nat.)</i>	5347	5372
<i>Moroccan Pensioners</i>	1917	1920
<i>Other Nationalities</i>	572	574
<i>Total</i>	8120	8151

Contd.....

CONTD ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 843 OF 2008

Answer to Question NO. 842

PERSONS RECEIVING DISABILITY ALLOWANCE UNDER THE SOCIAL ASSISTANCE ARRANGEMENTS AS FROM SEPTEMBER TO 27 NOVEMBER 2008 GIVING A MONTHLY BREAKDOWN OF THEIR AGE AND SEX

2008	0-10	11-20	21-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	61-70	TOTAL	MALES	FEMALES
September	25	31	22	21	17	11	4	131	92	39
October	25	30	23	21	17	11	4	131	92	39
27 November	24	31	23	20	18	11	4	131	92	39

Contd.....

CONTD ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 843 OF 2008

Answer to Question No. 843

The monthly Income, Expenditure and Balance of the Statutory Benefits Fund as from September 2008 to end October 2008 is as per the following tentative statement:

(*The approved Contribution from the Consolidated Fund is £10M for the year. The contributions have been calculated pro-rata hereunder, however the actual contribution is normally effected at the end of the financial year.)

STATUTORY BENEFITS FUND

	<u>30-Sep-08</u>	<u>31-Oct-08</u>
Fund Account – Opening Balance	£17,852,313.21	£17,831,960.83
<u>Add</u>		
*Contribution from the Consolidated Fund	£833,333.33	£833,333.33
Contributions collected in cash (Insurance contr.)	£1,214,746.89	£1,300,224.76
Misc Receipts	£52,364.61	£33,780.58
	£19,952,758.04	£19,999,299.50
<u>Less</u>		
Payments	(£2,120,797.21)	(£2,064,139.66)
<u>Closing Balance</u>	<u>£17,831,960.83</u>	<u>£17,935,159.84</u>

ORAL

NO. 844 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

Can Government state how many persons receiving social assistance, to date, as from September 2008, have been employed since, and how many are still receiving social assistance, giving a monthly breakdown by age and sex?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question No. 845 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 845 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

Can Government state what was the number of persons receiving social assistance, to date, as from September 2008 giving a monthly breakdown by age and sex?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

I will now hand the hon Member the lists giving the information requested.

ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 845/2008

Answer to Question No. 844

**PERSONS IN RECEIPT OF SOCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE MONTHS OF SEPTEMBER
TO OCTOBER 2008**

2008	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL	18/25	26/35	36/45	46/60
September	155	295	450	61	132	110	147
October	153	289	442	57	129	110	146

PERSONS EMPLOYED DURING THE MONTHS OF SEPTEMBER TO OCTOBER 2008

2008	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL	18/25	26/35	36/45	46/60
September	4	0	4	1	2	1	0
October	3	7	10	4	0	3	3

AS AT	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL	18/25	26/35	36/45	46/60
27 Nov 08	158	295	453	58	134	114	147

Contd.....

CONTD ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 845/2008

Answer to Question No. 845

**PERSONS RECEIVING SOCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE MONTHS OF SEPTEMBER TO
27 NOVEMBER 2008 VY MONTH, SEX AND AGE.**

2008	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL	18/25	26/35	36/45	46/60
September	155	295	450	61	132	110	147
October	153	289	442	57	129	110	146
27 November	158	295	453	58	134	114	147

NO. 846 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

MOUNT ALVERNIA – AWNINGS

In view of the answer given to Question No. 476 of 2008, concerning the placing of awnings in Mount Alvernia, can Government state when the process of renewing all balconies is likely to be completed?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Technical Services Department have commissioned a consultant to undertake a structural condition survey of the existing balconies and parapets.

Additionally, they will option for any necessary repair or new construction to the balconies. Following this the Government will invite tenders for necessary works. It is not possible to say when the work will be completed.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 846 OF 2008

HON C A BRUZON:

The placing of awnings is of great relevance to some of the elderly people there and it is a sad scenario when these people cannot be helped, at least in specific cases, and that the Minister should inform the House, which is the information that he has been given, obviously, that this from what I hear is going to take a very, very long time.

HON J J NETTO:

Well, the definition of a very, very long time may be something that may be in his mind but the definition that I am putting in front of the House here is that we have a process and we need to ascertain that in order to put the awnings, and to put the awnings, I should imagine, in a safe way, looking after the welfare of the elderly people there, we have to do a structural condition survey to be able to tell us where the awnings are going to be placed, whether there is the necessity to repair or to construct new balconies, because the balconies, given the number of years they have been there, perhaps they are spalling a little bit of concrete. I am not a construction person myself but it has to be done by technical people, and once this information has been fed in, the work will commence. But I am not in a position to tell him when the works will commence. All I can tell him is the procedure to get it going.

HON C A BRUZON:

There has been scaffolding there in Mount Alvernia for some time now, this is why I am expressing concern, because these things, unfortunately, they take time and they are urgent. Admittedly, the Minister did not say or imply that it would take a long time, but from experience of what happens with construction work, I think we all know that they do take a long time.

HON G H LICUDI:

The Minister has referred in his answer to a survey which is going to be undertaken. Can the Minister give some further information? Has that survey begun? Is it being commissioned? Is it being done by Government?

HON J J NETTO:

I think that in my answer I said that Technical Services Department have commissioned a consultant to undertake a structural condition survey. So my assumption would be that the consultant is in the process of doing it. Perhaps.

ORAL

NO. 847 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

STATUTORY BENEFITS FUND – PAYMENTS

Can Government state what payments were made out of the Statutory Benefits Fund for each month from September to October 2008 arising from the insolvency of any employer?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 848 and 849 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 848 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

STATUTORY BENEFITS FUND – PAYMENTS

Can Government state what payments were made out of the Statutory Benefits Fund for each month from September to October 2008 in respect of employment injuries?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Answered together with Question Nos. 847 and 849 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 849 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

STATUTORY BENEFITS FUND

Can Government state what were the opening balances, the total value of receipts and payments and the closing balances of the Statutory Benefits Fund for each month from July to October 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

I will now hand the hon Member lists giving the requested information.

Can I also say that in answer to Question No. 847, no payments arising from insolvency of any employer have been made from the Statutory Benefits Fund in September and October 2008.

ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 849/2008

Answer to Question 848

Payments from the Statutory Benefits Fund for September and October 2008 in respect of employment injuries have been as follows:

STATUTORY BENEFITS FUND – TENTATIVE STATEMENT

	Sept 2008	October 2008
Payments – employment injuries	£52,411.87	£50,009.54

Contd.....

Contd ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 849/2008

Answer to Question 849

The opening balances, the total value of receipts and payments and the closing balances of the Statutory Benefits Fund for each month from July to October 2008 is as per the following tentative statement:

(*The approved Contribution from the Consolidated Fund is £10M for the year. The contributions have been calculated pro-rata hereunder, however the actual contribution is normally effected at the end of the financial year.)

STATUTORY BENEFITS FUND

	<u>31-Jul-08</u>	<u>31-Aug-08</u>	<u>30-Sep-08</u>	<u>31-Oct-08</u>
<u>Fund Account- Opening Balance</u>	£17,742,996.23	£17,901,026.68	£17,852,313.21	£17,831,960.83
<u>Add</u>				
*Contribution from the Consolidated Fund	£833,333.33	£833,333.33	£833,333.33	£833,333.33
Contributions collected in cash (Insurance contr.)	£1,432,207.86	£1,139,430.94	£1,214,746.89	£1,300,224.76
Misc Receipts	£14,323.55 £20,022,860.97	£32,541.38 £19,906,332.33	£52,364.61 £19,952,758.04	£33,780.58 £19,999,299.50
<u>Less</u>				
Payments	(£2,121,834.29)	(£2,054,019.12)	(£2,120,797.21)	(£2,064,139.66)
<u>Closing Balance</u>	£17,901,026.68	£17,852,313.21	£17,831,960.83	£17,935,159.84

ORAL

NO. 850 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY – EMPLOYEES

Can Government state of the employees of the Social Services Agency as at the 31st October 2008 how many were on permanent and pensionable terms and how many were on contract terms, giving a breakdown by grade?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

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

SSA Employees as at 31st October 2008

Answer to Question 850 of 2008

Grade	Number of Employees	Civil Service/GoG Pension	Eligible to Gib Provident Fund PS No. 2	On Contract Terms (Non-Pensionable)
EMPLOYEES on GOG Terms				
MAIN OFFICE				
Team Leaders	2	2		
Counselling Psychologist	1	1		
Senior Social Workers	3	3		
Social Workers	11	11		
Administration Manager (HEO)	1	1		
Personnel Officer (EO)	1	1		
Administrative Officer	1	1		
Typist	1	1		
ST. BERNADETTE'S O.T. CENTRE				
St. Bernadette's Manager	1	1		
St. Bernadette's Deputy Manager	1	1		
Enrolled Nurses	2	2		
Administrative Officer - Part-time (GOG)	1	1		
Classroom Aides (full time) Spec. Needs	7	7		
Classroom Aides (part time) (20hrs)	7	7		
Vehicle/Escort	1	1		
EMPLOYEES on SSA Terms				
Chief Executive	1			1
Occupational Therapist/Strategy Co-ord.	1		1	
Counsellor	1		1	
Social Workers (Out of Hrs)	2		2	
Community Service Officer	-		-	
Finance Officer	1		1	
Administrative Officers	4		4	
Personal Assistant (AO)	1		1	
Day Centre Co-ordinator	1		1	
Shop Mobility Attendant	1		1	
Handyman/driver	1		1	
<i>Sub-total of</i>	55	41	13	1

Cont....

SSA Employees as at 31st October 2008 **Contd Answer to Question 850 of 2008**

Grade	Number of Employees	Civil Service/ GoG Pension	Eligible to Gib Provident Fund PS No. 2	On Contract Terms (Non-Pensionable)
<i>Sub-total b/f</i>	55	41	13	1
DRUGS AWARENESS CAMPAIGN				
Drug strategy Co-ordinator *	1	1		
Assistant to Drug Strategy Co-ordinator	1		1	
* GoG Officer on Secondment				
DR. GIRALDI RESIDENTIAL				
Dr. Giraldi Manager	1		1	
Deputy Manager Dr Giraldi	1		1	
Administrative Officer (Part-time)	1		1	
Unit Managers (40hrs)	5		5	
Social Care Workers (40hrs)	13		13	
Social Care Workers (39hrs)	1		1	
Social Care Workers (37.5hrs)	27		27	
Social Care Workers (20hrs)	13		13	
Domestic Support Worker (22.5hrs)	1		1	
Domestic Support Workers (20hrs)	5		5	
Domestic Support Worker (15hrs)	1		1	
CHILDREN RESIDENTIAL				
Unit Managers (40hrs)	6		6	
Social Care Workers (37.5hrs)	34		34	
Social Care Workers (31hrs)	6		6	
INDUSTRIAL STAFF				
Cleaner - 37 hrs per week	2	2		
Cleaner - 25 hrs per week	1	1		
School Attendant/Driver	1	1		
Total	176	46	129	1

As at 31st October 2008 a further 5 non-industrial posts were vacant. For comparison with previous Answers to Parliament, it should be noted that, following reorganisation of hours worked, two further SCWs are now employed, within the total number of hours previously provided. This allows the provision of a greater number of staff at peak times, while reducing staff when looked after children are at school or adults are at the Day Centre. These changes have taken place when vacancies have arisen, or by agreement with staff in post.

The SSA also uses supply / temporary workers for relief cover who are not pensionable.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 850 OF 2008

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can the Minister say whether the post of Chief Executive, which is shown here as being on contract terms, has actually been filled?

HON J J NETTO:

No, the Chief Executive is still on an acting basis.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So, if he is on acting basis and he happens to be employed in the Health Authority, is it that he has got a contract with the Health Authority and a contract with the Social Services Agency?

HON J J NETTO:

I understand that the contract is with the GHA but seconded to the Social Services Agency.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I see, so he is not in the employment of the Agency as such, he is actually on loan, as it were, from the Health Authority?

HON J J NETTO:

Yes, the only thing is that, in producing the figures for the Hon G H Licuid, I had to list him there, because he is working all the time there in the Social Services Agency. So, perhaps, yes, I suppose that he is an employee, technically speaking, of the GHA but, obviously, for all this period of time he has been seconded and is working permanently in the Social Services Agency.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So if he is working permanently in the Agency does it mean then that he no longer has a role in the Health Authority?

HON J J NETTO:

I think perhaps that my hon Colleague might agree with me that he still has some role in relation to his substantive position as Director of Human Resources, and he does provide some assistance, I do not know how, through the structure of the GHA, but he does provide some assistance on personnel and human resources.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is it the Government's intention to continue with that system in place, or are they intending to open the vacancy and recruit somebody in the Agency to be the CEO?

HON J J NETTO:

Well, the question asks whether it is the intention to keep the situation as it is, I think that a fair answer to that question would be that things will have to be reviewed by Government, in the not too distant future, in relation to whether this situation remains or not. The Government have not yet made up their minds.

ORAL

NO. 851 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY – EMPLOYEES

Can Government provide a breakdown by grade, sex, nationality and residence, that is, whether Gibraltar or Spain, of all the employees of the Social Services Agency as at the end of October 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

I hand the hon member a list giving the information required.

Grade	Number of Employees	Female	Male	Gibraltarian	UK National	Spanish National	Other Nationality	Resident Gibraltar	Resident Spain
EMPLOYEES on GOG Terms									
MAIN OFFICE									
Team Leaders	2	2		2				1	1
Counselling Psychologist	1	1		1					1
Senior Social Workers	3	3		2	1			2	1
Social Workers	11	9	2	7	4			9	2
Administration Manager (HEO)	1		1	1				1	
Personnel Officer (EO)	1	1		1				1	
Administrative Officer	1	1		1				1	
Typist	1	1		1				1	
ST. BERNADETTE'S O.I. CENTRE									
St. Bernadette's Manager	1	1		1				1	
St. Bernadette's Deputy Manager	1	1		1				1	
Enrolled Nurses	2	2		1	1			2	
Administrative Officer - Part-time (GOG)	1	1		1				1	
Classroom Aides (full time) Spec. Needs	7	7		7				7	
Classroom Aides (part time) (20hrs)	7	7		7				7	
Vehicle/Escort	1	1		1				1	
EMPLOYEES on SSA Terms									
Chief Executive	1		1		1			1	
Occupational Therapist/Strategy Co-ord.	1	1		1				1	
Counsellor	1	1		1				1	
Social Workers (Out of Hrs)	2	2			2				2
Community Service Officer	-								
Finance Officer	1	1		1				1	
Administrative Officers	4	3	1	4				4	
Personal Assistant (AO)	1	1		1				1	
Day Centre Co-ordinator	1	1			1			1	
Shop Mobility Attendant	1		1	1				1	
Handyman/driver	1		1	1				1	
Sub-total c/f	55	48	7	45	10	0	0	48	7

Grade	Number of Employees	Female	Male	Gibraltarian	UK National	Spanish National	Other Nationality	Resident Gibraltar	Resident Spain
<i>Sub-total b/f</i>	55	48	7	45	10	0	0	48	7
DRUGS AWARENESS CAMPAIGN									
Drug strategy Co-ordinator *	1		1	1				1	
Assistant to Drug Strategy Co-ordinator * GoG Officer on Secondment	1	1		1				1	
DR. GIRALDI RESIDENTIAL									
Dr. Giraldi Manager	1		1		1				1
Deputy Manager Dr Giraldi	1	1			1				1
Administrative Officer (Part-time)	1	1		1				1	
Unit Managers (40hrs)	5	2	3	2	3			4	1
Social Care Workers (40hrs)	13	10	3	10	3			10	3
Social Care Workers (39hrs)	1		1	1				1	
Social Care Workers (37.5hrs)	27	21	6	5	16	5	1 Dutch	12	15
Social Care Workers (20hrs)	13	10	3	4	5	3	1 Danish	10	3
Domestic Support Worker (22.5hrs)	1	1		1				1	
Domestic Support Workers (20hrs)	5	4	1	5				5	
Domestic Support Worker (15hrs)	1	1		1				1	
CHILDREN RESIDENTIAL									
Unit Managers (40hrs)	6	6		5	1			5	1
Social Care Workers (37.5hrs)	34	27	7	24	4	6		25	9
Social Care Workers (31hrs)	6	5	1	6				6	
INDUSTRIAL STAFF									
Cleaner - 37 hrs per week	2	2		2				2	
Cleaner - 25 hrs per week	1	1		1				1	
School Attendant/Driver	1		1	1				1	
Total: Permanent Staff	176	141	35	116	44	14	2	135	41
TEMPORARY STAFF									
Social Worker	1		1	1				1	
Receptionist/Administrative Assistant	1	1		1				1	
Total	178	142	36	118	44	14	2	137	41

As at 31st October 2008 5 non-industrial posts were vacant. The SSA uses supply workers for relief cover who are not included here. For comparison with previous Answers to Parliament, it should be noted that, following reorganisation of hours worked, two further SCWs are now employed, within the total number of hours available provided.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 851 OF 2008

HON G H LICUDI:

Just for clarification, under Dr Giraldi Residential can we have the same in relation to the previous answers? We have lists of Social Care Workers, some employed on a 40 hour week, one employed on a 39 hour week, others employed on a 37½ hour week, others on a part-time basis. But in terms of the full-time employees, do Government have any explanation for the difference in contractual terms, whereas one works one hour a week more than the other, why is there not a standardised basis for the contracts?

HON J J NETTO:

A simple answer to that question is how hours are determined. In fact, we can see a little footnote here that in a way deals with people being employed by hours, as opposed to looking at the establishment figures. It is that they are looking at the functions, the services that they have to provide and in some cases, for good operational reasons, they find that it is a better utilisation of resources to employ a particular person to work for 40 hours, 39 hours or 37 hours. In addition to that and in relation to previous questions in this House, what we find by voluntary agreement, or for example where new Social Care Worker vacancies arise, that we might wish for operational reasons to have two persons employed for 20 hours as opposed to one for 40 hours. This can happen because of some of the services and some of the functions at Dr Giraldi Home, where, perhaps, during the day service users have been in the mainstream Department of Education, or have been in the St Bernadette's Occupational Therapy Centre and then they are being provided with respite care at the Dr Giraldi Home. So, this does not always fit nicely in terms of having a standard, across the board situation, with everyone working certain hours. Management uses the opportunity when it can, to mould the number of hours of people working there, in accordance with the best operational needs, in order to provide the service. While at first glance it may look a little bit irrational, perhaps this is the reason why the hon Member is seeking further information, this is the best explanation I can give him based on what the managers tell me.

NO. 852 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY – EMPLOYEES

Can Government state how many persons were employed at the Social Services Agency on supply, casual, temporary or short-term contracts on the 1 October 2008 giving a breakdown by grade and nationality?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

The Social Services Agency had 63 supply workers as at 31st October 2008. There were no staff on casual contracts.

The following 56 are supply Social Care Workers:

- 29 Gibraltarians
- 14 UK Nationals
- 8 Spanish Nationals
- 2 German Nationals
- 2 Belgian Nationals
- 1 Italian National

There were five Classroom Aides (Special Needs) who are Gibraltarian. There was also one supply Receptionist/Administrative Assistant and one supply Social Worker at this point. These were appointed on a temporary basis. Both are Gibraltarian.

ORAL

NO. 853 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

MINIMUM INCOME GUARANTEE

Can Government provide a breakdown of 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 October 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

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

ANSWER TO QUESTION NO.853/2008

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 OCTOBER 2008.

				SINGLES		COUPLES		TOTAL
				No		No		No
FROM	£151.00	TO	£155.00	0		3		3
FROM	£146.00	TO	£150.00	0		0		0
FROM	£141.00	TO	£145.00	0		0		0
FROM	£136.00	TO	£140.00	0		0		0
FROM	£131.00	TO	£135.00	0		0		0
FROM	£126.00	TO	£130.00	0		0		0
FROM	£121.00	TO	£125.00	0		0		0
FROM	£116.00	TO	£120.00	0		0		0
FROM	£111.00	TO	£115.00	27		0		27
FROM	£106.00	TO	£110.00	3		0		3
FROM	£101.00	TO	£105.00	0		0		0
FROM	£96.00	TO	£100.00	0		0		0
FROM	£91.00	TO	£95.00	0		0		0
FROM	£86.00	TO	£90.00	0		0		0
FROM	£81.00	TO	£85.00	0		1		1
FROM	£76.00	TO	£80.00	1		1		2
FROM	£71.00	TO	£75.00	17		0		17
FROM	£66.00	TO	£70.00	1		0		1
FROM	£61.00	TO	£65.00	2		0		2
FROM	£56.00	TO	£60.00	1		3		4
FROM	£51.00	TO	£55.00	17		2		19
FROM	£46.00	TO	£50.00	10		2		12
FROM	£41.00	TO	£45.00	14		1		15
FROM	£36.00	TO	£40.00	19		0		19
FROM	£31.00	TO	£35.00	13		2		15
FROM	£26.00	TO	£30.00	22		1		23
FROM	£21.00	TO	£25.00	19		1		20
FROM	£16.00	TO	£20.00	243		2		245
FROM	£11.00	TO	£15.00	19		6		25
FROM	£6.00	TO	£10.00	21		8		29
FROM	£0.00	TO	£5.00	7		0		7
TOTAL				456		33		489

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 853 OF 2008

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can the Minister say whether the amount which is the trigger for the entitlement to the Minimum Income Guarantee, which includes the pensions and the community care payment, can he confirm whether, in fact, the increase of this month of the community care payment of £16.00 for a single person and £24.00 for a married couple, will that result in a net deduction in the next payment or not? Will it be set off or not?

HON J J NETTO:

I am afraid I have not got the information available for me. If the hon Member wants to write to me I will definitely try to find the information, but I have not got that information in relation to the latest increase he is referring to.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well, it is a question of policy not a question of mathematics. I mean, can he say whether the increase of a year ago was deducted in January?

HON J J NETTO:

I am informed that normally, from an administrative point of view, they do the assessment in December and if they are assessing the amount of money that they have to give back, they give it back in arrears subsequently. I suppose that really does not answer the question, which is what is the trigger point upon which any increment or any source makes an impact on whether the Minimum Income Guarantee goes down, in relation to the last payment to which the hon Member is referring to. I have not got the answer to that particular question. So, I can certainly look it up or if he wants to write to me.

HON J J BOSSANO:

But do the Government not know whether, I mean, my questions are to the Government not specifically to the Minister. Do the Government not know whether in January last year, in the quarter of January that there was an increase in December like there is every year in December, in household cost allowance, was the household cost allowance taken into account in 2008 when it happened in 2007? This thing happens every year, this is not something new. My question is, (a) did it happen last year simply because he is not able to tell me whether it will happen in January? So, I cannot ask him about January because he does not know if it is going to happen or not. But he ought to be able to tell me whether it happened in January 2008, in respect of the increase in household cost allowance of December 2007. That is already a year ago. If he does not know it, then presumably the person who was the Minister then should have known it.

HON J J NETTO:

I am informed that in previous years, when the household cost allowance has increased it was taken into account but then it was given the difference retrospectively between the two, in previous years. So, that seems to be the system that has prevailed years back, when I was not the Minister responsible, but in relation to 2007, I could not tell him right now off the top of my head.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am afraid the explanation the Minister has given does not make a lot of sense, because if in arriving, for example, at whether a person gets paid £5 or gets paid £155, one decides first what is the income that is taken into account to arrive at the difference, presumably we agree that what the table indicates is that the most that a married couple can get is £155 a week, and that presumes that they have got no income which is deductible. They may have income but it is not deductible. For example, on the social security pension, as I understand it, the position is that the amount of the frozen pension is deductible but not the increases that have subsequently taken place. Therefore, even if there is an increase in pension, the amount of pension that one takes away every year to find out whether somebody should get £150 or £100 is always the same amount, because that amount never changes. My question is, does the amount of the household cost allowance operate the same as the amount of the social insurance pension, and therefore increases are disregarded or are they regarded? I do not see how he can see he takes it away from them in January and then he gives it back to them in February, because if that is what they are doing, I cannot understand why they are doing it.

HON J J NETTO:

I will look into this and I will answer the hon Member subsequently once I have had the opportunity to look into the matter.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am assuming that I am right in what I have said about the social security pensions, because that is my understanding from previous questions. Perhaps he can confirm that to me as well, that it is the level of the frozen pension that is regarded and the increases are disregarded.

HON J J NETTO:

In Question No. 853 of 2008 the Leader of the Opposition was requesting supplementary information in relation to the household cost allowance, whether that would be taken into account in the revaluing of the entitlement of recipients under that. The answer to this is yes, it will be taken into account. The only thing I would add to that bit of information is that whilst in the past in previous years it has been done, I think in the month of December, now the revaluation will be done on 1st April to coincide with increases in the old age pension. So, basically, all of these amounts, if there are cases in which they are in receipt of a higher entitlement than they otherwise should be, that will not be taken or clawed back from their entitlement.

That will be a benefit that they will have until, obviously, the revaluation in each particular case. So the answer to the question is that it will be taken into account.

HON J J BOSSANO:

If I may, just to make sure I understood correctly? So what happens is that the first quarter, January, February, March will not be adjusted because of the December but the adjustment will happen on 1st April to coincide with the increase in the social security pension?

HON J J NETTO:

That is correct.

ORAL

NO. 854 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

Can Government state since the coming into effect of the Equal Opportunities Act 2004 and its replacement, the Equal Opportunities Act 2006, how many complaints per year has the Citizen's Advice Bureau received of alleged unlawful discrimination giving a breakdown of the complaint by the discriminatory treatment, e.g. sex, etc?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

The Citizen's Advice Bureau is not part of the Government and the Government are not accountable for its actions. However, the Government are willing to share the information they have available to themselves, which I now hand over to the hon Member.

Answer to Question 854

The Gibraltar Citizen's Advice Bureau has recorded a total of 68 cases between 1st October 2008 and 28th November 2008.

Period	Race/Ethnic Origin	Gender	Total
2004	7	9	16
2005	15	1	16
2006	11	8	19
2007	7	6	13
2008	1	3	4
Total	41	27	68

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 854 OF 2008

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can I just say by way of comment on his opening remark, that even though the Citizen's Advice Bureau is not part of the Government, it is the body that the Government chose to entrust with this responsibility when they brought the Bill to the House and we passed it here. Therefore, I mean, is he saying that we should not be raising it in Parliament and that I should write to the Citizen's Advice Bureau instead. I will do that, but as far as I am concerned I am raising the matter here because I would assume that if we pass a law and give somebody responsibility for ensuring that cases, or conduct which are now unlawful and were not previously unlawful, we would want to know what is happening to see whether, in fact, the law is working well or not. Can he say what sort of action the Citizen's Advice Bureau has taken in respect of these cases, of which there are 41 in relation to discrimination related to race and ethnic origin and 27 in relation to gender? I take it that other grounds have had none. I am assuming from the answer that there have been no complaints related to discrimination on other grounds. For example, on religion, or anything else because it is not mentioned, is that correct?

HON J J NETTO:

In a way my comment at the beginning when I said that the Citizen's Advice Bureau is not part of the Government, is I suppose a qualification to this last point that the hon Leader of the Opposition is actually making. When I received the information and the table which he has got in front of him, my first reaction was along the lines of what the Hon Gilbert Licudi said this morning. Really, what we want to have is information which is meaningful in terms of being able to decipher whether having a proper system of coding and classification, so that it is actually meaningful to us to determine the sort of type of incident. I was not entirely satisfied but at the end of the day it is their system, they argue that their system is based on the UK model, in terms of programmes and the way they collect information and all we said to the Citizen's Advice Bureau, I think that perhaps given the small number of cases that we are talking about in the table, this perhaps could be presented in a more meaningful way because we are not talking about many cases. I mean, just to give an example, let us assume that there is a lady, that lady may be a black person, she may also be pregnant and she may be working in a restaurant. Hypothetically speaking, the employer may be able to determine that she does not want this particular lady because of the colour of her skin, or because she is pregnant, or it may simply be one or the other, so it could be race related, it could be discrimination because she was pregnant. I think that if I am going to stand here giving information to the Opposition, given that we are not talking about many cases in all, just four in the year 2008, I would suggest we try a dual system of collecting information. One which is in accordance with their own programme in the UK, so that it is all meaningful to them, but at the same time meaningful to us because all that it entails is getting a few files out and breaking it down into areas which mean something to us. Not that they are not doing it themselves, because in the next question in the Order Paper, the hon Member talks about training, and in part of the answer which I will be giving there, when I get to that particular point, he will be able to see that in a way the Citizen's Advice Bureau want to provide the training in relation to how employers and trade unions actually see discrimination in the labour market. So they are doing the training in accordance with what they see the problems are here in Gibraltar, but I think that we could do a much better job, actually, than what we are producing here.

I have told them that once this sitting of the House is over, I will get together with them to try and break down this information even further, so that then we know what particular issues are giving rise to problems in certain industries, or employers, in relation to these responsibilities. I mean, they are talking about incidents, sometimes, and the figures here could be in respect of more than one particular person.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The Minister seems to be talking as if this was limited to employment situations, that is not the case is it? I mean, if somebody is being discriminated against because a restaurant is not wanting to serve them, on the grounds of something that is now illegal, surely that would be a case of a complaint to the CAB as well, would it not? I mean, it does not have to be the employer doing it to the employee, it can be a provider doing it to a customer.

HON J J NETTO:

Providing a service as well.

HON J J BOSSANO:

As well, so there is no indication here what we are talking about at all.

HON J J NETTO:

Well, I have not said they have not got an indication of what they are talking about. I mean, they are very proud themselves of the manner in which they collect information, and this is the standard. I have a whole page here telling me this is the whole standard of having programmes they do it in the UK, they do not want to deviate from that particular programme. But what I am saying is, all that is fine, I have no problem with that, they keep to the standards in the UK in terms of collecting information, but it has to be meaningful to us here so we can debate it. I am saying I am not entirely happy with that.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am not questioning the standard. The answer that he gave originally and the example that he gave, gave me the impression that he thought that these cases were cases about what is going on in different industries and in different places of employment. Now, can he tell me in fact which of these cases deal with complaints against employers and which cases deal with complaints against service providers?

HON J J NETTO:

Not from the information I have available to me.

HON J J BOSSANO:

But the CAB has that information, obviously.

HON J J NETTO:

I would say, certainly from their own files in relation to the complaints.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Right, so in fact, the only reason why he does not have it is because he does not ask unless I ask him. He has been given information which is information that is given to him because he has passed on to them the question that I passed on to him. That is simply to establish how many people had actually bothered to make use of the new protection in the law. That is all we have got at the moment but, presumably, if he were to ask for more detailed questions, or I were to ask him for more detailed questions, we would then be able to get a greater picture. I do not have that piece of paper that he waved at me saying how this works. This could just work by somebody sitting down at the desk and adding how many files they have got and giving the number four. It does not have to be computerised when there is only one complaint in 2008, what else can they do? The only thing is that if I ask him, well was the complaint that because somebody was discriminated because of his race at work or was it somebody that was discriminated because of his race, at least he thought it was discrimination against his race because he went to buy something, or eat somewhere, or get on a bus and they treated him in a discriminatory manner. We do not know which of the two it is. But if he were to ask that question then, presumably, he would get the answer. Or, I assume that since this is not a Government department, I would not have the difficulty I have when I ring up Government departments and I can actually get the answer from them.

HON J J NETTO:

Nevertheless, I think that we both share the same objective in terms of trying to get information which is meaningful to both of us, and based on local circumstances.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Absolutely. Does he know, even though I did not ask him the question, what follow-up action takes place as a result of a complaint being received?

HON J J NETTO:

Well, I think I gave a detailed explanation the last time that this question was raised. People will walk into the Citizen's Advice Bureau and they explain to the officer in charge the nature of the complaint, I am told that in most cases, more often than not, the particular officer of the Citizen's Advice Bureau, will immediately sort of mediate between the person making the complaint and the particular employer, if it is an employer, and try to resolve the dispute amicably. If that is not possible, for whatever reasons, the Citizen's Advice Bureau allows that particular person to have, I think it is, half an hour of free legal advice in order to determine whether the nature of the

complaint by the complainant has some kind of sound, legal basis to pursue the matter further. Then at that stage, the Citizen's Advice Bureau will move out of the equation and it will be a matter for that particular person, based on the free half hour legal advice, if he wants to pursue the matter further. But in terms of information, I am told that the Citizen's Advice Bureau does not get involved beyond that level.

HON J J BOSSANO:

But, in fact, in the United Kingdom what exists in the comparable law allows the independent commission to actually initiate legal action itself. This is not something that can be done here, is that right? That is, is it that the CAB does not have the power to do it or that it chooses not to do it? Or does not have the resources to do it?

HON J J NETTO:

I am not sure whether the local legislation provides the scope for that particular option that the Leader of the Opposition is referring to from the UK. I mean, I would need to check the legislation.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In terms of employment, is it not the case, as I asked him in the previous question, that it is now additional grounds for a complaint to the employment tribunal, to the Industrial Tribunal. So that in fact, in that case, an individual, if it is related to work of course, it cannot do this in another context but in relation to work, presumably, the matter can be taken to a tribunal by the individual alleging discrimination and that does not require the CAB to do anything. Presumably then it just follows a normal tribunal case, is that correct?

HON J J NETTO:

That is correct, yes.

NO. 855 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

Between the commencement of the Equal Opportunities Act 2004 and the Equal Opportunities Act 2006 and the Equal Opportunities Training Day in 2007 what action was taken by the Citizen's Advice Bureau to raise awareness and promote equal treatment as part of its obligations under section 51 of the 2004 Act?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

The Citizen's Advice Service is fair, accessible, inclusive and relevant, which stands for FAIR. As a holistic service open to all Gibraltar, the Citizen's Advice Bureau needs to reach out and work with all sectors of the community.

The Gibraltar Citizen's Advice Bureau has been doing that since its launch, but since GOG gave them heightened responsibility for equal opportunities, this has increased in all their services.

They recognise people have different backgrounds, attitudes, ideas and perceptions and these differences have been harnessed to make their services approachable by all. They have actively ensured that they have involved people from minority communities as volunteers in their outreaches and services.

Developed an "Anti-Bullying Alliance" in partnership with diverse communities such as Gay Rights, Disability Groups et cetera.

Encouraged mental health sufferers, people out of rehab or with disability, to work as volunteers for the Gibraltar Citizen's Advice Bureau.

Employed under the Vocational Training Scheme, young people with disabilities.

Have posters on display at the Gibraltar Citizen's Advice Bureau and in all their outreach about equal opportunities.

They are able to offer free legal advice by an independent lawyer on discrimination.

Have prepared statistics of discrimination and will be available for all in their Annual Report for 2008/2009.

Equal Opportunities and Training days 2009. These training days are being organised by the Gibraltar Citizen's Advice Bureau working in partnership with other

minority groups, Chamber of Commerce, Unions, GOG, private sector and other organisations. A questionnaire has been prepared for organisations to complete.

Training will be given by an independent lawyer of a small minority group. Once the questionnaire is filled in, the independent lawyer preparing the training will know what the specific groups needs are and base his training of the feedback received from the community. These trainings days will be in spring 2009, with the preliminary meeting schedule for 10th December 2008. The aim of this is to raise awareness of equal opportunities in the community they serve in Gibraltar.

They had placed optional "welcome screens" in various languages applicable to local citizens of small ethnic minority groups. This was available on clicking country flags displayed on the main page.

They have now updated the software to the latest version and, unfortunately, as yet, a language module for this version is not yet available, so they have had to skip the country flags/welcome screen.

They are currently finalising work on the Citizens Advice International (CAI) website. After the CAI website has been completed, they hope to design and create a flash animation which will basically provide changing welcome messages in different languages. I think it is worthy to mention that Gus Linares from the Gibraltar Citizen's Advice Bureau has been commissioned to set up the Citizens Advice International website and is, in fact, the webmaster.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 855 OF 2008

HON J J BOSSANO:

I suppose it was the name that needed to be mentioned. I have no doubt he will do an excellent job because I know him personally and I know how committed and dedicated he is. But I am asking this question because the last time the only thing that the Minister mentioned in answer was the equal opportunities training day, and there is in fact an obligation in the Directive on active promotion and making people aware. Not so much it seems to me the kind of situation that he is describing. It is things that the Bureau was already doing, even ahead of this legislation, in terms of providing training to people, providing a situation where people would recognise the need to involve people with mental illness, or whatever. I know that that has been part of their role and that they have been doing an excellent job and that it is much appreciated in the community. That I am aware of. But there is a specific legal requirement in the EU Directive that was transposed. Therefore, there is, in my view, if we transpose a Directive in our law then I think it is legitimate to come back and ask to what extent are we actually doing what is required of us. It seems to me that wide ranging though the explanation has been, I am not sure that it is giving me the specific information that I am asking in terms of the obligations under section 51 of the Act, which is what the original question asked. That is, to make sure that people know that there is now a new law, which previously did not exist, which most people will not be aware of because most people do not take the trouble to read the laws, and probably if they read them they would not understand them, as we all know, it happens to us. Therefore, if we do not have a situation where people who may have been discriminated against when it was not unlawful, may not realise that there is now a level of protection that did not exist before. The question, as far as I am concerned, is more directed to making people aware of their new rights and their new

protection, rather than training people to make sure that they behave in a correct manner in terms of solidarity and respect for minorities and so forth. I think that is a very important thing to do but I am not sure, I think the obligation is more in making sure that the rights we have created are something that those who have got an entitlement to seek protection know that that machinery exists. That is the kind of raising awareness that I am talking about. Does he know specifically of that nature, which I think is what section 51 is all about, what is being done?

HON J J NETTO:

I think I have answered the question in the sense of what the Leader of the Opposition's concerns are. I think what basically the information is, that the whole outlook in terms of how the Citizen's Advice Bureau approach this matter, is that in every possible way in which they work and work towards providing people with a service, they are not only just in their offices but when they do campaigns outside, what they call outreaches, they are actually informing people of the kind of things that they were not aware of before, in relation to equal opportunities. In addition to that, they are also saying, look, we are aware that we have to provide training. We have been providing training, they have provided training in 2008, they are doing more training in terms of preparing the second wave of training to employers, to trade unions, et cetera, they are consulting the people out there, particularly the employers in relation of giving them a service and asking what are the issues that come up in relation to these equal opportunities. In relation to those particular circumstances that give rise in Gibraltar they are going to design the training programme for all the shop stewards in the trade unions, for all the employers in the Chamber of Commerce or whatever, in relation to the training. So I think that they are doing what he and I would like them to do, which is to get the word out there in terms of saying, look, we are doing this, this is happening, we are making more and more people aware. The question may arise, is it enough? But certainly, they are very conscious, they are very much aware of their responsibilities and I think that they are pro-actively working towards getting more and more people aware of these new rights that they have.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Does the Minister know whether, in fact, what has been done here is in line with what was done in the United Kingdom when the thing was transposed? He does not know.

HON J J NETTO:

I have not got that information with me, I do not know.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well, does he know whether the CAB has looked to what the CABs do in the UK in bringing in this programme?

HON J J NETTO:

No.

NO. 856 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY – ADMISSIONS TO KGV HOSPITAL

Can Government state how many young persons giving their age range, in the care of the Social Services Agency have been admitted to the KGV Hospital since the Agency was set up giving the numbers in each year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

The Government can confirm that three young persons, with an age range of 10 to 18, have been admitted to the KGV Hospital on a total of six separate occasions while in the care of the Agency and since the Agency was set up. Out of these six separate admissions, one young person has been admitted on three separate occasions, one young person on two separate occasions and one young person once. The numbers in each year are as follows:

2006	1 young person
2007	3 young persons
2008	1 young person

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 856 OF 2008

HON J J BOSSANO:

Have the Government any explanation why this started in 2006? Is it that we are talking about young people who only were involved with the Agency from 2006 on, or are we talking about people who were there before, but who apparently never had to be sent to KGV Hospital?

HON J J NETTO:

The answer is that the people I am referring to having been in the care of the Agency.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Yes and my question is were they in the care of the Agency before 2006?

HON J J NETTO:

The problem with that is that it goes well beyond my period as Minister for the Social Services Agency and my mind will not be able to go back to then. Standing as I am on my feet it is not information that I would have available.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I accept that the Minister was doing something else before. But he has got to understand that my question is directed at the Government and not at him, as I told him earlier. It seems to me that if I were in his shoes and as a result of this question I found that children are being sent to KGV Hospital in 2006, 2007 and 2008, I would want to know what happened in 2006 to lead to this situation which was not happening before 2006? Especially since he tells me in other questions how wonderful the Agency has been since 2006.

HON J J NETTO:

What I can offer the Leader of the Opposition is the procedure in place once children are in the care of the Agency, and how situations arise when a child ends up in the KGV Hospital. But again, I am afraid I have not got the information as to what happened before 2006 in relation to a specific child. In other words, whether a specific child now referred to in 2006 was there in the care of the community prior to the Agency, when he was sent to the KGV Hospital. The information I have is that the three young persons I have referred to in my answer, have been in the Agency. Whether they were there before they arrived in the Agency I cannot tell him.

HON J J BOSSANO:

That was not my question. My question would be, if I give a hypothetical example, although it is not a hypothetical question. If a child comes in at a certain age in the Agency and is there for three or four years, then in the fifth year he is sent to the KGV Hospital, and if the Minister tells me that before 2006 no child had been sent to KGV Hospital, yes because I have asked since the Agency came into existence, and since the Agency came into existence the first case was in 2006, that is what he has told me. Since the Agency was set up, how many have been sent? He said that since the Agency was set up the first one was in 2006. Well, if I was in charge of the Agency and for the first time in its history it sent a child to KGV Hospital, which is totally unsuitable, I would want to know what was happening to make it necessary in 2006, and it was not necessary in 2005 and in 2004. So, I am not saying was that child in KGV Hospital before he went into the Agency. I am saying, was the child in the Agency and not sent to KGV Hospital? That is my question, because if he was in the Agency already and the Agency was able to cope with him before, what happened that in 2006 they were not able to cope with him?

HON J J NETTO:

No, that is not the manner upon which the Leader of the Opposition may assume it may have happened. Mental health problems can occur in a number of different ways to different people. Look, the Social Services Agency, I believe started in 2002 but the first case in which the Agency happened to be in the position to refer one of

the children who eventually ended up in the KGV Hospital, was in 2006. What happened between 2002 and 2006 does not necessarily mean that the children who were in the care of the Agency necessarily suffered any of the symptoms that other professionals in the field may have determined that a particular child should have been admitted to the KGV Hospital. I am answering his question which is how many people have been in the care of the Agency who find themselves in the KGV Hospital? The answer is three. So, if no one has gone from 2002, since the Agency was created, to 2006, my assumption is that the carers looking after the children in care, never found themselves in the position of having to refer those particular children to other professionals in mental health.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Yes, but is he saying that these young children..... Does he accept that KGV Hospital, which is an adult mental health institution, is not a suitable place to send young children to? Let us ask him that question.

HON J J NETTO:

It is not for me to decide that, it is the psychiatrist who decides that.

HON J J BOSSANO:

No, the psychiatrist may decide the state of health mentally, that does not make the place suitable or unsuitable. I mean, when somebody is committed to the KGV Hospital one is committing someone to an adult mental hospital, which would not be the case in the United Kingdom or anywhere else. That place is not suitable. He can ask the psychiatrist, they will tell him that. So, what I am saying is, is it the case or is it not the case that it was the nature of the conduct of the child? Regrettably some of these children that have got problems of autism and so on are not mentally ill but they are difficult to control. Is it not the case that the children that have been sent there have not been sent there on the basis that they have been diagnosed by a psychiatrist as having a mental illness, but because the carers could not cope with them in the Social Services Agency?

HON J J NETTO:

Well, ultimately it would be for the professionals in the Community Mental Health team in Coaling Island to make a first assessment, and through that assessment, whether they want to follow up the particular case in hand to the consultant psychiatrist, and it will be the consultant psychiatrist determining the circumstances of the person, which may not necessarily be of a psychiatric nature but could be a particular child self-harming himself, or posing a threat to himself, or very challenging behaviour, but it would be the psychiatrist to determine what options in the light of that particular child. Whether the KGV Hospital is suitable or not suitable, I think that the psychiatrist will look at all the options available in relation to the person and make the decision.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So is he saying that that is what has happened in these three cases?

HON J J NETTO:

No, nobody is saying that. I am giving him a generalised answer to his question.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well, I wish he would give me specific answers to my questions instead of generalised ones. I am saying to him, given that he said it is the psychiatrist who has to diagnose the child, he has now told me that the procedure is that it is the Community Psychiatric Service initially that sees the child, and then the matter is referred to the consultant psychiatrist and it is the consultant psychiatrist who decides that what the child needs is to be put in KGV Hospital. That is what he is saying?

HON J J NETTO:

No, I never said that.

HON J J BOSSANO:

What is it then?

HON J J NETTO:

Whatever the option the psychiatrist decides. Whether it is to go to the KGV Hospital or any other care plan in relation to the person there.

HON J J BOSSANO:

He says that the first involvement is the Community Psychiatric Unit, that is what he has just told me. If I have not understood him right, perhaps he can re-read the bit that he read, but if I have understood him right that is what he told me.

HON J J NETTO:

Perfectly right.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Perfectly right. Then from there on, they are referred to the consultant psychiatrist whose decision it is to commit them to KGV Hospital. Presumably, are these children being sectioned?

HON J J NETTO:

Yes, not necessarily all of them but it may be. If he xxxxxx them I might be able to get the answer. In relation to the case in 2006, he was xxxxxx admitted initially on a voluntary basis as a result of self-harming behaviour, that person was then detained under section. So that is Child A in relation to 2006.

HON J J NETTO:

I am being told, and I think there is some logic to it, I am very concerned of giving too much detail because, ultimately, I do not want these particular vulnerable children to be identified in the community. So, in fact.....

HON J J BOSSANO:

If he thinks a child can be in KGV Hospital and the rest of the community is unaware that he is there, then *[Interruption]*

HON J J NETTO:

Well, I do not know whether the rest of the community may or may not know, but I have a responsibility to try and protect the identity of the child. In fact, in the last session of Parliament the Hon Neil Costa asked me a separate question which referred to a particular person and I gave the information to him privately, because you know, we are talking about children here. Children can be identified.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well, if he is prepared to give me the information he was about to read out privately, I have no problem with that.

HON J J NETTO:

Okay.

NO. 857 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY – ADMISSIONS TO KGV HOSPITAL

Can Government confirm that a child admitted to KGV Hospital twice in 2007, then 10 years old, who had been in the care of the Social Services Agency, on discharge was sent to UK to a social care facility and if so when did this take place, what has been the cost to date and how long is it expected to last?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Government can confirm that a child who had been admitted to the KGV Hospital twice in 2007 was transferred to the UK on 14th September 2007, shortly after his discharge from the KGV Hospital to a social care facility. At the time he went to the UK, this child was eleven years old. The cost incurred in the financial year 2007/2008 was £83,269.20. Since 1st April 2008, the cost of this placement has been met by the Department of Education. It is envisaged that this child will remain in the UK until he has completed his secondary education.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 857 OF 2008

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can the Minister confirm, in fact, that the child that was put in the KGV Hospital was originally sectioned and that, in fact, at the end of the period there existed no legal powers to retain that child against his will in the KGV Hospital, and there was great difficulty in getting the Social Services Agency to take him back?

HON J J NETTO:

What does he mean by going back? Going back to Social Services or the KGV Hospital?

HON J J BOSSANO:

It was the Social Services Agency that asked for the child to be put in the KGV Hospital because they said they could not control his challenging behaviour.

HON J J NETTO:

Well, I think that the Social Services Agency cannot take that decision. That decision has to be taken by the psychiatrists, again.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am well aware of that, and I am saying, does he know that at the end of a 30 day period when they retained him there, there was no longer the legal power to retain him and the psychiatrist said there was absolutely no way that he could be sectioned, because there was nothing wrong with him in terms of mental illness and that they had enormous problems in releasing the child because the Social Services Agency resisted having him back. Is he aware of that?

HON J J NETTO:

Well, there is some truth in what the hon Member is saying from the note that I have. I mean, again, I do not want to get into too much of the details of this particular child, but this is a very difficult case. This particular child had been barred from attending school for the last two years of his residency here in Gibraltar. He regularly had been absconding and on one such occasion was the subject of a Giblock alert. He regularly verbally and physically attacked his carers, by kicking, punching, scratching, spitting at them and he regularly broke xxxxxx and glass and damaged furniture and fittings in his flat. So it was a very, very difficult case and at the end of the day, when cases of this nature arise, there are multi-disciplinary committees which assess what are in the best interests of a child of this nature and, obviously, they must have taken the decision that the best option for him was to transfer this particular child to the UK, which they did. Since being in the UK, from what I can read, he has made a good recovery, particularly in catching up with the years that he lost from schooling here in Gibraltar. It is the view of professionals, that he should remain in the UK, continue with the progress that has been seen since he has been in the UK, for the duration of his secondary education.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So then effectively, what the Minister is telling me is that the Social Services Agency here is incapable of dealing with a child in these circumstances here in Gibraltar? Is that what he is saying?

HON J J NETTO:

Well, we are talking about children who are so difficult to manage that they cannot be managed by their own parents, they cannot at this moment in time be managed by the Social Services Agency, because or partly because when a child of this nature goes to the UK, he goes to a specific team of carers who have a very advanced level of training with cases of this nature. Hon Members will know, for instance, that we have started a programme of training in terms of challenging behaviour and other things about caring, to NVQ Level 2, but this is the kind of chain that goes even beyond that and that kind of expertise, skills and qualifications, unfortunately today we have not got. So, given the fact that we have not got that resource here, the best

that we could do for this particular child is to send him to the UK, where he seems to be doing quite well.

HON J J BOSSANO:

How long was he in the care of the Agency before they came to this happy conclusion?

HON J J NETTO:

I think it might have been a few months.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well, is he saying then that he was a month in the KGV Hospital and two months in the Agency? He was 30 days in the KGV Hospital.

HON J J NETTO:

Yes, it was a very short period indeed.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I see, and when he was admitted then, it was not that he was absconding from school for two years in the two months that he was admitted. So what he is saying is, that the child was absconding from school before he joined the Agency?

HON J J NETTO:

That is one of the reasons, yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Was it that the child had to be taken into care because he was not being given the proper care in his home environment?

HON J J NETTO:

That is a question I would not want to enter into. There are issues in relation to the home environment which I do not want to answer.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well, is he aware of the environment he was exposed to in the 30 days in the KGV Hospital?

HON J J NETTO:

No.

HON J J BOSSANO:

No, I see. So, in fact, he does not know the concern that was expressed while the child was in the KGV Hospital, to the approaches that were being made to him by the people who were really mentally ill, which the child was not. When he was having his eleventh birthday.

HON J J NETTO:

I do not know what on earth the Leader of the Opposition is talking about. But look, it is not for me as Minister for Social Services to go every single day to see how the management of the KGV Hospital deal with the management of persons in their care. I am not the Minister for Health or mental health, even though there are some persons that have been in the care of the Social Services Agency, who refers persons to the KGV Hospital. I think it is absurd what the Leader of the Opposition has said.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Can I just add something to that?

HON J J BOSSANO:

Yes.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

What the hon Member is insinuating to my mind is quite serious. He is only insinuating but it could lead whoever is listening to believe that terrible things happened to this child on his eleventh birthday whilst he was in the care of the KGV Hospital. I suggest that the person who passed that information onto him write to the Chief Executive of the Health Service and the allegations will be followed up.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Yes, but see, it is not my job to go round telling people to send allegations to No, because all that she does with the allegations is she puts them in the bin and tells us that they are not true.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

That is not correct.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Either they are disgruntled employees or some other reason, but it is never that there is anything wrong with this wonderful service that puts a ten year old child in a mental home, with adults, when there is written advice that the place is not suitable and that the child is being exposed, and the Minister has been included in that advice. So I do not see that I need to bring anything to your attention that you do not need xxxxxx

HON J J NETTO:

I do not know what on earth the Leader of the Opposition must have ate at lunchtime, but he seems to have gone absolutely bonkers in terms of the allegation.....

MR SPEAKER:

Order, Order. Would the Minister answer the question please.

HON J J NETTO:

All I was saying was I do not know what on earth has happened to the Leader of the Opposition while he went away for lunch today, but the reality is that he seems to be making.....

HON J J BOSSANO:

I think xxxxxx inviting him to call me bonkers again.

HON J J NETTO:

He seems to be making all sorts of wild allegations which are totally groundless, baseless and I just do not know for what particular reason.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So, although the Minister assures the House that, I do not know if what he is telling the House is that until I put this question, he did not even know that the Agency had put a ten year old child in a mental home, because he seems to be claiming that, which has never happened before and this Agency is supposed, we were told in earlier questions and in earlier meetings, to now be a wonderful place which we are criticising but there is nothing to criticise. Well, is he telling me that he does not know, and if he does not know will he ask his Chief Executive whether he knows the pressure that had to be put on the Agency because the child could not be retained illegally? Does he know that?

HON J J NETTO:

The Social Services Agency does not send people to the KGV Hospital, it is a psychiatrist.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Does the Minister know that the 30 day period expired and that the KGV Hospital was obliged by law to release the child, because a psychiatrist would not sign to retain him there against his will, on the basis that there was no legal power to do it and that they had to complain to Dr McCutcheon because the Agency was refusing to answer their calls, his Agency, does he know that?

HON J J NETTO:

The Agency has never refused to answer calls because it is the Agency working in partnership with other professionals in other Government departments, who are providing the best possible deal for this unfortunate child, who today, thanks to the Government funding of this case, is getting a good deal in terms of improving his behaviour and his education in the UK. So there has been no dereliction of duty as far as the Social Services Agency is concerned, what there has been is a concerted effort amongst many professionals, some of whom happen to work in the Social Services Agency, in putting the best possible plan for this particular child.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I see, so is he telling me that he knows all that because he has full information about this case, or is he saying that he has such great faith that even though I am telling him the opposite he does not believe me, which is it?

HON J J NETTO:

Whether I do believe the Leader of the Opposition or not I think is not a matter for me or in Parliament.

HON C G BELTRAN:

Can I just ask a point of clarification? Am I right in thinking that the Leader of the Opposition has on a number of occasions through this exchange said that never before this case has a child of the age of ten been sent, because that may be correct. I know that a slightly older child in the 1980's, I do not know whether it was during his time in Government or just before, spent some time in the KGV Hospital. I am not saying it was the right decision, I am not qualified to say that, but when he is saying that it has never happened before, he has clarified aged ten, because I know that it happened in the 1980's, in the case of a person aged maybe 14 or 13, and I remember because it happened to be a neighbour of mine, whose name I know and, of course, I will not make public.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am being quite specific, a child of ten in the KGV Hospital, is putting a child with problems, before he went into the KGV Hospital, in an environment where his problems are aggravated, and everybody that I know that has got any knowledge in that area seems to be of that view, and that view, as far as I understand, was put very forcibly by the professionals in that area and the Agency did not want the child

back because the reason why they got rid of him in the first place was because they could not control his behaviour. Yes, they got rid of him by asking the psychiatrist to put him in the KGV Hospital, against their better judgement and against their instincts. Now, if the Minister does not know this background, fair enough, he does not know it, but if he is arguing that this is not the correct background, then I suggest he asks his CEO to confirm the accuracy of the description that I am giving.

NO. 858 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

BRUCE'S FARM – PSYCHIATRIC SUPPORT

Has there been any problem in the provision of medical or psychiatric support to clients of Bruce's Farm?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

There have not been any problems in the provision of medical and/or psychiatric support to clients at Bruce's Farm. Psychiatric Clinics are held fortnightly on the premises by Dr Segovia, Consultant Psychiatrist.

When service-users get ill, carers escort them to the Primary Care Centre. The same with dental problems that often arise as a result of their addiction. This system works well and there are no complaints. In emergencies, the ambulance is called and the carer on duty escorts the client to St Bernard's Hospital. All of the above is coordinated directly with the Administrator of Bruce's Farm.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 858 OF 2008

HON J J BOSSANO:

I see, so there has been no concern expressed by the person in charge of Bruce's Farm in respect of this?

HON J J NETTO:

That is correct.

NO. 859 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY – PURCHASE OF 11-SEATER VEHICLE

Can Government confirm that an 11-seater vehicle has been purchased by the Social Services Agency and, if so, on what date and at what cost?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

The Government can confirm that an 11-seater vehicle was purchased by the Social Services Agency for the Dr Giraldi Home on 24th July 2008, at a cost of £30,106.00.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 859 OF 2008

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can the Government confirm whether there has been any problem following the purchase in making use of the vehicle?

HON J J NETTO:

I am not aware that there are any problems, specifically in the use of the vehicle.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is he aware that there was nobody qualified to drive it after he bought it?

HON J J NETTO:

No, I am not aware.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is he aware that the vehicle after being purchased had to be altered?

HON J J NETTO:

Well, the vehicle had to be altered. It had to be altered because there are two particular residents who are wheelchair bound, and therefore, the two front seats had to be taken off, and then ensure that all the health and safety gadgets had been introduced in order to ensure that it complied with health and safety.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I see, but when the decision was taken to purchase the vehicle, is it that they did not know what it was going to be used for and then they had to spend further money in altering it? Could they not buy a vehicle that was suitable for what was needed?

HON J J NETTO:

No, of course they knew what the purpose of the vehicle was going to be, and they also knew that the vehicle had to be altered in order to take into account the very specific nature of the residents that they have in Dr Giraldi Home.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I see. Is it not the case that the licensing requirements for an 11-seater vehicle is higher than it is for a vehicle with less seats, and that therefore it could not be driven with eleven seats?

HON J J NETTO:

Well, I take the Leader of the Opposition's word for that. But the information I have available to me, is that the vehicle does conform to all the requirements that it has to conform, in terms of health and safety, specifically taking into account the nature of the residents at Dr Giraldi Home.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well, I will accept that the answer is on the basis of the information that has been given to him.

HON J J NETTO:

All information is based on information given to us, as happened to him when he was in government.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well, he is not able to judge whether it did or did not. All I can tell the Minister is that, for example, if I had been in government and somebody had told me that there were 1,400 workers that were here in the month of October, I would have immediately known that that could not possibly be true. It is only as a result of asking a

supplementary much later that we discovered it is 300. So there is a difference in simply bringing the paper here and reading it out, and reading it yourself before you bring it to see if it makes sense.

MR SPEAKER:

There is no question there, we will move on to the next question.

NO. 860 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – NEW KITCHENS

Can Government confirm whether the GHA have any plans to construct new kitchens adjacent to the hospital building in Europort?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

The GHA have no such plans.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 860 OF 2008

HON N F COSTA:

Do the GHA have any plans to build a new kitchen anywhere within the GHA premises?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

No.

HON N F COSTA:

Are there any plans whatsoever on the part of the GHA to alter the catering plans for the hospital?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

No.

NO. 861 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – NEW PURPOSE-BUILT MENTAL HEALTH FACILITY

Can Government say when the new purpose-built mental health facility will be built and what site has been earmarked for the project?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

No, Sir.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 861 OF 2008

HON N F COSTA:

Could the Government, at least, give an indication of whether any work has been put into earmarking a site of the project and when the construction for the new purpose-built mental health facility, which was a manifesto commitment, will begin?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Different sites are being considered but I am not in a position to give details at this moment in time.

ORAL

NO. 862 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – RESIDENTIAL UNIT FOR VICTIMS OF DEBILITATING DISEASES

Can Government say whether they have located a site for the construction of the residential unit for victims of debilitating diseases who are under 60 and if so where is it?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Not yet.

NO. 863 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – PRIMARY CARE CENTRE - COST OF REPAINTING

Can Government say what is the estimated cost of the repainting of the Primary Care Centre, which contractor is executing the works, their date of commencement and their estimated date of completion?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

The estimated cost of the repair of the Primary Care Centre amounts to £23,712.00. The company contractor is Marr Company Limited and works commenced on 10th November 2008. It is envisaged that works will be completed during the current and next financial year.

ORAL

NO. 864 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – COMPLAINTS LODGED

Can the Minister for Health give this Parliament the number of informal and formal complaints against the GHA lodged since September of this year to date on a monthly basis?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

In September there were five formal complaints and 21 informal. In October there were seven formal and 17 informal.

NO. 865 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – ADDITIONAL RADIOLOGIST

Can Government confirm whether the GHA intend to recruit an additional radiologist to facilitate the work of the anticipated structured mammography service?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

In answer to Question No. 440 of 2008, I already confirmed that this was the intention. In fact, I stated that the extra radiologist had already been recruited and that he was scheduled to commence in January of next year. However, as extra information, he has subsequently withdrawn his application and a new recruitment process is underway.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 865 OF 2008

HON N F COSTA:

Yes, and I also remember that in answer to another question the Minister also said that the existing radiologist would be resigning with effect as from 1st January. So, in effect, if the existing radiologist leaves in January and the new one would have started on 1st January, we would have had exactly the same number of radiologists.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Well, as the hon Member rightly says, there is another question relating to another radiologist in the Order Paper, and when we come to it I can give him more information.

NO. 866 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – CONSULTANT RADIOLOGIST

Can Government say whether the consultant radiologist who resigned has been required to pay the GHA the sum equal to one-half of his wages that he would have been entitled to had he continued in the service of the GHA?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

The consultant's contract has a clause which allows for resignation of individuals, provided that adequate notice is given. It does not include the condition that the hon Member has described in his question. In any case, the consultant radiologist in question, has subsequently given an indication that he would be willing to remain in Gibraltar, and the question of his re-engagement is currently under discussion. In fact, after this question was drafted, I received news this morning that he has withdrawn his resignation. So he is staying.

ORAL

NO. 867 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – APPLICATIONS FOR GENERAL PRACTITIONERS

Can Government say how many applications the GHA has received from qualified Gibraltarians for the position of GP in 2007 and 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

There were no General Practitioner vacancies in 2007. The GHA has received applications from two qualified Gibraltarians for one vacant GP post in 2008.

ORAL

NO. 868 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – APPLICATIONS FOR CONSULTANT

Can Government say how many applications the GHA has received from qualified Gibraltarians for the position of Consultant in 2007 and 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

None.

ORAL

NO. 869 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – APPLICATIONS FOR NON-CONSULTANT HOSPITAL DOCTORS

Can Government say how many applications the GHA has received from qualified Gibraltarians for the position of non-Consultant hospital doctors in 2007 and 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

None.

ORAL

NO. 870 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – APPOINTMENT OF BREAST CARE NURSE

Can Government say whether the breast care nurse now been appointed?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

The Breast Care Nurse has been appointed and took up employment on 3rd November this year.

NO. 871 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – MAMMOGRAPHY SERVICE

Has the GHA finalised the selection process in respect of the necessary equipment in order to offer patients the structured routine mammography service?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Equipment manufacture specifications have been received and arrangements have been made for relevant clinicians to visit sites where systems identified are operational. These visits have been arranged for early next year. Following these visits, which are to evaluate the equipment to ensure its suitability for the programme, negotiations will take place with the supplier. The negotiations will cover specification, delivery, setup, training and maintenance support specifications. Following negotiations, a two month delivery time is expected.

NO. 872 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – MAMMOGRAPHY SERVICE

Can the Government say when the structured routine mammography service will be implemented?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Once all the resources necessary to commence the programme are in place, the commencement date will be announced.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 872 OF 2008

HON N F COSTA:

Do the Government have a rough time frame?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Pending what I just described in relation to the equipment, which is going to take obviously four or five months to complete, on the human resources side we have already, as I mentioned, recruited the radiologist. Rather, the recruitment is underway, in progress, the Breast Care Nurse has been recruited, the extra mammographer has been recruited and an extra AO acquired. So, basically, it is finalising the equipment side of it and recruiting the extra radiologist.

NO. 873 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – EFFECTIVENESS OF OXYGEN THERAPY

Further to Question No. 441 of 2008, can the Government say whether they have now completed the research of the effectiveness of the oxygen therapy being conducted and if so on what date and with what result?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

The research on the effectiveness of oxygen therapy is being conducted by the GHA not by Government. The GHA has still not concluded the exercise.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 873 OF 2008

HON J J BOSSANO:

How much time and resources has the GHA been using in this lengthy research?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Not much, the latest delay has occurred because further to the independent review that was carried out, in the interests of fairness and transparency, seeing the disparity of views that existed between the operator of the facility and the GHA, further to that we received the independent review which actually concluded that the outcome was very similar to the views, or the policy that the GHA already had on the funding of such treatment. But in the interests of fairness and transparency, the operator approached the GHA and asked that the Chief Executive make contact with a person that he had identified that could provide more information. More to do with whether NHS funded the treatment than on the effectiveness of the therapy itself. Since then, the GHA has, been trying unsuccessfully, to contact the person identified by the operator, and it has only been until very recently that they have entered into email correspondence. We are still trying to establish, and we still have not got any evidence, that this sort of treatment is funded by the NHS and that is what we are still seeking.

HON J J BOSSANO:

But the focus then has changed, in the sense that what they are looking at now is whether centres such as the one we have here, which nobody has ever suggested actually cure people but, certainly, make their life more liveable and comfortable, alleviate symptoms and may accelerate post-operative curative processes of the body, that this has been going for 20 years in the United Kingdom. If all that is required is some evidence that there has been NHS funding in the United Kingdom, I mean, surely that would not be a very lengthy exercise to establish one way or the other if it has happened or not. If that is the point that is now being focussed on.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Well, I would have thought that it should not have been a lengthy exercise. As soon as the operator identified this person, who supposedly would point us in the right direction of where to ask within the different Trusts, I would have thought that the information would have been forthcoming. But it still has not. The person that the operator identified has been very ambiguous in his reply and we are still trying to establish..... I think the line the GHA is now going to take is try to get a list of NHS Trusts and approach them ourselves. I want to be as transparent and fair on this matter, and if it is established that the majority of Trusts do fund treatment for some conditions, not for all, I will certainly have no objection to the GHA adopting it as a policy.

ORAL

NO. 874 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – MRSA INFECTION

Can Government state whether any cases of MRSA infection were detected at St Bernard's Hospital on a monthly basis, between September 2008 to date and whether any were fatal, providing a breakdown by patients and members of staff?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

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

Answer to Question 874 of 2008

	Sept 08	Oct 08	Nov 08	TOTAL
Patients	4	3	2	9
Staff	0	0	0	0

There was no fatality due to MRSA in this period.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 874 OF 2008

HON G H LICUDI:

In relation to the cases identified in each month in this answer, does the Minister know whether these relate to any particular ward, or is there any pattern that has been detected? Is there a particular problem in a particular area of the hospital that gives rise to this problem? Has that been identified by the GHA?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA;

It might have been identified by the GHA, and I assume it has but I have not got that information with me.

ORAL

NO. 875 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – CANCELLED OPERATIONS

Can Government list the dates between September 2008 to date, on a monthly basis, in respect of which operations at St Bernard's Hospital needed to be cancelled and state the reason why in each case?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

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

Answer to Question 875 of 2008

Cancellations September 2008

Reasons for Cancellation	ENT	Gynaecology	Ophthalmology	Orthopaedics	General Surgery/Minor Ops	Oral Surgery	Pain Relief	Plastics
Medical	1			3	2			
Bed availability					2			
Per patient	1			2				
Wrongly scheduled								
No longer required				2	1			
No show					3	2	1	
Consultant sick					3			
Out of theatre time								
No records								
No clinician								
Ref to UK								
No equipment								

Contd.....

Continued Answer to Question 875 of 2008

Cancellations October 2008

Reasons for Cancellation	ENT	Gynaecology	Ophthalmology	Orthopaedics	General Surgery/Minor Ops	Oral Surgery	Pain Relief	Plastics
Medical	1			1	1		1	1
Bed availability				1	3			
Per patient	3			2		1		1
Wrongly scheduled								
No longer required					2			
No show				1	5		6	
Consultant sick								
Out of theatre time								
No records								
No clinician					2			
Ref to UK								
No equipment								

NO. 876 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – CANCELLED KEYHOLE SURGERY OPERATIONS

Can Government say how many keyhole surgery operations have been cancelled this year on a monthly basis to date and the reasons for the cancellations?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Six operations were cancelled in January this year and two were cancelled in October. On each occasion the cancellation was due to the unavailability of beds.

In November, up to the time when the answer to this question was prepared, two operations have been cancelled due to the unavailability of beds and three were cancelled because the necessary instrumentation had not arrived.

NO. 877 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – CANCELLED KEYHOLE SURGERY OPERATIONS

In respect of keyhole surgery operation cancellations, can Government name the piece of equipment that is required, the cost and the date when it was ordered?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Keyhole surgery operations are performed using a mixture of equipment, durable items such as the camera scopes, the monitor and the light source and disposable equipment, which are used for each procedure and then discarded.

The equipment which was not available for three booked procedures during the month of November was disposable trocars. These are regularly ordered in batches well in advance to avoid stock outs. The latest order was made in May of this year, whilst there was still equipment available in Theatre to last until the order arrived. Unfortunately, however, the supplier failed to deliver the equipment on time due to a stock out situation, and the equipment did not arrive until 11th November, shortly after the GHA's stock of disposable trocars run out. The GHA's back-up option to use reusable trocars proved unsuccessful due to a problem connecting to the essential suction device. Shortly after the receipt of the disposable trocars on 11th November, another essential piece of permanent equipment, the screen monitor on which the laparoscopic procedure is seen, became unserviceable and had to be sent to the supplier for repair. That piece of equipment arrived yesterday and new dates for the procedures are being given to the affected patients as we speak. Additionally, a back-up monitor has also been ordered. Due to this unfortunate set of unexpected circumstances, three procedures had to be cancelled in November.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 877 OF 2008

HON N F COSTA:

Does the GHA deal with different suppliers or is there only one supplier that GHA deal with in requesting this equipment?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I am not 100 per cent certain, but in respect of this specific equipment, I believe it deals with one supplier and that is something the GHA is looking at to ensure that this does not happen again.

HON N F COSTA:

The Minister has just said that given the circumstances that have arisen, in terms of the failure to have the equipment delivered and so on, and the arrival of the monitor yesterday, the appointments will now be rescheduled. Given that, of course, the Minister is aware of the pressing need for the operations to happen as soon as possible, due to patients suffering, how long now will it take for those operations which have been cancelled to be rescheduled?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I did mention in my answer that they are being rescheduled as we speak. As we speak, obviously, meaning before the clerks left for home this afternoon.

HON N F COSTA:

My question related to the timeframe in which those operations will be rescheduled.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I believe I asked this question yesterday and I was told a week tomorrow. That is the answer that I got.

NO. 878 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – STEM CELL RETRIEVAL POLICY

Can Government say what is the policy of the GHA in relation to stem cell retrieval for the placenta at birth?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

The Government policy is to fund the retrieval and initial storage of stem cells where there is a known clinical indication to do so. Funding of continuing storage will depend on the suitability confirmed by the appropriate matching process.

With regard to people who wish to store stem cells and where there is no clinical indication to do so, the GHA will permit the retrieval and storage. All expenses related to the retrieval and storage are the responsibility of the parents. But I must add, by the way the GHA follows the UK policy in this regard, that following the recent bone marrow appeal, the GHA is attempting to set up a link with the Anthony Nolan Trust. This Trust is the charity which maintains the bone marrow registry in the UK, as I am sure hon Members are aware. The testing of individuals for bone marrow matches are conducted and funded by this Trust in the UK. The Trust also started very recently to collect umbilical cord blood from newborn babies. So far they have one collection centre, which is based in London. The GHA is proposing to look at the possibility of becoming the Trust's second collection centre. We would collect the umbilical cord blood stems from babies born in Gibraltar, naturally with the consent of the mothers, and the specimens would be couriered to the collection centre in London for testing and storing. The costs would be borne by the Trust. By establishing a universal stem cell collection system, we could build up a bank of stem cells of virtually all newborn Gibraltarians, which will certainly benefit our community in years to come. The GHA is also looking at the possibility of the Trust running a recruitment clinic in Gibraltar, just as we did at taxpayer's expense for the recent bone marrow appeal, and take the specimens and process them in their own lab at their own cost. These would be added to their register. May I add, that this proposal is still in its very early stages and further communication needs to take place with the Trust. If it is considered to be a viable option, it will be put to the GHA Board as a policy proposal.

NO. 879 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – SPONSORED PATIENTS’ PROGRAMME

Can Government say whether it has now reviewed and reformed the Sponsored Patients’ Programme and if so, with what results?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

As the hon Member is aware, there has already been a significant reform of the Sponsored Patients Programme. Patients now have a choice between UK and Spain. There has been a 50 per cent increase in allowances and the elimination of the household income rule.

Subsequent to a meeting in my office with the Calpe House Trustees, a committee has been formed, composed of two Trustees and staff members of the Sponsored Patients Department of the GHA. This, I am confident, will serve to give the GHA a greater involvement in the access of our patients to Calpe House, and opens opportunities, in cooperation with the Trustees, to provide an even better service to patients through a series of reforms which will be agreed by both sides.

The GHA is also finalising further proposals for Government, which include a review of the fuel allowance for Spain, the accommodation and booking system and a variable accommodation assistance for London, the rest of the UK and Spain.

NO. 880 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – BREAKDOWN OF TYPES OF CANCER

Can Government provide a breakdown of the type of cancers detected in patients attending the Hospital in 2007 and 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

In order to provide the information that the hon Member is seeking, that is, a breakdown of the type of cancers detected in patients attending St Bernard's Hospital, it would require a very time-consuming analysis. I can provide the hon Member with data on the incidence of cancer deaths in general.

For reasons of confidentiality, however, and if the hon Member wants to receive the information that I have proffered, the GHA does not provide annual incidence data. It provides data in aggregate format. The aggregate mortality data for the past three years (2005-2007) is provided in the schedule which I now hand over to the hon Member.

Answer to Question 880 of 2008

Cancer Deaths (2005-07)

	Females	Males
Lung	9	25
Breast	17	0
Colon	6	6
Prostate		6
Cervix	1	
Ovary	5	
Uterus	2	
Pancreas	3	6
Oesophagus	1	3
Stomach	2	6
Brain	4	3
Malignant Melanoma	2	3
Leukaemia	1	2
Gallbladder	3	0
Other cancers	17	21
Total	73	81

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 880 OF 2008

HON F R PICARDO:

There has been reference to the GHA operating, or running, or keeping a cancer register. Now, is the register, if it exists, a register of cancer deaths from which this information is extracted, or a register of cancers detected or diagnosed?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I believe that the register that has been kept since 1999, the Cancer Death Register, goes by death certificate, which means people who have died of cancer in Gibraltar. It does not include, as far as I am aware, people who have been diagnosed, for example, in Spain.

HON F R PICARDO:

Sorry, it does not include?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

A patient might have been diagnosed with some cancer who lives in Spain, although he is Gibraltarian, they have been diagnosed and treated in Spain and maybe come back to Gibraltar at some point and had some treatment in Gibraltar within the GHA. The information that I have is that, let me just make sure. Yes, the information is gathered from the death certificates rather than from clear pathology data which is provided by GHA generated data. Further analysis is required of the medical notes of each death to ensure a cancer did not contribute to the cause of death. I am not quite clear what that means, but the more specific answer that I got was, that we compile the register based on death certificates, where it states on the death certificate that the person died from cancer, or cancer related illness.

HON F R PICARDO:

Then the cancer register is really only an exercise in keeping a list of the people who have died of a particular type of cancer. Something which could be done, not just in relation for the period since 1999, but could be done backwards for every year simply by doing the very laborious exercise, I assume, of going through all the death certificates for any year. Are the GHA not keeping a list of cancers diagnosed by the GHA?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Yes, I beg his pardon, I left out of the equation and I should have included this in my answer that when I did mention the fact that what the hon Member..... That was the gist of his question, how many were detected in St. Bernard's Hospital, when I said that it would prove to be a very sort of time consuming analysis, I left out of the answer that it could be provided for the next session of Parliament. It was time consuming in the sense that we would not be able to provide it for this one.

HON F R PICARDO:

Then it is not a statistic that the GHA have kept, it is one that they can keep from the records that they have.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Yes, the statistics that I have offered today are the ones that are taken from the death certificates.

HON F R PICARDO:

Would the Minister agree with me that it is actually a statistic worth having, and that not just us in Parliament but also clinicians may be interested in that statistic in the future?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Yes, I would not disagree.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is it not the case, in fact, that what the Minister is telling us today is that the system has not, in fact, changed at all. That is to say, in Gibraltar there was always available information on the number of deaths in the year and the cause of deaths in the year? What was supposed to be happening new was that we were going to find out the incidence of cancer, which may not lead to the person dying of it because the guy can get run over by a bus. So if somebody has got cancer and he gets caught in a traffic accident, then what appears on the death certificate is not cause of death cancer, but cause of death, run over by bus. Therefore, that was the argument before. The argument before was that simply by having a record of the death certificates it was not enough for us to be able to say there is more cancer here than there is somewhere else. I understood many years ago that the Government had acknowledged that this was a problem and that they were not going to simply carry on doing what had been done since time immemorial, which is apparently what is still being done, which is to say so many people have died each year, I mean, certainly it is possible to provide the information on a year basis and that has never been a problem before. The Abstract of Statistics gives us the number of people who die every year and the cause of death or the principal illnesses. So I do not understand why, it may be that it would not be as detailed a breakdown of the types of cancers, it would just say so many people die of cancer, and so many people die of heart attacks, and so many people die of something else. But of course, what kills a person does not necessarily mean that they were not as well, somebody who had developed cancer and developing the cancer is what is important for us to know. If there is any proof in what everybody seems to believe, which is that we have got a higher incidence of people contracting cancer here than in other parts of the world, because I think people relate it to the number of people we send to the UK for treatment, rather than to the number of people who do not get cured.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

What was the question?

HON J J BOSSANO:

The question was that I thought that they were doing it already, and that the impression that had been given was, in fact, that the analysis that I have made was an analysis shared by the Government years ago and that this was, in fact, already taking place. I am astonished to discover that it is not. I mean, is this not what they were doing already? What I am saying should be done, my understanding was that this was already being done, maybe in the time of Mr Britto. But I remember having had this debate before when the Government said, this is why we are doing something which has not been done before, which is to keep a record of the number of people who develop cancer, whether they get cured or they die, because if one relies simply on the death certificate, well look, suppose somebody has cancer and in the course of the cancer he has a heart attack. Whether the statistics is one or the other depends on what the doctor puts down, but the important information that is required, if we are going to try and tackle this widespread belief, which may be accurate or may not be accurate, because we have got no data to back it up, that in Gibraltar there are too many people contracting cancer, unusually high for a population of our size. Now that has always been answered by saying, well look how many people die of cancer. Well, look it is answering the wrong question.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Well, I think I did mention subsequently that the premise of the hon Member's question was, the type of cancers detected, which is what the Leader of the Opposition wants to find out, the cancers detected as opposed to those who have died of it, or been cured or whatever. I did say that I would be able to provide that information at a subsequent session of the House. So it is being kept.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I think the point that I am making is that in terms, okay it may be important to have as detailed a breakdown as has been provided in terms of saying, well look, it is clear, if there was something that stuck out one would say, well look, if we are going to devote resources to combating something let us concentrate on the one that happens to a lot of people, as opposed to one that may happen perhaps once every ten years. But in any event, I think the simple statistic that was at one stage expected to emerge from the register was that, as opposed to the information that we already have, which is how many people have been certified as death caused by cancer, which has always been there, how many people have actually, year in, year out, contracted cancer, because a yearly figure would also be important to see whether the incidence is static, declining or increasing of the total, apart from the question of the breakdown. I had the impression that the Government had decided to do the register in order to establish this information, having come to the conclusion that the information from the death certificate was really not much use. So, I am surprised that she is saying that what is available is from death certificates as if that register was not providing extra detail, year in, year out.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

No, I think I have explained that the Director of Public Health does keep the information that the hon Member has just described. It is just that collating the information to give us statistics is something that he has not done, I do not know why. I agree with the hon Member that if it is something that can be done for the next House, it is something that should be done regularly to make it available to whoever needs it. I will ensure, if that is possible, that it happens.

HON F R PICARDO:

Can I just deal with that point? The fact is that at the moment the situation that the Minister describes means that she can tell us that 25 males died of lung cancer between 2005 and 2007, but as I understand it, she would not be able to tell us immediately, although the data is obviously there but uncollated, how many males have lung cancer in Gibraltar at the moment. I think that is why all of us will agree that it is important to have the information. If I can just ask another supplementary in the same breath, can that information be provided in the same format as the death information so that we should be able to see how many die of lung cancer in a period, how many were diagnosed, what the people are living after diagnosis is, and how many actually survive lung cancer and be able to be xxxxxx behind? If we stick to the same method of collation as the answer given in respect of the incidences of death.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I will certainly ask the Director of Public Health to provide as near a format, or as intelligible a format as possible.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Did the Minister say there was a particular reason for giving a figure for three years as opposed to giving a figure for a year?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

The reason I have been given is that, what was it? For reasons of confidentiality. Apparently, if we have this broken down in years the numbers are obviously less, as opposed to over three years, and the argument that is being used is we have, for example, cancer of the cervix, we have one death at the moment over three years. If we were to have it in a particular year people might identify who that person was. That is the argument that has been provided to me. I suppose there is some reasoning behind it.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Presumably, that argument would not apply to the total, no? That is, if there had been 81 males who had death by cancer without specifying which one it was, that would be okay on a yearly basis, would it?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I do not think so. It would be much more difficult to identify it if one man had died of prostate cancer than one woman who has died in the year 2000 of cervical cancer.

HON J J BOSSANO:

That is right, so what I am saying is, the problem of alleged risk of breaching confidentiality so that she would be able, presumably, to tell us each year how many cancer deaths there are. I think that has been included previously in answers. Whether 20 people die in a year of cancer or do not die in a year of cancer, without saying which type of cancer it is.....

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Presumably, I will ask and provide whatever information is readily available to provide to the hon Members.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Can I just add something on a more general nature? Irrespective of all the points and questions and answers that have been made and answered, I think Opposition Members should be aware of the bigger picture. Even though the information is given in terms of numbers in respect of Gibraltar only, my understanding from the time that I had responsibility for this area of government, is that the Gibraltar statistics in themselves are insufficient in size to provide an accurate basis for calculation. That is why the Government have entered into a commitment. The Government are aware, as the hon Member has said twice, of this impression throughout Gibraltar that there is a bigger incidence of cancer in Gibraltar. I have heard it said more than once. I have never seen any scientific evidence to back up that impression, but then, neither have I seen scientific evidence to deny it. But that is why the Government have made a commitment last year, to enter into an epidemiological study which is in the process and has not been forgotten, is in the process of being established and it is only by bringing in, if that becomes possible because at the moment I understand there are still difficulties, but if it is possible to bring information that is wider ranging than Gibraltar, and that extends into the Campo area or even wider, that it will be possible to identify whether there are trends in this area, not just in Gibraltar as a pinpoint, but in this area which are different to similar control areas somewhere else. That, the epidemiological study, will establish when it is concluded, and if it is done on the basis of greater data than Gibraltar only. The Government have said that if Spain does not cooperate we will do it on the basis of Gibraltar data only, but from what I have said, it necessarily follows that the conclusions may not be as strong or as substantial as if they can be done on the basis of larger data.

HON F R PICARDO:

In fact, there is another question on the Order Paper, I think, that deals with that issue, but as I understand it, the process is already quite advanced in respect of the preparation of a Gibraltar only epidemiological study, because the cooperation has not previously been forthcoming. Is the Minister saying that that is not the case?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I am not answering that question it is being answered by somebody else. I think we should wait for the answer to that question and then discuss it. I do not have the information with me.

HON F R PICARDO:

Of course, I do not want to pre-empt the answer to that question. That question relates to progress in respect of that study, which is based on previous answers given in this House and previous public statements made by the Government, which stated that the Government were going ahead with a Gibraltar only epidemiological study, because they had not been able to secure the cooperation of the Campo Authorities. Now, the question that is on the Order Paper does not relate to this specific issue, it relates to what progress has been made in respect of that. Is the Minister telling us that the Government's position has changed and that we are once again waiting for the Campo in order to proceed?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No, I am not saying that. My understanding of it, and I repeat that I am not leading on this so it is better to wait for the answer to the question, but my understanding is that Gibraltar is moving on two parallel courses. One of trying to get cooperation on the Spanish data, but at the same time, prepared to move ahead on a Gibraltar basis only if that Spanish data is not forthcoming. When the hon Member says that we are very advanced, we are certainly very advanced in getting to the stage of starting. But the process, my understanding is, has not yet started.

HON F R PICARDO:

Just for the sake of clarification for those who might be listening, I did not mean very advanced in the process of carrying out the study, but very advanced in the process of preparing, as I understand it, or advancing the process of preparing the brief for the commencement of the study, rather than the actual study being on-going.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Correct.

ORAL

NO. 881 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – NEW CANCER SCREENING PROGRAMMES

Can Government say whether it has taken a policy decision on whether to introduce new cancer screening programmes, including lung, prostate and colon cancers?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Government have taken a policy decision, in principle, to introduce the new cancer screening programmes. They are awaiting recommendations from the GHA on the way forward for each programme.

NO. 882 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – MULTI-DISCIPLINARY TEAM FOR DIABETES

Can Government say whether it has now established the multi-disciplinary team to deliver specialist care to adults and children with diabetes?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

To date, the GHA has recruited the Consultant Endocrinologist and vacancies have gone out for the Clinical Nurse Specialists for adults and children. That is what we are waiting for, the recruitment of the Nurse Specialists.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 882 OF 2008

HON N F COSTA:

Does the Minister know whether there have been any applications in respect of those vacancies?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

From memory, I think there have been five applications for the adult post and one for the paediatric post.

NO. 883 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – NEW CHIROPODY SERVICE

Can Government say whether it has now introduced a new chiropody service and if so on what date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

The chiropody service has not yet been introduced.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 883 OF 2008

HON N F COSTA:

Does the Minister have a time frame in which this service will begin?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Our aim is for the next financial year.

HON N F COSTA:

Will this involve the hiring of new staff?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

It will involve the recruitment of a chiropodist.

NO. 884 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – PRIMARY CARE CENTRE - NEW SERVICES

Can Government say whether the Primary Care strategy has now been developed to add psychology, counselling, clinical pharmacy and enhanced practitioner services and if not what are the target dates for these to be established?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

I am pleased to confirm that psychology, counselling and enhanced practitioner services have now been adopted within Primary Care, which include an additional psychologist, two additional counsellors and an enhanced nurse practitioner service. The clinical pharmacy service is the one that has not yet been added and a target date has not yet been set.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 884 OF 2008

HON N F COSTA:

Would the Minister be able to say the reason for the delay in respect of the clinical pharmacy?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

No particular delay, it is just the other areas have been given priority.

ORAL

NO. 885 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – CT SCANS

Following the answer given to Written Question No. 45 of 2008 there were 2 CT scans undertaken in Spain in April 2008 and July 2008, can the Government explain the reasons why the scans were conducted in Spain on those occasions?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Those scans undertaken in Spain during the months identified by the hon Member, were as a consequence of maintenance works and upgrades to the GHA system.

NO. 886 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – WAITING TIME FOR ADVANCE APPOINTMENTS

Can Government state the average waiting time, on a monthly basis, for patients calling for advance appointments from January 2008 to date providing a breakdown in respect of the GP chosen?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

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

In addition to the slots, which he will see on the list, which are available for advanced bookings, GP's each have five slots a day for patients who attend the Centre on the day and who wish to make an appointment on that same day, which totals 80 slots per day for those who attend in the morning at the Health Centre.

Answer to Question 886 of 2008

Dr Cortes	-	6 Weeks
Dr Chichon	-	12 Weeks
Dr Ferrera	-	13 Weeks
Dr Fitzpatrick	-	9 Weeks
Dr Galloway	-	14 Weeks
Dr Gupta	-	9 Weeks
Dr Jones	-	14 Weeks
Dr Mena	-	14 Weeks
Dr Negrette	-	8 Weeks
Dr Nerney	-	13 Weeks
Dr Penrice	-	7 Weeks
Dr Pinto	-	10 Weeks
Dr Poyatos	-	10 Weeks
Dr Risso	-	7 Weeks
Dr Thoppil	-	6 Weeks

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 886 OF 2008

HON N F COSTA:

Some of these waiting times amount to 14 or 13 or 12 weeks, but it seems to average around eight or nine. Are there any plans to decongest the amount of waiting time?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Well, as the hon Member will realise, one of the measures that was taken to try and decongest was the recruitment of extra GP's, quite recently, in 2004 actually. He will find that some doctors have a reasonable waiting period, say six weeks, and others who I assume are more popular, have 14 weeks. But as I said before, there are always slots available for each doctor during the day if the person turns up and is lucky enough to get them.

NO. 887 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – LOG OF HOUSE CALLS/ HOUSE ATTENDANCES

Given the answer to Written Question No. 39 of 2008 where the Government noted in its reply that the tables showed the calls logged from patients requesting house calls whilst the GP clinics were in session, can the Government confirm whether the information reflects the actual house attendances by doctors or simply the calls logged?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

The information reflects the calls logged not the calls attended.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 887 OF 2008

HON N F COSTA:

Will the Minister be able to provide us then with the information relating to the actual house attendances?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I am informed that a database of house calls attended is actually not kept, it is not clinically necessary.

HON N F COSTA:

In the event of calls when GHA is managing the number.....? In order to administer the system properly to ensure that there are sufficient GP's to be able to make house attendances, if there is not data reflecting the actual attendances made because the data is not deemed to be relevant to be kept, how do the GHA make that determination? If the only information that is recorded are the other calls logged.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I think that although they keep a record of the calls logged, it does not necessarily mean that some of those calls are left unattended. The calls are always answered by

the GP. What happens is that not all those calls logged are attended to physically by the GP going to the house call. There are times, I am told, when advice is given over the phone, or when they are asked whether they can bring the patient in and the patient volunteers to come in, that is why the number of calls logged do not always reflect the number of house calls attended.

NO. 888 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – NURSES PROVIDING MEDICATION OF PRESCRIBED DRUGS

Can Government state what is the grade of nurse permitted to provide medication of prescribed drugs to patients?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

The grades of nurses permitted to provide medication of prescribed drugs to patients are Nursing Auxiliaries (Green Belt level), Enrolled Nurses (Red Belt level) and Registered Nurses.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 888 OF 2008

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can the Government say whether the same criteria that is used in the GHA, in terms of providing drugs to patients, is used when those patients are, in fact, being given the drugs as residents of the Social Services Agency?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

The Social Services Agency does not come under the Gibraltar Health Authority, as the hon Member knows, this is GHA policy in relation to how their employees dispense drugs to the patients.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am aware, but I am asking the Minister with responsibility for Social Services whether he uses the same policy in the health.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

He is asking him?

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am asking the Government. She was there before, anyway, she ought to know.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Well, I do not, I cannot remember.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I see, well,

HON J J NETTO:

I was not aware that the Leader of the Opposition was waiting for information from me. In relation to social services where medication is administered, if it is going to be St Bernadette's Occupational Therapy Centre there are nurses there and the nurses actually do it in accordance with a protocol and they are trained. If it is a question of, perhaps, Dr Giraldi Home or Bruce's Farm, I understand that, again, they have a standard protocol but, I do not know whether it is the same as the GHA or UK practice. I know the medication is all encapsulated, it is all documented, all registered, so there are procedures for which all personnel are trained to observe and register and go in accordance with that procedure.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is it that on this occasion the Minister says that he actually knows, not that he is being told this? I think it is the first time he has used the word "know" in all the answers he has given to date.

HON J J NETTO:

The Leader of the Opposition may wish to bring sarcasm into the debate here. If that is his style, well, perhaps it is something genuine to him but I am not going to take the bait.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Let me reassure the Minister that I am not being sarcastic. I just want to know whether he really knows or whether he thinks that that is what is happening, or whether that is what he has been told. On every other occasion that I have asked him, he tells me he is relying on information provided to questions that have been prepared beforehand. This one he was not prepared for so I am trying to ascertain whether he stands by the explanation that he has given because he has knowledge that that is the case.

HON J J NETTO:

He is not trying to ascertain anything, he is question is so petty that it does not deserve an answer.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I do not know if there is anything in Standing Orders that says that we have xxxxxx before we put questions in Parliament, pass it to the test of the Minister's subjective judgement of what is petty or not petty. My question is very simple, I want to know whether the Government can confirm to me that if the grade that is required in the Hospital to give a particular medication, a prescribed drug to the patient, is the same grade that has to be responsible in the Dr Giraldi Home for giving the same kind of drug to somebody who is there. It is as simple as that. The answer has to be yes or no.

HON J J NETTO:

I do not speak on behalf of the Government. I speak on behalf of the xxxxxx for which I am responsible, but if it is a policy that goes right across the whole Government, I do not speak on behalf of the entire Government.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I would not want for one minute to be responsible for getting the Minister into trouble with the absent Member from this meeting. The last thing I want is to suggest that he is making a bid for a coup to lead the Government. That is not in my mind at all, so let him rest. *[Interruption]* I have survived 32 years so I do not think I need to start worrying. My question is a serious one. I am asking if the Government think one has to be at least a green belt Nursing Auxilliary to be able to hand out a certain kind of medication, is it required that the same standard of training should be available in the Social Services Agency to give the same kind of medication? Yes or no or I do not know is one of the three possibilities, and he can say it is petty but I can only assume that if he thinks it is petty it is because he does not want to give me an answer or he is not sure what the answer is. But I think it is very simple, all I need is yes or no or I do not know.

HON J J NETTO:

On the xxxxx, he needs to give me notice of the question.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Without having had notice and without knowing, which clearly he does not know without notice, what he is saying is he has to go back and ask. Would the Minister not consider it reasonable that if he thinks, for example, that somebody that has not had at least the training of a Nursing Auxiliary should not be given the responsibility for handing out medicines, that the same should apply irrespective of whether the patient happens to be somebody with disability or somebody that is able to walk into the Out-patients and get prescriptions. Surely there should not be a difference.

Would he not agree that is a reasonable thing to expect of the Agency, that they should have the same standards?

HON J J NETTO:

We have to have, certainly, a certain standard that accords with the safe practice of how medicine is delivered. Whether it is delivered by one grade in the GHA and a different grade in Social Services, would depend on the standard and the training that goes with that particular person. What I said in my original answer was that in certain circumstances in the Agency, I do know, that in St Bernadette's Occupational Therapy Centre it is given by the nurse. In other circumstances, for instance, say in Bruce's Farm, I know it is given by the carers or the counsellors but they are trained and it is given in a manner with which they are familiar, and everything is recorded. So, obviously, they have their standards, they have been trained to those standards and those standards may not necessarily follow the same standards in the GHA.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I welcome the additional information on Bruce's Farm but I am not asking on Bruce's Farm because Bruce's Farm is an independent organisation, where the Government cannot be held responsible for what standards they have or do not have, because they exercise no control over them. It is a private charity. I am asking about the Agency. Now, in fact, can I ask in terms of the original answer, I was under the impression that it was, in fact, a requirement that at least it had to be an Enrolled Nurse. Is it that there has been a change or that Auxiliaries have always been allowed to dispense or to provide patients with medicines that are subject to prescription?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I believe that the Auxiliary can provide the medication but has to be supervised, whereas the other grades do not.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I see, so the Enrolled Nurse can do it on their own and the Auxiliary can only do it if there is a Staff Nurse or somebody on duty as well, is that the position?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Yes, because Enrolled Nurses are currently included in the definition of Registered Nurses and the Auxiliaries are not.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So then the answer is that if it is a Registered Nurse, that is, Enrolled or Staff Nurse, they are considered to be sufficiently qualified to be able to do it alone, and if it is an Auxiliary Nurse they can only do it if a Registered Nurse is also available. Is that correct?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Not necessarily beside them. I am informed that there has to be an Enrolled or Registered Nurse in the ward. It depends on the competence of the Nursing Auxiliary in question. On competence and instruction are the words they use. So basically, whilst there is a Registered Nurse in the ward, at medication time, they might instruct a competent Nursing Auxiliary to deliver, or competently or adequately trained Nursing Auxiliary to deliver the medication.

NO. 889 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GHA – SPONSORED PATIENTS REFERRED TO XANIT HOSPITAL

Can Government state how many sponsored patients were referred to the Xanit Hospital at Benalmadena in 2007/2008 and at what cost?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

A total of 229 patients were referred to Xanit Hospital in 2007/2008 at a cost of £814,725.75.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 889 OF 2008

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is the use of this facility more expensive than other alternatives in Spain, or is it the kind of average cost to what it costs wherever they are sent?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

The use of this facility, the determination of using this facility is not whether it is, of course it is a factor that is considered, more expensive or not. The reason why the GHA has been using Xanit increasingly over the past two years is because the majority of these patients have cardiac related problems. Since patients were given the choice of being treated either in the UK or Spain, increasingly more are asking or opting to be treated in Spain for cardiac related problems, in Cadiz namely. Now, recently Cadiz was undergoing, and is still, I believe, undergoing a major upgrading of its cardiac lab. Compounding matters even further, obviously the upgrading of the cardiac lab meant that there were serious delays in accepting our patients in their hospital, compounded by the fact that Cadiz is giving more and more priority now, naturally I suppose, to their own Spanish nationals, whereas before we were sort of included in the batch of whatever patients were referred to them, because they are a tertiary care centre. It is affecting us and it is affecting Ceuta, I believe, although, obviously, Ceuta, having said that are Spanish nationals, so these two scenarios together meant that we were having a serious backlog of people with cardiac related problems not getting sufficiently quick access to either the angiogram or the subsequent treatment. So the GHA negotiated with Xanit a cost per case which was the same or lower than sending the patient to the UK.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Therefore, the figure that the Minister has given me for the 229 is roughly what it would have cost the GHA if they had gone to the UK as sponsored patients?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Or less but not more.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In doing that comparative exercise are we talking about the payment to the institution or the cost including the travel and the stay?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I believe it is an average of the cost of the patient in accommodation, travel and all that. But I am not 100 per cent sure.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I see. Well, if we are talking about £3,500 per patient, which I am told is what this works out, perhaps the Minister would look at whether, it seems to me that figure of £3,500 is likely to include the accommodation and the travel, I would have thought. I understand that this institution, in fact, is a private hospital so what are the arrangements for paying them in their case? Do the GHA get billed every month or everything? In the United Kingdom we have a different kind of arrangement, have we not?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

What is the arrangement with this hospital, which I believe is a private hospital?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I think we are invoiced per patient and we pay for them. We have quite a good relationship with Xanit. I believe they invoice us, I do not know whether it is on a patient basis or on a monthly basis, depending on how many patients. I could not really answer, I will try and provide the information to the hon Member if he is interested in knowing.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In terms of when we were using the Spanish state health service, like Cadiz, was the arrangement the same or were the arrangements of paying done in a different way?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I think the arrangements with Cadiz is under the SAS, so I think it falls within whatever arrangement, within this reciprocal agreement, if I am not mistaken. I am not exactly sure of all the details, but it is certainly not as if it were a private clinic.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So, in fact, the reason why we get billed is because it is private, that is really what I am trying to establish, is that the case?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Yes, that is correct.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In the case when we were using Cadiz before it was done through the EU reciprocal health care agreements?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I believe that is the case but I would need to have that confirmed for him. Yes, my predecessor has confirmed that that is the case.

NO. 890 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GHA – PRIVATE PSYCHIATRIC TREATMENT IN SPAIN

Can Government confirm whether any GHA patient is receiving private psychiatric treatment in Spain at GHA expense and if so for how long and at what cost?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

One patient is receiving private psychiatric treatment in Spain at GHA expense.

The patient is seeing a psychiatrist who specialises in the tertiary problem that the patient is suffering from. Referral to a similar service in the UK would have proved much more costly. In addition, an essential part of the patient's therapy was that the patient could undergo outpatient treatment whilst still residing in the home environment. The patient's condition will probably require long-term therapy. It is difficult to quantify, due to the patient's age, how much longer the treatment will be required. The cost to date, that is, over a period of two years and eight months, is 4,500 Euros.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 890 OF 2008

HON J J BOSSANO:

The explanation for having to use a private psychiatrist in Spain is that we do not have people in Gibraltar that are capable of giving that kind of psychiatric help, is that the case?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Not for this type of patient.

NO. 891 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GHA – PSYCHIATRIC TREATMENT IN THE UK

Can Government state whether any KGV hospital patients have been sent to UK for in-patient treatment in any kind of psychiatric unit since 1st April 2005 and if so give a breakdown by financial year showing the dates sent and the cost per patient and financial year to date or until the date of the patient's return to Gibraltar as the case may be?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Since April 2005, five patients have been sent to psychiatric units for in-patient treatment.

The details requested by the hon Member are contained in the schedule which I have handed over to him.

Answer to Question 891 of 2008

Five Patients were sent to psychiatric units for inpatient treatment in UK since April 2005.

Financial year 01.04.05 till 31.03.06	Dates in UK	Medical Cost £
Patient 1	26.05.05 till 31.03.06	£9,051.43
Patient 2	10.01.06 till 09.02.06	£18,693.22
Patient 3	27.09.05 till 20.10.05	£21,630.00
	23.11.05 till 06.12.05	£7,210.00
Financial year 01.04.06 till 31.03.07		
Patient 1	01.04.06 till 15.05.06	£12,960
Patient 4	26.09.06 till 31.03.07	£97,077
Patient 5	06.11.06 till 31.03.07	£71,563
Financial year 01.04.07 till 31.03.08		
Patient 4	01.04.07 till 31.03.08	£233,478
Patient 5	01.04.07 till 31.03.08	£233,478
Financial year 01.04.08 till 31.03.09		
Patient 4	01.04.08 till 12.08.08	£86,196
Patient 5	01.04.08 till 25.09.08	£115,581

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 891 OF 2008

HON J J BOSSANO:

We are talking about a situation where since December 2006 one particular patient has cost the Health Authority over £500,000, no, £400,000, is that the case? Patient 5 has got £71,500 for one year, £233,478 for the next year and £115,581 to date, to the end of September. These seem very large sums. What is special about the treatment of this patient that required these kind of sums to be spent?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Without wishing to go, and I am quite willing to give this information to the hon Member on a confidential basis, but without wishing to go into a lot of detail, these two particular patients could be referred as "forensic psychiatry", which is a sub-specialised area of psychiatry that deals with those who are a risk to other individuals. They were referred, as well as the other three who do not fall within this category, they were assessed by their attending psychiatrists and referred to tertiary specialist centres in the UK for in-patient treatment, as a necessity.

HON J J BOSSANO:

We have got a situation where, for example, patient 5 was there from 6th November 2006 to 25th September 2008, what is it has he come back cured and he is no longer a danger to anybody?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

Well, I suppose there has been significant progress in his rehabilitation, or else he would not have been discharged from the tertiary centre to which he was referred in the first place.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I see, but are we then saying we have got a situation now, even though we have got more psychiatrists than ever before, there was a stage when we only had one person there and, as far as I can remember, he seemed to be able to cope with all the branches of psychiatry, when Dr Montegriffo was running the show. But are we saying then that, for example, if we send somebody there and they think he is not able to be discharged, we then have an open-ended commitment that we pay hundreds of thousands of pounds, is that the position?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I suppose that in these things there is always a time frame involved. Before the patient is referred, I suppose that the psychiatrist who made the assessment was in communication with whatever centre they were referred to, and there is a time limit. I also suppose that if there is a person who is mentally ill, who is a danger to society

and who does not belong in prison but belongs in a special facility which is not available in Gibraltar, should be housed at whatever expense away from Gibraltar.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am astonished that that is the Minister's view. Perhaps she will not need to build a new KGV Hospital after all, if that is what she thinks. Look, one sectioned people if they are a danger and put them in the KGV Hospital and deprive them of their liberty, precisely because they are a danger to themselves or to others. We have got that institution, which needs a lot of improvement, but the purpose of having them there surely is because we do not just simply send people off to the United Kingdom because they are mentally ill?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

When a person is a danger to others and is sectioned off to the KGV Hospital, one cannot just lock them up and throw away the key, as the hon Member is suggesting. They need treatment and if this Government spends nearly or more than £6 million in referring people, because we have plenty more doctors here as well in the General Hospital, not only at the psychiatry unit, yet we still spend £6 million in referring them to tertiary centres in the UK for treatment. Why should people with mental illness problems not be entitled to the same treatment and to spend as much money on them?

HON J J BOSSANO:

But it seems that we are having problems with children having to be put in KGV Hospital and KGV Hospital patients having to be sent to the United Kingdom, which we have not had in the past. I have not said they should be put in a room and throw away the key. I do not know whether she is saying that that is what they were doing before 2005 and that they stopped doing it in 2005, or that the punishment room, which they say did not exist, which had padlocks on the door, was for that purpose.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

According to his information, which is completely erroneous.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well, information that people were prepared to give under oath in a tribunal until they spent £250,000 stopping it. If it is not true why were they so scared of the truth coming out?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

We were not scared of any truth coming out and he knows it.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Then, perhaps, the Minister can enlighten this House how they justify spending public money, arguing all the way to the appeal court that a year has 53 weeks, which is not an argument that has been used in 32 years?

MR SPEAKER:

Order, order. That last question is not a proper supplementary on the subject we are talking.

HON J J BOSSANO:

No, I accept that it is just that I am demonstrating that if being scared was not the reason for spending the money, then perhaps she can enlighten me with what the reason was. So, the Minister is saying then that the Government consider that the way to handle the needs of these patients is to spend maybe £100,000, £200,000 or £300,000 on each one, send them to a special unit in the UK and then bring them back here and that the result of that is that when they get back here, whatever it was in their illness that caused them to be a danger has been cured by the period that they have been in the UK, and that is the justification for what is being adopted, that is the position is it?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

That is what I have been informed has happened in these two cases. They were sent off as a necessity because they needed to be referred to tertiary centres in the UK, the same as people with physical illnesses need to be referred somewhere else. They have recovered to an extent where they can now come back to Gibraltar and they have been brought back to Gibraltar.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I see. I mean, is one of these patients not a patient that has been, in fact, a patient for almost the whole of his life and, therefore, this problem appears only to have been a recent development with changes.....? Perhaps it reflects an approach from psychiatrists that we have got today which was not the approach of the ones we had before, we have had a lot of changes. These are not people who have been suddenly affected by illness, they are people that have been in and out, when they get better they get released and when they get worse they have to go back in for treatment, is that not the case?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I am not aware of whether these two patients have been institutionalised, rather, residing in the KGV Hospital for a number of years. But even if they had, people's illnesses can get aggravated. I might have a kidney stone lodged in my kidney which is manageable for ten years and all of a sudden it flares up and I need to be referred somewhere else. I mean, it is the same scenario. If a person needs tertiary care in

the UK, this Government do not look at whether it is a mental illness or a physical illness. We spend whatever it takes to make them better.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The enthusiasm the Government displays for things over which they have so little knowledge amazes me. Therefore, this is a policy that has been going on for how long? I put the date of 2005, given that I have only heard of recent incidents. Is the Minister saying that this has been going on since 1996?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I do not know whether the psychiatrist employed by the GHA considered it necessary before 2005 to send anybody over. The question refers to 2005 onwards and that is the answer that I have supplied. Maybe in the next session he can go back to 1996.

ORAL

NO. 892 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DEVELOPMENT APPEALS TRIBUNAL

Can Government say how often and on what dates the Development Appeals Tribunal has met this year since this question was asked at the last Question Time in this Parliament?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

There has not been a meeting of the Tribunal during the period covered by the question.

NO. 893 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

GHA – TRAVEL BY SPONSORED PATIENTS - BOOKING FEES

What amounts have been paid by the GHA as “booking fees” in respect of travel by sponsored patients in the past two calendar years?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND CIVIL PROTECTION

The GHA cannot provide me with this information as the flight invoices do not come with that kind of breakdown, I am told.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 893 OF 2008

HON F R PICARDO:

I believe that the Minister has been improperly informed of what a flight ticket actually shows in each invoice. Each of the invoices that I am provided with certainly show the cost of the booking fee, and if they do not, it is possible to see the cost of the booking fee, if it is an electronic ticket on the electronic ticket itself, if it is a paper ticket at the bottom left of the ticket issued in IATA format. Would the Minister undertake to review the answer that she has been provided, given that it is my understanding that the booking fees charged to the GHA are in some cases even larger than the cost of the ticket itself.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

The answer that the GHA has provided me with is that they cannot provide that information. Now, he is disputing what the staff of the GHA are saying to me, I believe there is another similar question on the Order Paper to be answered by the Chief Minister, I suggest that he waits for that answer. If it is the same as mine, then not only the GHA has a problem but whoever has supplied the information to the Chief Minister as well.

HON F R PICARDO:

I do not see why it is that the Minister is seeking to defend that answer. I think that we both part from the premise, or we should at least both part from the premise, that the GHA is funded from a vote in this House, if there is any abuse going on in respect

of the use of that money, if there is any abuse going on of the GHA, in other words, if the GHA itself is being abused by the people who are selling it tickets, then she and I must both agree that it is something that we need to get to the bottom of. Now, I think she will know, from her own travel it is possible to see.....

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I have only travelled once in my entire time as Minister.

HON F R PICARDO:

I do not mean necessarily in her capacity as Minister, just as an ordinary citizen. Perhaps she could take it from me.

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I do not want to travel by aeroplane anyway.

HON F R PICARDO:

Then she should take it from me and, I am sure, from some of her other colleagues that any ticket issued for air travel shows on the ticket itself the booking fee charged by the travel agent, or at least shows the cost of the ticket. Then an individual can work out from the cost of the ticket and the cost that he or she has paid, what booking fee has been charged to him or to her. Will she not agree with me that it is something that needs to be looked into in greater detail and will she undertake to ask those at the GHA who have provided her with the answer, to bring her at least a sample of some of those invoices so that she can see for herself whether it is possible to see what the booking fees are, and perhaps determine exactly what those fees are herself?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

On the basis that the concern that the hon Member is expressing is that there is a possibility that there is some sort of abuse against the funds of the GHA, on that basis and taking that at face value I will certainly carry out a further investigation and have further talks with the Sponsored Patients Department.

HON F R PICARDO:

I am very much obliged for that, and will she agree to write to me with the results of her further investigation?

HON MRS Y DEL AGUA:

I do not mind, if I obtain that information during the course of either today or as long as this session lasts, I do not mind getting up and orally giving him the explanation, if there is any.

HON F R PICARDO:

I am obliged.

ORAL

NO. 894 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – RENT RELIEF

Can Government state how many households on rent relief have had this benefit terminated, to date, as from September 2008, giving a monthly breakdown?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 895 to 898 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 895 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – RENT RELIEF

Can Government state how many households have had the level of rent relief reduced, to date, as from September 2008, giving a monthly breakdown?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 894 and 896 to 898 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 896 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – RENT RELIEF

Can Government state how many households were on full rent relief, to date, as from September 2008, giving a monthly breakdown?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 894, 895, 897 and 898 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 897 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – RENT RELIEF

Can Government state how many households have received rent relief, to date, as from September 2008, giving a monthly breakdown?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 894 to 896 and 898 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 898 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – RENT RELIEF

Can Government state how many households have applied for rent relief, to date, since September 2008, giving a monthly breakdown?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

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

Answer to Question 898 of 2008

Answer to Question 894

The number of households, on Rent Relief, that have had this benefit terminated, to date, as from September 2008, is as follows:

September (as from 13/9/08)	-	7
October 2008	-	8
November (Up to 26/11/08)	-	10

Answer to Question 895

The number of households that have had the level of Rent Relief reduced, to date, as from September 2008, is as follows:

September (as from 13/9/08)	-	18
October 2008	-	16
November (Up to 26/11/08)	-	19

Answer to Question 896

The number of households that were on full Rent Relief, to date, as from September 2008, is as follows:

September (as from 13/9/08)	-	48
October 2008	-	46
November (Up to 26/11/08)	-	42

Answer to Question 897

The number of households that have received Rent Relief, to date, as from September 2008, is as follows:

September (as from 13/9/08)	-	671
October 2008	-	674
November (Up to 26/11/08)	-	649

Answer to Question 898

The number of households that have applied for Rent Relief, to date, as from September (12/9/08), is as follows:

September (as from 13/9/08)	-	4 (2 active)
October 2008	-	5 (1 active)
November (Up to 26/11/08)	-	1 (1 active)

ORAL

NO. 899 OF 2008

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. 900, 910 and 911 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 900 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – WAITING LIST

Can Government state how many applicants, 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. 899, 910 and 911 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 901 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – ARREARS OF RENT AGREEMENTS

Can Government state how many tenants have entered into agreements to pay arrears of rent, to date, as from September 2008 giving a monthly breakdown, and what is the total of arrears covered by such agreements?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

A schedule containing the information requested has been passed on to the hon Member.

Answer to Question 901 of 2008

Total number of agreements as from September 2008 – 31

	Total Agreements	Total Amount
September 2008	19	£ 89,704.35
October 2008	5	£ 19,454.50
November 2008	7	£ 28,035.38
	Total	<u>£137,194.23</u>

NO. 902 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – REPOSSESSED FLATS

Can Government state how many Government flats have been repossessed, to date, since the answer given to Question No. 549 of 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Two flats have been repossessed.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 902 OF 2008

HON C A BRUZON:

What were the reasons? Are there any reasons the Minister can offer as to why they were repossessed?

HON F J VINET:

Not specifically, the umbrella really is that there has been inadequate use of the property. I also add that the fact that there have been two flats repossessed does not necessarily mean that there have not been a further number of flats that have been recovered prior to reaching the court hearing. So, really, the number is greater than two, I do not have the overall total here, but two have been repossessed following legal course of action.

ORAL

NO. 903 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – SOCIAL CATEGORY ‘A’ LIST

With reference to the answer given to Question No. 550 of 2008, can Government state how many applicants, since that date, have been removed from the Housing Social Category “A” List because a suitable dwelling has been found for them and give the dates?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 904, 905 and 917 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 904 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – SOCIAL CATEGORY ‘A’ LIST

Since the answer given to Question No. 551 of 2008, can Government state how many applicants have been placed on the Housing Social Category “A” List and give the dates?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 903, 905 and 917 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 905 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – SOCIAL CATEGORY ‘A’ LIST

Can Government state how many persons are currently on the Housing Social Category “A” List?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 903, 904 and 917 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 906 OF 2008

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 912 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 907 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – PRE-WAR UNITS

Can Government state how many pre-war housing units have been allocated, to date, since the answer given to Question No. 554 of 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 908 and 909 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 908 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – POST-WAR UNITS

Can Government state how many post-war housing units have been allocated to social cases as from September 2008 providing a monthly breakdown?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 907 and 909 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 909 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – ALLOCATION OF HOMES

Can Government state how many Government homes have been allocated to applicants other than by the Housing Allocation Committee since the implementation of the new Housing Act 2007?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

I hand over a schedule containing the information requested.

Answer to Question 909 of 2008

Answer to Question 907

To date, since the answer given to Question No. 554 of 2008, two pre-war housing units have been allocated.

Answer to Question 908

No post-war housing units have been allocated to social cases since September 2008.

Answer to Question 909

Three Government homes have been allocated to applicants other than by the Housing Allocation Committee since the implementation of the new Housing Act.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 907 TO 909 OF 2008

HON C A BRUZON:

I thank the Minister for the information provided. Reference Question No. 909, the answer says that three Government homes have been allocated to applicants other than by the Housing Allocation Committee since the new Housing Act. Who allocated these three homes?

HON F J VINET:

I believe a couple were allocated by myself and one by the Chief Minister.

HON F R PICARDO:

What made the circumstances of those allocations special so that they had to be done by the Minister?

HON F J VINET:

First of all let me say that the Housing Allocation Committee is an advisory committee and the Government do not necessarily have to follow its advice, although I always aim to do so. But if the Government, whether myself or a colleague, are made aware of particular circumstances which are so exceptional, whether from a social and/or medical perspective, that they need to be prioritised, then I think I certainly make no apology for that. In fact, I think I have a duty to act on those cases and, in fact, as I think I may have mentioned last time, I regularly receive correspondence from the Hon Mr Bruzon, also from the Ombudsman and Action for Housing, asking me precisely to intervene in that manner.

HON F R PICARDO:

I appreciate everything that the Minister has said and I do not dispute any of it, but what were the circumstances in these cases which led him to believe that he should activate his ministerial role in that capacity to allocate?

HON F J VINET:

I would not like to divulge the information over the floor of the House, I am perfectly happy to provide that information in private and in confidence, in particular, one of the persons involved, I think, if I were to give the information would be easy to identify. What I can perhaps say is that of those three, two of them were on a medical basis as it were and one of them had social issues attached to the application.

HON F R PICARDO:

I appreciate that and am grateful for the offer to provide the information privately, which I will take up. But how does he reconcile his remarks now with his remark a

moment ago when he told me that, of course, it was preferable for the doctors to make decisions in respect of medical cases and not Ministers?

HON F J VINET:

It is one thing for myself to overrule a decision taken by the Housing Allocation Committee, which I will not do, that is what the Housing Tribunal is there for and it is quite another for even a lay person like myself, to be very aware, as I think anyone would be, of the particular issues raised by these individuals.

HON F R PICARDO:

Again, without wanting to tread into the area of what he will tell me privately, were these therefore cases that had not even got to the Housing Allocation Committee, that were dealt with before they could get to the Committee?

HON F J VINET:

I think in two of those cases that is certainly the case. On the remaining one I am not absolutely certain but I will confirm that to him.

HON F R PICARDO:

If he is not certain it is therefore possible that the Housing Allocation Committee may have done one thing and the Minister may have gone against that, or it may have been the ministerial position because it may not necessarily be him, a ministerial decision which has gone contrary to the decision of the Housing Allocation Committee. That is also possible, not just in this case but generally.

HON F J VINET:

It may but not necessarily because, for example, what may happen is that a person's situation is assessed by the Housing Allocation Committee, who may decide to categorise that application as meriting inclusion on the social list, so that person forms part of the social waiting list but developments may occur thereafter which aggravate the circumstances experienced by this individual, and I would be very hesitant indeed to act over and above the views expressed by the Housing Allocation Committee, if there are not additional circumstances involved which may merit a more direct intervention.

HON F R PICARDO:

How is this emergency list or emergency procedure engaged? Do individuals write to the Minister or are the circumstances brought to the attention of the Minister by his officials because individuals have turned up in the office and explained the circumstances?

HON F J VINET:

It really does vary from case to case, there is no established practice or procedure. The information may come to me or a colleague via a variety of means.

ORAL

NO. 910 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – MEDICAL LISTS

Since the answer given to Question No. 557 of 2008, can Government state how many applicants have been placed on the various medical housing lists “A+”, “A”, “B” and “C”, and give the dates?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 899, 900 and 911 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 911 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – MEDICAL LISTS

With reference to the answer given to Question No. 558 of 2008, can Government state how many applicants, since that date, have been removed from the various medical housing lists “A+”, “A”, “B” and “C”, because a suitable dwelling has been found for them and give the dates?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Schedules containing the information requested are just being passed over.

Answer to Question 911 of 2008

Answer to Question 899

There are 55 applicants on the Housing Waiting List, to date, who are medically recommended as follows:

Medical A+	-	4
Medical A	-	13
Medical B	-	19
Medical C	-	19

Answer to Question 900

There are 196 persons, to date, who are medically recommended, apart from those who are described as applicants on the Housing Waiting List, as follows:

Medical A+	-	26
Medical A	-	59
Medical B	-	47
Medical C	-	64

Answer to Question 910

A total of four applicants have been placed on the various Medical Housing Lists since Question No. 557 of 2008, as follows:

Date	A+	A	B	C
September (since 13/9/08)	-	-	-	-
October	2	1	-	-
November (up to 26/11/08)	1	-	-	-

Answer to Question 911

A total of six applicants have been removed from the various Medical Housing Lists since the answer given to Question No. 558 of 2008 because a suitable dwelling has been found for them as follows:

Date	A+	A	B	C
September (since 13/9/08)	-	-	-	-
October	2	3	-	1*
November (up to 26/11/08)	-	-	-	-

*Also on Waiting List

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 899, 900, 910 AND 911 OF 2008

HON N F COSTA:

Could the Minister say in respect, for instance, of the applicants on the Medical 'A' Class list, for how long those people have been on the list?

HON F J VINET:

Not at this date. There have been occasions in the past when that specific question has been asked and a table has been provided. I do not have the information before me, it does vary from case to case.

HON C A BRUZON:

Concerning people with a medical category who have refused a home that has been offered to them, as I think the Minister referred to in the past, in the last Session in September, I cannot find my notes but I remember that a reference was made that there were people who had refused accommodation, even though for medical reasons the home was suitable. Now, can the Minister please tell me whether or not a doctor was involved in this decision? Did the doctor visit this place to decide? On what was the decision based? Surely, if one uses the reference that it should be acceptable on medical grounds, there has to be an explanation to that question, I think.

HON F J VINET:

Well, there are two aspects to that. First of all, what happens is that in order for a person to be categorised as benefitting for inclusion in the medical list, the Housing Allocation Committee, which includes a medical representative, would assess the ailment in question and, in fact, the criteria is not simply that the applicant, or the prospective applicant, suffers a certain illness. But rather, whether their home where they are presently living at actually is detrimental to that particular ailment. Therefore, there is a note made as to what that ailment is, what the needs are and the property that is offered to a particular applicant who reaches the top of the medical list, actually is in accordance with those specific needs. So, for example, if there happens to be a person who is on the medical list because he or she has problems in terms of mobility and requires a flat either on a ground floor or one that has access to a lift, then of course, that person would be offered a flat that meets that criteria. Having said all that and the reason why I was quite keen last time to qualify my reply by explaining that one should not simply look at the number of flats that have been accepted, but rather the total number of offers made. In fact, the reasons why some of these individuals declined the offer of a flat had nothing whatsoever to do with the flat not being adequate in terms of the particular person's medical needs, but rather, because, perhaps, they wished to be housed in a particular housing estate, close to family members. I know one particular case, for example, where the person wishes to wait until a flat with good views of the Bay becomes available. So, the information I have before me is that the declining of offers of flats has not been due to lack of adequate medical facilities at the homes.

HON F R PICARDO:

What happens when the medical condition which it is suggested should put somebody on the medical list is not a medical condition in which the medical practitioner on the Board is an expert? How does the Housing Allocation Committee then decide whether it is something which is exacerbated by the present housing needs or circumstances of the individual?

HON F J VINET:

Well, the practice is and has been for some time that the Housing Allocation Committee assesses these applications, the medical expert is a General Practitioner, thus all applicants, whether those applying for medical categorisation, social categorisation or otherwise, if they are unhappy or have a grievance with the decision taken by the Allocation Committee, can always appeal the matter to the recently appointed Housing Tribunal. But there is not a specific it would be, I think, unrealistic to expect a particular expert in a particular field to be present dealing with the very specific ailments. There is a Housing Allocation Committee in place, which is advertised in the Gazette, and that includes a General Practitioner.

HON F R PICARDO:

I appreciate that and I do not mean that there should be an expert on broken legs and an expert on broken arms, but when a practitioner in psychiatric medicine says that somebody is suffering from depression and that depression is related to their present housing circumstances, of course, that could be opening the floodgates for everybody to say that they are depressed and where they live. But in particular circumstances, not just related to their present housing circumstances, but other housing related circumstances which are clearly exacerbating the individual's position, and there is a General Practitioner on the Board of the Housing Allocation Committee, then those are two very distinct practices – psychiatric practice and the general medical practice. What happens in those circumstances? Are the Government satisfied that the General Practitioner is able to determine whether or not that psychiatric circumstance is such that it should give rise to somebody being on the medical list or not? Without, obviously, opening the floodgates to everybody simply having a certificate that they are depressed and where they live.

HON F J VINET:

I will answer simply by saying that the Government are satisfied by the decision taken by the Housing Allocating Committee, simply because we have not been informed otherwise, as far as I am aware. There has not been an appeal of the sort alleged by the Hon Mr Picardo.

HON F R PICARDO:

Well, an appeal to the Housing Appeal Tribunal which has just been set up it may be that there has not been, but I am sure the Minister is aware of circumstances or cases where there have been complaints, if not appeals, that this type of problem has not been recognised by the Housing Allocation Committee, although there is no

psychiatric expert on the Housing Allocation Committee. Is the Minister not aware of any such circumstances, perhaps even quite recently?

HON F J VINET:

No, I have not been made aware of such circumstances.

HON F R PICARDO:

Would he agree with me that if there are such circumstances they might be identifying a problem in the composition of the Committee, or a problem in the way in which the Committee assesses medical cases such that the medical remit of the Committee is not adequately provided for if there is not somebody who is able to assess the psychiatric needs of individuals who may be seeking categorisation on the medical list?

HON F J VINET:

The actual procedure when an individual chooses or wishes to be categorised for inclusion in the medical list is that he or she would provide the Allocation Committee with a medical letter, and it is on the basis of that medical letter, presumably from an expert in that particular field, that the decision is taken.

HON F R PICARDO:

I appreciate that. How do the Government reconcile the fact that the general medical practitioner who is on the Housing Allocation Committee Board is, as I understand it, one of the doctors in the Group Practice Medical Scheme, and the party recommending that the person should be put on the medical list for housing is also a practitioner on the Government General Practice Scheme? Therefore, if the recommendation of the doctor saying, or the practitioner saying "this individual should be on the medical list", is not accepted, there are really two doctors in the GHA going against each other. The one, being a specialist in the particular field, the other, the one who declines, not being a specialist in that particular field. How do Government feel about that?

HON F J VINET:

I am hesitant to comment further without perhaps knowing what the particular facts of a particular case are. It would not be the first time in the past that, perhaps, prior to the setting up of the tribunal, a person who is aggrieved with the decision taken by the Housing Allocation Committee has made his or her circumstances known to me. That has not been the case up to now. My information is that the system works generally well, I certainly have not received representations to the effects that Mr Picardo is now alleging. As I say, it is simply not feasible to have an expert on every single medical field present in the Housing Allocation Committee, and I suppose a similar analogy could be used in all other committees in Government, where necessarily the members of a particular committee, whether medical or to do with development appeals or whatever, may not necessarily agree with the views expressed by some other experts.

HON F R PICARDO:

I appreciate that. But I understand this case has been brought to his attention, it may be that I have been misinformed. Let me give him a little bit more of the flavour of the issues that arise, trying to stick to generalities in order not to identify the parties involved. If a GHA psychologist or psychiatrist, I am always lost at the difference between the two, recommends in writing on GHA letterhead paper, that this individual needs to be re-housed and it is urgent on a medical basis, because this individual is genuinely suffering from depression because of the housing circumstances that she is presently under, relating to both the housing composition and the house in question. How can the Government be comfortable that subsequently the person on the Board who is responsible for helping the Committee assess the medical aspects of it, is a GHA general practitioner who has not got either the psychiatric or psychological expertise to certify that, then says, "as far as I am concerned, this is not a case where we should be considering putting the individual on the medical list". Is that not clearly something which is not satisfactory, and it does not involve having an expert in every sort of medicine available, but it involves one general practitioner not accepting the advice of a specialist practitioner in the same organisation?

HON F J VINET:

I cannot add anything further to what I have already said. What would have been even less acceptable, perhaps, would have been for a Minister to personally decide whether a particular ailment merits inclusion in the medical list or otherwise. I am not for one minute saying that the present system is absolutely perfect. There may, perhaps at some point, be a need to tweak the composition of the Housing Allocation Committee. In fact, there have been recent changes to the membership, just two or three months ago, but I re-stress and hope I have not given the impression that I am somehow misleading the House. I have certainly not been informed of that particular case, but if the hon Member wishes we can have a private word afterwards.

HON F R PICARDO:

I am grateful to the Minister and I will take up his offer of giving him more of the personal details outside this Chamber. I do not want him to think for one moment that my questions were suggesting that he should have become involved and somehow overridden even the General Practitioner, who is much more of an expert than he or me in any type of medicine, let alone psychiatric medicine. But I think that this genuinely raises a potential difficulty with the referral to the Housing Allocation Committee of issues which are not within the purview of a general medical practitioner. Perhaps it is something to look at, in any event, and perhaps he might agree to do that?

HON C A BRUZON:

I do not for a moment question the genuineness of the Minister's answers but may I remind him that I wrote to him about a month ago, about a specific case which he may be kind enough to ask his secretary about, and maybe when he reads my letter he will understand the case in question.

ORAL

NO. 912 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – WAITING LISTS

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

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

A schedule containing the information requested is being handed over to the hon Member.

Answer to Question 912 of 2008

Answer to Question 906

There are currently 439 applicants on the pre-list. The breakdown of their flat requirement is as follows:

1RKB	-	304
2RKB	-	16
3RKB	-	79
4RKB	-	37
5RKB	-	3

Answer to Question 912

There are 765 applicants on the Housing Waiting List. The breakdown of their flat requirement is as follows:

1RKB	-	362
2RKB	-	54
3RKB	-	210
4RKB	-	126
5RKB	-	13

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 906 AND 912 OF 2008

HON C A BRUZON:

I see that there is an upward trend, obviously regrettably, since I asked this question not only in September but also in April, does the Minister not acknowledge that the upward trend could be due to the Government's mistaken policy on housing over the years, in not providing adequate housing so that the waiting lists go down and not up?

HON F J VINET:

Well, I do not accept that and, of course, I think the premise to the question is misinformed, because the hon Member will see that the pre-list, which in effect is part of the overall waiting list, has in fact decreased slightly since the question was last asked in September.

HON C A BRUZON:

The total now is 1,204 as distinct from 1,188 in September, I am looking at the two lists together.

HON F J VINET:

There are the same number of flats available in the rental stock today than there were when the question was last asked in September. It is simply a question of more people having decided to become applicants than may have been the case months ago. I am sure the situation will be addressed to a great extent following the completion of the magnificent, new rental estate which will commence soon.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can I ask? The people who were sent letters are included in these numbers and they have already been given a promise of allocation, is that not the case?

HON F J VINET:

Yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

And they have got the option when existing accommodation becomes available, like repossession, to change. Has the Minister any information whether some people have now been removed from the list? Presumably, the ones that were sent the letters are in the list but once they pick another house they come off the list. Does he have any information on how many have come off that list as a result?

HON F J VINET:

Yes, in fact, there is a there is another question on the Order Paper precisely on that matter.

ORAL

NO. 913 OF 2008

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. 560 of 2008, how many applicants had overcrowding points disallowed because other people who had sold their homes moved in with them?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question No. 914 of 2008.

NO. 914 OF 2008

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. 561 of 2008, how many applicants were allowed points for overcrowding when other people who had sold their homes moved in with them?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answer to Question 913

None.

Answer to Question 914

None.

ORAL

NO. 915 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – APPLICATIONS REJECTED

Can Government state how many applicants for housing were rejected on the grounds that they were home owners who had chosen to sell their homes, giving a breakdown by month, since the answer to Question No. 562 of 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question No. 916 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 916 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED

Can Government state how many applicants for housing were accepted because in the judgement of the Housing Allocation Committee the sale was necessary, giving a breakdown by month since the answer to Question No. 563 of 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answer to Question 915

None, that is to say, no rejections.

Answer to Question 916

Two applicants have been accepted, both of them in October.

ORAL

NO. 917 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – HOMELESS PERSONS

Can Government state how many cases of applications for housing from homeless persons are currently being dealt with by the Housing Department?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

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

Answer to Question 917 of 2008

Answer to Question 903

Since the answer to Question No. 550 of 2008, two applicants have been removed from the Housing Social Category "A" List because a suitable dwelling has been found for them. Both allocations were made in October 2008.

Answer to Question 904

Since the answer to Question No. 551 of 2008, three applicants have been placed on the Social Category "A" List. The three categorisations were made in October 2008.

Answer to Question 905

There are currently 74 persons on the Housing Social Category "A" List.

Answer to Question 917

Thirty-four applications for housing from homeless persons are currently being dealt with by the Ministry for Housing.

Perhaps I could qualify or add, in particular, to the answer to Question No. 903 similarly as I did in the last session of Parliament in relation to medical cases, that although the hon Member will see that there have been two applicants removed from the Housing Social Category List because a suitable dwelling has been found for them, in fact, there have been three further offers made to applicants which have been refused. So in total there could have been five applicants removed from the list, but in reality there are two.

NO. 918 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – ANONYMOUS PHONE CALLS

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

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

and provide a breakdown as from September 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

A total of 146 telephone calls have been received and of these 81 were found to be correct. The breakdown as from September 2008, that is to say, since 13th September this year is that there have been two calls in September, both of which were found to be incorrect. One call in October which was found to be correct and no calls up to 26th November, which is when the information was collected.

ORAL

NO. 919 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – WAITING LISTS (REINSTATEMENTS)

With reference to the answer given to Question No. 566 of 2008, can Government state how many persons, if any, have in fact been re-instated in the Housing Waiting Lists because of a genuine inability to complete the purchase within any of the Government's home ownership schemes?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question No. 920 of 2008.

NO. 920 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – NEW GOVERNMENT RENTAL ESTATE

With reference to the answer given to Question No. 567 of 2008, how many of the 490 applicants who received letters of allocation in the proposed new Government rental estate have since been offered an existing Government flat and how many have accepted?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answer to Question 919

Three housing applicants have been re-instated on the Housing Waiting List.

Answer to Question 920

Nine applicants have been offered an existing Government flat in the period prescribed in the question. Four of these have accepted.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I would like to return to Question No. 920, the one we have just done, because it was something I was intending to follow up earlier when the Minister pointed me to this question that was on the Order Paper. To make sure that I understand the nature of the mechanism, is it that for example, there were five offers that nobody in the 490 group accepted and, therefore, it gets offered to somebody who is outside the 490 group, is that how it functions? I mean, if there had been nine and there are 490, obviously depending on the composition of what is available and the composition of the requirement, but is it that in the group that have had the letters one goes down the priority of that group and keep on offering it to everybody until it has been turned down by everybody, is that how it works?

HON F J VINET:

The offers made are in relation to people on the waiting lists, who may or may not be one of those 490. Logic would dictate that, especially towards the higher end of the waiting list, all those people who are currently towards the higher end of the waiting

list are those who received offers of accommodation. But if it were to then trickle down towards the lower reaches of the list, there may be cases where someone who has been made an offer now finds himself or herself with a more recent applicant jumping above their place. But, certainly, as I have said, there have been nine offers made to people who were offered flats in the new estate. I am not sure whether that clarifies the question.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Not entirely. Given that I am taking it for granted that the 490 people who got the offers in 2007 were the 490 based on their pointage on the list, then presumably, let us say we have got a situation where there is a two bedroom house available which is an existing post-war house, as I understood the nature of the explanation that was given, the people who were told they had a two bedroom house in the course of being built would then be offered this two bedroom house that would become vacant and, presumably, that list would have an order to it and it would then have to be offered to everyone in the 490 who was in the category of the two bedrooms, and if it was rejected by all of them then it presumably goes to people who were not in the 490. Or does it work in some other way?

HON F J VINET:

No, it works in the way I have described. The offers are made to those people on the waiting list.....

HON J J BOSSANO:

As it stands today.

HON F J VINET:

As it stands today.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Irrespective of whether they were in the 490 or not.

HON F J VINET:

Yes that is what I have explained.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I see, so in fact, the priority when the 490 received offers is no longer the priority today? That is to say, the person at the top of the list in any one of these lists is not necessarily somebody who had the letter before, is that what the Minister is saying?

HON F J VINET:

What I am saying is that those 490 persons who were on the waiting list at the time when the offer letters were sent out, can benefit in effect of the time they have been on the waiting list by being given the choice of either waiting for the new estate to be built, or accepting whichever existing flat becomes available. That is not a factor that would be taken into account with the other members of the waiting list who are not part of those 490.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am fully aware, perhaps I have not put my question in a way which the Minister can understand. I think if I can give him an example, there are nine flats that have become available, what I am saying is, well look, when the first flat becomes available if it is a two bedroom, presumably the logical, normal process would be, I am not sure if it still is, but the Housing Allocation Committee will simply go to the person with the highest pointage on the two bedroom list. Now, that person ought to be one of the 490, therefore, if there are 200 on that list, 150 might be in the 490 and then 50 would not be. One would have to go first to the 150 that were in the 490 list before going to the 451 who might say yes, whilst all the others might say no because they prefer to hang on to the original letter. Is that the correct interpretation?

HON F J VINET:

That is correct.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So that means, in fact, that the nine that were offered were in turn offered to people in the 490 and the five that were rejected means they could not find one single person on the waiting list that actually said yes instead of accepting it. I mean, I think if we had an idea maybe of the composition of the nine and of the people who said yes and no, we would be able to relate it to the numbers we have been given. But I was trying to make sure that then it might well mean, if somebody comes tomorrow and says, how is it that number 50 on the list got the allocation, well the answer could well be because the other 49 chose to wait.

HON F J VINET:

That is a possibility and we should not necessarily assume that the people who have turned down the offer of a flat have done so necessarily because they wish to wait for the new estate, they may have other reasons for not accepting that particular place.

ORAL

NO. 921 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – REFURBISHMENT OF DWELLINGS

Can Government state how many Government dwellings are currently in the hands of Buildings and Works for refurbishment?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 922 to 924 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 922 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – EMPTY DWELLINGS

Can Government state how many Government dwellings are currently empty with no work being done in them at present?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 921, 923 and 924 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 923 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – JOBS REQUIRING THE ATTENTION OF BUILDINGS AND WORKS

Can Government state how many jobs are currently listed as requiring the attention of Buildings and Works within the Housing Department?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question Nos. 921, 922 and 924 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 924 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – TENANTS REQUIRING WORK TO HOMES

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

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

Answer to Question 924 of 2008

Answer to Question 921

There are currently 22 dwellings requiring refurbishment which are with Buildings and Works.

Answer to Question 922

There are currently 47 empty dwellings with no works being done in them at present.

Answer to Question 923

The number of jobs currently requiring the attention of Buildings and Works is 4,343.

Answer to Question 924

The number of tenants requiring works to be done to their dwellings is 1,042.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 921 TO 924 OF 2008

HON C A BRUZON:

I notice that in answer to Question No. 569 there are still 47 empty dwellings with no work being done in them at present, that was the answer given in September. Can the Minister say why this is the case?

HON F J VINET:

Yes, I believe that detailed information on this was given by me in answer to Question No. 115 of 2008. The fact that the figure is exactly the same, 47 as was then, simply because those 47 flats are, I am advised, in a state that are beyond economical repair. They are all pre-war properties, which I am told would cost upwards of £2 million to refurbish and repair and we think it represents far more better value for money to spend that money elsewhere. For example, building new rental properties. Without wishing to pre-empt, I would I think assume that if and when that question is asked again in the future, a very similar reply will continue to be forthcoming.

HON C A BRUZON:

There is an upward trend with regard to the jobs requiring attention from Buildings and Works and also there is an upward trend concerning the number of tenants requiring work to be done. Is there any specific reason for this or is it just that that is the way things are? The Minister a few months ago, maybe a year ago, expressed delight that there was a downward trend, now there seems to be an upward trend.

HON F J VINET:

I did qualify that delight at the time by saying that the figures do fluctuate and are seasonal in nature. But I am advised, in particular what I would classify as a slight increase from the number of outstanding jobs and tenants requiring works when the question was last asked in September, is essentially down to the severe storms, recent storms which have meant that there has been water ingress and other issues that had to be dealt with by Buildings and Works.

ORAL

NO. 925 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – FLATS VACATED BY WATERPORT TERRACES PURCHASERS

Can Government state how many Government flats will become empty when Waterport Terraces purchasers, who are currently occupying a Government flat, move into their new homes?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

A total of 50 flats will become empty.

NO. 926 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Can Government state what procedures are currently in place to handle complaints from Government tenants of anti-social behaviour?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Currently a Housing Inspector will visit the site, investigate and assess the cause of the alleged complaint. If the matter can be resolved firsthand, then the Housing Inspector will attempt to tackle the source of complaint. In the event that this should fail, then the next stage will involve the intervention of the Housing Manager who will separately seek to communicate directly with both those alleging the complaint, and the source of the alleged anti-social behaviour. Should this equally fail to resolve the anti-social behaviour, then the Housing Manager will directly write to the source of complaint highlighting the breach in the tenancy agreement. I am advised that this more often than not resolves the matter and that is the end of the matter effectively. However, in the event that this also fails, then the Principal Housing Officer will intervene and may, if necessary, initiate legal proceedings.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 926 OF 2008

HON G H LICUDI:

Is the Minister aware of the sort of figures or numbers involved in which this arises? I am particularly interested in the procedure that has been described, to what extent does it work before reaching that last stage and is the Minister aware of any such legal proceedings which have been instituted as a result, specifically, of a complaint of anti-social behaviour?

HON F J VINET:

I have not been provided with numbers. I know that there have been occasions when there has had to be recourse to legal proceedings, but I am not aware of the specifics of those cases, nor indeed, of numbers involved. Perhaps if a question to that effect is put to me next time I will be happy to provide the information.

HON G H LICUDI:

Is the Minister aware of what the nature of those legal proceedings are? Is it for a breach of the tenancy? Is it for removal of the Government tenancy or is it for any sort of restraining order? What is the nature of the powers that the Principal Housing Officer seeks to apply?

HON F J VINET:

It varies from case to case, depending on what the nature of the alleged anti-social behaviour is. But certainly, it is not the policy of Government to pursue the eviction of a tenant because potentially we are, in effect, giving ourselves the same problem again because that person then becomes homeless and would then have to enter, presumably, the social list. So, eviction is not the course of action pursued by the Principal Housing Officer.

HON G H LICUDI:

So if that is not a remedy, is the Minister aware what actually can be the benefit of the legal proceedings?

HON F J VINET:

The normal sort of remedies that may be sought, injunctions would quickly spring to mind. But the precise nature or extent of what has been achieved through the courts is not information that I have before me. I ought to perhaps add that I think the system in place can be improved upon, and that is precisely why the new Housing Act provides the groundwork, the framework for anti-social behaviour regulations which are currently being considered by Government, and which I hope once implemented will help eradicate, or at least reduce, the number of anti-social behaviour allegations.

ORAL

NO. 927 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING ALLOCATION COMMITTEE

Can Government state how many times the new Housing Allocation Committee has met since the implementation of the Housing Action 2007?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

The new Housing Allocation Committee has met five times, the last of which was just this last Monday 1st December 2008.

NO. 928 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING TRIBUNAL

Can Government state how many cases the new Housing Tribunal:

- (a) Has dealt with and completed,
- (b) Is currently dealing with,

since the implementation of the Housing Act 2007?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

I am informed by the Secretary of the Housing Tribunal, of course the Housing Tribunal is completely separate to the Housing Department, that since the implementation of the Housing Act 2007, they have:

- (a) dealt with 30 cases of which nine have been completed; and
- (b) they are currently dealing with 21 cases.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 928 OF 2008

HON C A BRUZON:

Can the Minister say whether any of these involve the question of anti-social behaviour?

HON F J VINET:

No, I cannot precisely because of the nature of the appeals and who they may be appealing against. I do not wish to concern myself with those appeals and I let the process follow its due course.

HON F R PICARDO:

Does the Minister know and is he able to tell us in how many instances the complaint, or the matter referred to the Tribunal has been upheld by the Tribunal, to use the language of appeal?

HON F J VINET:

No, but I am perfectly happy to seek that information from the Secretary of the Tribunal. I will try to do so before the end of this sitting of Parliament.

HON C A BRUZON:

At the risk of repeating my friend's question but, how binding are the decisions of the Housing Tribunal?

HON F J VINET:

Completely binding, that is precisely the nature of arguments we had several months ago when the hon Member lamented the fact that the Ombudsman no longer was able to deal with the case. Of course, the difference is that the Ombudsman when he investigated complaints, simply came out with the report which was then provided to the Housing Department, but he had no executive powers which the Tribunal has. The Housing Tribunal is able to override and overturn each and every decision taken by the Housing Allocation Committee, by the Ministry for Housing, by the Minister for Housing. So complete power in terms of amending the decision taken before it reaches that stage.

HON F R PICARDO:

The Minister may be entitled to tell me that this is information that is publicly available, but is the composition of the Tribunal also Gazetted? I cannot recall having seen the composition.

HON F J VINET:

Yes, I am happy to provide the names because it is public knowledge. Would he wish me to?

HON F R PICARDO:

xxxxxx

HON C A BRUZON:

Can the Minister confirm that the appointment is made directly by the Chief Minister, the appointments to the Tribunal?

HON F J VINET:

Absolutely, and in direct contrast with the membership of the Housing Allocation Committee, membership of which are appointed by myself, I had no dealings whatsoever, in fact, I was not even consulted and I think rightly so because of the very nature of the appeals process. So I was not involved at all, it is the Chief Minister who under the Housing Act is directed to appoint the members of the Tribunal.

HON F R PICARDO:

Are the appointments to the Tribunal remunerated?

HON F J VINET:

No.

HON F R PICARDO:

For how long is the period of appointment?

HON F J VINET:

I would be guessing, as I say, I have not been privy to the appointment process. I know, for example, in the case of the Housing Allocation Committee it is for two years. I would assume that it is for a similar period but I would simply be guessing. I assume that information is contained in the notice in the Gazette, which I believe appeared in June this year.

HON F R PICARDO:

On 1st July as I understand it. The notice does not appear to state the period of appointment.

HON F J VINET:

I would therefore assume that the prescribed period appears in the Act itself. I am hesitant to provide more information because I have not been involved at all in that process.

HON C A BRUZON:

In the actual Housing Act which was passed with Government majority, under the heading "Housing Tribunal" it says "that the Minister may make regulations under the heading (b) prescribing the fees to be charged in respect of any proceedings before the Tribunal". Is the Minister saying that an average man in the street who has a housing problem and goes to the Tribunal will have to pay for this? Am I completely misinterpreting what it says here?

HON F J VINET:

No, but I would assume that clause in the Act is there to safeguard any possible eventuality in the future but that is certainly not the case at present, nor do I reasonably foresee that happening in the normal course of events.

HON F J VINET:

In answer to Question No. 928, which related to the Housing Tribunal and specifically on how many cases had been completed so far and how many were currently being dealt with, I replied that nine cases had been completed and I recall that it may have been the Leader of the Opposition, I believe, who asked me to explain what the outcome of those nine cases had been, or Mr Picardo, I apologise. I am informed by the Secretary of the Housing Tribunal that of those nine cases that had been completed, on one occasion the original decision of the Housing Allocation Committee was upheld and the remaining eight have been found not to have been covered by the new Housing Act. That is to say, they related to old decisions taken by the previous Housing Allocation Committee, and, therefore, not within the jurisdiction of the Tribunal and had been referred back to Government. I remind the House that there are currently 21 other cases that continue to be dealt with by the Tribunal.

HON F R PICARDO:

The eight cases who had been told that the Tribunal had no jurisdiction, have they been invited to take their matter to the Ombudsman, who would retain jurisdiction, in my view, in respect of those matters?

HON F J VINET:

I have not been informed that is the case, I just had a phone call early this morning, I have not received any reply in writing. What I have been told is that those eight matters have been referred back to Government. I would presume that there is a way round for applicants who may have been dissatisfied with decisions taken by the Housing Allocation Committee prior to the commencement of the new Housing Act. They are perfectly entitled to re-submit applications to the new Housing Allocation Committee, which may or may not take a similar or different view, and if they continue to be unhappy with the decision then they can appeal to the Tribunal. But I am not aware of any specific reference to the Ombudsman.

HON F R PICARDO:

Is that alternative available? Can somebody who has had the Housing Allocation Committee tell them no, simply go again to the Housing Allocation Committee on exactly the same issue, simply because it is a new committee?

HON F J VINET:

Yes, I know, in fact there have been occasions, even irrespective of the commencement of the new Act and the new Housing Tribunal, where prospective applicants have decided to re-submit an application to the Housing Allocation Committee. I would assume, in fact I know that on most occasions, unless there has been a change in circumstances, they will reach the same conclusion. But that is up to the new committee to decide.

HON F R PICARDO:

Does the Minister agree with me though that somebody who had their application turned down by the old Housing Allocation Committee, would have been able and perhaps could still be able to go through the old, one might call it loosely, appeal procedure, which was to go to the Ombudsman and have the Ombudsman look at the issues that concerned that individual about the manner in which the decision had been reached?

HON F J VINET:

I certainly have not been advised to the contrary.

NO. 929 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

DUDLEY WARD TUNNEL

Can Government confirm whether it is now in a position to state when it expects Dudley Ward Tunnel to open for vehicular traffic?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

The situation remains as given in answer to Question No. 505 of 2008 when the same question was asked.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 929 OF 2008

HON G H LICUDI:

The difference is, of course, that this relates to now being December and whether the position has, in fact, changed and whether the Government have taken any steps further to the answer to the previous question, when it was clear that no such steps had been taken. Can the Government state why now in December the position is still the same and there has been no advance after all these months, despite commitments again and again that this matter was being looked at urgently and needed to be resolved?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The Government have not said there has been no progress. The Government have said that the position remains the same. In answer to the question when it expects Dudley Ward Way to open for vehicular traffic, the answer that was given is that it was expected to be opened to vehicular traffic one and a half years after the works commence on the site. That situation remains the same.

HON G H LICUDI:

But that still begs the question one and a half years from an unknown date could be the year 2050. That still begs the question, when realistically the Government expect those works to commence, and therefore, when one a half years hence is expected to be? The public are entitled to know, this is a matter that has been going on for years and years and the Government have made public commitments and it is

entitled to know what the Government's expectations are as to the time scale? Why is it that the Minister is reluctant to give that expectation?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The Minister is not reluctant, he is giving the expectation, one and a half years after the works start. Until we know the start date we will not be able to say what the end date is. That is his answer when he first asked the question and it remains the answer.

MR SPEAKER:

I think I should call a pause or halt to this line of questioning. We discussed yesterday the matter of questions being asked within six months. This question was Question No. 505 of 2008 which would have been at the September sitting. I have allowed the hon Member principal substantive questions plus two supplementaries, I think I would be failing my duty if I allowed this debate to carry on much further.

HON G H LICUDI:

I accept that of course, but I have said that where an insufficient answer or insufficient clarity is given in a previous answer, then as things move on two or three months hence, it is important for the Opposition and for the public to find out whether there have been developments. I note that the answer is that there have been no developments and the Minister still does not know. There will be issues, and I give notice of this now, which relate to the opening of the Dudley Ward Tunnel in relation to a separate question, where I have a separate question later on talking about arrangements where the road is closed and essentially the East Side is isolated, so I may come back to the importance of the Dudley Ward Tunnel opening in the context of that other question.

MR SPEAKER:

As long as the supplementaries do not border upon this line of questioning it would be fair.

HON G H LICUDI:

No, it will relate to the opening of the tunnel but in the context of a different question. So I will be happy to.....

MR SPEAKER:

I am sure you will find a way of getting to it.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

May I suggest to the hon Member that if he wants an answer to the sort of questions he has not been asking but has been talking about in leading up to this question, then he should ask the question in a different way. If he is asking when is it going to be open to vehicular traffic he has been given the answer, but he is now saying he wants to know other things, then he should ask.....

MR SPEAKER:

I am sure the hon Member will..... you can be sure of that.

NO. 930 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLE G82908

Can Government state why it abandoned motor vehicle G82908 at Devil's Tower Road?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Government did not abandon motor vehicle G82908 at Devil's Tower Road. This motor vehicle was removed from Devil's Tower Road by the Royal Gibraltar Police as a result of contravening a temporary No Parking sign that had been placed in the vicinity due to the frontier queues. The vehicle was released by the Traffic Management Division and collected by the Government Department concerned shortly after being impounded. However, due to an administrative oversight and in error, this motor vehicle appeared in a list of motor vehicles that were gazetted for disposal. This error was corrected and the motor vehicle concerned has continued being used as a Government fleet vehicle without interruption.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 930 OF 2008

HON G H LICUDI:

Does the Minister have the dates when the vehicle was removed and subsequently released?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No, I do not have the date but it was a matter of hours. It was impounded and released on the same day within a matter of hours, as short as maybe one hour. As soon as it reached the vehicle compound and the Traffic Management Division realised that it was a Government vehicle, they contacted the Department concerned and the vehicle was collected within hours.

HON G H LICUDI:

The Minister has talked about an administrative error, it is quite extraordinary and perhaps the Minister can explain further how that comes about, because it was not just a question of an official not realising that the vehicle had been removed,

particularly when it was a question of a matter of hours. In fact, on 22nd September of this year the Government published an Official Notice. It says, "Government of Gibraltar Official Notice The Abandoned Vehicles Removal Regulations 2004 First Notice", and the Notice says, "a vehicle listed in this Notice is deemed to have been abandoned" and it requires the reclamation by the registered owner within 14 days. It lists all the vehicles and it has G82908, registered owner Government of Gibraltar, signed Government of Gibraltar. So the Government of Gibraltar were saying, we have abandoned a vehicle and unless the registered owner, that is us, reclaim it within 14 days it will be disposed of. Is this a simple administrative error?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I have heard nothing from the hon Member that changes anything that I have said before.

NO. 931 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

OESCO – SOUND ATTENUATION

How are the works in respect of the “sound attenuation” of the building at Europa Business Park which is presently occupied by OESCO progressing and is the completion date of March 2009 still expected to be met?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

The contract to provide sound attenuation to the building housing the OESCO power station was awarded in early 2008 and works started on site on 14th April 2008. Despite the difficulties surrounding the need to work around a live electricity generation operation, progress continues to be steady and no delays are anticipated to the programmed March 2009 completion date.

NO. 932 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

WIND TURBINE BED OFF EUROPA POINT

Has any progress been made in the assessment of the possibility of the introduction of a wind turbine “bed” off Europa Point?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

The situation remains as given in answer to Question No. 512 of 2008 and the Government will make an announcement when ready to do so.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 932 OF 2008

HON F R PICARDO:

As the House will be aware, Question No. 512 of 2008 was in different terms and it was in the answer to that question that the Minister told me that this was not a question of determining progress of the setting up of such a bed, but the assessment of the possibility of such a bed being introduced. So having told me that it was not a question of progressing to its installation but a question of now being involved in assessing the possibility, what I have asked him now is has he progressed at all the assessment of the possibility. How can the position be the same?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The situation remains as given in answer to Question No. 512 of 2008.

HON F R PICARDO:

The situation in answer to Question No. 512 was that they were assessing the possibility. Have the Government made no progress at all in the process of that assessment? Have they done nothing between September and now?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The answer to Question No. 512 of 2008 was, the project which is still in the assessment stage, in other words, by technical people, has not as yet been considered by Ministers. The question of progress in the introduction does not arise and the situation remains the same.

HON F R PICARDO:

It remains with the technical people, more advanced towards allowing Ministers to make a decision or not advanced in allowing Ministers to make a decision?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The degree of advancement is irrelevant, it has not reached Ministers yet.

HON F R PICARDO:

Has the Minister asked his technical people how goes the assessment?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The technical people report to the Minister on a regular basis and it is not yet at a stage for evaluation by Ministers. The hon Member must remember, as he well knows, that this is frontier science. This is not established generation of electricity and, therefore, the technical assessments are still being made.

HON F R PICARDO:

Well, does he have a date from his technical people as to when he might expect to have a report to consider?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No.

HON F R PICARDO:

Will he seek one?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Entirely unnecessary.

MR SPEAKER:

I think I have allowed enough supplementaries, the hon Member must know that Question Time is not a forensic examination as one would conduct in the trial of a matter, to pinpoint every last detail. The purpose of Question Time is to elicit information and does not have to go into that forensic detail.

HON F R PICARDO:

Sometimes, unfortunately with this Government, we find that we have to go into forensic detail to get to anything that might subsequently be reliable. But of course, Mr Speaker's ruling is his ruling.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I cannot allow that statement to go unchallenged. Having sat on the Opposition benches when questions were not answered to Opposition Members, the hon Member has the cheek to xxxxx this Government which is completely open in its answers. I excuse him because he was not here at the time.

MR SPEAKER:

Order, order, both sides have had their say on the matter.

NO. 933 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

OPEN RUBBISH DUMPS AT TANKERVILLE AND TANK RAMP

What progress has been made in the consideration by Government of new locations identified by the Environmental Monitoring Unit in respect of the open rubbish dumps in the area of Tankerville and Tank Ramp and the “technical difficulties” that have been identified in this respect?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

The first two locations that were considered were Tankerville House front patio and the horseshoe area at the bottom of MacMillan House. Both areas presented bin access via the same steep ramp, causing problems because the undercarriage of the refuse vehicle touched the ground and therefore neither of these areas was found suitable. Two further alternatives were then explored, one of which was discarded as presenting access difficulties by the public. The fourth location has been identified within Tarik Passage car park and this is the preferred option, given its proximity to the present site and good accessibility by the public and the refuse truck. The spacious nature of the site will not interrupt vehicle traffic flow. Plans are currently being prepared for a covered refuse collection facility at this site.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 933 OF 2008

HON F R PICARDO:

Does the Minister know when those plans will be ready for implementation?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No, they will be presented to me when they are ready.

HON F R PICARDO:

Can I urge the Minister to ensure that that happens quickly? I do not know whether he has visited the area recently and, perhaps, if he is going to visit the area to understand the problems that arise, he should visit it on a Sunday afternoon, when he will find that most of Tank Ramp is strewn, literally strewn with litter full of disused household items, disused food, apes that are called to the area as a result of that

rubbish, and if he is concerned about public health, and I take it from his public statements recently that he is, he should understand that if any child were to fall using a bicycle, tricycle or just playing around in that area, he would be surely worse off if he fell in that area now, given the amount of rubbish strewn in the area. So could he as a result of what I have told him and as a result of visiting soon, I hope, to see what it is like, ensure that this is done sooner rather than later?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The hon Member covered all this under his supplementaries to Question No. 521 of 2008 when he offered photographs of the area and Mr Speaker ruled that we were not allowed to see photographs, so I am well aware of the information that he is giving. It is unfortunate that the public continue to deposit rubbish on a Saturday and during a Sunday when there is no collection on a Sunday. But I am aware of the circumstances and as I undertook to do in answer to Question No. 521 of 2008, to deal with this matter as a matter of priority, I am dealing with it as he can see from the answer to the question today.

ORAL

NO. 934 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

APES

How did the actions of the International Primate Protection League fail to meet the “Government’s expectations of goodwill and co-operation”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 935 to 937 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 935 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

APES

Given the content of the Government press release from the Ministry of the Environment of Tuesday 25th November, confirming that it will "continue" to cull apes, will Government now confirm how many apes have been culled in the current calendar year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 934, 936 and 937 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 936 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

APES

What are the aspects of the proposal by the International Primate Protection League for the exportation of Barbary Macaques (instead of their killing under licences granted by the Minister for Environment) which are “tantamount to a contract containing terms which Government cannot accept as preconditions to such exportation taking place”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 934, 935 and 937 of 2008.

NO. 937 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

APES

Given that there has been a proposal by the International Primate Protection League for the exportation of Barbary Macaques (whatever its terms), will the Government now accept that it is pursuing a policy of killing apes not “as a last resort” but as a matter of choice?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

The Government welcomed the offer of assistance made last April by the IPPL to help to arrange exportation of Barbary Macaques from Gibraltar. This offer was made during a meeting between the Minister for the Environment and the IPPL representatives. Also present at this meeting were representatives from GONHS and the Gibraltar Veterinary Clinic who are contracted to the Government to manage the rock apes and to provide veterinary expertise respectively.

The subsequent actions of the IPPL that failed to meet the Government's expectations of goodwill and cooperation were twofold. Firstly, the publication on the IPPL's website of an international petition containing a description or history which is one sided, completely ignores Gibraltar's position and policy as explained to the IPPL during that meeting and contains emotive and inaccurate statements. This petition, which is clearly an embarrassment to Gibraltar and not in Gibraltar's best interests, has received worldwide attention and provoked many letters to the Government, some of which appear to be coordinated by a single source in respect of their content. Secondly, the IPPL sent GONHS as the Government's contractor for macaque management, a proposal for the exportation of 20 monkeys to the Netherlands, which unlike previous occasions when Gibraltar has exported macaques, contains preconditions.

The Government's in principle objection is on the basis that it is not prepared to allow the IPPL or any other entity to set preconditions before cooperating in the exportation of macaques, when these preconditions are in effect an interference with the autonomy of the Government and thus of Gibraltar.

The contents of this proposal were communicated verbally by GONS to the Government. Because of the GONHS explanation to Government of the contents, the proposal was not formally received by Government or considered by Government, and GONHS were asked to go back to the IPPL and ask them to revise their proposal, principally by removing the preconditions. This has not happened, this meaning the removal of the preconditions, and there has been no direct contact

between the IPPL and the Government on this proposal, and no discussions or negotiations have taken place between the Government and the IPPL.

By agreeing to the preconditions in the proposal, the Government would be allowing IPPL to dictate the acceptance by Gibraltar of contractual liability in respect of the following:

- 1) Government policy priorities being decided by the IPPL;
- 2) The allocation of Government funds, employment of personnel and creation of new jobs;
- 3) Giving instructions to the Gibraltar Police Authority in respect of the contents of their Annual Policing Plan;
- 4) The introduction of on-the-spot fines;
- 5) Giving instructions to the Royal Gibraltar Police in respect of the execution of their duties;
- 6) The creation of new Upper Rock facilities;
- 7) The introduction of educational literature in local schools.

The situation in respect of Question No. 935 remains as given in answer to Question No. 520 of 2008.

The IPPL proposal is tantamount to a contract precisely because it is drafted as a contract, requiring the signature of agreement by four parties. Namely, the Government of Gibraltar, the Gibraltar Ornithological and Natural History Society, the International Primate Protection League and the AAP Foundation of the Netherlands.

The Government do not accept the premise of Question No. 937 and reiterate that contrary to the allegation being made by the Opposition Member in asking this question, the Government's macaque population management policy, which has been made public on more than one occasion and which is based on the advice received from those contracted to carry out this policy, that is, GONHS and the Gibraltar Veterinary Clinic, is as follows:

- (a) An on-going programme of contraception of female monkeys to control population growth;
- (b) The relocation to the Upper Rock Nature Reserve of monkeys that take up permanent resident in or near built up areas of human population;
- (c) Exportation, financed by the Government and on conditions acceptable to it, to a suitable destination and a willing recipient;
- (d) As a last resort, euthanizing selected animals within the management selection programme.

The Government reiterate that such euthanizing is, indeed, a last resort when the other three aspects of the policy, that is, contraception, relocation and exportation, are either unsuccessful or not possible. Given that the proposal made by the IPPL is not acceptable to the Government because of the preconditions it contains, then exportation on the basis of this proposal is not possible. Therefore, it follows that culling becomes the last resort.

NO. 938 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

NATURE CONSERVANCY COUNCIL

On how many occasions in this calendar year has the Minister for the Environment or any other member of the Government consulted the Nature Conservancy Council and what has been the result of that consultation?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

The Nature Conservancy Council has been consulted in accordance with the requirements of the Nature Protection Act 1991 on the following matters during the period 2008. Some of these consultations were initiated in 2007 and followed through during this calendar year. In no particular order they are:

- 1) Government engaged consultants in respect of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the proposed new power station at Lathbury Barracks. The Ministry for the Environment instructed the consultants in question to consult the Nature Conservancy Council (NCC). The views of the NCC have been incorporated into the scope of the EIA and the appropriate assessment required under the Habitats Directive.
- 2) The NCC has been consulted by the Ministry for the Environment whenever there has been a need for a licence under that Act for the capture of birds for scientific purposes, such as ringing or the culling of yellow legged gulls or Barbary Macaques. Some of these consultations have occurred prior to 2008 but all the licences which have been issued for these purposes since the Nature Protection Act was enacted in 1991, have always been issued after consultation with and never against the advice of the NCC.
- 3) The NCC was consulted by the Ministry for the Environment on behalf of the Ministry for Enterprise, Development and Technology and on behalf of the Development and Planning Commission (DPC), in respect of two separate planning applications regarding six detached houses at the site opposite Both Worlds on Sir Herbert Miles Road. The DPC has conditioned both applications with the requirement to mitigate any possible effects of the aforementioned developments on the local environment, based on representations from the NCC.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 938 OF 2008

HON F R PICARDO:

How many of the licences referred to in the second limb of the Minister's answer have been issued?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

They are issued on a regular basis, so he can work the mathematics out for himself since 1991. I understand that bird ringing licences are issued every three years and the seagulls and Macaque licences are issued on a yearly basis.

HON F R PICARDO:

Do the licences which are issued on a yearly basis set out how many animals can be killed in respect of each licence or is it a blanket licence?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

It specifies the number.

HON F R PICARDO:

How many seagulls are specified in the seagull licence?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I have no idea.

HON F R PICARDO:

Macaques?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I know but I am not going to disclose that information.

HON F R PICARDO:

The information that we are asking for in respect of this question does not go to national security. It may go to issues which the Minister may or may not be comfortable with, but it certainly does not go to national security. Now how could it be that the Minister refuses to answer a question in this House that does not go to national security?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The Government's position has been made very clear in answer to Question No. 520 of 2008, that they do not consider this subject to be in Gibraltar's best interests for it to be discussed publicly, and that includes the question he is asking now. The Government's position is not going to change, however many times he raises the question.

HON F R PICARDO:

That is obviously not true and I will tell the Minister why.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

On a point of Order, is that not tantamount to calling me a liar?

HON F R PICARDO:

I withdraw that shorthand and I will put it this way. Anybody who listens to the Minister's statement will be misled, he is misleading the public by saying that for the following reason. He answered a question in this House to me at the beginning of this year in the first session, where he told me that it was the Government's policy to continue the process of killing apes. He told me that 20 were going to be killed. In the last House he decided it was no longer in the national interest to tell me how many apes had been killed. Now, surely, the Government have changed their position, it is not true to say the Government will not change their position. The Government have changed their position. He told me in April that he was going to licence, or procure a licence, or authorise under the Act, the killing of 20 apes. That was not in the national interest to be kept quiet, it was not an issue that went to national security. Now he is telling me he will not tell me whether the 20 have been killed, whether less than the 20 have been killed, whether more than the 20 have been killed. What has changed? The fact that the Government have seen that their policy is unpopular? That is not a reason for not answering further questions, that is a party political reason for not wanting to be held accountable for his actions in this House.

MR SPEAKER:

Was there a question over there?

HON F R PICARDO:

Yes, what has changed?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I will tell him what has changed. When the matter was first raised in the House, the Government gave the answer as he has explained. But this has provoked, aided and abetted by the Opposition Member who has been fanning the flames, aided and

abetted by the hon Member who has persistently fanned the flames by deliberately using provocative language like “killing” and “assassination” and emotive words like that.....

MR SPEAKER:

Order, order.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Precisely because it has provoked letters at an international level, precisely because of the reaction that there has been, and not because the Government’s policy is unpopular. I would suggest to the hon Member that he checks on the veracity of the statement that he has just made, that the Government’s policy is unpopular, because I do not think it is, but that is a different issue altogether. Precisely because of the harm that is being done to Gibraltar by the IPPL, and I do not know whether he is, well I will not pursue that line of thought, by the IPPL and the hon Member acting separately, a lot of harm has been caused to Gibraltar by the adverse publicity, much of it untrue, because the publicity seems to say that hundreds of monkeys are being killed and that is not true. Precisely because of that publicity that has been generated, the Government have changed their policy, of course they have. I make no bones about that. Is there anything wrong in the Government changing their policy? I mean, if the Government decide to buy this brand of bottled water today and tomorrow they decide to buy a different brand, that is a policy decision and they can do that without having to give explanations to it. I, nevertheless, am telling the hon Member why there was information given in the first question and since then the Government have changed their position. They have not changed their policy, they have made it very clear that the policy continues when they are advised that this is a last resort, but what the Government are refusing to do, and will continue to refuse to do, is to go down the line of giving information that provides further bad publicity, with the consequences that could arise, as was said in a public statement by the Government yesterday, the consequences that could arise. Therefore, the Government are not prepared to give information that will help that bad publicity to be further generated.

HON F R PICARDO:

There are a number of issues that arise from that and a number of supplementaries, I think, it is important to take. First of all, I want to paraphrase something that was said in another House yesterday, when another Member faced with an onslaught much graver than the one the Minister levels at me, said that an MP acting to affect the national security would be a disgrace, but an MP who is acting to bring the Government to account is actually doing his job. Therefore, I say to the Minister, does he not accept that if he orders killings and the Opposition refer to the fact that he has ordered those killings and that they are going on, the person who is creating a problem for the national interest is the person who is ordering the killing, not the person who says the Minister has told him that he has ordered these killings and I think it is wrong.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Once again, the hon Member uses provocative language and, further, that is not correct. The Minister does not order anything. The Minister for the Environment, as previous Ministers before him, as used to happen in the time of the MOD, the Minister is doing what Opposition Members did not do when they were in Government. It is following the advice of the experts in the field, and the advice of the experts in the field, which has not started this year, has been on-going since the Act came into force, certainly since this Government came into power in 1996, the advice is there. It is clear and is on the website of the GONHS and that is, that under certain circumstances there has to be management of the population of Macaques in Gibraltar. That is very different from the accusations being made by the hon Member of killing or stronger language that he uses in his public statements and in this House. The Minister orders nothing. The Minister follows the advice, when he accepts it, and he is given the advice, he does not order it. The Minister issues a licence permitting those who have the responsibility under contract to manage the population of apes, for them to decide which monkey is selected, for whatever reason, and in many cases, which is something the IPPL and the hon Member completely ignore, in many cases it is for reasons of the welfare of the monkeys themselves. It is for reasons of health of the monkeys. If a monkey has a broken leg or a broken arm, for example, or is injured in any other way, then that monkey needs to be put down, like animals are put down everywhere in the world under those circumstances. That is part of the management plan. So the Minister does not order it, what the Minister does is at the request of those who are contracted to manage the monkey population, he issues the licence for them to carry out whatever measures they need to carry out, at the time that they decide and after choosing a particular monkey that they decide. The Minister has no say in which monkey is selected or for what reason the monkey is selected. So, therefore, it is incorrect to say that the Minister orders anything.

HON F R PICARDO:

The Minister during the course of his intervention changed his tack. Rightly, because as he knows, until the General Laws (Amendment) Act of 2007 last year, it was the Governor that issued the licences, since then it is the Minister with responsibility for the Environment who issues the permits. So it has been actually just since 2007 that a Minister has issued the licences. But I think what is becoming very clear is that the Minister is at least having the courage to stand by the fact that his Government is ordering, or permitting if he prefers, the killing of Barbary Macaques. Before I carry on to the question which follows that, I would just say that those who are against the death penalty in the United States say that they are against the state killing of prisoners. Those who are in favour of it believe that the death penalty involves the euthanizing of those who have been convicted of capital punishment. So, I will stick to killing, he can stick to culling and euthanizing. If he sticks to the fact that he is signing these licences, permitting these killings, would it not be better for the publicity that he says he is so concerned about, to be informed by the numbers that are being killed and if it is 20 it is 20, and in that way deal with the point that he says has been put to him, that hundreds have been killed. Whilst he does not give us the information, those who wish to give Gibraltar bad publicity, if it were the case that that is so, would be able to say, "we do not know how many have been killed because the Minister now refuses to say in Parliament"?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I have already answered that question. Whatever the hon Member says, the Government policy will not be changed. What I will add in answer is that it would appear that whatever is said in this House or publicly, those who are determined to pursue their own line will continue to do so, because when I answered the question on numbers at the beginning of the year, that did not stop the IPPL putting a statement on their website, which did not mention the number, made no attempt to explain why the Government's decision had been made but just said blatantly, I cannot remember the exact wording, I can look it up if the hon Member wants me to, but just said blatantly something like, "the Gibraltar Government is embarked on a policy of killing the Rock apes". That set off a train of letters from concerned people thinking that the intention was to eliminate all the monkeys in Gibraltar, which is obviously not true. So.....

HON F R PICARDO:

Does the Minister know when he will stop? Has he got a figure in his head?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I am sorry I did not understand the question.

HON F R PICARDO:

The Minister said that of course it is not the policy of the Government to eliminate the Rock apes, something which of course I accept. But he will not tell us how many he has permitted the killing of. He tells us he will not permit the killing of all of them, how many will be enough?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Maybe I ought to draw his attention to what his friends in the IPPL think, where they mention on their website, a plan proposed by Professor Robert Martin in 1997. Professor Robert Martin said that the explosion in the population that had been allowed under the previous Government was not good, either for the health of the monkeys or for Gibraltar, and he in his plan proposed a reduction, he Professor Martin, not the Gibraltar Government, proposed a reduction to 180. How he expected the reduction to take place is a different issue altogether.

HON F R PICARDO:

So, given that we were told, I believe in April and recently in a Government press release, that the number of apes now ascends to over 280, I think is the number that I saw quoted in his press release, and that he appears to be going by that advice to get them down to about 100, is he in fact telling the House that he would consider the killing of about 180 animals to be the right amount of animals killed?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No, I have said nothing of the kind.

HON F R PICARDO:

So, what is in the Minister's mind the right figure at which to stop?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Firstly, to correct something the hon Member said, the figure of 280 was not the figure of the current population, it was the figure to which the monkey population had been allowed to grow in 1988 by Opposition Members, not the current figure. Secondly, the plan by Professor Martin, or the proposed plan to reduce the figure to 180, that same figure is reflected in the contract between GONHS and the Government, which goes back to 1999.

HON F R PICARDO:

So does the Minister care to tell us what the ape population is today?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I do not know what it is exactly today, it was 206 at the beginning of the year, at the beginning of 2008. To that figure has to be added of the order of 20 or 30 monkeys born during the year. But the actual population is not established as firm until some time round about now. I do not know exactly what month it is that they decide to do it, so as to allow the newborn apes to either survive or not survive, because many of them do not survive. So, we get the starting figure at the beginning of the year, we know how many births there have been but we do not say the population now is so much until near the end of the year. That figure may already be established but I am not aware what it is.

HON F R PICARDO:

In that case, it seems pretty clear to me and I would be grateful if the Minister would confirm it, that if the target has been, I will go from 1999 which is when the Minister has referred to that agreement, not back to 1997 when he referred to Professor Martin's advice, is a target population of about 180, the population is usually about 206 or 210, he told us when he was answering questions on this issue, that there were in the order of 20 killings a year in order to keep the population more or less at that level and 20 or 30 births a year. In fact, it would not be unfair to say that in the process of nine years, it is a fairly easy calculation to do, 180 apes have been killed. It is in the hundreds.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

It is not a question.

HON F R PICARDO:

Yes, I asked whether he would confirm. I started by saying, “would the Minister confirm”.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I have made the Government’s position very clear. I am not prepared to discuss the actual management of the population of apes in the detail of numbers, that the hon Member persists in posing us questions, because I do not think it is in the interests of Gibraltar. I have told them what the target figure suggested from outside Gibraltar, which he is so fond of asking us to do. I have told him that that target figure is reflected in the contract with GONHS. He should also be aware that that target figure is being pursued by the first three aspects of the Government’s policy which I read out earlier. The first one of these is birth control or contraception of female monkeys, and exportation, which unfortunately has not been possible, although we are still pursuing a number of areas. Generally speaking, the last resort process of euthanizing has not been used for management of the population size, other than in circumstances, which the hon Member is well aware, when they take up residence in an area close to human habitation, as happened in Catalan Bay, and that is the purpose for which it was done and not for control of the population.

MR SPEAKER:

I think we ought to move to another question, unless there is something different in the supplementaries.

HON F R PICARDO:

Well, yes, the Minister knows and I think he accepts, that across the floor of the House we have a general agreement about what are the things that are in the national interest, and that if we agree that things are in the national interest he can count on the Opposition to tell us things in confidence and to keep that confidence. Sorry, the Minister for Education finds it amusing but he will know and his colleagues will be able to tell him, he has never been entrusted with a sensitive portfolio that has that type of information, that he can trust the Opposition with sensitive information on issues of confidential importance. This is an issue where there is a serious policy difference between the Government and the Opposition. The Minister must not think that we do not consider the national interests of Gibraltar are necessary. Can I ask him before I sit down, to reconsider seriously, not just on the grounds that we are on our feet and we are doing battle, and there is an element of one-upmanship which is normal in an adversarial, political process, but can I ask him to consider carefully, away from this House, the fact that actually first of all the national interests of Gibraltar may not be best served by a Government that does not answer questions on this issue, and to reflect which other governments might take this type of line on an issue like this, which involves the killing of sentient animals? I think he will find that he cannot find any government in the western democratic system that might take the same line. I urge him, because of the bad publicity that Gibraltar is getting, and I understand that that is the case, I understand we are getting bad publicity, I think it is because he is authorising the killing of apes. He thinks it is because I am referring to it, that we reconsider and reflect on this issue and to see how we can move forward from the impasse that we have reached.

MR SPEAKER:

There was no question aimed at the Minister for Education, just a remark across the floor of the House so I really do not know whether I should allow the Minister to reply.

HON C G BELTRAN:

The hon Member on a very serious subject feels that I find it amusing. The Minister for Education does not find this exchange amusing, he finds it appalling that the national interest of Gibraltar is something that we cannot really entrust the Opposition Members with. That is all I want to say.

HON F R PICARDO:

That is an absolutely ridiculous comeback from somebody who obviously has not appreciated what it is that we have been talking about for the past ten minutes. Perhaps the Minister for Education should go back to school to pay more attention.

MR SPEAKER:

I think we are now degenerating into the unnecessary. Order then. The last word on this subject by the Minister to reply to the last point.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The hon Member asked me to go away and think again. A lot of thought has been given to this already, so even if I do go back and think again it is unlikely that there will be a change in Government policy. What I will say to him very sincerely in view of his last statement ending with a question, is that I ask myself what is the hon Member really asking for? Because if all he wants to know is the number concerned, then that information was offered to him in answer to a previous question on a confidential basis, and he refused to accept it. So, therefore, if he does not want to know the answer on a confidential basis, then it means that he does not want to know the answer. What he wants is to be able to use the answer to score party political points and to give the Government a bad name and to make others aware so that others can attack the Government. So, he cannot have it both ways, if he wants the information it is available on a confidential basis. He indicated the last time he was not prepared to accept it on a confidential basis that he would use it, so I withdrew the offer and the offer remains withdrawn.

HON F R PICARDO:

I accept Mr Speaker's view that that was the last point. I simply want to say this, the only reason why we would not accept the information on a confidential basis is because we think this is an issue where information should not be passing on a confidential basis, whether it is the killing of a sentient mammal, when we talk about the numbers of killings of sentient mammals, we do not think that is an issue that should be confidential. If we are talking about the revenue from bunkering, or the revenue from another commodity et cetera, those are things where the national interest we agree means that we get the figure on a confidential basis. But the killing

of sentient mammals is not something simply because we might, as the Minister characterises it and I do not accept, use it to hit the Government with, there are plenty of things to hit the Government with. This is a number that I do not think should be a number that is kept secret, for the issues that we have discussed, and I welcome the fact that towards the end of our exchange we have become much more conciliatory about the issues and that the Minister may reflect further on what we have discussed.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I have to make the point again, as will have been seen from the very long answer, which is not typical of my answers I tend to keep my answers short, but the very long answer that I have given to this question and the fact that I have been on my feet now for I do not know how long answering supplementaries on this particular issue, it is clear that the Government are not shying away from providing information on this subject. What the Government perceive to be harmful is this constant bandying about of figures, and if the Opposition Members do not agree that it is against Gibraltar's best interests, well that is their decision and that is their problem. I can tell Opposition Members that I am in a better position to make that judgement, and so are the Government, because I have seen the letters that have come in, I have seen what the letters say and some of the things that are being generated are against the economic interests of Gibraltar, against tourism, against visitors coming to Gibraltar and against Gibraltar's good name. If that is not in Gibraltar's best interests, I do not know what is. It is no good for Opposition Members to say "stop it!". It is all very well for people without having the responsibility for the public health aspects of it and for the other aspects of management of the apes, to make statements like that and say "stop it!" Opposition Members should realise, that this is not a new policy invented by the Government this year, that the first recorded incidence of culling of apes goes back to the nineteenth century, it first happened in the 1890's, the first recorded incidence of it. Indeed, it has happened since then. I would be delighted if the hon Member instead of trying to give publicity to it, were to use his contacts within the IPPL, his contacts are exactly the same as mine, we both met the lady who came, we appeared on the television programme together and we had an informal drink afterwards. So, he will have her visiting card like I do and her phone number. So, if he is genuinely interested in stopping the culling of apes, for purposes when it becomes necessary, and I say again that it is rarely done purely, not that I am aware, for the controlling of numbers, it has been done when other reasons are needed, if he is genuinely interested in that then he should be using his time and his efforts to convince the IPPL to remove those preconditions, of which let me say to the Opposition Members, some of those preconditions are not necessarily bad. They are bad when they become preconditions in a contract, when people say in ignorance of the fact that the Government cannot do it, tell the Police Authority to do this and that, or tell the Police to do this and that, right, but some of those aspects of it are things that the Government are exploring and that the Government are not necessarily against. But what the Government cannot accept is to be asked to sign a contract as preconditions to the exportation of 20 apes.

HON F R PICARDO:

The Minister has told us before that he has not explored the possibility with the IPPL of those conditions, perhaps, not being conditions and being, for example, joint desires in an agreement between the IPPL and the Government, why does he not do what he is suggesting that I do? Pick up the phone to Helen, who he met and knows

as well as I do and as little as I do and say, “well look Helen, for reasons of normal ways that governments do business the world over, we cannot adapt to something that requires us to give conditional warranties in an agreement that we will not do this or that we will do this, can we not come to an agreement that these become joint expressions of desire of what the Government and IPPL want to happen and then we can move on with the exportation?” For example.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

The Government have done exactly that, other than the Minister picking up the phone, which I do not think it is appropriate for me to do. The Minister has said to GONHS exactly what the hon Member is suggesting. I said to GONHS to go back and tell IPPL that these are not acceptable, that if they remove the preconditions we can discuss how to do it. For example, if the suggestions come from GONHS instead of the IPPL it becomes a different issue altogether. But not as preconditions. What has been the answer? The answer has been the issue of a public statement by the IPPL, by this same lady, after being told to remove the conditions, they said “oh no, we are not going to remove the conditions, what do the Government think? The Government have to give an assurance that this will not happen again”. That seems to be the attitude of the IPPI and it is up to them to return not to us.

HON F R PICARDO:

The Minister will accept from what he has told us that he does not know what GONHS told her or how it was communicated. I only impute to GONHS the best efforts and their good offices in trying to bring about an agreement between the Government and the IPPL, but perhaps if the Minister were to pick up the phone. I know that he is a Minister who is not shy of picking up the phone to get things done when it is appropriate. Perhaps if he had done that, then the killing might have been really a last resort in his lexicon, and perhaps even in ours even though we might not agree with it. But at the moment, whilst there is still a phone call that can be made, does he not see why I think that it is proper to think that the killing is not a last resort? Because if there is still a phone call to be made that might bring about an agreement, that might bring about an exportation, that might avoid the killing, it cannot be a last resort.

NO. 939 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

TENDER FOR TRANSPORTATION OF RUBBISH TO LOS BARRIOS

When will the contracts for the transportation of rubbish to the landfill site in Los Barrios be subject to a re-tender?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

The Government currently have no plans to put the contract out to tender.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 939 OF 2008

HON F R PICARDO:

For how long is that contract to continue? Is it an indefinite contract?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Presumably until the Government decide that they have plans to put it out to contract. I thought he was going to ask me for how long the contract has been going on for, I think it started in the year 2000 when the incinerator was closed down. In any case, it is not envisaged to carry on indefinitely because once the new energy from waste plant is constructed, there will no longer be any need to take rubbish to Los Barrios.

HON F R PICARDO:

In the last House, the Minister told us that the waste to energy plant was still at the design stage, or they were still at the stage of going out to get a turnkey contract when it would be designed et cetera, so we are still some years away from that. It may be possible for there to be savings if the contract goes out to tender and others are able to tender for it, and even perhaps the contractor that is carrying it out now is required to tender for it. Why would the Government not want to maximise value for the taxpayer by going out to tender?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Because the Government feel that that value to the taxpayer is already being maximised. Let me tell the hon Member, firstly, that the climate for changing arrangements on anything to do with refuse is not a good one because there have been changes at Mancomunidad level, which any changes could be difficult to achieve. More importantly, since this contract has started, there has been no increase in the fees charged by the contractor other than to pass on to the Government the increases brought in by Los Barrios themselves. But the fees to the Government from the contractor have remained the same since the contract started. The service that is being provided is good and, therefore, the Government sees no reason to make any changes to this position.

ORAL

NO. 940 OF 2008

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 Parliament, giving the event or function attended, the venue, the city and the country visited?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 941, 942, 945 and 947 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 941 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – REVENUE RAISED

Can Government say how much revenue has been raised on a monthly basis since the information supplied at the last Question Time in this Parliament?

- (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 THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 940, 942, 945 and 947 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 942 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – COST OF ATTENDANCE AT WORLD TRAVEL MARKET

What was the cost, with a breakdown, of Gibraltar's participation in the World Travel Market in November 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 940,941, 945 and 947 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 943 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – GIBRALTAR DELEGATION TO WORLD TRAVEL MARKET

How many persons made up the official Gibraltar delegation to the World Travel Market in November 2008 and what posts do they hold?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question No. 944 of 2008.

NO. 944 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – GIBRALTAR STAND AT WORLD TRAVEL MARKET

Can Government list the industry participants that exhibited in the Gibraltar stand during the World Travel Market in London showing what contribution, if any, each of them made to the costs involved?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

It was not clear to me what the hon Member meant by the official delegation, so I have answered the question in this way. Two persons made up the official delegation to the World Travel Market, the Minister for the Environment and Tourism and the Chief Executive of the Gibraltar Tourist Board.

In answer to Question No. 944, the Gibraltar Tourist Board offers a package for the two largest exhibitions it attends, namely, the World Travel Market in London and FITUR in Madrid.

The offer is as follows:

Exhibiting at the World Travel Market only	£1,000.00
Exhibiting at FITUR only	£ 750.00
Exhibiting at both the WTM & FITUR	£1,500.00

Three tourism industry entities participated in the World Travel Market and will also be present at FITUR. Therefore, each contributed £1,500.00. They are the M H Bland Group, The O'Callaghan Elliot Hotel and Parodytur/Parody Holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 943 AND 944 OF 2008

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In respect of Question No. 943 relating to the official delegation, normally the question has been tabled in that way for many years and normally the list that I get is everybody who has gone. That is to say, five people from the Gibraltar Office in London, the whole lot.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

I am sorry, if he writes to me I can give him the information. But that to me, the people who are there are working. Let me put it this way, from Gibraltar the only persons who travelled to the World Travel Market were the Chief Executive of the Tourist Board and myself. Everybody else who was on the stand, and I do not have a list of names, the stand was managed by staff of the Gibraltar Office in London, led by the Director of the Office, Albert Poggio, and they rotated, some were there one day others on different days. That is why I said I was not sure what he meant by the official delegation. To me those are people who are working on the stand they are not part of a delegation official or otherwise. But if the hon Member wants to know who was on the stand and on what days, I presume there is a record of it somewhere and I am quite happy, if he asks me, to give him the information.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

What I want to know is exactly the same information that I have sought when the question has been asked and answered in the past, nothing different.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

Well, obviously he asked it to a different Minister, I did not go back and check what the previous answer had been in this particular case. I read official delegation and I said what does he mean by official delegation? Presumably he means those who went there, other than to be on the stand actually working. I do not consider myself as part of an official delegation, anyway, but I thought that that was what he meant so I provided that information. What I will do if the hon Member wants is go back to the previous question and write to him and give him the details that were there. But I would suggest, for the avoidance of doubt in the future, he asks the question in a different way and asks me exactly what he wants. I have no difficulty in giving him the information but I need to understand what is the information that he is seeking.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

The question had been answered correctly and has been answered in the way in which I used to answer the questions. So there is no real need to go into this further.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

I do remember references being made to staff from the London Office, which the Minister mentioned in his reply, as being included in the answer in the past.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes, but there were times for example, when the Director of the London Office was actually accompanying me to a particular function or particular area, and there were times when he actually formed part of the working team at the stand for a particular event. So, therefore, there were differences as to whether he formed part of the Minister's attendance or whether he did not. Therefore, they were answered depending on the actual event and what actually happened.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

In relation to Question No. 943 of 2008, the Hon Dr Garcia was asking me about what he calls “the delegation” and I was saying that I was not quite sure what he meant. I am now handing over to him a list of the members of the London Office staff who attended the World Travel Market and who were on a roster basis manning the stand.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

I am grateful to the Minister. The reason why I use the words “official delegation” was because there were other people attending belonging to companies, Parodytur and whatever, and that is why I wanted to distinguish between the two. Thank you.

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

But I would suggest, in order to avoid confusion in the future, if he words the question a bit more clearly, distinguishing between visitors like myself and staff manning the stand, then I will be able to provide a clearer answer.

Gibraltar Tourist Board London Office Staff, World Travel Market 2008

In relation to Question 943

London Office

Ian Leyde – Sales Manager

Claire Lerner – Sales & Marketing Executive

Tracey Poggio – Marketing & Public Relations

Dan Lerner – Tourist Information Officer

These members of staff of the London Office managed the stand over the four days of the exhibition on a roster basis.

ORAL

NO. 945 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – COST OF UKGTA MEETING

What was the cost with a breakdown of the UKGTA meeting that took place in Gibraltar on Tuesday 16 September?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 940 to 942 and 947 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 946 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – TOURISM ADVISORY COUNCIL

How many meetings of the Tourism Advisory Council have taken place since the information supplied in the last Question Time in this Parliament and on what dates?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

One meeting has been held on 6th November and another is scheduled shortly, towards the middle of this month.

ORAL

NO. 947 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED

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 the information supplied at the last Question Time in this Parliament, stating where they were interviewed and the number interviewed at each location, and in the case of those who stayed at hotels what was the average length of stay in each case?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

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

Answer to Question 947 of 2008

Answer to Question 940 of 2008

DATES	EVENT/FUNCTION	VENUE	CITY	COUNTRY
19/10/08 To 22/10/08	Gibraltar Day London & Meeting London Office	The Traveller's Club, The Guildhall And The Gibraltar Government Office	London	UK
9/11/08 To 12/11/08	World Travel Market And Marketin Budget Meeting London Office	Excel Exhibition Cetnre London Docklands And The Gibraltar Government Office	London	UK

Answer to Question 947 of 2008

Answer to Question 941 of 2008

MONTH	UPPER ROCK	COACH PARK	MUSEUM
April 2008	£283,838.11	£7,570.00	£1,592.00
May 2008	£309,088.20	£7,530.00	£2,164.60
June 2008	£270,826.06	£6,970.00	£1,103.08
July 2008	£358,329.50	£8,566.52	£1,364.42
August 2008	£401,751.56	£5,740.00	£2,452.40
September 2008	£344,132.11	£9,406.77	Not yet available
October 2008	£311,146.06	£7,473.33	Not yet available
TOTAL	£2,279,111.60	£53,256.62	£8,676.50

Answer to Question 947 of 2008

Answer to Question 942 of 2008

HOTEL & SUBSISTENCE	£2,034.58
TRAVEL EXPENSES	£911.00
REFRESHMENTS & HOSPITALITY STAND	£1,269.80
STAND COSTS	£21,974.70
FLOOR SPACE COSTS	£19,386.78
GRAND TOTAL	£45,576.86

Answer to Question 947 of 2008

Answer to Question 945 of 2008

TRAVEL EXPENSES		£1,233.83
STAFF EXPENSES		£99.29
LUNCH		£93.00
GRAND TOTAL		£1,426.12

Answer to Question 947 of 2008

a) Stayed at Hotel:-

	Total No. of Interviews	Stayed at Hotel	Airport Interviews	Average length of Stay	Frontier Interviews	Average length of Stay	Elsewhere Interviews	Average length of Stay
Aug 2008	1679	19	19	5.6	-	-	-	-
Sept 2008	1099	8	7	6.1	1	2	-	-

b) Not stayed at Hotel

	Total Interviews Not Stayed at Hotel	Airport	Port	Frontier	Waterport	Marina	Coach Park
Aug 2008	1660	86	130	1354	1	14	75
Sept 2008	1091	37	2	1051	-	-	1

* The information in respect of September is incomplete.

ORAL

NO. 948 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EASTSIDE RECLAMATION – REMOVAL OF RUBBLE

Can Government state what was the quantity of rubble removed from the East Side reclamation area in 2007/2008, at what cost and out of which head of expenditure was the cost met?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 949 and 950 of 2008

ORAL

NO. 949 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EASTSIDE RECLAMATION – REMOVAL OF RUBBLE

Can Government confirm whether any rubble has been removed from the East Side in the current financial year and if so how much and at what cost and where has the cost been charged?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Answered together with Question Nos. 948 and 950 of 2008.

NO. 950 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

EASTSIDE RECLAMATION – REMOVAL OF RUBBLE

Can Government provide an estimate of the amount of rubble it proposes to remove from the East Side reclamation in future and over what period of time and what is the anticipated cost?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

In respect of Question No. 948, it is not clear whether this question refers to the calendar years 2007 and 2008 or to the financial year 2007/2008. For the avoidance of doubt, the Government can confirm that no rubble was removed from the East Side Reclamation area either in the calendar year 2007 or in the financial year 2007/2008.

Government can also confirm that approximately 3,400 cubic metres of rubble were removed from the East Side in the current financial year during the major storm experienced in October 2008. The breach of the revetment along Harbour View Promenade led to a situation where action was necessary to prevent continuing erosion of the land behind it. The importation and placement of fill material at the site was the measure adopted in the circumstances, and this was resourced from the East Side, being the only source available at the time. The cost of the removal, transportation and placement at Harbour Views Promenade was £46,000 and has been charged to the Improvement and Development Fund, Head 101 Subhead 5(b) – Rock Safety, Coastal Protection and Retaining Walls.

The Government have no plans to remove any rubble in the future from the East Side reclamation.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 948 TO 950 OF 2008

HON J J BOSSANO:

So the Government are not under an obligation to remove the rubble there in relation to the development of the East Side project?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

No.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Therefore, presumably the rubble will have to be removed for the East Side project, is it then the responsibility of the developer to do that?

HON LT-COL E M BRITTO:

That is my understanding.

NO. 951 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

FEDRA

When does the Government now anticipate that the removal of the hull of the vessel FEDRA will commence and be completed?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY & TRANSPORT

The Government are currently unable to confirm the commencement or completion of the removal of the vessel FEDRA, even though various preparatory works have been on-going since the incident occurred. The Government are presently working with all parties involved to finalise the plan for the removal of both sections.

NO. 952 OF 2008**THE HON G H LICUDI****GIBRALTAR BUS COMPANY – PAYING PASSENGERS TRANSPORTED**

Can Government state the number of paying passengers that were transported and the value of fares from these passengers by Gibraltar Bus Company Limited in the months of September to October 2008?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT**

The number of paying passengers that were transported and the value of fares from these passengers by the Gibraltar Bus Company in the months of September to October 2008 was as follows:

	<u>Passengers</u>	<u>Fares</u>
September 2008	178,909	£75,366
October 2008	191,055	£80,234

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 952 OF 2008**HON G H LICUDI:**

Can the Government say whether these fares collected in each month are sufficient for the company to meet its on-going costs, or whether the Government is called upon on a regular basis to top up the amounts necessary in order to meet the business costs?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No, the income derived from bus fares is not sufficient to keep the company going. But I think, as statements have been made in this House previously, the Government consider the bus service part of their obligation to provide a transport system in Gibraltar, which needs to have Government financial input in order to make it viable, in the sense of a commercial entity. But it is more of a service that the Government wish to provide than an interest in making the company profitable.

HON G H LICUDI:

I understand that that is the position and the intention of the Government, what I am trying to ascertain is how it actually happens, are the Government called upon on a monthly basis to top up the amount necessary? Or do the Government decide on a quarterly basis, or a yearly basis, let us subsidise and does it happen after the event, or funds provided in advance? How is the question of the management of funds.....?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

My understanding is that the Government actually provide, or have provided in the past, funds to get the company going and then this is topped up as and when required. This is a function that is undertaken by the Treasury. Obviously, monthly accounts are provided by the company, in order to justify its requirement and the company is topped up financially as and when the requirement is needed.

HON G H LICUDI:

The topping up of the funds that are needed, is that a question of on-going recurrent cost or do the Government provide periodically lump sums for capital payments?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

It is a recurrent cost.

NO. 953 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

BUS SHELTERS

Can Government state when it expects the repair or replacement of existing bus shelters or the installation of bus shelters at bus stops where there is no bus shelter to take place?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The Government are currently in the process of purchasing bus shelters. The Government will replace existing bus shelters and install new shelters where appropriate.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 953 OF 2008

HON G H LICUDI:

Does that mean that there will be no repair or maintenance to the bus shelters that are currently in a very bad state until that process is completed?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

The Government are currently assessing the time it will take to get these bus shelters in place. Once that is known we will take a decision on the ones that currently exist as to whether they are going to be repaired or not. It depends on whether it is going to take months or longer, as to whether we are going to repair. So we are in the middle of taking that decision and the information should be made available very shortly.

HON G H LICUDI:

I am not sure if I understood from the original answer correctly or not. This is a question of new bus shelters rather than replacement. Are the Government looking at where there are no bus shelters at the moment but where there could be?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes, the whole programme will include replacing all existing bus shelters and also putting in place a number of bus shelters which are needed in certain places where none exist today.

HON G H LICUDI:

Will the process involve the redesigning or replacement of the bus shelter on the wrong side of the road at Market Place?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Well, I do not accept that they are on the wrong side of the road or the wrong way round, but we are looking at it. This is why the process is taking slightly longer because we are looking at a model that will fit the requirements of Gibraltar in a better way than the existing ones have done.

ORAL

NO. 954 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

WEIGHT EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES

Can Government state how many applications for weight exemption certificates were turned down during the period September 2008 to October 2008 giving the reason why each application was turned down?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

No application for a weight exemption certificate has been turned down during the period September 2008 to October 2008.

NO. 955 OF 2008**THE HON G H LICUDI****WEIGHT EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES**

Can Government state how many weight exemption certificates were granted during the period September 2008 to October 2008 giving a breakdown by month?

ANSWER**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT**

The monthly breakdown of the weight and dimensions exemption certificates that were granted during the period September to October 2008 is as follows:

2008	Cranes	Goods Vehicles (Lorries and Trucks)	Motor vehicle designed for excavation or shovelling work	Total
September	8	37	1	46
October	13	40	5	58

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 955 OF 2008**HON G H LICUDI:**

From the answer to Question Nos. 954 and 955 it appears that in September there were 46 applications and all were granted, none of them were turned down and 58 were applied for in October and none of them were turned down. In the past when these questions have arisen, there has been some indication given of the numbers turned down and the reasons why those applications have been turned down. Is it the case that none of the reasons why applications would normally be turned down have arisen in respect of these hundred odd applications, or has there been a change in policy by the Government simply allowing all applications to go forward?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No, there has not been any change of criteria or policy. It is just that all those who applied met the criteria and were given permission.

NO. 956 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

CATALAN BAY ROAD – BLACK SPOT

Can Government confirm whether it will now install sleeping policemen in the area of the black spot at Catalan Bay Road?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The Government have no current plans to do so.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 956 OF 2008

HON G H LICUDI:

Are the Government not aware that this is an area which raises concern on a regular basis? I know there was a recent incident and I do not want to go into that incident because that is a matter for....., I understand it is in the hands of the Police. But do the Government not know that this, historically, has been a notorious spot and that something needs to be done before somebody is killed?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Well, issues such as this are constantly under review. For many decades, including the eight years when the GSLP were in government, it was considered that putting sleeping policemen in the area of the black spot, as the hon Member calls it, was not actually a suitable response to these accidents. However, I can say that this Government have actually tried to improve the situation, not necessarily by sleeping policemen but, on the advice of experts, by re-aligning the road to make it safer and, in fact, five or six years ago, five rumble strips were actually placed as well. I remember at the time, when I had responsibility for transport, that the possibility of sleeping policemen was looked into, and the Government was advised that they should move away from the sleeping policemen situation towards the rumble strips and these rumble strips were put in place at that time. I think this must have been about five or six years ago.

HON G H LICUDI:

Do the Government not accept that this strip does nothing at all other than alert somebody who may otherwise be asleep that they are on the road and there is a bend coming, and anybody who is a prudent driver looking at the road and looking at the bend knows that already. Do the Government not accept that that has been totally ineffective and could they say what their policy is, generally, given that they refuse to install sleeping policemen in this area, which has notoriously been an area of accidents? Particularly having regard to the fact that the new pedestrianised area near the Convent, near Convent Place, actually has one sleeping policeman leading up, from the southern side moving north, to Convent Place. Now that is not an area where, I understand, has been notorious in terms of accidents or speeding or any particular problem, yet the Government have seen fit to place one sleeping policeman there in Main Street and not in a place where accidents occur. Why not?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

These decisions and advice come from the experts in this particular field. The hon Member has pointed out No. 6, but just a few hundred metres away from the black spot, I think near where he lives along Catalan Bay Road, there are sleeping policemen there as well. I think it is to do with the actual characteristics of the road and whether it is felt that sleeping policemen are actually going to help in any way or can be a danger in themselves. As I said, these are things that are constantly under review. For many years those who have been advising the Government, not just this Government but the previous Government, have not felt it necessary for this to happen and thus it has not happened. It may change in the future and, if it does, obviously the Government will give consideration to that advice. But up till now that has not been the case.

HON G H LICUDI:

The Minister has mentioned the installation of sleeping policemen a few hundred yards down the road, and those are in fact the subject of the next two questions, so I do not necessarily want to go into that. But given that the Minister has mentioned it in his answer, does he not accept that in respect of those sleeping policemen we had exactly the same attitude and the same answers from Government? That it was not appropriate, that they were being advised that it should not be done. For years there was a campaign for those to be installed, there was lobbying, there was protest, there were people on the streets in Catalan Bay because of the number of accidents that were occurring. Does the Minister not accept that eventually the Government had to change their minds and accept what was always common sense, and that in fact it has worked?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

The Government in that particular case, and the hon Member is possibly pre-empting some supplementaries on the two questions to come, but I am quite happy to deal with them at this particular moment. Yes, in this particular case along Catalan Bay Road, there has been a reduction in the number of accidents in the area. But having said that, the experts over a period of time came round to the idea that the placing of sleeping policemen was something that was feasible in that area. There may have been lobbying, there may have been all sorts of campaigns in order to do that, but

the experts in this particular field came round to thinking that sleeping policemen was then an option. Therefore, the Government accepted that recommendation and went ahead and did it.

HON G H LICUDI:

Are these the same experts that for years told the Government that it was not appropriate at that place, that subsequently changed their minds and advised the Government that it was appropriate, and who are now advising the Government that it is not appropriate at the black spot?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Considering the time involved, I would have thought that some of these experts would have changed over time. I am sure, I actually do remember some of the original advisers who then subsequently were no longer advisers later, because they had retired and moved on. But, yes, some of them were obviously different people concerned.

HON G H LICUDI:

We have been speaking today specifically about sleeping policemen, do the Government not accept that this is a serious issue? I do not raise this issue to make political capital at all but because it is a serious matter, and I am surprised that we have certain comments from the Minister for Justice, who does not seem to think that this is a matter that ought to be taken seriously.

HON D A FEETHAM:

On the contrary, I just said perish the thought that is all.

HON G H LICUDI:

I do hope that the Government accept that this is a serious matter. If the Government are not currently thinking of installing sleeping policemen, can we have at least a commitment that they will keep this very actively under review, that they will reconsider, that they will ask their experts to review the situation and see whether it is possible to do something? If sleeping policemen are not the answer because it might make the situation worse, for example, and I am not an expert, there must be other solutions which can be brought to bear in order to make the road safe. Do the Government not accept that at the moment it simply is not safe?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I can assure the hon Member that this issue will be and is under constant review, but I can also give the hon Member some hope. This particular area is being looked at yet again when the new Devil's Tower Road thoroughfare is built and the new roundabout that is going in quite near that particular area, and that might have an

impact on the overall area and traffic management in the area. So, definitely, worth considering.

ORAL

NO. 957 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS RECORDED – SIR HERBERT MILES ROAD

Can Government state how many traffic accidents were recorded in the stretch of road from La Mamela Restaurant to the Caleta Hotel since the installation of sleeping policemen on that road?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question No. 958 of 2008.

NO. 958 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS RECORDED – SIR HERBERT MILES ROAD

Can Government state how many traffic accidents were recorded in the stretch of road from La Mamela Restaurant to the Caleta Hotel in the two years before the installation of sleeping policemen on that road?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The installation of the table top speed reduction ramps, commonly referred to as sleeping policemen, along the above mentioned stretch of road were commenced in August 2007 and completed on 13th September 2007. Since the completion of the installation of the table top speed reduction ramps on 13th September 2007, there have been a total of eight accidents recorded by the RGP Crime Management Unit.

Since the two years prior to the installation of these ramps at Sir Herbert Miles Road there were 23 traffic accidents recorded. The above mentioned traffic accidents are recorded as having occurred along the stretch of road known as Sir Herbert Miles Road, which stretches from La Mamela to Both Worlds and not limited to the stretch of road referred to in the question, as information on that particular section is not available.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 957 AND 958 OF 2008

HON G H LICUDI:

The supplementaries that arise were pre-empted in the previous questions.

NO. 959 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

ACCESS TO THE EAST SIDE

Can Government state what arrangements are in place to ensure constant access to or from the Eastside whenever an accident occurs on Devil's Tower Road or Catalan Bay Road?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The stretch of road from the junction of Eastern Beach to the top of Catalan Bay (La Mamela) is Catalan Bay Road. The stretch of road from the top of Catalan Bay to Both Worlds complex is Sir Herbert Miles Road.

The Dudley Ward Tunnel leading from Sir Herbert Miles Road to Europa Point is at present closed to vehicular traffic following a fatal accident in February 2002.

In the event of an accident or rock fall within the above mentioned stretch of road, access to the East Side area for pedestrians and vehicular traffic will be afforded by police and other emergency services, depending on the complexity and seriousness of the incident and its exact location.

There are areas available to the emergency services to afford access to pedestrians and vehicular traffic and for diversions to be put into place, that is, car parks, lay-bys, waste grounds, et cetera.

However, the safety of the public and the preservation of the scene of the serious accident are of paramount importance. On occasions, this may cause some delay in affording alternative vehicular and pedestrian access for residents.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 959 OF 2008

HON G H LICUDI:

This is the question that refers back to Dudley Ward Tunnel having been closed. In the light of the fact that for six and a half years there has only been one access road to the East Side, to Catalan Bay and the Both Worlds area and the recognition that there may be circumstances where, either rock fall or accidents occur and that stretch of road is closed, do the Government not accept that that is in fact a non

acceptable situation, for there to be situations which arise and which have arisen and which lead to the isolation of one part of Gibraltar?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

There have been instances, like a recent serious traffic accident in the area, where I know residents were....., in fact, I was at the Caleta Hotel attending the Liberal Conference and on leaving that I was actually stuck there for a good number of minutes, awaiting the possibility of being able to make my way along Devil's Tower Road. There are occasions when this is the case and, obviously, Dudley Ward Tunnel would assist in this particular case. But one thing that needs to be borne in mind is the fact that when there are traffic accidents, serious ones such as the one that I have just mentioned, I think the police has to take the lead in being able to assist, where possible, and there may be circumstances like there was on that particular night, when the preservation of the scene of the accident was paramount, and therefore, the movement of vehicles et cetera that were in the middle of the road and not being able to allow the flow of traffic, was of paramount importance as a priority. In a best case scenario, having Dudley Ward Tunnel open would have assisted in these circumstances but, as we know, this is a project which will hopefully soon be seeing the light of day and this will problem will be alleviated as a result.

HON G H LICUDI:

As the Minister knows, we are no wiser today than we were three months ago or six months ago as to when that project is actually going to see the light of day, as a result of the continuing, what we would suggest, is inaction. Certainly the perception is inaction, although I am sure that some work is being done. Does the Minister not accept in the light of his comments, I am not suggesting that the police should not be able to do their work, there may be circumstances when it will be absolutely necessary, but the practical consequences will be that isolation, in the circumstances, is it not recognised by the Government that there is an absolute urgent need for this to be looked at? Particularly since it has been dormant, not dormant but left for six and a half years and we certainly do not detect and the perception seems to be that there is a lack of urgency? Do the Government not accept that in the light of, again this incident which has led to the isolation of part of the community, that there is that real urgency? Do the Government not further accept that in the light of reports that certain tourists staying at the Caleta Hotel were also caught up in this incident and were not able to make their flights, where tourists missed their flights because of an area of Gibraltar being isolated, do the Government not accept that that is not good for the good name and reputation of Gibraltar as a tourist destination?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes, in an ideal world I agree with the comments he has made.

HON G H LICUDI:

Perhaps an ideal world will be one where the government changes and we are in government.

NO. 960 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

PROPOSED PARKING ARRANGEMENTS – RED SANDS ROAD/ROSIA ROAD

Can Government state whether it is having second thoughts over the proposed parking arrangements at Red Sands Road and Rosia Road?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

No Sir.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 960 OF 2008

HON G H LICUDI:

Is there any reason why the signs which were erected in respect of the new parking arrangements, and people were informed about the new parking permit system, those are still covered and the arrangements have still not come into place?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Well, the notice in the Gazette in order to bring about the legality of the new system should actually be published today. Some of the delay has been as a result of the fact that when the Government demarcated the areas that were going to be allocated, the committee or the leaders of the committee of the Alameda Estate Association came up with some suggestions for changing some of these, especially along Rosia Road for practical reasons, and we agreed that their suggestions made more sense to those that live in that area, so it was a matter of going back to the drawing board in terms of creating new sketch maps et cetera, in order to be able to Gazette the whole thing again. As I said, my understanding, because this is a matter I have been following up with the Legislation/Gazette publication, is that this would be Gazetted today.

HON G H LICUDI:

In the light of that answer it does appear that the Government have been having second thoughts, not necessarily as regards their general policy, but second thoughts as regards the implementation and how it actually works.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

There have been no second thoughts at all. I mean, the scheme was decided upon, the Alameda Estate Association had various meetings with me to put the scheme together, the Ministry for Housing who actually administer the permits et cetera, put all the systems in place, the Highway Engineers put in place all the signage that was relevant, but in order to make all this legal it needed to be Gazetted in order to bring about the relevant regulation for the system to be valid. When everything was ready for publication, the tenants came back saying that rather than have the public parking at this end of Rosia Road, could they have it at the other end because the steps leading up to the estate actually are at the north end of the estate and the bus stop is also at this end, so really for the Government it was irrelevant whether the public parking was at the north or the south end, and given that it made practical sense why this thing should change, it was accepted and we had to go back and do the whole exercise again. So there have not been any second thoughts about it.

HON G H LICUDI:

Can the Minister explain why it was necessary to do the whole thing again? If the Government had had their ears to the ground, if the Government had consulted with the right people at the right time, there would not have been any necessity to do the whole thing again. Can I remind the Minister that the last time that I raised the issue of these parking arrangements, the answer was given by the Minister for Housing who apparently was not aware that concerns had been raised by the tenants association, apparently was not aware that the tenants association leaders had come out publicly saying this will not work, and it was clear that there had not been that consultation. Why is it that this Government do things backwards? Why do they not consult the people, the right people at the right time and get it right the first time as they should? Rather than waste taxpayer's money.

HON F J VINET:

If I can clarify. Those alleged concerns that were raised by the hon Member last time do not in any way relate to the specific demarcated areas that are currently part of the public highway and will become part, essentially, of the estate. Those concerns, if there have been any, related to the actual arrangements in place. For example, there are two possibilities which were made available to the tenants association, not only the Alameda Association but also Laguna, Glacis and other estates. The possibility of granting one parking permit per household or one parking permit per authorised tenant who happens to have a vehicle. Those were the two options and that is where there may have been divergence of opinions expressed within the tenants associations. But the option that Government went for was the one the majority of tenants actually preferred. There was no notion whatsoever of any concerns expressed as to where those parking bays ought to be located.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I would just like to add to that. On the accusation of lack of consultation, I can say that I met the Alameda Estate Association on a number of occasions, they have had full input into the scheme, and so much so that at the eleventh hour they came back with another suggestion, which meant further delays, as a result of having their input and having consulted them. If I had not consulted them then there would not have

been the need, the system would have been up and running to the Government's estimation long before.

HON G H LICUDI:

That is certainly not the perception that we have had when people come out in public and say that this will not work, it does not give the impression that this is being done by agreement and in consultation with them.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

The Opposition cannot always believe everything everybody tells them by the look of things.....

MR SPEAKER:

I will not comment on that but, with respect, there should be questions rather than a final statement.

NO. 961 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

CAR PARKING – SPACES LOST AT WILLIS’S ROAD

Can Government state how many parking spaces have been lost on the public highway as a result of the construction of the new car park at Willis’s Road?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

A total of nine spaces have been lost from the public highway along the stretch of Willis’s Road from Hayes Level down to the junction with the new road, arising from the need to maintain a two way traffic flow and provide access to the new car park. However, it must be pointed out that due to the implementation of the new one-way system down Willis’s Road, a total of 20 parking spaces have in fact been gained from the junction from Tank Ramp to Arengo’s Palace junction. This, therefore, represents a net gain of eleven parking spaces on the public highway in this area.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 961 OF 2008

HON G H LICUDI:

As I understand the position, those additional parking spaces that the Minister refers to have not actually become available, they are still marked as no parking. In other words, the gain, that gain, has not been implemented whereby the loss has in fact been lost, even though there is a new car park with additional parking spaces. Can the Minister confirm that?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Is the hon Member referring to the Willis’s Road section? I will have to look into that. I was under the impression that if there are any road markings that should not be there, these should have been removed but I will have to get back to the Highways Section and point that out to them.

ORAL

NO. 962 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR AIRPORT – OCCURRENCE REPORTS

Can Government say how many mandatory occurrence reports have been raised in relation to incidents at Gibraltar Airport since the last Question Time in this Parliament, with a breakdown giving the date of the incident, the name of the airline and aircraft involved, and a short description of each case?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

I now hand the hon Member a schedule with the information requested.

SCHEDULE TO QUESTION 962

MANDATORY OCCURRENCE REPORTS

Gibraltar on 1st September 2008 to 25th November 2008.

Compiled by Air Safety Support International, 26th November 2008.

Date	Airline/Aircraft	Brief Description
26 th September 2008	IBERIA/A319	Aircraft taxied onto runway without clearance
16 th October 2008	Military	Airport vehicle enters runway shoulder without clearance
19 th October 2008	EASYJET/A320	Executed go-around, airport vehicle broken down on manoeuvring area
4 th October 2008	EASYJET/BA/NETJETS A320/B733/F2TH	Departures delayed due to 'kite surfer' activity
4 th October 2008	NETJETS/H25A	Aircraft delayed due to 'breakthrough' of Talkdown RT frequency onto Tower RT frequency
6 th November 2008	MONARCH/A320	Runway 'worker' on taxiway without clearance
19 th November 2008	EASYJET/A320	Interference between RT frequencies created ATC coordination confusion and almost caused failure to pass flight safety message

NO. 963 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR AIRPORT – SHUTTLE AND TERMINAL BUSES

Can Government say what was the cost of operating the Gibraltar Airport shuttle bus to and from La Linea and the smaller buses that operate between terminals on a monthly basis since the information supplied at the last Question Time in this Parliament?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The monthly cost of operating the Gibraltar Airport shuttle bus to and from La Linea is as follows:-

August 2008	£2,750
September 2008	£2,200

NO. 964 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR AIRPORT – SHUTTLE BUS SERVICE

Can Government say why the shuttle bus service at the airport run £24,750 over budget as per statement of reallocation No. 4 of 2007/2008?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

As this was a new service that was being provided, it was not possible to give an exact figure as to how much this service would cost. Therefore, a token provision of £100,000 was put into the estimates to cover the cost of this service.

The quoted statement of reallocation No. 4 of 2007/2008 of £24,750 refers to the actual outturn of the particular subhead after savings from other subheads were vired to cover the deficit.

NO. 965 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR AIRPORT – FLIGHTS TIMETABLED AND CANCELLED

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 (British Airways);
- (b) London Gatwick (Easyjet);
- (c) London Luton;
- (d) Madrid (September 2008);
- (e) Manchester,

since the information supplied at the last Question Time in this Parliament?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

I now hand the hon Member a schedule with the information requested.

SCHEDULE TO QUESTION NO 965

			SEPT	OCT	NOV*
a)	London Gatwick (BA)	TIMETABLED	30	31	24
		CANCELLED	0	1	0
b)	London Gatwick (EZY)	TIMETABLED	67	61	42
		CANCELLED	0	0	0
c)	London Luton	TIMETABLED	29	30	23
		CANCELLED	0	0	0
d)	Madrid	TIMETABLED	8	-	-
		CANCELLED	1	-	-
e)	Manchester	TIMETABLED	7	14	10
		CANCELLED	0	0	0

* Up to 24th November 2008

ORAL

NO. 966 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR AIRPORT – FLIGHT DELAYS

Can Government say how many flights from Gibraltar to the following airports were delayed by more than half an hour on a monthly basis:

- (a) London Gatwick (British Airways);
- (b) London Gatwick (Easyjet);
- (c) London Luton;
- (d) Madrid (September 2008);
- (e) Manchester,

since the information supplied at the last Question Time in this Parliament?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question No. 973 of 2008.

NO. 967 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR AIRPORT – TRANSIT PASSENGERS FROM MADRID

Can Government say, of the passengers who arrived in Gibraltar by air from Madrid in September 2008, how many were deemed to be in transit through Gibraltar and how many stayed in Gibraltar?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

A total of 561 passengers arrived in Gibraltar by air from Madrid in September 2008. A total of 112 stayed in Gibraltar. The remaining 449 were in transit through Gibraltar.

ORAL

NO. 968 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR AIRPORT – BUS FROM LA LINEA FOR DEPARTING PASSENGERS TO MADRID

Can Government say how many departing passengers on the flight from Gibraltar to Madrid arrived at the air terminal on the bus from La Linea in September 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT

A total of seven departing passengers on the flight from Gibraltar to Madrid arrived at the air terminal on the bus from La Linea in September 2008.

ORAL

NO. 969 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

**GIBRALTAR AIRPORT – BUS TO LA LINEA FOR ARRIVING PASSENGERS
FROM MADRID**

Can Government say how many arriving passengers on the flight from Madrid to Gibraltar boarded the bus to La Linea after landing here in September 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT

A total of 18 arriving passengers on the flight from Madrid to Gibraltar boarded the bus to La Linea after landing here in September 2008.

ORAL

NO. 970 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

**GIBRALTAR AIRPORT – PASSENGERS CARRIED BY AIRLINES ON
GIBRALTAR/MADRID ROUTE**

What was the total number of passengers carried by airlines on the Gibraltar-Madrid route, showing inward and outward bound, in September 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT

The total number of passengers carried by airlines on the Gibraltar-Madrid route in September 2008 were:-

Inbound	561
Outbound	515

ORAL

NO. 971 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

MARITIME/AIR LINKS WITH MOROCCO

Can Government say whether they have received any expressions of interest from any ferry operator or any airline interested in reopening maritime or air links between Gibraltar and Morocco?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT

No Sir.

NO. 972 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

AIRLINES INTERESTED IN FLYING TO GIBRALTAR

Can Government say with how many airlines interested in flying to and from Gibraltar it is currently in discussion?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Government continue with their contacts and discussions with a number of airlines. It is not possible to provide any further information at present.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 972 OF 2008

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can the Minister say why exactly it is not possible to provide a number which has been provided in the past?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

If I provide a number then all sorts of expectations are created. I can tell him that in the last say, few months, we have had contact, correspondence and exchanges with 24 different airlines. If that helps him, but I do not think that I want to go any further than that at this stage.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can he say, I think there is a difference between, perhaps, an enquiry or actual serious negotiations are now being conducted because they are considering flying here. Is it possible to differentiate between the two? Can he differentiate between the two, between sort of general enquiries and serious negotiations?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

As a rough figure, I do not want to go through the list now and start analysing whether it is a serious one or not, but I think serious we are probably talking ten.

Others were at an early stage where we have still not had any personal meetings. Others are at the end of our discussions, in the sense that the contacts still continue but, as we know, airlines take time to take decisions and in the current world economic scenario they may want to sort of delay decisions for another six months or whatever. So there are different stages under which the contact or the negotiations, or discussions are with the different airlines. But there are 24 active files open.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Would it be possible for the Minister to say whether any of these airlines will open new routes which are not presently served, to new countries which are not presently served?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Absolutely, 90 per cent of them are non-UK, 90 per cent or even over that.

ORAL

NO. 973 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR AIRPORT – DELAYED FLIGHTS

Can Government provide a breakdown between airlines of the figures supplied to this Parliament in relation to flights between Gibraltar and London Gatwick which were delayed by more than half an hour as from the date when Easyjet and British Airways commenced on the route earlier this year?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

I am now handing the hon Member a schedule with the information requested.

ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 973

SCHEDULE TO QUESTION NO. 966

			SEPT	OCT	NOV*
a)	London Gatwick (BA)	TIMETABLED	7	4	0
b)	London Gatwick (EZY)	TIMETABLED	13	4	0
c)	London Luton	TIMETABLED	7	2	1
d)	Madrid	TIMETABLED	4	-	-
e)	Manchester	TIMETABLED	2	0	0

* Up to 24th November 2008

SCHEDULE TO QUESTION 973

	EASYJET	BRITISH AIRWAYS
March	1	0
April	3	2
May	10	7
June	20	4
July	15	9
August	15	10

NO. 974 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION – SALARY

Can Government confirm what is the salary of the Director of Civil Aviation and on what date was it first paid?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

A Director of Civil Aviation has not yet been appointed since the Civil Aviation Act 2008 has not yet been enacted by Parliament. The post of Director of Civil Aviation will attract a salary of £82,500 per annum paid monthly in arrears. The Government have employed a person as Director of Civil Aviation designate since September 2008.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 974 OF 2008

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is it possible for the Minister to say whether there is any perk attached to salary, in terms of tax concessions, or in terms of residential premises or anything of that nature?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No, I am not aware of any perks.

NO. 975 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

FEDRA

Can Government say whether the investigation by the Gibraltar Maritime Administration into the Fedra accident has now concluded and if so with what results?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The investigation into the FEDRA incident is on-going and the results will not be known for some time.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 975 OF 2008

HON DR J J GARCIA:

On the same subject, in relation to the New Flame investigation, can the Minister say how that one is proceeding?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Yes, the New Flame investigation is almost at its conclusion. However, for the sake of those who may not be aware, these investigations do take time. It is not a matter of writing out a simple report. There have to be interviews carried out with personnel of one vessel, or in the case of the New Flame the two vessels involved. There has to be communications with the flag ships of the different vessels themselves, and these things do take time. So, we are talking maybe not a year but definitely close to a year for any of these investigations to actually be concluded.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Once they are concluded will the same procedure be used in making them available as has been used in the past with other investigations?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Absolutely, the procedure is to post them. We need to report them to the MCA and various international organisations and they are actually posted on our website as well, as has been the practice in the past.

NO. 976 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

STORM DAMAGE TO THE CRUISE TERMINAL

Can Government say what was the estimated cost of the damage to the Cruise Terminal, the pilot's mess and the port authority rest area during the storms in October?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The true estimate of costs of the damage to the Cruise Terminal, pilots' mess and port authority buildings cannot be given at this time. A full structural assessment and an estimate for replacement costs for buildings have not yet been completed, and old for new replacement costs have to be established. Having said that and for the sake of the public, the buildings are considered safe. At least the Cruise Terminal has been assessed and is considered safe. However, the costs expended to date are in the region of about £300,000, but that is excluding any structural remedial works which we can see will have to be done in certain parts, not necessarily the Cruise Terminal building but definitely in some of the other buildings in the area.

ORAL

NO. 977 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

SHIP CALLS

How many ships have called at Gibraltar since the information supplied at the last Question Time in this Parliament 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 ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

I now hand the hon Member a schedule with the information requested.

SCHEDULE TO QUESTION NO. 977

SHIP CALLS SINCE SEPTEMBER 2008 INCLUSIVE

	September	October
(a) Bunkering	516	560
(b) Cargo	16	21
(c) Repairs	13	18

BUNKERS SOLD (TONNES)

September	October
360,618	348,403

ORAL

NO. 978 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

BUNKERING LICENCES

Can Government say whether any new bunkering licences have been issued, or whether any application for such a licence has been made since the last Question Time in this House?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT

No new bunkering licences have been issued nor has there been any application for such a licence since the last Question Time in this House.

ORAL

NO. 979 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

CONFERENCES SPONSORED OR CO-SPONSORED BY GOVERNMENT

Can Government list the conferences that they have sponsored or co-sponsored, both in Gibraltar or elsewhere, since the last Question Time in this Parliament, showing the dates when the conferences were held, the cost and the department that was most directly involved?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The EUCARIS conference that took place in Gibraltar from 30 September to 2 October was sponsored by the Government and was hosted by the Department of Transport. The cost of this conference was £14,052.93.

ORAL

NO. 980 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETINGS

How often and what dates have the following met since the information supplied at the last Question Time in this Parliament:

- (a) the Port Advisory Council;
- (b) the Business and Commerce Advisory Council;
- (c) the E-Business Advisory Council?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The Port Advisory Council, Business and Commerce Advisory Council and E-Business Advisory Council have met once on the 9th October 2008 since the information supplied at the last Question Time in this Parliament. In fact, they were due to have another meeting of all these things today, but it has had to be postponed as a result of the House.

NO. 981 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

EU FUNDING APPLICATIONS

Can Government list the parties who have applied for:

- (a) EU funding;
- (b) Gibraltar Government funding;

since the last Question Time in this Parliament, indicating the amount of funding 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 ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

I hand over to the hon Member a table containing the information requested.

SCHEDULE TO QUESTION NO. 981

ERDF C&EO 2007-2013 PROGRAMME

Project No.	Sponsor	Status	ERDF	GOG	Purpose of Grant
2	Computer Repairs	Active	£9,510-00 (15%)	£9,510-00 (15%)	Renovation Works.
3	Mons Calpe Suite Renovation	Active	£74,351-68 (13%)	£74,351-68 (13%)	Building & Renovation Works.
4	Atlantic Fitness Club	Active	£73,620-86 (15%)	£73,620.85 (15%)	Building Works, Purchase of Equipment, Marketing & Website.
5	Health & Safety Services	Active	£26,772-25 (15%)	£26,772-25 (15%)	Renovation Works, Purchase of Equipment, Import Duty & Freight Charges.
6	Photo Finishing	Active	£2,070-39 (15%)	£2,070-39 (15%)	Equipment, Software, Advertising & Import Duty.

ESF C&EO 2007-2013 PROGRAMME

Project No.	Sponsor	Status	ESF	GOG	Purpose of Grant
5	CTC Intake 13	Active	£41,577 (50%)	£41,577 (50%)	Training
6	CTC Intake 14	Active	£72,351 (50%)	£72,352 (50%)	Training
7	EmpAssist	Active	£10,400 (50%)	£10,400 (50%)	Technical Assistance for Employment Agency

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 981 OF 2008

HON DR J J GARCIA:

In relation to Question No. 981, the answer has been given, it says Sponsor and then there are various items like computer repairs, Mons Calpe Suite Renovation, are those the names of companies? Where is the name of the company that received the EU funding?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I am afraid he is right, the names of the companies are not shown, but I can give them to him because I have them here because I asked for a copy of all the relevant programmes application summary. Project 2 is Newton Systems Limited which is in respect of computer repairs. Project 3, which is the Mons Calpe Suite Renovation, is MH Bland. Project 4 is Atlantic Suites Health Club, which is Atlantic Fitness Club. Project 5 is HSE Consulting Limited and Project 6 is actually Photofinish Limited. My apologies for that.

ORAL

NO. 982 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DPC MEETINGS

How many meetings of the Development and Planning Commission have taken place since the information supplied in the last Question Time in this Parliament and on what dates?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The Development and Planning Commission has met on three occasions since the last Question Time. The dates are, on 29th September, on 8th October and 5th November.

NO. 983 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

MINISTER'S RECUSAL FROM PLANNING PERMISSION APPLICATIONS

Can Government say on how many occasions in 2006, 2005, 2004 and 2003 the Hon Minister with responsibility for planning and development recused himself (or declared an interest and not participated in discussions or voted) from the consideration of any application for planning permission?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT

As Chairman of the Development and Planning Commission, I have recused myself (or declared an interest and not participated in discussions or voted) as follows:-

2003	-	none
2004	-	1
2005	-	2
2006	-	none
2007	-	4
2008	-	7

I would just like to point one thing out for the sake of accuracy, that is that in respect of 2007/2008 all the minutes are in a database and, therefore, one can easily pinpoint by the name if I have declared an interest or not. In respect of 2003, 2004 and 2005 we actually had somebody, in trying to provide an answer, going through all the minutes and all the records of DPC to see. So they may not be 100 per cent reliable in that we are depending on the sort of exercise of having a person physically going through all the minutes. So I am giving this in good faith rather than say it is an insurmountable task to give the information. But that is what was produced.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

I am grateful to the Minister.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

In case you come out later and say ah you told me two but really there were three.

ORAL

NO. 984 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PLANNING PERMISSION – 45 ENGINEER LANE

Can Government say how many representations have been received by the DPC in respect of the application for planning permission by Crestfield Properties Ltd for 45 Engineer Lane?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Four representations have been received in respect of properties by Crestfield Properties Limited of 45 Engineer Lane.

ORAL

NO. 985 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

MINISTER'S RECUSAL FROM PLANNING PERMISSION APPLICATIONS

Given his answer to Question No. 624 of 2008, how many different applications were involved in the 11 occasions since 2007 that the Hon Minister with responsibility for planning and development did not participate in discussions or vote in the DPC?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question No. 986 of 2008.

NO. 986 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

MINISTER'S RECUSAL FROM PLANNING PERMISSION APPLICATIONS

How many of the different applications which related to the 11 occasions since 2007 referred to in answer to Question No. 624 of 2008 that the Hon Minister with responsibility for planning and development did not participate in discussions or vote, were approved, denied or are still pending?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT

There were 11 different applications. All 11 applications have been approved by the Development and Planning Commission, obviously not necessarily straightforward, but maybe with conditions and caveats to them.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 985 AND 986 OF 2008

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Could he list the 11 applications, does he have that information available?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

It is from extracts of minutes. The 11 were....., what sort of details does the hon Member want? The building application number and who they were in respect of?

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Yes.

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

BA 10612 – 12 Admiral's Place, which happens to be my sister's residence.
BA 10561 – 20 Line Wall Road , this is in respect of some scheme in Capurro's garage, who happens to be my brother-in-law.
BA 10717 – 57 Devil's Tower Road, I think it is a plot of land associated with my brother-in-law as well.

BA 10778 – 20 Line Wall Road, another brother-in-law. Unfortunately, I have got five sisters, so.

BA 10840 – 1B Tuckey's Lane, that is my brother, without the law.

BA 10058 is actually Gibtelecom, where as Chairman, I have for some time always declared an interest. Although it is not strictly speaking the case, but I have declared an interest as Chairman of Gibtelecom.

BA 10862 is Mount Pleasant, again, Gibtelecom.

BA 10860 – 16 Windmill Hill Flats, Lathbury, that is Gibtelecom again.

BA 10872 – Mount Pleasant, Gibtelecom.

BA 10816 – Lathbury Barracks, GibElec Authority, again, I am the Chairman of the Gibraltar Electricity Authority.

BA 10880 – Mount Pleasant, South Barracks Road.

ORAL

NO. 987 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

MOUNT BARBARY – BA 10941 (PARTIAL DEMOLITION)

Can Government describe what part of Mount Barbary in Mount Road the present owners were authorised to demolish by the DPC in relation to application number 10941?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Under BA 10941 in respect of Mount Barbary in Mount Road, the partial demolition of the property was approved by DPC on 7th August 2008. However, a Demolition Permit has not been issued since some of the technical matters associated with the application had not been completed. Since then the application has been withdrawn by the applicant who has submitted a new application for the full demolition of the building. This new application has not yet been considered by DPC.

ORAL

NO. 988 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PLANNING APPLICATION – AKS ARCHITECTS - 47 LINE WALL ROAD

Can Government say with respect to the planning application by AKS Architects to construct a new office development at 47 Line Wall Road:

- (a) how many representations have been received by the DPC;
- (b) whether planning permission has been granted and if so on what date?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

A total of six representations have been received, one of which was on behalf of ten persons. This project is currently going through the planning process and so planning permission is still under consideration.

ORAL

NO. 989 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DPC – APPLICATIONS FOR 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 this Parliament, 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 ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

I now hand the hon Member a schedule with the list of applications received between 18th September and 25th November. For each application the decision, applicant's name, description and site address is given.

SCHEDULE TO QUESTION 989

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BETWEEN: 18/09/08 AND 25/11/08

<i>App No</i>	<i>ApplicantName</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>SiteAddress</i>
10988	Duncan Quigley	Internal alterations and alterations to façade.	Pending	81 Cloister Building Irish Town
10989	Mr R J Labrador	Proposed car port.	Pending	35 John Snow House Europa Road
10990	Breckland Trading Co. Ltd	Proposed internal alterations to convert existing residential maisonettes into offices to include minor demolitions and minor structural additions.	Approved	7/9 Cornwallis Lane
10991	Mr & Mrs A. Cortes	Proposed construction of a pool.	Pending	5/1 Naval Hospital Hill
10992	Gibtelecom Ltd (Fixed Network	Proposed manhole and ducting works.	Approved	Post Office Sort Depot Car Park Mons Calpe Road
10993	Monaco Ocean Village Ltd	Proposed office fit out.	Pending	Suite D 2nd Floor Leisure Island Ocean Village
10994	Princess Prop. Ltd, Plaza	Proposed conversion of existing wash-house into a bed-sitter.	Pending	8/8 Crutchett's Ramp
10995	Matthias Wennich	Proposed office refurbishment.	Approved	751 Europort
10996	Mr Peter Cabezuto	Proposed building and extension to B.P. Petrol Station/Yacht terminal.	Pending	1B Waterport
10997	Mr Sean Johnson	Proposed refurbishment and minor structural alterations including a new terrace and mezzanine floor.	Pending	Cable car top station Signal Station Road
10998	Mr & Mrs M & S Morello	Proposed fitting new window in place of glass blocks.	Approved	24/1 Scout Hill
10999	Sue West	New lift and side door entrance for disabled access	Pending	The Convent Main Street
11000	Crestfield Properties Ltd	Conversion of 3 houses, extended to create 8 apartments with 4 additional garages and storage.	Pending	45 Engineer Lane
11001	Jamin Ltd	Canopy cover, roller shutter for side and roof cover for front terrace	Pending	19 The Sails Ocean Village Promenade Ocean Village
11002	Colin Vaughan	Existing garage refurbishment	Pending	Garages Red Sands Road
11003	Mr & Mrs Damian Conroy	Proposed conversion to combine two flats into one.	Pending	83/84 Rosta Dale

26 November 2008

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<i>App No</i>	<i>ApplicantName</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>SiteAddress</i>
11004	D J Mosquera Riba	Proposed fit out of newly constructed office accommodation.	Pending	4/1, 4/2 & 4/3 Waterport Place North Mole Road
11005	John Licudi Consulting Ltd	Proposed demolition and construction of new Magistrates Building, Supreme Court Rooms and external and internal refurbishment of existing Law Courts Building.	Pending	Law Courts Town Range
11006	Dragados S.A	Proposed construction of new air terminal.	Pending	Airport terminal Winston Churchill Avenue
11007	J J De La Paz Consulting	Construction of swimming pool and small retaining wall in back garden.	Pending	37 Lancashire House Europa Road
11008	Government of Gibraltar	Construction of telecom masts and associated building.	Pending	British Lines Road
11009	Diana Bray	Internal alterations and glazing to balcony facade opening.	Approved	18 Britannia House Marina Bay
11010	The President	Proposed extension to clubhouse.	Pending	6 Calpe Rowing Club Europort Road
11011	Mr Peter Oton	Residential extension.	Pending	4 Lower Bruces Farm Upper Rock
11012	Elderly Care Agency	Proposed clinical waste area	Pending	34 Line Wall Road
11013	John O'Reilly	Proposed glazed extension for sunroom to west facing terrace, lightweight glazed facade with bi-fold doors.	Pending	505 Neptune House Marina Bay
11014	Min.of Enterprise	Proposed minor office alterations.	Pending	Suite 771 Europort Road Europort
11015	Gibunco Group	Proposed internal office alterations.	Pending	721 Europort Building Europort Road Europort
11016	Ms S Traverso	Proposed conversion of flat into a maisonette	Pending	23/4 Cumberland Road
11017	Rafael Benaim Esq	Proposed fit out of existing vault for use as retail premises.	Pending	Unit 2 West Place Of Arms
11018	Mrs Kamini Bhambhwan	Proposed roller shutter to door and replacement sign.	Pending	284 Main Street
11019	Gibraltar Land Reclamation	Proposed housing project	Pending	Mid Harbour Housing Project Europort Road
11020	Mr Owen Adamberry	Proposed replacement of balcony railings.	Pending	17 Blackwood Tower Brympton
11021	Mr Anthony Adamberry	Proposed replacement of balcony railings.	Pending	18 Blackwood Tower Brympton
11022	M E Bellio & Partners	Demolition of outbuildings.	Pending	24/28 Lancaster Road

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<i>App No</i>	<i>ApplicantName</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>SiteAddress</i>
11023	Monaco Ocean Village Ltd	Erection of Royal Marine memorial.	Pending	Leisure Island Ocean Village
11024	LC Groundworks Ltd	Proposed change of use of from filling station to sub-contractors office.	Pending	Rock Hotel car park
11025	M Wegold	demolition of building	Pending	Mount Barbary Mount Road
11026	Janet Waterfield	Proposed removal of central piers to 2 no windows to create enlarged window openings.	Pending	503 Neptune House Marina Bay
11027	Essardas Jewels	Refurbishment of shop premises.	Pending	15 Main Street
11028	Andrews Kent and Stone	Modification to existing shop front	Pending	159 Main Street
11029	Entertaining Party	Fit out for office use including: 1) electrical installation, 2) Data Cabling and 3) Partitions	Pending	Suite 2B Waterport Place
11030	Hubert Caetano	Minor works fit out of café bar.	Pending	No 2 Electra Flats Scud Hill
11031	Essardas Property Holdings	Refurbishment of shop premises.	Pending	60 Main Street
11032	Talent Trading Ltd	Proposed enclosure of external terrace area.	Pending	Unit 17 Ocean Village Promenade Ocean Village

NO. 990 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PLANNING PERMISSION

Can Government say whether planning permission has now been granted in respect of the applications which were listed as pending in answer to Question No. 626 of 2008:

- (a) Stan James, Marina Bay, one storey extension;
- (b) 1,3,5 Crutchett's Ramp and Unit FP 18 Casemates Square for a retail and office development;
- (c) Desmond Walsh, 1a Cumberland Road, residential and offices?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Planning permission in respect of the Stan James, Marina Bay one storey extension, and 1, 3, 5 Crutchett's Ramp and Unit FP 18 Casemates Square for a retail and office development are under consideration by DPC. Desmond Walsh, 1a Cumberland Road, residential and offices has been refused by DPC. However, the refusal notice has not yet been issued, but I have made it public because the applicant is aware of the fact that it has been refused already.

NO. 991 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PLANNING PERMISSION – EXTENSION TO SUNRISE MOTEL

Can Government say whether it is their policy to support the construction of an extension to the Sunrise Motel in Devil's Tower Road and confirm whether planning permission has now been granted to this project?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Outline planning permission has already been granted to the Sunrise Motel, Devil's Tower Road. However, at the last meeting of DPC, the Commission considered the full planning application and was dissatisfied with the architectural character proposed. DPC is now waiting for a revised submission following discussion with the applicant.

NO. 992 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PLANNING PERMISSION – OCEAN VILLAGE WATERSIDE VILLAS

Can Government say whether and if so on what date, planning permission has been granted to Ocean Village Waterside Villas for the proposed construction of 72 waterside villas and apartments with associated berthing at Marina Bay (application 10723)?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Planning permission has not been granted in respect of BA 10723 for the construction of 72 waterside villas.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 992 OF 2008

HON DR J J GARCIA:

There is a project of villas and apartments in that area that is being marketed already. Does that refer to this project or something else?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

That is correct, the Development and Planning Commission are aware that this project exists. In fact, I can say that the Secretary of the Planning Commission actually wrote to the developers of this project which was being marketed, putting them on notice the fact that they did not have planning permission for the project to proceed. Even though the developer is perfectly entitled to market a project which may not have any planning permission under the law, we wanted to bring it to the attention of the developers to ensure that the developers later on did not use the pretext of saying, "please allow us to proceed because we have x number of purchasers interested in buying", and putting the DPC under any form of pressure. I can say that the developers of this particular project have actually confirmed to DPC that they were aware of the situation, but that they were only trying to see what sort of reaction there was in the market considering the current world economic situation, to see whether it was worth pursuing or not. As a test sort of thing, and that is the position.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is it possible for the Minister to say, obviously in general terms, this application has been there for a long time, I remember asking questions about it, is the issue the size of the project, or the scale of the project or is it another issue of policy?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No, I am not sure how much detail I could really be airing across the floor of the House, but I am happy to give him further information, if he wishes, after what I tell him. There was an initial submission made to DPC over the overall area, including the berthing and other sort of general overall planning, and the DPC was minded to allow the project to proceed on that basis. However, when they came to actually submitting the project for full planning, they actually came up with a project which had increased quite substantially in massification, they had included garages, they had included a thoroughfare along the old Marina Bay and that had tremendous implications to the overall area. So, therefore, they were told to go back to the drawing board and come up with an alternative. They have not done so yet, so therefore when we heard and, in fact, a close relative of mine actually received a letter being offered the scheme, it was immediately brought to my attention. We sort of wrote to them saying, "do not think that you are going to put us under pressure", which is what I said before, and they acknowledged that that was the fact, but they wanted to test the market. They are perfectly legally entitled to do that, but we wanted to put them on notice that they were not going to put the DPC under unnecessary pressure on the matter.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Was it a letter which said that many of them had been allocated to different people and there had been great interest in the different villas and apartments, is that the letter?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Well, both relatives of mine received a letter from an estate agent, saying this is the project that is going to be marketed, please confirm if you are interested in listing. Of course, the person concerned said to me, "have you seen this?" I said "what?" and said "what the hell is going on?". So I then took the action of bringing it to the notice. In fact, the letter was discussed at the last meeting of the DPC as was the reply so that all members were conversant with the proposed action, and I wanted to make sure all members of the DPC were in agreement with my initiative in getting the secretary to write that letter. I did so because I felt that time was of the essence and the matter could not really wait until the next meeting, as maybe by that time all the villas would have all been sold if it had been successful.

ORAL

NO. 993 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PLANNING PERMISSION – 45 ENGINEER LANE

Can Government say whether planning permission has been granted to Crestfield Properties Ltd to convert the property at 45 Engineer Lane into 6 apartments by adding two floors and reconfiguring the existing layout?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Application BA 11000 – 45 Engineer Lane, has been through the public participation process and shall be tabled for consideration at the next meeting of the Development and Planning Commission which is scheduled now for 11th December, if we do not adjourn to that date, because every time I set a date something happens in the last couple of weeks. But it is scheduled now for the 11th December.

ORAL

NO. 994 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DEVELOPMENT AID ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Can Government list the date of the meetings of the Development Aid Advisory Committee since the information supplied at the last Question Time in this Parliament?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT

There have been no meetings of the Development Aid Advisory Committee since the information supplied at the last Question Time in this Parliament.

NO. 995 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

IMPORTS – COMPUTER HARDWARE

What was the value of computer hardware imported into Gibraltar on a monthly basis since the information supplied at the last Question Time in this Parliament?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The value of computer hardware imported into Gibraltar on a monthly basis since July 2008 was as follows:-

	Value of Computers (£ thousands)
July 2008	914
August 2008	1,686

NO. 996 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

IMPORTS – GOODS VEHICLES

What was the value and number of goods vehicles imported by:

- (a) individuals;
- (b) licensed dealers,

on a monthly basis since the information supplied at the last Question Time in this Parliament?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT

The number and value of goods vehicles imported by individuals and licensed dealers on a monthly basis since July 2008 was as follows:

	<u>Goods Vehicles Imported by Individuals</u>		<u>Goods Vehicles Imported by Licensed Dealers</u>	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Value (£ thousands)</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Value (£ thousands)</u>
July 2008	-	-	39	555
August 2008	-	-	5	40

NO. 997 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

IMPORTS – PRIVATE MOTOR VEHICLES

What was the value and number of private motor vehicles imported by:

- (a) individuals;
- (b) licensed dealers,

on a monthly basis since the information supplied at the last Question Time in this Parliament?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT

The number and value of private motor vehicles imported by individuals and licensed dealers on a monthly basis since July 2008 was as follows:-

	<u>Private Motor Vehicles Imported by Individuals</u>		<u>Private Motor Vehicles Imported by Licensed Dealers</u>	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Value (£ thousands)</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Value (£ thousands)</u>
July 2008	21	66	619	8.0
August 2008	23	96	521	7.0

ORAL

NO. 998 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PAYMENTS MADE BY THE DEVELOPER OF OCEAN VILLAGE – WATERSIDE VILLAS AND APARTMENTS

Can Government list the payments that have been made by the developer of Ocean Village in respect of the project for waterside villas and apartments in the Marina Bay area indicating the amount of the payment, the date on which it was made and what it was in respect of?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT

The developer of Ocean Village Investments Limited made a payment of £1.4 million for development rights, in an area of water partly within the Marina Bay leased area and partly to the west of both Sheppard's Marina and Marina Bay leases, for a residential development with ancillary berths. The payment was made on 27th March 2007.

NO. 999 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

INVEST GIBRALTAR OFFICE – ASSISTANCE TO START-UP COMPANIES

How many start-up companies were assisted to commence trading in Gibraltar by the Invest Gibraltar office in 2008 to date and what form did this assistance take?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The role of the Invest Gibraltar Office is to assist an interested party to start up, expand or diversify business interests in Gibraltar. The Office has conducted 95 face-to-face meetings with prospective entrepreneurs since 1st January 2008 to 27th November 2008. During that period it has successfully assisted to start up 17 businesses.

NO. 1000 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DRAFT DEVELOPMENT PLAN

When does the Government envisage that the changes that have been proposed to the Draft Development Plan will be exhibited?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

It is envisaged that the proposed changes to the Draft Development Plan will be exhibited early next year.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1000 OF 2008

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Have the meetings which were supposed to take place with the different people who made submissions to the DPC over the Development Plan now all happened and have they all been notified of the results?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Well, we definitely met everybody that had to be met. I do not think that they are notified of the results, I am not 100 per cent sure if they are actually notified at this stage, or whether they are actually notified before the appropriation assessment, or the screening of opinion in respect of the appropriation assessment has been concluded by the development of the environment. Obviously, the changes may have to be assessed and may not be valid after all. So I think when that exercise is finished is when they are notified. That exercise, I am told, should probably be ready next week. But I have asked that the exhibition with the changes should not actually happen till the new year. There is a statutory time frame under which the exhibition has to be done and it would really happen during the Christmas period when people are not really focussed on issues such as this. I would rather leave it till January to enable the public to have a second bite at the cherry if they require.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Who did he say was carrying out the assessment of the changes, I did not catch that?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Well, the screening opinion in respect of the need for an appropriation assessment is done by the Department of the Environment. It is done internally by experts within that department.

NO. 1001 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

DIALOGUE WITH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Can Government say whether and if so on what date the dialogue between them and the Chamber of Commerce to see what they might be able to do to assist those businesses in the retail and wholesale sector that are going through difficult times has commenced?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

The Government have not yet held discussions on this matter with the Chamber of Commerce.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1001 OF 2008

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is this something they intend to start? What kind of time scale do they envisage is going to elapse before these discussions take place?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

There is a meeting scheduled, which I think was scheduled this week and as a result of Parliament we have had to reschedule now for early January, but I assume that this will be one of the main issues to be discussed at that meeting. I do not think that this is an issue, in any case, that was going to be discussed in one particular meeting. I think we will need a process of various exchanges before we can come up with something which is feasible and which the Government can work with.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Would they be looking at assistance for specific sectors of the retail and wholesale trade, or just something which they tend to do across the board?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Well, I think I would be pre-empting what they intend to discuss, but being a businessman myself in my previous life and part of this life, I think that there is probably the need for assistance in certain sectors only. I think that there are sectors of the economy that are doing very well but others may need help. Therefore, I think, we will focus on certain areas on not a general broad brush approach. But we will have to listen to those who are actively in trade today to hear what they have to say.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Do Government already have a policy in terms of what form the assistance is going to take, or are they open to being persuaded by the trade?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

No, we are open-minded about this. There are certain issues that have been raised, not in the context of this, and I think that the question has probably come about as a result of a statement made by the Chief Minister during the Budget session. I think it was probably picked up from that. In the past there have been suggestions made by the Chamber that have not been acceptable to the Government. But, obviously, we remain open and, obviously, we also need to take into account the current world economic situation, which may affect certain sectors of the economy in Gibraltar. It remains to be seen.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Do they intend to repeat the exercise with the Federation of Small Businesses as well or not?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

Well, the Gibraltar Federation of Small Businesses have not asked for that to be done. The Chamber has, so therefore, I remain open. I have had meetings with the Federation in the past as its Chairman so elegantly said during his speech at the annual general meeting, but never raised an issue such as this in focus. But my door remains open for them to be able to approach the subject if they so wish. I am not going to go around asking who wants cheques because everyone is bound to put their hands up.

NO. 1002 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PORT DEPARTMENT – VTS SYSTEM

Can Government say whether the review of the VTS system at the Port Department has now been completed and if so with what result?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

A review of the VTS system has nearly been completed. However, the timescale remains the same as previously answered in this House. The equipment should be operational by mid 2009, allowing for a bedding in period in order to meet EU compliance by the end of 2009.

ORAL

NO. 1003 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

QUESTION WITHDRAWN

NO. 1004 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

LANDING FEES COLLECTED

Can Government state how much has been collected in Landing Fees to date and does Government still expect to receive the estimated amount of £600k in the current financial year?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Up till Thursday 26th November 2008, the total of £301,584.94 was collected in Landing Fees. The Government expect to achieve the estimated amount of £600,000 in the current financial year.

ORAL

NO. 1005 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GIBRALTAR CAR PARKS LIMITED – STAFFING

Can the Minister say whether Gibraltar Car Parks Limited has now been appropriately staffed?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT

The company has one employee taken from the MOD/ISP Safety Net company, and also the ex KIJY Parking staff. The Government are currently assessing what further arrangements may be required for the operational management and direction of the company.

ORAL

NO. 1006 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – PARKING AT EUROPLAZA FOR HOSPITAL USERS

Can the Minister for Health say whether the new arrangements for hospital users to park at Europlaza will be operational before Christmas as she told this Parliament in answer to Question No. 442 of 2008?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 1007 and 1008 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 1007 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – PARKING AT EUROPLAZA FOR HOSPITAL USERS

Can Government say how many parking spaces will be made available in Europlaza for users, staff and visitors to the hospital?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

Answered together with Question Nos. 1006 and 1008 of 2008.

NO. 1008 OF 2008

THE HON N F COSTA

GHA – PARKING AT EUROPLAZA FOR HOSPITAL USERS

Can the Minister for Health say what the new arrangements for hospital users to park at Europlaza will be: whether the car park will be available for use by hospital patients and/or staff and/or visitors and whether or not at cost to all users or some users?

ANSWER

**THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND TRANSPORT**

This car park will be managed by Gibraltar Car Parks Limited. It is not yet clear whether it will be operational by Christmas. The car park's use will primarily be in relation to the hospital. The pre-use regime has yet to be finalised.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1006 TO 1008 OF 2008

HON N F COSTA:

If I recall correctly on the last occasion, I believe it was the Hon the Chief Minister confirming what the Hon Lt-Col E M Britto said, that the car park would be operational by Christmas. Is it now the case then that it will not be operational by Christmas?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I have said it is not quite clear yet. We have had meetings laid on during the course of this week. These have now had to be postponed to about ten days or a week or two from now, and so therefore, we do not know whether the decisions that we take there will be implemented before Christmas or not. So it is not quite clear until we have the meetings concerned.

HON N F COSTA:

Could the Minister say, of course the reason why I asked the question is because of people who try to access the hospital and find that they cannot park anywhere near or conveniently to the hospital, and one of the concerns that arise is, will the car park first of all be made available to members of the public who are going to be visitors to

the hospital, and do they foresee that those people, that is, visitors, will be charged or is the policy thinking that they will not be charged?

HON J J HOLLIDAY:

I would be pre-empting the policy decision that is due to take place. So, therefore, definitely the options are going to be given consideration but I would not want to give any false expectations until the policy has been agreed.

ORAL

NO. 1009 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – TENANCIES AT RIALTO BUILDING

Can Government confirm that the tenancies at the Rialto building, Turnbull's Lane, continue to be protected, subject to rent control under the new Housing Act 2007, as they were under the previous legislation?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Answered together with Question No. 1010 of 2008.

NO. 1010 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – TENANCIES AT RIALTO BUILDING

Can Government state why the Minister for Housing has not answered my letters concerning the tenancies at the Rialto building?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Certainly, two letters from the hon Member dated 10th July and 1st September, were duly acknowledged immediately upon receipt. A substantive reply has not yet been forthcoming, although in fact, a draft reply was prepared by me back in September. The reason why a reply has not been forthcoming is because the Rialto building has for some time now been the subject of legal proceedings, and it was not felt appropriate to comment on aspects of these to a third party. As an aside, however, and given the hon Member's apparent concern or interest in the matter, I think he will be pleased to know that I have been in direct communication with, and have in fact met and assisted a number of tenants of the Rialto building.

As far as Question No. 1009 is concerned, which is the more substantive part of the questions, it is not for Government to provide legal advice to the hon Member across the floor of this Parliament, and it would certainly be wrong to do so in a particular case affecting a private individual.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1009 AND 1010 OF 2008

HON C A BRUZON:

I am just asking as a politician, I am asking the Minister as a politician, who should be able to offer advice, not advice but answer questions in Parliament so that I can go back to my constituents with a reply.

MR SPEAKER:

I think I should rule that question as out of order because Erskine May provides that it is not proper to seek an expression of opinion on a question of law. It would be totally improper for the Minister to advise on a question of law. It is definitely inadmissible as a question. Erskine May, page 349, paragraph 8.

HON F J VINET:

Once I return to practise I will be very happy to provide that information to him.

HON F R PICARDO:

Another way of formulating the question to the extent that it would not require the expression of an opinion but would provide the hon Gentleman with the information that he requests, is whether the Minister can tell us the age of the Rialto building, which would then enable the hon Member to assess for himself by looking at the legislation, whether that is a building that falls within the legislation or not.

MR SPEAKER:

Is that a matter for Ministerial responsibility, the age of a building and private enterprise? I would have thought not.

HON F J VINET:

I do not have the information before me in any case.

HON F R PICARDO:

I would have thought that all property in Gibraltar comes from the Crown, this would have a Crown property number, there will be a building erected upon it as a result of it being a Crown property subject to a licence from the Crown, the Minister as a Minister of the Crown should be able to tell us.

MR SPEAKER:

We can all do searches at Crown lands and get the information ourselves. The question is still inadmissible.

HON F R PICARDO:

As I am sure Mr Speaker knows, it is sometimes very difficult for individuals to determine a Crown property number and sometimes it is not possible to search without a Crown property number. Whilst for the Minister it would be very easy to simply say, I will find out and tell him tomorrow. If we were interested in providing information to enable the hon Gentleman to determine whether or not it is. But if we were interested simply in sticking to the letter in the rules then.....

MR SPEAKER:

The rules, as I am sure the hon Member will agree, prohibit asking questions which elicit an expression of opinion on a question of law. That is very clear, there is no doubt about that. But if any Member wishes to formulate a question along the lines

which the Hon Mr Picardo suggested, a perfectly valid question, then the Minister may or may not know the answer.

HON F R PICARDO:

I have asked the Minister and he says he does not have the answer. I am grateful for Mr Speaker's general ruling because perhaps next time it could come with notice and a Minister, perhaps not necessarily the Housing Minister if it is not a Government property, may be able to provide the answer from Government records.

MR SPEAKER:

The Minister is just sitting very quiet.

HON F R PICARDO:

I suppose it is actually the Minister with responsibility for Crown Lands, who I think is the one that is missing or has been missing for most of the afternoon.

HON F J VINET:

Yes, I would be more than happy to provide the information requested if due notice is given, but certainly not if it were to go against the direction given by Mr Speaker.

HON F R PICARDO:

I agree and that is why, I think, the question as I propose it should be formulated, would not contradict the ruling as Mr Speaker has indicated.

HON C A BRUZON:

Then again, I think the Minister has said that he is preparing a substantial reply to my letter.

HON F J VINET:

No, I actually said that the letter is drafted, if someone were to trespass into my office he or she would be able to access the information, it is on my desk. But I am not able at this moment in time to send the letter to the hon Member.

HON G H LICUDI:

We will resist the temptation to carry out burglary at the Minister's office at his invitation, unless of course, he leaves the door open in which case it might not be forced entry and it would not be burglary. The Minister has given the reason why he is not able to reply to my hon Colleague and he has referred to litigation. Without wanting to get into the details, and it may be that he gave the answer before I am not

sure, is this litigation that the Government are involved in in respect of these particular buildings?

HON F J VINET:

No, but without wishing to go into the detail and if I were to then there would be no point in my previous answer, there is an overlap in the information being sought and the legal proceedings currently in place.

ORAL

NO. 1011 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – NELSON’S VIEW

With reference to Nelson’s View, can Government give a breakdown of the current sales details as follows:

- (a) How many flats are being sold with 100% financing from the purchaser;
- (b) How many are being sold with the 50/50 ratio;
- (c) How many are being sold at any other ratio and specify what that ratio is?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1012 to 1014 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 1012 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – CUMBERLAND TERRACES

With reference to Cumberland Terraces, can Government give a breakdown of the current sales details as follows:

- (a) How many flats are being sold with 100% financing from the purchaser;
- (b) How many are being sold with the 50/50 ratio;
- (c) How many are being sold at any other ratio and specify what that ratio is?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1011, 1013 and 1014 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 1013 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – BAYVIEW TERRACES

With reference to Bayview Terraces, can Government give a breakdown of the current sales details as follows:

- (a) How many flats are being sold with 100% financing from the purchaser;
- (b) How many are being sold with the 50/50 ratio;
- (c) How many are being sold at any other ratio and specify what that ratio is?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1011, 1012 and 1014 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 1014 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – SALE OF 50% SHARE IN CO-OWNERSHIP HOMES

Can Government state if there has been any sale of the Government 50% share of co-ownership homes as from September 2008, providing a breakdown by month and estate?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I now hand the hon Member a schedule with all the information that he asks for.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1014

Answer to Questions 1011 to 1013

Breakdown of sales details at Nelson's View, Bayview Terraces and Cumberland Terraces by purchaser share

	50%	55%	60%	65%	70%	Purchaser share				85%	88%	100%	Total
						75%	78%	80%	82%				
Development													
Nelson's View	17	2	12	1	23	4	1	4	0	1	0	53	118
Bayview Terraces	7	0	6	1	26	4	0	5	0	0	0	27	76
Cumberland Terraces	46	0	26	0	22	3	0	5	1	1	1	24	129
Total	70	2	44	2	71	11	1	14	1	2	1	104	323

Cont....

CONT ANSWER TO QUESTION 1014

Answer to Question 1014

	SWJG	Montagu Gardens	West View Park	Harbour Views	Montagu Crescent	Totals
Sep-08 Monies Received		£29,450.76				£29,450.76
Oct-08 Monies Received	£79,103.10					£79,103.10
Totals	£79,103.10	£29,450.76	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£108,553.86

ORAL

NO. 1015 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – ALBERT RISSO HOUSE

Can Government state what is the current estimated date for completion of “Albert Risso” house for senior citizens?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1016 to 1019 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 1016 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – WATERPORT TERRACES

Can Government state what are the current estimated dates for the completion in connection with the various phases of Waterport Terraces?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1015 and 1017 to 1019 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 1017 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – NELSON’S VIEW

With reference to Nelson’s View, can Government state what the current estimated date of completion is?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1015, 1016, 1018 and 1019 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 1018 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – CUMBERLAND TERRACES

With reference to Cumberland Terraces, can Government state what is the current estimated date of completion?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1015 to 1017 and 1019 of 2008.

NO. 1019 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – BAYVIEW TERRACES

With reference to Bayview Terraces, can Government state what is the current estimated date of completion?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

In a recent public statement the hon Member said that the Government had distorted the truth by promising completion dates to the purchasers of Waterport Terraces and then breaking their promise again and again. If the hon Member is interested in the truth, as he repeatedly professes, then he will wish to know that the Government, in fact, has never made any promise, nor even a commitment, to any purchaser about any completion date.

The Waterport Terraces contractor's commitment is currently to complete all of the phases by the end of this year. This, in the Government's view, is unlikely to be met. The Government believe that completion is more likely to take place during the first quarter of next year. The snagging programme is expected to be completed in February 2009, with completions of the earlier blocks continuing in parallel. Practical completion of three blocks has already been achieved, with completion of a further two blocks estimated to take place in early December. Albert Risso House, which is a Government rental scheme, continues to be expected to be completed in the second quarter of next year. These are the best indications that the Government are able to give and the hon Member should not convert them into a broken promise in his next public statement.

Based on the advice of the Government's consultants and the current rate of progress in all the three south district developments, the best estimated completion dates that the Government are able to indicate are as follows:-

Cumberland Terraces	May 2009
Nelson's View	June 2009
Bayview Terraces	July 2009

These, since we appear to have different definitions of what the word "promise" means, these are not promises.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1015 TO 1019 OF 2008

HON C A BRUZON:

Who decides the order in which the various phases or blocks within the Waterport Terraces area are to be constructed and completed?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

There is a works programme, which I imagine the hon Member must know is how build construction projects are carried out. There is a works programme where such work is scheduled in a particular order.

HON C A BRUZON:

Are the Government involved in contributing to these work schedules? Are the Government involved in any way in the decision making as to which blocks within the work schedule that he has referred to, should be started first and completed last? I am particularly interested about the Albert Risso building for the elderly.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, clearly the Government at the outset of the programme signed a contract which contained a particular schedule of programming of works, and therefore, in that sense, then of course the Government agreed to the work programme that is reflected in that contract, yes. The hon Member should also recall that we have had discussions here in the past about a reversal of phases, for a particular reason, in respect of some of the blocks in the Waterport Terraces scheme.

HON C A BRUZON:

Then I am right in saying that Government have a say, they must have a say because not only is GRP Investments owned by Government but Government signed a contract with Brues and Fernandez to do the work. So, is the Chief Minister implying that he is completely free from any element of responsibility concerning the order in which the various phases are constructed? I am particularly interested in the fact that Albert Risso House is the last.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The hon Member can be concerned by whatever he pleases but his supplementary question is nonsensical in the light of the answer that I gave his previous supplementary question, which is the opposite of what he pretends in his supplementary question.

HON G H LICUDI:

The hon Member has referred to certain work schedules which are agreed at the outset, can the Government confirm whether there are any penalties for which the contractors are liable, in respect of not meeting the dates given on those work schedules which were agreed at the outset of the development?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I can only assume that the hon Member either does not hear what is going on in the House around him, or does not bother to read the Hansard of exchanges of questions conducted in his presence. He has heard me say in this House in the recent past, and indeed he should know because he is a lawyer, that the form of JCT contract contains penalty clauses and that the account is taken at the end of the contract, and that we have had a debate about this in his presence recently. I really do not understand the question or the need for it. He knows what the answer to it is because I have given that answer in the House recently.

HON G H LICUDI:

Can the Government state what penalties the Government expect to recover specifically from those JCT contracts?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, the Government cannot give that answer because as he should know, even though I have already explained it, in case he is not a lawyer versed in building matters, but I have already explained in the past around this precise issue. The problem with the hon Members is that not only do they ask the same questions repeatedly meeting after meeting of the House, but they actually ignore the answers that they have been given to the same questions earlier. The hon Member should know that I have already said to them on this matter, that against the Government's or the employer's claim for delay, there is usually a contractor's claim for additional costs, and that then there is either a negotiation and/or litigation, which results in a net payment by one to the other, depending on who has merit on their side. But he must know this, every lawyer knows this.

HON G H LICUDI:

We certainly reject the allegation that we are supposed to know everything that is in the mind of the Government. The position today is what I am asking for, not the position three months ago, or the position 18 months ago, or whenever the contract was signed. I am asking for the position today and the Government's expectation today, and it is true, does the Chief Minister not accept, that the goal posts have been changing? Whether or not the Government choose to call it promises or not, the goal posts have been changing, and as regards the goal posts which we are being given today for the first time, the answer given to the previous question by the hon Member, the Hon Charles Bruzon, with regard to the answer given as regards estimates to that question, can the Chief Minister now say, today, whether they expect in the light of those completion dates, those expected completion dates, whether any penalties are expected to be recovered?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Government do not accept that any goal posts have changed, and his supplementary is no different to his previous one, and therefore my answer remains the same.

ORAL

NO. 1020 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – SITE FOR BALANCE OF RENTAL FLATS

With reference to the outstanding balance of 210 rental flats that are not now scheduled to be constructed opposite HMS Rooke, has Government now identified another site, and if so, where?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The question is not “can Government now identify another site?” but “have Government now identified another site?”, to which the answer is no.

ORAL

NO. 1021 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – NEW GOVERNMENT RENTAL ESTATE

In view of the answer given to Question No. 672 of 2008 can Government confirm that the contract has now been signed for the construction of the new Government rental estate which would signal the commencement of work?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1022 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 1022 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

HOUSING – NEW GOVERNMENT RENTAL ESTATE

Can Government now list the names of the five companies who submitted a tender for the construction of their proposed new rental estate opposite Rooke?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

As the Government have said publicly, the contract for the new Government rental estate has been signed. The names of the companies that submitted a tender were Haymills – Ferrovia – Agroman (Joint Venture); PCG Overseas Group and Brues y Fernandez (Gibraltar) SA.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1021 AND 1022 OF 2008

HON C A BRUZON:

Was the contract for the construction of the rental estate signed in September, as was suggested in the previous meeting of the House?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, if it was suggested in the previous meeting of the House, I do not know whether the hon Member is asking whether the previous suggestion was inaccurate. The previous suggestion was not inaccurate, and since he knows what was suggested, and I am telling him that it is not inaccurate, that is the answer to his question.

ORAL

NO. 1023 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

THEATRE ROYAL

Have Government now decided on the sort of consultation that will take place in relation to the Theatre Royal?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1024 of 2008.

NO. 1024 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

THEATRE ROYAL

Have the Government now decided whether they prefer to proceed with the Theatre Royal project in its original site or to do this project elsewhere?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

No decision has been made yet.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1023 AND 1024 OF 2008

HON S E LINARES:

Can the Chief Minister state, no decision on what, the site, consultation or on which site it will be built? What is he saying no to exactly?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

He has asked two questions, the answer to both is no decision has been made yet, therefore I would have thought the answer clearly applies to both the issues that he has raised in his questions.

HON S E LINARES:

Have the Government started any sort of consultation in relation to the Theatre Royal?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not see how the Government can have started any consultation process if I have just told him that no decision has yet been made on the nature of the consultation process that we will carry out.

HON S E LINARES:

Why is it then that the Minister for Culture has stated that he has made some sort of consultation? Is the Chief Minister aware of that some sort of consultation?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, that is not the consultation to which the question refers, we have moved beyond that point as he well knows. If that were the consultation to which the hon Member's questions were referring, then the question would make even less sense, because he would be asking me whether the Government have made a decision on the nature of consultation process to be carried out, when he by his own admission now knows that one has already taken place. So his question would be nonsensical unless he was talking to the different types of consultation process which the Minister informed him would be carried out in due course.

ORAL

NO. 1025 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT REVIEW

Can Government state whether there has been any progress on the review of the Customs Department and whether any of the recommendations made by the team commissioned by Government on the issue have been implemented?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1026 of 2008.

NO. 1026 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT REVIEW

Can Government state when the review of the Customs Department will be completed and whether meetings by the Chief Minister with the staff side representatives have taken place in the last year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Negotiations are on-going. Government cannot say when the review will be completed, and yes, I have met in the last year with staff side.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1025 AND 1026 OF 2008

HON S E LINARES:

Are the Government going to publish the report that was commissioned to Customs and Excise experts?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It was not that sort of report, it was a report to inform the Government on the position that they might take in a review, and it is not presently the Government's intention to publish the report now.

HON F R PICARDO:

Is that suggestion that the report has not been shared with the staff side?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I cannot say whether the staff side have seen it, my recollection, to which I would urge him please not to hold me, is that I think they have seen it.

ORAL

NO. 1027 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

RESIDENCY CRITERIA

Can Government state what documents are needed by:

- (a) British Nationals;
- (b) EU Nationals;
- (c) Non-EU Nationals,

respectively to obtain residency?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1028 of 2008.

NO. 1028 OF 2008

THE HON S E LINARES

BRITISH CITIZENSHIP CRITERIA

Can Government state what criteria have to be met for a citizen resident locally to be able to obtain British citizenship in Gibraltar?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Under the provisions of the Immigration Act, a British national who is also an EU national must be treated as any other EU national for the purposes of the Act.

In order to be entitled to reside in Gibraltar, an EU national must, under the Act, satisfy prescribed criteria to qualify as either a job seeker, a worker, a self-employed person, a self-sufficient person, or a student. The documents which must be produced as evidence that the requirements are satisfied will vary depending on the circumstances of each individual. However, in all cases, passports or identify cards, civil status documents and evidence of accommodation in Gibraltar must be produced. In the case of workers, for example, evidence of employment and registration with the Ministry of Employment is also required.

A non-EU national who is not the spouse or partner of a person who is entitled to reside in Gibraltar, is normally only permitted to reside in Gibraltar if he is in legal employment here. Such an individual must produce his passport, civil status documents and evidence of accommodation, in addition to the work permit issued by the Ministry of Employment.

British Citizenship cannot be granted in Gibraltar. It can only be granted by the Home Secretary on application made to him.

ORAL

NO. 1029 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

WASTE-TO-ENERGY PLANT – PFI CONTRACT

Have any terms been agreed in respect of the PFI Contract for the new proposed “Waste-to-Energy Plant”?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Discussion with potential PFI contractors for the plant have not yet commenced and are not likely to start for some time yet.

NO. 1030 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

GBC REVIEW

Can Government confirm that it has received the report of Mr Alan King into the GBC and that it will agree to publish the said report?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Government have received a draft of the report. This is being considered with a view to deciding whether the scope of the report extends to all matters upon which the Government would like Mr King's views. The Government will not make a decision about when or whether they will publish the report, until they have had an opportunity to consider the final report and made policy decisions as necessary.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1030 OF 2008

HON F R PICARDO:

How quickly do the Government expect to decide whether or not the report is sufficient in its ambit and its scope, or whether they will require Mr King or seek that Mr King expand the remit of his report?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I cannot give the hon Member dates but if the purpose of his question is to elicit whether the Government intend to use this as an opportunity to play it long, the answer is no. It is just a question of being able to engage with Mr King, either on his next visit to Gibraltar or arrange a meeting in London, or a conference call, it is just a question of finding the opportunity.

ORAL

NO. 1031 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

CHIEF MINISTER'S BODYGUARDS

Why did the Chief Minister travel with bodyguards when he visited the Gibraltar Regiment in Marrakesh on 14th to 16th October, and what was the cost to the taxpayer (in terms of their overtime etc) of the bodyguards travelling and remaining with the Chief Minister?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1032 of 2008.

NO. 1032 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

CHIEF MINISTER'S BODYGUARDS

Did the Chief Minister travel with bodyguards on vacation this summer to Ibiza and what was the cost to the taxpayer (in terms of their overtime etc) of the bodyguards travelling and remaining with the Chief Minister?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

It is the long established practice, which I think is entirely appropriate and correct, that personal protection officers accompany Chief Ministers when they visit Spain or Morocco. The cost on the two occasions that he has chosen to ask about was £5,874.46. The practice will continue.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1031 AND 1032 OF 2008

HON F R PICARDO:

What was it about his trip to Morocco, where he was going to be surrounded by the Royal Gibraltar Regiment, that made anybody think that he needed extra protection?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

First of all, the decisions about the degree of protection that Chief Ministers have required since the office has existed, is not the judgement of the Chief Minister, it is the judgement of the Royal Gibraltar Police. Secondly, I have not been surrounded, pleasant as it was whilst I was surrounded by them, I was not surrounded by the Royal Gibraltar Regiment all the time, because in the evening they would park me in a very nice hotel that they put me up in and at that stage I was alone and not surrounded by an armed battalion of soldiers.

HON F R PICARDO:

I am delighted to see that the Chief Minister was not slumming it with the boys whilst the photographs that he brought back might have suggested the contrary. Is the figure of £5,000 odd provided for both of those or each of those?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, there is no doubt that I do not enjoy slumming it and I certainly do enjoy comfortable hotel accommodation. I am sure the hon Member is not suggesting that the Chief Minister of Gibraltar should not be accommodated in comfortable accommodation of a certain quality. I am sure at some point he will draw a distinction between his persistent attempts to denigrate me as the current incumbent of the office, and the damage that he does to the office and to Gibraltar at large by the mechanisms to which he resorts to do so. That said, this was overtime costs, we were transported by helicopter at a huge saving in cost to the taxpayer, by the Ministry of Defence, and I believe the Royal Gibraltar Regiment hosted us in the hotel but I cannot be entirely certain. I think that is almost certainly the case, yes.

HON F R PICARDO:

I know that the Chief Minister must obviously consider that anybody who does any job in opposition in any Western parliamentary democracy is obviously guilty of sedition, except of course, whilst he was Leader of the Opposition and he could get away with saying all sorts of things, all of which were in the interests of Gibraltar because he said them and they are now in the interests of Gibraltar when he says them as Chief Minister. So be it, that is the character of the man. My question was whether the figure provided was for each of the trips or whether it was just for one of the trips?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is not just the character of this man that leads him to form the view of the hon Member's political style. The editor of Gibraltar's leading newspaper, recently had occasion to accuse him of embarking on "a character assassination campaign" of the Chief Minister. I suppose he can say that both the character of the Chief Minister and the character of the editor of Gibraltar's leading newspaper are suspect, and that only his particularly immature and aggressive style of politics is worthy of being judged to be correct. But I do not think that there is anybody in Gibraltar who now doubts that the hon Member has lost all sight of objectivity in his quest, in his obsessive quest to simply tarnish and denigrate the Government in general and me in particular. Something which, frankly, I really do not mind because all it does is serve to highlight to the people of Gibraltar just how unready he is to exercise the judgements and responsibilities that are required of government.

HON F R PICARDO:

I see that the Chief Minister will continue in his usual attempted obfuscation by throwing insults and not answering a very simple question. In fact, I want to deal with the issue that the Chief Minister has dealt with, and ask him whether in fact he did not recognise in that particular editorial, that he is now obviously going to be so fond of reminding me of.....

MR SPEAKER:

That question is out of order, it does not relate to the subject matter.

HON F R PICARDO:

Fantastic, I have not even made it yet.....

MR SPEAKER:

You referred to a newspaper article which is not the subject of this question.

HON F R PICARDO:

I am so sorry.

MR SPEAKER:

The Hon Charles Bruzon.

HON F R PICARDO:

Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER:

The Hon Charles Bruzon.

HON F R PICARDO:

Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER:

The Hon Charles Bruzon.

HON C A BRUZON:

With Mr Speaker's permission, and I know that this comment does not directly concern the question, but the Chief Minister has accused the Opposition of saying certain things and of trying to tarnish his particular way or his particular character. Does the Chief Minister really think that I personally am an unprincipled political opportunist, because that is what he has accused me of in a number of press releases?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I think that the hon Member is amongst the worst of the Opposition Members because he pretends to be otherwise, whilst actually being exactly as I have just

described. Look, it is only yesterday or the day before, that they were describing me as the leader of a pack of apes, and then the hon Member thinks that I am insulting him by simply observing that he is continually denigrating and insulting the Government. I do not have to go back more than 24 hours for the last example of the hon Member's simply abusive political style. The answer to the supplementary, which I overlooked in answering, was that it was the figure for both. I am obliged.

HON F R PICARDO:

Is the Chief Minister aware that the editorial in question that he referred to in the course of his supplementary, referred to my use of a phrase once in a press release which he has often used in this House in respect of me on a number of occasions, and which had not prompted anyone to suggest that he was in the process of assassinating my character?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, I do not accept that. What I accept is that the hon Member made one statement which caused a particular newspaper to conclude that that, coupled with previous statements, amounted to a campaign of character assassination. No one was suggesting, at least I did not read the article to mean, that the suggestion was that one statement by the hon Member amounted to a campaign of character assassination. Indeed, one article cannot constitute a campaign, since by necessity a campaign has to be over an extended period of time. The fact of the matter is, and it is not just the editor of the newspaper, most objectively minded people, ignoring people that are unconditionally GSLP supporters, and ignoring also people that are unconditionally GSD supporters, most non political people in Gibraltar, whether they are more inclined to support them politically or us politically is neither here nor there, most people in Gibraltar believe that the Opposition in general and the hon Member in particular, is engaged on a specific campaign, not being pursued by the way by the Leader of the Opposition, who is the person with the primary responsibility to conduct political battle against his opposite number who is the Chief Minister, not being conducted by the Leader of the Opposition but being conducted by the hon Member in the nature that I have described. But it is fine, it is just a style of politics, I am not saying it is wrong. It is perfectly permissible a style of politics but he cannot do it and then complain that people simply observe that that is what he is doing. He is free to carry on doing it and, personally, my hope is that he continues to carry on doing so.

MR SPEAKER:

Can we get down to bodyguards please?

HON F R PICARDO:

What is it that, despite the fact that he walks the streets surrounded by bodyguards, enables the Chief Minister to suggest that he speaks for most people in Gibraltar who are objective and who do not blindly follow him or blindly follow us? How is it that he is now able to speak from the populus chair of St Peter on all issues relating to the objective citizens of Gibraltar?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I think that is q.e.d. about all that he has said about insult and abuse and his political style and his maturity and everything else. But, it is not possible to be Chief Minister of Gibraltar for 13 years without having some sense of feeling of what the people in Gibraltar are thinking and value. Indeed, I think it is perhaps because we have been better over the last 13 years at doing that, that probably our ability to judge people's moods and people's views in Gibraltar are probably more attuned to theirs, because were it different, they would not have lost four elections in a row.

NO. 1033 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

JUDGEMENT IN LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Have Government made any enquiry and does Government as a result or otherwise now have any date for the delivery of the judgement in the legal proceedings (Court of First Instance register number 240836 and allocated case number T-211/04) against the EU Commission, or any indication of when a date for the delivery of that judgement will be forthcoming? The House will know that a public statement from the Government was issued after this question had been filed.

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Not only does the House now know but the House and Gibraltar at large now knows the suspicion harboured by the hon Member that I was somehow able to produce the date as a consequence of the fact that he had asked the question. Look, as he asks the question every time that there is a meeting of the House, it is inevitable that the publication of the date would follow his asking of a question, but I can assure him that the Government have not been sitting on the date. I think the date was published by the Government a day after it had been brought to my attention. Now, the answer to this question is that the Government have not made, and did not make any enquiries. The information was just proffered by the Court to the Government and, as the hon Member now himself has acknowledged, the date is now in the public domain as the 18th December.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1033 OF 2008

HON F R PICARDO:

Is the Chief Minister aware that the website of the EU Court, which lists all judgements that are to be delivered, still does not list the Judgement in the Court of First Instance case involving the Government and the Commission as being down for delivery on the 18th?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I am not the webmaster of the European Court of First Instance website.

ORAL

NO. 1034 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

GIBRALTAR LAWS

Does Government expect to publish a second bill to make general amendments to Gibraltar legislation, as envisaged in the debate on the bill for the Gibraltar Laws (General Amendment) (No. 1) Act 2007?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

That remains a possibility. Some Acts are being changed, as and when the need arises, for other purposes but it is likely that another general amendment Act might be needed.

NO. 1035 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

CHIEF MINISTER'S PRIVATE SECRETARIES AND ASSISTANTS

What are the specific responsibilities of each of the 9 of the Chief Minister's private secretaries and personal assistants?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Principal Private Secretary carries out the functions of principal private secretary, which amount in the main to heading the Chief Minister's private office, and in addition he provides assistance to the Chief Minister in general matters as required. He also deals with any human resources issues that reach the Chief Minister's office.

The Private Secretary (Legal), as the name would suggest, assists the Chief Minister on legal matters that reach the Chief Minister's office.

The Chief Minister's Private Secretary (Project, commercial and land issues) as the name suggests, assists the Chief Minister in relation to Government projects and commercial and land issues that reach the Chief Minister's office.

The Private Secretary (Finance), as the name suggests, assists the Chief Minister in matters of a financial nature or a Finance Centre nature that reach the Chief Minister's office.

The Personal Assistant manages the Chief Minister's diary, organises his attendances at official functions and Government business engagements.

There are three Executive Officers, at least that was the case when the question was put and answered, one of whom actually has now recently been promoted to HEO, who provide administrative support to the Chief Minister's office, as well as cover for the Personal Assistant to the Chief Minister on a roster basis, given the very long hours that the Chief Minister puts in. They also deal with matters raised with the Chief Minister by individual citizens.

The Senior Personal Secretary provides secretarial support to the Chief Minister's office.

ORAL

NO. 1036 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

CHIEF MINISTER'S VISITS OVERSEAS – LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE

What was the cost of having a car available for the Chief Minister to take him to the Labour Party Conference in each year since 2004, remain available to him throughout the conference and to take him to his next destination?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1037 of 2008.

NO. 1037 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

CHIEF MINISTER'S VISITS OVERSEAS – CONSERVATIVE PARTY CONFERENCE

What was the cost of having a car available for the Chief Minister to take him to the Conservative Party Conference in each year since 2004, remain available to him throughout the conference and to take him to his next destination?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I am advised that the costs were as follows:

In respect of the Labour Party Conference car travel costs:-

In 2004	£413.70
In 2005	no costs
In 2006	£110.45
In 2007	no costs
In 2008	£110.45

Other people, of course, may have travelled in the car as well as me but I am not splitting the cost between them, given that they are all paid for by the Government.

In respect of the Conservative Party Conference car travel costs:-

In 2004	no costs because the Chief Minister did not attend
In 2005	£61.69
In 2006	£950.00, which I understand reflects the fact that we actually drove up from London to the Conference venue
In 2007	the Chief Minister did not attend
In 2008	£850.00 and, again, it was the cost to drive up from London

I cannot remember which one of them was to Manchester, the other to Birmingham.

ORAL

NO. 1038 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING IN LOCAL NEWSPAPERS

What is the total amount paid by the Government as advertising to the publication "7 Days", giving a breakdown by month, since October 2007?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

This question has actually been asked twice, once for oral hearing and once for written answer. I assume that the hon Member prefers to have it answered orally and, therefore, I now hand the hon Member a written schedule with the information requested.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1038

	7 Days
Oct-07	£4,244.00
Nov-07	£1,512.00
Dec-07	£3,358.00
Jan-08	£1,690.00
Feb-08	£1,481.00
Mar-08	£3,874.00
Apr-08	£2,087.00
May-08	£2,992.00
Jun-08	£2,258.00
Jul-08	£3,850.00
Aug-08	£3,358.00
Sep-08	£4,550.00
Oct-08	£1,732.00
Nov-08	£2,172.00

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1038 OF 2008

HON F R PICARDO:

I would be grateful if the Chief Minister could refer me to which written question he says is the same one?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I have not yet been provided with the written answers which I will table at the end of today, so I cannot help him on that. But, certainly, I have seen this question in both piles.

HON F R PICARDO:

I am afraid on that issue the Chief Minister may want to review what he has told the House because I think it is wrong. If he is referring to Question Nos. 124 and 125, which are both written questions about this newspaper, I think he will find it is a different question. I am quite happy to let him have my copy of the Order Paper so that he can see that and so that the House is not misled by his suggestion that I have asked the question twice, which is not the case.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I am sure the House is not worried about being misled about whether he may have asked the question both in writing and orally. The matter is quite trivial and I am perfectly happy to go with his version, regardless of whether he is right or wrong, frankly the matter is so trivial.

HON F R PICARDO:

It was not so trivial a moment ago that you wanted everyone to be aware of it.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The reason for mentioning it was not to tell everybody in Gibraltar what an incompetent oaf I think the hon Member is for asking questions twice, but rather simply to say to him, we think you have asked this question twice, we presume you prefer to opt for the oral answer and, therefore, I am giving you the oral answer which provides the information to you sooner, namely now, rather than later at the end of this Question Time. That was the purpose of making the point.

HON F R PICARDO:

It is a sign of your immaturity that you raise it.

NO. 1039 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDY

Has the briefing paper to consultants in respect of the epidemiological study now received final approval?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Employer's Requirement document for the epidemiological study has indeed been finalised and approved, and will very shortly be released to the consultants that confirmed their interest with Government to submit a proposal.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1039 OF 2008

HON F R PICARDO:

I assume, although I am not technical in these matters, that that is a fairly technical document, but is it something that will also be public so that those who understand these things will understand the remit of it?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not know how technical it is. What I know is that the Chief Technical Officer and the Ministry of the Environment have carried out quite an extensive consultation process with interested groups, the environmental groups, about it. I doubt very much that there is any prospect of it being published until such time as one of the consultants is engaged pursuant to it, which is not to say that it will be published thereafter. It is just that I do not want to give an answer here which is either yes or no, without understanding whether there is any reason why it should be yes or no. I personally cannot think of any reason why it should not be published but I think others, at a more technical level, should have the opportunity to advise the Government whether it is safe to publish it or not.

HON F R PICARDO:

Would the Chief Minister agree to provide a copy to the Opposition so that, at least, we are aware of the remit of the study ourselves?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, I am not going to agree to publish anything here in this House today until a consultant has been engaged. At the moment it is just a terms of reference to consultants that have expressed an interest and now, one of them has got to say yes okay I am willing to do it and we have got to agree terms. When that has happened, my political concern about putting it in the public domain or giving it to the Opposition will no longer exist. There may still be technical concerns, about which the Minister can certainly consult, but certainly as far as we are politically concerned, once the commission has been converted into an engagement, it can be in the public domain.

NO. 1040 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

CHIEF MINISTER'S SALARY

What is the present total rate of the remuneration received by the Chief Minister by way of salary, inclusive of any allowances or any other sum whatsoever paid to him in his capacity as a member of the Parliament and in respect of his office?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I think the Chief Minister's salary represents excellent value for money for the taxpayers of Gibraltar. All Members of the House receive a Member's salary of £26,042 per annum. In addition, some Members receive a further salary as follows:-

The Leader of the Opposition receives an additional £17,794 per annum. Ministers receive an additional £48,399 per annum. The Chief Minister receives an additional £71,179 per annum, and Mr Speaker receives an additional sum of £12,102 per annum.

ORAL

NO. 1041 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

CLUB CLASS AIR FARES TO LONDON – COST TO GOVERNMENT

Has the Government been able to determine whether it is being overcharged for club class air fares to London, given previous questions and answers in this Parliament in which it has been confirmed that rates in excess of £1,000 have been charged to Government for club class air travel to London?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

There is no evidence that the Government are being charged more than other customers from among the general public.

NO. 1042 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

FREQUENT FLIER SCHEMES

Can Government state whether it has made any progress in reviewing the potential for Government to become a corporate member of frequent flier schemes operated by airlines?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

No Sir, this is not currently a priority, so the hon Member should not expect the review any time soon. Nor is it the Government's intention to report work in progress. Should the Government decide to change the current practice, Government will so announce. In the meantime, in the absence of an announcement, he should assume that the situation will continue as it is.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1042 OF 2008

HON F R PICARDO:

Is the Chief Minister telling the House he is going to do nothing about it?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The hon Member is telling the House what he has just told the House.

HON F R PICARDO:

Does that not, in fact, come round to a statement that the Government are going to do nothing about it, even if it could amount to a saving of taxpayer's money?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is not my job in this House to interpret clear words that I have given. Nor is it his job in this House to reformulate the Government's position by converting them from my words into his words. The Government's position is as I have given in my answer, everything else is his inaccurate interpretation of what I have said.

HON F R PICARDO:

What is he going to do about it?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I have given the answer, I have told him it is not a priority and that the review should not be expected any time soon.

ORAL

NO. 1043 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

CHIEF MINISTER'S VISITS OVERSEAS

Can Government provide a breakdown of the figure of £5,101.78 provided in answer to Written Question No. 58 of 2008 in respect of "Subsistence & other costs" in relation to travel on the dates between 17.06.08 to 24.06.08 (UN Committee of 24, Pre-Trilateral, Meeting with Lawyers – CJ Tribunal)?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Ah yes, the CJ Tribunal. Well yes, but I will answer this with Question Nos. 1044 to 1046 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 1044 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

CHIEF MINISTER'S VISITS OVERSEAS

Can Government provide a breakdown of the figure of £2,326.26 provided in answer to Written Question No. 58 of 2008 in respect of "Subsistence & other costs" in relation to travel on the dates between 1.07.08 to 3.07.08 (Trilateral Talks)?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1043, 1045 and 1046 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 1045 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

CHIEF MINISTER'S VISITS OVERSEAS

Can Government provide a breakdown of the figure of £2,075.65 provided in answer to Written Question No. 58 of 2008 in respect of "Subsistence & other costs" in relation to travel on the dates between 08.07.08 to 09.07.08 (Board of Deputies of British Jews)?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1043, 1044 and 1046 of 2008.

NO. 1046 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

CHIEF MINISTER'S VISITS OVERSEAS

Can Government provide a breakdown of the figure of £1,351.04 provided in answer to Written Question No. 58 of 2008 in respect of "Accommodation" in relation to travel on the dates between 07.05.08 to 10.05.08 (Various Meetings with FCO)?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Sorry, the "ah yes" I accept was a rather mischievous, on my part, recollection of a letter that he and his colleague Mr Licudi wrote during the tribunal expressing their full confidence in the Chief Justice. But I accept this is not the time.....

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1043 TO 1046 OF 2008

HON F R PICARDO:

I think neither my hon Colleague nor I can recall such a letter. I do not think it is relevant to the proceedings in this House, but I think the Chief Minister should give us more detail of that letter because I do not think either of us have a recollection of it.

HON G H LICUDI:

Given that a particular accusation has been made, which I believe is a serious and possibly a mischievous one, but I will not attribute mischief..... The position quite simply, for the record, is that in the hypothetical case that was postulated to me of the tribunal clearing the Chief Justice and the Chief Justice coming back to serve as a judge, would I as a practising lawyer be able to appear before the Chief Justice and I, like every other practising lawyer in Gibraltar, I assume, like the Chief Minister if he was practising, would have appeared before a court in Gibraltar where a clearance of the name is..... That is all that the Chief Minister can be referring to, nothing else.

MR SPEAKER:

May I say, I think we ought not to delve into the issue of the Chief Justice's tribunal, it is not relevant anyway. Both sides have said what they wanted to say on the matter, let us answer the question please.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Another time then.

HON F R PICARDO:

Bring a motion?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, or perhaps the hon Members would be happy for me to publish the document to which I have referred. But anyway, xxxxxx exactly so, that is the problem, is what he is willing to put his name to, that is the issue. I now hand the hon Member a schedule with the information that he requests in his original question which I accept, and I apologise to Mr Speaker, has nothing to do with the findings of the Chief Justice's tribunal.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1046

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1043

Transport (UK)	£1,955.00
VIP Suite (Gatwick)	£1,586.26
VIP Suite (Heathrow)	£ 846.00
Meal	£ 50.00
Transport (US)	£ 664.52
	<u>£5,101.78</u>

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1044

Transport	£ 700.00
VIP Suite (Gatwick)	£1,586.26
Meal	£ 40.00
	<u>£2,326.26</u>

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1045

The figure £2,075.65 inadvertently included £139.39 attributable to accommodation costs. The true figure should have been £1,936.26 broken down as follows:-

Transport	£ 350.00
VIP Suite (Gatwick)	£1,586.26
	<u>£1,936.26</u>

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1046

Waldorf Hilton	£1,234.71
Sofitel Gatwick	£ 116.33
	<u>£1,351.04</u>

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1043 TO 1046 OF 2008

HON F R PICARDO:

What is this VIP Suite (Gatwick) and VIP Suite (Heathrow) cost that has appeared in the figures?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is the cost for the use of the VIP Suites at those airports which recently started to be commercially operated and, therefore, charged for, which was never historically the case.

HON F R PICARDO:

Did the Chief Minister use the suites before they were commercially available?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, on and off, not on every trip but yes. It used to be a service that used to be available free to us and it is no longer available.

ORAL

NO. 1047 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

**INSURANCE COVER PROVIDED BY ARGUS INSURANCE COMPANY (EUROPE)
LTD**

Can Government list all and any insurance cover or other service provided to the Government or any other statutory authority or public body by Argus Insurance Company (Europe) Ltd (or any related company)?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I now hand the hon Member a table giving him the information and whilst he gets the paper I just noticed that in the case of this question about Argus Insurance, he did not feel it necessary in brackets to identify the name of their shareholders.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1047

<u>INSURANCE COVER</u>	<u>GOVT/AGENCY/AUTHORITIES/GOVT OWNED CO.</u>	<u>EXPIRY DATE OF COVER</u>	<u>ANNUAL PREMIUM</u>
Marine Surveyors Business Travel	Government	31st January 09	£19,116
Port & Terminal Operators Liability Ins.	Gibraltar Port Authority	31st August 09	£47,745
Medical Indemnity	Elderly Care Agency	31st March 09	£10,183
Business Combined Policy	Gib Regulatory Authority	30th April 09	£1,449
Business Combined Policy	Kings Bastion Leisure Centre Ltd	21st February 09	£23,975
Contractors All Risk Policy	Gib. Joinery & Building Serv. Ltd	31st January 09	£31,275
Business Combined Policy	Gib. Joinery & Building Serv. Ltd	31st January 09	£31,490
Group Personal Accident	Gib. Joinery & Building Serv. Ltd	31st January 09	£7,205
Motor Vehicle Fleet	Gib. Joinery & Building Serv. Ltd	31st January 09	£18,989
Business Combined Policy	Gib Bus Co. Ltd	25th March 09	£755
Motor Vehicle Fleet	Gib Bus Co. Ltd	18th March 09	£44,481

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1047

<u>INSURANCE COVER</u>	<u>GOVT/AGENCY/AUTHORITIES/GOVT OWNED CO.</u>	<u>EXPIRY DATE OF COVER</u>	<u>ANNUAL PREMIUM</u>
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Business Combined Policy	Gib Bus Co. Ltd	25th March 09	£755
Motor Vehicle Fleet	Gib Bus Co. Ltd	18th March 09	£44,481

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1047 OF 2008

HON F R PICARDO:

No, because of course, he did not answer this question fully this time giving the names of the shareholders, whilst he did answer the question in respect of which he is making a sly, allegorical reference giving the names of those shareholders, and that is why there is not such a reference. But I thank him for the information provided.

NO. 1048 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

PROJECTS FUNDED BY PFI MODEL

Has the Government determined which if any of the following projects will be funded through some model of the Public Finance Initiative ("PFI") (and which model of PFI is being considered for each), namely:

- (i) the airport and frontier access roads and tunnel;
- (ii) the new air terminal;
- (iii) the various MOD airfield facilities relocations;
- (iv) the mid harbour reclamation works;
- (v) the Government rental housing project;
- (vi) new boat sheds for the Mediterranean Rowing Club, Calpe Rowing Club and also the RGYC relocation;
- (vii) the relocation of JATU which is the MOD joint training unit at No. 4 Dock;
- (viii) Gibraltar Boat Squadron relocation;
- (ix) relocation of Police and Customs marine units, and also relocating the sea scouts;
- (x) Gibraltar infrastructure review and sewage upgrade project;
- (xi) the new power station and distribution network;
- (xii) the new waste water treatment plant;
- (xiii) new energy from waste facility;
- (xiv) simple approach lighting for the airfield and the park and ride car park at Devil's Tower Road; and
- (xv) the air terminal car park in Winston Churchill Avenue?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

No Sir, no decision has yet been made as to whether any of them, and if so which, will be funded by a PFI model, although discussions are in progress in respect of some of them.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1048 OF 2008

HON F R PICARDO:

Are those discussions internal to the Government or with financiers?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

With financiers.

HON F R PICARDO:

Which financiers are the Government discussing these things with?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Government are not willing to report on work in progress. When there is a commercial outcome to what is a commercial negotiation, we will report to the House if the information is sought from us.

ORAL

NO. 1049 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

INFRACTION PROCEEDINGS

How many infraction proceedings are opened against the UK in respect of Gibraltar's failure to transpose directives or transposition which is or is alleged by the Commission to be defective?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1050 of 2008.

NO. 1050 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

NON-IMPLEMENTATION OF EU DIRECTIVES

Can Government list the EU Directives for which the United Kingdom is currently before the European Court of Justice for their non-implementation in Gibraltar and indicate what the reason is for their non-implementation in each case?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

There are currently eleven infraction proceedings against the United Kingdom due to Gibraltar's failure to transpose, or due to alleged inaccurate transposition.

There are currently 13 infraction proceedings against the UK due to both the UK's and Gibraltar's failure to transpose, or due to alleged inaccurate transposition.

The Government are querying the applicability of three of the eleven infraction proceedings that are open only in relation to Gibraltar.

I now hand the hon Member a schedule containing the other information that they have requested.

Answer to Question 1050

Directives before the European Court of Justice	Reason for non-implementation
Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora	The Commission took issue with the UK's and Gibraltar's transposition. Bill and Regulations were published on 20 th November 2008. This has been a very complex transposition as a result to its link to Directive 2005/36/EC.
Directive 2006/100/EC adapting certain directives in the field of free movement of persons by reason of the accession of Bulgaria and Romania.	Legislation transposing 2006/100 is now complete and will be published shortly. (Alternative language for CM to note: This Directive will be transposed on Thursday 4th December 2008). Backlog.
Directive 2004/35/EC on environmental liability with regard to the prevention and remedying of environmental damage.	The Commission took issue with the UK's and Gibraltar's transposition. Draft legislation is complete and currently under final quality review. (Alternative language for CM to note: Transposition expected before the end of 2008). Backlog.
Directive 2005/14/EC relating to insurance against civil liability in respect of the use of motor vehicles.	Draft legislation is complete and currently under final quality review. (Alternative language for CM to note: Transposition expected before the end of 2008).

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1049 AND 1050 OF 2008

HON F R PICARDO:

Which should we take as definitive, the bits not in brackets or the bits in brackets, which suggested alternative language for the CM to note?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Both reflect the position, it just depends on what degree of accuracy and what degree of detail I want to give beyond the information that is sought in the question. So, one is an indication of what the target date is for transposition, expected before the end of and the hon Member is willing to share with me all the information that I have. That is it.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Can I say, in relation to Question No. 1050, the question asked for a list of EU Directives which were not implemented or which were before the Court, the Chief Minister said eleven, in my list I have only got four, is there another piece of paper missing?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, the hon Member needs to distinguish between infraction proceedings and matters that are before the European Court of Justice. In other words, I think the schedule that has been given are those Directives which are actually before the court. In other words, that it has reached the stage of the proceedings. All infractions are issued in the context of ECJ proceedings but they do not get to the court until one has gone through the letter, the Advocate General's opinion and that. I think that is the distinction being made between the statistics on the list.

NO. 1051 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

GOVERNMENT DEBENTURES

Has the Government given any consideration to issuing a debenture at a fixed interest rate of 4 to 5% over a period of between 3 to 5 years, matching what banks and building societies are currently offering, given that interest rates are already at a record low (and are predicted to fall further), thereby significantly reducing interest income to Government debenture holders who may migrate their investment elsewhere? I think the House will note that since the question was put, the rate yesterday from the Bank of England went down to 2 per cent and I note that the Government issued a statement last night suggesting they were going to be making an announcement today in respect of such matters.

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Government are, indeed, currently considering the restructuring of the Government borrowing on terms that will benefit both the purchasers of Government debentures and the Government itself. The proposals do not include, certainly not at this stage, and unless there was overwhelming demand for the type of instrument that the hon Member describes in his question, because people in Gibraltar historically have not been keen on locking up their money for five years, and giving them a five year bond which they can break at will, really adds nothing to the Government's situation. So, the restructuring that we are considering is something slightly different to the question of a three to five year bond with a fixed term, with a fixed interest rate. But the Government would have no objection in principle to issuing such a bond if there was sufficient demand from it, which historically has not been the case. Therefore, we are pursuing a slightly different course at this stage.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1051 OF 2008

HON F R PICARDO:

Are the Government expecting to make a statement on that today?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not know if the statement will be today or Monday, the details are being put together for a statement. I suppose it depends on how long I am tied up for in the House today and that sort of thing. If it is not today it will be on Monday.

NO. 1052 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

HEDGING CONTRACTS

What are the total amounts of the hedging contracts the Government has entered into in respect of the Sterling/Euro exchange rate and what banks have provided the relevant contracts?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Government have entered into a Euro hedging contract with the Royal Bank of Scotland for a total of £52 million worth of euros to purchase £2.6 million of euros per month over a twenty month period.

This contract provides the Government with the flexibility of purchasing euros at the spot rate over the period of twenty months, whilst offering protection should sterling fall below the rate of Euro 1.19. In other words, it is a floor hedge, it buys protection against sterling falling below the floor.

ORAL

NO. 1053 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

**SURRENDER OF LICENCES IN RESPECT OF TRUSTS AND/OR COMPANY
MANAGEMENT FIRMS**

Have any licensed trust and/or company management firms or companies given notice of their intention to surrender their licences to carry out this business in or from Gibraltar in the past 12 months?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

There has been one notification to surrender and three actual licences surrendered in the past twelve months in respect of licensed trusts and/or company management firms.

ORAL

NO. 1054 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

CONSULTANCY/SERVICES PROVIDED TO GOVERNMENT BY MR PARDO

What contracts, other than those identified in answer to Question No. 687 of 2008 have been previously awarded to Mr Nigel Pardo (or any company legally or beneficially owned by him (including, but not limited to, Gibraltar Land Reclamation Company Limited and Land Projects Consultants Limited), by the Government or any Government owned company for the provision of consultancy or other services and provide a list of the services provided in respect of any such contract and the remuneration (or remuneration formula) payable in respect of each?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1055 to 1060 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 1055 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

CONSULTANCY/SERVICES PROVIDED TO GOVERNMENT BY MR PARDO

Has any contract been awarded to Mr Nigel Pardo (or any company legally or beneficially owned by him (including, but not limited to, Gibraltar Land Reclamation Company Limited and Land Projects Consultants Limited), by the Government or any Government owned company for the provision of consultancy or other services since answer to Question No. 687 of 2008 in this Parliament and provide a list of the services provided in respect of any such contract and the remuneration (or remuneration formula) payable in respect of each?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1054 and 1056 to 1060 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 1056 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

CONSULTANCY/SERVICES PROVIDED TO GOVERNMENT BY MR PARDO

What is the “on account formula” referred to in answer to Question No. 687 of 2008 in respect of the professional services contracted by Gibraltar Investment Holdings Limited from Gibraltar Land Reclamation Company Limited and Land Projects Consultants Limited?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1054, 1055 and 1057 to 1060 of 2008.

NO. 1057 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

CONSULTANCY/SERVICES PROVIDED TO GOVERNMENT BY MR PARDO

What salary or fee has been paid to date by Gibraltar Investment Holdings Limited on the basis of the "on account formula" (referred to in answer to Question No. 687 of 2008) to Gibraltar Land Reclamation Company Limited and Land Projects Consultants Limited, in respect of the project in relation to each of the following contracts individually:

- (i) the airport and frontier access roads and tunnel;
- (ii) the new air terminal;
- (iii) the various MOD airfield facilities relocations;
- (iv) the mid harbour reclamation works;
- (v) the Government rental housing project;
- (vi) new boat sheds for the Mediterranean Rowing Club, Calpe Rowing Club and also the RGYC relocation;
- (vii) the relocation of JATU which is the MOD joint training unit at No. 4 Dock;
- (viii) Gibraltar Boat Squadron relocation;
- (ix) relocation of Police and Customs marine units, and also relocating the sea scouts;
- (x) Gibraltar infrastructure review and sewage upgrade project;
- (xi) the new power station and distribution network;
- (xii) the new waste water treatment plant;
- (xiii) new energy from waste facility;
- (xiv) simple approach lighting for the airfield and the park and ride car park at Devil's Tower Road; and
- (xv) the air terminal car park in Winston Churchill Avenue?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1054 to 1056 and 1058 to 1060 of 2008.

NO. 1058 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

CONSULTANCY/SERVICES PROVIDED TO GOVERNMENT BY MR PARDO

What is the total amount payable by Gibraltar Investment Holdings Limited to Gibraltar Land Reclamation Company Limited and Land Projects Consultants Limited, in respect of that part of the composite fee referred to answer to Question No. 687 of 2008 which comprises 20% of the costs of the services to be provided by all project design consultants and the 1% of the agreed project value in respect of each of the following contracts individually:

- (i) the airport and frontier access roads and tunnel;
- (ii) the new air terminal;
- (iii) the various MOD airfield facilities relocations;
- (iv) the mid harbour reclamation works;
- (v) the Government rental housing project;
- (vi) new boat sheds for the Mediterranean Rowing Club, Calpe Rowing Club and also the RGYC relocation;
- (vii) the relocation of JATU which is the MOD joint training unit at No. 4 Dock;
- (viii) Gibraltar Boat Squadron relocation;
- (ix) relocation of Police and Customs marine units, and also relocating the sea scouts;
- (x) Gibraltar infrastructure review and sewage upgrade project;
- (xi) the new power station and distribution network;
- (xii) the new waste water treatment plant;
- (xiii) new energy from waste facility;
- (xiv) simple approach lighting for the airfield and the park and ride car park at Devil's Tower Road; and
- (xv) the air terminal car park in Winston Churchill Avenue?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1054 to 1057, 1059 and 1060 of 2008.

NO. 1059 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

CONSULTANCY/SERVICES PROVIDED TO GOVERNMENT BY MR PARDO

From what Government fund or from which Government company is the amount payable by Gibraltar Investment Holdings Limited to Gibraltar Land Reclamation Company Limited and Land Projects Consultants Limited, in respect of each of the following contracts individually:

- (i) the airport and frontier access roads and tunnel;
- (ii) the new air terminal;
- (iii) the various MOD airfield facilities relocations;
- (iv) the mid harbour reclamation works;
- (v) the Government rental housing project;
- (vi) new boat sheds for the Mediterranean Rowing Club, Calpe Rowing Club and also the RGYC relocation;
- (vii) the relocation of JATU which is the MOD joint training unit at No. 4 Dock;
- (viii) Gibraltar Boat Squadron relocation;
- (ix) relocation of Police and Customs marine units, and also relocating the sea scouts;
- (x) Gibraltar infrastructure review and sewage upgrade project;
- (xi) the new power station and distribution network;
- (xii) the new waste water treatment plant;
- (xiii) new energy from waste facility;
- (xiv) simple approach lighting for the airfield and the park and ride car park at Devil's Tower Road; and
- (xv) the air terminal car park in Winston Churchill Avenue?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1054 to 1058 and 1060 of 2008.

NO. 1060 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

CONSULTANCY/SERVICES PROVIDED TO GOVERNMENT BY MR PARDO

Can Government provide the total contract price for each of the following contracts referred to in answer to Question No. 687 of 2008 in respect of the professional services contracted by Gibraltar Investment Holdings Limited from Gibraltar Land Reclamation Company Limited and Land Projects Consultants Limited, namely:

- (i) the airport and frontier access roads and tunnel;
- (ii) the new air terminal;
- (iii) the various MOD airfield facilities relocations;
- (iv) the mid harbour reclamation works;
- (v) the Government rental housing project;
- (vi) new boat sheds for the Mediterranean Rowing Club, Calpe Rowing Club and also the RGYC relocation;
- (vii) the relocation of JATU which is the MOD joint training unit at No. 4 Dock;
- (viii) Gibraltar Boat Squadron relocation;
- (ix) relocation of Police and Customs marine units, and also relocating the sea scouts;
- (x) Gibraltar infrastructure review and sewage upgrade project;
- (xi) the new power station and distribution network;
- (xii) the new waste water treatment plant;
- (xiii) new energy from waste facility;
- (xiv) simple approach lighting for the airfield and the park and ride car park at Devil's Tower Road; and
- (xv) the air terminal car park in Winston Churchill Avenue?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I must say, it is a matter of huge pleasure and satisfaction to the Government just to be reminded so frequently of what a wonderful array of excellent projects for Gibraltar they are currently engaged in. Yes, I am happy to answer the hon Member's question.

The contracts that have been previously awarded by Government, as he asks in Question No. 1054, the contracts that have been previously awarded by Government and/or any Government owned company to Mr Nigel Pardo, or any company legally or beneficially owned by him, including but not limited to Gibraltar Land Reclamation Company Limited and Land Projects Consultants Limited, are as follows:-

- (1) By the previous GSLP Government between 1988 and 1996:

Contracts awarded to Gibraltar Land Reclamation Company Limited for the Project Management (including in many cases the design and project direction) of the following Government projects:

- (1) The 1989 Westside Reclamation;
- (2) The North Mole Reclamation;
- (3) The Coaling Island Reclamation;
- (4) The MoD Finger Pier and MoD Premises at Coaling Island;
- (5) The infrastructure works (including provision of roads and utilities) in Queensway and the new reclamation areas;
- (6) The New Harbours warehousing and office complex;
- (7) The resurfacing of Victoria Stadium;
- (8) The Eastern Beach groynes;
- (9) Western Beach breakwater for Camber re-provision.

In addition to all the above, granted to those companies by the GSLP Government, between 1988 and 1996, the GSLP Government between these dates also made arrangements with companies connected with Mr Pardo which enabled those companies to build houses at Sunrise Court in Catalan Bay, Europa Mews, Montagu Gardens, Harbour Views and Montagu Crescent.

We have not, in the time available, been able to obtain the requested details of the remuneration payable by the GSLP Government to these companies connected to Mr Pardo, but I am informed that the formula in percentage terms is more or less the same as under the contracts subsequently awarded by the GSD Government.

- (2) Other contracts awarded by the GSD Government, as opposed to the GSLP Government, since May 1996:-
 - (1) The reclamation at the Bayside Sports Complex, for which the fee was about 4 per cent amounting to £83,801;
 - (2) Project management of the proposed Western Beach Reclamation, for which the professional fees amounted to £220,000;
 - (3) Project and contract negotiation and management in relation to the Government's interests in the Eastside project between February 2005 and December 2007 at 2.7 per cent, amounting to £840,000;
 - (4) Eastern Beach and Catalan Bay breakwaters and beach widening scheme, at 2.8 per cent amounting to £251,940.

No new contracts have been awarded since the answer to Question No. 687 of 2008.

The "on account" formula is that a fixed sum is paid to the companies on account on a monthly basis. At present, this monthly sum is £132,000. A total of £1.3 million has so far been paid pursuant to this "on account" formula.

It is not possible at this stage to provide the total amount payable in respect of that part of the composite fee which comprises 20 per cent of the costs of the service to be provided by all project design consultants and the one per cent of the agreed project value in respect of the projects listed in Question No. 1058 of 2008, as this depends on the outturn of the projects and cost containment performance. But the formula is designed to produce a fee of just under two per cent of the project's cost.

The sums payable by the Gibraltar Investment Holdings Limited are currently being taken from its own funds or funds held by its subsidiaries.

In relation to the question about the contract price of each of the projects, the contract price of those of the contracts that have already been awarded has been publicly announced by the Government. It would not make commercial sense to publish those that have not yet been put out to tender. Some of the work, however, is being done by GJBS and is thus not put out to tender. However, the total contract prices of those are not yet known.

NO. 1061 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

COST OF WORKS TO DEVIL'S TOWER ROAD AND NEW CAR PARK

Can Government state the estimated cost of the works to Devil's Tower Road including the new car parks?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

It is not recommended that these estimates be made public as this might prejudice fair tendering and offers from contractors.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1061 OF 2008

HON G H LICUDI:

Do the Government not accept that what they are essentially doing to the public is drip feeding information on costs in relation to all these projects? First we had the £50 million announced in relation to the airport, then we had £30 million announced in relation to the tunnel and the approach road, why is it that an overall cost of the estimate that the Government propose to spend of public money cannot be given? At the end of the day the overall cost may be £80 million, £90 million, £100 million, £110 million, £120 million. Do the Government not recognise that in the interests of transparency, the public in Gibraltar is entitled to know how much public money the Government intend to spend of their own money, before the Government become committed to paying that money by entering into a contractual commitment? This drip feeding of information and of cost is certainly not conducive to transparency and good governance.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, the Government do not accept that they are drip feeding any more than they accused the previous Government of drip feeding when they took the same position. The hon Member, hopefully, does not earn his living as a commercial lawyer, since I hope that his clients do not announce to the world how much they think they will have to pay for a project before they go out to tender, thereby making sure that no bidder bids less than the amount that the Government spouts publicly. I have yet to meet anyone who thinks that it is in the public interest to arm bidders with the information of what the Government expect to pay for things, thereby eliminating all possibility that the taxpayer might save money against that figure. If that is the quality of the

advice that he gives his clients in his professional practice, then he should not be surprised that the Government do not take such advice from him.

HON G H LICUDI:

I very much regret that the Chief Minister does not confine his comments to matters of a political nature. I am in this House as a politician and not as a private lawyer. Certainly, I have clients and interests outside this House, but to bring professional matters and private matters into this House is uncalled for. I have no difficulty in engaging the Chief Minister, or anybody else, in political debate in relation to political matters but it is totally uncalled for to bring in matters of a professional nature. As he did earlier on and as he has done now. Getting back to the question, certainly one recognises that in relation to a particular project, and I understand that this question relates to a particular project or a range of projects, because I do not know how many tenders there will be *(Interruption)* As I said, we do not know how many tenders there will be in relation to this particular project, and I can understand commercial sensitivities in relation to one project, but when the Government have plans for overall expenditure of the nature that we have seen, including the airport, including the approach road, including the tunnel, including Devil's Tower Road, including car parks, why is the public not entitled to know the overall amount that this Government intend to spend of its money?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

For several reasons. One, because that is not the question that he has asked. He has asked questions about specific projects. Two, because the Government have already given publicly a ballpark figure of the value of some of these projects in their aggregate. So everything that the hon Member has just said is simply wrong. Now, the hon Member in his opening to this supplementary question has just put his finger on yet another reason why he might think the party of which he is a member needs a new leader. In fact, the view that he has expressed is not shared by his current leader, who spent three or four years whilst I was the Leader of the Opposition, constantly hammering me with the fact that I was a partner of Triay and Triay, the firm that was acting for the Spanish pensioners in their challenge to Community Care. Now, what is sauce for the goose has got to be sauce for the gander, and the goose is not well placed to lecture the gander of what is acceptable sauce and what is not. That is the reason. The hon Member is going to stand up in the House and make political statements which a lawyer should know are not justified. I believe it is entirely proper for the Government to say that they are surprised that a lawyer should be making those points. Not least when he then stands up to say that they understand, as he has just done, that he understands the commercial sensitivities. Well, if he understands the commercial sensitivities, which I do not think he does, or if he does he does not care about them, why has he asked me whether the Government can give the estimated cost of the Devil's Tower Road and the new car parks? In Devil's Tower Road there is one car park.

HON G H LICUDI:

For the simple reason that I explained, that we do not know, we are not privy to information which is in the hands of the Government and we do not know whether the Government will be issuing one tender, two tenders or three tenders in respect of these works. Therefore, as we said, the public is entitled to know overall costs rather

than being drip fed information. But I take it from the Chief Minister that he simply does not want to give that information to the public.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, he can take it from the Chief Minister that this Government, like all previous Governments, have taken the view that it would be an act of stupidity in their custody of the interests of those people to which he thinks I do not want to give information, to answer his question, because the public's desire to know how much these things are going to cost is not greater than their desire to save millions of pounds from the costs of doing so. That is only his motive so that he can then go and do political battle against the Government on a partisan basis as he does. So he should distinguish between the convenience of him having the information for political purpose and the public interest. The public interest is served now, as it has always been served by previous Governments, by not flagging up information prematurely, which is of value to people with whom the Government then have to negotiate a contract on the cost of that very thing. Let the hon Member not sit in this House, whilst he remains a member of the GSLP, lecturing us about our willingness to provide information to the people of Gibraltar. The people of Gibraltar now have at least ten times more information about their affairs than they ever had when their party was last in Government.

HON G H LICUDI:

The Chief Minister has sought to draw a distinction between the public interest and the interest of the Opposition for political purposes, of receiving information to be used for political purposes. Does the Chief Minister not accept that it is the role of the Opposition to question the Government, to seek information from the Government, to hold the Government politically accountable and that the public interest of Gibraltar is best served by the Opposition getting the fullest possible information, so that they can do their job properly. Does the Chief Minister not accept that? As regards the comments that he made "for as long as he remains a member of the GSLP", I am not sure exactly what the Chief Minister is referring to, but I certainly have no intention of changing parties.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Long may that continue to be the case. It is not that I want him to change parties, it is that one hears so much about leadership challenges on the Opposition side of the House, and one hears so many views expressed by the younger, newer members of that party which are so out of sync with the demonstrable, demonstrated practice and declared views of their leader, that one wonders what they have in common politically with him.

HON F R PICARDO:

We do not like him.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Exactly, exactly so, the only thing that they have in common is their dislike for me, precisely for that, and now the cat is out of the bag. Exactly so, that is what most people already believe, he is doing no more than confirming what most people believe. The Government do not think or agree with what the hon Member has just said. Information can only properly be put into the public domain at the appropriate time and if the hon Member thinks that the exercise of the Opposition's duty requires the Government to give them the totality of Government information at whatever time they choose to ask for it, regardless of the public interest issues at stake, the answer is that I do not agree with him and no sensible, democratic politician would agree with him. But in any case, the judgement of what is in the public interest is a call and a matter for the Government, not for the Opposition. The Government are elected precisely to make judgements about what the public interest is and how it can be saved, and not people that have been rejected four times in a row by the electorate.

NO. 1062 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

CLOSURE OF GOVERNMENT OFFICES DURING CHRISTMAS

Can Government state why it has changed its policy this year with regard to the leave entitlement of civil servants affected by the closure of Government offices during the Christmas period?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Government have not changed their policy. Previous practice was not a matter of policy.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1062 OF 2008

HON G H LICUDI:

The Chief Minister may draw nice distinctions between whether it is a matter of policy or not. The fact remains and the purpose of the question is quite clear, that there was a position taken by the Government last year which has changed this year. Can Government now state why they changed their position as regards last year?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, the Government can say why they have not repeated the practice that they have incurred once. That is very different even though the hon Member thinks it is a nice distinction, from suggesting that there has been a policy or that it has been changed. So he may think, it is not my job to second guess what he meant by his question, my job is to read a question which he formulates in a language that we both understand, and answer the question that he has formulated with the words that he and not I has chosen. He has asked whether there has been a change of policy, to which the Government's answer is that they have not changed their policy. That remains the position. There was a concession made last year, with a statement by the Government that it could not be repeated, and it has not been repeated and until there has been an agreement negotiated between the Government and the Unions about a formal standing practice, there is ad hocism. But what the Government are not able to do is give away three extra days leave every year, as opposed to what they did in 2002, in 2004 and again this year, which is to give away one day when Friday is the only working day between New Year and the weekend that follows it. That is why we have given away the extra day. That is a practice for which there is

now a three year precedent, albeit not successive years, because that does not happen as a matter of calendar every year, obviously.

HON G H LICUDI:

The Chief Minister refers to a policy and not having changed his policy, as if to give the impression that what is being implemented this year is a matter of policy which has applied on previous years. Can the Chief Minister not confirm that in previous years, before last year, there was not a policy of closing the Government offices during the Christmas period, except on the odd occasion where one day has been closed, but certainly not a policy of closing for a whole week, and that was introduced, whether as a matter of policy, as a matter of practice or as a matter of concession, that was introduced for the first time last year, in which Civil Servants were not required to take compulsory leave, yet they are required to take compulsory leave this year which is what the Government have announced and made clear in their statement. So what is the policy that the Chief Minister is referring to when this has not been the practice in previous years?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Chief Minister is not referring to a policy, I am not referring to the policy, precisely what I am telling him is that it is not a matter of policy, and the hon Member clearly does not know the facts of what he is talking about. He obviously does not know what has happened in the past. Mind you, if he had wanted to show support for the Civil Servants he might have gone to their Christmas party. But I will tell the hon Member what has happened so that he can judge for himself. At least so that he knows the facts and then he can draw his distinctions about whether his questions are sensible. But of course, if he does not listen, even when I am giving him the information, he will continue to ask ignorant questions.

HON G H LICUDI:

Mr Speaker, on a Point of Order. That really is not parliamentary language, it is not the usual type of language that I usually engage in and I would ask the Chief Minister to show the same sort of respect.

MR SPEAKER:

He referred to ignorant questions, he did not accuse anyone of being ignorant. Ignorant questions.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Nor must the hon Member think that he is the benchmark of the language that the rest of us in this House have to adopt. If I adopted the language that he adopts, I would be as politically unsuccessful as he is being. His questions are ignorant. It is self-evident, as I am about to demonstrate to him, if only he would just sit whilst he gets the information that he clearly does not know, it is self-evident that his questions are ignorant. It may also be that he is ignorant himself but that is not what I said. But he has accused me of saying that he is ignorant. I did not say that.

HON J J BOSSANO:

The questions then.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, that is what I said.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Xxxxxxxx

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, the Hon Leader of the Opposition can formulate his written and oral language as he chooses. I am not bound by his style either.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Or anybody else by his.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

But I have not complained, they are the ones who have complained. The 27th December 2002 fell on a Friday and the only working day between the Christmas period and the weekend was Friday 27th December and, therefore, the Government gave that day away, because it was the only working day wedged between periods of non working days on either side of it. The same happened in 2004 with the 2nd January, so the Government gave it away. That is to say, the 2nd January fell on a Friday and it was the only working day between New Year and the weekend that followed it. So the Government gave it away. In 2007 that was not the case and the Government, nevertheless, gave away extra days. This year, what the Government have done is go back to what they did in 2002 and 2004, which is to give away, that is to say, without requiring them to be taken as leave, to give away the day which is, I think it is Friday 28th, but one of those three days anyway falls into the same category as the other two years. None of them are a matter of policy, but in the case of giving away as an extra day the day that wedges as the only working day, wedged between two blocks of non working days, there are now three years worth of precedent, which the hon Member is willing to describe as a policy if he wishes. The Government do not regard it as a matter of policy. As to the closing down of Government over an extended period, and whether those days when they are more than the one wedged day, should be given away as a matter of extra annual leave entitlement, or should be taken by the staff as a matter of annual leave, an issue upon which there appears to be a significant division of opinion between Government employees, that is a matter for negotiations which have not taken place, since the Government made clear to the Unions that it would not happen again after it first happened in 2007. But it is not impossible that during the course of the next year, before next Christmas, the Government and the Unions may, if the Unions want to invite the Government to conduct such a negotiation with them, have come to some sort of negotiation. But absent an agreement, the Government cannot just signal that Civil Servants in effect

are getting an extra two or three days annual leave entitlement a year. That is the factual position. The hon Member can now use those facts to whatever factual or political purpose he wishes, but at least let it be those facts and none other.

HON G H LICUDI:

I am obliged for that information, which in fact, he gave in answer to the earlier question so there is nothing new in what he has just said in his oratory which lasted a few minutes. Given that last year Government decided to close its offices, and this year Government have decided to close its offices, is that a matter of policy, regardless of whether leave is compulsory or not and is a matter for negotiation with the Union? Is it now a matter of Government policy that every year Government offices will be closed?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No it is not. The Government's view is that if the staff on terms acceptable to the Government, ask the Government to close their offices, the Government are not opposed to doing so. But it has to be on terms that the Government feel are defensible and that the Government feel are fair to the taxpayer, who Civil Servants are employed to deliver a public service to. On those terms, the Government are willing because the Government recognise the value to family life of allowing Civil Servants to spend an extended period of time over Christmas with their families. But it is not the policy of the Government, as we have made clear in a public statement, or in a bulletin, the Government have no requirement to close over the Christmas period and the Government have not initiated the closure over the Christmas period. The Government have been asked by the staff side representatives whether they would close over Christmas, and the Government have said yes provided it can be done on terms that the Government feel are fair to all the parties concerned. That is the position.

ORAL

NO. 1063 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

KING'S BASTION LEISURE CENTRE

On what date did the Government complete all and any of its negotiations with the operator of the bowling alley at the King's Bastion Leisure Centre on the terms on which it would be allowed to operate that concession, the amounts it would be allowed to charge clients and what amount the Government guaranteed the operator as income?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1064 and 1065 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 1064 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

KING'S BASTION LEISURE CENTRE

Can Government state how many people used the ice-skating rink at the King's Bastion Leisure Centre during each month from September to October 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1063 and 1065 of 2008.

NO. 1065 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

KING'S BASTION LEISURE CENTRE

Can Government state how many accidents requiring treatment have been recorded at the ice-skating rink at the King's Bastion Leisure Centre from September to October 2008 giving a breakdown by month?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The agreement with the bowling operator of the King's Bastion Leisure Centre was signed on 8th February 2008.

A total of 2,307 people used the ice-skating rink in September, and 2,544 people used it in October.

There was one accident requiring treatment in the ice-skating rink in each of those two months.

ORAL

NO. 1066 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

NEW HARBOURS CAR PARK

Can Government state how many applicants there were for car parking spaces at the New harbours car park?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1067 and 1068 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 1067 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

SANDPITS CAR PARK

Can Government state how many applicants there were for car parking spaces at the Sandpits car park?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1066 and 1068 of 2008.

NO. 1068 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

WILLIS'S ROAD CAR PARK/ GARAGES

Can Government state how many applicants there were for car parking spaces/garages at the Willis's Road car park?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Most of the applications were not limited to one specific car park. There were 692 applications received for the following spaces. So the numbers that I will now give him will exceed 692 because some of the applications in the 692 applied to more than one car park.

Willis's Garages	207
Covered parking spaces at Willis's	213
Stores	236
Sandpits	260
New Harbours	312

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1066 TO 1068 OF 2008

HON G H LICUDI:

The fact that these figures add up to more than the total number of applications, is as the Chief Minister has suggested, explained by the fact that one application, and I assume that one application may have included more than one car park in its own application.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

He does not have to assume it, that is what I have told him.

HON G H LICUDI:

Yes. I will have questions on criteria, I will wait for the answers on the other questions and then I will ask supplementaries on criteria.

ORAL

NO. 1069 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

NEW HARBOURS CAR PARK

Can Government state how many of the applicants for car parking spaces at the New Harbours car park live in the area of the car park?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1070 to 1074 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 1070 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

SANDPITS CAR PARK

Can Government state how many of the applicants for car parking spaces at the Sandpits car park live in the area of the car park?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1069 and 1071 to 1074 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 1071 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

WILLIS'S ROAD CAR PARK/GARAGES

Can Government state how many of the applicants for car parking spaces/garages at the Willis's Road car park live in the area of the car park?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1069, 1070 and 1072 to 1074 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 1072 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

NEW HARBOURS CAR PARK

Can Government state how many of the successful applicants for car parking spaces at the New Harbours car park live in the area of the car park?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1069 to 1071, 1073 and 1074 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 1073 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

SANDPITS CAR PARK

Can Government state how many of the successful applicants for car parking spaces at the Sandpits car park live in the area of the car park?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1069 to 1072 and 1074 of 2008.

NO. 1074 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

WILLIS'S ROAD CAR PARK/GARAGES

Can Government state how many of the successful applicants for car parking spaces/garages at the Willis's Road car park live in the area of the car park?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

These questions cannot be answered because it is not possible for the Government to know what the hon Member understands by "the area of" each of the car parks.

However, the hon Member may wish to know that a breakdown of successful applicants by places of residence will shortly be made public. People will form their own views as to which of the successful applicants live "in the area", depending on how narrowly or widely they choose to define the term "area".

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1069 TO 1074 OF 2008

HON G H LICUDI:

I find it difficult to comprehend that answer and that the Chief Minister does not understand what is meant by living in the area of the car park, because those words are taken precisely from the conditions that were attached to the applications, which conditions were produced by the Government. The conditions, condition 3 says, "when allocating these parking spaces, garages and stores, preference will be given to residents in area". I suppose it means residents in the area. One would imagine, that whoever was the author, presumably with the assistance of the Chief Minister, would have had in mind some sort of catchment area when they defined this as saying, "preference will be given to people in the area", and giving a common sense, as we can only do, giving a common sense analysis of what residence in the area means, it can only mean residence in the immediate area. It certainly cannot mean residents in the area of Gibraltar, or residents in the Campo area, so what did the Government have in mind when they defined what preferences would be given to applicants for the car park, when they themselves defined it by reference to "area" as I myself have done in these questions?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, that is precisely the point, he has not done that. I am none the wiser of what he means by "area" than what he means by "immediate area". The Government know what they understand by "area", which is how the draws were conducted, which is an answer to a subsequent question under the criteria. The hon Member has not asked the Government how they defined the area for the purposes of the criteria, or rather, he has done by asking the Government what the criteria were for the draws. But because he has asked that in another question, here he must be asking what he means by "area", unless he thinks he has asked the same question twice in two different questions. The Government obviously know what area they have divided into, and he is about to find out when I answer his questions about the criteria. The question that he has asked is, "can the Government state how many of the successful applicants for car parking spaces/garages at the Willis's Road car park live in the area?" He did not say "the area that the Government had chosen to define", in which case, the answer would obviously have been all of them. If he is intending to ask what the Government's definition of "area" is, then unless he thinks we have departed from our definition, the answer must necessarily be "all of them". So, he wants to know the clusterings in some other context, and if he wants to know the clusterings in some other context, he has got to formulate a question that seeks that information. He need not worry, the information is going to be published on a street by street basis, because as there are many people in Gibraltar who appear not to agree with the Government's definition of "area", mainly those that have not won a car park in the draw, all the ones that won agree with the Government definition, and all the ones that have not won do not agree. But as there are clearly in Gibraltar more than one view of how the Government should have defined "area", obviously thinking that the Government should have defined it differently to the way they did, the Government are going to do what they can do no better than. That is, to publish the statistics of all the successful people in the draw, clustering them by streets in which they live and then people can form an informed view of whether they think that the Government made a mistake in defining the areas as we defined them. So, in fact, the information that I am giving in the public as soon as it can be collated and put together, is much more detailed information than the hon Member is seeking, because it does not depend on a presumption of what different people mean by the words "area of".

HON G H LICUDI:

The Chief Minister is simply trying very hard to be and to come across as a clever lawyer rather than a good politician, by drawing these nice distinctions between what we mean by "area" and what they mean by "area". The fact is that they defined applications and conditions by references to area, and I have set out a question by reference to the area by adopting the very same language that the Government have adopted. When the Chief Minister says that he does not understand what we mean by "area", what one would have expected, rather than the speech that we just received, and simply a refusal to answer the questions, well, whilst we do not know exactly what the hon Member is suggesting, we can say that we defined these conditions by reference to "area", and our understanding to "area" means this, and on the basis of that understanding and the conditions that were set out, the answer to the question as to the number of successful applicants, and the answers to the questions as to the number of applicants per area as defined by Government, could and should have been given. Yet it has not been given. Do the Government not accept that that is a reasonable expectation from the Opposition, when the Opposition use exactly the same language in their terminology that the Government

have used in their publication. As regards the question that everybody who is aggrieved by this is obviously someone who has failed, let me tell the Chief Minister that that is not, in fact, the case. We have received representations and would he not accept that representations have been made to us by people who have been successful, but who have been so thoroughly disgusted by the manner in which the Government have conducted this exercise, that they had to get this off their chest and they had to lodge some further complaints.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, the Government do not accept any of that. But look, if the Opposition Members think that the Government have perpetrated an injustice on the people of Gibraltar in this respect, they could start by giving up the car parks that they have won in the draw. Frankly, the Government do not agree with anything that he has said either. It is not the Government's job to draft his questions in a factually or politically meaningful or accurate way. He has got to draft the questions that he wants answered. He has asked one question in which he refers to the "area". He has asked another question in which he has asked for the criteria for eligibility, in which clearly the question of the area is one of the eligibility criteria. So in the other question where he talks about area, he cannot have been referring to the area as defined by the Government, because the area as defined by the Government is the subject matter of a separate question by him. But if he now is asking, really absurdly, whether everyone that has won in the draw is within the area as the Government have defined it, well obviously, it is a silly question because the answer is yes. Unless what he is asking is, have in any case the Government departed from their definition of the area and allowed a successful person in the draw to keep his car park, even though he does not live in the area. That is the question that he would, in effect, be asking on the basis of the explanation that he now pulls from his hat. The answer is no. The allocations, allowing people successful in the draw to keep their car parks, is conditional on satisfying the Government that they do indeed live in the area. Not just own a house in the area, live in the area. So, if there is anybody out there who may have a house up there but is not actually living there, then they may not be allowed to keep their car park. That is why the Government have put the successful people out of the draw to the proof of demonstrating that they actually live in the area.

HON G H LICUDI:

Are those not matters that the Government should have been satisfied about with regard to the documentation that was required to be submitted, before the car park was allocated? Or are the Government now saying that having allocated car parks to different people who complied with the criteria set out by them, and who complied with the conditions including the necessary documentation, that they now face the prospect of having their car parking spaces removed. Is that what the Government are saying?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The hon Member really shows the most extraordinary degree of incapacity to understand how public affairs ought to be carried out. No, but does he not entertain the possibility, clearly he does not, his intellectual attention to this matter does not extend to even contemplating the possibility that people's personal circumstances

may have changed from the date in which they submitted the application, were allowed to participate in the draw, and the actual carrying out of the draw? Does he not entertain that possibility? Why do these obvious things not cross the hon Member's mind, even, before launching into a tirade against the Government, based on the assumption that there must be some act of incompetence on the part of the Government, when the act of incompetence is in his assessment of the issues that arise for the Government to make sure that nobody from outside of the area gets in as a result of change of circumstances.

HON G H LICUDI:

Are the Government saying the change of circumstances between one date and another will deprive someone of a car parking space that has been allocated? Are the Government then saying, by extension and by analogy, that whoever is actually given a licence to use that car park and then has a change of circumstances, that they will lose that licence?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Absolutely, the Government are saying precisely that.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Given the fact that the purpose of the exercise, that is, the Government for example decided that they should do car parks in Willis's Road as opposed to doing it somewhere else, because there was a site that could be used and because there was a problem of traffic in that area, would it not have made more sense that in defining the area of the applicants the Government should want to give priority to the people who were already living there? Otherwise we are going to have people who are living somewhere else, now taking their car in that place, where they would not have travelled there previously. I mean, this is not an attempt to do anything I neither have a car and have never had one. It is just that it seems to me that they have frustrated their own intentions of solving the congestion in that area. If, as I understand it, they are going to have now people travelling to park the car in a place where they do not live. We all know that in Gibraltar if people could park their car in their bedroom they would. So, if we are going to have somebody living in Humphrey's and going all the way to Willis's Road to park their car, it does not seem to me to be improving the problem that existed. Therefore, the purpose of the exercise of the car park seems to have been frustrated. Have the Government thought of that?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The point that the hon Member makes just raises in a different form the question, "what is the right area for the Government to have chosen?" When he says, "live somewhere else", how is he defining that term somewhere else? I mean, we start from Willis's Road where the car park is located and at least one member of the Opposition live, so no one is going to doubt that Willis's Road is in the area, obviously. Then, how far does one have to get away from Willis's Road before one is no longer thought to be in the area. Well, there are as many views on that question as there are degrees of distance away from Willis's Road, believe in me at least on

that point. Of course, somebody might live in Engineer Lane, which as the crow flies is 250 yards away from Willis's Road, but there are people who live in Calpe who think that that is not in the area. What they mean is that it is further away than me and, therefore, I should have had the car park before him. That is what they mean. Otherwise, one has got to define what one means by "the area". In due course all of these things will sort themselves out. Why? Because the Government are building car parks in most of the areas. So, eventually, people will want, even if they have got a car park a bit further away from where they live at the moment, people will want to have their cars parked in the multi-storey car park nearest to their house, I suppose. But when all these multi-storey car parks have been built, in accordance with the Government's commitment to make parking the issue of this fourth term, then people will have choices and will all spread themselves out. But until all the others can be built, the resources that are made available have got to be made on a wider definition of "area", that is the Government's decision, rather than a narrower definition of "area", to make sure that as many taxpayers as possible have the chance to benefit. Remember all that has happened is that they have been eligible to go into the draw, they have not been given a car park, as possible with the investments as and when they are made, and as and when they are ready. I am trying to answer all these supplementaries without giving away the answer to the next question about criteria, in which the Government will say how the Government define the area for these purposes. Now, parking is not just relieved, which I think was the essence of his supplementary, parking is not just relieved by allowing people to park in a garage as opposed to in the street, as I think I said recently. Every person that is given a space in a garage relieves the pressure on street parking. So there is relief in parking terms for everybody who lives in the area, because if there were, I do not remember how many there were in Willis's, but if there are x hundred parking spaces in Willis's, most of those are cars that used to be, that belong and indeed he will see when the statistics are published, that the overwhelming majority of successful people live in a very narrow footprint of the vicinity of the car park. When he sees that, anyway, he will realise that all of these people were previously parking their cars on the street and are no longer going to be doing so. So all of those car parkings in the street are now available to relieve the parking pressure of those people in the area that have not, on this occasion, been successful in winning a car parking space. So, the hon Member can say that he believes that when the Government spend £3 million or £4 million in building a car park in Willis's Road, that it should give them out to people not by draw but in order of applicants by the number of metres that they live away from the front entrance of the garage. In other words, the first space is for the man who lives in the house with the window.....

HON J J BOSSANO:

I have not said such thing.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, I know he has not, I know, but there are many people who have expressed that view to the Government. That is the narrow definition, those are the people who believe that the Government should have defined "area" very narrowly. Well, I am not saying it is necessarily a wrong view. It is a view which could have been chosen. It is not the view that the Government chose, because the Government for the reasons that I have just explained to him, chose a wider definition of "area", which he will know if he does not already when I answer the next question.

HON G H LICUDI:

Do the Government not accept that even when they do something that is good and intended to be good for the community, they get it so disastrously wrong that there are still many complaints by people out there? As regards the question of area, in the light of the comment by the Hon the Chief Minister that area for the Government has this wider definition, I am sure we will be wiser in a few minute's time of what that wider definition is, do the Government not accept that the ordinary man in the street who would have obtained this application and these conditions, and have seen that preference will be given to residents in the area, that those people would have been misled because they would not know that the Government was thinking of a wide definition of area, and how wide is wide? So do the Government not accept that they have misled applicants by these conditions? Do the Government not further accept that this definition is either deliberately vague, or incompetently vague, which is it?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is not either because the Government do not accept what the hon Member says. The Government accept that there are some people who choosing to define the word "area" as they personally choose to define it, may in consequence have felt misled. But that is very different from the Government misleading them because the Government have not defined the question of area. The Government do not accept that they get their xxxxxx around their elbows when they do projects of this sort. The hon Member, if he should ever find himself on the Government side of the House, will soon discover that in Gibraltar, as in almost every other democratically governed country in the world, it is not possible for governments to do things pleasing everybody all of the time. So, if that is his definition of competence, then as I say, should he ever find himself on this side of the House, he will soon be greeted by a very rude awakening. On this, at least, he might like to consult his leader. It is not possible to devise a system with which everybody will feel that they have nothing or no desire to grumble about. Therefore, I do not accept what he has said, it is just another example..... It is all very well for the hon Members who when they were in government built no multi-storey car parks at taxpayer's expense, to now try to make political capital about the way the Government choose to define the criteria for the allocation of spaces in those three that the Government have already built. It is the usual form of political nit picking. Instead of telling the people of Gibraltar why we are incompetent in the way that we have allocated these parking spaces, why does he not explain to the people of Gibraltar why the GSLP thought there was not a need for any parking spaces, regardless of how they might have been allocated? That is what he should be explaining to the people of Gibraltar.

MR SPEAKER:

I am dying to find out about the criteria, can we move on to the next question?

ORAL

NO. 1075 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

NEW HARBOURS CAR PARK

Can Government state what criteria was used for the selection of successful applicants for car parking spaces at the New Harbours car park?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1076 to 1080 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 1076 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

WILLIS'S ROAD CAR PARK/GARAGES

Can Government state what criteria was used for the selection of successful applicants for car parking spaces/garages at the Willis's Road car park?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1075 and 1077 to 1080 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 1077 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

SANDPITS CAR PARK

Can Government state what criteria was used for the selection of successful applicants for car parking spaces at the Sandpits car park?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1075, 1076 and 1078 to 1080 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 1078 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

NEW HARBOURS CAR PARK

Can Government state whether there was a change of criteria at any time between the invitation for applications for car parking spaces at the New Harbours car park and the selection of successful applicants?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1075 to 1077, 1079 and 1080 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 1079 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

SANDPITS CAR PARK

Can Government state whether there was a change of criteria at any time between the invitation for applications for car parking spaces at the Sandpits car park and the selection of successful applicants?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1075 to 1078 and 1080 of 2008.

NO. 1080 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

WILLIS'S ROAD CAR PARK/GARAGES

Can Government state whether there was a change of criteria at any time between the invitation for applications for car parking spaces/garages at the Willis's Road car park and the selection of successful applicants?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Government have not selected the successful applicants, they selected themselves in a public draw. However, if he asks me the right question, I can give him what the qualifications, what the criteria were for eligibility to participate in the draw.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1075 TO 1080 OF 2008

HON G H LICUDI:

I am completely at a loss as to what the Chief Minister is referring to. The applicants selected themselves, was this not a public draw conducted, organised by the Government and, therefore, it was essentially the Government that conducted this public draw and therefore selected applicants by public draw or otherwise? But it was the Government that organised and conducted this, is that not the case?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Not only does the hon Member appear to be permanently in the dark, but even when light is shone upon him he still chooses to pretend that he is living in the dark. The hon Member has asked, "can the Government state what criteria was used for the selection of successful applicants?" and I am telling him that the Government have not selected successful applicants, and therefore, there is no criteria for the Government's selection of successful applicants. Successful applicants won their success, not by Government selection but by winning the draw. Therefore, what the Government criteria attaches to is not the selection of the successful applicant, rather but deciding who could go into the *bombo* so that they would have the chance of their name being drawn out. Is that sufficiently clear for the hon Member? Well, I am sorry, I cannot think of an easier or simpler way to explain it to him.

HON G H LICUDI:

Well, either we are all living in the dark or the Chief Minister simply having an off day. He clearly knows what the question is intended to mean. He has told us on countless occasions in the last half an hour, that he will give the criteria when we get to these questions, and now he seems to be playing games, playing these political games of catch me if you can and playing with words. Well, the public out there want a better performance from a Chief Minister than that. The public out there want answers to simple questions, and I have not asked what criteria the Government use. I have simply asked for the Government to state what criteria was used, by whoever conducted the selection, and it is clear that there was a selection of successful applicants, and it is clear that there was a criteria used as to who could be successful and who could not be successful. Clearly, that criteria pre-supposed that one had to comply with certain conditions before being put in the *bombo* as the Chief Minister has described. Can the Chief Minister shed a little bit of light, given that we all seem to be living in the dark ages except for him? Can the Chief Minister shed a bit of light as to what criteria was in fact used?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not see who he defines as everybody else living in the dark except him. So far, he and I are the only two who have spoken on this matter. It is clear from the hon Member's answer that he understands neither the question that he has formulated, nor the answer that I have given to him, and he can try and conceal that situation by repeating the completely irrelevant assessment that he is making in his supplementary. People want the Government to answer the question that is asked, however simple it might be. He has, indeed, asked a simple question and I have answered the simple question that he has asked. He has asked, "can Government state what criteria was used for the selection of successful applicants?" Successful applicants are people who are now very happy that they have a car parking space. Those people have not been selected by anybody. The only thing that the Government have done is that we have selected the criteria to see who is eligible to participate in the draw. Therefore, there are no criteria by which the Government, or anybody else, have selected the successful applicants. I have told him, if he wants to carry on defending his question he can continue to do so and not get the information that he wants, but I started by telling him that if he asks in supplementary what criteria the Government used for the purposes for which they had criteria, namely, not the selection of successful applicants as his question asks, but rather, to decide who was eligible to participate in the draw, which is a very long way from being a successful applicant, I will give him the information. But I will not give him the information in answer to a question which has been formulated in a way that suggests that the Government have chosen successful applicants. Is it now clear to him?

HON G H LICUDI:

Absolutely not, and I have not asked as I have said previously, that the question is about the selection. What is clear is that what I cannot ask is about selection of unsuccessful applicants. If the question is about selection, the question has to be about selection of those people who have been successful.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

In that case, the answer is as I have given it to him.

HON G H LICUDI:

Is it possible, for once, that we can get away from a headmaster or school mentality? We are not in school here. We are performing public duties, for which we are paid and for which the Opposition, and I would expect the Government side, take their responsibilities very seriously. Having regard to that, can we not simply decide to disagree on the semantics of the wording? Can we not decide simply to move on and to give the information that is clearly sought? There was, clearly, criteria by which people were entitled to participate in the draw.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, that is a different question not the one that he put. So he has understood the answers that I have given. That is a very different question to the one.....

MR SPEAKER:

Order, Order.

HON G H LICUDI:

I am happy to give way to the Chief Minister if he wishes to answer my question.

MR SPEAKER:

No, please proceed.

HON G H LICUDI:

Will the Chief Minister now answer? If he wants to pat himself on the back and say that he has scored five political points, well, ten points for the Chief Minister for what he has done this morning. But no points for being publicly accountable by answering questions which are sensible and which the public are entitled to. So, would the Chief Minister now say what criteria the Government adopted to enable people to participate in the draw, which is the question which the Chief Minister wants asked and appears not to want to answer?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, if he puts his supplementary like that I will not answer the question, because it is not a question of the hon Member now answering, as if he had asked me a million times before. He has never asked me that question before, which is a very different question to the one that he has asked and has spent fifteen minutes defending, even though it is indefensible, and I will only answer the questions that he asks. It is not

part of my job to earn part of his salary by drafting the questions for him. My duty is to answer the question that he asks. If he wants to know what criteria the Government have used to decide which applicants could participate in the draw, he has to ask that question without suggesting that that is the question that he has asked and which I have stubbornly, or opaquely refused so far to answer. If he asks the question in that way, I will happily provide the answer to him. If he continues to choose language in formulating his question which suggests that the question that he has on the Order Paper seeks the information that he is now asking for in his supplementary, I will not provide it to him.

MR SPEAKER:

Before the hon Member rises, I have no powers to control the text of a question as long as it meets with Standing Orders, nor do I have any powers to control the answers provided. I am sure Members on both sides do know that. Both sides seem firmly entrenched in their respective positions on this. If the hon Member is willing to rephrase the question, otherwise we are probably wasting time.

HON G H LICUDI:

I agree entirely with Mr Speaker's comments that it would be a waste of time simply to continue with this line of questions and answers, and that is certainly not what we are paid for, to waste anybody's time. I have no difficulty whatsoever in formulating a question in a manner that elicits from the Government the information that we are actually seeking. We have difficulties in being told by the Chief Minister the precise wording that we have to use in our questions before he will answer.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

That is not what I have asked.

MR SPEAKER:

Order, Order. Before we get carried away, may I prevail upon the hon Member to put the question without prologue.

HON G H LICUDI:

Can the Chief Minister tell us what criteria was used by Government to allow applicants to proceed to the draw which resulted in selection of successful applicants for car parking spaces at the three car parks which I identified in the question?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, provided the hon Member understands that it did not result in selection by anybody. It resulted in selection by process of the draw. So even when he is trying to formulate the question uncontroversially, he has to slip into the very territory that he knows gives me difficulty in answering the question. Let us be clear, there has been no selection by Government or anybody else of successful applicants. There is

no criteria, therefore, for the selection of successful applicants because the people who now enjoy, or are about to start to enjoy their parking spaces, have not been selected by anybody. They have won their happiness by having been drawn out of a hat, or a *bombo* in a draw. That is the premise of the question, and if I could just make one more point? The hon Member is right, of course, in saying that we are not at school, but I am told when I arrived here this morning that that did not prevent one of the Opposition Members from thinking that the Minister for Education should go back to school. So, I do not know what the distinction is between being at school or being.....

HON F R PICARDO:

If the Chief Minister would give way?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, I will not give way. Does he have a Point of Order?

MR SPEAKER:

It is not usual to give way during questions.

HON F R PICARDO:

Well, I gave way to the hon Gentleman yesterday and he gave way to me. If the Chief Minister wants to make comments about things that happen when he is not in this House, maybe he should spend more time in this House. We only meet three times a year.

MR SPEAKER:

Order.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Q.e.d. again. Mr Speaker, the criteria used by the Government to decide who should be eligible to participate in the draw, are as follows:-

In respect of the Willis's Road stores, so not car parks at all, store rooms, there were no residence criteria. In other words, it was open to applicants irrespective of their address.

In respect of the garages and car parking spaces at Willis's Road, the applicants who were allowed to go into the draw were those with addresses within the City walls to the west, and within King Charles V Wall on the south. In other words, those areas commonly referred to as "the old town area".

In respect of Sandpits and New Harbours car parks, the applications that were allowed to go through into the draw, were those with addresses south of King

Charles V Wall. That is, residents of the area commonly known as “the south district”.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Is it not the case that the Calpe Tenants Association for a number of years were making representations to the Housing Department in their regular meetings, for the provision of car parking facilities in that area and by their definition, and a definition shared with the Ministry in those meetings, the area meant the area where the people in the Calpe Tenants Association lived, not anything else? Is that not the case?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not know if the tenants of the Calpe Estate Association either have that view or expressed it, or indeed think that that is what the Government should have done. But that is not the view that informed the Government’s project, nor that informed the Government’s decision in the allocation. I do not know, they may have expressed that view, I do not know. But their expression of the view, which is logical that they should hold, because it maximises their chances of getting a space, is not what the Government chose to do.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I accept that it is not what the Government chose to do, but are the Government aware that, in fact, it is what they were told was going to happen in those meetings and that it is recorded in minutes?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, I would need notice of that question, certainly not to me.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I am not asking the Chief Minister, I am saying are the Government aware?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, no, we are not all going to stand up one at a time as if doing a poll. If the hon Member is interested in knowing what the answer is to the question that he has just asked, if he writes to me I will certainly get the public administration to express a view as to whether that was ever said by anybody in the Government to the Tenants Association of Calpe.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well, in reaching the decision on how the area should be defined, given that the Calpe Tenants Association had for years, even before the decision was taken to build

this particular car park with this particular capacity, been in discussion with the Housing Department who were telling them that the technical department responsible for car parking was fully aware that the members of the Association would be given the necessary parking facilities that they needed. That is to say, the people in the Calpe Tenants Association were not making representations to the Government about car parking in Gibraltar generally, but car parking for their specific members. Therefore, when they were told in minutes over a number of years that they would be provided with parking for their members in the area, would the Chief Minister not agree that it was a reasonable deduction on their part that the area that was being talked about was an area adjacent to where they live? As if it was being done in Varyl Begg, or Laguna, or anywhere else.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, because I do not know they were being told that. Therefore, everything else is hypothetical. I do not know they were told that, and it depends who they were told by and whether the person that they were told by is at a sufficiently senior level of Government to know what the Government policy is, and indeed, to contribute to the making of Government policy. The question is hypothetical. I am telling him that I do not know whether the premise of his question is correct or incorrect. I just do not know what they were being told. But even if they were told that, which I do not know if they were or were not, it certainly does not bind the Government and it still leaves the question of the definition of "area".

HON J J BOSSANO:

If there are, I am told by the Tenants Association, 70 tenants of which seven were successful in this draw, then clearly the promises over the years made in meetings of which.....

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

He is assuming that there have been promises over the years. He can say that he has been told they were promised.

HON J J BOSSANO:

And that I have seen the minutes I can say as well, and that the meetings were attended by Ministers. I can also say that. Now, will the Chief Minister look into it and see if there is not, in the only case which I am familiar with, some legitimacy in the argument that if it goes back to 2006, then presumably in 2006 when they were being told that parking was going to be provided for them, for the Association and their members in that area, it was well before the decision was taken on the criteria for inclusion in the draw. Maybe the people who took the decision for inclusion in the draw were not familiar with what had been discussed previously in a different context. So at the very least, will the Chief Minister ask to be given a copy of those minutes?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I will answer the hon Member's question. If he will write to me I will do precisely as he is inviting me to do. What I no longer do, I do not know if he has noticed in the last few meetings of the House, because I tend to forget and then I do not do as I say I am going to do, is accept commissions across the floor of the House because I do not have anybody here in support. If he will write to me asking me to look into the very things that he has just described, of course I will.

HON G H LICUDI:

Three of the questions that the Chief Minister answered earlier were to do with the change of criteria, and the Chief Minister has stated that there was no change of criteria. That, of course, by definition means that when these conditions were published and given to applicants, whether they were successful or not, the Government's intention as to what "area" meant was precisely the same definition that later was applied in deciding who went into the hat. Given that the Chief Minister has said that this definition was neither deliberately vague nor incompetently vague, can the Chief Minister explain in the light of the fact that this definition has led to people having wrong or misconceptions as to what applied, why it is that the Government were not precise in their definition at the time when they published the conditions? Otherwise, it gives rise to the suspicion that there has been a change of criteria.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The answer is as I have already given it to him. There has been no change of criteria, there is no need for precise criteria, except by those who are interested in excluding other fellow citizens from the possibility of winning what has been built at taxpayer's expense, and there are now hundreds of citizens of Gibraltar who enjoy car parks, provided at taxpayer's expense, who would not have done so if the party opposite had won the election in 2003.

NO. 1081 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

WILLIS'S ROAD, SANDPITS, NEW HARBOURS – CAR PARK/GARAGES

Can Government state whether in respect of the allocation of car parking spaces/garages at the Willis's Road, Sandpits and New Harbours car parks, more than one car parking space/garage was allocated to any household?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

As I have already told him, the Government have made no allocation and no allocation, as such, has been made by anybody. But I am informed that in the draw applications were limited to one per household.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1081 OF 2008

HON G H LICUDI:

So the Chief Minister is perhaps answering a different question to what I have asked. What the Chief Minister has said is that one application per household was allowed. Is it not correct that one application per household was allowed in respect of each of the car parks, and therefore, where one particular household may have been entitled to apply under the criteria for more than one car park, either New Harbours or Sandpits, as the case may be, there may have been those applications, and can he say whether more than one car parking space, not necessarily in the same car park, but whether more than one car parking space has been allocated to any household? As I say, not necessarily in the same car park.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, I cannot tell him that but what I can tell him is that the premise of his supplementary is correct. In other words, that the answer applied to each car park. But I cannot tell him the answer to the second part of it. In other words, when I say that not more than one application per household was allowed in the draw, I mean the draw per car park.

HON G H LICUDI:

Yes, I understand that one application was allowed per household. But the question specifically refers to the allocation, not to permission to apply.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I am telling him that I do not know whether in separate draws, for separate garages, people from the same household have, in fact, won car parks, not in the same garage but in different garages.

HON G H LICUDI:

Does he know?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I have told him that I do not know the answer to that.

ORAL

NO. 1082 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

NEW HARBOURS CAR PARK

Can Government state how many of the successful applicants for car parking spaces at the New Harbours car park already owned or had the use of a garage or car parking space?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1083 and 1084 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 1083 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

SANDPITS CAR PARK

Can Government state how many of the successful applicants for car parking spaces at the Sandpits car park already owned or had the use of a garage or car parking space?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1082 and 1084 of 2008.

NO. 1084 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

WILLIS'S ROAD CAR PARK/GARAGES

Can Government state how many of the successful applicants for car parking spaces/garages at the Willis's Road car park already owned or had the use of a garage or car parking space?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Government cannot know whether a person has the use of a garage or parking space. The number of persons who were successful in the draw and who the Government believe own a car parking space, which can be established from Government records, will be published with the rest of the information which I have just indicated to the hon Member is being put together in a statement form and published. But I can confirm to him that there are a number of people with a member of the household that owned a car park, as opposed to the use of. In other words, we have no way of knowing who has the use of as opposed to owning a car park.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1082 TO 1084 OF 2008

HON G H LICUDI:

Was it not part of the criteria for being allowed to participate in the draw, that an applicant would not be entitled to participate if that applicant owned a car parking space or garage already? In other words, was it not the purpose of the allocation of these car parking spaces, was it not intended to benefit those people who already did not either have the use of, and I understand the difficulty in ascertaining that, but particularly owned a parking facility already. Is that not what the intention of this draw was?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, the hon Member knows from the published criteria in the advertisements that there was no such criteria.

HON G H LICUDI:

Do Government not recognise that in the application form itself, the applicant had to declare either that they did or they did not own a garage? I do not know whether by garage the Government also included car parking space in that criteria. But, certainly, it is part of the application form.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, yes, much information was requested, which is not to say that all the information that is requested constitutes part of the criteria for eligibility to practise. Certainly, the information was requested.

HON G H LICUDI:

So what the Government are saying is that the intention behind this application form is simply to find out whether somebody already has a garage, but rather than because a decision had been taken to exclude people who had garages from the draw. Is that the Government's position?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, if the Government had not asked the question, I would not now be able to answer him the questions that he is now asking me. It is only because we asked for the information that we are able to know, when the information is cobbled together, how many of what he calls the successful applicants and I call the happy winners of the draw, already have a car park or, at least, that some member of their family already has ownership of a car park.

NO. 1085 OF 2008

THE HON G H LICUDI

WILLIS'S ROAD, SANDPITS, NEW HARBOURS – CAR PARK/GARAGES

Can Government state when the successful applicants for car parking spaces/garages at the Willis's Road, Sandpits and New Harbours car parks will have the use of the parking spaces/garages allocated to them?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The process which followed the draws was completed last week, which basically involved people coming in, in the order in which they had won to choose the space they wanted. Contracts have begun to be signed this week, in order to finalise the arrangements and provide them with the use of their parking space and/or garage space as soon as they come in to sign the contract. So, that is the very process that is taking place, and as soon as they do it I believe it is open.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1085 OF 2008

HON G H LICUDI:

Are the Government satisfied that sufficient resources are being allocated to this? The concern that has been expressed to us is that only one person is doing that, and that is leading to unnecessary delay.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, I do not know whether there are sufficient. Obviously, if there were a hundred people it would be done a hundred times faster than if there is only one person. People are getting car parks, which I repeat, they would not have had, had this party not been elected into office. In those circumstances, to now worry about whether they are waiting one more or two more days to get their car park seems to me very churlish. They are all very happy that they elected into office a Government committed to building car parks, so that the people of Gibraltar's historical problems with parking, once and for all is being addressed, by this Government for the first time ever.

NO. 1086 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GTB – UPPER ROCK TOURIST SITES

Can Government say whether they have received any proposals or approaches from private entities to take over the running of the upper rock tourist sites, and if so who are the individuals behind the proposals/approach?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

General proposals have been received from a variety of parties over the last few years. None will be considered until the Government have made a policy decision about a new structure for the holistic management of the Upper Rock in the future, in a way that better integrates and coordinates all activities and conflicting objectives in the Upper Rock. Rumours mysteriously circulating in town to the effect that the Government are about to hand the Upper Rock to a private sector company, are wholly without foundation and truth.

NO. 1087 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

FLIGHTS BETWEEN GIBRALTAR/MADRID

Can Government say whether their claim that there would “soon” be flights re-established between Gibraltar and Madrid, and established to Barcelona and Valencia is a result of the specific negotiations that they have been holding with different airlines?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

It is not appropriate to provide details of the basis of the Government’s expressed view that flights to and from Spain would soon be re-established. Clearly, this view is held on the basis of discussions.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1087 OF 2008

HON DR J J GARCIA:

What I meant to establish was whether these discussions were part of the general discussions on airlines which the Minister responsible holds, ten or 24 as we established yesterday, whether these are separate negotiations or discussions which the Chief Minister is conducting himself?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

In part, both.

NO. 1088 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

VISAS – NON-EU NATIONALS

Can Government confirm that a non-EU national who requires a visa to visit Gibraltar and wishes to travel here through Schengen territory only requires a Schengen visa and a visa to enter Gibraltar, and does not require in addition a UK visa for which the person would have no use?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

A non-EU national who requires a visa to enter Gibraltar only requires a Gibraltar visa in order to do so. However, a visa requiring national who seeks to visit Gibraltar intending to depart to Spain and has no other means of leaving Gibraltar, is expected to hold a Schengen visa or residence permit to guarantee his returnability.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1088 OF 2008

HON DR J J GARCIA:

So if anybody has been told that they need a UK visa as well, then that is not the case?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, it is not the case. They may have been told something differently, they might have been told that with a UK visa one can come to Gibraltar, but the reverse is never true. In other words, one does not need a UK visa to come to Gibraltar, and if they have been told that, as opposed to them misunderstanding the other thing that I have just speculated, then certainly they have been misinformed.

ORAL

NO. 1089 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

ROCK HOTEL SITE

Given the policy of the Government that the site of the Rock Hotel should continue to provide Gibraltar with a quality hotel, is it also the policy of the Government that part of the site can be used for residential purposes and another part for the quality hotel?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Government have no policy on this matter. Should the owners of the Rock Hotel seek to do any such thing, then the Government will have to form a view on whatever may be proposed.

ORAL

NO. 1090 OF 2008

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

Answered together with Question Nos. 1091 and 1092 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 1091 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

MANSION (GIBRALTAR) LTD – REDUNDANCIES

Can Government say whether they have been advised by Mansion (Gibraltar) Ltd of a state of collective redundancy in the company, and if so on what date and how many people are affected?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1090 and 1092 of 2008.

NO. 1092 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

PARTYGAMING – REDUNDANCIES

Has Government now been notified by Partygaming of the exact number of people that they propose to make redundant and if so what is the number involved?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

There has been no further update of the figures since the information provided in answer to Question No. 716 of 2008.

The Government are not aware that there is a collective state of redundancy at Mansion, nor indeed, can we find any evidence that there has been any notification of that to the Government.

The Government have not been informed by Partygaming of the precise number of employees that they intend to make redundant. Partygaming is a valuable and valued part of Gibraltar's economy, and will remain one of the largest employers in the gambling sector, even after it makes the redundancies that it intends to make.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1090 TO 1092 OF 2008

HON J J BOSSANO:

In respect of the answer to Question No. 1092 and Partygaming, is the Chief Minister saying that they have not yet notified the Government? Surely they have to notify the ETB if they are making people redundant?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I think the position is as has already been said publicly, that they have notified a ballpark figure, which I think was 105 or something like that, but that they did not know exactly what it would end up as. In other words, they thought that that was a maximum, I think they said at the time, but that they had not yet sort of fixed, the fixing of the number would only be decided after the process of consultation.

ORAL

NO. 1093 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

ENERGY CHARTER TREATY 2007

Can Government say why they took the policy decision to first publish a Bill for the Energy Charter Treaty in 2007 and then they decided not to proceed with the Bill and asked the UK on 9 April 2008 to extend the Energy Charter Treaty to Gibraltar instead?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1094 of 2008.

NO. 1094 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

ENERGY CHARTER TREATY 2007/GENEVA CONVENTIONS ACT 2007

Can Government say whether they intend to proceed with the following Bills that were published in 2007 and if not indicate the reason why:

- (a) a Bill for the Energy Charter Treaty 2007;
- (b) a Bill for the Geneva Conventions Act 2007?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Government decided not to proceed with the Bill following advice from the United Kingdom that it was unnecessary for the Treaty to be extended to Gibraltar. We were advised that it was sufficient that the Treaty is listed as a Community Treaty by virtue of the EC Act. Under the provisions of that Act, any Treaty listed by the UK as a Community Treaty, automatically achieves the same status in Gibraltar.

In subsequent correspondence, the UK have revised their advice. They have informed us that the Treaty actually has been amended by something called the Trade Amendments, and that such amendments cannot have effect in Gibraltar by virtue of the European Communities Act. The Trade Amendments are a matter of community competence, only in respect of the UK and not Gibraltar, because of Gibraltar's status outside the Customs Territory and the Common Commercial Policy, and that the Trade Amendments fall into that body of EU acquis from which Gibraltar is excluded, in terms of the Trade Amendments as opposed to the principal Treaty.

The Government are currently considering, I am told, the steps that need to be taken to give effect to the provisions of the Energy Charter Treaty as amended by those provisions in the Trade Amendments that fall outside the scope of community competence in respect of Gibraltar. Of course, there is nothing to stop us legislating the Trade Amendments as a matter of domestic policy and have it extended to us by the UK, even though they do not apply to us directly by virtue of the EU acquis.

The Government do not intend to proceed with the Bill for the Energy Charter Treaty 2007, therefore, for the reasons given just now.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1093 AND 1094 OF 2008

HON DR J J GARCIA:

There was also a (b), the Geneva Conventions Act 2007, in Question No. 1094.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

There was an issue there in respect of that Bill, there was a disagreement and I do not know, it has not been revisited with me since March 2007 so I do not know if the facts remain as they were at that time. There was an issue about whether the Bill could proceed as published in the context of the existence of an Order-in-Council in the UK, relating to the use of the Red Cross emblem and whether it was one of these Governor or Government points. I think the Bill says "Government" and somebody in the UK took the view that the Gibraltar Government could not be trusted, or at least could not in relation to a conflicting Order-in-Council, which I am not familiar with, and I think it got stuck there. I do not know if there has been any movement on this and, certainly, I have not been involved in any follow up to that. So, I honestly cannot tell him why it is still stuck and if there is still a reason for it to continue to be stuck. I do not know.

NO. 1095 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

POST-BOXING BY COMPETENT AUTHORITIES OF GIBRALTAR AND SPAIN

Can Government list the end result of each of the requests made or received by the competent authorities of Gibraltar and those of Spain through the UK post-box for the period 2000-2008 given in answer to Question No. 719 of 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

No Sir. This requires a disproportionate degree of administrative effort and would also involve, in some cases, the placing in the public domain of information not intended to be in the public domain. I mean, I think as I have understood the question, he has asked me for all the instances in the past in which the post box was used, I have given him a list and now he wants to know the outcome of the business that generated that communication, and that would be exposing hundreds, I do not remember how many cases there were.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1095 OF 2008

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Perhaps if I rephrased it. What I want to know, actually, is whether there were any instances where the information requested was not supplied, either by Gibraltar or by Spain?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Can he help me further by telling me whether Question No. 719, which I do not have in front of me, related only to the judicial requests sent to the post box or whether it was all the business that had gone through the post box?

HON DR J J GARCIA:

It related to all the requests, including environmental ones which are the first ones and it continued in to several pages.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, then it is the answer that I have given because these are not just necessarily requests for information, many of these things are notifications, regulatory notifications, the Environmental Agency sending through the post box a request for a permit to export waste into Spain, the Financial Services Commissioner sending a notification to his counterpart in Spain, they are not necessarily requests for information. I do not have the list in front of me that I gave him. Some of them may be requests for information, but normally they are not, the bulk of them are not requests for information, they are just notifications and transmission of administrative applications. It is the main use to which the post box is put.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

It might be possible to make a distinction between those that are requests and those that are mere transmissions or notifications, because really what we want to know is whether in terms of the requests that have been made for information on either side, whether any have been refused or have not happened for

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Perhaps I can answer it generically. If he wants a specific answer to whether we can answer formally, he would have to give me the list of the ones he thinks constitute requests and if there are not too many of them, then the disproportionate administrative effort answer would not apply. If there is just a few it is possible to look at the files to sort of follow through. If they are too many, the same answer will apply about disproportionate....., but I can say that I am not aware of any case which has involved the request of information which we have sent to Spain, if indeed there has been any, which has been refused and the policy of the Government on requests for information from Spain is clear. That when the requests, particularly judicial, law enforcement, police cooperation requests are addressed to the Government properly, in other words, are addressed to the Gibraltar competent authority, not necessarily the Government, it could be some other Gibraltar authority, then they are routinely attended to positively, provided that they do fall within the scope of cooperation provided for by Gibraltar statute. But equally, when they are not properly addressed, there are still some people in Spain that address it to the courts of the United Kingdom, in pursuit of political objectives, those are routinely not responded to but they are told why.

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is it possible to say whether this list actually includes those that fell into either category?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I cannot say now from speaking, if they have been addressed to the post box, more likely than not they were properly addressed. But it is sometimes the case that the correct post box cover is applied to an enclosed request from the original source that is itself improperly addressed, and the post box cover does not correct the defect. So, for example, if a judge in some part of Spain were to address the request to the

United Kingdom's judicial authorities for Gibraltar, even if they sent that under cover properly through the post box, that would not be accommodated because there is no United Kingdom judicial authority for Gibraltar.

NO. 1096 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

NEW HARBOURS INDUSTRIAL PARK

Is it the policy of the Government to sell the leases to the 30 out of 82 tenants of New Harbours who are interested in making the purchase?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Yes Sir.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1096 OF 2008

HON DR J J GARCIA:

Is it still the position that these transactions have to be completed by the end of the year?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

That is what the Government said to them originally. Whether that deadline is slipping in the cases that are advancing, I do not know. Certainly in the cases of people that have not committed, the deadline will finish in December because that, amongst other things, gives the Government..... In other words, the main point about the deadline is the holding of price that people cannot keep a price quotation open indefinitely and come back in three year's time and say, "I now want to buy at the price that you offered me in 2007 or 2008".

HON DR J J GARCIA:

I do not know whether the Chief Minister will need notice of this question, but would he have information available relating as to how much revenue this is expected to generate for the Government?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I have had the figure quoted to me but I do not remember. I think that if all 30 of the tenants that have expressed interest proceed to purchase, it is several millions of

pounds. I do not know if it is five, six, seven or eight. It is a significant sum of money in the millions, if they all go through with it.

ORAL

NO. 1097 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

IMPORT DUTY COLLECTED – NON-COMMERCIAL GATE

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 the information supplied at the last Question Time in this Parliament?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1098 of 2008.

NO. 1098 OF 2008

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 the information supplied at the last Question Time in this Parliament?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

In respect of the non-commercial gate:

September 2008	£13,823.29
October 2008	£15,456.29

In respect of building materials:

September 2008	£108,871.29
October 2008	£172,039.54

The November figures are not yet available.

ORAL

NO. 1099 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

MINISTERS' AIR TRAVEL

Can Government list the cost of air travel incurred by each individual Minister and the Chief Minister on official business since the information supplied at the last Question Time in this Parliament, with a breakdown showing the date of travel, the destination, the airline, the category of seat paid for and the travel agent that was used to make the booking?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1100 and 1101 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 1100 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

TRAVEL AGENTS USED BY MINISTERS

What travel agents have Ministers used to arrange travel in the past two years?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1099 and 1101 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 1101 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

BOOKING FEES PAID BY MINISTERS IN RESPECT OF OFFICIAL TRAVEL

What amounts have been paid by Ministers as “booking fees” in respect of official travel in the past two calendar years?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

On the basis that the Member understands that Ministers neither make bookings nor arrange their travel, nor pay anything, understanding the question to mean travel in respect of Ministers, the answer is as follows. I hand the hon Member a schedule with the information that he requests in Question No. 1099.

In the past two years, travel agents used in respect of ministerial travel include Blands and Tourafrica.

The amount of booking fees relating to ministerial travel, if any, is not separately identified and is included in the cost of the ticket invoiced to and paid by the Government. The information being sought is therefore not available to the Government.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1101**ANSWER TO QUESTION 1099****CHIEF MINISTER'S AIR TRAVEL**

Destination	Dates	Amount	Airline	Seat Category	Travel Agent
Manchester	21.09.08 – 22.09.08	£524.50	Monarch	-	Blands
New York - London	29.09.08 – 08.10.08	£5,052.40	British Airways / Monarch	Club Class	Blands
Marrakesh	14.10.08 – 16.10.08	-	-	-	-
London	19.10.08 – 22.10.08	£986.80	British Airways	Club Class	Blands
London	06.11.08 – 09.11.08	£946.80	British Airways	Club Class	Blands

MINISTER'S AIR TRAVEL

Minister	Destination	Dates	Amount	Airline	Seat Category	Travel Agent
Minister Holliday	London	06-08 Nov 08	£824.50	British Airways / Easyjet	Business / standard	Blands
Minister Britto	London	19-22 Oct 08	£986.80	British Airways	Business	Blands
	London	09-12 Nov 08	£408.00	British Airways	Business	Blands

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1099 TO 1101 OF 2008

HON F R PICARDO:

Did the hon Gentleman have an opportunity of following that part of Question Time, in respect of booking fees for the GHA?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, I am answering for the Government.

HON F R PICARDO:

I know he is answering for the Government but we had a very similar question on what is now colloquially referred to as the Paper Order, which dealt with this question in respect of the GHA, and we had an exchange about the GHA and I was asking whether he had been able to follow it?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, I am not aware of what has been answered in that respect.

HON F R PICARDO:

In that discussion, what I said to the hon Lady and she agreed to go back and look was that it had come to my attention that it is possible that in some instances the booking fees being charged to the Government, in particular in respect of sponsored patients in the GHA, were far in excess of those being charged commercially to other entities, either individuals travelling on their own account or other commercial entities. Will he, as a result of that, seek a breakdown of the booking fees charged to Government, say perhaps in the past six months, to try and determine whether that is correct or not?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

If he has already persuaded the Minister for Health to do it, I do not see why he wants me to do it too. I do not know what he means by a "booking fee", does he mean the agent's commission? The agent's commission is a matter of arrangement between the airline and the agent, presumably. But if he thinks that the Government are being charged more for its tickets than everybody else, because the element in the ticket price that reflects what he calls the booking fee is higher in the case of Government-paid travel than it is for another member of the public, then, first of all it would not be consistent with what I have been told in respect of the question that he asked at the beginning of today, about the cost of Club Class tickets and there being no evidence that the Government are being charged more than members of the public. But if he will write to me with whatever he believes is happening, with some indication, he does not have to identify the source but some description of the credibility of the source, and whether it is general or just a particular airline, they cannot all be doing it, presumably, I will certainly look into it. It would, certainly, not

be an acceptable practice that the taxpayer should be discriminated against and made to pay more than everybody else for the cost of travel. That would not be acceptable. So if he will write to me on that I will certainly have it investigated.

HON F R PICARDO:

I am grateful, I will. The Chief Minister will know that I am unable to obtain that information, it is only the Government that will be able to seek that information, once I have identified to him where it should seek it from, or where I am told it should seek it from, otherwise I would have done the exercise myself. But I will certainly write to him and set that position out.

ORAL

NO. 1102 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR DAY IN LONDON

What was the total cost, with a breakdown, of each of the events that took place during Gibraltar Day in London?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I now hand the hon Member a schedule with the information that he has requested.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1102

GUILDHALL EVENING RECEPTION

Hire of Guildhall & lighting of venue	9,664.38
Invitations, written material & PR	14,572.07
Event Management	4,010.00
Catering	36,558.88
First Aid	141.00
Transport	2,896.19
	<u>67,842.52</u>

TOURISM

Room hire at the Travellers Club Reception	685.50
Catering	1,240.25
Invitations	446.63
	<u>2,372.38</u>

FINANCE

Room hire at the R.A.C. Club Lunch	2,453.46
Catering	15,623.95
	<u>18,077.41</u>

ORAL

NO. 1103 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR DAY IN LONDON

How many persons from Gibraltar were invited to the tourism event and to the finance centre event held as part of Gibraltar Day in London and what was the total attendance at each event?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1104 and 1105 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 1104 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

GIBRALTAR DAY IN LONDON

How many persons from Gibraltar did the Government invite to Gibraltar Day in London, how many attended and what was the cost involved?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1103 and 1105 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 1105 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

GIBRALTAR DAY IN LONDON

How many attendees at the Gibraltar Day Finance Centre Lunch at the RAC were Gibraltarian or Gibraltar based?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Five persons from Gibraltar were invited to the tourism event and a total of 80 attended. A total of 80 persons from Gibraltar were invited to the Finance Centre lunch, where a total of 205 attended.

A total of 115 persons from Gibraltar were invited to Gibraltar Day in London, of which 95 attended. Of the 95 who attended, the Gibraltar Government paid travel and accommodation expenses for 15 at a cost of £8,648.25.

A total of 80 persons who attended the Finance Centre lunch were Gibraltarian or Gibraltar based.

ORAL

NO. 1106 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

LORD MAYOR'S SHOW IN LONDON

What was the cost, with a breakdown, of Gibraltar's participation in the Lord Mayor's Show in London in November?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1107 and 1108 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 1107 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

LORD MAYOR'S SHOW IN LONDON

Can Government say what procedure was used to select the students who took part in the Gibraltar float during the Lord Mayor's show in London in November?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1106 and 1108 of 2008.

NO. 1108 OF 2008

THE HON F R PICARDO

LORD MAYOR'S SHOW IN LONDON

What was the cost to the taxpayer of paying the costs of individuals to dress up as apes for the Lord Mayor's Parade in London?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The total cost of Gibraltar's participation in the Lord Mayor's Parade was £32,202.77, which breaks down as follows:-

- (1) A participation charge of £4,817 payable to the Corporation of London.
- (2) The cost of the production of the float was £23,121.99.
- (3) The cost of, and this is the bit that particularly interests the Hon Mr Picardo, the cost of hiring the two ape costumes was £150.00.
- (4) There was a cash allowance to participating students, of which there were 32 around the float, at £50 per head amounting to £1,600. Two of such students volunteered to dress up as apes.
- (5) Cost of overnight hotel and rail fares to London for participating students, on which a total of £2,513.78 were spent.

The procedure for recruiting students was volunteers following contact by the Director of the Gibraltar Government office in London, with past participants, students who regularly register themselves with the London Office to assist in Gibraltar events in the UK and contact also with the Gibraltar Students Association.

NO. 1109 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

WATERPORT TERRACES – COMMERCIAL UNITS

Can Government say whether those who purchase the lease for commercial units at Waterport Terraces will also have to pay a rent and if so what is it in respect of each unit?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

This is a commercial matter which it is not appropriate to say at this stage. However, the usual practice when a long lease is sold is that the lessee then pays only ground rent to the landlord.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1109 OF 2008

HON DR J J GARCIA:

The commercial matter is what, the amount of rent that each is going to pay, but they will pay a rent or not pay any rent at all?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, the commercial matter is that I am not, the Government are only just selecting the bids and all of that, and that there is now a need for a commercial..... So I do not know, there is not yet a document that I have seen that settles the point. Therefore, I have done the next best thing, which is to tell him what the usual practice is. When one buys a lease for a premium, if the premium is the full market value then one does not pay rent as well. One then pays ground rent. There are hybrids, there are cases where one pays less than market value for the premium because one is paying some rent. But this is not such a case.

ORAL

NO. 1110 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

COMMERCIAL UNITS AT CHATHAM COUNTERGUARD

Can Government say whether the commercial units at Chatham Counter guard have been allocated and if so to whom and in what amount?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Government have selected bidders. They are in the process of being informed. The Government will publish this information when the allocations are taken up by the bidder. There is a possibility that when they are told they can have it, they may say they do not want it any more.

NO. 1111 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

FORMER MOD PROPERTY NEXT TO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Can Government say what use they intend to put the former MOD property next to the new Department of Education premises in Queensway part of which used to house a bowling alley at one point?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

This area, which I know loosely as the ex MoD bowling alley, will be used to relocate a nursery which is currently located in the ex NAAFI site, or thereabouts, in between the old Navy No. 1 and Navy No. 2 football pitches.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1111 OF 2008

HON DR J J GARCIA:

This is for the whole area, is that correct? The whole of the building?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, assuming that he is describing the whole area on the right of the footpath that goes up into town, which is not already incorporated into the car park. In other words, what used to be the club house area and forecourt, garden, of the old tennis club. The tennis courts having been converted into the car park. Yes, assuming that that is the area that he has in mind, the answer is yes. I think so.

ORAL

NO. 1112 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

BUNKERING

Has Government taken a policy decision to end ship-to-ship bunkering and only permit land based bunkering supplies?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1113 and 1114 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 1113 OF 2008

THE HON C A BRUZON

BUNKERING

Can Government state whether it is considering requiring bunkering of ships to take place alongside as opposed to ship-to-ship or whether it is only looking at storing fuel ashore as opposed to in supply tankers anchored in the Bay of Gibraltar?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1112 and 1114 of 2008.

NO. 1114 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

BUNKERING

Can Government identify which EU Directives, if any, are currently not being complied with in the sea based ship-to-ship bunkering operations?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Government have no intention of discontinuing the bunkering of ships at anchorage, and thus no intention of requiring bunkering of ships to take place alongside.

There are no EU Directives not being complied with.

The Government have a medium term objective to bring bunker storage on shore to the greatest possible degree. This requires very significant investment, but the Government want Gibraltar to be ready in the event that the EU, or other international entity, moves in the future towards a prohibition of floating storage. Also, there can be no doubt that floating storage, or rather, that storage ashore, represents less potential risk to the environment than storage afloat.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1112 TO 1114 OF 2008

HON J J BOSSANO:

So in fact, the statements then attributed to him were misquoting him, when he was quoted as saying that there was a policy to move bunkering ashore without, in fact, being clear if he was talking about the storage or the ship to ship?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, I have never seen any such quotation. But it would not be a question of misquoting, it would be a question of simply inventing a story to put out. I have never said anything capable of being misunderstood to mean that we are going to require ships that take on petrol or bunkers to actually moor alongside the harbour. What we have only ever said was, that "la gasolinera flotante" as they call it, in other words, that the storage, that the Government had a medium term objective to bring that ashore, not the act of bunkering. Bunkering will still be done, a barge will come

ashore alongside to fill up from a shore facility, and then take the bunkers to the ship afloat as happens in every other port in the world.

ORAL

NO. 1115 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

OPEN LONG-TERM BENEFITS FUND RECEIPTS

Can Government state how much of the receipts of the Open Long-Term Benefit Fund for the months of April, May & June 2008, were payments from the Consolidated Fund and how much were contributions from insured persons?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1116 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 1116 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

STATUTORY BENEFITS FUND RECEIPTS

Can Government state how much of the receipts of the Statutory Benefits Fund for each month since 1 July 2008, were payments from the Consolidated Fund and how much were contributions from insured persons?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I now hand the hon Member a statement setting out the information he requests.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1116 OF 2008

Answer to Question 1115/2008

The receipts of the Open Long-Term Benefits Fund for the months of April, May and June 2008 from the Consolidated Fund and contributions from insured persons, are as per the following tentative statement:

OPEN LONG-TERM BENEFITS FUND

	<u>April 08</u>	<u>May 08</u>	<u>June 08</u>
<u>Receipts</u>			
*Contribution from the Consolidated Fund	£833,333.33	£833,333.33	£833,333.33
Contributions collected in cash (insured persons)	£849,603.69	£1,245,188.90	£1,097,552.56

Answer to Question 1116/2008

Receipts of the Statutory Benefits Fund for each month since 1 July 2008 from the Consolidated Fund and contributions from insured persons, are as per the following tentative statement:

STATUTORY BENEFITS FUND

	<u>July 08</u>	<u>August 08</u>	<u>September 08</u>	<u>October 08</u>
<u>Receipts</u>				
*Contribution from the Consolidated Fund	£833,333.33	£833,333.33	£833,333.33	£833,333.33
Contributions collected in cash (insured persons)	£1,432,207.86	£1,139,430.94	£1,214,746.89	£1,300,224.76

*The approved Contribution from the Consolidated Fund is £10m for the year. The contributions have been calculated pro-rata, however the actual contribution is normally effected at the end of the financial year.

ORAL

NO. 1117 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

VACANT POSTS IN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

Can Government state whether any further vacant posts in Government departments have been filled since the answer to Question No.772 of 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1118 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 1118 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

VACANT POSTS IN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

Can Government state whether any additional posts in Government departments have become vacant since the answer to Question No. 773 of 2008, and if so, show the grade and department?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The information requested by the hon Member is in the schedules that are now being handed to him.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1118

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1117

The posts filled are as follows:-

<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>GRADE</u>	<u>NO. OF POSTS FILLED</u>
Audit	Audit Clerk	1
Buildings & Work	Labourer	1
Customs	Executive Officer	1
Environment	Senior Officer	1
	Senior Environment Officer (SPTO)	1
	Energy Conservation Officer (HPTO)	1
Gibraltar Health Authority	Administrative Officer	1
Housing	Senior Executive Officer	1
Social Services Agency	Social Worker	1
Police	Executive Officer	2
	Inspector	2
	Sergeant	2
Treasury	Senior Executive Officer	1
	Higher Executive Officer	2
	Administrative Officer	1
Technical Services	Executive Officer	1
	Administrative Officer	1
	Cleaner	1
	Civil Engineer (HPTO)	1
	Highways Engineer (SPTO)	1
Youth Service	Youth & Community Worker	1

Contd.....

CONTD ANSWER TO QUESTION 1118

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1118

<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>GRADE</u>	<u>NO. OF POSTS FILLED</u>
Gibraltar Health Authority	Administrative Officer	1
Housing	Higher Executive Officer	1
	T.G. 1	1
Legislation Support Unit	Law Drafter	1
Maritime Administration	Marine Surveyor	1
No. 6 Convent Place	Administrative Officer	1
Police	Executive Officer	3
	Police Constable	7
Port Authority	Port Officer	2
Treasury	Administrative Officer	2
Technical Services	Executive Officer	1
	Administrative Officer	1
Youth Service	Youth & Community Worker	1

NO. 1119 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR SERVICES POLICE

Since the answer to Question No. 744 of 2008, have any discussions taken place with the MOD as to which GSP service transfers the GOG would be willing to consider?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Following my meeting with the GSP Staff Association a preliminary discussion has taken place with the MoD.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1119 OF 2008

HON J J BOSSANO:

Has that preliminary discussion gone far enough as to identify possible services, or is it not anywhere near that stage?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The formal preliminary discussion was at the end of a meeting that related to other matters, electricity, and it was just a question of my saying, "I have now met with the GSP, I have honoured my commitment to them not to start until they were on board, so I am now able to start." That was the nature of the formal exchange so far. Informally and outside of the negotiation process, I had occasion to indicate to the Commander British Forces what the Government's position is, and it is the same as he heard me explain in the GSP Christmas party the other day.

ORAL

NO. 1120 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

INPUT/OUTPUT STUDY

Can Government state when it will be able to provide, on a confidential basis, the updated model of the Input/Output Study?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Yes, later today as we leave for lunch.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1120 OF 2008

HON J J BOSSANO:

Should I say Hallelujah?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

On this occasion he could.

ORAL

NO. 1121 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SOCIAL INSURANCE FUND – ACTUARIAL REPORT

Can Government say when it will be able to provide, on a confidential basis, the Actuarial Report of the Social Insurance Fund of 30 March 2007?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Yes, later today as we leave the House for lunch. It is Christmas come early for him.

ORAL

NO. 1122 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CORPORATION TAX – AMOUNTS COLLECTED

What was the amount of Company Tax collected in each month since August 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1123 and 1124 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 1123 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CORPORATION TAX – TOP TAX PAYERS

Can Government state whether the top 25 corporate tax payers who contributed 60% of tax on profits in the six years 2000/2001 to 2006/2007 were the same ones throughout, and if not, what changes took place from year to year in the intervening six years?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1122 and 1124 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 1124 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CORPORATION TAX – TOP TAX PAYERS

Can Government state a) what has been the tax payable in 2007/2008 by the top 25 corporate tax payers b) whether there have been changes in the composition of the 25 compared to 2006/2007 and c) whether the amount represented 60% of the tax payable on 1 year's profits?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I now hand the hon Member a schedule containing the information that he has requested in illustrative and highly graphic form.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1124

Answer to Question 1122

The Corporation Tax collected (net of refunds) in the months of September and October 2008 is:

	£M
September 2008	0.51
October 2008	0.53

Answer to Question 1123

The schedule provided shows the table of the top 25 corporate taxpayers in each of the financial years from 2000/2001 to 2007/2008. Those taxpayers comprising the top 25 in each financial year are ticked accordingly.

Taxpayer	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
1		√	√					
2							√	
3				√		√	√	√
4	√		√	√	√	√	√	√
5								√
6	√		√	√	√	√	√	
7		√						
8	√	√	√	√		√	√	√
9			√	√	√	√	√	√
10				√	√	√		
11	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
12			√					
13	√							
14				√				
15				√	√	√	√	√
16								√
17	√	√		√	√	√	√	√
18						√		
19	√	√	√	√	√	√		√
20			√	√		√	√	

Contd.....

CONTD ANSWER TO QUESTION 1124

Answer to Question

Taxpayer	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
21	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
22							√	√
23				√			√	
24					√			
25		√						
26	√	√	√	√				
27		√	√					
28	√			√	√			
29	√		√	√	√	√		√
30	√		√			√		
31	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
32							√	
33	√	√	√		√			
34								√
35								√
36	√			√				√
37	√	√		√	√	√		
38		√						
39								√
40	√							
41	√	√						
42			√					
43	√			√	√	√	√	
44					√	√	√	√
45						√		
46			√				√	
47			√					
48	√	√	√		√	√	√	√
49					√			
50		√			√			
51						√		
52			√					
53								√
54				√				
55			√					
56							√	
57	√	√						
58	√	√	√	√				
59	√	√	√		√		√	√

Contd.....

CONTD ANSWER TO QUESTION 1124

Answer to Question 1123

Taxpayer	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
60	√	√		√	√	√	√	
61		√			√			
62					√			√
63		√						
64		√						
65	√	√		√				
66			√		√			
67							√	
68						√		
69							√	√
70						√	√	√

Answer to Question 1124

The tax payable in the financial year 2007/2008 by the top 25 corporate taxpayers was £17.8 M, representing 73.3% of the total tax paid by all corporate taxpayers. Out of the top 25 corporate taxpayers, 11 paid in respect of multiple years of assessment.

The tax payable in the financial year 2007/2008 by the top 25 corporate taxpayers in respect of one year's profit was £15.7M, representing 64.8% of the total tax paid by all corporate taxpayers.

The changes in the composition of the 25 top corporate taxpayers as compared to 2006/2007 are shown in the table provided in answer to Question No. 1123 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 1125 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

PAYE – OUTSTANDING ANNUAL RETURN OF DEDUCTIONS

Can Government state, as at the end of October 2008, how many employers had failed to submit an annual return of PAYE deduction for employees for the tax year 2007/2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1126 and 1127 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 1126 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

PAYE – ANNUAL RETURN OF DEDUCTIONS/TAX PAYABLE

Can Government state, as at the end of October 2008, how many employers had submitted an annual return of PAYE deduction for employees for the tax year 2007/2008 and what was the total amount of tax payable and paid in respect of these submissions?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1125 and 1127 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 1127 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

PAYE – AMOUNTS COLLECTED

How much was collected in PAYE each month since August 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The answer that I am about to give to him is also contained in a schedule but I do not think it should have been a schedule because it is not that much statistics. So I will read it out, but as I have got the schedule I am handing it to him too.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1127

Answer to Question 1125

As at 26 November 2008, 372 employers had not yet returned their 2007/2008 Employers' Declaration and PAYE Certificates.

Answer to Question 1126

As at 26 November 2008, 1843 employers had submitted their 2007/2008 Employers' Declaration and PAYE Certificates and the total amount of tax payable and paid in respect of these submissions was £84.4M and £83.8M respectively.

Answer to Question 1127

The PAYE Tax collected (net of refunds) in the months of September and October 2008 is:

	£M
September 2008	7,24
October 2008	7.86

The figures for November 2008 are not yet available.

ORAL

NO. 1128 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

DUAL TAX OPTION

Can Government state how many of the over 3,000 tax payers who elected to be taxed under the dual tax option mentioned at Budget time, were Gibraltar residents?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1129 to 1131 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 1129 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

DUAL TAX OPTION

Can Government state how many additional tax payers subsequent to the 3,000 mentioned at Budget time elected to be taxed under the dual tax option and of these how many were Gibraltar residents?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1128, 1130 and 1131 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 1130 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

DUAL TAX OPTION

Can Government state the total amount of tax paid in the tax year 2007/08 by those tax payers who elected to pay tax under the dual tax system?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1128, 1129 and 1131 of 2008.

NO. 1131 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

DUAL TAX OPTION

Can Government state how many tax payers were placed by the Commissioner of Income Tax under the dual tax option without having requested it because it was more favourable in the tax year 2007/08 and of these how many were Gibraltar residents?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

As at 30 June 2008, 1,741 taxpayers resident in Gibraltar had elected to be taxed under the Gross Income Based system.

As at 26 November 2008, an additional 461 taxpayers had elected to be taxed under the Gross Income Based system, of which 293 were resident in Gibraltar.

The Annual PAYE Returns submitted by employers for the tax year ended 30 June 2008, are presently being inputted into the Income Tax database, and it is therefore not possible at this moment in time to provide a figure for the total tax paid for the year 2007/2008 by taxpayers who elected to pay tax under the Gross Income Based system.

As at 26 November 2008, 103 taxpayers of whom 80 were resident in Gibraltar, were placed by the Commissioner of Income Tax under the Gross Income Based system for the tax year 2007/2008, on the basis that that system was more favourable to them.

ORAL

NO. 1132 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

WATERPORT DEVELOPMENT – PAYMENTS TO CONTRACTORS

Can Government state what further payments, if any, have been made to the contractors or other parties in respect of Waterport Development since the answer to Question No. 760 of 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

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

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1132

<u>Date Paid</u>	<u>Contractors</u>	<u>Quantity Surveyors</u>	<u>Engineers</u>	<u>Architects</u>	<u>Other Parties</u>
30/09/2008	£1,779,762.11	-	-	-	-
02/10/2008	-	-	-	£17,682.39	-
02/10/2008	-	-	-	£17,682.39	-
02/10/2008	-	-	-	£17,682.39	-
02/10/2008	-	-	-	£17,682.39	-
02/10/2008	-	-	-	£17,682.39	-
03/10/2008	-	-	£5,086.42	-	-
03/10/2008	-	-	£5,086.42	-	-
13/10/2008	-	-	-	-	£3,821.00
27/10/2008	-	-	-	£35,549.52	-
31/10/2008	£1,758,766.98	-	-	-	-
	£3,538,529.09	£0.00	£10,172.84	£123,961.47	£3,821.00

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1132 OF 2008

HON J J BOSSANO:

Can the Chief Minister say whether the architect's fees would now be something that is all paid, given that one would expect those to come quite early in the project? I notice that there is a payment in October, but I am just wondering whether this means that now.....

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not know the answer to that. I think not, I do not know if there is a fee in each certificate, or whether there is a fee..... I do not think it is the case that the architects have received everything that they are due, because the services have not yet been delivered. But nor am I familiar with that particular contract. But, certainly, the hon Member should not assume that that figure is the end of the architect's fees.

ORAL

NO. 1133 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

KING'S BASTION LEISURE CENTRE – CONTRIBUTION BY MID TOWN DEVELOPMENTS

Can Government state whether and if so when the contribution towards the cost of the Leisure Centre was made by Mid Town Development and how much was it?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1134 of 2008.

NO. 1134 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

MID TOWN DEVELOPMENTS

Can Government state how and when Mid Town Developments has to pay for the balance of the contribution it has to make in respect of the land that it was allocated in order to carry out the Mid Town Development and which was the original basis of the allocation in 2004?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Mid Town Developments Limited paid a total of £5,764,678.84. This was not a lump sum payment but was paid against contractors certificates during the construction period. I am now relying on memory, but I think eventually the deal was that the Government would pay their share first, so this was the tail end of the contractual period. I am almost certain that that is the case, but I reserve the position on that.

Commercial Mid Town Developments Limited, through its parent company, will also have to pay 50 per cent of the total construction, design, project management and finance cost of the park, the public park on the Government side, the southern side of Navy No. whatever it is, and 50 per cent of the total construction, design, project management and finance cost of the new school, after the first £2 million of that has been paid by the Government. So basically, the Government pay the first £2 million of that and then it is 50/50 thereafter.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1133 AND 1134 OF 2008

HON J J BOSSANO:

Of the school?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Or the school and the park?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I think it is of the school. I may be able to, yes, of the school.

HON J J BOSSANO:

And there is no.....

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Can I finish the answer? Sorry, there is just one more sentence that I could read out for him if he wanted.

There is a provision for Commercial Development Investments Limited to pay an additional £290 per square metre of premium for any additional area over and above the density that has been agreed, for which they are able to obtain planning permission. So in other words, there is also a formula to regulate any additional premium for more than the density that is accommodated in the deal struck so far.

HON J J BOSSANO:

And there is no date by when these payments should be made, which was part of the original answer, when?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

There is a procedure, in other words, the school is when the Government designate the site for the school, and things of that sort. But in recognition of the fact that there has been some time lapse in vacating some of these sites. xxxxxx, the Government are not about to rush xxxxxx

NO. 1135 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

BREAKDOWN OF CAPITAL INVESTMENTS IN PRIVATE DEVELOPMENTS

Can Government provide a breakdown of the estimated £116m capital investment in private developments which took place in 2007?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I have to say that I personally was not able to identify where the hon Member had plucked the figure of £116m, although it must have been said by somebody somewhere. But in any case, the figure for capital investment relates to the value, I am told, of building applications in respect of private developments submitted in 2007. I hope the answer makes more sense to him than the question does to me. The figure needs to be seen within context. Namely, that not all of the investments would have been incurred in 2007 as projects may take longer to complete, or indeed start. The investment is an indicative amount until the project is complete.

The largest private development applications submitted for 2007 were the following:-

- £2m for 60 Devil's Tower Road, which is not started
- £7.4m for Bayview Terraces
- £3.2m for St Peter's Close, which is in Catalan Bay
- £50m for the Mid Town Project, which is not actually started in terms of the private sector element of it
- £14m for Royal Ocean Business Plaza, which is not yet started
- £25m for Boat Homes Ocean Village which is not started, and indeed may not. I understand that that has not yet received planning permission
- £2m for Leisure Island, Ocean Village
- £2m for 117 Main Street, which is not yet started
- £1.3m for Mount Barbary, which I understand is not yet started either
- £1m for the refurbishment of the Natwest building in Line Wall Road.

Then all that adds up to about £108m. There were then 241 smaller projects under £1m and it would be too difficult to provide a breakdown with the value of those.

NO. 1136 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

WATERPORT TERRACES – CONTROL BY GRPI

Can Government explain what controls GRPI, as developer, exercises over the use of subcontractors in the Waterport Terraces home ownership scheme?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Under the JCT form of construction contract, the contractor does not have to obtain approval from the developer to employ subcontractors. The answer, therefore, is none. Nevertheless, any works carried out by any subcontractor not found to be of the right standard, enables the architect to ask for the removal of that particular subcontractor from the site. In other words, my understanding is that the architect, the contract administrator, can reject particular subcontractors on the basis that they are not producing work of the right quality or standard, but that there is no right to prohibit a contractor from employing subcontractors.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1136 OF 2008

HON J J BOSSANO:

But independent of the question of the quality of the work that they produce, given that this project is one that is being conducted by a Government owned company which is paid from public funds, is there in place anything to ensure that the labour that is used on the site is properly regulated and registered and that kind of thing?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, nothing beyond the administrative machinery that exists for that purpose economy-wide. At the time that the contract is signed there is no subcontractor and there is no labour, because the contract is signed long before any activity actually begins on the site. The Government do not make specific law enforcement provisions for those workers working on contracts for the Government, no they do not. The use of subcontractors is prevalent throughout the construction industry and not just by Spanish subcontractors. I mean, very few companies now do not use them, even JBS now resorts to subcontracting, because usually construction contracts are outside the capacity of any company, given the way construction companies now tend to be structured and now tend to be resourced.

HON J J BOSSANO:

I accept all that and I accept that there is one law for the whole of Gibraltar for everybody, but surely, the Chief Minister must accept that it does not give a very good example to private sector employers if in public sector contracts, paid for by the taxpayers, illegal labour is used, and that therefore, not as a matter of the enforcement by the labour inspectors but as a matter of a requirement by the client, that the client should require the person that is given the contract, presumably, to have his workforce properly registered.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

As a requirement.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Yes.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Of course the Government requires them.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Right. So, therefore, is GRPI in a position to demand that the employer guarantees that any subcontractor will also be complying with the laws on registering labour, paying social insurance and so forth?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, the Government require that all citizens comply with the law, including companies doing work for it or for a company owned by it. So, the Government certainly expect and have the power, through law enforcement mechanisms, to ensure or to require the laws to be complied with. Now, I do not know whether the contract, from memory, it is a long time since I was familiar with JCT forms of contract, I have a feeling that there is a requirement there for the laws of Gibraltar to be complied with in the execution of the contract. But that is given. The question is not whether there is a right to do it, of course there is a right to do it. The question is what mechanisms exist to police compliance, that is where if the allegations made by the trade unions are accurate, and I have not....., but if they are accurate there appears to be a significant problem of failure to comply with the law by these companies. But that is on the assumption and to the extent that the statements made by the unions are, in fact, accurate.

HON J J BOSSANO:

But what I am suggesting to the Government that independent of the machinery that exists for the whole of Gibraltar, which are probably quite stretched anyway from the results that we get, because it is quite obvious that the numbers that come in and the

numbers that appear officially are not the same numbers, and everybody knows it. I am saying that, particularly, it seems to me particularly bad that there should be people who are not paying their taxes and that they are employed and paid out of the taxes of those people who are paying their taxes. Therefore.....

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is worse than that. Yes, I agree with the hon Member that there should be efforts made in that direction. Not least, because as we have often discussed, it is not just for the reasons that he has described. It is also because, as we have often described in this House, as we have often expressed to each other in this House the view that when xxxxxx the real cost of publicly funded projects to the taxpayer, one can really net off the revenue that is going to come back to the Government in tax. But, of course, if that revenue does not come back to the Government in tax, because it is illegal labour, then the Government are forfeiting the opportunity for a reduced net cost of the project itself. So, I agree that GRP Investments and the Government, other than just as general law enforcer, does have a financial interest in ensuring that its contractor does not allow illegal labour to be paid for from the contract monies being provided by the Government, for that reason as well, yes.

ORAL

NO. 1137 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

AIRPORT TERMINAL BUILDING PROJECT – EXPENDITURE

Can Government state what has been the expenditure to date charged to the I&D fund at Head 103(6)(g) of the Approved Estimates of Expenditure 2008/2009 in respect of the airport terminal building project?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The expenditure charged to date to the Improvement and Development Fund Head 103(6)(g) for the airport project is £128,683.60.

ORAL

NO. 1138 OF 2008

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 loans from local banks in each month since the answer to Question No. 762 of 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Yes, £8.5 million for each of the two banks in September, totalling £17 million between them. Then £3.5 million for each of the two banks in October and November, totalling £7 million per month. So, in other words, there was a £10 million reduction equally shared between them after September.

ORAL

NO. 1139 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

STAMP DUTY

Can Government state how much has been collected as Stamp Duty in each month since the answer to Question No. 768 of 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1140 and 1141 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 1140 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

STAMP DUTY

Can Government now state how many properties have been approved as qualifying for Zero Stamp Duty on its sale in each month since the answer to Question No. 771 of 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1139 and 1141 of 2008.

NO. 1141 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

STAMP DUTY

Can Government now state what has been the revenue yield per month of the 1.6 per cent Stamp Duty on property sales since the answer to Question No. 770 of 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Stamp Duty collected in September was £319,314; in October £225,467.

Properties qualifying for Zero Stamp Duty on sales since September, well it cannot be since September because I am about to give him the figure for September, so it must be from September, is: September 19; October 12.

The revenue yield in respect of the 1.6 per cent duty in each month from September is: September £42,320; October £39,840.

The November figures are not yet available.

ORAL

NO. 1142 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

STAMP DUTY

Can Government state what has been the amount collected in each month since the answer to Question No. 769 of 2008 from the £10 Stamp Duty on share issues?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Yes, September £1,740; October £1,190.

NO. 1143 OF 2008**THE HON J J BOSSANO****GIBRALTAR SAVINGS BANK – DEBENTURES**

Can Government state what sales of debentures have been made by the Gibraltar Savings Bank in each month since the 1 April 2008?

ANSWER**THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Yes, this answer has been prepared for oral answer even though it has got a long list of figures that the hon Member is going to struggle to take down. I have not got multiple copies. Perhaps he would just accept a green copy. I have got the numbers but there are there two columns broken down by month, one column for the Pensioners' Monthly Income Debentures totalling £10,851,700; and the other one is for the Monthly Income Debentures totalling £9,952,900, and those totals are split up into monthly figures there for him.

Date	Pensioners' Monthly Income Debentures	Monthly Income Debentures
Apr 08	£1,796,900	£1,491,700
May 08	£1,712,400	£1,063,300
Jun 08	£825,900	£868,600
Jul 08	£1,383,800	£794,500
Aug 08	£1,556,500	£864,600
Sep 08	£1,897,600	£2,003,700
Oct 08	£1,678,600	£2,866,500
	<hr/> £10,851,700	<hr/> £9,952,900

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 1143 OF 2008**HON J J BOSSANO:**

These are not net of redemptions are they, these are the gross figures of sales?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes.

ORAL

NO. 1144 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR SAVINGS BANK – INTEREST RATES

In the light of recent reductions in interest rates, can Government state what is the most recent estimate for (a) interest on investments (b) interest paid to depositors for the current financial year in the Savings Bank Fund?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question No. 1145 of 2008.

NO. 1145 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR SAVINGS BANK – DEPOSITS

Can Government state what was the level of (a) non-Government deposits and (b) Government deposits, in the Savings Bank Fund as at the end of November 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

It is not possible to estimate in a meaningful way the outturn for the year represented by the difference between interest paid to depositors and interest received on the bank's investments. The reason for this is the current volatility in LIBOR rates and in the differential between Base Rate and LIBOR. Many of the investments are LIBOR linked, which is currently artificially very high, whilst deposit interest is paid by reference to Base Rates. Now that gap is narrowing rapidly now. So, for example, when LIBOR was 6 per cent, Base Rate was 4.5 per cent. Or rather, when Base Rate was 4.5 per cent, LIBOR was 6 per cent. When Base Rate was 3 per cent, LIBOR was 4 per cent, and I do not know what LIBOR has fallen to following yesterday's further reduction in Base Rate.

At the end of November, the level of Savings Bank deposits was as follows:-

Non-government deposits around £175.4 million
Government deposits around £12.6 million

I use the word "around" because these are tentative figures, I am told here.

ORAL

NO. 1146 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GIBRALTAR SAVINGS BANK – BONDS/DEBENTURES

Can Government state what sales of Government bonds or debentures to the public have taken place in the months of September, October and November 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Yes, none in September. In respect of October, Pensioners' Monthly Income Debentures £1,138,300 and Monthly Income Debentures £4,511,800. In respect of November, £822,000 for Pensioners' Monthly Income Debentures and in respect of Monthly Income Debentures, £999,700.

ORAL

NO. 1147 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

PUBLIC DEBT – GIBRALTAR COMMUNITY CARE LIMITED

Has there been any change in the level of public debt held by Gibraltar Community Care Limited estimated at £4.8 million in March 2008, since that date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

It currently holds £15,346,500 in Gibraltar Government debentures.

ORAL

NO. 1148 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

HEAD 15 SUPPLEMENTARY EXPENDITURE

Can Government state what was the sum included in Head 15 Supplementary Expenditure as a result of the policy decision taken this year to remove relief cover from departmental heads and give a breakdown by the departments affected?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1149 and 1150 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 1149 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

FUNDING OF RELIEF COVER EXPENDITURE REQUIREMENTS

Can Government state what have been the requirements by each of the departments affected of funds to meet relief cover in the current financial year to date?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1148 and 1150 of 2008.

NO. 1150 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

FUNDING OF RELIEF COVER EXPENDITURE REQUIREMENTS

Can Government state in respect of the provision of funds to the departments affected to meet the cost of relief cover whether in the case of each department this cost has been met by virement from other departmental heads or by reallocation from Head 15 Supplementary Funding and whether any such departmental request has been refused and, if so, provide the details and the sums involved?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

The sum provided for Relief Cover under Head 15 – Supplementary Provision is £2 million. Expenditure to date is £1.49 million, made up as follows:

GHA	£0.78 million
Education	£0.44 million
Social Services Agency	£0.27 million

The funding to meet the Relief Cover expenditure requirements of the above entities during the year will actually be provided from this supplementary provision head, and if necessary, from any savings that may be identified in their respective expenditure items. The funding provision breakdown will be finalised at the end of the financial year. In other words, we do not yet know whether the £2 million is going to be enough, and if so, where the shortfall will be met from.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1148 TO 1150 OF 2008

HON J J BOSSANO:

So then the answer really is that it has been provided to date by virement, the £1.49 million has not been transferred from the £2 million, has it?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, I think it has been provided from the supplementary provision but that.... What I do not know is whether it has been done already or whether as a matter of accounting it is just booked to the supplementary provision at the end of the year. I do not know whether there have been any statements filed by me of this since April that suggests that it..... I do not know whether it has already been taken or

whether they are presently using their payroll costs, which I doubt, and they will be provided. I do not think that that is what they do, I think it comes from here as a matter of cash flow, but I cannot be certain about that. I think it comes from here as they spend it, rather than from their own funds until they run out and then from here.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well, I think that was the impression given originally when the Chief Minister explained the policy at Budget time. I put the question to try and establish.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Xxxxxxx should be able to control it by seeing it as it happens.

HON J J BOSSANO:

In the original question I asked, in fact, how the sum that had been provided in the supplementary appropriation vote, how that reflected the cover in each of the departments. That is to say, in my original question I asked how the £2 million was broken down as to so much that would otherwise have been in education, or so much that would otherwise have been in the GHA.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not know the answer to that. I think that the provision of £2 million more or less covers what they have done in the past, and the purpose of transferring it is to try and hold it from increasing in the future, because it is actually quite scientific by chance that we are about three quarters of the way through the financial year, and they have used about three quarters of the funds available. That cannot be a coincidence.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well, it cannot be a coincidence if it is supposed to be something that is so unpredictable.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Exactly, so it suggests to me that they are replicating the previous years' practices and are not inflating previous years' demands, which is what this was designed to try and achieve.

HON J J BOSSANO:

But in the final sentence of Question No. 1148, where I asked for a breakdown by the departments affected, what the Chief Minister is saying is that I should look at last year's estimates to find that information, yes? He has not given it in the answer. Question No. 1148 says, "what was the sum included as a result of the policy

decision and give a breakdown by the departments affected?" and that has not been right. Is he saying if I look at last.....

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It would xxxxxx have been removed from the estimates, it would have been removed from their bids.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Oh I see, so then I do not know.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

He has not got sight of it. He will be able to find the figure in the forecast outturn column for the previous year, but by virtue of it having been included in the supplementary funding vote, he will not find the figure for the estimate in this year's departmental estimate. They would have been departmental bids, which were converted into this figure. I do not know whether the aggregate of the departmental bids exceeds £2 million, or whether the share out of the aggregate of the departmental bids coincides with this. I am happy to provide him with that information if he asks the question or writes to me.

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well, I did ask the question that is the whole point I am making. I have asked the question, "give a breakdown by the departments affected" are the last seven words of Question No. 1148.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, I do not think Question No. 1148 helps him, does it?

HON J J BOSSANO:

Well I said, "what was the sum included in Supplementary Head 15 as a result of the policy decision and give a breakdown by the departments affected" having already said that relief cover had been removed from the departmental heads.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, the answer is that there is a sum of £2 million in Head 15 and Head 15 does not have a breakdown, which is what he then goes on to ask. I do not think Question No. 1148 asks for the information that he is now asking me for, which is, well, he wants to be able to compare it with what would have been under each departmental head.....

HON J J BOSSANO:

If the policy had not been there.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

If the policy had not been changed. I do not think that that says that, but I am very happy to provide him with the information if he will just drop me a line, or telephone, or an email, or something. I will try and remember.

Answer to Question 1050

Directives before the European Court of Justice	Reason for non-implementation
Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora	The Commission took issue with the UK's and Gibraltar's transposition.
Directive 2006/100/EC adapting certain directives in the field of free movement of persons by reason of the accession of Bulgaria and Romania.	<p>Bill and Regulations were published on 20th November 2008. This has been a very complex transposition as a result to its link to Directive 2005/36/EC.</p> <p>Legislation transposing 2006/100 is now complete and will be published shortly.</p> <p>(Alternative language for CM to note: This Directive will be transposed on Thursday 4th December 2008).</p> <p>Backlog.</p>
Directive 2004/35/EC on environmental liability with regard to the prevention and remedying of environmental damage.	<p>The Commission took issue with the UK's and Gibraltar's transposition.</p> <p>Draft legislation is complete and currently under final quality review.</p> <p>(Alternative language for CM to note: Transposition expected before the end of 2008).</p> <p>Backlog.</p>
Directive 2005/14/EC relating to insurance against civil liability in respect of the use of motor vehicles.	<p>Draft legislation is complete and currently under final quality review.</p> <p>(Alternative language for CM to note: Transposition expected before the end of 2008).</p>

ORAL

NO. 1151 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

LAND AND PROPERTY SALES

Can Government state what further land or property sales, if any, there have been in the current financial year resulting in receipts to a Gibraltar Government company and if so to which company have the proceeds of such sales been credited?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1152, 1153 and 1154 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 1152 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

LAND AND PROPERTY SALES

Can Government state what property or land sales, if any, there have been in the current financial year resulting in receipts to the Improvement and Development Fund since the answer to Question No. 749 of 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1151, 1153 and 1154 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 1153 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

LAND AND PROPERTY SALES

Can Government give a breakdown of the revenue collected from land and property sales since the information supplied during the last Question Time in this Parliament, giving the date the revenue was received, the name of the land/property and the cash received in each case and from whom?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1151, 1152 and 1154 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 1154 OF 2008

THE HON DR J J GARCIA

RESIDENTIAL TENDERS AWARDED

Can Government list the residential tenders they have awarded since the information supplied at the last Question Time in this Parliament, showing the name and the amount paid by the successful tenderer, the name of the property in question and the date on which the payment was made?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I now hand the hon Member a schedule with the information they have requested.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1154

Answer to Question 1151

**Breakdown Of Receipts To Government Companies In Respect Of Land And Property Sales For
The Period 1st April 2008 To 31st October 2008**

Gibraltar Co-ownership Company Limited

Sep-08 40% Sale of 16 Walnut Lodge	£29,450.76
	<u>£29,450.76</u>

Gibraltar Residential Property Investments Company Limited

Sep-08 Balance iro Flat 10 Sandpits	£246,500.00
Balance iro Flat 12 Sandpits	£246,500.00
Oct-08 Balance iro Flat 5 Sandpits	£246,500.00
50% Sale of 5:01:15 Apricot Court, SWJG	£47,940.00
100% Sale of 2:05:01 Rosemary Court, SWJG	£31,163.10
	<u>£818,603.10</u>

Answer to Question 1152

**Detailed Breakdown Of Receipts To The Improvement And Development Fund For The
Period 1st September to 31st October 2008**

Sep-08 Part Payment iro 51 Line Wall Road	£1,964.00
Premium iro lease for 29 Devil's Tower Road	£800,000.00
Part payment of GOG share iro Sale of 4E Rulander (Pd by S/O 12/9/08)	£30.00
Sale of 27 Rosia Road	£22,700.00
Premium iro ext of lease of 22 Trafalgar House	£3,590.66
Sale of 1A Engineer Road	£103,400.00
Release of old London office building	£1,190,267.88
Oct-08 Part Payment iro 51 Line Wall Road	£982.00
Part payment of GOG share iro Sale of 4E Rulander (Pd by S/O 14/10/08)	£30.00
	<u>£2,122,964.54</u>

Contd...

CONTD ANSWER TO QUESTION 1154

Answer to Question 1153

Residential Property Sales From 1 September 2008 To 31 October 2008 (Improvement And Development Fund)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Tenant</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>
Sep-08	B Alvares	Part payment of GOG share with 4E Rulander	£30.00
Sep-08	L Borrell	Sale of 27 Rosia Road	£22,700.00
Sep-08	R & E Worrall	Premium iro ext of Lease for 22 Trafalgar House	£3,590.66
Sep-08	E Victory	Sale of 1A Engineer Road	£103,400.00
Oct-08	B Alvares	Part payment of GOG share with 4E Rulander	£30.00
			<u>£129,750.66</u>

Residential Property Sales From 1 September 2008 To 31 October 2008 (Government-Owned Companies)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Tenant</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>
Sep-08	K Budhrani & T Gracia	Balance iro Flat 10 & Garage 10, Sandpits	£246,500.00
Sep-08	M & J Rodriguez	Balance iro Flat 12 & Garage 12, Sandpits	£246,500.00
Oct-08	J & A M Russo	Balance iro Flat 5 & Garage 5, Sandpits	£246,500.00
Oct-08	Baglietto	50% Sale of 5:01:05 Apricot Court, SWJG	£47,940.00
Oct-08	Mr & Mrs Birkinshaw	Sale of Previous Option C Flat 2:05:01 Rosemary Court, SWJG	£31,163.10
			<u>£818,603.10</u>

Contd...

CONTD ANSWER TO QUESTION 1154

Contd Answer to Question 1153

Commerical Property Sales From 1 September 2008 To 31 October 2008 (Improvement And Development Fund)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Tenant</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>
Sep-08	Casino Calpe	Part payment of 51 Line Wall Road	£1,964.00
Sep-08	Taylor Woodrow	Premium iro lease for 29 Devil's Tower Road	£800,000.00
Oct-08	Gibraltar Strand Property Co. Ltd	Release of old London office building	£1,190,267.88
Oct-08	Casino Calpe	Part Payment iro 51 Line Wall Road	£982.00
			<u>£1,993,213.88</u>

Contd...

CONTD ANSWER TO QUESTION 1154

Answer to Question 1154

There have been no Residential Tenders awarded since the information supplied at the last question-time in this Parliament.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 1151 TO 1154 OF 2008

HON J J BOSSANO:

In respect of the income in September from the release of the old London office building, which went into the Improvement and Development Fund, is the new office building charged to the Improvement and Development Fund or not? There is a payment of £1.19 million which was presumably the value of the unexpired portion of the lease of the Strand building and that has gone into the I&D. Now, has anything been charged to the I&D in respect of the new building?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I think not, I think the company that owns the building, Strand Properties Limited or whatever, I think that it funded itself from a mortgage, from a bank loan, whether that covered the whole of the difference I do not know. But even if it was the whole of the difference, if this has gone to the I&D Fund and has been used to part finance, it must have come out. So I think the answer is probably yes. The answer is probably yes, because certainly, I do not think the mortgage was for 100 per cent finance, so if that sum that was going to be used to set off the costs has gone in here, then it has to come out of here to be re-used for.

HON J J BOSSANO:

So, I mean, is the company that has been used for the property is it part of Gibraltar Investment Holdings? Is it a subsidiary of Gibraltar Investment Holdings or has it been capitalised directly from the I&D Fund?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I think it is a subsidiary of Gibraltar Commercial Properties Limited, but it is certainly under Gibraltar Investment Holdings, which is the top. I do not think it is held directly by the Government.

ORAL

NO. 1155 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CONSOLIDATED FUND – EXPENDITURE

Can Government provide the total estimated Consolidated Fund expenditure for this financial year to 30 September 2008, giving a breakdown by head of expenditure?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1156 to 1170 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 1156 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

CONSOLIDATED FUND – REVENUE

Can Government provide the total estimated Consolidated Fund revenue for this financial year to 30 September 2008, giving a breakdown by head of revenue?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1155 and 1157 to 1170 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 1157 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

I & D FUND – EXPENDITURE

Can Government provide the total estimated Improvement and Development Fund expenditure for this financial year to 30 September 2008 giving a breakdown by head of expenditure?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1155, 1156 and 1158 to 1170 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 1158 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

I & D FUND – REVENUE

Can Government provide the total estimated Improvement and Development Fund revenue for this financial year to 30 September 2008 giving a breakdown by head of revenue?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1155 to 1157 and 1159 to 1170 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 1159 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GDC – REVENUE

Can Government provide the estimated total Gibraltar Development Corporation revenue for this financial year to 30 September 2008 giving a breakdown as follows:

- (a) Training Levy;
- (b) ESF;
- (c) Consolidated Fund Head 1B;
- (d) Miscellaneous;
- (e) Other Receipts?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1155 to 1158 and 1160 to 1170 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 1160 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GDC – EXPENDITURE

Can Government provide the total estimated Gibraltar Development Corporation expenditure for this financial year to 30 September 2008 giving a breakdown as between Employment and Training and other divisions?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1155 to 1159 and 1161 to 1170 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 1161 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

ECA – PAYMENTS

Can Government state what have been the payments made by the Elderly Care Agency for this financial year to 30 September giving a breakdown for personal emoluments, industrial wages, other personnel and employer contributions and other recurrent expenditure?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1155 to 1160 and 1162 to 1170 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 1162 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

ECA – RECEIPTS

Can Government state what have been the receipts of the Elderly Care Agency for this financial year to 30 September?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1155 to 1161 and 1163 to 1170 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 1163 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GHA – RECEIPTS

Can Government state what have been the receipts of the Gibraltar Health Authority for this financial year to 30 September with a breakdown by Social Assistance Fund, GPMS, Consolidated Fund and other receipts?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1155 to 1162 and 1164 to 1170 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 1164 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GHA – PAYMENTS

Can Government state what have been the payments made by the Gibraltar Health Authority for this financial year to 30 September with breakdown by personal emoluments, industrial wages, other personnel and other recurrent expenditure?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1155 to 1163 and 1165 to 1170 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 1165 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GEA – EXPENDITURE

Can Government state what has been the operating expenditure of the Gibraltar Electricity Authority for this financial year to 30 September 2008, giving a breakdown of personal emoluments, employment costs and other recurrent expenditure?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1155 to 1164 and 1166 to 1170 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 1166 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

GEA – REVENUE

Can Government state what has been the operating revenue of the Gibraltar Electricity Authority for this financial year to 30 September 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1155 to 1165 and 1167 to 1170 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 1167 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SPORTS AND LEISURE AUTHORITY – RECEIPTS

Can Government state what have been the receipts of the Sports and Leisure Authority for this financial year to 30 September 2008?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1155 to 1166 and 1168 to 1170 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 1168 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SPORTS AND LEISURE AUTHORITY – EXPENDITURE

Can Government state what have been the recurrent expenditure of the Sports and Leisure Authority for this financial year to 30 September 2008 giving a breakdown of personal emoluments and other recurrent expenditure?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1155 to 1167, 1169 and 1170 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 1169 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY – RECEIPTS

Can Government state what have been the receipts of the Social Services Agency for this financial year to 30 September?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Answered together with Question Nos. 1155 to 1168 and 1170 of 2008.

ORAL

NO. 1170 OF 2008

THE HON J J BOSSANO

SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY – PAYMENTS

Can Government state what have been the payments made by the Social Services Agency for this financial year to 30 September with a breakdown for personal emoluments, industrial wages, other personnel and employer contributions and other recurrent expenditure?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

I now hand the hon Member statements based on Treasury records as they stand. However, figures do not include Treasury adjustments, for example, contributions from the Consolidated Fund, Social Assistance Fund to the Agencies, Authorities, Corporation and Social Insurance Fund, which are normally effected by the Treasury at the end of the financial year.

ANSWER TO QUESTION 1170

Answer to Question 1155

CONSOLIDATED FUND EXPENDITURE

**1 APRIL 2008 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2008 – TENTATIVE FIGURES AS AT
27 NOVEMBER 2008**

<u>HEAD</u>	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>
1A Education	£11,259,918.00
1B Training	£256,060.81
2A Heritage and Culture	£1,055,946.97
2B Sport and Leisure	£47,783.56
3A Housing - Administration	£1,054,557.84
3B Housing - Buildings and Works	£3,420,433.27
4A Environment	£7,450,495.09
4B Technical Services	£2,526,687.63
4C Tourism	£1,293,804.62
5A Family and Community Affairs	£3,076,843.94
5B Youth	£192,402.53
6A Enterprise	£1,248,410.78
6B Transport - Port and Shipping	£1,561,144.55
6C Transport - Airport	£1,527,319.82
6D Transport, Vehicle, Traffic and Public Transport	£630,450.21
6E Postal Services	£1,192,742.32
6F Broadcasting	£976,912.50
6G Utilities	£4,500,236.52
7A Health	£0.00
7B Civil Contingency	£5,450.73
7C Fire Service	£1,710,835.20
8A No. 6 Convent Place	£2,641,526.70
8B Human Resources	£329,961.70
9A Ministry	£188,922.52
9B Treasury	£2,016,456.55
9C Customs	£2,173,870.31
9D Income Tax	£932,833.70
9E Finance Centre	£664,314.63
10 Employment, Labour and Industrial Relations	£252,605.77
11A Justice Ministry	£1,928,944.96
11B Supreme Court	£385,823.14
11C Magistrates' and Coroner's Court	£225,216.38
11D Attorney General's Chambers	£327,445.30
11E Prison	£557,241.87
11F Policing	£5,018,759.72
12 Immigration and Civil Status	£1,157,439.62
13 Parliament	£677,070.30
14 Gibraltar Audit Office	£282,665.41
15 Supplementary Provision	£0.00
16 Consolidated Fund Contributions	£0.00
	<u>£64,749,535.47</u>

Contd...

CONTD ANSWER TO QUESTION 1170

Contd Answer to Question 1155

CONSOLIDATED FUND CHARGES

**1 APRIL 2008 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2008 – TENTATIVE FIGURES AS AT
27 NOVEMBER 2008**

<u>HEAD</u>	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>
01 Statutory Offices	£240,216.43
02 Judicature	£382,603.15
03 Pensions	£10,454,993.53
04 Employer's Contributions	£1,529,599.42
05 Public Debt Charges	£2,659,168.16
06 Public Services Ombudsman	£99,665.55
07 Revenue Repayment	£15,817.01
08 Public Debt Repayment	£0.00
	<u>£15,382,063.25</u>

Answer to Question 1156

CONSOLIDATED FUND REVENUE

**1 APRIL 2008 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2008 – TENTATIVE FIGURES AS AT
27 NOVEMBER 2008**

<u>HEAD</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>
1 Income Taxes	£54,897,041.40
2 Duties, Taxes and Other Receipts	£24,604,153.27
3 Gambling Fees, Taxes and Lottery	£3,583,325.53
4 Rates and Rents	£5,335,209.05
5 Departmental Fees and Receipts	£6,999,134.97
6 Government Earnings	£4,328,632.73
7 Exceptional Item	£0.00
	<u>£99,747,496.95</u>

Contd...

CONTD ANSWER TO QUESTION 1170

Answer to Question 1157

IMPROVEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT FUND – EXPENDITURE

**1 APRIL 2008 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2008 – TENTATIVE FIGURES AS AT
27 NOVEMBER 2008**

<u>HEAD</u>	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>
101 Departmental	£4,426,213.38
102 Central Public Administration and Essential Services	£428,709.71
103 Projects	£3,629,466.03
	<u>£8,484,389.12</u>

Answer to Question 1158

IMPROVEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT FUND - REVENUE

**1 APRIL 2008 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2008 – TENTATIVE FIGURES AS AT
27 NOVEMBER 2008**

<u>HEAD</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>
101 Contributions and Loans	£7,000,000.00
102 Sale of Government Properties and Other Premia	£3,234,667.44
103 Grants	£731,009.76
104 Reimbursements	£53,752.49
	<u>£11,019,429.69</u>

Contd...

CONTD ANSWER TO QUESTION 1170

Answer to Question 1159

GIBRALTAR DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION – REVENUE
1 APRIL 2008 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2008 – TENTATIVE FIGURES AS AT
27 NOVEMBER 2008

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Revenue

Training Levy	£721,287.25
Contribution by European Social Fund ESF	£84,827.00
Contribution from Consolidated Fund - Head 1B	£0.00
Miscellaneous	£104,919.34
	<u>£911,033.59</u>

OTHER DIVISIONS

Revenue

Other Receipts	<u>£2,002,912.48</u>
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Answer to Question 1160

GIBRALTAR DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION – EXPENDITURE

1 APRIL 2008 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2008 – TENTATIVE FIGURES AS AT
27 NOVEMBER 2008

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Expenditure

Employment	£248,175.73
Training	£967,253.98
	<u>£1,215,429.71</u>

OTHER DIVISIONS

Expenditure

Other Divisions	<u>£2,002,912.48</u>
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CONTD ANSWER TO QUESTION 1170

Answer to Question 1161

ELDERLY CARE AGENCY – PAYMENTS

**1 APRIL 2008 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2008 – TENTATIVE FIGURES AS AT
27 NOVEMBER 2008**

PAYMENTS

Personal Emoluments	£2,004,953.01
Industrial Wages	£606,614.34
Other Personnel	£14,624.62
Employer's Contributions	£313,371.18
Other Recurrent Expenditure	£679,109.25
	<u>£3,618,672.40</u>

Answer to Question 1162

ELDERLY CARE AGENCY – RECEIPTS

**1 APRIL 2008 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2008 – TENTATIVE FIGURES AS AT
27 NOVEMBER 2008**

RECEIPTS

£311,401.81

Contd...

CONTD ANSWER TO QUESTION 1170

Answer to Question 1163

GIBRALTAR HEALTH AUTHORITY – RECEIPTS

**1 APRIL 2008 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2008 – TENTATIVE FIGURES AS AT
27 NOVEMBER 2008**

RECEIPTS

Social Assistance Fund	£0.00
GPMS	£15,974,507.31
Consolidated Fund	£0.00
Other Receipts	<u>£112,833.23</u>
	<u>£16,087,340.54</u>

Answer to Question 1164

GIBRALTAR HEALTH AUTHORITY – PAYMENTS

**1 APRIL 2008 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2008 – TENTATIVE FIGURES AS AT
27 NOVEMBER 2008**

PAYMENTS

Personal Emoluments	£13,184,174.50
Industrial Wages	£1,265,506.95
Other Personnel	£1,791,816.04
Other Recurrent Expenditure	<u>£14,703,090.69</u>
	<u>£30,944,588.18</u>

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CONTD ANSWER TO QUESTION 1170

Answer to Question 1165

GIBRALTAR ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY – OPERATING EXPENDITURE

**1 APRIL 2008 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2008 – TENTATIVE FIGURES AS AT
27 NOVEMBER 2008**

EXPENDITURE

Personal Emoluments	£3,299,740.12
Employer's Contributions	£213,978.29
Other Recurrent Expenditure	<u>£14,394,160.90</u>
	<u>£17,907,879.31</u>

Answer to Question 1166

GIBRALTAR ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY – OPERATING REVENUE

**1 APRIL 2008 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2008 – TENTATIVE FIGURES AS AT
27 NOVEMBER 2008**

<u>REVENUE</u>	<u>£9,466,494.60</u>
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CONTD ANSWER TO QUESTION 1170

Answer to Question 1167

SPORTS AND LEISURE AUTHORITY – RECEIPTS

**1 APRIL 2008 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2008 – TENTATIVE FIGURES AS AT
27 NOVEMBER 2008**

<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>£5,502.50</u>
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Answer to Question 1168

SPORTS AND LEISURE AUTHORITY – EXPENDITURE

**1 APRIL 2008 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2008 – TENTATIVE FIGURES AS AT
27 NOVEMBER 2008**

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	
Personal Emoluments	£755,156.41
Other Recurrent Expenditure	<u>£397,337.94</u>
	<u>£1,152,494.35</u>

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CONTD ANSWER TO QUESTION 1170

Answer to Question 1169

SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY – RECEIPTS

**1 APRIL 2008 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2008 – TENTATIVE FIGURES AS AT
27 NOVEMBER 2008**

<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>£512.00</u>
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Answer to Question 1170

SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY – PAYMENTS

**1 APRIL 2008 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2008 – TENTATIVE FIGURES AS AT
27 NOVEMBER 2008**

EXPENDITURE

Personal Emoluments	£1,690,982.95
Industrial Wages	£198,419.02
Other Personnel	£238,240.96
Employer's Contributions	£202,914.09
Other Recurrent Expenditure	<u>£230,994.31</u>
	<u>£2,561,551.33</u>